

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 11, NO. 29 (#479) THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

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

Hot. Hot. Hot.

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

Chamber Casino Night set for August 11

By Gilbert Hoffman
North Channel Star

Next Friday night the Jacinto City Town Center will be transformed into a casino for the North Channel Chamber Foundation's annual scholarship fundraiser. The event will be held at the Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, on Friday August 11 from 7pm to 11pm.

Foundation chairperson Allatia Harris has chosen "MOVIE NIGHT" as the theme. Attendees are invited to dress as their favorite Movie Character, or how you would dress to go to the Movies. Don't know what to wear? Allatia says you can always wear your PJs!

Casino games will be run by professional dealers, and include blackjack, poker and roulette with the games played with funny money. A raffle will also take place with a chance to win a bucket of wine, a YMCA membership, and many



Scholarship namesake Bill Palko tries his hand at the Blackjack table at last year's Casino Night. Proceeds from the event will go to NCA Foundation and the Scholarship fund.

other prizes.

Chairperson Harris explained that all the proceeds

would be going to a \$5,000-dollar scholarship. The scholarship is to be awarded to a local

student. The William C. Palko scholarship is geared towards San Jacinto College students. Palko chose San Jac because of "my history with the school." As a former student, he wants to encourage kids to pursue an education beyond their high school degree. Every year a concentration of study is chosen for the award, decided after the event according to namesake Bill Palko.

While thanking these sponsors, Palko said, "The idea here is to make money for the scholarship fund so we can keep these young students in college." The three-thousand-dollar Title Sponsor Ronny Dwairy and The Dwairy Family Foundation was one of many contributors. These sponsors included Arkema Inc, KNCS services, J. Kurt Bouillion's law office, San Jacinto College, Community Toyota-Honda-Kia, Heights Builders, North Shore Rotary Club, Pal-

ko & Associates LLC, Woodforest National Bank, and United Community Credit Union.

The Foundation welcomes the continued support from the community, and Palko said that Corporate Table Sponsors are still needed. Tables are \$700, and include 8 tickets, food, and drink tickets, and \$5000 funny money for each person. Individual tickets are \$90, and include the same. Food is being provided by Chick-fil-A. Contact the Chamber at 713-450-3600 to reserve your spot at the tables!

If you are interested in helping to this foundation's cause, you can donate to the William C. Palko Scholarship Fund by sending a check payable to the North Channel Area Foundation to the Foundation at 13301 I-10 East, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77015. Please write in the memo section of the check that it is for the William C. Palko scholarship fund.

East Houston Democrats hold Inaugural Scholarship Ceremony

By Allan Jamail
North Channel Star

June 26, 2023 – Houston, TX. at Pine Trails Community Center the East Houston Democrats (EHD) held their first annual scholarship presentation ceremony.

Dr. Gail P. Hall was the Mistress of Ceremony and gave the welcome address. She was an exceptional gifted speaker who gave a lot of information about the EHD and the purpose of an annual scholarship event for their community.

The event named, The Dr. Tujuana Hunter Memorial Scholarship Program after the late Dr. Tujuana Hunter who was an outstanding community leader and always worked to improve the community and to ensure children got their education.

Her daughter Tujuana Hunter spoke and said the Hunter family would be forever grateful for the EHD for their honoring their mother with the an-



EAST HOUSTON DEMOCRATS AT THE CLUB'S FIRST ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY.

Standing, L-R: Cody Pogue, Judge Victor Trevino III, Judge Joe Stephens, State Rep. Ana Hernandez, East Houston Democrats (EHD) President Linda Britten, Marie Nichols, Tujuana Hunter, Arthur Hunter, Mary Fontenot (Rep Harold Dutton District Director), Tyna Christmas, Charlotte Jackson, Wavily Britten & Cindy Joseph. Sitting, L-R: Dr. Gail Hall, Mary Raven, Dianna Williams, Damian (child) Morales, Diana Guerrero, Melissa Morales, Takii Nichols & Jan Crenshaw. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

nual scholarship program.

President Linda Britten of the EHD said she could think of no one else who had worked so hard in the community and for helping others. Britten thanked everyone at the packed community center for their support and attendance.

Judge Joe Stephens, Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, Place 1 was the keynote speaker and State Representative Ana Her-

nandez gave a speech.

Judge Stephens said he was thrilled to be the Keynote Speaker at the EHD first annual event. He said it was a great honor for him to be able to return to where his roots began in life. He said he played basketball at the same basketball court there behind the center.

Stephens was an out-

See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 3



Scholarship recipient
Ry'Azyyn Nichols



Scholarship recipient
Estefania Morales Guerrero

Texas Sales Tax Holiday is August 11-13

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 11-13.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

"As Texans prepare for the back-to-school bell, this is the perfect time to take advantage of the opportunity to save money on everything from blue jeans to ballpoint pens," Hegar said. "As the father of



three, I know how these expenses can add up."

The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$136 million in state and local sales tax during this tax holiday.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any

other means (including in-store purchases) when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or,
- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.


Harris County Officials at the White House



Last month, Harris County Officials including Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner Adrian Garcia joined more than 70 other leaders from across Texas at the White House. The meeting focused on spotlighting how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are having a transformational impact on Precinct 2 and across Harris County.

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

CISD Board of Trustees Approve 23-24 Compensation Plan



COMPENSATION KEYPOINTS

CISD's 2023-2024 District Budget will include:

- Starting Teacher Salary is \$64,500 including 3-for-3 incentive
- 3% Raise for all Full Time Employees
- A Market Midpoint Increase** that will benefit CISD Employees
- Increase takes effect on the first paycheck of the Employee's 2023-2024 Calendar Year

*3-for-3 Initiative provides \$3,000 over the course of three years, on incentive of one thousand dollars a year. **The Market Midpoint Increase is based on the updated 2023 Market Study that was previously conducted in 2007.

CISD Board of Trustees Approve 2023-2024 Compensation Plan-Including a 3% Raise for All CISD Employees

Channelview, TX-June 20, 2023: Channelview ISD Board of Trustees approved the 2023-2024 compensation plan that includes a 3% raise for all full time employees.

The starting salary for new teachers is \$64,500, which includes the 3-for-3 initiative providing \$3,000 over the course of three years, an incentive of one thousand dollars a year.

Trustees also approved a market midpoint increase which will affect CISD employees. In payroll, the "midpoint" refers to the middle point of a pay grade or salary range. Channelview ISD participated in a market study conducted by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) in the summer of 2023 to help better determine the district's pay scale and ensure it remained competitive with other school districts. This was the first comprehensive market study since 2007 and a total of 12 school districts were surveyed based on proximity, demographics and/or size. As part of the process, each job within the school district was evaluated within the compensation plan. By thoroughly assessing job description and roles, CISD has taken a proactive approach to address any potential gaps in compensation, resulting in a market midpoint increase.

"We recognize the dedication and commitment all Channelview ISD employees make when they decide to choose Channelview. This raise is well deserved and the CISD Board of Trustees is committed to recognizing the worth of our employees," said Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "This market study was timely, and it's crucial to help us retain and reward our employees with competitive compensation."

In April, the CISD Board of Trustees also approved a retention incentive for all returning employees in the 2023-2024 school year. This retention payment is in addition to the pay raise. This is a 3% payment based on the midpoint of the 2022-2023 compensation plan to be split into two payments before taxes. The first payment to be received August 7 and the second on December 20, 2023.

The new budget takes effect on September 1, 2023. This pay increase will take effect on the first paycheck of the Employee's 2023-2024 Contract/Calendar Year. For those employees who have additional questions there will be a series of optional virtual and in-person meetings. Please check your employee email for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is every CISD employee getting a raise?

Yes, all full time CISD employees will receive a 3% pay increase. In addition, some employees will receive a pay adjustment based on the market study conducted by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). The results of the study caused CISD trustees to approve a market midpoint increase. Furthermore, trustees also approved a retention incentive in April for all returning employees in the 2023-2024 school year. This is a 3% payment based on the midpoint of the 2022-2023 compensation plan to be split into two payments before taxes-the first to be received August 7 and the second on December 20, 2023.

Is every CISD employee getting a pay adjustment?

No. However, many employees will receive an adjustment. In addition to the 3% pay increase, trustees also approved a market midpoint increase which will affect some CISD employees. In payroll, the "midpoint" refers to the middle point of a pay grade or salary range. Channelview ISD participated in a market study conducted by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) in the summer of 2023. As part of the process, each job within the school district was evaluated within the compensation plan, which resulted in some employees receiving a market adjustment.

How will I know if I am getting a pay adjustment, in addition to the 3% pay increase?

The Business Office is working on processing all salary increases. Salary letters will be mailed to employees at their address on file in the Business Office later this summer.

Who completed the compensation study?

Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) completed an external compensation study. TASB is an organization that specializes in providing services and support to school boards and public schools in Texas. They have accumulated expertise and knowledge in areas such as education policies, legal matters, governance, and school operations.

When was the last time Channelview ISD completed an external compensation study?

This was the first comprehensive compensation study since 2007.

Why was 3% chosen as the pay increase amount?

All salaries (teacher hiring schedule and all other pay ranges) in the 2023-2024 compensation plan are a result of the 3% increase. This keeps our district's salaries in the top 25% compared to other districts in the study.

When will I see my increase?

It will vary based on your employee contract. Employees on a:

- 177, 187 (Nutrition) & 252 day calendar will see their increase on September 5

- 187 & 195 day calendar will see their increase on August 18

- 215 & 207 day calendar will see their increase on August 4

- 226 day calendar will see their increase on July 20

How do I find out which employee contract I am on (how many days I work a year)?

You may find your pay-grade and employee calendar on Frontline Central. You may also ask your direct supervisor.

When will I get my retention payment?

Your retention payment will be split into two payments to be received on August 7, 2023 and Dec 20, 2023.

How do I earn a retention payment?

This incentive is only available to staff who were employed by Channelview ISD during the 2022-2023 school year and are returning to the district for the 2023-2024 school year.

How much is my retention payment?

Below are some examples of the personal amount for some of our largest groups of employees:

- Teachers - \$2,360.00 (\$1,180.00 each check)
- Instructional Paras - \$749.00 (\$374.50 each check)
- Custodians - \$939.00 (\$469.50 each check)
- Cafeteria Workers - \$682.00 (\$341.00 each check)
- Bus Drivers - \$889.00 (\$444.50 each check)

Will my salary go down?

No.

What does this mean for hourly employees?

All full time CISD employees will receive a raise, this includes hourly employees. In 2022, The CISD Board of Trustees approved a two-year plan of a pay increase ranging from 6 to 8% to all auxiliary staff and paraprofessionals. The adjustment for all hourly employees will equate to a minimum of either \$13.50 or \$15.00 per hour by the year 2023. Those employees will receive the raise that was approved in 2022.

How do we determine the exact amount of our raise? You will receive a salary letter in the upcoming weeks.

Will anyone be at the minimum on the pay scale?

Only employees with 0 years experience will be at the minimum on the pay scale. Any employee with experience that their salary falls at or below the minimum will receive an adjustment to bring their pay above the minimum.

Have a question that hasn't been answered? Please fill out the google form below to submit your question.

<https://forms.gle/5QwDLw1SQidge9ir5>

Channelview ISD Has a New Mobile App

It's everything Channelview ISD, in your pocket.

News

Events

Documents

Staff

Alerts


Dining






Download the Channelview ISD, TX app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications

We are THRILLED to announce the mobile app, designed specifically to keep our families better informed and connected to what's going on in our schools. Available to download for Android and iPhone ¡Estamos muy emocionados de anunciar la nueva aplicación de @ChannelviewISD! Es todo Channelview ISD, en su bolsillo. Descargue la aplicación para Android o iPhone.




CISD BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS



Schedule Those Important Days

Before schools starts , take a look at this year's academic calendar. Make sure to save important dates like parent conference days, school breaks/Holidays and professional learning days in your phone or family calendar



CISD MEET THE 2023 TEACHER

AUGUST 10, 2023

9TH GRADE ORIENTATION

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

AUGUST 11, 2023

HIGH SCHOOL

3:00 PM-6:00 PM

GALENA PARKS ISD NEWS

Galena Park ISD Welcomes New Teachers



Houston, Texas: Galena Park ISD (GPISD) is excited to welcome over 200 new teachers for the upcoming school year. The over 21,000 enrolled students will benefit from the district's attractive salary package that rewards educators for their hard work and dedication. In addition to competitive pay, GPISD is known for its family-oriented environment, where teachers feel supported and valued.

New teachers can expect a warm welcome from both staff and students alike. GPISD prides itself on academic excellence that supports students who are eager to learn and

make a difference in the world. With a focus on creating a safe and inclusive learning environment, teachers are encouraged to bring their unique perspectives and experiences to the classroom.

To help new teachers get started, GPISD offered a comprehensive orientation program that covered everything from curriculum to classroom management. The district also provides ongoing professional development opportunities to help teachers grow and excel in their careers.

"We believe that investing in our teachers is the key to providing our stu-

dents with the best possible education," said Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools. "We are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where teachers can thrive and make a lasting impact on our community."

GPISD is currently accepting applications for the upcoming school year. Interested candidates can learn more about the district and its teaching opportunities by visiting the GPISD website.

Story Credit: Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

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

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Just Give

As I have looked around the community lately, I have seen so many people struggling with finances. I have seen an older couple who were successful in owning a bookstore for many years both slip into deteriorating health, and they took their life savings and moved into an assisted living facility. They turned their home and two vehicles over to their two sons, who in turned sold the items and used money to help their children.

I watched as a single parent with mental issues was sued for back property taxes and has been living on curbs, patches of grass and now on a bridge in the community. Each day, neighbors, many who are strangers, have been passing pass to leave water and food for her. An elderly Veteran who recently lost his spouse of more than fifty years was evicted from the home where they raised their two sons. Every material possession he owned was tossed into the yard one day and picked up by the garbage truck days later.

Another single parent with two disabled children was in a car accident. She lost her only mode of transportation. She had no way to pick up the medicine for her son. Thankfully, an elderly community member was able to pick it up for her. Another middle-aged man was without transportation and was offered a job. Public transportation would not get him there. Rideshare programs were going to cost him seventy dollars daily. A community member stepped up and is supplying transportation for forty dollars a day.

A young woman received news that her mother-in-law had been diagnosed with breast cancer. She at once pushed herself into planning a fundraiser to help with expenses. She posted it on social media and within hours, donations for the fundraiser began to pour in. Another person in the community saw the excitement on children's faces as they visited the "tiny lending libraries" weekly to find books that they could take home. Suddenly, this has become a passion of the lady to restock the libraries weekly with her finds from the local resale shops.

An unwed teenager found herself pregnant and unable to have an abortion. Her family decided they wanted her to move out. The baby's father was already in jail on domestic violence charges. His parents are some of the best-known drug dealers in the community, so they were of no assistance. One of her former teachers heard of the situation and helped her get into a program where she would not only obtain her GED but learn parenting skills before and after her baby was born. She is no longer addicted to drugs or alcohol. She and her baby have received many care packages from community members who do not know her name.

It took money from some of those who offered help, others gave resources, many offered prayers, but the important thing is that they each gave. When you see someone struggling, please do not turn your head. It is by the grace of God that you are not in their shoes. At the end of your life, you cannot take money or material possessions with you, so please just give.

Harris County meetings seek public input on Consolidated Plan

Starting August 1st, Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) will hold four public meetings— one in each Harris County precinct—gathering community feedback to develop the department's five-year consolidated plan.

The Consolidated Plan represents the county's vision for improving the quality of life in the county's low-to-moderate-income areas, identifying needs and resources for affordable housing, homeless services, and community and economic development, and establishing a strategic plan to meet those needs.

Meeting dates (included in press release as well):

Precinct 3 – Tuesday, August 1, 4:30-7:30 P.M. - San Jacinto Community Center

Precinct 4 – Tuesday, August 8, 4:30-7:30 P.M. - Steve Radack Community Center

Precinct 2 – Thursday, August 17, 4:30-7:30 P.M. - Martin Flukinger Community Center

Precinct 1 – Thursday, August 24, 4:30-7:30 P.M. - Tom Bass Community Center

For any further inquiries, please email Andrea.Zarro@csd.hctx.net or our team inbox at communications@csd.hctx.net.

EH Democrat's Scholarships,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

standing athlete in many youth sports and so good he later became a professional NBA basketball player for the Houston Rockets. He was first elected to the GPISD school board before being elected Justice of the Peace. His wife, Adriana is now on the school board.

Judge Stephens said, "It doesn't matter where you live or where you came from or how you came up, just go do the very best you can at all of your goals, never quit, work hard and you'll see the rewards you'll receive."

Rep. Ana Hernandez said she was grateful to be a guest at the EHD inaugural scholarship event. She said she was excited for the recipients of the scholarships and was looking forward to supporting the scholarship program in the future.

Other EHD speakers and club officers present were, Rev. Wavily Britten who gave the opening prayer, Ms. Jan Crenshaw Secretary, Charlotte Jackson Treasurer, Dianna Williams, Tyna Christmas V.P. and James Hall gave the closing prayer.

Scholarship recipient: Ry'Azryn Nichols of Galena Park ISD from North Shore High School will be attending East Central University in Ada Oklahoma on a football scholarship and is majoring in Kinesiology. See photo for family members in attendance.



JUDGE JOE STEPHENS
(Photo by Allan Jamail)

dance.

Scholarship recipient: Estefhania Morales Guerrero of Channelview ISD from Channelview High School will be attending the University of Houston upon receiving several scholarships and will be majoring in accounting and later plans to attend law school. See photo for family members in attendance.

The attendees had a delicious Italian dinner with refreshments and desserts.

President Britten said people within Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD or Sheldon ISD who want to make a positive difference in these districts are encouraged to join the East Houston Democrats. For more information, contact Linda at brittenlg@yahoo.com today, or EHDDemocrats@Gmail.com. www.facebook.com/east-houstondems.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Can you Repair Diamond Rings?”

Welcome to Pineforest Jewelry's "Ask Diamond Jim" series. Today, we're diving into a question we often receive: "Can you repair diamond rings?" The simple answer is a resounding yes, but let's explore this in more detail.

Understanding Diamond Rings

Firstly, it's important to understand what makes up our exquisite diamond rings. Not only are they crafted from precious metals and dazzling diamonds, but they also carry a unique story. Our founders, Jim, and Linda Mills, believe that each piece of jewelry, especially engagement rings, should have a tale to tell. And just like every story, sometimes there are bumps in the road.

The Common Issues with Diamond Rings

Many of us adore our diamond rings, wearing them daily with pride. However, this constant wear and tear can sometimes lead to issues, like loose diamonds or scratches on the band. Over time, wear and tear will happen and even the strongest diamond ring might suffer some damage to the mounting, prongs, or even the diamonds. Fortunately, this is where our commitment to personalized customer service and expert jewelry repair comes into play.

Can Diamond Rings Be Repaired?

Absolutely, they can! And more importantly, they should be repaired by experienced professionals who understand the intricacies of these precious items. Here at Pineforest Jewelry, we pride ourselves on offering top-notch repair services for various types of damage. Our team will carefully assess and inspect your diamond jewelry items, recommend to you what repairs are needed, and decide on the best repair strategy.

The Process of Diamond Ring Repair

The process of repairing a diamond ring requires skill, precision, and expertise. For instance, if your diamond is loose, our team can skillfully tighten its' setting. Scratches on the shank or band? We can polish and clean the entire ring. If the ring is made of white gold we can rhodium plate your ring, making it look as good as the day it was first created.

We can even reshape a deformed ring or replace a lost diamond. Our safety precautions ensure your ring is in the best hands, and we aim to return it to you, not just fixed, but better than ever!

DIY Diamond Ring Repairs: A Risky Move

While some might be tempted to try DIY (Do It Yourself) repairs, we would advise against this. The risk of causing more harm to your precious jewelry is simply too high. If you have any concerns about your diamond ring, the best course of action is to contact us and let our expert team handle it.

Choosing Pineforest Jewelry for Diamond Ring Repairs

Why trust Pineforest Jewelry with your diamond ring repairs? Our reputation speaks for itself. We're proud members of the Independent Jewelers Organization, reflecting our commitment to ethical business practices. We promise to deliver a "WOW Experience" at every turn, making sure you're notified immediately once your ring is repaired and ready to be picked up.

Care and Maintenance to Prevent Future Damages

To keep your diamond ring in pristine condition, we recommend regular maintenance checks with our team. Good practices like proper storage and cleaning can go a long way in preventing future damage. Remember, a diamond ring is an investment worth protecting.

Conclusion

In conclusion, not only can diamond rings be repaired, but they should also be entrusted to a skilled jeweler. Whether it's for custom design, jewelry repair, or expert consultations, Pineforest Jewelry is here to serve you. We invite you to explore our stunning collection, experience our personalized service, and create your dream piece with us.

For our first responders and military personnel, we express our gratitude by offering a 10% discount on online and in-store purchases. We look forward to providing you with an unparalleled jewelry experience. For more tips and insights into the world of jewelry, check out our [Ask Diamond Jim](#) blog series on our website at www.PineforestJewelry.com.


Let us know what topics you'd like to see covered next. We're always here to answer your questions and make your Pineforest Jewelry experience a "WOW Experience"!

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.

"Rock it" Man



It's your anniversary. Time to shine.



NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Printing

We specialize in 4 Color Brochures, Magazines, Sale Flyers, We print Newspapers, too.

Call for a Quote

GRAFIKSHOP

713-977-2555



Luis F. Garcia, CPA

Attorney at Law

13364 Woodforest Blvd
Houston, TX 77015

713-999-8006

E.luis@luisgarcialaw.com

www.luisgarcialaw.com

NORTHSHORE VACUUM

Professional Floor & Carpet Cleaning



Rodrigo "Rodney" Sanchez

729 Uvalde Road
Houston, TX 77015

northshorevacuum729@gmail.com

713-451-3247

Stripping & Wax Floors / Carpet Cleaning / Shampooing Carpet

Call 713-266-3444 to Advertise YOUR Business in this Directory. 5,000 readers Weekly

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 the Am C. Paiko Scholarship which is awarded to a student in the North Channel Area.

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

RSVP

★

OPINION PAGE

★

★

BEAT THE HEAT

By Lone Star College

Lone Star College offers tips to ‘beat the heat’

HOUSTON (July 17, 2023) – Rising temperatures in Texas and across the country are causing many people to suffer from hyperthermia, an overexertion condition caused by hot and humid conditions, resulting in heat illnesses or death. The Lone Star College Health Sciences department offers helpful suggestions to keep you and your family safe this summer.

“Current heat waves can contribute to hyperthermia and heat stroke,” said Nickie Loftin, RN, LSC-Kingwood Nursing Director.” A high internal temperature (greater than 104°F) can cause permanent neurologic, brain damage and even death.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports hyperthermia occurs when the body fails to control its temperature through sweating and can’t cool down. The body temperature can rise to 106°F in 10 to 15 minutes. Several factors can increase a person’s chance of developing heat-related illnesses including age (older adults and younger children), dehydration, heart disease and obesity. Other heat-related concerns include exhaustion, cramps, heat rash and sunburn.

“As the temperature rises, the body will struggle to get rid of the excess heat,” said Kim Zapata, M.Ed., LSC-CyFair Emergency Medical Services Department Program Director. “Hyperthermia can cause confusion, nausea and vomiting, increased respiration, fatigue, rapid heart rate and dehydration.”

The CDC recommends the following actions if someone shows signs of a heat stroke or other heat-related concerns.

- Seek immediate medical assistance.
- Take the victim to a shady area.
- Try to cool the person down rapidly.
- Monitor their temperature.

“The most important thing you can do is to remain hydrated; consistently replacing fluids will help reduce your overall temperature,” said Loftin. “If you must be outside, try to stay out of direct sun or wear a hat.”

The Health Sciences program at Lone Star College prepares students to enter the fast-changing and growing health care industry. The department offers associate degrees and certifications in various fields and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Visit [LoneStar.edu/Programs-of-Study](https://www.lonestar.edu/Programs-of-Study) for more information.

View additional CDC guidelines on heat-related illnesses at [CDC.gov/Disasters/Extreme-Heat](https://www.cdc.gov/Disasters/Extreme-Heat).



The other night it was Hot

The other night it was hot. Hot during the day, hot at night. Heat seems to define this time of year for us, in many ways.

But in spite of that, after a day in the outdoors, we built a fire. A small fire. A “hat” fire, which mountain people define as one you can put in your hat. Why so small? Because it was hot and we didn’t need the heat. Why the fire? Because we need the fire.

It is the hearth. It is the touchstone to our past. It is a link with countless generations of ancestors who have sat here looking at the flames licking up on the chunks of firewood and taking us back endless years, countless years, to what was then. Through the flames and later the glow of the coals, we can see things that we can’t see at any other time. We can hear music in the crackling. We can be comforted by the fire, which is our best friend as well as a potential destroyer, at the same time.

How many times have we looked into the flames of a small fire, just like this? It’s beyond counting. Sometimes the fire has been in a fireplace with all kinds of louvers and vents and controls, and yet even then we shut off the lights and sat quietly, looking into the fire and taking ourselves back to our beginnings. It is important that we do this, so important to our emotional health that we willingly pay extra for a modern city house or apartment that has a fireplace.

It doesn’t make any sense at all.

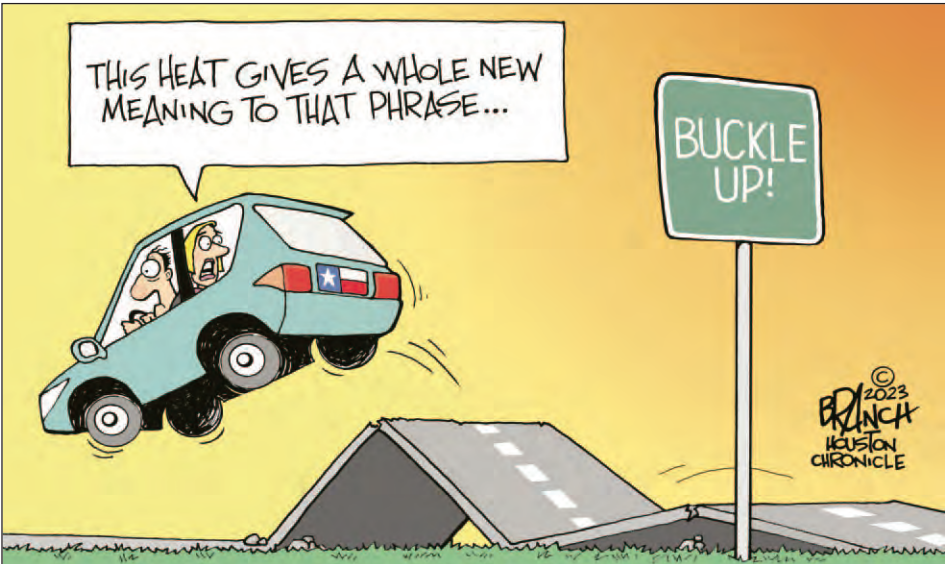
No sense at all until you look into the fire and those same questions come along. Who am I? Am I doing what I’m supposed to be doing? Is my life being spent for the right things? What more can I be doing?

Do we remember other fires in faraway places? Places where the weather is different, the animals are different, the people are different. Remember using wood from other kinds of trees? Remember sitting around the fire with others who are only with us now during these quiet times by the fire and in the sanctuary of memory?

We ask ourselves these questions, but the answers can only be found in the silent glowing of the coals, and we can only hope we stack up right in the long run.

Because when we look into the coals, at the end of a long day, it’s our way of going home.

Leather that looks much better than when the cow was using it. Use your imagination. www.artvincentleather.com.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Patrick Issues Gag Order Ahead of Trial

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week issued a sweeping gag order ahead of the impeachment trial of suspended Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Houston Chronicle reported, saying “out-of-court statements” by both sides threaten to jeopardize the trial.

The trial is set to begin Sept. 5.

The gag order prohibits members of the Senate and House, their staffs, witnesses and attorneys from making statements that could have a “substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing the trial.” Violators could be found in contempt of court and face up to six months in jail and up to \$500 in fines.

Patrick is acting as the judge in the impeachment trial. The gag order was required under the impeachment rules established by the Senate in June.

Meanwhile, Paxton has asked that three Democratic state senators be disqualified, saying their public statements prove they cannot be impartial, The Dallas Morning News reported. Paxton is targeting Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and Sens. Roland Gutierrez and José Menéndez, D-San Antonio.

“Senators Menendez, Gutierrez, and Johnson’s own public statements convincingly establish bias and prejudice against the Attorney General,” the motion states. “That cannot be cured.”

In a related matter, conservative activist Dr. Steven Hotze has sued Patrick and the Senate to allow Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, the suspended attorney general’s wife, to participate in the trial’s deliberations and vote on her husband’s fate. The Senate rules for the trial disqualified her from participating.

A&M PRESIDENT RESIGNS FOLLOWING BOTCHED HIRING

Texas A&M University President M. Katherine Banks resigned last week after the faculty senate moved to investigate the botched hiring of journalist Kathleen McElroy to revive the university’s journalism program, The News reported.

“The recent challenges regarding Dr. McElroy have



made it clear to me that I must retire immediately,” Banks wrote in her resignation letter submitted late Thursday. “The negative press is a distraction from the wonderful work being done here.”

McElroy, a 1981 A&M graduate, elected to remain a tenured professor of journalism at the University of Texas in Austin after the original offer for a tenure-track position at A&M was reduced to a one-year contract. The university received criticism from some people concerning McElroy’s work on diversity and equity issues while working in multiple roles at The New York Times.

Mark A. Welsh III, dean of A&M’s Bush School of Government and Public Service, is now acting president of the university.

FEDS SUING STATE OVER RAZOR WIRE, BUOYS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE

The U.S. Justice Department has notified the state that it will file suit over the floating buoy barricade in the middle of the Rio Grande, which is meant to deter migrants from crossing illegally, as well as the razor wire now strung across the U.S. side, the Texas Standard reported.

“The State of Texas’ actions violate federal law, raise humanitarian concerns, present serious risks to public safety and the environment, and may interfere with the federal government’s ability to carry out its official duties,” the letter sent to Gov. Greg Abbott stated.

In response, Abbott said the state has the “sovereign authority to defend our border, under the U.S. Constitution and the Texas

Constitution,” adding, “We will see you in court, Mr. President.”

SPEED TOP CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN TEXAS CRASHES

Speed-related crashes killed 1,469 people on Texas roadways, according to the Texas Department of Transportation — the top contributing factor in traffic fatalities.

“Getting to your destination two or three minutes faster just isn’t worth the risk of a crash and causing harm to yourself or others,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams.

For the latter half of July, Texas law enforcement agencies are participating in Operation Slowdown, a statewide, high-visibility speed enforcement program. TxDOT is also running a number of commercials, billboards and social media posts urging drivers to slow down.

REPORT ON STATE EMPLOYEE WORKFORCE ISSUED

A report from the state comptroller’s office on the workforce of state agencies indicates Texas faces staff shortages and high turnover, with compensation being the primary factor.

Average salaries for state employees are 11.7% lower than the overall market, according to the State Auditor’s Office. Moreover, 35% of state employees live in the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown and the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan statistical areas, which have cost-of-living expenses higher than the state average.

State workers in health and human services and the prison system in particular have high turnover, which the report blames on low pay and high stress.

The turnover rate for all state employees in fiscal 2022 was 22.7% — the highest turnover rate in more than 10 years.

The five agencies with the most employees are:

- Health and Human Services Commission — 32,345
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice — 30,277
- Texas Department of Transportation — 12,375
- Department of Family and Protective Services — 11,984
- Texas Department of Public Safety — 10,210

NEARLY 64,000 TEXANS TO HAVE STUDENT LOANS FORGIVEN

The Texas Tribune reported that nearly 64,000 Texans will have their federal student loans forgiven because they qualified for an existing forgiveness program that was poorly administered. A total of \$3.1 billion will be forgiven for Texas borrowers, an average of \$48,500 per borrower.

The move is unrelated to President Joe Biden’s now-defunct student debt forgiveness program that was blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court last month. The latest steps are being called a “correction” by the U.S. Department of Education and affect borrowers whose debts should have been canceled but weren’t due to “past administrative failures.”

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“A Boring Life”

I’m writing this on my birthday and feeling more than usually grateful.

“What do you want to do?” my husband, Peter, asks, as he always does on my birthday.

Peter refuses to celebrate his own birthday, but he only applies the no-birthday rule to himself. I am free to celebrate any way I want—so long as I don’t expect any kind of surprise from him. I don’t.

And so I tried to think of what would make my day special, and it was hard. Because, these days, all my days are pretty darned special.

We just landed in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, the day before yesterday, and there are a lot of wonderful restaurants we could go to. There is a hot spring not far away. I could get a massage. But none of those things sounded like anything I wanted to do. When I was totally honest, what I wanted to do was to stay right where I was.

When we are in Mexico, we stay in a little one-bedroom apartment. The countertops and furnishings are very 1980s. The sheets are dried on the line on the roof, so they are nice and crisp. The dishes don’t match. The bathroom is not luxurious. We love it.

When I thought about what a perfect day would look like, it would involve a little writing and a lot of vegetables—and cake. So that’s what I did.

I sat at my little green Formica desk in the apartment, and I wrote a few words. I’m working on a new novel, and it delights me. It’s different from anything I’ve written before, and it has a little girl named Lizzie in it. So I wrote a scene with Lizzie.

Then I went to the market. There is a giant open-air food market just a couple of blocks away from our apartment. My favorite fruit and vegetable seller, Veronica, was there. It’s the slow time of year in town, and she was happy to see me.

“What do you need?” she asked.

“I need everything!” I told her.

When I got home, I counted, and I had purchased exactly 12 different fruits and vegetables from Veronica. She always helps me pick out the nicest produce. Honestly, I might have bought more, but that was all that would fit in my three shopping bags.

Then, before I got back to the apartment, I stopped at the cake shop. All they sell are cakes. I went in and bought myself one. It was a small cake with fresh strawberries on top.

When I got back to the apartment, Peter had already cooked garbanzo beans for my salad. He set to work cooking beets and carrots because, at this altitude, we pressure cook them, and Peter is the king of pressure-cooking. (Peter has many other specialized skills. Pressure cooking is just one of them.) Then I went for a walk. The clouds moved in, and the temperature dropped. I took pictures.

I suspect that there are more than a few people who would say I have a boring life, and I would not give them an argument. But I’ve had a few birthdays by now, and I feel very fortunate to know what I like. I like fresh fruit and vegetables. I like spending time with Peter. I like to write and to walk. And I like cake.

And I am very grateful because I know I am doubly lucky. I’m lucky to have a wonderful life, and I’m lucky yet to know what a wonderful life it is.

Till next time,
Carrie

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

USPS 244-500

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman

Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman

Assignment Editor.....Julietta Paita

Website Editor.....Kristan Hoffman

Marketing Executive.....Willie Glasgow

Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562, Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER, Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS, Northeast NEWS, North Forest NEWS, North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000. Readership exceeds 50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones....713-266-3444

FAX Line....713-977-1188

email: grafikstar@aol.com

Member Texas Press Association



Here2Serve:Meet Maria

Q&A with María Bolaños, Precinct 2's Community Relations Manager

1. Describe your role with Precinct 2.
I am the Community Relations Manager for Precinct 2, and I also serve as the Community Liaison for the Second Ward and Near North-side communities.

2. What do you like most about your role?
Making people happy! You see when residents of Precinct 2 contact our office, 99.9 percent of the time it's because they have an issue or a complaint that needs to be resolved. My goal is to resolve that issue and, that at the end of our conversation, they have a smile on their face.

3. What does pride month mean to you, and why do you think the community must understand its significance?
It reminds me of the long way the LGBTQ+ community has come to prove that we are good, responsible, law-abiding citizens and an asset to this society. When I was growing up, it was not accepted to be openly gay; that's why we used to be "closeted." We still have much work to do to make some understand gender dysphoria, or when someone feels their biological sex does not match their gender identity. The condition affects many transgender people before they transition to their authentic selves.

4. Who are some of your favorite LGBTQIA+ icons or role models?
Mayor Anise Parker comes to mind.

5. How can we be better allies throughout the year, not just during Pride Month?
Understanding and helping us educate our families and friends that we do not choose to be this way. We are born this way.



This month, Commissioner Garcia led or voted in favor of the following items:

License Plate Reader and Gun Sound Detection System Contract: Commissioner Garcia introduced Flock, a new pilot project in the Cloverleaf area to install 30 License Plate Reader Cameras and a Gun Sound Detection Dual system. This significant public safety investment will provide valuable data and surveillance for the Sheriff's Office to combat major violent crimes. This pilot project will also be used as a technology study to compare the flock system with the ShotSpotter pilot project in East Aldine by comparing the two systems in their effectiveness in reducing violent crimes.

\$6 Million for Chronic Disease Prevention: Commissioner Garcia led the effort to expand access to chronic disease programming to reduce the prevalence and impact of chronic disease Harris County. It will also reduce future healthcare costs associated with chronic diseases to generate positive financial impacts for Harris County.

Discussion of \$2.5 Billion expansion for Harris Health System: Commissioner Garcia introduced this item to begin discussions about the proposed bond to fund Harris Health System's strategic facilities plan before formal authorization of a ballot measure. This bond project includes building a replacement hospital for the LBJ Campus that will increase patient capacity, renovation of Ben Taub Hospital, and creating three new ambulatory clinics.

Common Market Texas Agreements: Commissioner Garcia introduced a proposal that creates collaboration with Precinct 2 and the Common Market Texas. Precinct 2 community centers will serve as distribution sites and provide fresh fruit and vegetable boxes to families throughout the precinct. This program supports Commissioner Garcia's Revive2Thrive initiative by addressing the economic and health needs of our communities.

Positions for ACCESS Health: Latino Chronic Disease Cohort: Precinct 2 has the highest number of zip codes with residents who have chronic diseases. Additionally, these zip codes are in predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods. The Latino Chronic Disease Cohort will support Precinct 2 residents affected by diabetes, or who are at risk for diabetes, through Community Health Coordinators (CHCs). The CHCs will conduct home visits for residents with Type II diabetes who have not visited a doctor in the last 6 to 12 months. They will also assist participants with services including navigation, appointments, and monitoring.



Resolutions

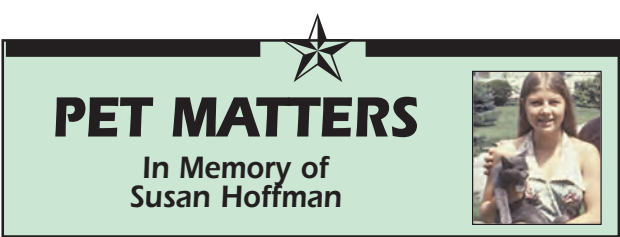
Pride Month: In a continuing show of support, Commissioner Garcia presented a resolution in celebration of LGBTQIA Pride Month, June 2023. Ms. Anandrea Molina, spoke and received the resolution. Anandrea is the founder of the Organization of Latina Trans in Texas (OLTT), dedicated to ensuring, protecting, and defending the human rights of all trans, gender-nonconforming, and LGBTQ+ people in Texas.

Pet Preparedness Awareness Month: Commissioner Garcia presented a resolution to highlight the importance of preparing pets and their families for major weather events. Corey Steele, Associate Director of the Veterinary Public Health Division, Harris County Public Health, and a four-legged friend accepted the resolution.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Opportunities Resolution: Commissioner Garcia introduced a resolution for Harris County to participate in a collaborative effort with statewide partners to leverage the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund opportunities to benefit Harris County citizens. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin accepting requests for proposals in the summer of 2023 from eligible entities to compete for funds from the "Clean Communities Investment Accelerator" and "Solar for All" grant competitions. Mr. Stephen Brown of the Clean Energy Fund of Texas spoke and received the resolution.

Homeownership Month: Commissioner Garcia presented a resolution recognizing June as Homeownership Month. Through the combined efforts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas General Land Office, the Harris County Community Services Department, the Harris County Housing Authority, the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation Board, and our non-profit partners, Commissioner Garcia strives to make housing more affordable and accessible for first-time homebuyers to qualify for mortgage financing. Ms. Mary Lawler, CEO, and Ms. Diana Martinez, both of AVENUE CDC, spoke in support. The Court approved unanimously.

Park and Recreation Month: Commissioner Garcia welcomed Mr. Joe Turner to share a few words about the Park and Recreation Month Resolution, recognizing the value of our public parks.



Protecting Texas' Dogs in Record-Breaking Summer Heat

AUSTIN, TX – As temperatures continue to soar across the state, the Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN) is offering tips on how Texans can best protect their pets

"In triple-digit heat across our state, it's not just us humans who feel the impact of the scorching sun," said Shelby Bobosky, THLN Executive Director. "We have been inundated with calls, emails, and texts from concerned Texans about the laws in these brutally hot conditions and what they can do to help. Our four-legged companions are more susceptible to the dangers of extreme heat, and just like we take precautions to stay safe and comfortable, we must remember that our pets rely on us to protect them."

The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act passed in 2021 protects dogs tethered outdoors by

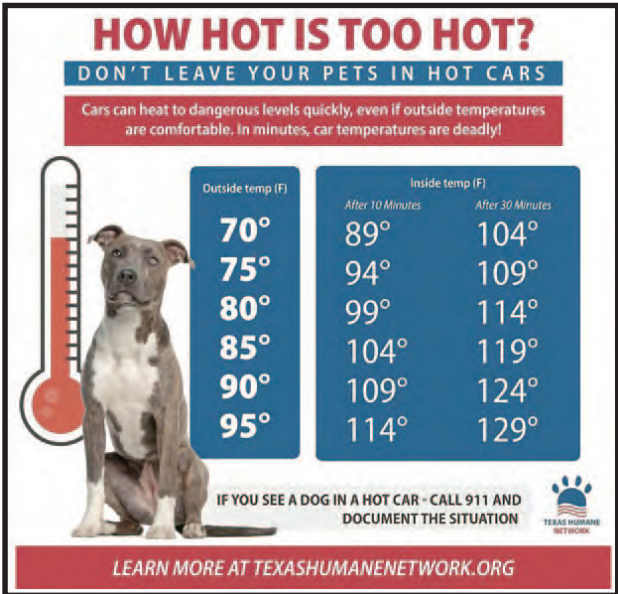
- Defining adequate shelter to shield dogs from extreme temperatures and standing water, and ensures the dog can stand, turn around, and lie down.
- Requiring access to drinkable water.
- Striking the 24-hour waiting period so action can be taken immediately.

If there are heat advisory warnings and you encounter a dog outside without shelter or water, you can ask your local animal control to do a welfare check. Confining an animal in a crate in direct sunlight without shade during extreme heat can be charged as animal cruelty.

It's vital to know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke in dogs:

- Signs include excessive panting or drooling; rapid heart rate; lethargy or weakness; loss of coordination; bright red gums or tongue; vomiting or diarrhea; and glazed eyes.
- Dogs experiencing heat stroke may collapse, experience seizures, loss of consciousness, or a coma.

If you see a dog in a hot car, here's what you can do:



- Act quickly. On a warm day, the temperature inside a vehicle can increase by 20°F (11°C) within 10 minutes.
- Assess the situation. Where is the car parked? In direct sunlight? What is the current temperature outside? Is the dog showing any signs of stress, symptoms of heat exhaustion, or heat stroke? Is the owner nearby?
- Notify authorities. Contact local law enforcement or animal control to report the situation. Ensure you have the exact location, description of the car, and license plate number, if possible. Photos or videos can be helpful to authorities.
- Spread awareness. Notify nearby businesses or individuals about the situation to raise awareness and potentially locate the car's owner.
- Continue to monitor the dog. If you can, stay near the car to keep an eye on the dog until help arrives. Note any changes in its condition and update the authorities when they come.

Rendering aid to an animal in heat-related distress will NOT result in a civil action against you.

In 2011, THLN passed a law (HB 2471 by Rep. Larry Phillips and Sen. Robert Deuell) that limits the civil liability of a person, an animal control agency, or an animal control agency employee who renders aid to an injured or distressed animal from a civil action brought because of seeking or providing such care.

Dogs' paw pads can quickly burn on hot pavement. Here's how you can prevent painful burns:

- Test the pavement. If you can't comfortably hold your palm on the pavement surface for 10 seconds, your dog's paws risk getting burnt.
- Walk during cooler times. Schedule walks during the early morning or late evening when the pavement is cooler. Avoid walking during the hottest parts of the day.
- Use protective gear. Use booties or paw wax to provide a barrier between their paws and the hot surface.
- Walk on grass or shaded areas. To minimize the risk of burns, choose grassy or shaded routes instead of hot pavement.

"By adopting preventive measures and incorporating simple but effective practices during hot temperature months, we can create a safer environment for our furry friends and provide them the care they deserve during these extreme weather conditions," said Erin Van Landingham, Executive Director of the Texas Humane Network.

LIQUIDATION SALE

TINA'S RESALE SHOP

10407 Market Street - Jacinto City

Now is your time to Shop!

Closing after 20 years (Tina's Retiring)

ALL MERCHANDISE 75% OFF

(Item must have a price tag)

Furniture • Antiques • Collectables • Home Decor

Toys • Cameras • Jewelry • Musical instruments

Knives • Sports • Crystal

MUCH MORE - COME BROWSE

Open Tues-Sat 11-6

Carter~Conley

Funeral Home

13701 Corpus Christi St.
Houston, TX 77015

(713) 455-5100

*Funerals *Cremations *Pre-Arrangements

Family Owned and Operated
Since 1992

www.CarterConleyFH.com

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

MARKET PLACE

When you call these Advertisers, this Newspaper receives a referral fee, whether you purchase or not. You can help the Newspaper by calling with an inquiry. THANK YOU.

Consumer Cellular®

EXACT SAME COVERAGE UP TO HALF THE COST.

AWARD-WINNING CUSTOMER SUPPORT 14 TIMES IN A ROW

We've been ranked #1 in Customer Service among Wireless Value MVNOs, 14 Times in a Row.*

100% U.S. BASED CUSTOMER SUPPORT

All of our support teams are just a call or click away.

855-821-6277

©2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Half the cost savings based on cost of Consumer Cellular's single-line, 5GB data plan with unlimited talk and text compared to lowest cost, single-line post-paid unlimited plan offered by T-Mobile and Verizon, May 2023.

AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL HEATING & COOLING

The Season for Big Savings Is Now!

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000!

✓ Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems

✓ Many Payment Options to choose from

✓ Service Available Seven Days a Week

✓ Licensed and Professional Technicians

Call today! (855) 241-1293

\$49

Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

Price valid for one working unit. Excludes oil fired systems. Valid at participating ARHC Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or in one call. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Valid if copied or transferred and where permitted. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$0.01. Offer expires 8/30/2023. License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses.

SAVE UP TO \$2000

on a New Cooling and Heating System with our Buy Back Program!

Coupon requires purchase and installation of select complete heating and cooling systems. Permitted and required by Company of qualifying heating and cooling systems required. Valid at participating ARHC Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or in one call. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Valid if copied or transferred and where permitted. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$0.01. Offer expires 8/30/2023. License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses.

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE (713) 496-1933

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* – A \$735 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

GENERAC®

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

TRACTOR WORK

Tractor, Dozer and Backhoe Services

Call or text for Free Quote.

LONESTAR SITEWORKS

832-530-0054

10-4T

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT -- CROSBY

Nice House- Great Location off Hwy 90

2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, additional room for office or workout room.

Covered Patio and privacy fenced backyard

Rent \$1500 - Deposit \$1500

Tenant responsible for yard and all bills.

28-2T 281-705-9640

Make the smart and **ONLY CHOICE** when tackling your roof!

Before

After

Limited Time Offer! **SAVE!** TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **50% OFF + 10% OFF** ON YOUR INSTALLATION Additional savings for military, health workers and first responders

Erie Metal Roofs is trusted by homeowners nationwide to provide a level of value on new roofing that other home improvement companies simply can't match. Erie Metal Roofs are designed to provide the ultimate defense against everything from hurricane-force winds to hail while also boosting energy efficiency and curb appeal. It's not only the best protection you can get for your home, but it's also designed to last a lifetime.

Choose from 3 styles with multiple color options:

WOODEN SHAKE

DIMENSIONAL SHINGLES

SPANISH TILE

ERIE Metal Roofs

FREE ESTIMATE 1.855.947.0982

Expires 9/30/2023

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction, Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates, and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeimprovementsolutions.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriemetalroofs.com/erie-licenses/.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

OXYGEN

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-333-1888

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER MARKETING/SALES PERSON

Position available for AD SALES representative. Experience helpful but not necessary. Possible to work from home. Suitable for Part Time, or Full Time. Commission plus. Send letter of interest to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.

LEAF FILTER

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-346-299-9169

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER MANAGING EDITOR

Position available for journalist or manager with local newspaper. Experienced in writing, interviewing, sourcing, computer layout, ad sales, record keeping, promotions. Salary plus benefits. Send letter of interest to grafikstar@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.

Custom Glide-Out Shelves for your existing cabinets and pantry.

50% OFF INSTALL!

12 MONTH WARRANTY

Easy access, less stress, everything within reach.

ShelGenie® EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH a neightby company

Call for Your FREE Design Consultation: (877) 863-2595

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Glide-Out Shelves. EXP 4/30/23. Independently owned and operated franchise. ©2023 ShelGenie SPV LLC. All rights reserved.

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

HENDERSON GARAGE DOORS

281-428-1187 1-800-345-8471

Sales & Repair Service Baytown, Texas John Henderson 628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS

FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS 713-702-3200

JOHNNY GAENE OWNER-INSPECTOR 911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX. 77562

Graphics Unlimited, Inc.

CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST

Signs & Banners 281-462-1200

www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net 213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

PURE CBD

12750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston, 77015 Monday-Saturday, 11:00 AM-8:30 PM and Sunday 12:00 PM-5:00 PM. Our social media is INSTAGRAM.COM/PURECBD-HOUSTON our website is: WWW.PURECBDOUSTON.COM and FACEBOOK.COM/PURECBDOUSTON

HILL MATERIALS

119 Listi Ln, Highlands

FILL DIRT BANK SAND ROADBASE LIMESTONE hillmaterials.com

WE DELIVER TO YOU (281)843-5000 residential • commercial • industrial

CROSBY PARK VILLAGE

Now Open! Call 713-590-4342 to Schedule a Tour

KHOV.COM/ CROSBYPARKVILLAGE 415 Calamint, Crosby TX 77532 Offered by K. Hovnanian of Houston II, LLC. Equal Housing Opportunity

SMALL ADS BRING BIG RESULTS

Ask about our Business Directory Package 13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package Photo + Story + Web for \$260 713-266-3444

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



From left, Luke Grimes and Ellie Kemper in "Happiness for Beginners."

"Happiness for Beginners"

"Happiness for Beginners" (TV-14) — Ellie Kemper ("The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt") stars as divorcee Helen, who feels bogged down by the weight of her breakup. To get out of this slump, she decides to book an adult camping trip on the Appalachian Trail, where she coincidentally reconnects with Jake, a friend of her brother's. Helen and Jake, along with a team of people from all walks of life, start their 51-mile hike with the intent of finding adventure, but end up discovering so much more: new ways to approach life, keys to ensuring their own happiness, a community to belong in, and even love. Luke Grimes and Nico Santos co-star in this feel-good romantic comedy based on Katherine Center's novel, out now. (Netflix)

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie" (PG) — If

you're looking for the perfect movie to watch with friends or family this weekend, look no further than the origin story of this beloved duo of brothers! Chris Pratt and Charlie Day voice plumbers Mario and Luigi, respectively, as they accidentally warp to an alternate world. While Mario lands in the Mushroom Kingdom ruled by Princess Peach, Luigi ends up in the Dark Lands that are ruled by Bowser, so it's up to Mario and Peach, with the help of a few other friends, to save Luigi before Bowser destroys the Mushroom Kingdom. This movie is a treasure for generations of people who grew up loving Nintendo's video games. After bringing home a whopping \$1.349 billion from the box office, "Super Mario Bros." finds a home on Peacock on Aug. 3. (Peacock)

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" (PG-13) —

Following a successful theatrical release in May that catapulted this film to the No. 2 spot (the No. 1 spot getting nabbed by the film above) on the highest-grossing films of 2023, the final installment of the "Guardians" franchise hits streaming on Aug. 2. All our favorite tried-and-true Guardians, including the pre-Peter-Quill version of Gamora, are back for another mission — this time to heal Rocket after he is critically wounded in battle with a Sovereign warrior. "Vol. 3" gives viewers glimpses into Rocket's back story, as it bounces back and forth from flashbacks of his past to the present time; this character-building that gives Rocket his well-earned moment, paired with the action scenes that Marvel Studios is unrivaled at, tie a beautiful bow on the trilogy. (Disney+)

"My Happy Ending" (R) — Based on the play "Sof Tov" by Anat Gov, the events of this comedy-drama unfold during a single day. After getting diagnosed with stage four colon cancer, fictional famous actress Julia Roth (played by Andie MacDowell) travels to a British health clinic to receive chemotherapy as covertly as possible, with the hopes that no one — not even her manager or family — will find out about her diagnosis. When there aren't any private rooms for her to tuck away in, the actress is forced to undergo treatment with three other women: Mikey, Judy and Imaan. However, over the course of the treatment, Julia reaches profound and necessary realizations about the new direction in her life, thanks to these women and the stories they share. "My Happy Ending" is out now. (Hulu)

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Emily Blunt, aka "Mary Poppins," is halfway through her year off from working. She confessed, "This year, I'm not working. ... My oldest baby is 9, so we're in the last year of single digits." She and "The Office" actor John Krasinski have two daughters. Blunt added, "There are cornerstones to their day that are so important when they're that little. I just need to be there for all of them for a good stretch."

So, to hold you over, go see "Oppenheimer," in which Blunt co-stars with Matt Damon and Robert Downey Jr.. She'll be back before you can say supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Cancel culture strikes again with Matthew Morrison! Morrison played Link Larkin in "Hairspray" on Broadway in 2002; received a Tony Award nomination for "The Light in the Piazza" (2005); played Sir Harry in the 2005 TV film "Once Upon a Mattress," starring Tracey Ullman and Carol Burnett; portrayed J.M. Barrie in "Finding Neverland" on Broadway; played Will Schuester in "Glee," (2009-2015); and guest-starred in four episodes of "Grey's Anatomy" (2017-18).

In May 2022, while Morrison was a judge on "So You Think You Can Dance," a contestant complained to producers that she was uncomfortable because she claimed Morrison flirted with her on social media. He admitted he contacted her to talk about a choreographer they'd both worked with. But there was no trial, judge or jury — just an execution! The producers sent the case to Fox, and they replaced him with Leah Remini.

Morrison, 44, has been happily married to Renee Puente since 2014, and they have two children together. He's a great guy who deserved better. But, there is a happy ending ... this time! He's starring in a Christmas rom-com titled "Paris Christmas Waltz," opposite Jen Lilley. The film was written and directed by "The Young and the Restless" star Michael Damian and his wife, Janeen, and is being heavily previewed ahead of its November premiere. Take that, cancel culture!



Emily Blunt ("Oppenheimer," "Mary Poppins")

Tom Cruise will literally be out of this world. In the midst of his publicity tour for "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One" (opened July 12), Cruise's thoughts and energies have already turned to his next project with "Edge of Tomorrow" director Doug Liman, for which Cruise plans to be the first civilian to perform a space walk. There's no production start date yet for this movie set to film in space, but Cruise told Variety magazine, "We've been working on it diligently, and we'll see where we go."

The actor is also in the middle of shooting "Dead Reckoning Part Two" (opening July 2024) with director Christopher McQuarrie, who touched on their hectic work schedules.

"We finish this tour, and on our way back to the U.K., we stop to scout [locations] along the way," McQuarrie said. "We hit the ground running as soon as we get back. I get two days of vacation between here and Tokyo, and I'm back on." After all of that, it sounds like Tom will need to put his career on cruise control and get more time off!

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Whistle cord is broken. 2. Fence is missing. 3. Stripe is different. 4. Back is missing. 5. Headset is missing. 6. Frog is missing. 7. Frog is missing. 8. Frog is missing. 9. Frog is missing. 10. Frog is missing. 11. Frog is missing. 12. Frog is missing. 13. Frog is missing. 14. Frog is missing. 15. Frog is missing. 16. Frog is missing. 17. Frog is missing. 18. Frog is missing. 19. Frog is missing. 20. Frog is missing. 21. Frog is missing. 22. Frog is missing. 23. Frog is missing. 24. Frog is missing. 25. Frog is missing. 26. Frog is missing. 27. Frog is missing. 28. Frog is missing. 29. Frog is missing. 30. Frog is missing. 31. Frog is missing. 32. Frog is missing. 33. Frog is missing. 34. Frog is missing. 35. Frog is missing. 36. Frog is missing. 37. Frog is missing. 38. Frog is missing. 39. Frog is missing. 40. Frog is missing. 41. Frog is missing. 42. Frog is missing. 43. Frog is missing. 44. Frog is missing. 45. Frog is missing. 46. Frog is missing. 47. Frog is missing. 48. Frog is missing. 49. Frog is missing. 50. Frog is missing. 51. Frog is missing. 52. Frog is missing. 53. Frog is missing. 54. Frog is missing. 55. Frog is missing. 56. Frog is missing. 57. Frog is missing. 58. Frog is missing. 59. Frog is missing. 60. Frog is missing. 61. Frog is missing. 62. Frog is missing. 63. Frog is missing. 64. Frog is missing. 65. Frog is missing. 66. Frog is missing. 67. Frog is missing. 68. Frog is missing. 69. Frog is missing. 70. Frog is missing. 71. Frog is missing. 72. Frog is missing. 73. Frog is missing. 74. Frog is missing. 75. Frog is missing. 76. Frog is missing. 77. Frog is missing. 78. Frog is missing. 79. Frog is missing. 80. Frog is missing. 81. Frog is missing. 82. Frog is missing. 83. Frog is missing. 84. Frog is missing. 85. Frog is missing. 86. Frog is missing. 87. Frog is missing. 88. Frog is missing. 89. Frog is missing. 90. Frog is missing. 91. Frog is missing. 92. Frog is missing. 93. Frog is missing. 94. Frog is missing. 95. Frog is missing. 96. Frog is missing. 97. Frog is missing. 98. Frog is missing. 99. Frog is missing. 100. Frog is missing.

King Crossword

July 31, 2023 Posting Date

ACROSS

1 Breath fresheners
6 Jazzy style
9 Monk's title
12 Pub perch
13 Greek H
14 Yank's foe
15 Very beginning
16 Difficult
18 Imam's place
20 Conks out
21 Fluffy scarf
23 Drone
24 Leans
25 Has
27 Monastery
29 Past
31 Restitution
35 Travel papers
37 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
38 Tack on
41 Dogpatch adjective
43 Recipe abbr.
44 Adhesive
45 Roman orator
47 "That's a lie!"
49 Jets and Sharks
52 Swelled head
53 Samovar
54 Full-length
55 Tax form ID
56 Mag. staff

DOWN

1 Flavor enhancer, for short
2 Mineral suffix
3 A few
4 Takeout request
5 Wade through mud
6 Render senseless
7 Oklahoma tribe
8 Bit of butter
9 Delicate
10 Stopwatch button
11 Void
17 Redacted
19 Campus areas
21 Short 'do
22 Have debts
24 Male turkey
26 Part of USSR
28 No-frills
30 Kibosh
32 Never
33 Hosp. work-ers
34 Enervate
36 Extraterrestrials
38 De Mille of dance
39 Whips
40 Japanese bedroll
42 Advantage
45 It gets in the whey
46 Hindu royal
48 Regret
50 Belly
51 Farm pen

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Which European city is home to the Prado Museum?
- MOVIES: What is Forrest's hometown in the movie "Forrest Gump"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the only vowel that isn't on the top row of letters on a keyboard?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What breed of dog is the TV star Lassie?
- CHEMISTRY: What is a common name for nitrous oxide?
- MUSIC: Which musical instrument does the singer Lizzo play?
- LITERATURE: What is a bildungsroman?
- U.S. STATES: Which two states share the most borders with other states?
- TELEVISION: What decade is represented in the TV sitcom "The Goldbergs"?
- FOOD & DRINK: In which century was coffee introduced to Europe?

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.



Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.

