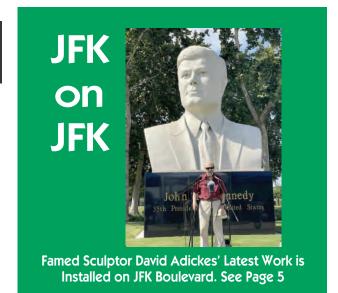
NORTH CHANNEL **STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



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VOLUME 11, NO. 26 (#476) THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

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.

Happy Hour Mixer July 20

The North Channel Chamber and the Harris County Cultural Arts Center invite the public to a Happy Hour Mixer July 20 from 4pm to 7pm at the HCCAC center, 13334 Wallisville Road.

No Cost to Attend, Cash Bar, Everyone Welcome. Food, Music, Networking. Live Jazz Sounds by Scotch & Soda. 2 free drink

tickets for Chamber



JACINTO CITY & GALENA PARK CELEBRATE 4TH OF JULY

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park – Jacinto City, TX. - On the 4th of July, 2023 the two neighboring cities, Galena Park and Jacinto City joined together to provide their annual aerial fireworks show which thousands from each city came to see.

North Channel Star writer and former Jacinto City Mayor Allan Jamail said, "The fireworks show has gotten bigger and the crowd of citizens of Galena Park and Jacinto City to come see the display have gotten bigger too. And of course the cost has gotten bigger."

AT LEFT: An aerial cluster firework explodes high into the sky as thousands of 4th of July celebrators gathered in Galena Park & Jacinto City to recognize the Nation's Birthday & Independence Day. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Texas Legislature votes Tax Relief compromise

Breakthrough Deal on Property Tax Legislation

 $Austin,\,Texas — Texas$

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Speaker Dade Phelan today issued a joint statement to announce an agreement on proposed legislation that will deliver the biggest property tax cut in Texas history. Both leaders met last week in Austin and, along with members of the House and Senate have continued working day and night to reach a consensus. The deal represents a significant win for providing relief to Texas property owners and re-

flects the commitment of

Texas leaders to address



Texas 88th Legislature is in its Second Special Session.

the concerns of taxpayers and provide significant relief from the burden of escalating property taxes.

Highlights of the \$18 billion tax cut legislation include:

- Over \$12 billion will be spent on reducing the school property tax rate for all homeowners and business properties.
- Every homeowner who homesteads their

home (approximately 5.7 million homeowners) will get a \$100,000 homestead exemption.

homesteaded properties, valued at \$5 million and under, including residential and commercial prop-

praised values as a 3-year pilot project.

• Legislation will also include savings on the franchise tax for small businesses and create new-

erties, will receive a 20%

circuit breaker on ap-

"Reducing property taxes, providing relief to small business owners,

ly elected positions on lo-

cal appraisal boards.

See TAX RELIEF, page 5

Yaquelin Serrano is Rookie Teacher of the Year

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. ~ July 11, 2023, the Jacinto City Elementary School (JCES) in the Galena Park ISD has many top of the line administrators and teachers. Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Gardea, Principal and Cecilia Meza, Assistant Principal is two examples any school district would be proud to have on their staff. The parents of the students are fortunate to have these two lady's oversee-

ing their child's early education.

Ms. Yaquelin Serrano is another bright spot at the JCES, the home of the Tigers. She's teaching Kindergarten students ages 5 – 6. This age of learning is vital to the overall future of our citizenry. Their education at this age will have a vital influence in determining whether or not as an adult they'll have a positive productive life in their community. Equally the parent's are is blessed by having all of the other dedicated teachers at JCES teaching their children.

I know how important this early education is during a child's primary educational years. Myself having both my daughter Yvette and son Allan Jr. graduate from JCES. They both are blessed now with families of their own and both are assets to their



Yaquelin Serrano holding the award given her by the GPISD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

CONTINUED. See JC Elementary Rookie Teacher of the Year, Page 3

Ribbon Cutting for Raven Boy Scouts

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – June 29, 2023 at the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, CEO & President Margie Buentello introduced Ms. Brandi Walker-Brown, Development Director of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts Of America (BSOA) as the Chamber's newest member.

Ms. Brown said, "For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through over a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society."

Ms. Brown went on to say she was looking forward to the Scouts having a good relationship with



ribbon which makes the Raven's Scouts an official member of the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. (L – R): Traci Galyean, Taylor Thornton, Mo Siddiqui, Margie Buentello, NCAC President & CEO, Crystal Jackson, Marisol Gonzalez, Scouts Field Director, Enrique Garcia, Sam Pineda, Brandi Walker-Brown, Scouts Development Director, Brittany Haskins, Houston Farris, Scout Volunteer, Dora Villarreal, Monica Arredondo, Cleveland Landheart, Belinda Zepeda, Kristina Zatopek, Berenice DeLeon, Yesenia Doyal, NCAC Membership Director & Jacob Gerdsen. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

the NCAC Chamber. She said the many scouting programs available will provide a positive influence of all ages in the North Channel Community. She introduced Ms. Marisol Gonzalez, the Raven Executive District Field Direc-

tor

Ms. Gonzalez stated the Raven District serves Scouting units in Barbers Hill, Galena Park, Goose Creek CISD, Channelview, Crosby, and Sheldon school districts, and other schools around east Houston, Jacinto City, Galena Park, Baytown, Crosby, Channelview, Sheldon, and the Mont Belvieu area. The Raven District is in the Sam Houston Area Council of the BSOA.

Mr. Houston Farris, a Scout Volunteer of many years began as a Cub Scout at 6 years of age. He achieved the highest scout rank as an Eagle Scout and now is a USA Volunteer in his own son's Pack. He gave an inspirational talk of how important scouting has been to his life and to the

achievements he's accomplished as an adult.

Farris said, "I have been active in Scouting for 17 years. 12 years as a youth (Tiger Cub to Eagle Scout) and now 5 years as an adult Volunteer Scout Leader. I began as a Scout Leader when my son Holden Farris could join Cub scouting as a Tiger. I'm a Cub Scout Den Leader, Lone Star District Committeeman and Cub Scout Day Camp Director".

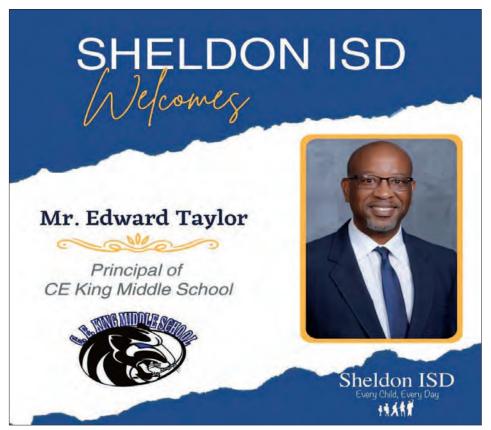
The Raven District was

named after General Sam Houston. When as a boy he ran away from home and lived among the Cherokee Indians, the Chief named him "The Raven". Later Houston led his Texas troops in defeating the Mexican Army led by Mexico's President Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacin

CONTINUED. See NC Chamber's Newest Member, Page 3

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Edward Taylor Promoted to principal of King Middle School



Mr. Edward Taylor has been named the principal for C.E. King Middle School. No stranger to the King Middle School community, Mr. Taylor has been leading the campus as associate principal since 2020. No stranger to the King Middle School community, Mr. Taylor has been leading the campus as associate principal since 2020.

"Mr. Taylor will be an excellent fit to lead King Middle School as its next principal," said Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall. "For the past three years, he has built relationships with stu-

dents, staff and families in the school community. I have complete confidence he will continue to lead the school with excellence."

Mr. Taylor brings 13 years of experience as a campus administrator serving in North Forest and Aldine ISD prior to his time in Sheldon. He holds a master's in education administration from Lamar University and a bachelor of science in biology from Dillard University. His career in education began in 2000 and for the past 23 years, he has served at a variety of levels including elementary, middle and high school.

"I am looking forward to working with the families and staff in my new role at King Middle School," said Mr. Taylor. "This is a fantastic campus and community to work with, and I'm excited to continue building relationships as we work together to have a successful school year."

Mr. Taylor's role as principal begins this summer. He succeeds Mrs. Ashley Sampson who was recently named Sheldon ISD's Director of Student Services.

Former Sheldon ISD Superintendent presented HAABSE Pinnacle Award

Congratulations to previous Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr. King Davis for receiving the Pinnacle Award from HAABSE (Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators). Dr. Davis served as the superintendent in Sheldon ISD for seven years. He was celebrated today at a conference in Galveston, along with Sheldon ISD's former Deputy Superintendent of Academics (now Superintendent in Crosby ISD) Mrs. Paula Patterson.



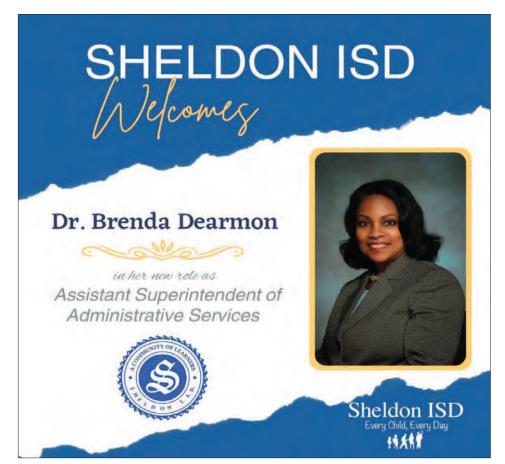
Sheldon ISD pilots New Program for English Language Learners



Students were engaged in fun and interactive activities designed to reinforce the English language Foundation for Emergent Bilingual students in their first year in the U.S.A. Students participated in community-building activities that focused on developing a comfortable and connected language learning community. They collaborated in different activities while increasing their academic language and literacy that will prepare them for the core curriculum that they will encounter in the coming school year.

Sheldon ISD is piloting Lexia English in the Summer Academy. Lexia English representatives came to visit us last week and were very impressed with the implementation of small group and center rotations using Lexia English. Sheldon ISD is very proud of the students' language progress.

Dr. Brenda Dearmon Named Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services



Sheldon ISD has named Dr. Brenda Dearmon the new Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. Dr. Dearmon has 39 years of experience in education serving as classroom teacher, instructional facilitator, campus administrator, and Executive Director of Federal Programs & Grants in Sheldon ISD. She is the district contact for After-School Programming with 20 years of experi-

ence facilitating 21st Century Community Learning Centers. In her new role, she will oversee federal programs and grants, human resources, technology, operations and campus principals.

Dr. Brenda Dearmon received her Baccalaureate and Master's degrees from the University of Houston, Superintendent Certification at Stephen F. Austin University, and Doctoral degree at Lamar University. She is committed to greating a

stronger school culture for teaching and learning while improving student academic performance.

When Dr. Dearmon is away from her duties in Sheldon ISD, she enjoys reading, playing the organ, traveling, teaching Sunday School, and spending time with her husband, children, and four grandchildren.

Certification at Stephen
F. Austin University, and
Doctoral degree at Lamar
University. She is committed to creating a

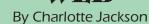
Dr. Dearmon succeeds
Mrs. Marcia Herrera who
was recently named the
Chief Human Resources
Officer for Aldine ISD.

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Kinder Morgan Crude & Condensate LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 101199, which would authorize continued operation of the Galena Park Crude Condensate Splitter Unit within the Galena Park Terminal located at 407 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

CHARLOTTE'S





Changing Values

aily I am reminded of the changing values in our world. There were certain values that most of us grew up with that seem to have either disappeared or are disappearing before our eyes. When I attended public schools, we knew little about our teachers and administrators outside of the classroom. Today most students can tell you about the teacher's marital status, sexual orientation, if their children were born before or after the wedding and much more.

I will never forget when my daughter came home from middle school and shared that her one teacher told the class that he had custody of his son who was born out of wedlock. The teacher went on to explain that because of his family's reputation it was easy for him to get custody. Not long after that, she shared that her teacher and her wife were in the process of having a baby. One of my sons came home to tell me that the coach had been in trouble with another employee's wife while at a conference. These are things that students should not be learning in the classroom.

Even worse are the things that I have heard children discussing about classmates and their families. It is as if all filters have been removed and there are no topics off-limits for discussion. There is no reason for children to know which classmates' parents have or are having affairs. The number of children who share a parent with others at the same school is shocking. There are children coming to school to discuss who their parents are sleeping with or pregnant by. And once the parents' relationship goes sour, the children hear all the negatives and unfortunately bring it to the school or the playground.

Gone are the days of respecting others. My generation was taught to respect elders. End of discussion. But there are younger generations that have the idea that you do not owe respect to anyone who has not earned it. They will curse in front of their grandparents and not think twice. They will interrupt adults who are in conversation. They will get in a car and just reach to change the radio station or to get on their phones and continue conversations that distract the driver. When the driver asks them to get off the phone, their parents will speak up and tell the driver that they need to leave the child passenger

Can you imagine not showing the same respect towards your in-laws that you show to your parents? It did not matter if your parents were divorced and remarried, you were taught to show respect to them and their new spouses. Yet often, I hear parents talk about how others are shown more respect than they are.

How do we restore the values that we hold close? How do we come across as loving instead of judgmental? How do we speak life into a changing

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NC Chamber's Newest Member,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to on April 21, 1836 giving Texas its independence from Mexico. https:// www.britannica.com/place/ Houston

The Sam Houston Area Council serves approximately 28,000 youth in 16 counties in Southeast Texas through dedicated service and leadership of approximately 10,206 adult volunteers. It provides services to the counties of Southeast Texas: Austin, Brazos, Burleson, (portion of) Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, (portion of) Trinity, Walker, Waller, Washington, and Wharton.

Scouting is completely funded by the generosity of those that believe in its mission. The mission of the BSOA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scout Oath: On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. The Scout Law: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

NC Star writer Allan Jamail remembers as a child becoming a Cub Scout first and later graduating to a Boy Scout where he took the Scout Oath and earned merit badges and learned leadership skills. "I think my early scouting days in Galena Park played a big influence in my becoming active in my community of Jacinto City where-I became a police officer and President of the Jacinto City Police Officers Association. And later the Chief of Police, City Councilman. **Emergency Manager Direc**tor and Mayor"— Jamail said. "At 79 I still have my Boy Scout knife from 69 years ago. If you have a child, do them and yourself a favor and introduce them into scouting."

To become a Scout Volunteer and or learn where there's a Scout Pack and or a local Scout Troop and their meeting location and times in your area visit: https://raven.shac.org/units. Packs are either all-girl packs, all-boy packs or family Scouting packs (with both boy and girl dens).

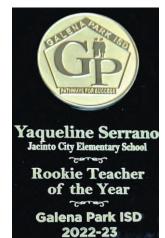
Ms. Brandi Walker-Brown can be reached at 7 1 3 - 7 5 6 - 3 3 1 2 , brandi.wakerbrown@scouting.org. Ms. Marisol Gonzalez, 713-598-Marisol.gonzalez@scounting.org.

www.samhoustonbsa.org NCA Chamber contacts, President:

Margie Buentello: margie@ncachamber.com or Yesenia Doyal, Member-Director: yesenia@ncachamber.com 713-450-3600. www.northchannelarea.com

JC Elementary Rookie Teacher of the Year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Jacinto City Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2022 & 2023 award. (Photo by Allan

communities.

Ms. Serrano was voted on by faculty to the honored and award the Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2022

Yaquelin decided she wanted to become a teacher after working as a long-term substitute teacher at JCES. And she worked hard to become a certified teacher having to have lots of college courses and passing many tests. She had to pass the Core Subjects EC-6, the Science of Teaching Reading, the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test, the Bilingual Supplemental, and the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities

She attended San Jacinto Community College and University of Houston-Downtown. She got her Bachelor's Degree and majored in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. She wants to make teaching her career and intends to get a Master's in Education and hoping someday to become a school administrator.

Her parents Jose and Maria Serrano say they're proud of Yaquelin becoming a teacher. In fact it was her proud mother Maria who called it to my attention one day in a brief meeting that her daughter was awarded Rookie Teacher of the Year. "They believe teaching is a rewarding career and that teachers can have a positive impact on the lives of many children," Yaquelin said.

Ms. Serrano is a life-long student of the GPISD. She was in choir in elementary, middle, and high school, on the National Honor Society at Galena Park High School (GPHS), on the GPHS Jacketeers dance team during her sophomore and junior year in high school and was a Military Officer Junior Lieutenant (Dance Captain) my junior year in high school.

She loves pets and has 2adopted dogs, Sandy a German Shepherd mix and Bella a Schitzu mix. She enjoys country western music and her favorite singer is county singer Cody Johnson. Her favorite food is Mexican enchiladas and flautas. She and her boyfriend like fishing and taking nature walks. Her mother is her biggest influence in her life, we communicate every day.

Yaquelin says, "The best advice I've received is to not limit myself-"The only person standing in the way of your goals is yourself." And if she could give a 10-minute presentation on any subject she said it would be on a Psychology topic. "I've always had a fascination with how our brains function and how our environment affects how we are shaped".

She's a first-generation college student, first in her family to attend and graduate from college. Graduated Summa Cum Laude (with the highest honors) from college. "I want to give a "shout out" to all my "family" at Jacinto City Elementary. Jacinto City Elementary is a great school to work for and I wouldn't want to work anywhere else," she said.

She had the pleasure of teaching a child of someone she went to middle school with. And said, "I'm extremely thankful that I was chosen as the Rookie of the Year at Jacinto City

Elementary. It is an honor to represent JCE."

Yaquelin's younger brother Luis Serrano graduated from college this year (May 2023) with a degree in Mathematics. He'll be teaching Algebra at Galena Park High School in the fall.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for July?"

JULY'S BIRTHSTONE IS RUBY



There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium-dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from ruber, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is considered one of the four preciousstones, together with sapphire, emerald and diamond.

Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called bloodred or "pigeon blood", commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needlelike rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Cut and carat (weight) are also an important factor in determining the price. The world's most expensive ruby is the Sunrise Ruby. Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hard-Among ness natural the only moissanite and diamond are harder, with diamond having a Mohs hardness of 10.0 and moissanite falling somewhere in between corundum (ruby) and diamond in hardness.

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk". Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually the rough stone is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.

Some rubies show a three-point or sixpoint asterism or "star". These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the "silk" (the structurally oriented rutile needle inclusions) in a certain way.

If you are looking to purchase that amazing gift for yourself or someone else, or you need to sell some old jewelry, coins, or diamonds to pay the bills, 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 you

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: $\underline{www.pine for est jewelry.com}.$

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





OPINION PAGE * \bigstar



Extreme Heat Resources and Tips

These past few days, we've seen record-breaking heat across TX-29 and the Houston area. I want to ensure you're well-prepared with the best resources and information to navigate these temperatures safely.

I've compiled reliable local resources - including community cooling centers – in this e-newsletter to help you during this heat wave. If you plan on traveling to a local community center, I highly recommend checking the center to ensure they are still open and ready to receive you. Please remember to stay properly hydrated!

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger due to heat, please call 9-1-1. Please continue reading below and share this with a friend who may find it help-

Local Resources

Ready Harris-Sign up for disaster updates and resources. CenterPoint Energy - Check on power outages and estimated time of repair. Texas Emergency Helpline - Dial 211 to request disaster assistance. NOAA's National Weather Service heat danger chart.

Cooling Centers

(Operating Hours for Centers):

- Monday Wednesday 8 A.M. 5 P.M. ITuesday Thursday 8 A.M. 9 P.M. I Friday 8 A.M.
- Felix Baldree Community Center, located at 13828 Corpus Christi Street, Houston, TX

Hardy Community Center, located at 11901 West Hardy Road, Houston, TX 77076 North East Harris County Community Center, located at 10918 1/2 Bentley Street,

Pep Mueller Community Center, located at 14750 Henry Road, Houston, TX 77060 East Harris County Activity Center, located at 7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, TX

Magnum-Howell Community Center, located at Doss Park Rd, Houston, TX 77038 Martin Flukinger Community Center, located at 16003 Lorenzo Street Channelview, TX

Leonel Castillo Community Center, located at 2101 South Street Houston, TX 77009





The End of Affirmative Action in College Admissions

Today, the US Supreme Court ended affirmative action in colleges and universities. The ruling is egregious and a slap in the face to minorities all over this country. The reasoning cited by Chief Justice Roberts in the majority opinion is disingenuous, disrespectful and shows a complete ignorance of the horrific history of systematic racism perpetrated by this nation's institutions.

Affirmative action was created to address the racial inequities in college admissions. This program opened the door of opportunity to students of color with greater access to higher education and a path to pursue their dreams. This decision turns back the clock on efforts to create student bodies that reflect our diverse state and nation.

The ending of this historic program is part of a broader trend at the state and national level to suppress and oppress diverse perspectives. In our home state, the governor signed into law SB 17, prohibiting Texas colleges and universities from establishing and maintaining Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) offices. If our institutions of higher education are unable to consider race in admissions and no longer have a DEI office to encourage a diverse workforce, what will happen to the diversity on our college campuses, from the student body to the faculty and staff? THERE WILL BE NONE!

The actions by extremists from all levels of government are targeting people of color and seeking to dismantle the progress that we have made since the Civil Rights era. They are AFRAID. Enough is enough! Diversity has been our greatest strength and education is the greatest equalizer. We should be striving to ensure that education and diversity go hand in hand so that future generations have an opportunity to succeed. I remain committed to ensuring that student bodies at the universities in Texas reflect the diversity of our great state.

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Senate Passes Tax Bill as Second Special Session Begins; not final The Texas Senate on the

first day of the Legislature's second special session unanimously passed a tax bill last Wednesday that increases the homestead exemption and includes a pay hike for teachers, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The first special session ended with the Senate and House unable to agree on how to provide property tax relief.

The Senate bill provides \$2,000 pay increase for teachers in urban districts over the next two years, and a \$6,000 hike for teachers in rural areas. It increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan are set to meet in an attempt to come to agreement on the property tax issue, after Patrick texted the best way to resolve debt differences between House and Senate versions would be to meet face-to-face.

"They have responded; we're looking forward to a meeting. ... Whenever that is, I believe we can get this resolved quickly," Patrick told the Statesman.

During the first special session, the House passed its version of a property tax package on the first day and immediately adjourned for the remainder of the 30-day session.

THREE DIE DAILY IN STATE **DUE TO DRUNK DRIVING**

Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation are again urging Texans to drive sober, as drunk driving deaths increased again last year to 1,162 an average of more than three people a day. The agency is spearheading a Faces of Drunk Driving campaign, highlighting families whose lives have been adversely affected by a drunk driver, such as Monse Montoya, who lost her mother and father when a drunk driver ran a stop sign and T-boned her parents' car.

Last year, 26% of all traffic deaths in Texas involved a drunk driver.

"Numbers can some-

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "But these are real people whose lives were either lost or forever altered by someone's decision to drink and drive.

WEEVILS MAKING POSITIVE IMPACT ON GIANT SALVINIA

Giant salvinia presents a major threat to Texas lakes, forming dense carpets of foliage on water surfaces that can expand very rapidly and make boating, fishing and swimming nearly impossible. Now, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists say there are encouraging signs that giant salvinia weevils are effect tive in controlling the inva-

sive species. Giant salvinia invaded Texas waters in 1998 in the Houston area. It was found in Toledo Bend Reservoir

later that year. It is now found on 36 Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes. With the spread to more lakes in recent years, TPWD has worked to attempt to establish weevil populations in colder portions of the state while continuing stockings to augment or rebuild existing populations in areas more

hospitable to weevils. The weevils are more tolerant of low temperatures than previously believed, according to TPWD, and continue to be effective at reducing the spread of giant salvinia.

Boaters are urged to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake in order to prevent the spread of all invasive plant species.

SNAP BENEFITS FOR STORM VICTIMS

Victims of the mid-June storms that caused numerous power outages and subsequent food losses can apply for replacement benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in a dozen Texas counties.

Those counties include Camp, Cass, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Morris, Ochiltree, Panola, Titus, Upshur, and Wood.

"For families that have been impacted by the recent storms, these replacement food benefits will help provide some peace of mind," said Michelle Alletto, with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

SNAP recipients with food lost or destroyed during the storms can apply by July 14 by dialing 2-1-1 and selecting option 8.

NEW LAW COULD BOOST STUDENT MATH SKILLS

A new Texas law recently signed by Gov. Greg Abbott requires school districts and charter schools to automatically enroll fifth graders who score in the top 40% on state math tests to be placed in advanced math classes, KUT reported. The result could be more equitable access to advance math classes, advocates

"This will have a huge impact," Kristen Hengtgen, a senior policy analyst with The Education Trust, said. "The sheer numbers of students who will be identified for advanced math in Texas and in the country is so exciting."

The Education Trust is a nonprofit that promotes education equity.

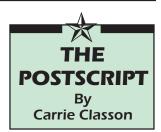
Parents will be able to opt their children out from advanced math classes if they wish.

DURING HEAT WAVE, SOLAR POWER CRUCIAL TO

The "heat dome" that settled over much of the state during June has pushed electrical demand to new highs. One key component in keeping the grid from overloading is the increase in solar panels, which have grown more than sixfold since 2019, according to the Texas Tribune.

Solar power recently provided nearly 20% of the state's power grid needs. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas reported 16,800 megawatts of solar power could be produced on the state's grid as of the end of May. That compares to 2,600 megawatts in 2019.

"The solar we've added in the last year has been tremendously beneficial, and the solar we will continue to add will also be beneficial," said Michael Webber, an energy resources professor at the University of Texas at Austin. "Solar is such a boon for us for grid reliability."



"The Last Song"

I've never known much about music.

I am the oldest child, so I had no older siblings playing what was popular when I was young. My mother listened to public radio in the morning. My dad played Bach on the piano every Sunday after we got home from church. My parents sang at both services in the church choir, so Mom would make something quick when we got home, often a Swanson pot pie. I somehow got "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" mixed up in my head with pot pies, and I think of Bach's masterpiece as "The Pot Pie Song" to this day.

By the time I was a teenager, I was already behind the curve. I wasn't popular enough to be invited places where I'd hear new music. I still have not caught up.

But, in my defense, I enjoy listening to new musicians and new music. My husband, Peter, and I go to concerts in the park all summer and hear all sorts of music. Some of it we love. Some of it we're not so sure about. Sometimes Peter says, "You're looking tired. You want to go home?" And I'll say, "Yeah, maybe so."

We pack up our folding chairs and head home, still listening to the music in the distance. But most of it I like.

Last winter, I went to a concert performed by an old high school friend. I attended with two other old friends and found myself surrounded by people I'd known in high school and hadn't seen since. They were all a lot older than I remembered them—or imagined them—to be. But it was fun to be with people who knew all the words to all the songs. I thought about what a powerful thing that was, to have such a strong shared memory with a room full of people.

it weird," my friend "Isn't Andy said, "how you can remember exactly where you were when you first heard a

"And exactly how you felt and who you were thinking about?" my friend Clay added. His girlfriend, Lou, nodded knowingly and rolled her eyes. I wondered what she was remembering.

"And then you stop hearing the song completely!" Andy said.

"There is some music I don't need to listen to anymore," Clay agreed. "It's burned into my brain."

I'm not sure if I remember the first time I heard most of the songs I know. But I remember songs that helped me when I was struggling with emotions that seemed too big to handle on my own. Songs tided me over. They gave voice to feelings that were either too powerful or too painful to experience in silence. Songs grounded me when I felt I might fly away or explode. Songs made sense of things, even if I couldn't explain in words what I learned from them.

They say that music resides in a different part of our brains than other memories do. Alzheimer patients who no longer remember their families can still play the piano. Musicians performing for the elderly see their faces come to life when they hear songs from their youth. Music buries itself deep within us. When we hear a familiar refrain, we feel the emotion associated with it before we even remember the tune.

The concert finished. The crowd demanded an encore. The musicians complied. The audience erupted in cheers and sang along with the last

I thought about what Clay said about the music being burned into his brain. In a literal sense, it was likely true.

Till next time,

Carrie

FAX Line....713-977-1188 email: grafikstar@aol.com Member Texas Press Association



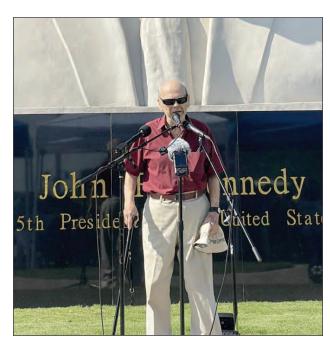
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East Aldine District dedicates JFK on JFK Statue with official ribbon cutting ceremony

LEGAL NOTICE



SCULPTOR DAVID ADICKES SPEAKS, AT THE DEDICATION OF HIS JFK ON JFK STATUE.

The East Aldine Management District on Thursday, June 29th dedicated an 18-feet-tall bust of the late President John F. Kennedy on JFK Boulevard.

Millions of visitors every year will potentially see the public installation — it's called "JFK on JFK" — at the intersection of Aldine Bender Road and JFK Boulevard.

"I am honored to be here at this setting. It's by far the best one I've ever seen for any of my sculptures," said legendary sculptor David Adickes, 96, at the dedication ceremony today for the JFK On JFK project of the EAMD. His larger-than-life busts and statues are iconic features through the region, including the statue of Sam Houston on I-45 in Huntsville, and busts of the U.S. Presidents visible on I-10 in downtown Houston.



At center, Sculptor David Adickes is ready to cut the official ribbon, along with East Aldine Art Council chairman Carlos Silva, and Executive Director Richard Cantu. Others helping with the ceremony are East Aldine board members, arts council members, and residents and special guests of the district. The JFK sculpture is on display day and night at the intersection of John F. Kennedy Boulevard and Aldine Bender Road.

Tax Relief bill,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and reforming our appraisal system will ensure economic growth and prosperity, and this agreement is a significant victory for all Texans," said Speaker Dade Phelan. "I appreciate Rep. Morgan Meyer, Rep. Will Metcalf and all the dedicated members of the House who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help us reach a consensus, and the Texas House will soon do its part to deliver historic property tax relief. Negotiations with the Lieutenant Governor have been extremely productive, and by coming together and finding common ground, the House and Senate are one step closer to providing much-needed, much-deserved relief. I look forward to the passage of this package in the coming days and delivering on our commitment to the people of Texas."

"I started working to reduce property taxes at a Capitol hearing in 2003, 4 years before I was elected

to the Texas Senate. It has been a long road, but this is a great day for all property owners. Speaker Phelan and I worked diligently together over the last week on the final bill. It made the difference. It may have taken overtime, but the process has produced a great bill for homeowners and businesses," said Lt. Gov. Patrick. "I thank all 31 Senators for working together and being patient through this process. I especially thank Sen. Paul Bettencourt, who was with me on that first bus trip to Austin 20 years ago, for his tireless work on this issue."

Both the omnibus property tax relief bill and the franchise tax relief bill will originate in the Texas Senate and the constitutional amendment will be introduced as a House Joint Resolution (HJR). The Senate and House will file legislation today with the goal of passing the bills later this week.





LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 101199

APPLICATION. Kinder Morgan Crude & Condensate LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 101199, which would authorize continued operation of the Galena Park Crude Condensate Splitter Unit within the Galena Park Terminal located at 407 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en espanol está disponible en https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.218611,29.735833&level=13. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: hazardous air pollutants, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on June 9, 2023. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Galena Park Library, 1500 Keene Street, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of permits by rule and changes in emission factors related to this permit. An amendment application that is not subject to public notice or an opportunity for a contested case hearing is also being reviewed. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

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

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Kinder Morgan Crude & Condensate LLC, 1001 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002-5089 or by calling Ms. Jamie Pryhuber, Senior Air Permitting and Compliance Specialist at (832) 690-5623.

Notice Issuance Date: June 15, 2023



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LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED A VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATION FROM MACARIO ALANIS AT 1402 KILROY. HE IS REQUESTING A PERMIT TO KEEP HIS PAINT AND BODY SHOP OPEN WHILE PROPERTY SELLS.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JULY 25, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX AT 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.







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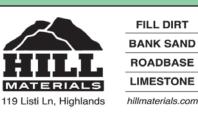


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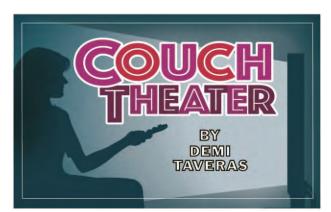
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From left, Rita Morena, Jane Fonda, Sally Field and Lily Tomlin star in "80 for Brady."

"80 for Brady"

"WHITNEY HOUS-**TON: I WANNA DANCE** WITH SOMEBODY" (PG-13) — The biographic film based on the life of music legend Whitney Houston is now out on streaming. Naomi Ackie ("Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker") portrays Houston as she gets her big break when a producer hears her singing at a nightclub. The film then walks viewers through Houston's greatest moments during the 1980s and 1990s, including her performance of the National Anthem at Super Bowl XXV as well as her roles in films such as "The Bodyguard." Even though the film digs deeper into her more personal relationships with notorious bad boy Bobby Brown and close friend/lover Robyn Crawford, the screenplay itself comes across a bit generic and surface-level. Ackie, and other cast members like Ashton Sanders and

Stanley Tucci, do their best to make the script come to life. (Netflix)

"HOUSE OF HAM-**MER"** (TV-MA) — The past few years have been tumultuous for actor Armie Hammer ("The Social Network," "Call Me By Your Name"), after allegations of physical, sexual and emotional abuse came out against him from several women in January 2021. Even though the charges were recently dropped against Hammer due to insufficient evidence, a three-part documentary series breaks down the horrific allegations, tying Hammer's manipulative behavior back to the sociopathic patterns of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him. Casey Hammer, Armie's aunt, also appears in the documentary to give insight into the secrets of her family, spanning back to oil tycoon Armand Hammer (1898-1990), and how it all eventually trickled down to her nephew. Out now. (MAX)

"80 FOR BRADY" (PG-13) — Four elderly best friends - Lou, Trish, Maura and Betty - are die-hard fans of the New England Patriots football team, specifically Tom Brady, the team's quarterback. While making plans to watch Super Bowl LI, Lou throws around the idea of watching the game in-person. When Lou announces that they won tickets from a radio show giveaway, the foursome make plans to travel to Houston to watch their dream team play, but they soon lose the tickets, forcing them to find another way inside. Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field star in this playful comedy, with Brady, of course, making a few appearances. Premieres July 4. (Amazon Prime Video)

"REALITY CHECK" (NR) — Three years after his last comedy special that took place in the living room of his Los Angeles home, Kevin Hart is back with a new special this time with material from his "Reality Check" tour, which he embarked on late last year. In this special. Hart focuses on topics similarly covered in his past specials, like his family life and fame, but he claims to be even more unfiltered than he's been before. With no short supply of curse words or crude jokes, Hart takes the stage with a bat in hand, just in case he needs to "knock someone's head off." (Somewhere in the distance, you can hear Chris Rock quietly taking notes.) "Reality Check" premieres July 6, on the comedian's 44th birthday. (Peacock) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



BARC will waive Adoption fees for "Empty the Shelters" drive

HOUSTON - BARC, the City of Hous- as well as the opportunity to purchase an ton's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, and BISSELL Pet Foundation, a national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending pet homelessness, are excited to announce that they will be teaming up with MetLife Pet Insurance for the foundation's upcoming "Empty the Shelters" adoption event. From July 6 to July 31, BISSELL Pet Foundation's Summer National "Empty the Shelters" will occur at more than 335 shelters in 44 states with pets available for adoption, including BARC Houston. With the shared goal of helping pets find and stay in loving homes, this collaboration will save lives by expanding the foundation's reach to include more shelters across the country and allow BARC to completely waive adoption fees during this summer's

For this upcoming campaign, BARC Houston will once again waive adoption fees for all cats and dogs. To help ensure another successful campaign, BARC will also be extending its adoption hours by opening its adoption center Mondays throughout the campaign, when we have traditionally been closed. Interested adopters can visit BARC's Adoption Center at 3300 Carr St. any day from June 6 - 31 from noon to 5 p.m. to take advantage of the Empty the Shelters campaign and our waived adoption fees. All interested adopters can find more details online at www.houstonbarc.com.

Since the 2016 inception of BISSELL Pet Foundation's "Empty the Shelters," nearly 158,000 pets at 669 animal welfare organizations in 49 states and Canada have received second chances. An average of 1,200 shelter pets are adopted each day during each quarterly national event. Through this partnership and continued support, the foundation is looking forward to reaching more pets in more shelters and communities during this upcoming event.

"We are excited to team up with MetLife Pet Insurance to offer 30 days of pet insurance at no cost to the adopter,

> ACROSS 1 Ego 5 Curved line 8 Easy targets

hero 14 Conspiracy

18 Low isle 19 Pale yellow 21 Rice recipe 24 Colorations 25 Landed

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Geometric calculation

"The Matrix"

annual pet insurance policy, which could make a difference in helping adopters deal with their pet's unexpected illness or injury," said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BIS-SELL Pet Foundation. "Veterinary costs add up quickly, and too often, pet owners forgo care or surrender their beloved pets when they can't afford treatment. This collaboration could help to enable more pets in more communities to be adopted through 'Empty the Shelters' and can help facilitate adopters seeking treatment to keep their pets healthy and in their new homes.

BARC is excited to once again partner with the BISSELL Pet Foundation to offer completely waived adoption fees through another Empty the Shelter Campaign. More than 1,000 BARC animals found their forever homes in our Fiscal Year 23 campaigns, and BARC hopes to help continue this success by opening its adoption center on Mondays throughout the cam-

BISSELL Pet Foundation and BARC Houston urge families to do their research about the pet they are interested in adopting, as well as adoption requirements. For more information on adopting or donating to "Empty the Shelters," visit www.bissellpetfoundation.org/empty-theshelters as well as www.houstonbarc.com.

About BARC

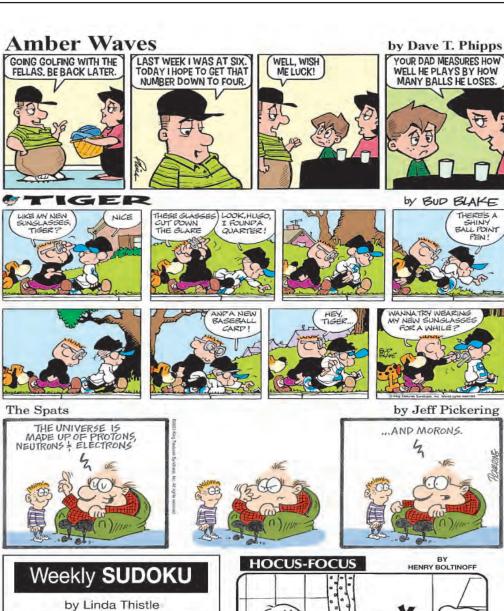
BARC, the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, takes in more than 25,000 animals annually regardless of behavior, breed, or medical condition. BARC works each day to improve Houstonians and their pets' health and safety by pioneering programs such as lowcost and no-cost spay/neuter services, mobile adoptions, transfer/rescue partnerships, and community outreach.

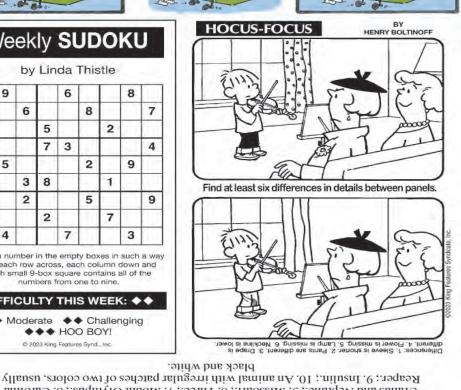
Visit www.houstonbarc.com or www.Facebook.com/BARCHouston for more information.

July 10, 2023 Posting Date



ENTERTAINMENT





King Crossword 15 18 19 22 28 29 33 46 31 Skin openings

9 "Roots"

Getz

20 Reply to

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16 Klutz

Jazz great

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Tropical tree

22 "Casablanca"

23 Pot covers

24 Long-eared

hoppers

53 Continental currency

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Football filler Paul Nabob 42 Milky gem

43 Large dogs

48 Portrayal

49 Yale grad

50 Humdrum 52 Game caller

51 Apple product 8

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31 Impudent

27 Always

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35 Writer 37 Perch

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Spelling

39 Each

40 Angelic light "Dream on!"

44 Pub pint

45 Winter ailment

46 Distant

47 HBO rival

Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nut is used

in a satay? 2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the first presi-

dent to have a telephone in the White House? 3. MOVIES: Which actress won an Oscar for

her role in "Mary Poppins"?

4. ASTRONOMY: How many planets in our solar system have rings? LITERATURE: The novels "Tom Sawyer"

and "Huckleberry Finn" are set in which U.S.

state? 6. TELEVISION: How many seasons of "Star

Trek" were produced for television? 7. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the

highest mountain in Greece? 8. SCIENCE: Which plant produces the world's

hottest pepper? 9. ANATOMY: Which hormone regulates

blood sugar?

10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a piebald? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Uranus and Neptune.; 5. Missouri.; 6. Three.; 7. Mount Olympus.; 8. Carolina 1. Peanut.; 2. Rutherford B. Hayes.; 3. Julie Andrews.; 4. Four: Jupiter, Saturn, Trivia Test Answerst

6

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2

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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9

Solution time: 23 mins. SIOMSUA - King Crossword



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