# NORTH CHANNEL \*STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

#### **Back to School**



North Shore Rotary, Galena Park ISD, and the Ley YMCA working with volunteers from Rotary Interact club, Scout Troops, and the NSHS, distributed 1000 Backpacks filled with school supplies last Saturday. SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3.

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City www.northchannelstar.com THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023 VOLUME 11, NO. 30 (#480)

#### CHANNEL **CURRENTS**

#### Back-2-School First Day of **Classes:**

**DISTRICT**: AUG 10 THU 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

#### NCA Chamber Casino & Movie Night Fri. Aug. 11

Annual Movie Night/Casino Fundraiser for NCAC Foundation Palko Scholarships. You are invited to join us at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road from 7pm to 11pm. Tickets \$90 includes 2 drinks and refreshments. Reservations & Tickets 713-450-3600.

#### Al Gutierrez Retirement Party Aug. 15

Capital Bank's Branch Manager EVP Al Gutierrez will retire this month and a elebration of the event is scheduled at the Bank on I-10 East on Tuesday, August 15 starting at 3:00pm. Friends and customers are invited to join in the sendoff.

#### Tina's Resale Shop closing -now 75% Off

Tina Zorrilla is retiring after 20 years, and permanently closing her Resale Shop at 10407 Market Street in Jacinto City. All merchandise is 75% off, including furniture, antique collectibles, sports memorabilia, cameras, jewelry, and much more. Open Tues-Sat 11-6. See details on page 5.

# "Wallisville Reimagined" Encourages Participation From Residents

**Bv David Taylor** North Channel Star

> North Shore residents turned out to voice their opinion in the process to re-envision the Wallisville Road corridor on Friday, Aug. 4, at the Harris County Cultural Arts Center. The four-hour come-and-go meeting invited participants to participate in Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia's Revive2Thrive community revitalization initiative particularly focused on Wallisville Road from Maxey Road to Uvalde.

> "We're going to do improvements on the corridor, but we want to get input from the community on what they want," said Sonia Cantu, capital improvements manager for Pct. 2. "We don't want to tell you what you need, we want your feedback before we provide the design."



Harris County Precinct 2 officials were onsite at the Harris County Cultural Arts Center on Friday, Aug. 4 to listen to constituents voice their opinions on the Reimagine Wallisville Road project. The map shows the part of the corridor that will receive attention.

That design, she said, included everything from pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic with lighting, amenities, traffic signals, and safety.

"We're taking the whole corridor and looking at how it affects all types of users in the community,"

Amanda Marshall, PE, CFM, ENV SP and assistant director of capital projects for Pct. 2 said this was part of their five-year capital improvements

"This project was identified as part of the North Shore Community Plan and we're here to listen toKristina Zatopek, community engagement manager for the Harris County

Cultural Arts Council, looks over plans for Wallisville with Amy Benedict, president of the Pine Trails Board of Directors, Helen Lewis, Pine Trails board member, and Sonia Cantu, capital improvements manager for Pct. 2.

night to the residents to see what they want to see on Wallisville-how they use it, experience it, and what they would like to see in the future," she said. "We don't have anything in mind yet. We want to hear what people want."

One of the questions was a sidewalk on Normandy that ended about 10 feet short of the road.

"We have a signal project going on right now at Normandy and Wallisville where we'll build the ramps to connect with the sidewalk for wheelchairs

CONTINUED. See Wallisville Road Project, Page 5

# Joseph House 2nd Annual Christmas in July

North Channel Star

JACINTO CITY July 29. 2023 - CEO Dr. Robert C. Stearns and the Joseph House volunteers conducted their 2nd Annual Christmas in July event. Stearns said, "I'm thankful for Grace and that God has provided gifts again this year for the children of Harris County. We had over \$15,000.00 of toys this year to distribute to kids." "Here at the Joseph House Community Outreach Center my wife Michelle Stearns (Houston city council woman hopeful) count it a privilege to serve others," Pastor Stearns said.

The four Joseph House locations where the toys were distributed from



VOLUNTEERS AT THE JACINTO CITY JOSEPH HOUSE PROVIDED A CHRISTMAS IN JULY FOR KIDS. L – R: Chief Joe Ayala, Officer Mario Quiroga & Lt. M. Longrigg. The following names are not left to right but alphabetized. Janice Boone, Donna Dailey, Flo Davis, Donna Davis, Delores Delano, Pat Edgett, Maria Flores, Luis Flores, Melanie Garcia, Ana L. Garcia, Ira Lewis Jr., Veronica Lara, Anotonia Maldonado, Rachel Muniz, Mario Quiroga, Joyce Raines (JC City Secretary), Sam Valdez, Tonnetta Wingate & Santa Claus (Ray Thompson). Volunteers not in the photo, Amber Atchison & Jimmy Garner. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

were: Jacinto City, Conroe, Spring and Houston at their main Community Outreach Center. The toys were donated by the organizations of Toys for

Tots and Good360.

Months ago people had to register in advance on the Joseph House Facebook page for their children to get on the list to

receive the toys on the giveaway day. Stearns said, "God willing we'll make this an annual

event in July." To get on the Joseph House free food pantry list you must make an appointment first, visit: www.josephhousecoc.org/ food-pantry or call: (281) 936-8175

## Endeavor HS Teacher Earns Region 4 Secondary Teacher of the Year

Channelview, TX — August 1, 2023: Endeavor High School (EHS) announces that Rhonda Perez has been named "Region 4 Secondary Teacher of the Year". Presented by the Board of Directors of the Region 4 Educational Support Center, the board honors Perez for her exceptional commitment to teaching and her significant impact on the lives of students.

The accolade recognizes a secondary educator from 48 school districts across eight Southeast Texas counties who have demonstrated excellence in educational best practices, innovation, and effectiveness in the classroom. Among the finalists, Mrs. Perez best embodied these qualities through her energetic efforts to create a dynamic and engaging



learning environment that fosters academic excellence and personal growth among her students.

Mrs. Perez has been a valued member of Channelview ISD for 17 years and has earned the

admiration and respect of both students and colleagues alike. Among her accolades is a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences from University of

Houston. Her teaching methodology goes beyond conventional methods, employing a combination of interactive lectures, hands-on activities, and innovative technology integration, ensuring that students are actively involved in the learning process.

CONTINUED. See Channelview ISD Teacher Awarded, Page 5

## Adrian Stephens, a North Channel Rising Star

By Allan Jamail North Channel Star

NORTH CHANNEL -August 8, 2023 the North Channel is blessed with many talented activists and Adrian Stephens is one of them.

Adrian is married to JP Judge Joe Stephens, a household name in the North Channel. They have three children, Celine who recently graduated from Prairie View A&M, Allyn attending college and Aspen in grade school.

North Channel Star writer Allan Jamail said, "I had the pleasure of meeting their three girls when I interviewed Adrian for this article. If they take after mom and dad the North Channel community will be blessed with more Stephens' in leadership roles for years to come."



Adrian Stephens, North Channel's

Adrian was born and raised in Houston, she grew up dancing starting at age five, doing ballet, modern, tap and jazz dance. In college she fell in love with Majorette Danc-

She attended West University Elementary, Johnston Middle School and High School for the

Performing and Visual Arts in the Houston School District.

Stephens graduated from Prairie View A&M University in Texas with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with a scholarship in bowling. There she was the head of the Black Fox Dance Team and she was on their Inaugural Women's Bowling Team. She then obtained a Masters Degree in Human Resources Development at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

Upon graduating from college she said, "I wanted to have an impact on young people and find a rewarding career that would make a difference in people's lives. I am a connector, I love helping people accomplish their goals

CONTINUED. See A North Channel Raising Star, Page 5

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

## **Sheldon ISD Welcomes** 160 New Teachers



On July 27, Sheldon ISD welcomed 160 new teachers to the district. As a fast growing school district, Sheldon ISD increases student enrollment by approximately 400 students annually. New teachers were treated to a breakfast and luncheon sponsored by the Sheldon ISD Education Foundation and local community partners.

## **Back to School Bash Provides Supplies and Resources to Families**







On July 28, the district held its annual Back to School Bash providing resources such as school supplies, backpack, immunizations and more to the community. The event took place at Panther Stadium and provided the community with a carnival benefiting students in the gifted and talented programs. The Bash ended with a movie, Super Mario Bros. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 9.

## Teachers of the Year Recognized at Annual Luncheon



On August 1, Sheldon ISD's teachers of the year were treated and celebrated at the Region 4 Teacher of the Year Recognition luncheon. Taylor Deese (Monahan Elementary Teacher) and Joshua Raglon (King Middle School Teacher) were nominated based on all their efforts last school year to enhance the lives of their students.

## **GALENA PARK ISD NEWS**

## A Message From The Superintendent Dr. John Moore

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! As we begin a new school year, I want to take a moment to welcome you back and express my gratitude for your ongoing support. This year, we are excited to build upon the successes of the past and continue to work toward our shared goal of providing the best possible education for our students. Galena Park ISD (GPISD) will continue its consistency and excellence in all, for all, and by all as we move forward together

GPISD is committed to supporting academic and personal growth. Our teachers and support staff have spent the summer months attending professional development sessions, reviewing and updating lesson

plans, and setting up classrooms to create a welcoming environment for all students. We are eager to welcome our students back and provide them with a rigor-

To ensure our schools are supportive and have inclusive environments for all learners, we strive to provide a quality education that prepares our students for success in college, career, and life. This year, we are introducing new STEM academies (at Havard Elementary School and Galena Park Elementary School) to provide students with hands-on experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math. There's a place for everyone in GPISD!

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. As we progress, I encourage you to stay connected with us, get involved in our schools, and reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. Let's work together and continue to make GPISD...A Great Place to Be!

Sincerely,

IR C. Mon

John Moore, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

## Free Breakfast and Lunch -**Every Student, Every Day!**

We are pleased to inform you that the Galena Park Independent School District will be participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Participating schools in  $the \ CEP \ are \ able \ to \ provide$ healthy breakfasts and lunches each day at no charge for ALL students enrolled in the CEP schools Parents with students at eligible schools will not have to complete an application for school meals.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools in Galena Park ISD:

Cimarron Elementary

Cloverleaf Elementary Cobb Sixth Grade Cam-

Cunningham Middle School Early College High

Early Head Start Galena Park Elementa-

Galena Park High chool

Galena Park Middle School

Green Valley Elementa-

**Havard Elementary** Jacinto Elementary MacArthur Elementary Normandy Crossing Elementary

North Shore Elementa-

North Shore Middle

North Shore Senior High School

NSSHS 9th Grade Cen-

NSSHS Tenth Grade

Purple Sage Elementa-

Pyburn Elementary Sam Houston Element Williamson Elementary

Woodland Acres Elementary

Woodland Acres Middle School

**Zotz Education Center** If we can be of any further assistance or for more information, please contact the Student Nutrition Services Department at 832-386-1211.

## Galena Park ISD Dress Code

#### **Approved Changes** for 2023-2024 Student Handbook

Elementary School Dress Code Updates

Jeans Any collared, crew, or v-neck, solid color shirt or blouse

Middle School Dress Code Updates

Joggers Campus designated solid colored colared, crew, or v-neck, shirt or blouse

<u>Updates for Elementary</u> and Middle School

Ripped/Torn pants are acceptable.

Any exposed skin obove the knee must have leggings undemeath.

Exposed skin below the knee is acceptable.

No yoga pants, spandex, or fights

No flannel pants No hoods on heads

No beanies/caps unless designated by administra-

No midriff/crop tops No blankets or pillows Visitor Clear Bag Regu-

<u>lation</u> To ensure student, staff, and visitor safely,

along with quick and efficient entry into GPISD campuses and facilities, a Clear Bag Regulation has been instituted for visitors.

This will also limit the type of bag allowed.

All bags brought onto GPISD campuses or facilities, by visitors, are subject to visual inspection.

Please www.galenaparkisd.com/ 23-24dresscode

to view the complete 2023-2024 Dress Code

## **Back-To-School Webpage**

Each vear as summer draws to a close, teachers, parents, and students alike all begin their backto-school preparations.

Whether you are sending your child off to Pre-K for the first time, preparing a classroom for a new set of students, or attending your freshman year of high school, there's a lot to prepare for.

Click the QR Code to check out resources that can help make sure you are ready to make this school year one of the best.







#### Staying Alert

nless you have been under a rock, you know that it is the time of year where children return to school. Different districts start on different days, but one thing for certain, there is a buzz in the air. The majority of our readers fall outside of the boundaries for Houston ISD, so the anxiety levels are not a high as those who have children attending HISD. But if you went shopping during the past week, you have spent as much time in the parking lot as you have in the stores.

And with the temperatures being close to one hundred daily, many drivers are returning to their cars which are feeling like an oven. It is important to stay alert and leave a small crack in the window so that it is not scorching when you get in. It is also important to pay attention to your surroundings as you never know when someone is following you to the car, especially if you have multiple bags that you are juggling to put in the trunk.

Be alert to your financial situation. Too often, parents will be coerced in to buying everything new for their students. Yet, before you go out and shop for supplies, be sure to check what is left over from last school year. The same thing applies with clothes and shoes. We must stay alert not to overspend or not to get caught up in the whirlwind and buy unnecessary items.

Plan ahead if your child prefers to bring a lunch. Buy food in bulk and pack as much as you can in advance so that the mornings are less hectic. Make sure your children know not only your name and phone number but also their address and another adult's information in case of an emergency.

Talk to your children about transportation in advance. Make sure they understand how they are getting to and from school. Begin to familiarize them with landmarks in case they are walking to school, or have to ride home with someone else. If your children are not riding with you or on a school bus, make sure they understand how important it is for them to be in contact with you as soon as they get home. Unfortunately, there are people out there that are up to no good. You must teach your children to look around, remember details and be able describe people, places and situations if needed.

Stay alert in knowing who their friends are as well as their parents. Nothing is scarier than when a parent has not contact information for the friends' parents and their child is missing. Pray for your children. Pray for their teachers. Pray for the school. There are many opportunities to get involved and volunteer at the school, or within the district. Be alert, be available and be prayerful.





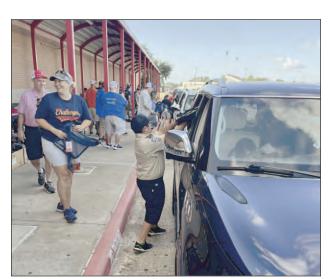


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# ROTARY CLUB NEWS

## North Shore Rotary Back to School Backpack Giveaway



Scouts and Rotarians hand out backpacks and supplies to a line of cars

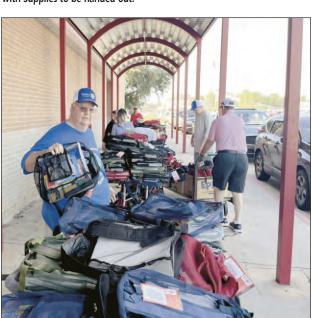
ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH SHORE

The ROTARY CLUB of NORTH SHORE, and our parters, GALENA PARK ISD, and

WENDEL D. LEY YMCA, would like to say thank you to our respective members, volunteers, and our community for making our annual BACK to SCHOOL Backpack and School Supply Giveaway such a big success. With the help of volunteers from Interact, Scout Troops 512; 1202; and 1954, as well as several staff members from North Shore High School, Ms. Connie Files, Two officers from Harris County Pct. 3, and Mrs. Debbie Guildoo, founder of Clothes & Coats for Cuties, and her staff, as well as Palko and Associates, LLC. It was a great morning.



North Shore Rotary President Lee Brown helps prepare the Backpacks with Supplies to be handed out.



Rotarian B.R. Hendrix organizes the 1000 backpacks that were distributed to the student is the waiting line of cars.



#### **ASK DIAMOND JIM**

# Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for August?"

AUGUST BIRTHSTONE



We have a birthday present for those born in August: the stunning spinel has been added to your month's birthstone lineup! August now joins June and December as the only months represented by three gems. The original birthstone for August was Sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gem. Now spinel adds its multitude of color choices!

PERIDOT OVERVIEW

Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic faridat which means "gem," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word peridona, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites.

Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gems. That's why this is one of few stones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present. Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Africa.

SARDONYX OVERVIEW

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped stone with white bands. Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony.

The finest examples of sardonyx, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay and the United States.

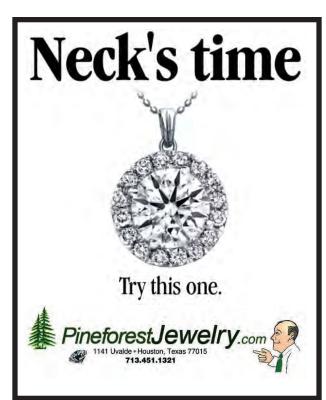
SPINEL OVERVIEW

The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gems. Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It has also been found in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadzhikistan, Tanzania and the U.S.

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 <u>jmills@pineforestjewelry.com</u>.



#### OPINION PAGE $\bigstar$ $\bigstar$

## **OPINION**

By Mayor Sylvester Turner City of Houston

#### Houston files suit against "Death Star" law

City of Houston Files Suit Against the State of Texas' "Death Star" Super Preemption Law

HOUSTON - Today, the City of Houston filed a lawsuit in Travis County against the State of Texas to have declared unconstitutional, void, and unenforceable House Bill 2127, the so-called "Death Star" or "Super" preemption bill. Governor Greg Abbott signed Texas House Bill 2127 on June 14, 2023, with an effective date of September 1, 2023.

Preemption under established law is a constitutional doctrine by which our judiciary carefully considers and determines in rare instances that state law displaces conflicting local law, finding there is no possibility that State and local law can coexist. Under HB 2127, preemption is given a new meaning and one that effectively repeals Texas constitutional home rule. Not only is preemption given a new meaning, this legislation disregards the hierarchy of Texas laws where a statute such as HB 2127 cannot repeal a constitutional provision. Our laws require a constitutional amendment election to effect a repeal.

Constitutional local control gives Texas cities the power of self-government, permitting them to tailor their laws specifically to address local residents' and businesses' needs and desires. Well-established Supreme Court decisions place the burden of proof on the party challenging a city law to establish a direct and irreconcilable conflict with unmistakable clarity of preemption.

HB 2127 creates a one-size-fits-all statewide regulation scheme with no attempt to address areas of concern that prompted cities to pass laws in response to constituent requests. Programs like Houston's pay-or-play programs for city contractors, which provide 30,000 uninsured Houstonians with health care, would die under HB 2127. Dallas and Austin's ordinances that mandate water breaks for workers in the Texas heat would similarly go by the wayside.

The bill permits the State of Texas simply to decree that whole "fields" of current and future local regulation are off limits to city government This would be true even in emergencies like Hurricane Harvey. Short of filing lawsuits in the hope that local law is not in one of HB 2127's several "fields" of law, citizens only recourse would be to petition their State Legislature to pass a law addressing the concerns during the five months every two years the Legislature meets or petition the Governor to call a special

HB 2127 would also improperly shift the heavy burden of disproving preemption to citiesclearly violating the Texas Constitution and decades of the Texas Supreme Court's preemption

HB 2127 achieves these unconstitutional ends by using vague language so indefinite and opaque that Texas cities cannot know which of their laws they may enforce, and Texas businesses and residents cannot know which local laws they must obey. Instead, the Legislature has unconstitutionally delegated to the courts the legislative responsibility to identify specific laws or purported fields allegedly preempted, if they can. Adding insult to injury, HB 2127 encourages and forces home-rule cities and their taxpayers to pay fees to finance such lawsuits filed by trade associations seeking to deregulate their industries at the local level.

"The Texas Constitution expressly champions the local control and innovation that has been key to the tremendous economic dynamism in cities like Houston. HB 2127 reverses over 100 years of Texas constitutional law without amending the Constitution. Because Texas has long had the means to preempt local laws that conflict with State law, HB 2127 is unnecessary, dismantling the ability to govern at the level closest to the people and therefore punishing all Texas residents. Houston will fight so its residents retain their constitutional rights and have immediate local recourse to government," said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

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



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

## Wildfire Chances Increasing Across State

The risk for wildfires across the state has risen along with the hot and dry conditions, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

"With the recent uptick in wildfire activity, Texas A&M Forest Service has mobilized additional personnel and equipment to assist with response," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief. "State and local firefighters are prepared to respond quickly but we need Texans to be careful and prevent wildfire ignitions while conditions remain hot and dry."

Nine out of 10 wildfires cross the state are both human-caused and preventable. The most common causes of wildfires during summer are debris burning and equipment use. That includes parking in dry grass and dragging trailer chains.

The forest service reported seven active wildfires as of Friday, most of which were 90% contained. However, the Blum Fire covering an estimated 300 acres was only 40% contained, while the Classic Canyon Fire in Corvell County, covering 150 acres, was 20% contained.

There are 150 counties in Texas with burn bans.

#### ABBOTT SIGNS TAX RELIEF **BILL; NOW GOES TO**

With Gov. Gregg Abbott's signature on an \$18 billion property tax relief package, now it's up to the voters in November to approve a proposed constitutional amendment that would put it into effect.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that, if passed in November, homeowners would be eligible for a \$100,000 homestead exemption, with those 65 and older getting an additional \$40,000 exemption. The omnibus measure also exempts many smaller businesses from paying franchise taxes and implements a pilot program to limit annual property tax appraisal value increases.

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Voters also will decide the fate of 13 other proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. Besides the property tax measure, the propositions include creating a broadband infrastructure fund; creation of a Texas energy fund to build new electric generating plants; and creation of a water fund to finance water projects in Texas.

#### **BOOKSTORES SUE OVER** LAW RATING BOOKS IN **SCHOOLS**

Texas bookstores have joined with national organizations to sue in federal court over a new Texas law that requires a rating system for books in schools and seeks to ban sexually explicit books from public school libraries.

The American Booksellers Association and other national groups were joined by BookPeople in Austin, Blue Willow Bookshop in Houston and others in filing the suit, saying the law, due to take effect on Sept. 1, "is unrealistic, limits students' reading options and narrows libraries' book selections," according to the States-

man. Named as defendants in the suit are several state agencies, including the Texas Education Agency, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the State Board of Education, all of which will be responsible for implementing the law.

"This law is bad for small businesses, like independent bookstores," Charley Rejsek, CEO of

CROSBY

Gilbert Hoffman

.....Julieta Paita Kristan Hoffman

.Willie Glasgow

BookPeople, said. "The workload, and the monetary aspect that goes along with the workload, is just impossible to meet."

In a tweet responding to the lawsuit, Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, who authored HB 900, said "bring it."

#### ONE IN FIVE TEXANS LIVE IN FLOOD PLAIN

About 20% of the state's population — nearly 6 million Texans — live in an area susceptible to flooding, according to new data gathered by the Texas Water Development Board and reported by the Texas Tribune.

The analysis by TWDB is part of its first statewide flood plan, required by a law passed in 2019 in response to Hurricane Harvey. Flood risks in Texas are increasing as the result of heavier precipitation due to climate change, stronger hurricanes and a rise in sea levels — even as the state's population continues to increase.

In a presentation in mid-July, TWDB staff said one-fifth of the state's land - about 56,000 square miles — falls within an area classified as being in a 100-year floodplain.

The state is likely to spend tens of billions of dollars in flood protection. One of the first projects is the "Ike Dike," a massive gate system planned for the mouth of Galveston Bay, the Tribune reported.

"Getting this program up and running is a really big deal," TWDB Chair Brooke Paup said before the board approved the 15 regional plans, a major step in creating the statewide flood plan. Each region is built around one of the state's major water-

"I know it'll truly go so far to save lives and people's homes," Paup said.

#### **BORDER CONCERTINA RAZOR WIRE MADE BY INMATES**

The miles of concertina razor wire strewn along the banks of the Rio Grande by Texas authorities — and the subject of a suit by the Department of Justice — is manufactured by inmates in an East Texas minimum-security prison unit, the Corpus Christi Caller Times reported.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice was authorized to purchase nearly \$1.1 million worth of equipment to make the wire, according to the Legislative Budget Board's contract database, the Caller Times reported. While the prison system has been making such wire for the state's 100-plus prison units for some time, the new machines are allowing expanded production for use on the Texas border.

The new unit was shipped to the Powledge Unit near Palestine in East Texas. That prison also has a metal manufacturing unit.



#### The Painter

I see him painting every afternoon.

Every day I take a walk and, when I am in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, my walk usually takes me through an old fabric mill that has been converted into gallery space. Most of the galleries sell the work of artists from Mexico City and beyond. But some of the galleries are spaces where artists are both working, and selling their work and the floor is spattered with paint, and easels hold paintings in various stages of completion.

Usually, I don't see the artists. They seem to be somewhat elusive. Perhaps they don't like being pestered by looky-loos coming by to see what they are doing and how they create their magic on canvas.

But one artist is always working. For a long time, I would wave as I walked by.

Then one day, I stopped to tell him how inspiring it was to see him working every day. I told him I was a writer and that sometimes it felt as if there was no one else writing.

"But I see you painting here, every day, and I feel less alone," I told him.

He said he was honored. He spoke English with an accent, but it was not a Spanish accent. He is Italian, as it turns out. His girlfriend is Mexican, from San Miguel.

His work is imposing. He does portrait art, and within the realistic paintings of his subjects, he has abstract art bursting out from inside them, as if their thoughts and emotions had turned into vivid colors and shapes.

"Do you have days when it is easier?" I asked. "Are there days when the painting flows more freely than others?"

I felt a little bad because, in order to answer the question, he paused his painting. He was working on the background of a male figure. The background was flesh-toned, so the person almost melted into it. He was mixing colors of brown and white, painting, covering, mixing again. It was mesmerizing.

"No," he said. "I think the work flows on every day I am painting. If it is not flowing at all, I go home."

But I know he is always there—because I see him.

And then he told me he had not always been a painter. He was trained as an actor and worked in films in Italy. He hated it. He said he was only valued for how he looked.

Then he met his wonderful girlfriend, and he moved to Mexico to be with her. But he had no job. So he and a business partner set up a small export company. He spent eight months working on it and then-without warning-his partner quit. His business dream was

That was when he started to paint.

Now he has more commissions and offers to show in galleries than he can accept. People love his work, and so does he.

"It freed me, my partner leaving," he said. "If he hadn't done that, I would never have gotten to paint!" "But how did you learn?"

"On YouTube!" he said. "I

just practiced and practiced." And I know this is true because he is the one painter who is there every day, working on a new canvas, carefully mixing the colors on his brush, contemplating what he sees growing before him.

I saw him there yesterday. He was concentrating intently, and I didn't want to take up his time. But it is a great comfort to know—even without seeing him-he is there right now, painting.

Till next time, Carrie







## Six Tips To Keep Pets Safe **During Storm Season**

While no one is immune from the devastation of a natural disaster, preparing before a storm hits is key to keeping everyone in your family including your pets—safe.

"What's good for us is good for our pets," said Kris Kiser, President of the TurfMutt Foundation, an environment education and stewardship program, and President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines and battery power, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. "My dog is a member of the family, so we have a plan for keeping her safe in the event of an emergency, and we encourage all pet parents to do the same."

Here are six ideas from the TurfMutt Foundation to help you include pet safety when mapping out a disaster preparedness plan.

-Have pets microchipped. In the event of an emergency—natural or otherwise—you want to ensure your pet can get back to you if you're separated. Collars and ID tags, though important, can break or detach. Microchips—computerized and scannable implants about the size of a grain of rice—are more foolproof since they're inserted under vour pet's skin.

-Bring pets inside at the first sign of danger.



Disasters can be disorienting for pets, and they could run away or hurt themselves reacting to loud noises and strange changes to their landscape. Also, rain, flying debris and high winds pose a danger.

—If you have to leave, keep pets with you. Leaving your pets behind during a natural disaster is never a good idea because they could escape or become exposed to a number of life-threatening hazards. Keep them on a leash or in a pet carrier so they don't escape, even if you are in a "familiar" neighborhood.

—Determine where you'll go. You need a Plan B if you are advised by government officials to leave your home. Not all emergency shelters will accept pets and physical distancing guidelines may reduce capacity in public shelters. Make a plan and develop a list of pet-friendly hotels open for business and outside your immediate area that you might evacuate to.

-Create a pet-friendly resource list. Research a list of veterinarians in the area should your pet need medical care (your regular vet may have some recommendations). Also, figure out which boarding facilities are nearby in case you need to separate from your pet for a time.

—Pack an emergency bag. Pack emergency provisions for pets well in advance of a catastrophe so you can evacuate your home quickly if needed. Choose an easy-to-carry bag, label it and keep it where everyone in the family can find it quickly. The bag should include a pet first aid kit: enough food and bottled water for a week (rotate this every couple of months to keep it from going bad); medications (check periodically to ensure medicines in your emergency bag don't expire); cleanup supplies; food and water dishes; bags (or litter for cats) for collecting waste; an extra collar and leash; photocopies of medical records; towels; recent photos of your pets; and a favorite toy or chewy for comfort. It's also a good idea to have a sturdy carrier or crate for each pet.

By keeping in mind these ideas, pet preparedness plans can be put into action ahead of a storm instead of spending valuable time trying to determine what needs to be done to best protect pets. Learn More

For facts, tips and fun activities for families from the TurfMutt environment education and stewardship program, visit www.TurfMutt.com

## Wallisville Road Project,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

and is ADA compliant," she said.

Cantu said part of the reasoning for leaving it temporarily relates to the number of accidents at that intersection.

"We want to look in depth to find a safer alternative, so we didn't want to put in the ramps and then have to tear them back out again and waste taxpayer money," she said. "Once we figure out the safety issue, that will be completed as well."

Mahmoud Salehi, P.E. and vice president for Cobb, Fendley, and Associates said the intersection is pretty tight with little right-of-way with gas lines and additional infrastruc-

"It would have to be a signalized intersection with a push button APS," he described it. An APS is an Accessible Pedestrian Signal, a pedestrian push button that communicates when to cross the street in a non-visual manner, such as audible tones, speech messages, and vibrating surfaces.

Marshall said the project is in the study phase and it will take approximately one year to complete.

"Then we'll develop a perception for the road and once that's approved by the precinct and the community, we'll go into a design



Mahmoud Salehi, P.E. and vice president for Cobb, Fendley, and Associates and Amanda Marshall, PE, CFM, ENV SP and assistant director of capital projects for Pct. 2 was at the come-and-go meeting to talk about the five-year capital improvements plan specifically as it related to



phase that joins the contractor for construction," she said. Construction isn't expected to begin for another four to five years.

The money comes from the 2022 \$1.2 billion bond that is split between the precincts. Precinct 2 received an allocation of \$294 million that includes parks, public safety, roadway projects, and drainage.

We're doing studies all over the precinct and once we're done, we'll take a look at the whole picture and see where to invest our dollars," Marshall said.

All photos by David Taylor

## Channelview ISD Teacher Awarded,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

"Mrs. Perez being recognized as the region's best secondary teacher of the vear is a momentous occasion," said EHS Principal Mark Sims. "Education is not just a profession; it's a passion. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such exceptional faculty and to be part of an incredible community of

educators."

Perez's achievement was celebrated during a special ceremony hosted by Region 4 on August 1 at the Hilton Americas-Houston Ballroom. Perez will move on to represent Region 4 at the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) Teacher of the Year Program later this Fall.

"We are incredibly proud of Ms. Perez's accomplishments and the dedication she brings to

students", said CISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "This award is a testament to her unwavering commitment to student success and the positive impact they have on our school community."

By Lila Hollin



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## A North Channel Rising Star,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

through recruiting or providing resources to help people accomplish their goals. My focus now is on my kids and helping them accomplish their goals. My kids and family are my biggest accomplishments in my life; I'm a prayerful person doing it daily."

Stephens was elected to the GPISD Board of Trustees in 2018 where she recently served as the Board's President. She said, "My genuine interest is protecting students and providing for them the best quality of education possible so they can have a productive and successful life. I want to ensure the teachers and the administration has all the resources nec-

essary to accomplish this." "I decided to run for school trustee after a citizen said to me that the students needed someone like me to work for them. That advice was what convinced me to overcome any apprehension I had and to run for trustee. I'm glad I followed that advice, serving the district has been very rewarding. I have six retired teachers in my family. Education is extremely important in my family

and has played a tremendous part in both mine and my husband's careers," Adrian said.

When asked how her parents felt about her getting into politics and running for a political position she said, "My parents are always proud and supportive of anything I do. I think it probably took them by surprise initially because I am not one that enjoys the spotlight, but I will sacrifice that discomfort to advocate for kids." But she firmly doesn't consider herself a politician.

Stephens said, "I've just begun serving my community, I'm eager to serve and do more for the community besides serving on the school board. "

Human trafficking prevention is another topic that's a special interest to her. In May of this year she chaired the East Harris **Chambers Liberty County** Alumnae Chapter (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority) human trafficking program. (Covered by the North Channel Star, search: North Channel Star Human Trafficking)

Adrian said, "We always look forward to traveling in the summer. We like to take a family vacation that typically falls on our wedding anniversary. We love traveling to tropical locations; our favorite place is Turks and Caicos."

She loves music, mostly R & B & Rap & POP. Her favorite female & male singers are Beyonce and Usher, Jamie Fox is her favorite actor. She enjoys listening to true crime podcast, Dateline, Crime Junkie and Serial Series, her favorite sports teams are the Rockets, Texans and Astros. Her favorite food is her grandmother's and mother's gumbo.

"My husband is my biggest influence. I am so inspired by his work ethic, service to our community and dedication to our family. I'm his number one supporter, he bounces things off me and I appreciate him doing it. I'm happy to be a contribution to his success," Adrian said.

She currently works in Human Resourcing in the Oil & Gas Industry after transitioning from Fort Bend ISD where she taught for a couple years.

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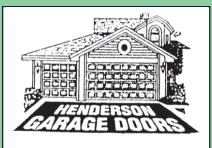




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#### **Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase**

A tax rate of \$0.075 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

PROPOSED TAX RATE \$0.0750 per \$100 NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$0.0427 per \$100 VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$0.0442 per \$100 DE MINIMIS RATE \$0.0500 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

The proposed tax rate is also greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 adopts the proposed tax rate, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 will be the voterapproval rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 17, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., at Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No. 1, 7601 Uvalde Rd., Houston, Texas 77049.

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 17, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The election will be on November 7, 2023. You may contact the Harris County Clerk's Office -Election Department for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

> YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Daron McCaslin, Dale Langdon, James Collins and Alfred Adams AGAINST: None PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: None ABSENT: Helen Lauersdorf

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 this year.

	2022	2023	Change		
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0500	\$0.0750	Increase of \$0.0250, or 50.00%		
Average homestead taxable	\$185,105	\$205,931	Increase of \$20,826, or 11.25%		
value					
Tax on average homestead	\$92.55	\$154.45	5 Increase of \$61.90, or 66.88%		
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,877,874	\$5,200,893	Increase of \$2,323,019, or		
			80.72%		

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@coveler.com or visit www.esd60.org for more information.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park ISD will hold a public meeting at 4:00 PM, August 21, 2023 in 14705 Woodforest, Administration Board Room, Houston, Texas 77015. The purpose of this neeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invite

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

\$0.83760/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations) Maintenance Tax School Debt Service Tax \$0.31148/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories

> Maintenance and operations 1.24 % increase 7.74 % increase Debt Service 2.06 % increase **Total Expenditures**

> > Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

Preceding Tax Year **Current Tax Year** \$16,859,363,703 \$14,363,278,061 Total appraised value\* of all property Total appraised value\* of new property\*\* \$163,702,837 \$214.391.555 \$11,287,055,201 \$12,620,994,918 Total taxable value\*\*\* of all property \$128,642,149 \$168,468,884 Total taxable value\*\*\* of new property\*\*

\*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code

\*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code. \*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

\*Outstanding principal.

Approved by Local Voters

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$313,055,611

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates						
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student	
ast Year's Rate	\$1.04270	\$0.31148	\$1.35418	\$7,796	\$5,507	
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.76330	\$0.30137	\$1.06467	\$7,308	\$6,074	
Proposed Rate	\$0.83760	\$0.31148	\$1.14908	\$7,399	\$6,284	

The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison o	f Proposed Levy with Last	Year's Levy on Average Residence
	Last Year	<u>This Year</u>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$171,128	\$198,511
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$70,199	\$86,729
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.35418	\$1.14908
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$950.62	\$996.59
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$45.97
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Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.14908. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.14908.

**Fund Balances** 

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

> Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$2,957,577 Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including nformation about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.





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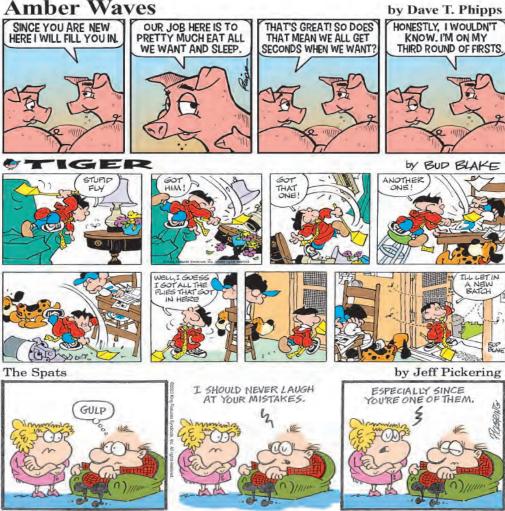
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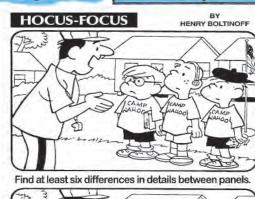


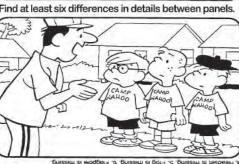


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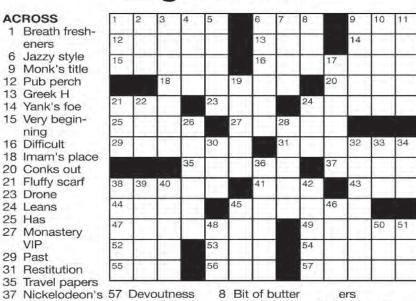




9, The 1980s. 10, 16th.. from childhood to adult, 8. Tennessee and Missouri, with eight bordering states each. 6. Flute. 7. Novel that focuses on the moral and psychological growth of a protagonist 1. Madrid, Spain. 2. Greenbow, Alabama. 3. A. 4. Rough Collie. 5. Laughing gas.

Trivia Test Answerst

#### July 31, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword



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1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European city is home to the Prado Museum? 2. MOVIES: What is Forrest's hometown in the movie "Forrest Gump"?

3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the only vowel that isn't on the top row of letters on a keyboard?

4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What breed of dog is the TV star Lassie?

5. CHEMISTRY: What is a common name for nitrous oxide?

6. MUSIC: Which musical instrument does the

singer Lizzo play? 7. LITERATURE: What is a bildungsroman?

8. U.S. STATES: Which two states share the most borders with other states?

TELEVISION: What decade is represented in the TV sitcom "The Goldbergs"? 10. FOOD & DRINK: In which century was coffee introduced to Europe?

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Answers - King Crossword



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