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CHANNEL **CURRENTS**

Air Alliance warns of high Pollution Levels

Community Meeting hears results of recent monitoring in Jacinto City & Galena Park

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Maya Angelou Honoree



Maya Angelou (Marguerite Annie Johnson) American poet, author, actress, filmmaker, educator & civil right activist. April 4, 1928 ~ May 28, 2014 3rd of a series By Allan Jamail

North Channel Star free lance writer Allan Jamail said, "I've chosen Maya Angelou for my third week's recognition of 2024 Black History Month. I've chosen her because she's an African American who's most deserving for her courage and struggles to climb up on the rough side of life's mountain to gain prominence." Three years before her death in 2011 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. She was born Marguerite Annie Johnson April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, and died at 86 on May 28, 2014, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She had an older brother Bailey Johnson Jr. At the age of seventeen, she gave birth to her only child, a son, Clyde Johnson (who later changed his name to Guy Johnson). Angelou's older brother, Bailey Jr., nicknamed Marguerite "Maya", derived from "My" or "Mya Sister". When Angelou was three and her brother four, their parents' disastrous marriage ended, and their father sent them to Stamps. Arkansas, alone by train, to live

Continued. See BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Page 3

with their paternal

GALENA PARK - On February 6, Air Alliance Houston, Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park, and Environmental Defense Fund held a meeting in Galena Park/ Jacinto City to update the community on the data gathered by their air mon-

itoring network and share

insights into the extent the

pollution is impacting

By Juan Flores

Air Alliance Houston

their community. By the time the meeting started, the room was filled to capacity, predominantly with local residents who were paying close attention to the information presented as it directly impacts them. There

were a lot of gasps in the



Air Alliance's Juan Flores speaks to a packed auciience in Galena Park.

audience when they learned about the high levels of pollution where they live. Concerned residents posed questions about the data and its significance for their health and their community's health. At the end of the meeting, attendees expressed an interest in getting more involved

and acquiring their own air monitors.

DATA: The data presented covered the time period of November 2022 to January

The monitor in Jacinto City recorded the highest levels of nitrogen dioxide

(NO2), with short-term levels reaching up to 540 ppb over the EPA's 1-hour standard and long-term levels reaching over 70 ppb over the EPA's yearly average. Moreover, Galena Park monitors recorded a drop in average levels from 2022 to 2023 while Jacin-

to City recorded the oppo-

site. Measurements reveal a seasonality to NO2 levels in the area, with summertime recording the highest values - at least since April 2022.

Ozone levels across Galena Park and Jacinto City soared during the summer, with high levels being recorded as early as March and lasting as late into the year as November - even as high as 90 ppb higher than the EPA's standard. Given that sunlight and heat are one of the precursors for ozone pollution, this is expected, however, 2023 did record a longer ozone pollution period than 2022. This points towards the impact of ever increasing summer temperatures and

Continued. See AIR ALLIANCE POLLUTION LEVELS, Page 3

Galena Park's Industrial Fire Training

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ February 20, 2024 ~ Chief Tom Ehlers of the Galena Park Fire Department said his department recently received exceptional fire training provided by the Chevron Pasadena Refining Compa-

Chief Ehlers said Chevron provided the GP depart ment's members with Industrial Fire Brigade Training at TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service) in College Station this January.

TEEX is a state extension agency that offers training programs and technical assistance to public safety workers both in Texas and around the world.

Firefighters attended three sessions during the January College Station training course. They trained side by side with members of Chevron Pasadena's firefighting team. It provides and exposes emergency responders to mock



their training at Texas A&M's College Station training facility.

disasters. Firefighters from across the state and nation come there to develop training and practical workforce solutions. What this training program comes down to IS SAVING LIVES.

The A&M training facility is home to some of the world's top training facilities which include the emergency preparedness campus. Firefighters gets both hands-on and classroom instructions and train-

"This training provides valuable skills to Chevron's firefighters and ours on how to deal with and help mitigate fires in many of the facilities around Galena Park. This TEEX training provided firefighters with 20 hours



Firefighters trained to pump over a thousand gallons of water per minute to cool down a fuel tank with a fire blazing nearby it.

each of Industrial Fire Brigade training and the opportunity to learn valuable skills fighting flammable liquids fires, LPG fires, rail car fires, loading rack fires, and industrial unit fires," Chief Ehlers said.

Galena Park benefited substantially by receiving the training because it was completely paid for by Pasadena's Chevron Refining Company. Ehler's said, "this shows their commitment in making sure that Galena Park's firefighters can help protect their community and have the training to handle these types of emergencies."

Chief Tom Ehlers would like to thank Chief Wally Fleming and Chevron Pasadena Refining for their commitment to help make sure Galena Park's firefighters are well trained and have the skills they need to best serve and protect the community.

In my many conversations with Chief Ehlers I can say the GP citizenry and city administration has an asset with him at the helm of their fire and rescue department. He's a committed man determined to do his best to provide the community with the best live saving services possible.

Early voting in Primary starts February 20

HARRIS COUNTY -Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth has announced the start of Early Voting for the March 5 Joint Primary Elections, and her staff demonstrated what voters can expect to see at the polls at a Press Conference last Monday, February 19..

Early Voting in person runs from February 20 to March 1, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Sunday, February 25, noon to 7 p.m.

Harris County has countywide polling, which means voters can go to any of the 79 early vote centers across the county.

Voters will choose from either a Democrat or Republican ballot of their choosing. In a runoff, they must vote in the same party. Ballots will be lengthy, because they include Presidential candidates, Senators, Congressmen, Judges, local county and city officials, constables and sheriff, precinct chairs, and propositions on the Republican ballot.

Of special interest to area voters is State Representative Briscoe Cain running against Bianca Gracia in District 128. Other incumbents running unopposed are Senfronia Thompson, Carol Alvarado, and Sylvia Garcia on the Democratic slate.

Richard Cantu is running to retain his seat on

the Harris County Department of Education board, but has an opponent in Josh Wallen-

Other high profile races include the Harris County District Attorney, with incumbent Kim Ogg facing challenger Sean Teare. Also of interest is a race for Sheriff, with incumbent Ed Gonzalez facing 3 challengers. County Attorney Christian Menefee has an opponent, Umeka Lewis.

For election information, visit www.Harris <u>Votes.com</u> and connect on social media at @HarrisVotes for news and updates.

Trail Rides mark start of RodeoHouston

HOUSTON - A total of more than 2,000 cowboys and cowgirls are expected to participate in this year's 11 rodeo trail rides, some of which will travel 100plus miles to Houston.

February marks the start of rodeo season in Houston, and as part of a beloved annual tradition later this month, thousands of cowboys and cowgirls will begin making their way to the city while riding horses and wagons in a scene straight out of the Old West.

Eleven trail rides associated with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will commence starting Feb. 16, the rodeo announced Thursday. A total of more than 2,000 trail riders are expected to participate, and they'll come from rural locations throughout the Southeast Texas region while making



NORTHEASTERN TRAIL RIDERS, Anthony Bruno Trail Boss, start from Cheeks, Texas and come through Northeast Houston on the way to Memorial Park and the Houston Rodeo Parade on Saturday, February 24th. SEE MORE ON THE TRAIL RIDE ON PAGE 6.

overnight stops and traveling more than 100 miles in some cases - with Goliad, the site of an 1836 battle between the Republic of Texas and Mexico, being the most far-flung starting point.

This year's rodeo is scheduled for Feb. 27-March 17 at NRG Park. The trail riders will gather Feb. 23 at Memorial Park, where an awards ceremony will be held.

The trail ride tradition dates to 1952, when four men traveled from Brenham on horseback to promote the Houston Rodeo, which first was held in 1931. --HPM











CISD Literacy Bus Unveiled: Channelview Welcomes Mobile Library Sponsored by LyondellBasell









Scenes and moments from the ribbon cutting ceremony of the CISD Literacy Bus! Sponsored by LyondellBasell, the CISD Literacy Bus is Channelview's newest community engagement asset to promote literacy across the district and beyond. Filled with books and a space to read on board, CISD students can take a book and read to their hearts content!

Expect to see this mobile library rolling around Channelview in the near future!



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Who Sets Standards

Over the weekend, I read a post on social media where someone was upset that their neighborhood was not receiving the much-needed repairs that another neighborhood is currently receiving. They felt that because their neighborhood was more homeowners than renters, they should be getting more attention. They also felt that since they pay Home Owner Association (HOA) dues, they should have been the priority for repairs.

It was noted that Commissioner Adrian Garcia had advertised and held many meetings in various parts of Precinct Two, yet those in Cloverleaf had been much more attended than in North Shore.

As the post continued to gain attention from other residents, there seemed to be some that felt like homeowners "deserved" more than renters. Some felt that because the homeowners pay dues, they should be treated better. It was repeatedly pointed out that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Those who took the time to attend meetings and voice their concerns were listed to by the Commissioner.

Some of the posters made it seem as though renters were on a lower level of qualifying to community resources. To me, it was obvious that some did not pay any attention to what was being proposed nor did they attend any meetings and then when community improvements started happening, they were appalled.

As I often say in my column, we are all equal and it takes all of us working together to see positive changes in the community. I will never understand why some people feel they are entitled to more than someone else. If you look around, there are a variety of "standards" that someone has put in place. Is it fair that one person or one group is looked down upon by another?

One of the pet peeves that I have is when someone wants to hold someone else down due to past mistakes. I feel that if someone has made a mistake, learned from it, and is trying to make improvements in their life, we should be ready to treat them with the same respect we ask for. I read a post where someone was wanting to suggest that one group of people are sick and perverted, yet they forgot it was not long ago that he discovered his wife in a private bathroom with another woman in a compromising act. He said few choice words, climbed on his motorcycle, headed towards a bar in Galveston and after consuming way too much alcohol, found himself wanting to call others and have them pick sides. And yet, why just a few years later, after he and his bride went through marriage counseling, did he think he had the right to condemn other same sex couples?

We all sin and we all fall short, yet why do we want to judge others and crucify them for errors? We need to apply the same grace and mercy to others. We need to quit thinking we are more deserving of privilege or accommodation than others. We need to find common ground and common respect for each other.



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Air Alliance warns of high Pollution levels,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heat on regional air quali-

Readings from particu-

late matter monitors were perhaps the worst of all. All 4 air monitors measuring PM2.5 across Galena Park and Jacinto City recorded monthly averages over the EPA's (previous) standard of 12 micrograms per cubic meter for 13 of the last 16 months. With the new reduction in the standard to 9 micrograms per cubic meter, the monitor's monthly averages exceeded this level for all 16 out of 16 months. Moreover, average PM2.5 levels seem to have increased in the area from 2022 to 2023, with the area suffering levels 5-10 ug/m3 above the EPA annual standard for most of the year.

Results were also

shared from a 'Sampling the City' community bike ride held in October 2023 where residents equipped with portable 'FLOW2' air monitors rode through Galena Park and Jacinto City to capture levels of air pollution in real-time. The results largely confirmed the previous readings from AAH's community air monitors:

-High NO2 levels were recorded in Jacinto City

—VOC levels were high throughout the ride, even reaching as high as 295

-PM2.5 levels were also high throughout the ride with an average of 90.2 ug/m3 and a peak of 214 ug/m3

The presentation of the meeting can be viewed on-

Maya Angelou,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grandmother, Annie Henderson. In stark contrast to the harsh economics of African Americans of the time, Angelou's grandmother prospered financially during the Great Depression and World War II, because she owned the only general store in the African American community which sold basic and Four years later, when Angelou was

seven her father sent her and her brother back to their birthplace in their mother's care in St. Louis. While living there with her mother, she was sexually abused and raped by her mother's boyfriend. She told her brother the man's name, who told the rest of their family. The man was jailed for four days, shortly after his release he was found murdered, some said by her uncle's. She was so traumatized by the experience she quit talking for years. Later she said, "I thought my voice killed him; I killed that man, because I told his name. And then I thought I would never speak again, because my voice would kill

A year later Angelou was eight and her brother nine, they again were sent to Annie Henderson, their grandmother in Stamps, AR. She attended the Lafayette County Training School, in Stamps, a Rosenwald School (1 of 5,000) built She credits a teacher and friend of her family, Mrs. Bertha Flowers, with helping her speak again, challenging her by saying: "You do not love poetry, not until you speak it." Flowers introduced her to authors such as Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, Georgia Douglas Johnson, and James Weldon Johnson, authors who would affect Angelou's life and career, as well as Black female artists like Frances Harper, Anne Spencer, and Jessie Fauset. When Angelou was 14 and her brother 15, she and her brother moved in once again with their mother, who had since moved to Oakland, California. During World War II, Angelou attended the California Labor School. At the age of 16, she became the first Black female streetcar conductor in San Francisco. She wanted the job badly, admiring the uniforms of the operators so much so that her mother referred to it as her "dream job". Later she worked intermittently as a cocktail waitress, a cook, and a dancer. It was as a dancer that she assumed her professional name. Maya changed her name from Marguerite Annie Johnson in 1954 while performing at San Francisco's Purple Onion. In 1952, she married a Greek sailor named Anastasios Angelopulos; she decided to use the name "Maya Angelou" because it was distinctive. She combined the nickname her brother had given her with a new last name she derived from her former husband's surname.

In her twenties in the late 1950's she moved to New York City, Angelou found encouragement for her literary talents at the Harlem Writers' Guild. About the same time, she landed a featured role in a State Department-sponsored production of George Gershwin's folk opera Porgy and Bess; with this troupe she toured 22 countries in Europe and Africa. She also studied dance with Martha Graham and Pearl Primus. In 1961 she performed in Jean Genet's play The Blacks. That same year she was persuaded by a South African dissident to move to Cairo, Egypt where she worked for the Arab Observer. She later moved to Ghana and worked on The African Review.

After hearing civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. speak for the first time in 1960, she was inspired to join the Civil Rights Movement. She organized several benefits for him, and he named her Northern

Coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

She worked for Malcolm X shortly before his assassination in 1965. In 1968, King asked her to organize a march, but he too was assassinated on April 4, which also happened to be her birthday. For many years, Angelou responded to King's murder by not celebrating her birthday, instead choosing to meet with, call, or send flowers to his widow, Coretta Scott King.

Her early life is the focus of her first autobiographical work, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" which gained critical acclaim and a National Book Award nomination. She picked that title from; "Sympathy" by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a Black. It's a symbolic poem that presents a stark comparison between cruel slavery versus joyous freedom. Using the metaphor of a bird, Dunbar highlights the importance of freedom.

Maya used the same metaphor of a caged bird to express that even though she had suffered abuse, she would survive by fighting back, just as a caged bird still sings and fights for its freedom.

Three of her savings is "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel" and "you may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, "you may kill me with your hatefulness, but like air, I'll still rise" and "I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life."

In 1966 she wrote Black, Blues, Black (aired 1968), a 10-part television series about the role of African culture in American life. As the writer of the movie drama Georgia, Georgia (1972), she became one of the first African American women to have a screenplay produced as a feature film. She also acted in such movies as Poetic Justice (1993) and How to Make an American Quilt (1995) and appeared in several television productions, including the miniseries Roots (1977). Angelou received a Tony Award nomination for her performance in Look Away (1973), despite the fact that the play closed on Broadway after only one performance. In 1998 she made her directorial debut with Down in the Delta (1998). The documentary Maya Angelou and Still I Rise (2016) depicts her life through interviews with Angelou and her intimates and

admirers. Subsequent volumes of autobiography include Gather Together in My Name (1974), Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas (1976), The Heart of a Woman (1981), All God's **Children Need Traveling Shoes** (1986), A Song Flung Up to Heaven (2002), and Mom & Me & Mom (2013). In 2014, Angelou received a lifetime achievement award from the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials as part of a session billed "Women Who Move the Nation".

Among numerous honors was her invitation to compose and deliver a poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," for the inauguration of U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton in 1993. She celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in the poem "A Brave and Startling Truth" (1995) and elegized Nelson Mandela in the poem "His Day Is Done" (2013), which was commissioned by the U.S. State Department and released in the wake of the South African leader's

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is a **Brilliant Cut** Diamond?"

Diamonds are one of the world's most prized treasures - but they don't come out of the Earth looking like a million bucks! In fact, they look like... well, rocks. The appearance is dull, and it is in the hands of skilled cutters that the true beauty is revealed.

Diamond cutting has been in practice since at least the 14th century. Before that, they were polished to enhance some of the shine. In the centuries since, techniques have evolved, as has the skill of expert cutters. A large, brilliant cut diamond is, in many ways, the culmination of this mastery.



Brilliant Cut Diamond Definition

Many of us regard diamonds as magical objects! They are simply stunning, and brilliant cuts are designed to maximize the appeal of the stone: the shine, the sparkle, and the elegance.

When talking about the brilliant cut diamond, it is also important to become familiar with these terms:

Brilliance: white light reflected from the facets

Fire: reflected color created when white light is dispersed through the diamond

Scintillation: the sparkle we see when the reflections interact as the stone is in motion

A brilliant cut diamond has 58 facets (including the culet). The crown (i.e. the upper portion of the stone) has 33, while the pavilion (i.e. the lower portion of the stone) has 25. But it's more involved than that: the crown has one table facet, eight bezel facets, eight-star facets, and 16 upper girdle facets, while the pavilion has eight facets, as well as 16 lower girdle facets and a culet. Cutters must ensure that these facets are perfect in terms of symmetry and proportion.

Speaking of which: the table, crown, and pavilion all must be in proportion to each other. For instance, if the table is too large, then too much light can escape. This will give it a duller appearance than it should have. If the pavilion is too deep or too shallow, light is lost through the bottom, and we miss out on the brilliance we crave.

Why Invest in a Brilliant Cut Diamond?

As a professional in the jewelry industry, it is essential that we deliver the quality and aesthetic beauty that our customers want. Round brilliants are the most popular stones on the market, accounting for more than 70 percent of sales nationwide.

The reason for this is obvious: They are iconic! When people picture the ideal engagement ring, for instance, it's most likely that a brilliant cut diamond will pop into their mind. This cut also delivers unmatched brilliance, fire, and scintillation. The beauty and glamor of the brilliant are undeniable.

Large, brilliant cut diamonds may cost a bit more than other cuts. The cutting process is labor-intensive, and it must be meticulous and exacting. Even in the hands of a master, there is a good deal of waste involved in the cutting process. You may, for example, lose up to 60 percent of the carat weight as a rough diamond is transformed into a customer-ready brilliant cut stone.

However, many customers accept a higher price point in return for the quality and enduring beauty they receive.

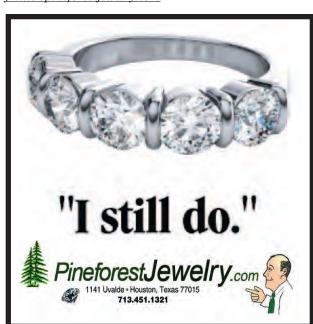
The Diamond Experts

Our expert team will help you select the right stone(s) for your jewelry. We offer a host of services to streamline your purchase experience and your enjoyment of your brilliant cut diamonds. We offer financing and custom one-of-a-kind CAD design assistance. We can handle all of your diamond needs, delivering the quality you desire at an affordable price.

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



Stricter Gun Control Regulations needed

Judge Lina Hidalgo Calls for Stricter Gun Safety Regulations in Wake of Lakewood Church Shooting

Harris County, TX, February 16, 2024, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued the following statement in response to the shooting at Lakewood Church on Sunday:

"All of us in Harris County are hurting from the shooting at Lakewood Church. Part of our response to what is now just the latest tragedy like this, which is not unique, is looking at how we can prevent an unstable person from accessing a gun. The majority of guns used to commit crimes in Texas are purchased legally. The Lakewood shooter used an AR-15 that she was able to purchase legally, despite her criminal record and a history of violent behavior.

Texas has a history of responding to mass shootings by loosening gun laws rather than strengthening them. This is demonstrably not the way to reduce gun violence. With state laws tying our hands, we can only do so much at the local level. I am calling on our state leaders to do what is beyond obvious and pass stricter regulations on purchasing guns in Texas, including a red flag law," said Judge Lina Hidalgo.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is Harris County's chief executive and Director of the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Judge Hidalgo, alongside four county precinct commissioners, oversees a budget of approximately \$5 billion that funds services and institutions for the third-largest county in the nation, home to nearly 5 million people. For more information about Harris County and the Office of the County Judge, please visit: cjo.harriscountytx.gov.

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.



Morning exercise. The easy way

Doc was just getting up to leave the philosophy counter as Herb walked in. Herb was grinning and flexing muscles and had the look of eagles in his eyes. We stared.

"Herb," said Doc. "You know, you can overdo a good thing.'

"Why Doc ... whatever do you mean?"

"I realize that getting more exercise is your resolution for the new year, but a man your age ... you need to pace yourself a little, that's all. Don't try to get in shape all at once."

"Why Doc, I've never felt better in my life. Hey, you were so right to get me on this exercise kick. I've been meaning to thank you. It's just what I've been needing. What would you think about my playing some football in the spring? I mean, it's just touch football, but I miss the ol' razz-matazz, you know?"

Doc shook his head sadly and walked out. Herb started laughing and sat down with us and flipped his cup over for his morning eye opener.

"What was that all about, Herb?" Dud asked.

"A little joke I'm playing on Doc, that's all," Herb said. "You remember how Doc has been on my case to get more exercise and slim down some? Well, there was only one way to shut him up, so I started running. I bought a sweat suit and started running. I run past his house each morning. Then, about an hour later, I run past his house the other direction, huffing and puffing and looking at my

"An hour? You run for an hour each morning?"

"Of course not," Herb said, laughing. "I run past Doc's house then walk the block to the library. An hour later, I run past Doc's house and then walk two blocks home."

We stared at him.

"What?" he said. "You know Doc's going to worry about me one way or the other. I just thought I'd change it up a bit."

Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy Guide to Writing by Slim Randles. Now available as a Kindle book on Amazon.com.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Pitch Made for New Power Plants

Lt. Gov Dan Patrick joined with the world's largest investment firm to pitch investors on building natural gas power plants in Texas at a summit held last week

Patrick and BlackRock CEO Larry Fink shared the stage as they attempted to persuade investors to take advantage of \$10 billion in incentives and bonuses provided by the state after voters approved a constitutional amendment last November, kut.org reported.

"We estimate in this room there's \$2.2 trillion," Fink told the crowd. "We only have to put \$10 billion to work, so can we get it done? Can we start raising hands?"

While Patrick remained optimistic the plan would attract investors interested in building new power plants, others aren't so

Ed Hirs, an energy conomist at the Univ sity of Houston, told kut.org that the way the Texas power market is structured won't necessarily provide a steady return to power plant operators.

"If you've got \$2 trillion worth of investors and they're looking for a deal ... they wouldn't have had this summit; there would already be power plants being built," he said. "All of these guys are sharks. They're not going to miss an opportunity to make a

New law increases sentences for human smugglers

A state law that increases the minimum sentence from two years to 10 years for people convicted of smuggling immigrants or harboring them illegally went into

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effect last wee.

The Texas Tribune reported SB4 was one of three immigration-related bills signed into law late last year. Other measures provide state money for construction of barriers along the Texas-Mexico border and make it a state crime to illegally cross the border from Mexico.

The latter measure is being challenged in court by the U.S. Department of Justice, El Paso County and immigrant rights groups.

This increase in policing and increased criminalization is going to further exacerbate the overcrowding of our jails," said David Stout, an El Paso County commissioner.

Ten counties exceed tougher soot standards

Tougher rules aimed at reducing particulate matter in the air went into effect last week, reducing the amount of what is commonly called soot permitted in the air from 12 to 9 micrograms per cubic meter annually.

It is the first change in the limits since 2012. The soot can cause lung and throat irritation, aggravate asthma and cause other ailments, the Tribune reported.

According to data from the Environmental

CROSBY

Gilbert Hoffman

.Kristan Hoffman

...Willie Glasgow

Julieta Paita



Protection Agency, 10 Texas counties have particulate matter levels that exceed the new standard - Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, Travis, El Paso, Webb, Hidalgo, Cameron, Kleberg and Bowie.

The EPA will take about two years to officially declare which regions meet the new standards and which don't. States will then have at least three years to create a plan to come into compliance.

"This final air quality standard will save lives and make all people healthier, especially within America's most vulnerable and overburdened communities," **EPA Administrator** Michael Regan said in a press release. Industry groups and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have criticized the new rule.

Paxton attorneys seek dismissal of securities fraud mostly booked for year.

While the city doesn't expect to make a profit, given what it is spending on health, safety and infrastructure, local businesses stand to profit. Greenville, Ennis, Canton and other small North Texas cities are also making plans to take advantage of visitors coming to view the eclipse.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com



(PG-13) Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard 2. Lisa Frankenstein (PG-13) Kathryn Newton, Liza Soberano 3. The Beekeeper (R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman 4. Wonka (PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave 5. Migration (PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks

6. The Chosen: S4.E1 (NR) Shahar Isaac, Paras Patel 7. Anyone But You (R) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell 8. Mean Girls

(PG-13) Angourie Rice, Renee Rapp 9. American Fiction (R) Jeffrey Wright, Tracee Ellis Ross 10. Poor Things

(R) Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



Donuts in the Middle of the Day



While a person may buy a cake here in Mexico seven days a week from early morning to late at night, getting any other kind of dessert is more challenging.

There is a bakery I walk by every day. Everything is fresh and in bins. Customers pick up a metal tray and tongs and select what they want, then bring it up to the counter. The tray is returned to the pile. The tongs are hung neatly with the other tongs. It is a great system, except that the tray holds a lot of baked goods-probably more than I should eat on any given day.

But a problem has occurred.

I meet with a wonderful group of writers on a rooftop, and they have been kind enough to agree to read the first half of my new book. The first half (slightly more than half, actually) is 149 pages, so this is a generous thing for them to do. I want to bring treats, naturally. I thought apple empanadas would be best, as they are my favorite. But the meeting is at 2 in the afternoon, and the empanadas only appear at 2, promptly at 2, and never one minute before.

"I don't suppose I could pick any up at 1?" I asked the nice girl at the counter. She shook her head sadly. No.

They were only available at 2. "What do you have that I could

buy at 1?" I inquired. She pointed to the bread. Somehow, showing up at the

meeting with a bag of dinner rolls was not what I was imagining. "What about donuts?" I asked. The girl's eyes widened as if I was really asking far too many questions, and she referred me to a

baker standing in the back. I explained to the baker (to the best of my ability) that I had a meeting at 2 and I would love to bring "sweets" to the meeting. The meeting, I added, was with Americans. (There will also be several Canadians, but I decided not to complicate things.) I could tell he sensed the problem. This man looked as if he'd been baking things long enough to have heard of the eccentricities of Americans

"So, no empanadas before 2?" I wanted to confirm.

No, he shook his head sadly. That could not be done.

"Cookies?" They come out later yet.

"Donuts?" He seemed to find this amusing. Donuts are never available before 5.

"Maybe you could buy empanadas the day before?" he suggest-"Would they still be hard?" I

asked (because I couldn't remember how to say "soft") "They would be soft by the

next day," he admitted. I was sty-

I asked Pepe at my hotel, Why do you eat donuts at night?" "Oh! They are good with hot

chocolate or coffee after dinner. When do you eat them?" "Usually in the morning," I

told him, feeling a little foolish as I admitted it.

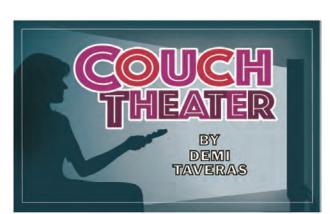
"In the morning?"

I could tell Pepe was filing this away as yet another inexplicable thing he had learned about gringos while working at the hotel. The meeting is next week, and

I still do not have a good solution. I will probably take the baker's advice and buy empanadas a day early. They will be a little "suave," as he said, but they will still be delicious. And, as long as I'm buying things a day ahead, I may throw in some donuts.

We'll sit there on the roof, a bunch of happy idiots, eating donuts in the middle of the day.

Till next time,





JUSTIN HARTLEY STARS IN "TRACKER."

"Tracker"

"TRACKER" (TV-14) - Justin Hartley ("This Is Us") leads this new CBS action-drama series based on the novel "The Never Game" by Jeffery Deaver. Hartley plays — cue the burliest name you can think of — Colter Shaw, a "lone-wolf survivalist" with excellent tracking skills. Colter travels around the country to help citizens and law enforcement solve the mind-boggling mysteries and tragedies that have affected their town. In the first episode, Colter heads to Klamath Falls, Oregon, to dig deeper into the disappearance of a 14-year-old boy. Hartley also serves as an executive producer for the series, so here's hoping this network show will be gripping enough to pull in viewers and get picked up for another season. The first two episodes are out

now, with subsequent ep-

isodes premiering every Sunday. (Paramount+)

"FERRARI" (R) — From director Michael Mann ("Collateral"), this biopic follows Enzo Ferrari, owner of the car manufacturer Ferrari, during the summer of 1957 as the racing division of his company prepares for the Mille Miglia race. Portrayed by Adam Driver ("House of Gucci"), Enzo is in a state of chaos due to his company facing extreme financial losses and his deteriorating relationship with his wife, Laura (Penelope Cruz). On top of this, kept hidden away from his wife in the countryside of Modena, Italy, is Enzo's son, Piero, with mistress Lina (Shailene Woodley), who longs to be a true family. But even with the pressure rising from all aspects of his life, Enzo is determined to keep his company out of hot water and pull off the win at the Mille Miglia. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"THE GREATEST NIGHT IN POP" (PG-13)

This documentary film casts a spotlight on a magical evening in 1985 when some of the most famous musicians in the world at the time were brought together to record a memorable pop anthem called "We Are the World." With incredible insider footage of the night, viewers feel like flies on the wall watching legends like Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, Cyndi Lauper and Bob Dylan attempt to find their footing amid an elite group of their peers. The footage is interspersed with new interviews featuring some of the musicians as they recount the long hours they put in that night and how beautifully the song came together in the end. Out now! (Netflix)

"CONSTELLATION" (TV-MA) — This psychological-thriller series centers on Jo (Noomi Rapace), an astronaut who barely survives a mission gone wrong in space. Upon returning to Earth, Jo starts to notice some eerie differences in her life back home, like a piano suddenly placed in her living room even though she doesn't play. She also experiences intense hallucinations, and as time goes on, her relationship with her daughter becomes estranged. Despite getting therapy and speaking with other astronauts about her situation, Jo inches closer to the brink of madness and is left to wonder if this terrifying phenomenon will ever cease. The first two episodes premiere on Feb. 21. (Apple TV+)

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Q:I remember when singer Usher used to be on the soap opera "The Bold and the Beautiful." Has he done any acting since? - S.L.

A:Born Usher Raymond IV, superstar Usher was born in Dallas and sang in the church choir that was directed by his mother. The family later moved to Atlanta and then Los Angeles, where Usher released his first album in 1994 at the age of 16 and also hit it big with his second album, "My Way," in 1997. He flexed his talents even more by branching out into acting — first in the sitcom "The Parent 'Hood" on The WB network, then in recurring roles on "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "Moesha."

More recently, he's just played himself in several TV shows like "Dave" and The Lonely Island movie "Popstar." However, being selected to headline the Super Bowl halftime show is a high honor for any recording artist, so I doubt he has any regrets about not having a hit acting career. He also just released his ninth album, "Coming Home," so perhaps he'll be adding his ninth Grammy to his mantle during the next award season.

Q: When is "Young Sheldon" coming back with new episodes? Is it true that this will be the final season? — A.M.

A:By the time you're reading this, you might have noticed that "Young Sheldon" returned to CBS with all new episodes on Feb. 15. Delayed by the writers' and actors' strikes, the seventh and final season will only consist of 14 episodes, with its hour-long series finale airing on May 16. It was inevitable that the show would end, since the title character was getting closer to the age of his future self in "The Big Bang Theory," the hit sitcom that preceded "Young Sheldon."

However, there is a bit of good news on the horizon. According to The Hollywood Reporter, CBS is "reteaming with exec producers Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland and Steve Molaro to develop a spinoff of their prequel series Young Sheldon." Although nothing official has been announced, word is that the new show will focus on Sheldon's brother, Georgie (Montana Jordan), and his fiancee, Mandy (Emily Osment).

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36 Enticed



Musician Usher

It will debut as early as the 2024-25 television season. Hopefully, Iain Armitage will pop in occasionally as Sheldon.

Q: Is it true that Jon Bon Jovi lost his voice? Will he still be able to sing? — I.S.

A:Singer Jon Bon Jovi is recovering from surgery to mend a vocal cord injury, but his career is far from over. According to Entertainment Weekly, the lead singer of the popular rock band Bon Jovi had undergone surgery 19 months ago with a specialist in Philadelphia who used a plastic implant to fix an atrophied vocal cord.

While promoting "Thank You, Goodnight: The Bon Jovi Story," an upcoming docuseries on Hulu about him and his bandmates, Bon Jovi said that their new record has been completed and that he recently performed live for the first time since his surgery. He's also about to become Millie Bobby Brown's ("Stranger Things") father-in-law, as his son, Jake, proposed to the actress last year.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL

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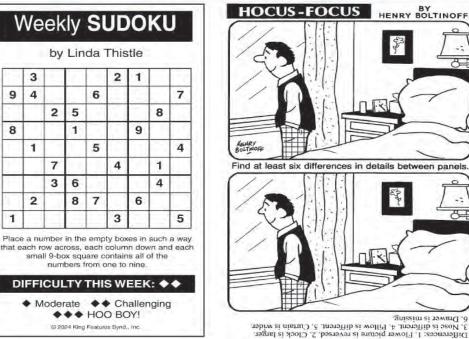
February 19, 2024 Posting Date

King Crossword



ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps TEACHER SAYS I REALLY CAPTURED MY INNER WILD SIDE. MOM, CHECK IT OUT! I DREW A PICTURE OF MYSELF FOR ART CLASS. THAT IS GREAT! IT'S SO GOOD WE SHOULD UH, OK, IF THAT'S YOUR OPINION OF IT. I WAS THINKING OF A MUSEUM. PUT IT ON THE FRIDGE by BUD BLAKE PONE! AND by Jeff Pickering The Spats I'M AT THE END OF MY ROPE!! MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A LONGER ROPE? HOCUS-FOCUS HENRY BOLTINOFF



9. Richard Nixon.; 10. Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan. Right."; 6. Yellowstone National Park.; 7. Dry skin.; 8. Wine expert.; I. Ottawa.; 2. A sheep.; 3. Van, Bert, Flossie and Freddie.; 4. Pt.; 5. "That's All Trivia Test Answerst

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Hollywood's © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

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1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Can-2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What was the first

animal to be cloned? 3. LITERATURE: In the children's book series "The Bobbsey Twins," what are the names of the

two sets of twins? 4. CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the

chemical element platinum? 5. MUSIC: What is the title of Elvis Presley's

first commercial single? 6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the

first U.S. national park? 7. MEDICAL: What is a common name for

8. FOOD & DRINK: What is a sommelier? 9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first presi-

dent to visit all 50 states? 10. HISTORY: What were the principal powers of the Axis in WWII?

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Solution time: 22 mins. SISWEIL — King Crossword

Trail Boss: Anthony Bruno

ByJonathan Bruce KTRK February 24, 2023

ABC13 caught up with trail boss Anthony Bruno live from the trail to talk about the journey and the significance of the historically Black trail ride.

HOUSTON, Texas — Fifty-five riders, 19 wagons, and 111 miles over six days make up the only historically Black trail ride of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

ABC13 caught up with Northeastern Trail Ride trail boss Anthony Bruno live on the trail as the caravan made its way to Memorial Park in Houston on Friday to commemorate the rodeo as part of the 71-year history of the



Trail Boss Northeastern Trail Ride

famous trail rides.

"For us to be able to do this every year, it's an honor and a privilege. We live a millionaire's dream," Bruno said from inside a Northeastern wagon as the ride set out on its final stretch of a sixday journey.

Ten trail rides got underway on Sunday to participate in the event's signature annual tradi-

Bruno is making the journey with a bittersweet heart following the death of his father last year. Bruno's father, Joseph, co-founded the historically Black Northeastern Trail Ride in 1982 and served as its inaugural trail boss for about 30 years before passing the reins to Anthony.

"This trail ride was founded to introduce people to Black cowboys and Black cowboy history because it hasn't been fairly documented," Bruno said. "We are keeping our culture and heritage alive."



Fatal Hit & Run on I-10 East Freeway; Reward

charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) involved in this case.

Harris County, Texas - Crime Stoppers, in collaboration with the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division, urgently seeks the public's help in identifying the suspect(s) involved in a tragic Hit and Run - Failure to Stop and Render Aid -Fatality incident.

On Saturday, January 13, 2024, at approximately 10:08 p.m., Billy Leon Meadows, the victim, was struck by a vehicle in the 16000 block of East Fwy. in Houston, Texas. Mr. Meadows was walking southbound when he was hit by the suspect's vehicle, identified as a Honda Civic, traveling westbound.

Reward of up to \$5,000 leading to the Shockingly, the suspect(s) fled the scene without providing any aid to the victim. Mr. Meadows suffered major injuries and tragically lost his life as a result of the collision.

> The suspect vehicle is a 2019-2021 Honda Civic that will have damage to the front left side.

> Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crimestoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash re-



Trail Boxx Anthony Bruno in the saddle.

Homicide Investigators seek help for a 2016 Multiple Murder In East Harris County

Houston, TX - October 25, 2023 - Investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division seek the public's help for information on the death of Christopher Chaney, Nicholette Briscoe, Willie Norman and Kelcii Flintroy.

On Friday, December 9, 2016, Harris County Sheriff's Deputies and Channelview Fire Dept. responded to a call in the 15300 block of Market St, Channelview, Texas, for a vehicle fire. Upon arrival, Deputies and Fire personnel discovered two males and two females deceased in the vehicle from apparent gunshot wounds.



The suspect(s) are unknown at this time. This homicide case is still open, pending new leads. Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect(s) is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477). Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case.

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office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is 332 Freeport St., Houston, Texas 77015.

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CEMETERY LOTS

LEGAL NOTICE

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We have 4 Cemetery spaces for sale at the San Jacinto Memorial Park-Funeral Home off of I-10. They are located in the Blue Lagoon section Lot #57 and spaces 9,10,11,and 12. They are \$5000 each. We can break them up and sell 2 groups of 2.

Please email sacain55@yahoo.com for more information.



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SHELDON ISD NEWS

HAABSE Recognizes Sheldon ISD Educators at Annual Ceremony



Sheldon ISD educators representing 13 campuses were recognized at the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) annual Outstanding Teacher Awards and Recognition Ceremony on February 8. Nominees from across the Houston region were presented for teachers who go above and beyond to serve their school communities, students and families.

Congratulations to the following Sheldon ISD HAABSE Teacher of the Year nominees:

Cravens Early Childhood Academy, LaToya

Sheldon Early Childhood Academy, June Simien

Carroll Elementary, Myavia Varner

Garrett Elementary, Tolenia Lee Monahan Elementary,

Jacqueline Miller Royalwood Elementary,

Teresa Moreno Sheldon Elementary,

Kenneshia Shields Sheldon Lake Elemen-



tary, Brenda Penaloza King Middle School, Tylisha Jones

Null Middle School, Natasha Green

King 9th Grade Campus, Roddrell Stewart

King High School, Shalonica Cluse

KASE Academy, Michelle Ruiz

Additionally, King High School Assistant Principal Charlotte Harris was honored as Assistant Principal of the Year, and King High School senior Sarah Roldan is a \$1,000 scholarship recipient.

6 students Sign NCAA **Letters of Intent**



On February 13, six King High School seniors committed to playing NCAA sports during a signing ceremony. The following students participated:

Danee Clark - Tyler Junior College, Volleyball Darius Clark-James - Sam Houston State University, Football Rae'G Dailey - University of Texas Permian Basin, Football K'Mard Kimble - Stephen F. Austin University, Football Leo Lane Jr. - University of Texas A & M Kingsville, Football Derek Williams - Southwest Assemblies of God University, Baseball

This marks a total of eight seniors who have signed their Letters of Intent during the 2023-24 school year.

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Band Director Honored for His Positive Impact

By Dr. Tommie L Smith

The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees joined The College Band Directors National Association, Music for All, and National Band Association in recognizing Shane Goforth, North Shore Senior High School Band Director, for receiving the Dr. William P. Foster Project Community Development Award.

The Foster Project Community Development Award recognizes select educators within quality programs who provide strong music education experiences for their students and positively impact their school and community. Mr. Goforth was one of seventy-five teachers nominated from around the country and was chosen as the honoree for the Northwest Division, which encompasses five

When Mr. Goforth traveled to Chicago to accept this prestigious award, he shared the two philosophies that are at the heart of every decision he makes as an educator. "The first is, 'Band is family.' The incredible human beings that walk into my band hall everyday are more than just music students, they are family. As family, we are bound together with a unity that withstands the storms of life and allows us to depend on and learn from each other through both triumphs and



Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

great work!' We define work job that provides more joy and as purpose driven activity, and believe that everything we do should have purpose. Through the unselfish pursuit of that work we create the trust and relationships necessary to nourish beautiful, vibrant, loving communities from the inside out. There is nothing more fulfilling than speaking into the lives of young people and watching them grow and flourish. The work is filled with unique challenges and is often diffi-

tragedies. The second is 'Do cult, but I cannot imagine a motivation than that of teaching music in a low socio-economic community. I believe that every child deserves a great musical education and I implore anyone with a heart for children and a love of music to make teaching music and building community through music their life's work."

Congratulations, Mr. Goforth! We are thankful that you call Galena Park ISD home.

Null Middle School receives National AVID recognition



Null Middle School has achieved the AVID National Demonstration Validation. AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college readiness system that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. As a Demonstration School, Null Middle School participated in a rigorous validaprocess that showcased how AVID is

being used in the school as well as the difference it is making in student's lives. The school celebrated this achievement with a parade and presentation during a luncheon on February 14.



GPISD School Counseling Teams Awarded for Reinforcing Excellence

On Monday, February 12, 2024, the Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees recognized and presented certificates to the school counseling teams at Galena Park Middle School, North Shore Middle School, North Shore Senior High Ninth Grade Center, and Galena Park High School for earning Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas (CREST) Awards.

In 2005, the Texas School Counselor Association began a program called CREST to recognize schools with outstanding counseling programs. Schools receiving CREST awards have demonstrated a commitment using the Texas Model to improve the lives and achievement

of students in academic, career, and personal social domains. CREST is a continuous improvement document that allows a school counseling program to demonstrate effective communication and a commitment to obtaining results. CREST helps counselors evaluate their counseling programs, promote their programs to the stakeholders in their districts, demonstrate the



effectiveness of their guidance and counseling programs through empirical means, and implement the Texas and National models for school counseling pro-

CREST looks at the counseling program in five categories:

- Introduction to the School and the Role of the Professional School Counse-
- Program Implementation Cycle
- Foundational Components
- Four Service Delivery
- Components • Program Curriculum

These counseling teams prepared a digital submission that highlighted these

areas and

communicated what the counseling programs are doing to help students succeed. These

throughout the state of Texas to be judged according to pre-set

Were sent to reviewers

standards of excellence.

Congratulations to school counseling teams at Galena Park Middle School, North Shore Middle School, North Shore Senior High Ninth Grade Center, and Galena Park High School for being one of an elite group of schools from across the state to win the CREST Award for Counseling Excellence



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