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CHANNEL **CURRENTS**

VACATION NOTICE: NO ISSUE THE WEEK OF JULY 4TH, NEXT ISSUE WILL BE JULY 13.

Tina's Resale Shop closing after 20 years

Tina Zorrilla is retiring after 20 years, and permanently closing her Resale Shop at 10407 Market Street in Jacinto City. All merchandise is 50% off, including furniture, antique collectibles, sports memorabilia, cameras, jewelry, and much more. Open Tues-Sat 11-6. See details on page 5.

Hot. Hot. Hot.

With temperatures reaching over 100 degrees this week, you might want to check out our newest advertiser. American Residential, on Page 6. They offer a tune-up on your A/C system for \$49, or a new system at a \$2000 discount. 855-241-1293.

GP/JC Rotary awards 19 Scholarships

The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club has awarded 19 scholarships to graduates for the 2023 year.

These scholarships are a result of funds raised by the club at their Cake Sale/Auction, and Million Dollar Potato Luncheon held earlier in the year.

The club thanks the community for their support of these events, and in turn is pleased to return the money to the community in the form of scholarships.

Culinary Service Award: \$1,500: Aidan Mar-

Dr. Nichols Scholarship: \$1,500: Roger Barquera

Abi Scholarship: \$1,500: Abigail Garcia Villarreal

Achievement Scholarships: \$1,500

Gabriel Barrero Jacqueline Galvan Isabel Silva Victoria Tovar



2023 Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club Scholarship Award Winners. See names in story.



ABI SCHOLARSHIP, \$1500, Abigail Garcia Villarreal with Rotary President Julien Guillory



DR. NICHOLS SCHOLARSHIP, \$1500, Roger Barquera with Rotary President Julien Guillory.

Abigail Garcia Villarreal Belinda Lopez Oscar Gonzalez Jazlynn Estrada Roger Barquera

Recognition Scholar-<u>ships: \$500</u>

Elijah Banda Geraldine Cruz Erika Zamora Roberto Rodriguez

Not pictured (Thursday 6/1):Oscar Gonzalez, Erika Zamora,

Geraldine Cruz

Channelview Cogeneration Joins Houston CCS Alliance

By Allan Jamail

June 27, 2023 - Channelview, Texas Cogeneration, a Cogeneration Plant owned and managed by funds and accounts managed by affiliates of Ares Management Corporation ("Ares") has become the 13th member of the Houston CCS Alliance. It joins the existing members in advancing the Alliance's mission to reduce industrial carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in the Houston area, one of the nation's largest concentrated sources of CO2, and make it the model for an emerging, lower-emission world that supports jobs, economic growth, and prosperity.

The Houston CCS Alliance is a coordinated effort. among some of the world's most innovative energy, petrochemical, and power generation companies to advance the development of carbon capture and stor-

age in the greater Houston industrial area. Members include: Air Liquide, BASF, Calpine, Channelview Cogeneration, Chev ron, DOW, ExxonMobil, INEOS, Linde, Lyondellbasell, Marathon, Phillips 66, and Shell.

Allan Jamail, North Channel Star writer has spent many years in the energy generation industry, now having 61 years affiliated with the AFL-CIO unions serving the nation's energy industry. There are 41 power generation plants in Harris County and several are considered to be cogeneration plants.

Cogeneration can notably reduce carbon emissions and energy costs. While simple cycle applications can have 40-50 percent efficiency, by combining heat and power systems can yield up to 90 percent efficiency. This is helping to decarbonize the

electric power grid, district, heating systems and factories.

The term cogeneration refers to the combined production of electricity and heat. These two forms of energy are produced simultaneously through a single plant. The ultimate aim of the cogeneration plants is to exploit the heat dissipated by power plants.

Generally electricity and heat are produced separately. To produce electricity, thermoelectric power plants dissipate thermal energy in the environment. The thermal energy produced comes from fuel conversion.

It therefore seems clear that if a user needs at the same time electricity and thermal energy, one can expect to realize a system that produces both electri-

CONTINUED. Reducing Carbon Footprint, Page 3

Jacinto City Police Report

See Crime Prevention Tips

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. une 27, 2023 - The Jacinto City Police Department under the direction of Police Chief Joe Avala had a busy month. The police will be writing citations for anyone violating the fireworks ordinance. You cannot use fireworks in Jacinto City. The city will have their annual fireworks displays for the 4th of July so residents can

celebrate. Chief Ayala said vehicle thefts are on the increase and he urged citizens to keep their vehicles locked and stay alert both day and night for unusual sounds or movements near their vehicles or homes.

Chief Ayala highly encourages residents to call 713-672-2455 and give their address if they're goto be away for an unusutrol officers will keep a close eye on the address.

The police department response time to citizen's calls is approximately 2 minutes, they responded to 232 calls.

The department's officers made 31 arrests as: 1 aggravated assault, 2 thefts, 7 public intoxication, 11 for traffic warrants, 1 interference with public duties and 5 narcotics possession.

Officers issued 494 citations and investigated 9 motor vehicle accidents.

As a Crime Prevention Specialists and former chief of police Allan Jamail said, "I encourage citizens to light-up outside around their homes and driveways at night. Security lights are one on the most effective ways to

ing on a vacation or going prevent from being a crime victim at your home al period of time so the pa- or vehicle. Criminals and thieves like to operate in the darkness; lights are a big deterrent to crime."

Most all building supply stores such as Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Lowes sell economical outdoors security lights that comes on automatically in the evenings and shut off in the daylight.

Save 5% on Homeowners Insurance with a free home inspection by Jacinto City's police officers.

To see if known sex offenders live near you click on the red link button at: http://www.jacintocitytx.gov/

Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activity in their neighborhood to 713-672-2455. If there's an emergency call 911.

Channelview Post Office Worker receives Recognition

The members of VFW post 10462 located at 16417 Market Street Channelview Texas 77530 presented a letter of appreciation and a commendation medal to Elizabeth Kostelnik at the local Channelview Post office. In special recognition of genuine selfless service rendered to a veteran of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The helpful manner that she exhibited went above and beyond what was expected of her. It was greatly appreciated. Once again thank you so much from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10462 in Channelview, Texas. I would like to thank all of our community for supporting or Veterans.



From left to right is Commander Post 10462 Eli Cedillo, Elizabeth Kostelink Post Office worker, Nicole Rene Post Office Supervisor. Sr, Vice Commander Post 10462 Jerry Thayer Sr. John Martin CDR Texas Navy, and Chester Currin COL Texas Army. Thank you for all you do for the community.

Rotarians of the year



NORTH SHORE ROTARY: Bill Palko

Rotarian of the Year presented to Bill Palko, at right, by club president Ken Wimbley holding microphone.

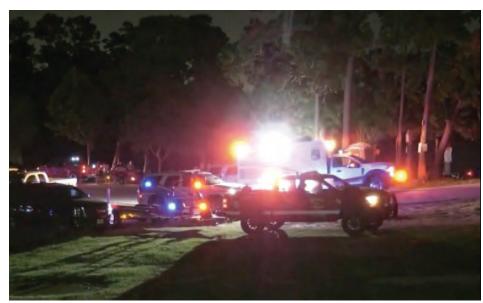


GALENA PARK/JACINTO CITY: Maria Cortez-Ochoa & Jennifer Ledwith

Maria said "once again selected as Rotarian of the year along with partner Jennifer Ledwith. Volunteer service is priceless. But this honor is thanks to Club President Julien Guillory and to God who leads us through this change, the way to serve others above self.'



Man drowns saving girl in San Jacinto River



Harris County Sheriff's Deputies at the scene of the drowning at Xtreme Off Road Park near Crosby, Sunday night.

Good Samaritan tried to save woman

CROSBY - A man drowned in the San Jacinto River while he attempted to rescue a woman who was swimming late Sunday night, deputies with Harris County Sheriff's Office said.

It happened at the Xtreme Off Road Park and Beach on Gulf Pump Road and Beaumont Highway in Crosby.

Deputies said multiple people were riding their ATVs and 4-wheelers through a wooded area.

At some point, witnesses saw a woman who was swimming in the river but she began screaming for help as the current apparently tried to pull her away from the shore.

As the woman screamed for help, several men jumped into the water to save her. One of the men did not return. According to Maj. Jamie Razo with the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Marine and Dive Unit were called to the scene to search for the missing man using sonar. Divers went into the water, and that was when the body of the man was recovered.

Deputies said the woman did not know the man that saved her.

The man's family identified him as German Reynaga, 28 years old.

This area of the river has claimed many lives.



House Bill 2717 Regulating Train Length



On April 26th, I presented HB 2717 before the Committee on Transportation to address the length of trains in our community and reduce the number of blocked railroad crossings.

Longer trains block our major thoroughfares, impede the mobility of first responders, obstruct street access for students walking to school, jeopardize the train crew members' safety, and threaten public safety.

I am grateful for the coalition of supporters, including community members, union rail workers, and first responders, who traveled from Houston to share their testimony. While this bill didn't pass, the railroad industry has committed to working with us to address our concerns. Stay tuned for a townhall this summer to discuss the changes Union Pacific has made and will continue to make to alleviate congestion and blocked crossings in our community.

Woman's Body found in Sheldon Reservoir; Sheriff's Office Says Foul Play Involved; truck found too

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas – A woman's body was found in the Sheldon Reservoir in east Harris County on Saturday, and officials said there are possible signs of foul play. The body was found by a fisherman in a wooded area near the reservoir.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the scene at 13571 Garrett Road around 8 a.m. The woman was in her mid to late twenties, possibly of Hispanic ethnicity.

Investigators are now seaching for a killer, and the body has been identified as that of 29 year-old Stephanie Carrizal. She was a mother of three, described as a free spirit who



STEPHANIE CARRIZAL

loved to dance. Her sister was quoted as saying "All I just think about is the good times, and the good memories that we had."

On Friday, the sheriff's office dive team helped remove a submerged GMC

Yukon truck from the reservoir. The vehicle was thought to be unoccupied and reported stolen.

Authorities do not believe the woman is connected to the incident from Friday. The body was found in a different area with dense woods. It does not appear the body would have floated from where the vehicle was recovered.

Deputies said they are investigating this case. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Sheldon Fire Department assisted deputies.

The family has set up a GoFundMe account to help with funeral expenses and to care for the three children left behind.

District 143 Students Visiting the Capitol



I enjoyed welcoming students, teachers, and staff from Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD, and Sheldon ISD to the Texas Capitol. It's important for our students to see their government in action and hopefully inspire more young leaders to engage in the legislative process.

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BLET Union Member Advocacy Day



Representative Hernandez with members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BELT) on theyr Advocacy Day.

CHARLOTTE'S By Charlotte Jackson

Inclusion

an you imagine how amazing it would be if everyone were included in the planning and implementation of events as well as in the carrying out of those events? Last week I had the opportunity to witness the fourth team of graduates of a leadership program in our community. The excitement was electrifying. The love was felt throughout the room. The pride of the graduates as well as of their family and friends was priceless.

Just a few days after this event, they will join with the alumni from the previous groups and as they share about their upcoming projects and learn about the progress that has been made with the previous projects, one thing that will be felt is inclusion.

Back in 2020, with the first grant received by East Harris County Empowerment Council (EHCEC) for leadership development, there was a group who met virtually and began to look for ways to share their knowledge and to bring others along on the journey. Their journey was to give back to the six communities serviced by the four local school districts. These ISDs are Channelview, Crosby, Galena Park, and Sheldon. The projects that came out of the dedication included the Uvalde Revitalization Program, Little Sisters Empowerment, For Such a Time as This Mastermind Groups, Voter Registration Drives, Moments and Memories Grief Support as well as the Explore East Harris County website which contains a master calendar for events in these communities

As the pandemic began to wind down, the second class graduated and took off putting their projects into action. The Baldree Empowerment Team blossomed, and events were shared each month which offered opportunities for community members to meet and plan events. From this there were Health Fairs, Back to School Events, events that shared information on Dating and Domestic Violence, afterschool as well as upcoming summer programs, Conversations with the Police varying from abatement issues to gang violence. One leader began to introduce weekly classes to help the senior citizens stay active with basic exercises while another graduate partnered with various food distribution events to bring information to the guests of the community center. As the Harris County Public Library began partnering with the Community Commissioners, community members who qualified for free laptop computers as well as internet hotspots were distributed at the Baldree Center. One group organized and held a forum on Knowing Your Rights geared at our youth. More than ever, we all need to know how to interact with those in authority.

By community members learning how to work together, making a concerted effort to include others, the community has found ways to bring programs to the area that not only were needed but have allowed others to share what they want for future events. The grant funded program of EHCEC have shifted from Leadership Squared to Community Builders Academy, now partnering with a different funder, the values are the same. It is an opportunity for any resident of the four school districts to apply, participate and see their passion be put into practice. In the months ahead, look for information on a community garden, walking groups, Back to School events and much more. If you would like to be a part of the work, the requirements are simple. You must be at least 18 years of age, live in one of the four school districts and reach out to calley@eastharriscounty.com to learn more.





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ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Rotary International honors 3 new NS Rotary White Hat donors





North Shore Rotarian Bill Palko, bottom right, welcomes new members of the Rotary White Hat Society. To achieve this award you have to donate \$5,000 to Rotary International Foundation.

TOP PHOTO: Danna Nino receives award. BOTTOM PHOTO: Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wimbley receive award.

Judge Stephens awarded Paul Harris Fellow



Judge Joe Stephens was awarded his first Paul Harris Fellow by the North Shore Rotary Club. Presented by PDGs Bill Palko and Scott Rainey. Judge Stephen's award was honorary for his work in the community, especially with youth.

Reducing Carbon Footprint,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE

generated are obviously due to lower fuel consump-

Cogeneration or combined heat and power (CHP) is the use of a heat engine or power station to generate electricity and useful heat at the same time.

Cogeneration is a more efficient use of fuel or heat, because otherwise-wasted heat from electricity generation is put to some productive use. Combined heat and power (CHP) plants recover otherwise wasted thermal energy for heating. This is also called combined heat and power district heating. Small CHP plants are an example of decentralized energy. By-product heat at moderate temperatures (100–180 $\,$ C, 212–356 $\,$ F) can also be used in absorption refrigerators for cooling.

Obviously not all the heat dissipated in the environment can be recovered; a portion is always dispersed in the combined production cycle.

A plant can be defined "cogeneration" only if it satisfies a set of performance indexes defined by the Electricity Authority (AEEG) introduced to ensure that there is effective fuel economy and that energy production is not too much unbalanced towards electricity alone.

Cogeneration plants arise from the need to increase the efficiency of power generation systems by exploiting the heat dissipated by the plant for other purposes. The advantage comes from reducing fuel consumption. The improvement obtainable is measurable in a reduction in the consumption of 35-40%. There is another important advantage associated with reducing pollutant emissions. Another feature, resulting from logistical factors, is the need to locate the cogeneration plant close to the end user plant, a factor that reduces transmission energy losses coming from distribution and transportation.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is **Common Sense** and does it still exist?"

The Death of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:Knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair, And maybe it was my fault.

Common sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults are in charge not children). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of an 8 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abor-

Common sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common sense was preceded in death, by His parents, Truth and TrustHis wife, DiscretionHis daughter, ResponsibilityHis son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothersI know my rightsI want my rightsI want it nowI'm a victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you're struggling to understand all of this...it's just Common Sense.

If you are looking for a "common sense" jewelry that you can trust, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. Contact us or simply stop by our store if you would like assistance learning how we can be of service to

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

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

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





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OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar



Texas Fails to Enact Gun Safety Measures to Protect **Communities**

Washington DC — GIFFORDS, the gun violence prevention organization led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, criticized Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas legislature for failing to take action against gun violence this legislative session.

Peter Ambler, GIFFORDS Executive Director:

"While families still mourn the tragedy at Robb Elementary last year, and the devastating mass shooting in Allen just weeks ago, Governor Abbott continues to ignore their demands for action. When 19 children and two teachers were senselessly murdered in their classrooms, voters called on elected officials to take swift action to ensure that no child or parent has to experience this kind of tragedy. Legislators have failed our communities with their lack of action this session and continue to choose gun lobby profits over the lives of our children. I am furious that Republican leadership would betray these victims and families. We will continue to stand behind Texans and demand change in our fight against gun violence. When it comes to keeping our communities safe, there can be no debate: the time for action is

Steven Kling, GIFFORDS Gun Owners for Safety Senior Ambassador, Texas Chapter:

"Texans are supposed to have each other's backs, but Governor Abbott and lawmakers in the state continue to look the other way while our fellow Texans are shot and killed in record numbers. We have lost far too many friends, neighbors, and children to this epidemic. Instead of protecting our communities, lawmakers would rather accept funds from the for-profit gun lobby, which is contributing to these mass shootings. Like countless others here in the Lone Star State, I refuse to allow this to be our reality. We will never stop fighting until our streets and schools are once again safe."

Last Wednesday marked one year since the horrific mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, and GIF-FORDS released a new report on the aftermath of the Uvalde shooting. The Uvalde Report: A Path Forward for a Community—and Nation—Struggling to Heal highlights key recommendations for reforms at the local, state, and national levels. After speaking with Uvalde residents and national experts, GIFFORDS Law Center outlined the following recommendations to improve support for the community:

- Pass, Implement, and Improve Gun Safety Laws
- Expand Community-Based Programs and Services for At-Risk Youth and Young Adults
 - Develop Long-Term Mental Health Services
 - Address Structural Racism
 - Reform Victim Compensation Systems
 - Create Trauma-Informed Schools

GIFFORDS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, GIFFORDS shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.

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 7705 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank



with Slim Randles

'ol Wheezer"

Doc smiled and felt really good inside when he heard the familiar bird song.

"Hey there, Wheezer," he said, "happy nesting!"

For some reason, this mourning dove with the speech impediment comes around to Doc's back yard every spring, and Doc thinks that's just all right. If ol' Wheez didn't have that distinctive voice, Doc would never know if this bird favored his yard or was just another bird looking for a home. Let's face it, Wheezer looks just like every other dove in

But he was back and flirting with a good-looking lady dove up on the branches of the locust tree. Doc always wondered whether doves mate for life, and this was the same Mrs. Wheez he sees every year, or if Wheezer had to court a new lassie each spring.

"I'll have to look it up," Doc said, knowing that he

But he did go over to the concrete block wall and clean out the crud from the hollow in the top block by the gate. Doc had put dirt in it years ago, and each spring, the Wheezer family hauled in twigs and grass and made a place to raise their family.

And each spring, as Mrs. W. sat on her eggs, it would take Doc a few days before she would tolerate him coming and going through the gate. This was the dove family he was close to. They let him get right up to maybe a foot from the ugly little baby birds each spring, and he was careful never to move quickly or make a noise. That was his contribution, you see, to the putting together of the "Doves in the Concrete Block" family.

Wonder how long doves live? Doc thought. Wonder how long old Wheezer will last? I'll have to look it up. No he won't.

Brought to you by Wild Birds Unlimited. They have lots of things to keep those birds happy and healthy. For your local store: webmaster@wbu.com.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Conservation Urged as Searing Heat Wave Sweeps State

Texas' power grid reported record electricity use early last week. Both the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas are urging residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce electricity use as temperatures soar above 100 degrees over much of the state. So far the grid, which administers 90% of the state's power load, has been able to keep up with demand.

Temperatures set record highs for June in several Texas cities: 111 degrees in Junction, 115 in Laredo, and 113 in Del Rio. The heat wave stretches from the Pecos River Valley in the west to the Rio Grande in the south to the Pineywoods in the east. State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon pointed to several factors, including near-record temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, a high-pressure system trapping the heat over the state, and climate change.

"Texas is running about 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it did during the 20th century," Nielsen-Gammon told the Texas Tribune. "So if you're close to a temperature record, that will put it over the edge."

ERCOT has implemented a voluntary curtailment program for so-called flexible customers — such as bitcoin mining facilities — to reduce power use during periods of high demand."These customers are large power users but have the flexibility and willingness to reduce their energy use quickly, if needed. By working with these large loads during peak demand periods, we will better serve all Texans while keeping the grid reliable and resilient." said ERCOT.

STORMS SPUR SPATE OF DISASTER DECLARATIONS

Storm systems have caused widespread damage across the state and prompted Gov. Greg Abbott to issue disaster declarations for Ochiltree, Cass, Franklin, Harrison, Marion, Upshur, Wood, Camp, Gregg, Hopkins, Panola, Smith and Titus counties. The storms caused loss of life, severe

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damage to power lines and structures, and flash flooding.A subsequent declaration came after a tornado hit Matador in West Texas and killed four people. That declaration covers Motley, Nolan, Fisher, Jones, Kent, and Stonewall counties. Just days earlier a tornado killed three and injured dozens in Perryton in the Texas Panhandle.

"What Texans in Perryton have gone through over the past couple of days have been nothing short of horrific," Abbott said. "At the same time, it's encouraging and inspiring to see the way the community has come together to rebuild."

HOPE RISES FOR BREAKING **LEGISLATIVE IMPASSE**

An impasse over property tax relief appears to be near an end after the Senate unanimously passed a package that would cut both homeowners' property taxes and taxes on thousands of businesses by a record \$18 billion, the Austin American-Statesman reported. At the same time, House Speaker Dade Phelan appointed a select committee to provide "recommendations for longterm, sustainable" relief. The first special session called by Abbott ends this week, making it likely a second session will follow. The Senate bill would raise the homestead exemption to \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. The franchise tax on businesses would further exempt an estimated 67,000 small businesses. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have feuded over which version of

CROSBY

Gilbert Hoffman

.....Julieta Paita .Kristan Hoffman

.Willie Glasgow

the property tax bills should ultimately prevail, with Abbott backing a House plan passed on the first day of the special session.

AG'S OFFICE TRIES TO DEFY COMPTROLLER OVER PAXTON'S PAY

The Texas attorney general's office attempted to continue paying impeached Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was suspended pending a Senate trial set for Sept. 5. The Dallas Morning News obtained communications between the attorney general's chief of staff and the Texas comptroller's office, regarding Paxton's paycheck for June. "Simply put, it is unclear that the CPA (Comptroller of Public Accounts) has authority to withhold AG Paxton's salary under these circumstances," Lesley French, office chief of staff wrote in an email to the director of the comptroller's fiscal management division on Wednesday, The News reported.

Paxton is accused of bribery, obstruction of justice and abuse of office - allegations he has denied. The comptroller's office has oversight over the state's expenditures, and officials there noted money is appropriated for only one attorney general. After Paxton's suspension, former Secretary of State John Scott was appointed the interim attorney general and is now leading the office. The attorney general's position pays \$153,700 annually.

LATINOS NOW MAKE UP **BIGGEST SHARE OF STATE'S POPULATION**

In new population estimates released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos now make up the largest share of the state's population and have since at least July 2022. The bureau reported Hispanic Texans made up 40.2% of the total, edging out non-Hispanic white Texans, who made up 39.8%, the Texas Tribune reported. Hispanic Texans are expected to make up a majority of the state's population in the decades to come. Recent census estimates indicate 49.3% of the state's residents under 18 are Hispanic.

ERCOT CAN'T BE SUED, HIGH COURT RULES

The Texas Supreme Court on Friday ruled that ER-COT, which operates the state's power grid, is a government entity and is immune to lawsuits resulting from Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. The 5-4 ruling reversed a previous judgment from a Dallas appeals court, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, writing for the majority, said it should be immune to suits because "it prevents the disruption of key governmental services, protects public funds, and respects separation of powers princi-

ERCOT is the nation's only power grid contained wholly within a single state.



"Stubby's Company"

I spent the week visiting my parents at their retirement home "up north," and so I got to see them and my mother's outside pet, Stubby, the red

I hadn't seen Stubby since last winter, when he had made an elaborate network of tunnels in the deep snow outside my parents' window facing the lake. My mother fed him on the ground beneath the bird feeder, and Stubby would pop out of one of his several tunnel entrances to eat, then pop into his tunnel and emerge on the other side. He occasionally had some red squirrel visitors. I named one Evald, after a greatuncle, and my mother named the second one Sigfrid, after another one of her uncles. But the squirrel visitors were just that—they stayed for a short time, enjoyed Stubby's handouts and left, leaving Stubby alone with my parents.

Stubby seemed happy to see us.

We all sat outside on the deck after dinner, and Stubby came out and chattered at us. He popped under the deck and reemerged on the other side. He ran along the deck railing and then stopped and stood up, his front paws together, his fingers knitted, as if he was about to make a speech or say the blessing.

"I think he likes the company," my mother said. I think my mother enjoys Stubby's company, and this is quite a

My mother has been battling with red squirrels since they moved "up north" more than 30 years ago. The red squirrels do everything in their power to get in to the bird food, although my father's technique of wiring a length of stovepipe onto the pole that holds the bird feeder thwarts their efforts to make it to the mother lode. Instead, they have to sit below the feeder and wait for the chickadees to drop seeds—which is slow go-

They also dig up my mother's garden and her flowerpots. They hide seeds in the pots and make a terrible mess, leaving potting soil all over the deck. My mother spent a portion of many days over the last 30 years chasing red squirrels off the deck.

But all that changed with Stubby.

Stubby has been my mom's friend and charity case for a full year now, ever since he lost the end of his tail and gained a name and my mother's sympathies. Now he is her year-round outdoor pet, and he sits just outside the window watching her activities inside.

My mom buys a special bag of bird food, just for Stubby, and puts some outside below the feeder or along the top of the deck railing, for him. If the food gets low, Stubby climbs up a Norway pine and chatters loudly to alert my mother to the shortage. By now, Stubby has her very well trained.

My mom knocks on the window to let him know she sees him. Stubby stands up and looks at her, fingers knitted. They have a good relation-

I don't think my mother ever expected to have a red squirrel as a pet. I know she resisted for a long time. But Stubby has changed her mind about at least one red squirrel, and I think that is kind of remarkable. Getting to know Stubby has changed what my mother thinks about red squir-

"He's pretty smart," my mother says.

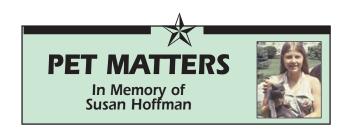
"He knows a lot more than we think," my dad agrees.

Stubby stands on his hind feet, his fingers knitted together, and watches them through the window. I like to think Stubby has reconsidered his opinion of people as well.

Till next time.

Carrie





Advice on a Summer Road Trip with your Pet

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PETS AND DISTRACTED DRIVING

Summer is a season of travel. More people hit the road during the warmer months, whether to visit friends and family, explore new places, or go on outdoor adventures. And the good news is, many summer travelers are bringing their pets along. But are pet parents taking enough precautions to keep everyone in their car safe?

THE PERILS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

We often think nothing of adjusting our GPS system, changing our music, or petting our furry passenger while we drive, but the implications of taking our eyes off the road, our hands off the wheel, or our minds off of driving, can be very serious. According to the Center for Disease Control, or CDC, distracted driving and a failure to pay attention to road and traffic conditions cause 25 to 30 percent of police-reported traffic crashes, which add up to roughly 1.2 million crashes each year. In addition, the National Highway Traffic Administration, or NHTSA, notes that roughly 20 percent of car accident injuries involve distracted driving.

DISTRACTED DRIVING AND

Distracted driving is of most concern in summer, when it typically reaches its peak as more younger drivers take to the road, and more people in general take the opportunity to travel, explore, or visit family. Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous.

"Pets can easily take a driver's attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle," says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. "If there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers."

Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet's size. A 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-an-hour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of force.

Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

KEEPING PETS SAFE WITH RESTRAINTS

RESTRAINTS A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and keeping human and pet passengers safe during an accident. Interestingly, an American Automobile Association (AAA) survey found that, while more than 80 percent of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16 percent used pet re-

"Hopefully, you'll never have to put a car restraint for your pet to the test," says Michael, "But taking an extra minute to properly secure a pet before heading on the road for summer adventures could offer peace of mind and reassurance."

BEST PRACTICES FOR PET RESTRAINT

Michael spearheaded Sleepypod's rigorous advanced crash-testing program, which includes a large and growing family of crash test dummy dogs and cats featuring sensors and monitors that measure car crash and pet restraint data. In addition, he and his research and development team gather real-life accident data through Sleepypod's Crash Replacement Program, which offers customers who have used a pet safety restraint while in an accident replacement pet restraints or discounts on new pet restraints.

Michael offers the following tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents:

--Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury if an airbag is deployed.

--If you cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place your pet in the footwell behind the front seat.

--Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether.

--Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to "submarine," or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.

Securing pets is the best way to ensure you and your pets have happy, distraction-free travels during summer, and all year round.



Honoring a Hero



Kathy Lyerla remembers the call that prompted a sigh of relief from her husband just days before he took his last breath. Precinct 2's Veteran Services Officer, Cassie Gibson, notified Lonnie "Gino" Lyerla that he was approved to receive full veterans' disability benefits. The Vietnam veteran was in hospice care having just been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer three months earlier.

Kathy believes he needed the news to rest peacefully because he knew his family would be taken care of. Now, she volunteers at Precinct 2's VV Ramsey Veterans Services Center to thank Cassie for her help and honor her husband. She's thankful and proud to be a part of Precinct 2; a community that cares for veterans and their families.

Mental Health Awareness Month





Prioritizing public safety

The Harris County Sheriff's Office requested approval from Commissioners Court to apply for a grant from the United States Department of Justice to purchase virtual reality training equipment to better prepare personnel for responding to calls for service involving de-escalation and crisis intervention situations. The equipment will also improve the way detention staff responds to incarcerated individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Commissioner Garcia was joined by his colleagues on the court in the unanimous vote in favor of the item. As the former Harris County Sheriff, he knows first-hand the importance of leveraging technology for training for difficult scenarios deputies face daily

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Q&A with Raul Camarillo, Precinct 2's Community Liaison



1. Describe your role in Precinct 2 and what you enjoy most about

I am a Community Liaison and a member of the Community Relations Team. My priority is to Engage, Educate & Empower members of the Pasadena community and assist with connecting them to the resources they

What I enjoy the most about my job is engaging with people in my community. I get the greatest satisfaction in

helping them find solutions to overcome the issues in their lives.

2. When and why did you decide to make Pasadena your home?

In 1999, my wife and I decided to move to Pasadena because of the school district. Our two daughters were attending a school system that was too large, and we felt that the school district in Pasadena would be a better fit for the type of learning experience our children needed. All my children graduated from Pasadena ISD schools, my oldest from South Houston HS, my middle child from Pasadena Memorial HS, and my son from Sam Rayburn HS.

3. What do you love most about the community in Pasadena?

Even though Pasadena is the second largest city in Harris County, this city has a small-town feel to it because the people in this community are very friendly and resilient.

4. What has been your favorite moment or project as a community liaison for Precinct 2?

In 2021 during the COVID pandemic, our community relations department partnered with community organizations to provide rental assistance programs. We also held events in Precinct 2 communities for the public to learn about protecting their families from eviction. The three largest events were done with one of our community partners, Pueblo's Church in Pasadena. We were able to assist hundreds of households from losing their apartments and becoming homeless with these types of events.

5. What do think people may not know about Pasadena or/and precinct? Most people don't know that the City of Pasadena has a beach at El Jardin Beach Park. Harris County Precinct 2 has the other beach at Sylvan Beach Park. Both beaches are the only free public beaches in Harris County.

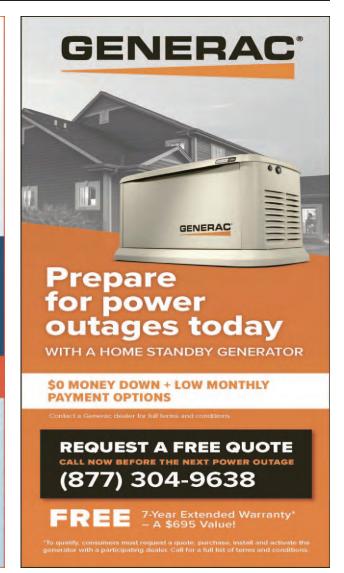


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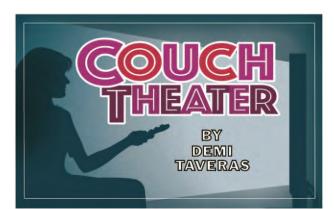
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Sarah Snook, left, and Lily LaTorre star in "Run Rabbit

"M3GAN" (PG-13) -

The Blumhouse sci-fi/hor-

ror success "M3GAN,"

which premiered in the-

aters earlier this year, is

out on streaming June 27.

Allison Williams ("Get

Out") plays Gemma, a ro-

boticist whose niece, Cady,

comes to live with her fol-

lowing the death of her

ma's latest work project

included the development

of a child-sized robot doll,

nicknamed M3GAN (Mod-

el 3 Generative Android).

Gemma lets Cady pair up

with M3GAN and watches

as Cady's emotional strug-

gles dissipate. But since

M3GAN's main purpose in

her programming is pro-

tecting Cady, the robot doll

quickly escalates her lev-

els of protection to a dead-

ly category for just about

everyone else. A sequel to

the film is expected in ear-

ly 2025. (Amazon Prime

Video)

Coincidentally, Gem-

parents.

"Run Rabbit Run"

"RUN RABBIT RUN" (TV-MA) — Hot off the finale of the series "Succession," Sarah Snook has a new psychological thriller film premiering June 28. Snook plays a fertility doctor, also named Sarah, who has a 7-year-old daughter, Mia. Following the death of Mia's grandfather, the tone of Sarah and Mia's lives is melancholic and grim, which makes Sarah recall the mysterious disappearance of her 7-yearold sister, Alice, years ago.

When a white bunny strangely appears in their home, a sinister air subsequently takes over Mia. Sarah becomes increasingly terrified by Mia, who tries to convince her mother that she is a reincarnated version of Alice.

Critics have compared Snook's performance in the film to Toni Collette's in "Hereditary" (2018). (Netflix)

"HIJACK" (TV-MA) — In this new thriller series (we're sticking with the horror genre this week!) releasing on June 28, the stakes have never been higher — literally and figuratively.

On an almost sevenhour flight from Dubai to London, with 200 passengers on board, a group of hijackers gain control over the plane right after takeoff. As the hijackers veer the plane off course and try to keep everyone subdued, business negotiator Sam Nelson (Idris Elba) attempts to do what he does best and negotiate with the hijackers to get everyone off the plane safe.

But, in the event that his way with words doesn't pull off the job, Sam refuses to let the plane go down without a fight: "It's either us or them." (AppleTV+)

"BURIAL" (NR) — Taking place in 1945 Berlin, this British war thriller film follows a female Soviet soldier named Brana (Charlotte Vega). A part of the Red Army unit, Brana and her fellow soldiers are assigned to carry, from Berlin to the Soviet Union. a casket of unknown contents that must be buried every night and dug up every morning. When they realize they're in pursuit by several Nazi loyalists, they realize the contents of the casket are none other than Adolf Hitler's remains.

Critics have praised the performances of Vega, Harriet Walter ("Ted Lasso") and Tom Felton (the "Harry Potter" films), but also stated that the film lacks a certain vigor to make it all come together. "Burial" premieres June 30. (Hulu) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Candace Cameron Bure, who has starred in more than two dozen Hallmark movies and 18 "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" films, announced in April 2022 that she was leaving Hallmark to take on an executive role at Great American Media to develop, produce and star in original rom-coms and holiday

In November, she told the Wall Street Journal that she left Hallmark because it was a completely different network than when she started. Bure explained, "My heart wants to tell stories that have more meaning and purpose and depth behind them. I knew that the people behind Great American Family were Christians that love the Lord and wanted to promote faith programming and good family entertainment."

Her remarks were believed to allude to Hallmark's trend toward progressive themes, including recognition of the LGBT community in their productions. Well, "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries' moved on without her. Mutiny is a witch! It now stars 29-year-old Skyler Samuels, who had a recurring role in "Wizards of Waverly Place;" starred in the films "The Stepfather" (2009), "Furry Vengeance" (2010), "The DUFF" (2015) and "Scream Queens" (2015); and played the Frost sisters in the Fox series based on "X-Men," titled "The Gifted." She co-stars with Jason Statham in "Meg 2: The Trench," due later this year.

"SPIDER-MAN" Tom Holland learned the hard way that playing a good guy is a piece of cake compared to playing a criminal. During the production of the AppleTV+ crime series "The Crowded Room," in which he's arrested for a shooting in Rockefeller Center, Holland admitted, "We were exploring certain emotions that I've definitely never experienced before, and then on top of that, being a producer dealing with the dayto-day kind of problems that come with any film set just added that extra level of pressure."

Juggling producing chores while playing a character in a severe mental state apparently pushed him to a breaking



Candace Cameron Bure ("Aurora Teagarden Mysteries")

point, so he's decided to take a year off from acting. Amanda Seyfried co-stars, and it dropped June 9.

Many were shocked when James Corden announced last April that he was ending his hosting stint of "The Late Late Show" on CBS, which he'd done since 2015. Everyone wondered why he walked away from a yearly paycheck of \$6 million.

But CBS, who stuck by him when there was a ton of backlash from his bad behavior at restaurants, decided for him. The show, which cost \$65 million a year, was only making \$45 million a year in advertising revenue. A CBS executive confessed "It was simply not sustainable. CBS could not afford him anymore."

His show averaged 971,000 viewers during the 2020-21 season, while his competition, "Late Night With Seth Meyers," at NBC was pulling in 1.01 million viewers. Add in the fact that CBS is vacating their longtime Fairfax Television Center and would've needed to relocate his show, and it's a no-brainer.

While Carpool Karaoke is probably what most viewers will miss, he's back home in London, and our crosswalks are once again safe from his crosswalk musicals! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

June 26, 2023 Posting Date



ENTERTAINMENT

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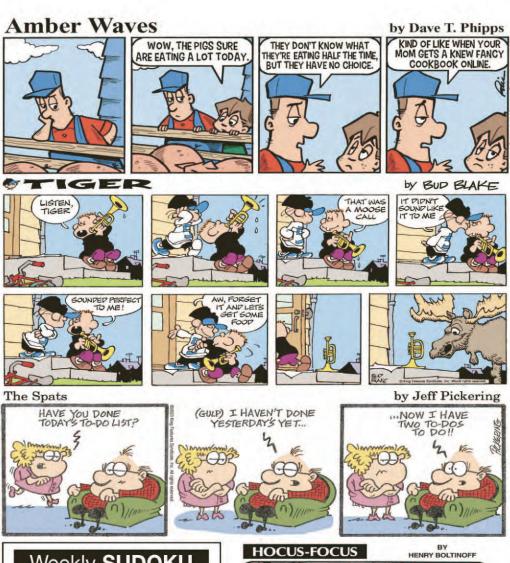
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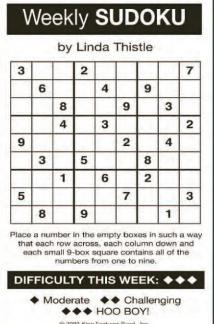
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33 Joke









8. Abraham Lincoln.; 9. Talking in your sleep.; 10. Seven. 3. Rabbits.; 4. 2007.; 5. Clownfish.; 6. Rainbow Road.; 7. Six of the eight planets.; 1. Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.; 2. HyperText Transfer Protocol.; Trivia Test Answerst

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Linen shades

25 Pooch 26 Nap site 28

Bagel topper Automaton. for short 29 Hog haven 31 Pad you bring 32 Ms. Moreno 34 West of Hollywood 35 Ape 36 Asparagus

unit Prove untrue 38 Despot 39 Vagrant

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fee 43 Historic periods

44 Filches

 $t\!e\!st$ by Fifi Rodriguez 1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the tallest building

in the world? 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does

HTTP stand for in a website address? 3. LITERATURE: Which kind of animals are featured in the novel "Watership Down"?

4. HISTORY: When was the first iPhone released? 5. MOVIES: What kind of fish is Nemo in

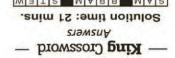
"Finding Nemo"? 6. GAMES: What is the final course on Mario

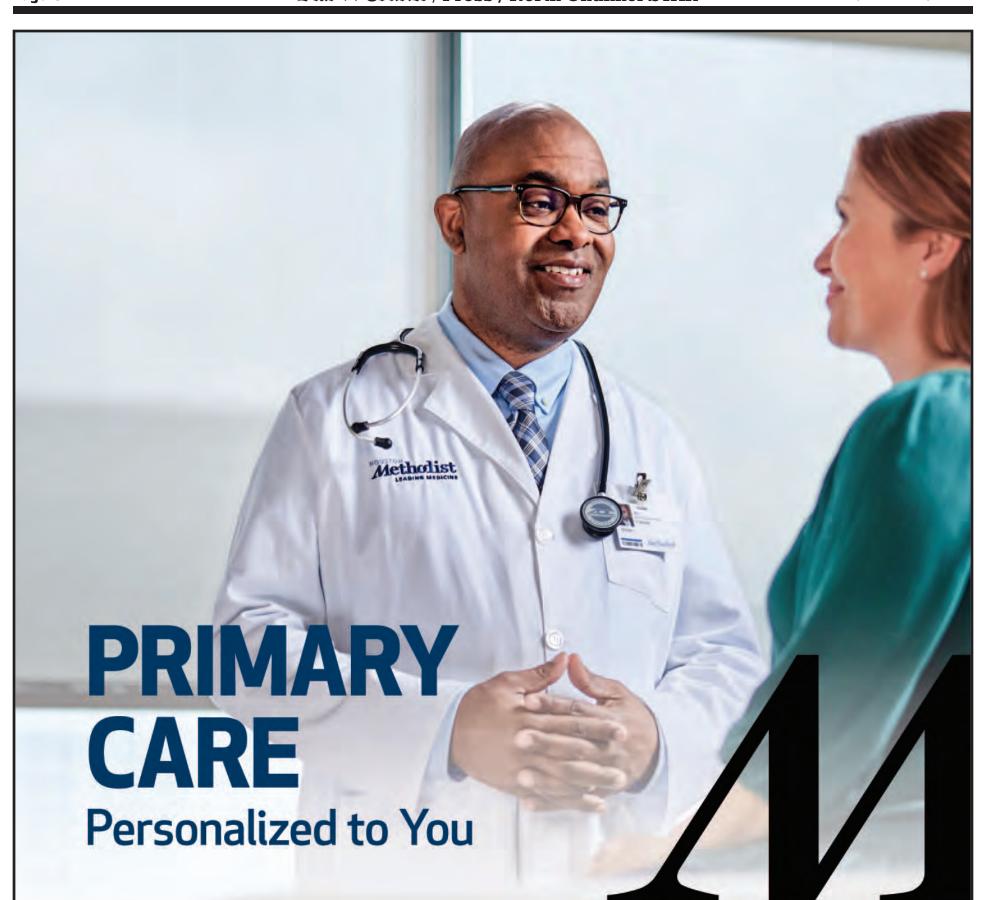
Kart video games? 7. ASTRONOMY: How many planets in our solar system have moons?

8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was licensed as a bartender? 9. MEDICAL: What is a more common term for somniloquy?

10. TELEVISION: How many castaways are on "Gilligan's Island"?

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