



Congratulations to Judge Joe Stephens, graduating from South Texas Law School AND passing the bar exam.

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Jacinto City changes Trash Pick-up Days

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

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.

It's a Dirty Business

Joe Flanagan of Lonestar Siteworks has available time for Dozer, Backhoe and Tractor work. Call or text him for a Free Quote on your next Dirt(y) project. 832-530-0054. He's well recommended, fast and inexpensive. Call now.

Free Student Desks at Ace Hardware

Sunday, June 11th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Galena Park Ace Hardware (Kiran Bardaj, owner/operator) located at 1401 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX 77547, students and or parents can build a free-to-take-home student desk in just 45 minutes. The Houston Tool Bank will provide everything you need, including pre-cut building materials, tools, instructions and expert facilitators. This is a family friendly event, all ages and abilities are welcome. Volunteers needed. For more details call; 713-674-0262.

Galena Park ISD holds Service Awards Ceremony

By Allan Jamail

May 18, 2023 – The Galena Park School District held their annual awards ceremony in the auditorium of the North Shore High School. There were 140 awardees given recognition for outstanding service and achievements to the district. Various categories of awards were presented by several school administration officials.

Mistress of Ceremonies Terri Moore directed the program agenda and gave the welcoming introductions. The event began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the USA & Texas flags by Dr. David Harris who also gave the Invocation.

Adrian Stephens, President of the District's Trustees praised the awardees and gave the attendees a greeting from the Trustees.

Dr. John Moore, Superintendent made the closing remarks. He stressed the importance of the district's teachers to the lives of their students. And emphasized what happened here tonight is not some little thing. These teachers and administrators played a vital service to the community.



L-R: Rosa Contreras, GPMS Paraprofessional of the year & Mary Dale Cravens, GPMS 50 Year Service Award. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Lucia Martinez, GPMS Paraprofessional of the year.



Deborah Eaton, GPMS 50 Year Service Award.

They didn't just give their students a sound education, but what they really did was prepare them for their future. They taught them how to be productive citizens and a positive influence in the community

Two awards for principals of the year, Michelle Cavazos & Dr. Christopher Eckford and two awards for assistant principals of the year, Barika Noris & Alaide Zavala.

Alondria Brooks, Secondary Teacher of the Year, Dr. Joe Colman, Administrator of the Year,

Cathleen Ethridge, Support Personnel of the Year and Nereyda Rojas, Elementary Teacher of the Year were awarded by the Galena Park Classroom Teachers Association.

Carmela Garcia and Marla Taylor were awarded Campus Educator of the Year by the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

CONTINUED. SEE GPISD SERVICE AWARDS, PAGE 3

AT LEFT: \*District Teachers of the Year & \*\*Rookie Teachers of the year.

L - R: \*James Bell III, \*\*Reyna Aguilar, \*Tynasha Turk & \*\*Camryn Goodman



2023 GP Yellow Jackets Soccer Team Winning Season

By Allan Jamail

May, 30, 2023 - The 2023 Galena Park High School Varsity Soccer Team had a winning season and advanced into the playoffs. They won 80 percent of their district games with a 12 wins & 3 loss record. The District 5A Bi-District playoff game #with Fulshear was all defense.

Head Coach Shannon Summers with assistant coaches Steven Botello and Dalton Strouse had the Jackets playing outstanding defense and offense all season.

The Yellow Jackets lost in the 2023 UIL Texas Boys Soccer State Championship Tournaments. They lost against the Fort Bend Fulshear Chargers. At the end of regulation play, both teams were scoreless. To break the tie each team has the same amount of "spot kicks" where the ball is placed at the penalty mark location, the Chargers won 3 – 1.



TOP ROW – L – R: Kevin Vega, Diego Rendon, Victor Silva, Leonardo Castro, Yorgo Reyna, Isaias Quiroz, Alfonso Mendoza, Isaac Quiroz, Arturo Alvarado, Mauricio Garza, Alexis Peña.  
MIDDLE ROW- L – R: Jayden Carmona, Bryan Cordova, Daniel Gonzalez, Gilberto Guzman, Alfredo Flores, Jose De La Torre, Andrew Gutierrez, Abdiel Lopez, Ernesto Villarreal.  
BOTTOM ROW - L – R: Javier Moreno, Aidan Olmos, Diego Sierra. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Woman leaves loaded gun in purse at Havard Elementary

GALENA PARK, Texas – A woman has been charged after a purse with a loaded gun was left unattended at a Galena Park elementary school, according to the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Alyssa Monique Serna, 21, was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon.

On Tuesday, Serna visited James B. Havard Elementary School to watch a second-grade award ceremony where she allegedly left her purse in the school's cafeteria, officials said. An administrator who was clearing out the cafeteria found her purse and turned it over to the principal, according to the school. When the principal opened the purse and looked inside to identify the owner, a fully loaded 9mm Taurus pistol was found, officials said.

According to the school, the administrator immediately contacted the Harris

County Precinct 3 resource officer who then recovered the weapon.

Serna is accused of leaving the purse unattended where any student or child could have access to the loaded firearm, documents show. When she returned to the school to retrieve the purse, she was detained by the school resource officer and charges were filed. She was arrested and posted a \$12,500 bond. Serna's court date was set for Thursday.

James B. Havard Elementary School released the following statement to parents and guardians:

"On May 23, 2023, an administrator was clearing out the cafeteria after the second-grade awards ceremony and found an unaccompanied purse. The administrator looked inside the purse to see if there was any identification and found a loaded handgun.

"The administrator im-

mediately contacted the Harris County Precinct 3 School Resource Officer, and the officer took possession of the purse and gun. After further investigation, it was determined that the purse was inadvertently left in the cafeteria by a campus visitor. The School Resource Officer detained the purse owner (when she returned to campus to retrieve the purse), contacted the district attorney, and criminal charges were accepted.

"Please know that these situations are never dismissed, as the safety of students and staff is always our first concern. As a reminder, Galena Park ISD is a gun-free zone, and violators will be prosecuted. Feel free to contact my office at 832-386-3710 if you have any questions or concerns you would like to share. Our commitment to maintaining a safe school environment is unwavering, and we accomplish this with your support."

Galena Park Vape Shop fire-bombed by unknown assailants

GALENA PARK — The Galena Park Police Department is investigating a fire that was started by masked intruders at a smoke shop last weekend.

The store owner and a cashier were inside when the store went up in flames.

Your Vape House cashier Merlyn Rodriguez said she doesn't understand why anyone would do what they did — putting her life at risk.

"The fire got from here all the way up and that's when I knew I couldn't do anything," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said two masked men came into the store and started the fire by throwing a fire-bomb.

"Within a second or two, there was fire everywhere because this is carpet. So, I didn't know what to do. And while he was walking out, he shoved something by the door and that was on fire, too," Rodriguez

CONTINUED. SEE VAPE SHOP ATTACKED, PAGE 3



Store owner Sami Durrani talks at the front of his store on Clinton Drive in Galena Park.



The fire started by the fire-bombs ruined the ceiling, and all of the merchandise in cabinets and on the walls.



# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## KMS Students Surprised with Classroom Makeover for Good Behavior

Life Enhancements Services has teamed up with Houston Random Acts of Kindness Day, Inc., (HRAK) Founders, David and Treveia Dennis, and Sheldon ISD's Education Foundation to provide a Random Acts of Kindness Day, Inc. "RAK Room" for C.E. King Middle School. Students were surprised with the room May 24 during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The exciting new RAK Room is a student incentive-based school store created by Houston Random Acts of Kindness Day, Inc., in collaboration with community partners. The RAK Room is a physical space designed as fun, colorful reward rooms where students can shop and purchase a variety of items, engage in a play station area, take a break from studies with a selfie room, and participate in special events!

Students can earn points for positive behavior, attendance, anti-bullying, academic achievement, random acts of kindness and other accomplishments, which can be used for RAK Room purchases and experiences. The RAK Rooms are designed to provide incentives to motivate students academically and socially by encouraging attendance, kindness, accountability, volunteering, philanthropy, engagement, appreciation, and participation. The rooms and incentives give students opportunities to engage, excel, and learn.



## KASE Academy Holds First Field Day Event



To celebrate the Class of 2023 graduates from KASE Academy, the school held its first Field Day on May 19. The event was a great team building day with activities for seniors, including a dunk tank with Principal Mills and baskets of necessities for graduating seniors for college. Baskets were donated by Sheldon ISD employees.



## Sheldon ISD Students Receive State art Medals



King High School's Monica Arceo and Ashley Banegas received state medals for the High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). In February, Areco and Benegas were selected as Regional Superior Rating Medalist and State Qualifiers for their 2D and 3D artwork. Additionally, Monica Arceo entered a scholarship workshop competition where she was given one hour to create a sculpture out of copper wire. She received first place and a \$600 scholarship. There are more than 35,000 entries statewide in this competition, which is equivalent to the UIL Contests where other campus organizations compete for Texas's art programs. King High School had 14 Regional Superior Rating Medalists, and four state qualifiers. The following were state qualifiers for 2023:

Monica Areco (3D Artwork, Title: "Chose One, Or Not" AND 2D Artwork, Title: "Saturday Morning")

Ashley Benegas (2D Artwork, Title: "Ojos Lindos")

Samantha Meza (2D Artwork, Title: "I Hold The Sun To My World")

Amanda Moreno (2D Artwork, Title: "A Ski Trip I Will Never Forget")

## Summer Movie Night at Sheldon ISD

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Movie Night

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Concessions Available

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Thursday  
June 8

Featuring the movie CARS

Games from 5 - 7 PM

Bring cash for games & concessions benefiting SISD Advanced Academics

Meet the New Superintendent 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Movie begins at 7:30 PM

Dr. Dermotus McCall

Bring your own blanket and chairs!

at Panther Stadium

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Panther Stadium has a clear bag policy. Metal detectors are used at the stadium upon entrance and no umbrellas inside.

# GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

## GPISD's Winning Calculations



Pictured: Wanda Heath-Johnson, GPISD Board Trustee; Zachary Mann; Hiromi Islas; Diana Delosa; Jase Tapiz; Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools; Don Kirby, Coach; and Dr. Joe Coleman, NSSHS Principal

# CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

## Channelview Debate team earns UIL honors



incredible season. Noemi Sanchez is the first student in 14 years who attended UIL state in Austin Texas on May 18. She earned 3rd place at regionals out of 40 writers.

CISD would also like to recognize Kyle Morgan for being 1st and district champion in Current Events and News and Aleyda Hernandez for placing 1st and district champion in Persuasive Speaking.

Houston, TX: The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees recognized the 6A High School (HS) Calculator Team from North Shore Senior High School (NSSHS) for winning first place in their division and earning additional individual awards at the 2023 Texas Math and Science Coaches Association (TMSCA) High School State Meet on March 18, 2023.

The first-place team members included:

- \*Diana Delosa (12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- \*Hiromi Islas (11<sup>th</sup> grade)
- \*Zachary Mann (10<sup>th</sup> grade)

The TMSCA is dedicated to promoting excellence in math and science through competition, and this team from NSSHS demonstrated their excellence! These outstanding recognitions, which are the result of expanding academic interests, are a stellar representation of teaching and learning in Galena Park ISD.

A certificate and medal were presented to each student on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

Story Credits: Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Photo Credits: Jerome Delafosse

\*Jase Tapiz (9<sup>th</sup> grade)

In the individual category, the following awards were earned:

- \*Diana Delosa - First-place in HS Calculator 12<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A
- \*Hiromi Islas - Fifth-place in HS Calculator 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A
- \*Zachary Mann - Second-place in HS Calculator 10<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A
- \*Jase Tapiz - First-place in HS Calculator 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A; 3<sup>rd</sup> place in HS Number Sense 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A; Fourth-place in HS Mathematics 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A; and Seventh-place in HS Science 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 6A.

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



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Someone’s Child

As I turned out of my apartment drive way, I received a phone call that, yet another young person had been killed by a gunshot earlier in the morning. I immediately began to pray, not just that I did not know this young man, but also for his loved ones. Before I passed the apartment where he had been killed, I noticed several other people that I felt the urge to pray for.

There is an older man who for years has been homeless in our area. On this day, he was sitting at the bus stop in front of an elementary school. He nodded his head as I glanced towards him. I have witnessed him lose more than one hundred pounds since I first met him. He had entered the military after graduating from a local high school. When he returned from his duty in Vietnam, he has never been the same. He has battled demons of alcohol and drug abuse as well as waking up too many mornings with the effects of post traumatic stress. After several failed marriages as well as a stint in prison, he prefers the streets.

As I approached the next light, I saw a young woman stumbling as she tried to cross Uvalde Road. She appeared to be under the influence of some substance. Our eyes met as I motioned for her to cross the street. She smiled and I could see the result of her using drugs, her teeth had deteriorated, and her eyes looked hollow. I noticed a tattoo on her that had a small butterfly. The next block had signs of another individual that needed help. This young woman is morbidly obese. She often sits on blanket or clothes, smiling yet never looking people in the eyes. I have learned over the years that she has family in the area, but she lives with a mental illness and refuses help.

As I passed the apartments where the young man had been murdered, I saw the emergency vehicles. I began to pray again. This time, I was praying for the First

Responders who had been working at the scene. I prayed asking for extra strength to endure the days ahead. Summer seems to bring more drownings as well as more motor vehicle accidents. Too often with the stress of seeing these things, individuals can grow complacent and forget why they went into this line of work.

As I prayed for these people and their loved ones, I prayed that God would soften the hearts of everyone in the community. None of us are perfect and we do not know the roads that anyone has traveled, but we know that each one of us is someone’s child. We must remind ourselves that we do not know their stories and even if we are not led to physically minister to them, I pray that we will keep them in our prayers.

Vape Shop attacked,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. She quickly kicked the door open to escape.

“I had not a single scratch on my body when I walked out. It is unbelievable. It’s simply a miracle. Only God could have done that,” she said.

Store owner Sami Durrani has been in business since 2021. He said he’s never had issues with customers or anyone in the community. “I don’t understand what happened. We are still in shock,” Durrani said.

Durrani said he thinks it was a targeted attack.

“A motive was to destroy this business so I can get out of here,” he said. Durrani said the suspects took nothing and everything all at once. Yet, he’s still thankful.

“I lost my merchandise, I lost my business, but it would have been more devastating for me if somebody would have been injured or killed,” he said.

Rodriguez said she loves the shop like it’s her own.

“For me to walk in this and see there’s nothing here, it hurts because as much as he lost his business, I lost my job,” she said.

Both of them aren’t sure of their next steps.

“It’s in bad shape, you know. It will take me a lot of money to restart this business and I don’t think, right now, I can do that,” Durrani said. “All I want to know is why they did this.”

Due to the nature of the crime, the Galena Park PD said it’s working with the Harris County Fire Marshal and the ATF. Investigators are still in the process of reviewing surveillance video of the incident.

GPISD Service Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Twenty-six paraprofessionals of the year awards were given to: Jenise Benavides, Merry Bryant, Crystal Casas, Claudia Cervantes, Rosa Contreras, Tina Escalante, Maribel Hernandez, Amy Garza, Gala Brunini Gerez, Dina Gonzalez, Yolanda Gonzalez, Leslie Guajardo, Elizabeth Gusman, Nydia Herrera, Beverly Joseph, Courtney Lane, Paula Leal, Lucia Martinez, Yolanda Olvera, Cynthia Profit, Rosa Rodriguez, Irma Garcia De Saldana, Jacqueline Sanchez, Kendrick Ruben, Lisa Thompson and Sharonda Todd.

Twenty-two rookie teacher of the year awards were given to: Reyna Aguiar, Anayeli Alfaro, James Bell III, Magalie Bouillon, Brenda Canales, Angela Dominguez, Kayla Eber, Amayrani Estrada, Adama Evans, Joseph Figueredo, Naomi Macia, Miryam Marroquin-Lopez, Natalia Martinez, Nathaly Martinez, Patrick Matin, Victoria McMillion, Jacob Montemayor, Adriana Morales, Delia Perez, Christopher Rodriguez, Yaqueline Serrano and Keyla Valentin.

Twenty-six teacher of the year awards were given to: James Arceneaux, FreDrika Aubrey, Tiffany Baldon, Bernadette Bamba, Glenton Beadle, Mary Dale-Craven, Alejandra Cruz, Vonthisha DeFriend, Rachel Estrada, Paola Fernández Cervantes, Du Wayne La Fountain, Camryn Goodman, Whitney Kenney, Kelly Kruzman, Cynthia Luna, Noah Munger, Tonya Murphy, Juan Rangel, Alisha Robinson, Crystal Rosas, Marisol Sanchez, Whitely Savage, Gerardina Torres, Tyneasha Turk, Noelia Vargas and Alicia Woods.

Sixty-two awards for length of time served, Roger Banks, Page Berglan, Erin Bilski, Ruby Bonilla, Allison Campbell, Mary Craven, Angelica Cuellar, Nikkia Eagleton, Deborah Eaton, Lawrence Etienne, Ana Galvan, Celia Gonzales, Jovita Gutierrez, Arlonda Henderson, Mary Hernandez, Angela Hughes, Miroslava Ibarra, Margarita Janice, Janie Lanham, Jose Lerma,

Steven Lewis, Tonya Lloyd, Denise Maddux, Rosalinda Ortiz, David Pierson, Maria Ramirez,

Thelma Rodriguez, Linda Schoffield, Maria Tamez, Marlon Trent, Danielle Venable, Byron Williams, Rhonda Wright and Martha Yanez.

Sixty-eight district employees retired from various departments.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is Alexandrite and Where is it found”



Often described by gem aficionados as “emerald by day, ruby by night,” Alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia’s Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it’s now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.



*This 7.19-carat alexandrite was cut to feature its beautiful color change. When the light source changes from daylight to incandescent light, the gem’s color changes from bluish green to reddish purple.*

Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities, is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Alexandrite’s dramatic color change is sometimes described as “emerald by day, ruby by night.” Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but this gem’s transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called “the alexandrite effect.”

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn’t arise from the gem’s pleochroism, but rather from the mineral’s unusual light-absorbing properties. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chrysoberyl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.

**History**

Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia’s Ural Mountains. Those first Alexandrite were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country’s attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn’t last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian Alexandrite. You’ll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain Alexandrite. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone.

More importantly, since 2015, you can find Alexandrite right here in Houston (believe it or not) at Pineforest Jewelry. Now isn’t that something!

If you are looking for any genuine Alexandrite, look no further than [Pineforest Jewelry](#). [Contact us](#) if you would like to set up a private appointment.

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

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*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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HOUSTON EASTSIDE PRAYER

We are excited to announce that our next "Eastside Prayer Gathering" will be taking place on Friday, June 2nd at 7pm.

The Prayer Gathering will be held in Judge Joe Stephens court room located at the Fonteno Court house.

14350 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049.

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

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Sylvia R. Garcia

CONGRESSWOMAN | TX-29

# Remembering Uvalde One Year later; Ending gun violence

One year ago, 19 students and 2 teachers were senselessly murdered, and 17 others were injured at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas—making it the deadliest school shooting since Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012.

No family should ever experience the pain of losing a loved one to gun violence.

As your representative, I've been listening to your voices and working tirelessly to address this issue. Recently, I conducted a district-wide text message survey on gun reform, and the responses were striking. An overwhelming majority of TX-29 residents expressed support for common-sense measures:

- 77% support an assault weapons ban.
- 92% support red flag laws.
- 94% believe domestic abusers should be disarmed.
- 95% agree that background checks should be required for all gun sales.

Last year, Congress took a significant step forward with the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, signed into law by President Biden.

This law will save lives because it delivers the following:

- \$750 million for states to create laws that keep guns out of the hands of people who are dangerous to themselves and/or others;
- enhanced background checks for people under age 21;
- more than \$2.3 billion for school safety programs, mental health support for students, and improved learning conditions; and
- \$250 million in community-based violence prevention programs.

This is the most significant gun violence reduction effort in the last 30 years. But we must do more to protect families and children.

Progress is possible. I remain dedicated to fighting for comprehensive gun reform policies, including:

- Raising the age to purchase an assault rifle from 18 to 21.
- Strengthening gun storage requirements.
- Cracking down on gun trafficking.
- Outlawing high-capacity magazines.

When it comes to keeping our communities safe, there can be no debate. The time for action is NOW. I will always put the children of Texas and the safety of my constituents first. No child deserves to live in fear that they will become the next school shooting victim. Schools are meant for books, not bullets.

I won't stop until we are all safe from preventable 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 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*

## Memorial Day 2023

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you, from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,  
In Flanders fields.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

## Texas House Impeaches AG Paxton

The Texas House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton Saturday, only the third time in the state's history that has occurred.

The Austin American-Statesman and numerous news outlets reported the chamber voted 121-23 to remove Paxton, 60, from office while he awaits a trial in the Senate during a special session yet to be called.

Last week a House investigations committee heard evidence from investigators and sent 20 articles of impeachment against Paxton.

The evidence presented by investigators against Paxton included a 2015 state securities case, an ongoing federal probe into his connection with campaign donor Nate Paul, an Austin real estate developer, and an extramarital affair he tried to conceal from his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-Allen.

Adding to Paxton's legal woes, a \$3.3 million settlement with some of his former employees who were whistleblowers fell apart after the House refused to approve paying it with taxpayer money. The case remains pending.

Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, chair of the investigations committee, in closing remarks Saturday urged House members to vote in favor of impeachment.

"The evidence is substantial. It is alarming, and it is unnerving," he said.

Paxton called the bipartisan vote — 61 Democrats and 60 Republicans voted for impeachment — "politically motivated."

"The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just," Paxton said in a statement.

### BILL ENDING VEHICLE INSPECTIONS HEADS TO ABBOTT

Vehicles registered in Texas would no longer be required to pass safety inspections under a bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, the Houston Chronicle reported.

House Bill 3297, sponsored by Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, also creates a new annual \$7.50 inspection replacement fee that will be



added to annual vehicle registration fees. Thus, owners won't save any money but will not have to take their vehicle to a licensed inspection station.

The measure passed the Senate along party lines, 20-11, with the Republican majority arguing the annual inspections are a burden to residents without making Texas roads safer.

Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, told his fellow senators that a recent study by the American Society of Civil Engineers found fewer highway fatality deaths in states with an inspection program.

"It found that states that have vehicle safety inspections have 5.5% fewer fatalities per year than states that don't have inspection programs. In Texas, that's 261 dead people every single year," Johnson said.

If Abbott signs the bill or allows it to become law without his signature, it will go into effect Sept. 1.

Texas is currently one of 15 states still requiring regular inspections. Although the statewide inspection rule is on its way out, vehicle emission inspections will still be required in 17 metropolitan counties.

### HOUSE APPROVES CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY TENURE POLICIES

The House last week gave approval to a bill changing tenure policies at the state's colleges and universities, the Statesman reported. The lower chamber's measure differs somewhat from the Senate version, which would completely ban public colleges and universities from grant tenure to faculty members beginning in 2024.

The House version "provides a framework to the state's universities about what the Legislature expects regarding tenure, including how tenure is granted to faculty members, how tenured faculty are reviewed and when tenured faculty can be dismissed," the Statesman reported.

The bill now goes back to the Senate in an effort to work out differences in the two measures.

### BUDGET WRITERS STRIKE \$321.3 BILLION TWO-YEAR DEAL

Budget writers for the Texas House and Senate have come to agreement on a \$321.3 billion two-year budget that includes \$12.3 billion for property tax cuts and provides considerable new funding for higher education, the energy grid, mental health and broadband, according to the Texas Tribune. The property tax reductions are dependent on passage of a constitutional amendment in November.

A \$15 billion supplemental spending proposal uses some of the state's record surplus to provide funding for a higher education endowment, enhanced retirement for public school teachers, border security, Medicaid costs and state debt reduction, according to the Tribune.

Both plans were expected to get floor votes in each chamber before session adjournment on Monday night.

### BOATERS URGED TO 'CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY'

Texans have begun heading to state lakes and waterways as Memorial Day weekend kicks off the summer boating season. Officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urge boaters and paddlers to protect Texas lakes from invasive aquatic species.

"Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial kick-off to boating season in Texas, and while we want everyone to have a great time, we also want them to avoid giving free rides to invasive species and helping them travel to new lakes," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "The best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment — every time."

The biggest threat to Texas lakes is zebra mussels and giant salvinia, which continues to spread to new areas of Texas. Other invasive species that can be spread include quagga mussels, crested floating heart, and water hyacinth.

Giant salvinia is now found on 27 East Texas lakes and numerous creeks, marshes and rivers between Houston and Beaumont, according to TPWD. Zebra mussels are now found in 36 Texas lakes and in rivers downstream of infested lakes,

TPWD urges boaters to follow three simple steps to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species: 1. Remove mud, plants and debris. 2. Drain all water from the boat and gear. 3. Once home, open all compartments and let everything dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## "Too Old"

My new friend, Betty Lou, started a book club, and she asked me to join.

I was delighted. I hadn't been in a book club for a long time. Because she is a librarian, Betty Lou knows better than most the importance of reading a variety of things and so, at the very first meeting, we read a graphic novel.

None of the members of this group are young, and this was the first graphic novel most of us had read. We weren't sure what to say about it.

"This book is very heavy!" one member finally said.

"It's a doorstop!" said another.

We all agreed we were not crazy about the weight of the book. I wondered if a book club should really be concerned with how much a book weighs, but I figured it was a legitimate concern if you could injure yourself by dropping it. And we did, eventually, get to what was inside.

There were a lot of pictures," I pointed out.

Since it was a graphic novel, this should not have been a surprise. Still, there were a lot more pictures than I expected, and I didn't want to look at them all. I wanted to get on with the story. But the story wasn't being told with a lot of words- it was being told with pictures. I realized this, but it didn't make me want to look at the pictures, it just made me want more words. I began to think that I was not a good reader for graphic novels.

"Are we just too old for this?" one of the members asked. The question hung in the air.

"It's an important story!" another member said, and we all agreed.

We talked about all the important things the book was saying, and we all agreed they were things that should be said.

"But shouldn't it be more entertaining?" I asked.

I felt a little like the boy pointing out that the emperor had no clothes. Everyone looked a little relieved. We all agreed that it should be more entertaining than it was -at least for us. We suspected other people (younger people) might have more fun reading this than we were.

I don't think of myself as being too old for very much. I know younger people are better at some things (anything involving technology), but I don't consider myself too old to learn.

Still, there might be things I am simply too old to enjoy. Graphic novels might be one of them. I'm not sure if that's a bad thing or not.

There are things I know I will not try because I am no longer young - skateboarding, for instance, video games, learning more languages or how to draw. Theoretically, I could learn to do any of these things, and yet I am pretty sure I will not.

It occurs to me it would be good to take at least one of those activities off the "Things I Will Never Do" list and move it over to the "Things I Just Started Doing" list. And yet my day already seems filled with the things I'm doing, things I already enjoy.

And so I'm glad Betty Lou got us to read a graphic novel, even if it was not my favorite book. Now I can say I've read one, and I am reminded that there are many ways of telling stories, even if not all of those stories are interesting to me.

It was a good reminder. It's just the sort of reminder you might expect from a librarian.

Till next time,

Carrie  
To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.



# San Jacinto College debuts new College mascot



PASADENA, Texas — San Jacinto College debuted its new Raven mascot with spirit rallies on the South, Central and North Campuses on Tuesday, April 25 2023.

The rallies were attended by San Jacinto College Board of Trustees members, employees, and students, and celebrated the announcement of Poe, the Raven.

“We are so excited to introduce our Raven, Poe, to our College community,” said Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. “We all have a special place in our hearts for our three historic mascots, but it’s time for one mascot to be part of all the milestones and growth that we will have in the future at San Jacinto College.”

Last fall, San Jacinto College began the process of selecting a new mascot. A committee of employees and students from all campuses and work areas representing the College’s diverse community of stakeholders sought suggestions for a new mascot. More than 1,700 people submitted more than 50 ideas. The committee narrowed it down to two for

the San Jacinto College community to vote on – the Jaguar and the Raven. More than 6,200 votes were cast, and the Raven will now represent San Jacinto College as the mascot.

As San Jacinto College’s original mascot chosen by students more than 60 years ago, the Raven has been an integral piece of tradition throughout the College’s history. Originally selected as a nod to General Sam Houston who the Cherokee Nation named “Colonneh,” which translates to “The Raven” General Houston led the Texas Army at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 that won Texas its independence.

The Ravens began what has been a rich athletics history for San Jacinto College with nationally ranked basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and track and field teams that produced 12 national championships and several professional athletes since the early 1960s. Ravens are also said to represent intelligence, resourcefulness, wisdom, adaptability, and opportunity. The new Raven will serve as an echo to tradition and as an opportunity

for rebirth and redefining new traditions for new generations of students, alumni, and community members.

About San Jacinto College

Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s.

For more information about San Jacinto College visit [sanjac.edu](http://sanjac.edu).



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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Differences: 1. Golf club is moved. 2. Sign is missing. 3. Cap is different. 4. Trap is moved. 5. Arm is missing. 6. Shift is different.

### May 29, 2023 Posting Date

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- Modern taxi alternative
- 911 responders
- ER workers
- Zero, in tennis
- Scurry
- Actor Kilmer
- Wharton Sch. offering
- 506, in old Rome
- Charon's river
- Speedy
- Devil's domain
- Toppled
- Writer
- Quindlen
- Circus gymnasts
- Call — day
- Kathy of "Misery"
- Pro vote
- "No worries ..."
- GI dining hall
- Cries of discovery
- Third rock from the sun
- Gantry of fiction
- Stable diet
- Napkin's place
- Coll. entrance considerations
- Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)
- Military group
- "A Doll's House" heroine
- That lady
- Tower city
- Did the crawl
- Three, in Rome
- Sound systems
- Movie buff's purchase
- Sitarist
- Shankar
- Lost traction
- Roswell visitors
- Cleric's tunic
- It grows on you
- Initial chip
- Crime lab specimen
- Glenn of the Eagles
- Very small batteries
- Dol. fractions
- Try out
- Merit badge holder
- Endures
- Common title start
- Brick workers
- And so on (Abbr.)
- Yale students
- Cilium
- Elevator name
- "The Thin Man" dog
- Blackbird
- Tier
- Epoch
- Actor Waterston

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: When was the first "Star Wars" movie released?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which body of water is Bermuda located?
- TELEVISION: Who was the first host of the game show "Jeopardy!"?
- ANATOMY: Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination?
- LITERATURE: Which short story is described as the first modern detective story?
- ANCIENT WORLD: Which two cities were destroyed by a volcano in 79 A.D.?
- U.S. CITIES: What is the nickname of Albuquerque's (New Mexico) minor league baseball team?
- FOOD & DRINK: What does "en croute" mean?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: What kind of farm did Jimmy Carter have before he became president?
- AD SLOGANS: Which restaurant urges customers to "Eat fresh"?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

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

Answers

King Crossword

1. 1977. 2. North Atlantic Ocean. 3. Art Fleming. 4. Cerebellum. 5. "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe. 6. Pompeii and Herculaneum. 7. The Albuquerque Isotopes. 8. Food baked in a pastry crust. 9. Peanut. 10. Subway.



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RFP# 2223-003 – Milk Coolers

RFP# 2223-004 – Cambro Flex Stations

Bids will be received until **10:00 a.m., Friday, June 02, 2023**, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net>

All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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