

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CURRENTS

NCA Chamber Luncheon Friday August 4

North Channel Chamber Monthly Luncheon, Friday August 4 starting at 11:30am.
Speaker: State Representative ANA HERNANDEZ on Legislative Update.
Members \$25, reservations 713-450-3600 or yesenia@ncachamber.com. Deadline 8/1/23.

Back to School North Shore Sat. August 5

Backpack and School Supply Giveaway, Saturday August 5 starting at 9:00am. North Shore Senior High, 353 N. Castlegory.
Must Have Students in Car to receive supplies.
Sponsored by Rotary Club of North Shore, Galena Park ISD, and Wendel D. Ley YMCA.
ALL Students are welcome--Any District.

Back-2-School First Day of Classes:

DISTRICT:	DATE:
ALDINE	AUG 10 THU
HISD	AUG 28 MON
CROSBY	AUG 7 MON
HUFFMAN	AUG 9 WED
GOOSE CREEK	AUG 14 MON
GALENA PARK	AUG 9 WED
SHELDON	AUG 9 WED
CHANNELVIEW	AUG 16 WED
DAYTON	AUG 9 WED
BARBERS HILL	AUG 16 WED

Constable Garcia holds Seniors' Luncheon in JC

By ALLAN JAMAIL
North Channel Star

Jacinto City, Tx. ~ July 10, 2023 ~ Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia and his staff provided seniors of Jacinto City, Galena Park & the North Channel area a lunch with refreshments at Jacinto City's Town Center.

Constable Garcia said, "For many years, our seniors have contributed greatly to our communities. We just want them to know that we appreciate their contributions and that we will never forget about them. We love our seniors."

Over 300 area seniors enjoyed the meal plus had a fun-filled day of playing bingo with many of them winning very nice prizes. Constable Garcia along with his deputies served the meals at tables for the smiling seniors.

Many of the happy seniors had their photo taken with Constable Garcia and the deputies so they could put it on their face



PCT. 2 DEPUTIES & STAFF PROVIDED SENIORS A LUNCH, REFRESHMENTS AND BINGO WITH PRIZES. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Sitting L - R: left to right: Sergeant Jessie Rodriguez, Captain Zerick Guinn, & Constable Jerry Garcia.
Standing L - R: Lori Castillo, Assistant Chief Clerk Leslie McCaffrey, Captain Marcus Anderson, Yahaira Moreno, Deputy Felipe Villarreal, Deputy Christopher Sanchez, Corporal Yahaira Cardenas, Deputy Victoria Garcilazo, Lieutenant Marco Leal, Deputy Arnold Magana & Captain Michael Kritzler.

book page and send it to family and friends.

In honor of the Nation's seniors and Independence Day, Garcia named the luncheon his Red, White & Blue luncheon. He's conducting the same luncheon to honor seniors all over his precinct.

The meal was provided by East Houston Hospital & Clinics located at 12950 East Freeway, Houston ~

See SENIOR'S LUNCHEON, page 3

JC Heritage Hall seniors get free grooming

By ALLAN JAMAIL
North Channel Star

Jacinto City ~ July 25, 2023 ~ The members of Jacinto City's Heritage Hall are blessed in receiving free haircuts and grooming. Elizabeth Flores the director of Heritage Hall said the members get free haircuts because of the kind hearts of a beautician and barber volunteering their services.

Blanca Reyes a beautician and cosmetologist and

Jorge Pesina a barber come to the facility once a month and donate their time and services to ensure the ladies and men are kept well groomed. Both Reyes and Pesina are licensed by the state and have all health requirements required to take care of those wanting their services and care.

Blanca and Pesina say they want to help those who cannot otherwise afford a haircut to stay groomed.

Pesina said, "I'm following in my grandfather Alfonso Flores' footsteps who was a barber for 35-40 years." Jorge can be reached for an appointment at: 832-633-4060 or jorgepesina18@gmail.com.

Blanca said, "I love what I do." She can be contacted for an appointment at: 832-891-1313 or Blancabeauty71@gmail.com.

Director Flores said this service is only available on

See SENIORS GROOMING, page 5

HCC appoints Ford Fisher Interim Chancellor

HOUSTON — The Houston Community College (HCC) Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D., as the college's interim chancellor at a special meeting today.

Dr. Ford Fisher will take the reins of HCC, effective Sept. 1. She was the sole finalist following a national search that concluded in late June.

"I am greatly honored to serve as interim chancellor, and for the trust of our esteemed trustees," Dr. Ford Fisher said. "I am deeply invested in advancing student success and diligently working with our great faculty and staff to provide life-changing education for our students and our community."

Dr. Ford Fisher is the inaugural president of HCC Online College, the seventh HCC college established in February 2018. HCC Online College was recognized by Newsweek as "One of America's Best Online Colleges" in 2022 and 2023.

As the president of Online College, Dr. Ford Fisher's team established more



MARGARET FORD FISHER
HCC INTERIM CHANCELLOR

than 60 fully online degree programs, and more than 70 hybrid programs with an annual enrollment that exceeded 62,000 students. Prior to holding the Online College presidency, she served as president of HCC Northeast College for 20 years.

A long-time educator, Dr. Ford Fisher is the author of more than 50 publications and four books, including the first book focused on dual credit, High School Students Earning College Credit: Guide to Creating Dual Credit Programs (1996), which bolstered dual credit enrollment across the country and received national and international acclaim.

Dr. Ford Fisher received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and master's degree in the Teaching of English at Wichita State University. She also received her doctorate in Education Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston.

"The Board of Trustees and I believe Dr. Ford Fisher's accomplishments, qualifications and willingness to serve will be critical to advancing the Board's expectations," said Board Chair Dr. Cynthia Lenton-Gary.

ABOUT HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Houston Community College is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities.

Chamber holds a Luau Mixer; and Elvis shows up!



NORTH CHANNEL – The North Channel Chamber of Commerce held a Business Mixer with an Hawaiian theme last Friday, June 30. It was hosted by the Hampton Inn & Suites Houston East Beltway 8.

ABOVE, some of the attendees with their colorful Hawaiian costumes.

RIGHT, the Chamber booth was well staffed by Chamber president Margie Buentello and Yesenia Doyal.

Other Participating Booths included Water Tree, Sunshine Personnel Solutions, Sam's Club, PNC Bank, and Darnald Jr. Insurance.



GALENA PARKS ISD NEWS

2023-2024 Student Enrollment New students must enroll

New Student Enrollment Families who are new to Galena Park ISD must complete New Student Enrollment. All enrollment will be online for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

Now Student Enrollment 1Support Site
2023 - 2024
Skyward Online opens Monday, July 24

Times:
Monday, July 31 8:30AM - 12:30PM / 2:00PM-4:00PM
Tuesday August 1 10:00 AM-1:00PM / 3:00PM-6:00PM
Wednesday, August 2 8:30AM - 12:30PM / 2:00PM-4:00PM

Location:
North Shore Senior High
353 N. Castlegory
Houston, TX 77049

If you have any questions or concerns, you may email us at student_admissions@galenaparkisd.com.

The following Documents are required for New Student Enrollment:

- *Birth Certificate
 - *Social Security Card
 - *Parent/Guardian's driver's license or passport
 - *Immunization records - must be signed or stamped by the child's physician
 - *Proof of Residency (New Student Enrollment) - Current utility bill (water, gas or electric) or lease
 - *Previous school records preferred (ex. report cards, transcript or withdrawal forms)
- All enrollment can be completed online for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

For additional registration information, please visit our district website at: www.galenaparkisd.com



CISD Holds Online Public Auction for Used Items, Offering Community Unique Bargains



By Anthony Mireles

Channelview, TX — July 19, 2023- In a bid to declutter and generate additional funds, Channelview ISD has organized an online public auction of used items. The event promises to offer the community a chance to score unique bargains while supporting the district's initiatives.

The auction showcases a wide array of gently used items that were previously employed by the schools within the district. The col-

lection ranges from furniture and electronic equipment to sports gear and educational materials. This initiative not only presents an opportunity for residents to acquire quality items at affordable prices but also encourages recycling and sustainability in the community.

Local parents and residents have shown considerable interest in the event, as it presents a rare opportunity to acquire items that have served the education system faithfully over the

years. Channelview ISD encourages all community members to attend the auction, show their support, and discover hidden treasures among the items up for bidding — with some items being sold with a starting bid of \$5.

The online auction is currently ongoing and will end on Friday, July 28th at 10:00am. To bid on an item, follow the following link and register to make an account: <https://www.onlinepros.com/auctions/detail/bw104347>

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

CISD Board of Trustees Approve 5-Year Strategic Plan



Channelview, TX — June 29, 2023: The Channelview Independent School District (CISD) is pleased to announce the CISD Board of Trustees has officially approved the district's comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan. The plan outlines the district's vision and goals for the future, providing a roadmap to guide educational excellence and community growth.

The development of this strategic plan was a collaborative effort involving the dedicated members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee was thoughtfully assembled, comprising a diverse group of community members, parents, students and stakeholders, carefully chosen for their unique perspectives and commitment to shaping the future of Channelview ISD. Over the course of six months, they met multiple times, engaging in thoughtful discussions to ensure the

plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the Channelview ISD community.

"I believe in the power of collective wisdom, and the input received from the committee members was instrumental in shaping this strategic plan," said Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "Their dedication and passion for education have played a vital role in charting a clear path for our district's growth and success. We are headed in the right direction and now will begin working to implement the strategic plan."

To ensure an objective and comprehensive approach, Channelview ISD partnered with N2Learning, a renowned educational consulting firm. Together, they meticulously developed a document that identifies the district's mission, vision, objectives, goals and strategies.

The approved strategic plan serves as a guidepost

for all stakeholders within the Channelview ISD community. It represents the collective vision of parents, educators, administrators, students, and community members who are empowered to thrive and are committed to providing the best opportunities for our students.

Additionally, the district adopted a new motto that will serve as the official district hashtag. It was chosen based on the feedback from the committee to ensure it represented the strategic plan. The district's official motto will be Empowered To Thrive.

For more information about Channelview ISD and the approved 5-Year Strategic Plan, please visit cvisd.org/strategic-plan

Lila HollinExecutive Director of CommunicationsChannelview Independent School District

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten Students Participate in Signing Day

During pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration on July 22, four and five year olds entering the district's early childhood academies enrolled for school and officially "signed" to be a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten student in Sheldon ISD. Sheldon ISD offers Fueling Brains, a program focused on brain development and executive functioning skills for early learners. Learn more about the early childhood programs in Sheldon ISD on our website at www.sheldonisd.com.





District Leaders Prepare for Upcoming School Year at Leadership Institute

July 19-20, Sheldon ISD leaders began preparing for the 2023-24 school year at the annual Leadership Institute. District and campus administrators participated in workshops, learning sessions and professional development to prepare for the start of the upcoming year. Teachers return Monday, July 31.




CISD BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS





Get Your School Supplies

- Make sure to check our back-to-school webpage for your child's school supply list.
- Shop at home first. You likely have several things at home that can be used.
- Watch for sales and tax free weekend. This year's sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 11, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 13.
- Don't forget our Back-2-School Bash Aug. 12

cvisd.org

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Standing Firm?

There comes a time when you realize there are changes happening that may make you uncomfortable. You must decide if you want to fight the changes or stand firm in your faith. It appears the older I get, the firmer I stand.

I am not saying that I am set in my ways. I am saying that I have learned that I have a solid foundation, yet I understand there are some things that are not as important to me as they once were. My father taught me to be on time. It did not matter if it was going to be for school, work, or a volunteer project, I needed to be on time. He taught me more about American history than any class I ever took. He would tell me that a person must know history so not to make the same mistakes from the past. Even today, if I have a question about history, I can call him and his mind kicks in and tells me what I need to know.

My mother taught me that you must respect others, especially your elders. She was raised by her Hungarian grandparent who were so thankful to be in America, that they instilled in her the value of being an American. Her grandmother knew little of the English language, but she rarely missed an opportunity to sit in front of the CBD Evening News with Walter Cronkite. As he would say “And that’s the way it is. Goodnight.,” she would respond to him.

My mother has a heart of compassion. She does not know how to slow down when it comes to helping others. Last year, at 81 and even after just being released from the hospital from having a heart attack, she was back out in the August heat, checking on the homeless. There are occasions that she drops off my daughter-in-law at Wal-Mart and instead of going inside, she will head to the resale shop to see if there are any t-shirts and jeans that the homeless can use. She was instrumental in not only starting North Channel Assistance Ministries, Mary’s Kitchen and working for FEMA for several years after she was already in her sixties, but I can remember years that she was providing a ride for community members such as Felix Baldree to doctor appointments. She drove four Filipino nurses to and from church weekly for years. She volunteered countless hours at the Port of Houston with the Seaman Center. The list goes on and on.

When I see a need, I automatically respond. I stand firm in the core values my parents taught me. There are times that situations distract me, and I want to go off on a tangent, but then I think about the situation. Will it matter in five minutes? Will it matter in five years? Is it worth giving in and giving up the values that matter most?

ROTARY CLUB NEWS



North Shore Rotary hears about Mental Health



Rotary Club of North Shore
July 20 at 2:50 PM · 📍

Former GPISD Alum, Callen “Cat” Choi spoke to the group about mental health. She is a licensed professional counselor with Nova Therapy, PLLC.

Today’s topic of mental health aligns with Rotary International President, Gordon McInally’s goals to:

- Erase the stigma associated with discussion of emotional well-being
- Raise awareness of mental health needs
- Improve access to mental health services

Luther Smith wins car in Rotary Fish Fry raffle



Senior’s Luncheon,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

77015 ~ open 24 hours ~ (713) 477-4070 /
www.ehhc.care www.hccp2.com /
To reach Constable Jerry Garcia: Main Line: www.facebook.com/ConstableGarcia
(713) 477-2766 / Dispatch:

FRIDAY
MOVIE NIGHT
CASINO FUNDRAISER



JOIN US ON AUGUST 11, 2023

1025 OATES RD
JACINTO CITY, TX 77029
7PM - 11PM

DRESS IN YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER,
HOW YOU WOULD DRESS TO THE MOVIES
OR EVEN YOUR PJ'S.


All proceeds go to the North Channel Area Foundation, a 501 C.3 Trust; and
am C. Palko Scholarship which is awarded to a student in the North Channel Area Foundation.

NELAREA.COM | 713-450-3600 | @ncacc_

RSVP

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Should I Have My Jewelry Cleaned and Inspected?”



Jewelry Repair Shop

From replacing watch batteries to creating that perfect custom piece of “Oh My God!” jewelry, we do it all. As our existing customers already know, Pineforest Jewelry is THE PLACE to go for all of your jewelry repair needs. From replacing batteries in watches, vehicle entry fobs, and garage door openers, to precision laser welding repair of broken chains, to replacing missing stones in your jewelry... we do it all!

Jewelry repair is not expensive, but neglect is!

As a jewelry professional, I’m often asked about cleaning, inspecting and repairing jewelry. Here’s some really good news...we will gladly clean your jewelry and inspect it at no charge. In the event your jewelry does need some minor repair work, it’s usually not expensive at all. In fact, having an annual inspection of your jewelry could save you hundreds if not thousands of dollars later. Neglecting what is now a small needed repair will most likely become a large repair job later, especially if you lose a stone in your ring or your necklace breaks and you lose the pendant all together.

Pineforest Jewelry invites you to come in and let our expert staff clean and inspect your jewelry at no charge. We have professional custom design craftsmen available 5 days a week (Tuesday thru Saturday). Together, our jewelry repair shop experts have the expertise and experience you deserve. Our state-of-the-art shop does both micro-soldering & laser fusing on everything from ring sizing and prong repair to restoration of your family heirlooms. The difference with a laser repair is that the heat is highly focused making the weld extremely strong. With a laser we can repair almost any metal, even the new titanium eyeglasses. Often we can safely repair a damaged item without removing the gemstone. We offer this new laser technology to ensure we can provide the best care for your jewelry. Let us inspect your jewelry before any stone loss or further damage. We provide a **1 year warranty on any repairs we perform.**



Bring in your jewelry for a **free** cleaning and a **free** no-obligation inspection by our repair expert, Mr. Gary. It’s like Diamond Jim and Gary often say...”Jewelry repair is not expensive, but neglect is”! Trust the care of your jewelry to the repair experts at **Pineforest Jewelry**.

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: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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

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OPINION

By Dean Ridings
CEO America's Newspapers

Local Newspapers are Good for Business

It's no secret that recent years have been tough on small businesses and on newspapers. A bipartisan bill, the Community News & Small Business Support Act, that has been introduced in Congress would offer relief to both newspapers and local businesses. For too many newspapers, help can't come soon enough. Economic challenges have resulted in too many communities seeing their local newspapers being forced to lay off staff, cut back on publication days or – worse yet – close. On average, two newspapers are closing each week. That hurts local businesses and residents in the long (and short) run. However, despite the challenges, what remains true is that local newspapers make a difference in their communities.

But, don't just take my word for it. Let's look at the numbers and why America's Newspapers has been pushing for the Community News & Small Business Support Act to be introduced.

A recent national study of 5,000 Americans over the age of 18 was conducted by the independent research firm Coda Ventures for America's Newspapers, and provides compelling evidence of the importance, relevance and vitality of today's newspapers in the American media landscape.

Readers told us that their local newspaper makes a difference. The study shows that 79 percent of Americans read/use local news "to stay informed" about their cities, counties and communities. They also said they rely on their local paper to feel connected to their community, to decide where they stand on local issues, to find places and things to do, to talk with people about things happening in the community, because they find it enjoyable/entertaining and to be a better citizen.

And, contrary to popular belief, readers across all age groups turn to local newspapers and their digital products to stay informed about their communities.

Readers also told us they need more local news from their community paper. As one survey respondent in California said, "Our paper keeps getting smaller. I would like to see more news items, what's happening in town, what's new in politics, etc. And they need to be quicker to respond to breaking news."

All of that takes a committed, local staff – something the legislation introduced by Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24) and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-1) will help to make happen.

So, what would this legislation mean to your local community?

Local businesses with fewer than 50 employees would receive a five-year non-refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 in the first year and up to \$2,500 in the subsequent four years based on their spending level with local newspapers and local media. Our study showed that six out of 10 American adults use newspaper advertising to help them decide what brands, products and local services to buy. Newspaper readers also are almost twice as likely to purchase products from a number of important advertising categories than non-newspaper readers, including: automobiles, trucks and SUVs; home furnishings; home improvement products and services; and home services like pest control, plumbing, heating, etc.

With this legislation, we expect to see more businesses being able to afford to advertise to consumers, which – in turn – helps communities thrive.

For local newspapers, a five-year refundable tax credit would help them hire more journalists to bring you more news! It's a win-win for local communities. Newspapers would receive a tax credit to be used for the compensation of journalists. The credit would cover 50% of journalists' compensation in the first year and 30% of compensation (up to \$50,000) in the subsequent four years. This tax credit would only be available to local community papers with fewer than 750 employees and, if they don't invest in their newsroom, they don't get the credit.

And these tax credits are only available to local newspapers. National newspaper outlets are not eligible.

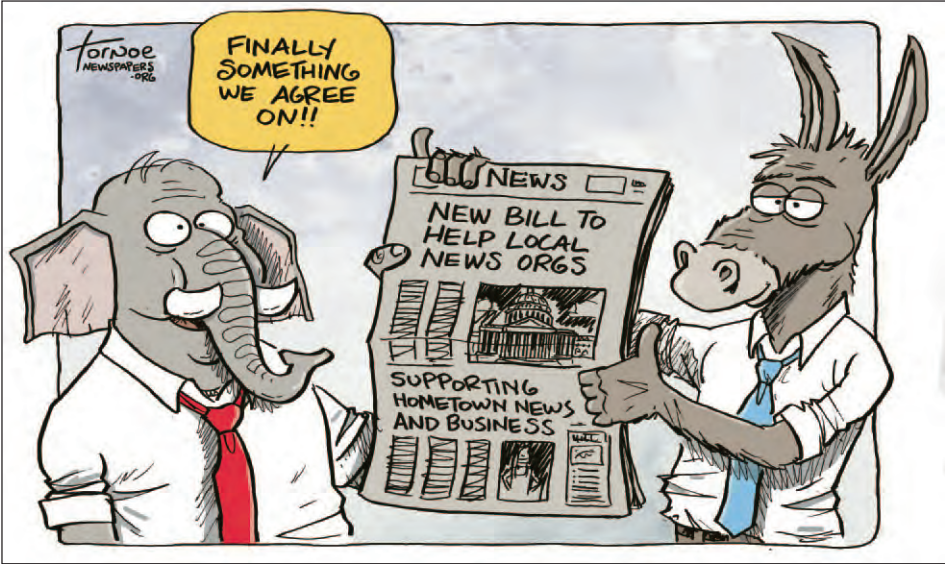
The importance of local newspapers and local business is the reason Reps. Tenney and DelBene introduced the legislation. We are most grateful for their support.

We need your support, as well, to encourage legislators to enact this legislation. Please contact the offices of your senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress and encourage them to add their support to this legislation. These tax credits aren't permanent; they will sunset in five years. But, these critical five years will allow the newspaper industry the time needed to address the challenges that it is facing from Big Tech, which often uses newspapers' content without compensation, as well as other technological and market challenges. Visit www.usa.gov/elected-officials for the contact information for your legislators.

More local reporting means more access for hometown news that citizens like you rely on. And stronger newspapers mean stronger advertising vehicles for local businesses.

On behalf of its approximately 1,700 newspaper and Solutions Partner companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. We put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: www.newspapers.org

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



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Tax-relief Plan Headed to Governor

Proponents are calling it the "biggest property tax cut in Texas history." Both chambers of the Texas Legislature passed an \$18 billion package during the second special session, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

If signed as expected by Gov. Greg Abbott, the bill raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 exemption for owners 65 and older. It also dedicates more than \$12 billion to lower school property taxes.

Agreement on a tax cut plan took months of haggling between competing plans in the House and Senate. After House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick met, a plan began to fall into place.

"I thank my partners in the Texas Legislature for coming together to honor the best interests of hard-working Texans who want to own their property—not rent it from the government," Abbott said in a statement following the passage of the tax plan.

The Legislature adjourned after passage of the bill in the House. Another special session is likely in the fall to address Abbott's bid to enact a school voucher plan.

ABBOTT AIDE NAMED INTERIM ATTORNEY GENERAL

A longtime aide to Abbott was named as the second interim attorney general, replacing John Scott, who served in the role a little over a month. Angela Colmenero has been serving as Abbott's deputy chief of staff. Previously she worked in the attorney general's office for nearly a decade.

"John Scott faithfully executed his duties as the interim Attorney General of Texas, and I thank him for his leadership in stepping up to serve his fellow Texans in this role," Abbott said.

Ken Paxton was suspended from that position after being impeached on 20 counts by the House and awaits a trial in the Senate on Sept. 5.



Scott told the Texas Tribune that he will "return to working as a consultant, attorney and board member for a broad variety of companies." He previously served as Abbott's secretary of state before returning to the private sector.

SECOND HEAT WAVE MEANS RECORD DEMAND ON GRID

The second heat wave of the summer means the state's power grid is breaking records for demand almost daily, the Houston Chronicle reported. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is forecasting several thousand megawatts of excess supply, with demand late last week exceeding 84,000 megawatts. ERCOT manages the power grid serving about 90% of the state, except for part of East Texas and the El Paso area.

Excessive heat warnings have been issued for much of the state, with heat index values topping 117 degrees around the Houston area. Much of the state is also experiencing triple-digit temperatures with high humidity.

The latest heat wave is baking much of the Southwest, with all-time record highs expected in Phoenix, Las Vegas and Palm Springs, California.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPECTED TO EXPAND

A hotter and drier June for much of the state means 45% of the state may slip back into drought conditions, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of June, about a fourth of the

state was in drought, a marked reduction from winter conditions, thanks to ample rainfall.

"The latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service anticipates that drought will expand to cover most of central, southern, and West Texas by the end of September," Wentzel wrote.

However, the recent switch to El Niño weather conditions typically bring cooler and wetter-than-normal conditions this fall and winter.

FIRST CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED THIS YEAR

Public health officials have confirmed the state's first case of West Nile virus, occurring in Dallas County, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The virus is transmitted through mosquito bites. Most people do not get sick, but about 20% develop symptoms such as headaches, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. Less than 1% of those infected develop more serious symptoms, including death.

"It's important for people to be aware that there are many diseases transmitted by mosquitoes found in Texas," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "Most of these diseases cause mild illness but in rare instances diseases like dengue or Zika can cause severe illness. We've even had a locally acquired case of malaria in Texas this year, which underscores the importance of taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites."

DSHS urges people when outdoors to wear long sleeves and pants, apply insect repellent, remove standing water in yards, such as in plant pots, and buckets. The state had 41 cases of West Nile disease last year with seven deaths.

STATE SLIPS IN BUSINESS-FRIENDLY RANKINGS

An annual ranking of the most business-friendly states in America has always included Texas among the top five, but not this year, the Texas Standard reported. The latest rankings in CNBC's report had the state coming in sixth, behind North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and Minnesota.

The study has been undertaken since 2007. Business reporter Erica Greider with the Houston Chronicle cites several factors, including the electric grid, which averages about 20 hours a year without power on average in the state — third worst in the country. Other possible factors are quality of life issues, such as the environment and crime.

"It could be that maybe there's an element of, you know, the state's been coasting on its laurels because we've been so used to this growth and success that it's become a little bit less of the top line issue," Greider told the Standard.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"All the Flowers"

I was reluctant to come back from Mexico this spring, knowing it would still be cold and wet and cloudy. But I'd gotten used to looking for pretty things while in Mexico. I wanted to share the festivals and the art and the colors. I'd been taking pictures and sharing them on Facebook so my friends and family could see a little bit of the world that surrounded me.

Then I got back up north, and it seemed like everything had turned to gray.

"This is not a reason to stop taking pictures!" I thought.

And what I meant was that it was no reason to stop looking for beautiful things. My time in Mexico had trained me to be on the lookout for things that were interesting and lovely, and to share those things with others. I said it was for my friends and family, but it was really me who benefited most. I noticed more. I remembered more. I appreciated things more deeply when I took a picture.

So, I decided I would continue.

It was slow going at first. The first spring flowers poked their heads through the mud, and I took a picture. It didn't look like much on a gray day. But when I later looked at the little purple flowers up close on my computer, I saw details I hadn't noticed earlier, and I realized that, tiny as they were, they had a powerful beauty.

Then spring came in earnest. Suddenly, there were so many flowers to photograph. I started posting several photos a day. Every day, I walked by beautiful gardens and discovered new things that had emerged overnight.

Then it got very hot, and all the spring flowers withered and finished.

"Well, that was fun while it lasted," I thought.

But within a few days, the harder summer flowers started making an appearance, undaunted by the heat. I saw enormous thistle flowers blooming, and the first sunflower burst open. There were hollyhocks and hostas and lilies in profusion. I kept taking picture.

And here's the funny thing. I never really noticed flowers before.

My mother and sister are avid gardeners. Both of my grandmothers were. I have always been the black sheep in a family of gardeners—and I still am. I don't enjoy digging in the dirt. I don't have a green thumb. It always feels like work to me, and reading a book always sounds like more fun.

But it turns out that I love flowers far more than I knew. I love the shapes and the colors and the varieties and the seasons. I love how some will take over for a while, commanding attention, and then they fade and something new comes to the fore.

And I know that none of it happens by accident. I now appreciate gardeners and gardening in a way I never have in my life.

"What's this called?" I ask when I post a photo. "Isn't this beautiful? Does anyone know its name?" And someone always does, and I learn something new and appreciate these flowers even more.

I will never be a gardener, and that's OK. Not everyone is a musician or a writer or an actor, but we all get to enjoy the music and the books and the plays they create.

I am now an avid fan of gardens. And, whenever I get a chance to see the folks responsible, I make sure to let them know.

"I've been watching your garden all summer," I tell them. "I took pictures!"

So far, they all seem very pleased.

Till next time.
Carrie

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OBITUARIES

BOBBY DEAN HORN JR

June 12, 1970 ~ July 8, 2023 (age 53)

Reverend Bobby Dean Horn, Jr., 53, of Dayton, Texas, passed away, on Saturday, July 8, 2023, in Houston, Texas. He was born in Beaumont, on June 12, 1970, to Bobby Dean Horn, Sr. and the late Julia Delores Knight. Bobby graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, in Baytown, class of 1988. He went on to further his education obtaining an associate degree, in humanities, from Lee College, in Baytown. Bobby was the Editor-in-Chief of the Crosby-Highlands newspaper the Star Currier for fifteen years before finding his true calling of sharing God's word. He was the current minister for Wild Country Mission in Livingston.

Bobby pursued many interests, some of which were reading his Bible, photography, birdwatching, watching baseball and collecting baseball cards. He was extremely



family oriented. Bobby was proud of his family and their accomplishments. He worked hard to make sure they were well taken care of. Bobby was compassionate, always looking at how he could help others. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Bobby was preceded in death by his mother; his sister Claudia Gammon; his maternal grandparents Juanita and James Knight; his paternal grandparents Marvin and Josie Horn; and his mother-in-law Linda

Carwile. He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory his father; his beloved wife of twenty-eight years Melinda Horn of Dayton; his children Katerina Rose Horn and Bobby Dean Horn III both of Dayton; his brother Frank Hatfield of Dearborn, Michigan; his father-in-law William Don Carwile and wife Pat of Dayton; his brother-in-law William Daniel Carwile and wife Krystal of La Porte; his sisters-in-law Sandra Davis of Livingston, and Amanda Olecki and husband James of Spring; along with a host of other loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service for Bobby will begin at 1:00pm on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at Wild Country Mission, 16245 N. Highway 146, Livingston, Texas 77351.

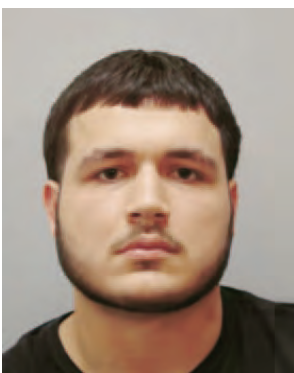
Condolences can be shared online with the family by visiting www.SterlingFuneralHome.com

Galena Park man sentenced to 35 years for murder

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas – A 21-year-old Galena Park man was sentenced on Tuesday for murder after placing a body in a car that was pushed into Hunting Bayou, according to a press release from Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg.

Isaac Sims was sentenced to 35 years in prison. He pleaded guilty to the 2018 murder and shooting of family friend, Luis Carlos Flores, 42, authorities said. The DA's office said he moved the body into the backseat of a car before pushing the car into the bayou on Dunaway Street and Federal Road near Galena Park.

"The victim was a friend of the killer's family and was killed in a pointless and unwarranted shooting," Ogg said. "And now the victim's family has to



pick up the pieces after losing someone they loved and cherished."

Ogg also said the Harris County Sheriff's Office removed the car from the bayou and officials discovered Sims' DNA on the gearshift and in the victim's pocket.

Sims could have been sentenced to life in prison, but he reportedly pleaded guilty to receive a shorter

sentence. He will not be allowed to appeal the conviction or sentencing, and he has to serve half of his sentence before he can qualify for parole.

Sims and Flores knew each other for several years and they both had homes in Galena Park. The DA's office said they had evidence that Sims was helping Flores sell some pistols.

The victim drove to meet with Sims on the day of the murder. Sims shot the other man in the head and chest, according to the DA's office.

Witnesses also said Sims stated to them he killed Flores, the DA's office said.

Assistant District Attorney Casey Little prosecuted the case with ADA Chris Condon.

Seniors grooming in JC,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a specific date and restricted to members only. The public who are not members will not be given this service.

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CHAMBER NEWS

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce

July 19 at 11:24 AM

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North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce adopted the county road on Woodforest Blvd. from Overbluff Street to Dell Dale Street. We look forward to our first quarterly cleanup!

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celebrity
extra

by Dana Jackson



Margot Robbie stars as the title character in "Barbie" (2023)

“BARBIE”

Q: I just read that Margot Robbie has been married for several years. I've never seen her husband walking the red carpet with her at award shows. Who is he? — O.T. A: The twice-Oscar-nominated actress and star of the upcoming film “Barbie” has been quietly married since 2016 to film producer Tom Ackerley. They met a decade ago on the set of Robbie’s movie “Suite Française” where he was the assistant director. The two now own a production company and have produced several of Robbie’s films, including “I, Tonya.” As for red carpet appearances, the couple did appear before photographers on the pink carpet at the world premiere event for “Barbie” at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. They’ll also be producing partners for her upcoming

film, a yet-to-be-titled “Ocean’s Eleven” sequel. At only 33 years old each, the couple will hopefully have many more years together conquering Hollywood. Q: Whatever happened to the older woman who was chosen as “The Bachelorette” and left early in the season because she found “the one”? Are they still together? — J.K. A: Only in Hollywood is 39 considered old, but that’s how old Clare Crawley was when she was chosen by ABC to be their “Bachelorette” for season 16 of the show. She surprised viewers by quitting after just 12 days of filming because she said she already found her man — 31-year-old contestant Dale Moss. Alas, Crawley didn’t find her happily ever after with him. The couple did get engaged, but had a rocky on-

and off-again relationship, finally breaking up for good in September 2021. After getting her heart broken, Crawley found love the following year with Mascot Sports CEO Ryan Dawkins. She told People magazine, “He’s not after fame and ... he is so consistent and so vocal about how much he loves me.” Crawley won’t be competing on any reality dating shows anymore, since she happily said “I do” to Dawkins earlier this year and is expecting her first child, via surrogate, in January 2024. Q: I’m really surprised Carol Burnett didn’t get nominated for an Emmy for “Better Call Saul.” Isn’t there a special category for guest-star parts? I thought she’d be a shoo-in. — G.M. A: Comedy legend Carol Burnett did a spectacular job in her impactful role on the final season of “Better Call Saul.” However, according to Rolling Stone, she wasn’t eligible for the Outstanding Guest Actress category because she appeared in “one episode too many” and was thus submitted for consideration in the Supporting Actress category instead. Alas, that category was highly competitive and saturated with actresses from “The White Lotus,” leaving Burnett off the nominations list. “Better Call Saul” aired its series finale right after voting ended for last year’s Emmys, putting it at a disadvantage for this year’s nominations. Bob Odenkirk and Rhea Seehorn are contenders in their respective acting categories, and the ceremony is expected to air on Fox this September. *** Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Is Disney bleeding out? Disney+ has drastically lost subscribers, and their stock value has dropped. Their last four recent releases have underperformed. “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” (released on Feb. 17) only grossed \$476.1 million against a \$200 million cost, despite Paul Rudd being named as People magazine’s “Sexiest Man Alive” back in 2021. Meanwhile, “Ant-Man and the Wasp” (2018) grossed \$623 million against its approximated \$200 million cost. “The Little Mermaid” (released on May 26) grossed \$547.5 million against its \$250 million cost. (The original 1989 animated version cost only \$40 million and grossed \$235 million.) “Elemental” (released on June 16) has only grossed \$311.7 million against its \$200 million cost, and “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny” disappointed over the Fourth of July weekend, grossing \$302.4 million against a \$300 million cost. Come Sept. 15, we’ll get the third Agatha Christie adaptation from Kenneth Branagh — “A Haunting in Venice” (with Branagh, Tina Fey and Michelle Yeoh). Nov. 22 will bring the animated “Wish,” which features the voices of Chris Pine and Ariana DeBose. “The Marvels,” starring Brie Larson and Samuel L. Jackson, is due on Nov. 10, and “Next Goal Wins,” with Michael Fassbender and Elisabeth Moss, opens on Nov. 17. Looking ahead to next year, a new live-action “Snow White,” starring Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Martin Klebba and Andrew Burnap, comes out on March 22, 2024. “Captain America,” with Anthony Mackie (as Captain America) and Harrison Ford, drops on July 26, 2024. “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes” is due on May 24, 2024, and a live-action prequel of “The Lion King,” starring Seth Rogen, escapes on July 5, 2024. Not the most exciting or inventive slate, but Disney has found that tried and true is their safest bet. *** Has war been declared between the Hallmark Channel and the Great American Family network yet? It appears



Paul Rudd in “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania”

Great American Family has poached Hallmark bread talent Candace Cameron Bure and made her an executive at Great American. Danica McKellar, Jen Lilley, Jessica Lowndes and Trevor Donovan are among others who’ve joined Bure. Both stations ran Christmas movies in July nonstop, and while Great American has 21 new holiday films slated to start in October, Hallmark promises 40 new holiday films in October. In addition, Great American picked up the Hallmark series “When Hope Calls” for its second season and hired Lori Loughlin, who was dropped from Hallmark as a result of the college scandal that gave her jailtime, to star in “Fall into Winter,” which premiered this past January. While the stars are nonexclusive, Great American is tying up their schedules with so much shooting that they won’t have time for Hallmark films. *** Happy birthday to the legendary producer Norman Lear, who turns 101 on July 27. The creator of “All in the Family,” “The Jeffersons” and “Maude,” among others series, has left a deeper impression on us than “King Lear!” (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

OH BOY, TODAY'S THE BIG DAY FOR OUR TEST. I STUDIED ALL NIGHT.

HEY, WE COULD BE "STUDY BUDDIES" AND QUIZ EACH OTHER.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

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WANTTA PRACTICE CATCHING FLY BALLS, FUNKYHEAD?

SURE

READY? HERE COMES A HIGH FLY BALL

I HATE SEA GULLS!

OUR NEIGHBOR'S DOGS ARE CHASING PEOPLE ON BICYCLES.

WOW...I DIDN'T KNOW DOGS COULD RIDE BICYCLES!!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hair is longer. 2. Vase is added. 3. Apron is removed. 4. Arm is raised. 5. Initials are missing. 6. Bush is taller.

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July 24, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Satan's purchase

5 Chest protector

8 Ski lift type

12 Old U.S. gas brand

13 Piercing tool

14 Hindu royal

15 Pub potables

16 King, in Cannes

17 Choir voice

18 New

20 Pal of Pooh

22 Stephen of "Still Crazy"

23 Hobbyist's abbr.

24 Mineral-hardness scale name

27 Tot's train

32 Rock's Brian

33 Science room

34 Klutz

35 Folks from Indiana

38 Garrison

39 Flop

40 Ostrich's kin

42 Exhibited ennui

45 In a way

49 "Metamorphoses" poet

50 Hosp. hook-ups

52 Carry on

53 Ms. Rowlands

54 Golf prop

55 Like some vaccines

56 Gross

57 Last letter in London

58 Mr. Disney

6 — Jima

7 Radar dot

8 Dire

9 Hype

10 Pot starter

11 Laugh-a-minute

19 Concerning

21 Altar vow

24 "I'm not impressed"

25 Music's Yoko

26 Snooker

28 Guffaw syllable

29 Fanatical

30 Rowing need

31 Frequently

36 Half the weekend

37 Chemical suffix

38 Groove

41 Kansas City's st.

42 Quotable Berra

43 Opposite of "sans"

44 Bubblehead

46 O'Hara estate

47 Cameo shape

48 Fedora fabric

51 Victory sign

DOWN

1 Line of fashion?

2 Capital on a fjord

3 Secondhand

4 Also-rans

5 Clinging crustacean

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Trivia Test Answerst
1. The Who. 2. Nepal. 3. "1984" by George Orwell. 4. John Adams. 5. A lenticular cloud. 6. "The Andy Griffith Show." 7. Mrs. Norris. 8. Two. 9. Hoarseness. 10. Four (eggs, larva, pupa and adult).

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. THEATER: Which group composed the rock opera "Tommy"?

2. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is Mount Everest located?

3. LITERATURE: Which novel contains the line, "Big Brother is watching you"?

4. HISTORY: Who was the second president of the United States?

5. WEATHER: What is a cloud shaped like a flying saucer called?

6. TELEVISION: Which TV comedy features a character named Opie Taylor?

7. MOVIES: What is the name of Argus Filch's cat in the "Harry Potter" series?

8. MATH: What is the only even prime number?

9. MEDICAL: What is the common name for the ailment called dysphonia?

10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many stages are in a butterfly's life cycle?

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