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# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 12, NO. 25 (#524) THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

## Rotary Club of GP/JC Awards \$18,000 in Scholarships to 21 Galena Park HS Students

The Rotary Club of Galena Park/Jacinto City has awarded \$18,000 in scholarships to 21 Galena Park High School students. This generous contribution underscores the club's commitment to supporting local students in pursuing higher education.

The Rotary Club of Galena Park/Jacinto City deeply appreciates the generous support of our sponsors, which has made scholarships possible and helped realize many students' dreams. Its commitment to education and the community is truly commendable and inspiring. Thank you for making a lasting impact on the lives of these young individuals.

Galena Park/Jacinto City Scholarship Recipients.  
Group Photo, left to right.

**Front row**  
Jennifer Ledwith  
Dr. Eileen Brightwell

Board Member, Norma Hernandez  
Zeltzin Martinez  
Lizbeth Aguirre  
Angelina Gonzalez  
Melanie Reyes  
Evelynn Tobias  
Carolina Vargas  
Kelly Flores  
Kylie Flores  
Ariana Reyes  
Allison Flores  
Isabella Espinoza  
Maria D. Cortez-Ochoa  
Julien Guillory

**Second row**  
Leonardo Arellano  
Andre Delgado  
Richard Cortez  
Christian Castillo  
Miguel Cervantes  
Mars Rosales  
David Rodriguez  
Angel Pina  
Jose Garza  
WAMS Principal, Juan C Ramirez  
Brandi Munoz (Not in the picture)



Ibrahim "Abi" Abou-Awdi Scholarship: \$2,000; Angelina Gonzalez



Jeff Miller Scholarship: \$2,000; Isabella Espinoza



Dr. John Nichols Scholarship: \$2,000; Carolina Vargas

### CHANNEL CURRENTS

#### North Channel Chamber Magic Casino Night Aug. 9

Plan for the Magic of the Chamber Casino Fundraiser, Friday August 9th from 7pm to 11pm at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City. Sponsorships now available, from \$200 to \$1800, proceeds to NCAF scholarships. Call 713-450-3600.

#### CPR Training Saturday June 22

Presented by North Channel EMS. At 332 Freeport Street from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Register at [www.NCEMS.NET/CPR](http://www.NCEMS.NET/CPR). Includes CPR, Hands on practice, AED Instruction, and GoodSAM APP.

## Environmental Group finds Hazardous Chemicals in Ship Channel sediment dump sites in Galena Park, seeks more testing

By Elena Bruess

GALENA PARK—A coalition of local organizations released testing results Tuesday that found elevated levels of hazardous chemicals, including arsenic, cadmium and dioxins, in sediment from the bottom of the Houston Ship Channel that is dredged and dumped in communities near the port.

The Healthy Port Communities Coalition, which includes environmental nonprofits Air Alliance Houston and Bayou City Waterkeeper, analyzed data provided by the Army Corps of Engineers and conducted its own testing over the past year, finding that 11 pollutants exceed-



Juan Flores of Air Alliance Houston at Galena Park Dredge Dump Site.

ed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's carcinogenic screening levels.

Residents and community groups are calling on the Army Corps for additional, regular testing of the six dredged sediment piles throughout Galena Park, Channelview and

Pleasantville, as well as further safeguards to protect the community from flooding they worry could move the dredged material into residents' homes.

"The information we have received so far is concerning because it shows that there are certain ele-



HPCC Protestors at the Galena Park press conference. (Photo Danielle Villasana Houston Landing)

ated levels of chemicals that we don't want in our community," said Erandi Trevino, a Houston organizer for the Healthy Port Communities Coalition. "We don't have a lot of conclusive information to provide on every chemical, but we can say that what we

found so far shows that there's more to be found and we really need more testing."

Residents long have been concerned about the possible contaminants in

Continued. See HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, Page 5

## LaTisha Guillory HAABSE Teacher of the Year Award

By Allan Jamail

June 18, 2024 – I've interviewed lots of folks but not many as equal to caring for kids as my honoree for this week's article is. Mrs. LaTisha Guillory is changing our North Channel children's lives to ensure they'll have the education to set their goals as high as they want and reach them.

Some say that a good education can change anyone and a good teacher like Guillory can change everything. The Galena Park ISD educator is proving just how much teachers have the power to ignite the passion and love for learning that students need to succeed.

Mrs. LaTisha Guillory, an English teacher at North Shore Senior High 10th Grade Center, was



Latisha Guillory (Photo by Allan Jamail)

named the 2023 Houston Area Alliance Black School Educator (HAABSE) Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year for the entire Houston area in February 2024, a recognition given to educators who exemplify excellence in their field. The purpose

of the Outstanding Teacher Awards is to say "thank you" to teachers for the outstanding job they do in working with children.

The HAABSE Retired Educator's Committee re

Continued. See TEACHER OF THE YEAR, Page 3

## Channelview ISD De Zavala Elementary Ribbon Cutting



On May 29, 2024, North Channel Chamber Membership Director, Yesenia Doyal, attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the state-of-the-art Channelview ISD De Zavala Elementary School. The event marked the unveiling of the school's impressive new facility, a testament to the community's commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment for its students.

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## Sheldon Education Foundation Hosts Record-setting Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 10, the Sheldon ISD Education Foundation held its fourth annual Sheldon Summer Scramble at the Clubs of Kingwood. With a record-setting number of players and teams, the organization raised more than \$65,000 for students and teachers in Sheldon ISD.

"We are so thankful to the many sponsors and participants in our tournament this year," said Executive Director Emily Conklin, APR. "Each year, this event gets bigger and better. It would not be possible without the support of our Foundation Board of Directors, volunteers and many donors."

The SISD Education Foundation raises funds for teachers in Sheldon ISD. Dollars raised go back into the classroom to enhance the learning experience. If you're interested in donating, volunteering or learning more, call 281-727-2007 or go to [www.sheldonisd.com/sef](http://www.sheldonisd.com/sef).



## Sheldon ISD Superintendent receives STEMing the Tide Honoree Award; Students earn \$3,500 in scholarships



On Friday, June 7, Sheldon ISD superintendent and four STEM graduates were recognized by C-STEM Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. Congratulations to Julius and Alondra for their \$1,000 scholarships and Julisa, Cienna and Miranda for their \$500 scholarships. Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall earned the STEMing the Tide Honoree Award for the district's work in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Sheldon ISD is thankful for the work of dedicated STEM educators and students for making our STEM programs well-known across the state and nation.

## Sheldon ISD prepares for first day of school

Sheldon ISD teams work hard to prepare for the first day of school throughout the summer. The first day of school is Monday, August 12. The 2024-25 school calendar is located at [www.sheldonisd.com/calendar](http://www.sheldonisd.com/calendar).

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

# GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

## GPISD Student Makes History at Houston Livestock Show



Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Galena Park ISD recognized Galena Park High School Future Farmers of America senior, Alyssa Silva for being the first ever to advance to sale at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Market Lamb Show in March. The Houston Livestock Show is the largest in the United States, with only 26% of all entries advancing to sale or auction. Thousands of participants from around the nation attend the Houston Rodeo hoping to advance to sale at the auction. Alyssa placed 12<sup>th</sup> out of 96 lambs in her class. Congratulations to Alyssa! A certificate and medal were presented to Alyssa Silva on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

## Efficiency Pays Off



Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees recognized the Business Operations, Energy Management, and Purchasing Departments for earning a rebate from the Texas Association of School Board (TASB) Energy Cooperative. The TASB Energy Cooperative was created in 2008 to help governmental entities with the procurement of electricity, transportation fuels, and other types of energy products, commodities, and services. The Energy Cooperative helps school districts, colleges, universities, and governmental entities across Texas increase purchasing power and create budget certainty. The member-governed organization created operational efficiency goals over the past several years, and as a result, efficiencies resulted in excess revenue that came right back to Galena Park ISD in the form of a one-time disbursement. Adrian Porras and Rich Vela, with the TASB Energy Cooperative, presented a commemorative reimbursement to the Business Operations, Energy Management, and Purchasing Department team members, and a certificate of appreciation was presented to each team member on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

## GPISD Visual Arts Scholastic Event Winners



By Dr. Tommie Smith

Galena Park ISD recognized the Texas Art Education Association 2024 Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) winners who earned gold medallions as a result of their outstanding ratings.

- Galena Park High School Winners:**
- \*Andrea Aguirre, for *Kayla*
- \*David Morales, for *Mi Luz Guia*
- \*Madelyn Trevino,

- for *Shattered Pieces and Reaching Out*
- North Shore Senior High School Winners:**
- \*Cameron Centeno, for *Eye Candy*
- \*Ruth I. Garcia, for *Birds of a Feather Flock Together*
- \*Alondra Granados, for *Golden Blue*
- \*Yahaira Leon Lara, for *Echoes of The Final Chord*
- The mission of VASE is to recognize exemplary student achievement in

the visual arts by providing high school art students and programs with a standard of excellence to achieve. The original artwork of these outstanding young artists represents academic excellence accentuated by personal interests.

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

**CHARLOTTE'S WEB**  
By Charlotte Jackson



## Gun Violence

I love when we make plans and God redirects us. It happened again this past weekend. When I woke up, I had events on my calendar. I knew what I wanted to accomplish and once again, God rearranged my day. I started my day off meeting some amazing people at the Health Expo hosted by Harris County Commissioner PCT 2 at the First Assembly of God of Channelview.

As I sat talking to two older ladies who had been in the area for over sixty years each, one thing they mentioned was gun violence. As the community has changed, the membership numbers have dwindled and yet, more than ever, they are concerned and praying for the Channelview community. They feed everyone dinner who shows up on Wednesday night, and this includes members of the homeless community. One of the ladies mentioned that some people at first were afraid of these guests. They had heard stories about homeless criminals, and one would show up with a gun.

I shared with them my involvement with the NBL-US Basketball League and one thing that Kevin Williams and the Coaches have said all along is that every time there is a game, that means hands are on the ball or clapping as a spectator, instead of having hands on a gun or being a victim of gun violence. They agreed that there are too few forms of recreation and entertainment for the community. They wanted to learn more about the league. I promised they would hear more.

I shared with them that one of the smaller churches that meets on Woodforest Boulevard has started offering a grief share group for community members that have lost a loved one. I shared that we have too many parents, siblings, spouses, and friends that have lost someone to a gun. One of the ladies shared that every time she turns on the news, she hears of increased deaths. We talked about how if you suffer a loss, that you need to talk about it. Often people shut down after a loss or they feel guilty talking about the deceased. Naturally, this led into sharing information about the HOPE Angel Memorial Garden located at San Jacinto College North. Again, they were amazed that they had never heard about this beautiful statue on the Annual Candlelight Ceremony on December 6 at 7 p.m. By this point, I had no idea about the time as when I started talking about the amazing opportunities in our area, I lost track of time.

The ladies mentioned the Pastor was on his way to a community meeting and that was my reminder that I needed to leave as well. I was invited to the same meeting. As I arrived, I ran into someone I have known for more than twenty years, and we started talking. Eventually several others joined us and somehow, as the meeting wrapped up, I found myself heading to a table to each lunch with a new friend. What did she want to talk about? Grief as well as why she was grieving. Her only son had been a victim to gun violence. As we talked, more people I knew passed by the table, including the first person I saw when I arrived. He soon joined us, and this was the first time I learned he has been in a wheelchair since the early 90's after he became a victim of gun violence in a drive-by shooting in Channelview. As we talked, I shared that, I could name thirteen friends who have been victims of gun violence. We talked about the need for grief counseling as well as having others who have been on the same road to talk with. Hopefully, they will join others at the grief share group that meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. If you would like more information, please reach out to me.

## Latisha Guillory Named 2023 HAABSE Outstanding Secondary TOY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

viewed applications, determined and interviewed finalists and then selected the recipients.

Guillory was first made aware of being selected by d-mars a Houston business consulting and developing company known for many services and educating the community, operating under President and CEO, Keith J. Davis, Sr, also known as "Mr. D-MARS"

"Receiving this honor surprised me, she said." "For me, it's just simply doing my job, building relationships, being an impactful teacher, and I was just so happy to be recognized for doing that," Guillory said. "To sum it up, this honor means being an effective teacher and doing the groundwork. Because I had just been doing my job, it was unexpected, so I was totally, totally shocked. It still hasn't settled in," Guillory said.

Her journey began 22 years ago while attending Louisiana Tech as a graduate student and working full-time at Louisiana Methodist Children's Home, where she supervised the nurturing of misguided youth in state custody. Observing a rise in adverse behavior during school hours deepened her commitment to the youth and prompted a desire to make a difference beyond juvenile confinement.

Dedicated to fostering a love of literature and critical thinking she began teaching at Lincoln Parish Secondary Alternative School. Subsequently, in addition to being Miss Tish, the evening staff supervisor, she also became Mrs. Guillory, their teacher, during the day.

She observed a rise in adverse behavior during school hours deepened her commitment to her youth by prompting a desire to make a difference beyond juvenile confinement. That commitment has translated to her work at North Shore. In addition to being an educator, Guillory also serves as a cheerleader for her students. The owner of Balloon Bosses takes pride in celebrating them for birthdays, athletic games and other special occasions. She goes above and beyond to ensure her students feel special, seen and heard.

Guillory's a Grambling State University alumna with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Psychology has a younger brother, Devin Guillory also graduated from Grambling State University, he's a high school band director in North Louisiana. My husband, Thomas McNair graduated from the University of the District of Columbia and is a Cyber security Analyst. My older sister and younger brother are college graduates. My oldest brother is a 25+ year Marine veteran. Other siblings are Cheryl Guillory and Bobby Holts.

Guillory said "I try to make sure that they walk into balloons or some type of celebration," she said. "I don't take this job lightly. I know the impact that I have on our future."

While Guillory loves being an educator, her faith was tested when she recently lost her mother to cancer.

"This year was personal for me because for the last seven years in addition to teaching, I was a caregiver for my mom, who had cancer. The day that I got back from spring break, that Monday, my mom had a stroke, in addition to the cancer. We

found out the cancer had spread and I lost my mom a week later—in the middle of testing," commented Guillory.

Guillory tearfully explained. "It was rough, and so coming back to school, I was like, 'God, I give up. I can't do anymore.' I literally told my mom (before she died), 'I'm not going back to teach,' and she was like, 'Why? You are going back. You're going back and you're going to continue.'"

Guillory did just what her mother told her to do and continued to teach.

"It's essentially been a clean sweep this year," Guillory said. "I just focused. I threw myself into everything I could throw myself into. It's mine."

In addition to the HAABSE Secondary Teacher of the Year honor, Guillory's recent awards recognizing her community and classroom efforts include Houston's Pink Bowl Most Influential Leader, NS10 Houston Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) Teacher of the Year, 2024 HAABSE Secondary Teacher of the Year, Distinguished Distinction of Academic Growth and a Women's History Month spotlight feature celebrating achievements of female entrepreneurs.

Her advice for other educators is to give themselves grace. "Each day is a new day to start off new with your kids. Before trying to teach our kids, make sure you do the groundwork," Guillory said.

One amazing lesson that she says she learned this year was that you reap what you sow she's all in and committed to pouring into her students every single day. She wants them to know that they are mentally and emotionally healthy and ready to receive instruction. Her students know that she'll always strongly promote their self-awareness and positive affirmations. She never misses an opportunity to reiterate to her students how powerful words are.

She's seen them reciprocate their efforts with compassion. It was her students that gave her the reason she was able to push through grief this year after losing her mother in order to assist them in their academic growth. They left Guillory encouraging notes around the room throughout the year when they knew she was having a rough day. She said, "It's moments like these that make teaching one of the most rewarding professions."

In high school she was a first-chair clarinet player in the high school concert band and a majorette in the marching band. Her favorite actors/actresses are Angela Bassett, Melissa McCarthy, Rebel Wilson, Denzel Washington, and Jonah Hill, and her favorite food is seafood and she enjoys baking.

She said, "Although I could never live there because of the extreme temperatures, my favorite place to travel is Aspen, Colorado. The snow-covered mountain views are unmatched! It is a great place to simply sit in front of a fireplace and read for hours."

Her concluding advice for this article is, "Nothing in life is free. You get what you work for not what you wish for."

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

### Diamond Jim: "what is the birthstone for the Month of June?"



JUNE BIRTHSTONES



June counts three gems as birthstones: pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

**Pearl**  
Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

The qualities that determine the overall value of a natural or cultured pearl or a piece of pearl jewelry are size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality, and, for jewelry with two or more pearls, matching. When other value factors are equal, larger pearls are rarer and more valuable than smaller pearls of the same type. Round is the most difficult shape to culture, making it the rarest cultured pearl shape and—if all other factors are equal—also generally the most valuable. There are exceptions, though. Well-formed pear, oval, or baroque (irregularly shaped) cultured pearls are also prized by pearl lovers.

Natural and cultured pearls occur in a broad range of hues. There are warm hues like yellow, orange, and pink, and cool hues like blue, green, and violet. Pearls have a wide range of tone from light to dark. Pearl colors tend to be muted, with a soft, subtle quality.

**Alexandrite**  
A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock lab grown versions of this enchanting gemstone. (lab grown gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural mined stones, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.) Alexandrite is also the gem for the 55th wedding anniversary.

**Moonstone**  
The third birthstone for June is the moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye.

Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia...the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

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](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).  
If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

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OPINION PAGE

**COUNTY MATTERS**  
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



### Texas Supreme Court blocks Harris County Uplift Program

Judge Lina Hidalgo and County Attorney Christian Menefee's Statement on Texas Supreme Court's Ruling Blocking Uplift Harris Program

Harris County, TX, June 14, 2024, Today, the Texas Supreme Court issued an opinion further extending its initial pause of Harris County's Uplift Harris guaranteed income program. Uplift Harris is a pilot guaranteed income program in which around 1,900 low-income Harris County residents would receive \$500 a month for eighteen months. The program was inspired by other such initiatives around the country and the state, including in the City of Austin and Cook County, Illinois. Paxton sued Harris County in April to block Uplift Harris payments from going out, claiming that the program violated the Texas Constitution's ban on the gift of public funds and equal protection clause.

The trial court denied the State's proposed temporary injunction, and the Fourteenth Court of Appeals rejected the State's attempt to pause the program while its appeal was pending. The Court's ruling today blocks the program while it considers Attorney General Ken Paxton's petition for a writ of mandamus that would pause the program for the duration of the State's appeal. The Court claims the program's "no strings attached" nature means that the County doesn't retain controls sufficient to make the payments constitutional.

"I am extremely disappointed by the Texas Supreme Court's decision today," said Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee. "Uplift Harris is a poverty alleviation program modeled on other guaranteed income programs across the country. Local governments exist in part to help the less fortunate among us, and the Supreme Court's ruling effectively ends a program that has proven to be highly successful at allowing lower-income folks to lift themselves out of poverty."

"The ruling also sets a dangerous precedent—most state constitutions have bans on gifting public funds, but no other state court has barred guaranteed income programs on those grounds. And of course they haven't, because those bans are there to stop cronyism and gratuitous gifts of tax dollars. They aren't intended to stop governments from providing public benefits. This ruling creates a playbook for conservatives who want to stop government from fulfilling one of its core functions."

County Attorney Menefee will continue to litigate against Paxton's efforts to permanently block Uplift Harris, and will advise Commissioners Court on the potential implications of this ruling for the future of the program.

"The Texas Supreme Court's ruling today is especially cruel. For one, these programs have gone from start to finish in other Texas jurisdictions. Furthermore, one cannot help but imagine that politics played a role here. Three longtime Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judges were ousted this past March after the Attorney General targeted them. Republican elected officials know that the Attorney General can mobilize the Trump political machine to oust those he does not believe are far enough to the right.

While this decision is not a final ruling against Uplift Harris, the program is currently paused indefinitely, and the Texas Supreme Court strongly signaled that they will rule against Uplift Harris in the future. The Attorney General is not only attacking Harris County's right to local control; he's attacking the hardworking, everyday families living in poverty who were promised this money and who were counting on these payments to stay afloat."

I am also concerned about precedent. We've seen time and time again that each time Texas Republicans take a step, no matter how egregious, Republican leaders around the nation match it. This ruling is a loss not just for Harris County and Texas, but for jurisdictions across the nation that have found success with similar programs but live in Republican-led states," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

**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.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Next Week, we will publish an OP-ED piece from State Senator Paul Bettencourt, opposing the implementation of the Uplift Program. You may also submit your Opinion in Letters to the Editor, for possible publication.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



### 35 Texas Counties Eligible for Individual Disaster Aid

Residents in a total of 35 Texas counties now qualify for individual disaster assistance following a series of severe storms and flooding that began in late April, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"I thank our federal partners and emergency response personnel across our great state who are working tirelessly to protect and support their fellow Texans," Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday. "Texas will continue to provide every necessary resource to regions across the state who are recovering from these storms."

Under the individual assistance program, funding can be provided for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, disaster legal services, disaster unemployment assistance, and medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, The News reported.

The following counties qualify for the federal assistance: Austin, Bell, Calhoun, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hockley, Jasper, Jones, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro, Newton, Polk, San Jacinto, Smith, Terrell, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker and Waller.

Homeowners and renters can apply for the aid at disasterassistance.gov or by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hotline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

#### MATH RESULTS STILL LAGGING, STAAR RESULTS INDICATE

Scores released from the state's standardized test indicate high school students are still struggling with algebra, with scores 17 percentage points below students' pre-pandemic scores in spring 2019. The Texas Tribune reported scores have remained essentially unchanged in Algebra 1, with 45% meeting grade levels.

"The data is clear; Texas students continue to struggle with math recovery," said Gabe Grantham, policy advisor at public policy think tank Texas 2036. "We run the risk of leaving students ill-equipped to enter the future workforce without the basic math skills needed to be successful."



On the bright side, the percentage of Texas students who met or mastered grade-level English has increased since 2017 from 45% to 57%, the Texas Education Agency reported.

Across the five subjects that are tested, low-income students graded lower than other students. For example, 35% of low-income students met grade level in Algebra I, compared to 61% of all other students.

#### PUC SEES STRONG INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO LOAN PROGRAM

The Public Utility Commission has received 125 notices of intent to apply for loans through the Texas Energy Fund Loan Program intended to boost power generation throughout the state. The requests for loans total \$38.9 billion for nearly 56,000 megawatts of proposed power generation projects for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. "To ensure reliable, affordable electricity for the growing number of homes and businesses in Texas, we need more on-demand, dispatchable power generation," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "Seeing such a strong initial response from industry... is an encouraging sign that the Texas Energy Fund will be an effective tool and incentivize the investment needed to bring more on-demand power to the state."

The program will provide low-interest loans to finance new construction or upgrades to existing electric generating facilities and requires a minimum of 100 MW of new generation to the ERCOT grid.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE POSSIBLY COMING TO DALLAS

Efforts are underway to create a Texas-based stock exchange that backers believe could be a major boost to the Texas economy. The Texas Standard reported that financiers have raised \$120 million in capital to start a stock exchange in Dallas later this year. Backers include BlackRock, Citadel Securities and about two dozen other investors. The Texas Stock Exchange's backers are seeking registration with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to open later this year.

"Texas and the other states in the southeast quadrant have become economic powerhouses. Combined with the demand we are seeing from investors and corporations for expanded alternatives to trade and list equities, this is an opportune time to build a major, national stock exchange in Texas," said James Lee, founder and CEO of TXSE Group.

Stock exchanges allow stocks, bonds and other securities to be traded. If TXSE is cleared to trade, it would be the first stock exchange to open in the country in recent years.

The Dallas area is second only to New York in number of financial industry jobs, with about 400,000 employed — roughly half of the number working in finance in the Big Apple.

#### CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES IN PLACE AS SUMMER ARRIVES

The Public Utility Commission is reminding Texans of consumer protection rules that prohibit disconnecting an individual's electric service during extreme weather. Providers are required to offer deferred payment for bills incurred during extreme weather as the state again faces a long, brutal summer.

"Anyone who has experienced a summer in Texas knows that having reliable power to cool your home or business is a matter of health and safety," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "Ensuring the power stays on for all consumers during extreme weather, regardless of their financial situation, is a top priority for the PUCT."

Gleeson added the PUC wants Texans to be aware of rules to protect them as temperatures begin to rise. Consumers are encouraged to first contact their electric provider to resolve any issues regarding ability to pay. If they are unable to reach a resolution, they can contact the Consumer Protection Division of the PUC at 888-782-8477 or by emailing consumer@puc.texas.gov.

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**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### Asking for Help - Dad



My dad doesn't like asking for help.

He told me this recently when he asked if I could help him put out the dock. His knee was bothering him, and the dock was pulled up on shore at a steep incline. The dock frame was rolled into the water and then the boards of the dock were laid into place. It was a good job for two people and two sets of hands, especially since my dad's knee is bothering him and he's been legally blind for a number of years.

My dad doesn't like asking for help, he told me. But lately he needs more of it than he used to. I know this embarrasses him. My dad is the kind of guy who can do a lot of things and solve a lot of problems. He built his house by himself—only getting assistance with the foundation and the roof. Everything in between, from the cabinets to the plumbing, he did himself. If I ask my dad how to solve a problem, he'll take a pause as he visualizes what will be needed. He may not get back to me for a day or two. But when he does, he's got it all worked out in his head. He must know that I have always admired him for the many things he can do and how well does them all.

But my dad turned 90 this year, and he's had some heart troubles. His eyes have been a problem for years, and now this knee is acting up. It takes a toll on him. I know he gets tired of it and worries he'll be able to do less and have to ask for more help.

"How does it feel, seeing your dad like this?" he asked me.

I didn't know how to answer, because it feels good to see my dad whenever I see him, and I am glad I can help. Usually, I don't feel I can do much to help my dad.

And I'm not sure he realizes he has been teaching me by his example all his life, and those lessons have not ended.

When I see him ask me for help—knowing it is hard for him, knowing he wishes he did not have to do it—he is teaching me another important lesson. It's a lesson I need today. It's a lesson I will need more in the years to come.

It is hard to ask for help, but it shows wisdom to ask when you need it. Asking in the way my father does makes it feel like a privilege to be helpful. I hope I can be as gracious when I need help—tomorrow, and for the rest of my life.

We put the dock together in no time. The perfectly spaced boards were easy to slide into place because my father had built them in his workshop, taking care they would not fit too tightly or have too much space between them. It felt good to stand on the newly assembled dock, ready for another summer of listening to loons, and keeping track of who is on their pontoon boat and watching the summer sun go down late at night, so far north.

I wish I'd had a better answer on the tip of my tongue when he asked me how it felt to see him asking for help. I want to say it made me admire him more. It made me hopeful that someday I might be as patient and dignified as my dad.

Happy Father's Day,  
Carrie

#### STATE KILLS 249 DEER AFTER LONG COURT BATTLE

After a three-year court battle, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has killed 249 white-tailed deer at a Kaufman County ranch that had been exposed to chronic wasting disease. The owner of the ranch, who raised the deer for trophy hunts, went to court in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the state from killing the herd under a policy intended to stop the neurological disease from spreading.

A report by kut.org indicates conservation biologists consider CWD as the biggest threat to the nation's deer herds. The state's first case was discovered in West Texas in 2012. Nearly 800 deer have been found to have the disease, primarily in deer-breeding facilities, according to TPWD.

# Group Discovers Hazardous Chemicals in Houston Ship Channel Sediment, Calls for Futher Testing,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the man-made hills piled in their communities.

For more than a century, the Port of Houston – a 52-mile complex along the ship channel – has scooped up, or dredged, tons of soil and sediment to widen and deepen the waterway for ships going to and from Houston’s petrochemical industry. The materials dredged from the channel were dumped in piles in eastside communities, including Galena Park, Channelview and Pleasantville.

Over time, this process has created six 20-foot-high mounds eventually covered in grass and clay, including one hill directly across from the Galena Park sports complex. Now, the Port of Houston is expanding the channel again through Project 11, a six-year effort to deepen the waterway to 46.5 feet and widen it by 170 feet for larger ships.

The Army Corps plans to dump the dredged material at four sites in Galena Park, Pleasantville and Central City. Two piles already exist in Pleasantville, while Galena Park and Central City will get new dredge piles.

The Healthy Ports Communities Coalition, the Environmental Defense Fund and Lone Star Legal Aid hired a lab for \$35,000. With legal access to those properties, the lab tested samples from the edges of the existing dredge piles. They also requested two sets of data from the Army Corps related to sediment tested by the agency before it was removed from the ship channel.

Neither the Army Corps, nor any other federal or state entity, has tested the dredged material at the dump sites. Instead, the Army Corps drills into the ship channel and tests the material there. In its environmental impact study – which was finalized in 2020 – the agency tested for the impact on aquatic life in the ship channel, not for humans in the nearby communities.

The EPA did not have any objections to the impact study.

•A sign welcomes those entering Galena Park on

June 11, 2024, where piles of dredged sediment from the Houston Ship Channel have been dumped at various sites, including public parks, for years. (Danielle Villasana for Houston Landing)

•Amnesty International representatives wait for a press conference hosted by the Healthy Port Communities Coalition to begin in Galena Park, Texas, where they’ll release the results of testing conducted at disposal sites for sediment pulled from the bottom of the Houston Ship Channel, June 11, 2024. (Danielle Villasana for Houston Landing)

•Naomi Yoder of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice speaks during a press conference hosted by the Healthy Port Communities Coalition in Galena Park, where testing results conducted at disposal sites for sediment pulled from the bottom of the Houston Ship Channel are released. (Danielle Villasana for Houston Landing)

In the statement, the Port of Houston said “sediment testing is conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prior to material being placed in the sediment placement sites and we have seen no evidence of contamination or discharges at any of the dredged material placement areas that would pose a hazard to human health.”

What do the results say?

The Healthy Port Coalitions Community published test results in three categories: Project 11, community samples and operations and maintenance dredging.

The six dredged piles of sediment throughout the port communities generally are the result of typical maintenance and operations of the ship channel. Of the 22 spots tested, the Coalition found all had arsenic levels exceeding the EPA’s limit. One sample, the group said, arsenic levels were 45 times higher than the limit.

The Coalition also analyzed data contained in an appendix that was not made public from the Project 11 Environmental Impact Statement that



Erandi Treviño speaks during a press conference hosted by the Healthy Port Communities Coalition in Galena Park, Texas, to release the results of testing conducted at disposal sites for sediment pulled from the bottom of the Houston Ship Channel, June 11, 2024. (Photo by Danielle Villasana Houston Landing)

found arsenic at seven times the EPA limit and dioxins at 16 times the EPA limit. Dioxins are highly toxic and can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems and damage the immune system, according to the EPA.

The coalition tested for arsenic, dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs – which are human-made chemicals that can impact the thyroid and reproductive system. PCBs, which have been banned from use in the United States since 1979, were found at 2.5 times the EPA limit.

In a statement, the Army Corps of Engineers said the work is in full compliance with applicable laws.

“The USACE considered all relevant laws, ex-

ecutive orders, regulations, and local government plans, aligning with the U.S. Water Resources Council’s Principles and Guidelines,” the statement read.

Community calls for action

At a news conference Tuesday across the street from a dredged site in Galena Park, advocates for healthy ship channel communities – including Amnesty International, Air Alliance Houston and Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park – held up signs reading “Our community has suffered long enough” and “Houston believes in science.”

Naomi Yoder, a GIS data manager from the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern

University, told the crowd that placing the dredged material in communities is a way of sacrificing the communities for profit.

“We see no reason that the industries that sit along the ship channel, who the dredging is for, and the agencies that conduct the projects, couldn’t afford to pay for safe disposal of the sediments in areas that don’t affect low-income communities and neighborhoods of people of color,” Yoder said.

Last year, the Army Corps, the Port, the EPA and the Coalition met several times to find a dredging solution that everyone could agree upon for the community. Yoder said the participants met again a couple months ago, but the effort has not moved forward the way the coalition had hoped.

In Pleasantville, residents expressed concerns about a dredged site that was closed in the 1950s after a hole formed in the protective berm and spilled sludge throughout the community. The Army Corps is planning to reopen the site to dump sediments dredged for Project 11.

“The port wants to expand for those larger ships to be able to come in for economic reasons and we understand that,” said Bridgette Murray, the executive director for Achieving Community Task

Successfully in Pleasantville. “All we’re asking for is reassurances. How safe will our communities be?”

Lisa Ashley, director of media relations for the Port of Houston, said the agency’s Port Commission Community Advisory Council is very sensitive to all issues like this in the community and the Port has attended numerous meetings with the community groups to listen to their concerns.

In its statement, the Corps said the agency’s “decision-making integrates environmental considerations throughout the EIS process, and extensive efforts over the years include considering the perspectives of all interested parties, particularly historically marginalized communities.”

For the community groups, however, the testing is just the beginning.

“We’d like to have the Army Corps take some responsibility and dig a little deeper because this is just the tip of the iceberg,” said Juan Flores, a long-time community activist in Galena Park and community air monitoring program manager for Air Alliance Houston.

--Houston Landing

**LEGAL NOTICE      LEGAL NOTICE      LEGAL NOTICE      LEGAL NOTICE      LEGAL NOTICE      LEGAL NOTICE**

**Attention Non-Profit Private Schools, Home Schoolers**

Non-profit private schools and homeschoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with a representative from Channelview Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Channelview ISD. Please contact the district, Dr. Patricia Glaeser ([patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org](mailto:patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org)), Director of Federal Programs, no later than Thursday, June 20, 2024.


**Atención Escuelas Privadas y Educados En Casa**

Escuelas privadas sin fines lucrativos y estudiantes educados en casa, que legalmente califican como una entidad no lucrativa y que tengan un certificado 501-C3, son invitados a una junta con representante de Channelview para aprender más sobre servicios financiados por el gobierno federal que están disponibles para los residentes elegibles en dichos distritos. Por Favor de contactarse con Dr. Patricia Glaeser la coordinadora del Programa Federal de Distrito de Channelview ([patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org](mailto:patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org)), a no más tardar el día Jueves, 20 de junio de 2024.

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# CHAMBER NEWS

## NCAC May Luncheon



The May Luncheon was held on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Hampton Inn & Suites Houston East Beltway 8. Special Agents with The Department of Homeland Security gave an informative presentation on all the cyber securities and day to day threats.

## Honoring Educators & Students



The Chamber honored Students and Educators of the Month for Channelview ISD and presented them with certificates. They are pictured with Channelview Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill.

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# Name Your Adoption Fee!

Harris County Pets is Overcapacity! Adopt, don't shop!

**HOUSTON** – Summer has arrived, bringing a surplus of unsheltered puppies and kittens. Many of these animals are being brought to Harris County Pets (HCP), which is already overcrowded with homeless dogs and cats, surpassing its capacity. To encourage community members to adopt, HCP has initiated a promotion called "Name Your Adoption Fee!" until the end of June 2024. This allows adopters to choose their price when adopting a new four-legged family member. All adopted animals from HCP are spayed or neutered, receive age-appropriate vaccinations (including rabies), are micro-chipped, and receive a one-year Harris County pet license. It's a great deal!



investment of time and money, so when adopting a pet, please consider:

- Selecting a pet that is suited to your home and lifestyle. Do you have time to walk your dog? Would an older pet be more suitable than an active kitten or puppy?
- Avoiding impulsive decisions when selecting a family pet.
- Owning only the number of pets that you can provide for appropriately.
- Ensuring that the pet is properly vaccinated, identified, and registration is up to date.

HCP currently houses almost 700 animals, and over 175 are available for immediate adoption (already spayed/neutered). Around 40% of the animals brought to the shelter are surrendered by their owners for various reasons. While not all animals at the shelter are adoptable due to factors such as age, being feral, illness, aggression, or injury, many of them would be wonderful pets for individuals and families.

Pets are great companions to humans. Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.

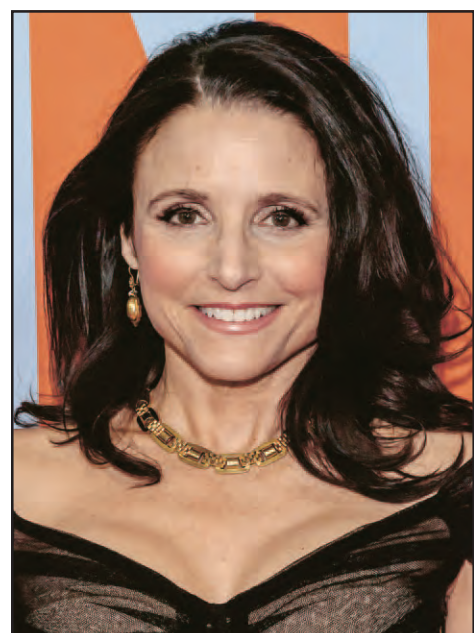
However, owning a pet is a commitment that requires an

HCP, located at 612 Canino Road in Houston, has many animals ready for a loving home. Stop by and choose yours! Visit [countypets.com](http://countypets.com) for photos and bios of all adoptable pets at HCP. If you cannot adopt a pet, consider volunteering at our shelter. Volunteers are needed to facilitate adoptions, socialize, and foster animals. For more information, email [volunteer@countypets.com](mailto:volunteer@countypets.com) or call (281) 999-3191.

# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** — Julia Louis-Dreyfus has recovered from cancer and is back in front of the cameras to shoot "Thunderbolts" for Disney and Marvel. She holds the record for winning 11 Emmy Awards (the most for any performer) — nine for "Veep," one for "Seinfeld," and one for "The New Adventures of Old Christine." She's also won nine awards from the Screen Actors Guild, two from the Critics' Choice Awards, and a Golden Globe Award.



Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Upcoming in "Thunderbolts")

In "Thunderbolts," arriving May 2025, she co-stars with David Harbour ("Stranger Things") and Harrison Ford. Ford also has "Captain America: Brave New World" due in February, and both of his TV series "1923" and "Shrinking" are returning for their second seasons.

\*\*\*

On a chat show, Chris Pratt recently confessed that he blew the first \$75,000 he earned, which was for a TV movie. "That was just a crazy amount of money to me," he said. "I never could have possibly imagined making that amount of money, and it went very quickly." But given that his net worth today is estimated to be \$100 million, he must have learned his lesson.

He's still making more money from two upcoming sci-fi films: Amazon's "Mercy," with Rebecca Ferguson, and Netflix's "The Electric State," with Millie Bobby Brown, Ke Huy Quan, Stanley Tucci, Jason Alexander, Brian Cox, Anthony Mackie and Billy Bob Thornton.

\*\*\*

Hats off to the legendary Joan Collins, who turned 91 on May 23 and is still working in two films and a TV series. In 1989, I was hired by Sarah Coventry Costume Jewelry (still thriving today) to shoot Joan for their in-house magazine. She was to be gifted with 10 pieces of jewelry for the shoot. When we finished, she couldn't decide between 12 pieces of jewelry, so we just gave them to her. Two weeks later, she

became Alexis Morell Carrington Colby in "Dynasty," which, of course, meant she wouldn't be caught dead in costume jewelry!

Another time, at an award show rehearsal, Joan went to use a phone. (We didn't have cellphones then.) After a long time, she came back and told us, "I called my answering service, and imagine ... they put me on hold!" We asked, "What did you do?" "Well," she replied, "I fired them, of course!"

In her next two films, she stars as Wallis Simpson in "In Bed with the Duchess" and as Francesca Carlyle in "Murder Between Friends." She'll also star as Adelaide of Maurienne in 10 episodes of the Agatha-Christie-like series "Glow of Darkness," opposite Jane Seymour and Denise Richards. They're currently filming in Spain, Morocco and Egypt, and it's based on the life of Francis of Assisi. The series has been dubbed as "Game of Thrones" on a "Xena: Warrior Princess" budget.

At 91, where does she get her get-up-and-go? I'll have what she's having!

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

1. I DON'T BELIEVE IT. FIRST I GET IN TROUBLE FOR NOT CLEANING MY ROOM...  
2. NOW I'M GROUNDED FOR TRACKING MUD IN ALL OVER OUR NEW CARPET.  
3. IT'S LIKE I SPEND MY LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE!  
4. OH, CRY ME A RIVER. TRY DOING IT IN A PIGPEN.

by BUD BLAKE

1. IS THIS TOO HEAVY FOR JUST ONE STAMP?  
2. I PUNNO. ASK BONNIE.  
3. I CAN'T TELL. TRY HUGO.  
4. I PUNNO.

by Jeff Pickering

1. I WAS ONCE IN THE KLEPTOMANIAC OLYMPICS.  
2. HOW DID YOU DO?  
3. I TOOK THE BRONZE, SILVER, AND GOLD.

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door is larger. 2. Tatoo is moved. 3. Punching bag is smaller. 4. Man is taller. 5. Man is larger. 6. Main is taller. 7. Middle rope is missing.

June 17, 2024 Posting Date

### King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
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23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
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				36			37			
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

**ACROSS**

1 — of Sandwich  
5 Saigon soup  
8 URL opener  
12 Coagulate  
13 Charged bit  
14 Pitcher Hersher  
15 Romantic appointments  
17 Skater Lipinski  
18 Like aspirin, briefly  
19 Ozone, for one  
20 Governing gp.  
21 That chap's — -Magnon  
23 "Evita" surname  
26 Gym gear  
30 — Rhythm"  
31 Chum  
32 Cowgirl's footwear  
33 Spider's traps  
35 Baby collie  
36 Owns  
37 Prohibit  
38 Sound of Washington  
41 Flushed  
42 Aunt, in Acapulco  
45 Skin soother  
46 Donna  
48 Sagan or Sandburg

**DOWN**

1 Canyon sound  
2 Oodles  
3 Campus mil. group  
4 Old Ford model  
5 Pocket breads  
6 Works the soil  
7 Carry — (travel bags)

8 Frank holder  
9 Streetcar  
10 Actress Hatcher  
11 Scheme  
16 Opposite of "fer"  
20 Onassis nickname  
21 Toy car brand  
22 Cartoon frame  
23 Photo, for short  
24 Conceit  
25 Steal from  
26 Existed  
27 Jump  
28 Pinnacle  
29 Hog haven  
31 "Nova" ailer

34 Nosh  
35 Cushions  
37 White of "The Golden Girls"  
38 Designer Rabanne  
39 — Bator  
40 Slasher film fare  
41 Capital of Italia  
42 Ballet attire  
43 "— first you ..."  
44 Roundish do  
46 Devilish laugh  
47 Airport screening org.

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### Trivia Test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which country's native name is Cymru?
- HISTORY:** Which country is the first to recognize same-sex marriage?
- MOVIES:** Who voices the character of Frozone in the animated movie "The Incredibles"?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the primary ingredient in baba ganoush?
- LITERATURE:** The movie "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is based on a short story written by which American author?
- MEASUREMENTS:** How many grams are in a pound?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What cultural phenomenon is celebrated on May 4?
- TELEVISION:** Rhoda Morgenstern is a sidekick in which 1970s TV sitcom?
- SCIENCE:** What is the process called when iron is coated with zinc?
- U.S. STATES:** What is the only vowel that is NOT the first letter of a state?

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# THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

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