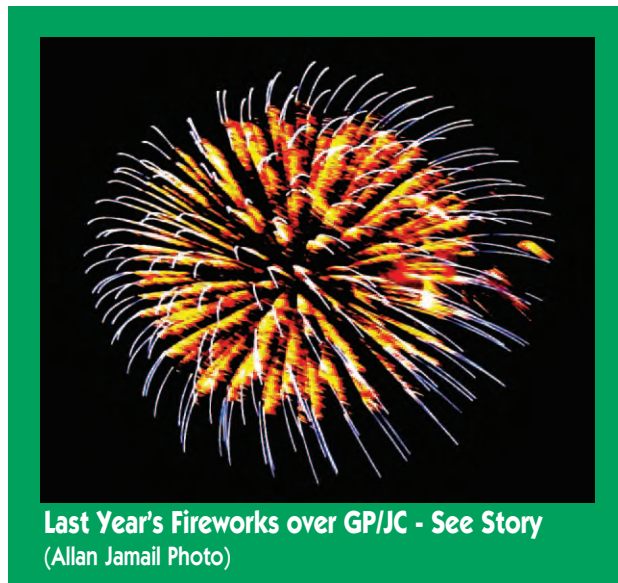


NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Last Year's Fireworks over GP/JC - See Story (Allan Jamail Photo)

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 12, NO. 26 (#525) THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 www.northchannelstar.com

East Harris County New Healthcare & Social Services Hub



Architect's rendering: Pct 2 East Harris County New Healthcare & Social Services Hub. Set to open early 2025. The new Hub with an approximate \$6 million cost will be located on 3-acres featuring a 10,650-square-foot facility with a projected completion and opening date in early 2025. It'll be located along the service road north of the IH-10 East Freeway between Dale Dale Street and Sheldon Road.



Ground Breaking: New Healthcare & Social Services Hub - Pct 2 County Commissioner Adrian Garcia (center photo) in partnership with Harris County Public Health, the Sheriff's Department, Harris County Housing & Community Development, and the County's Engineering Department spent several years developing the project. Linda Jamail (center red shirt) Community Liaison for State Representative Ana Hernandez. 3rd from left Margie Buentello, President / CEO North Channel Chamber of Commerce

By Allan Jamail

East Harris County, TX — June 10, 2024 Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia with Senator Carol Alvarado, Justice of the Peace Lucia Bates, Linda Jamail, Community Liaison for State Representative Ana Hernandez and Margie Buentello, President / CEO North Channel Chamber of Commerce and other Harris

County Officials had a ground breaking event for a new East Harris County Health & Social Service Hub in the Channelview area. The idea for the new hub was born in 2019 after Commissioner Garcia and his team learned about some of the gaps in community services. The new Hub with an approximate \$6 million cost will be located on 3-acres featuring a 10,650-square-foot facility with a projected completion and opening date in early 2025. It'll be located along the service road north of the IH-10 East Freeway between Dale Dale Street and

Sheldon Road.

It's part of Commissioner Garcia's Revive2Thrive Initiative. Garcia's goal of Revive2Thrive is to focus on revitalization rather than gentrification by empowering communities and creating opportunities for existing neighborhoods to be more resilient, inclusive, and thriving. Garcia believes with the right investments, resources, infrastruc-

ture, commitment, and community involvement everyone can progress and thrive.

Harris County Precinct 2, in partnership with Harris County Public Health, the Sheriff's Department, Harris County Housing & Community Development,

and the County's Engineering Department spent several years developing the project.

Historically East Harris County communities in

Continued. See NEW HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE, Page 5

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.

Chamber Golf Tournament Oct 9

2024 Dr. Gerald Cobb Golf Tournament, Wednesday Oct. 9th at Tour 18. Shotgun start at 8am. Sponsorships available, \$3500 to \$100. Contact info@ncachamber.com or 713-450-3600.

Galena Park ISD's Dr. John Moore Named Region 4 Superintendent of the Year

HOUSTON (June 20, 2024)—Galena Park ISD Superintendent Dr. John Moore has been selected as the Region 4 Superintendent of the Year. This distinction makes Moore the Region 4 nominee for Texas Superintendent of the Year, which will be announced Sept. 28 by the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators at txEDCON24.

"Dr. Moore and Galena Park have so much to be proud of these past four years," said Dr. Rodney Watson, executive director, Region 4 Education Service Center. "Dr. Moore's visionary leadership has resulted in remarkable achievements

for his district, and Region 4 is excited to recognize his outstanding dedication to high-quality education for every child."

It is under Moore's leadership that Galena Park ISD has thrived academically and beyond. Moore, who has more than 30 years in education, was named superintendent in 2020 shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began and played a key role in navigating successful partnerships to support families in his district, as well as overseeing the adoption of a whole-child approach to learning.

"I believe you cannot lead without building strong, long-lasting relationships," said Moore.



"Not only with employees, but with all stakeholders in the community. During my time in Galena Park, I've aimed to cultivate trust and a collaborative environment to resolve problems and produce the results we've achieved. I have a fantastic team to thank for that."

Moore, who has spent

nearly his entire career in Galena Park ISD, has certainly delivered on his promise to resolve problems and produce positive results for the 21,000 students in the district and their families. Galena Park ISD is a top-rated district by the State, receiving an A rating in 2022.

He has fostered a close relationship with the Galena Park ISD School Board of Trustees that encourages open, honest communication within the group and ensures transparency in sharing information. This same spirit has also fostered a culture of collaboration among Galena Park's teachers and campus administrators in building

the skills and expertise of each staff member. Leaders at all levels participate in training and team-building exercises throughout the year with an emphasis on building healthy relationships that transform students' classroom experiences.

"We know the hard work and dedication that Dr. Moore puts in each and every day while leading our incredible district," said Noe Esparza, board president, Galena Park ISD. "He is so very deserving of this honor, and we are grateful to him for his tireless leadership, his bold vision, and his unparalleled accountability to this board and to our entire community."

GP/JC Twin cities ready for annual fireworks show

By David Taylor Managing Editor

One of the oldest traditions shared between Galena Park and Jacinto City is the annual Fourth of July fireworks show. The 30-minute show draws an attendance of thousands of spectators on both sides of the High Road and has continued since 1999.

"In the early years, it was Jacinto City only and was held at the ballpark," said Lon Squyres, city administrator for Jacinto City.

Then the laws changed, and the event was moved to the parking lot of Tinseltown. Laws relating to distance and the nearby freeway changed again and the celebration was dormant for seven or eight

years, he said.

"Then Mayor Mike Jackson approached Mayor Bobby Barrett of Galena Park and the two cities got permission from the Port of Houston to host the event on the high road between the two cities," Squyres said.

They still receive the blessing from the Port, who owns the property that the high road sits on that's used to dump dredging materials.

Residents are encouraged to park near the water tower, and ball parks in Galena Park and on Holland Ave. In Jacinto City, Squyres said spectators gather on the other side of Holland Ave, some walk over to Lane Street and watch from there. There are also parts of the high

road on the hill that can be utilized.

The higher up, the more other fireworks displays can be seen in the distance including downtown Houston, Baytown, and Pasadena.

The 'shoot site' is halfway between the two cities on the high road of Mercury and Main. The site, Squyres said, provides a large enough buffer zone between the launch site and spectators which makes it a very safe choice.

"The actual site is owned by the Port of Houston which has been very supportive of the event. Of course, the site is within the city of Galena Park, so

Continued. See GP/JC FIREWORKS SHOW, Page 5

No Fireworks Ban in plans for the Fourth

By David Taylor Managing Editor

For lovers of fireworks, the recent rains have drenched the ground enough to prevent authorities from calling a ban because of drought conditions.

Severe hurricane-like conditions in mid-May and intermittent storms since will ensure fireworks enthusiasts can shoot fireworks during the July 4 celebration.

According to the Keetch-Byram Drought Index from Texas A&M that measures drought conditions, Harris County is in the lowest 0-200 KBDI Value range meaning there's enough saturation to avoid drought conditions, at least for the time being.

Brandi Dumas, spokesperson for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office said there's not enough time for Harris County Commissioners to issue a ban.

"We're still saturated from all the rain the weather that we've been receiving and then also you have to have a burn ban so many days before you can enact a fireworks ban," she said. That's no longer possible, she said, under the current timeline.

"We could be in a burn ban and still be able to shoot fireworks," she said.

Dumas reminded enthusiasts that if they are assembling a large group of people and plan on using 1.3G or 1.4G grade fireworks, a permit is required in unincorporated Harris County.

"If your HOA allows them, and you purchase them from a permitted fireworks stand, they are legal to use in Harris County," she said. The 1.3G fireworks contain a larger amount of flash powder which makes them louder and more powerful and places them in a higher hazard level classification.

"Just make sure that if you live in a community with a HOA that they permit them," she said. "You don't need a permit to use them."

She added that the fireworks cannot be used within approximately 600 feet of a school, a daycare, a hospital, or fired within

Continued. See NO BAN ON FIREWORKS, Page 5

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Three Paths to Excellence: 3X The Success

Graduating seniors will soon transition from high school hallways to college corridors with big dreams, outstanding outlooks, and new paths to be trailblazed. Galena Park ISD (GPISD) will confer approximately 1,700 high school diplomas for the 2023-2024 school year. This year's graduates will venture to places like the CIA, training facilities for Diesel Engineers, and digital art communities. Let's take a closer look at three seniors embarking on distinctly different journeys that will expand their diverse talents while combining their passion with pursuit.

The first of these remarkable students is a North Shore Senior High School senior and FFA President, Jonashia Garrett, who will enroll in the CIA! Rather than the Central Intelligence Agency, Jonashia will grace the campus of Hyde Park, New York's famed-and highly selective-Culinary Institute of America. The Culinary Institute of America is the world's premier culinary college. She will blend her love of food and agriculture with her aspiration of becoming a farm-to-table distributor for consumers.

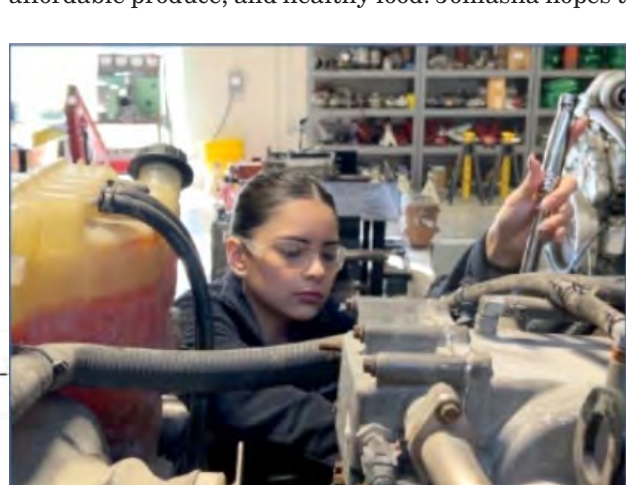
Jonashia Garrett, North Shore Senior High School



Jonashia's freshman year of high school included thoughts of where food comes from because "food is not only a way for you to show love and affection to others without words; it is also a way for everyone around you to connect with each other." Those thoughts led her to the agricultural community within GPISD. The first animal she raised [from the size of a dime] was a pig-Caesar. Bonding with, cleaning up after, and raising Caesar through challenging moments taught her to "appreciate work, lessons, hardships, and therapeutic moments" that included being fully immersed in animals, food, and land. As she later cared for and competitively "showed" Boondock, Sweet-Pea, and Wilson, Jonashia saw the fruits of her labor as she was laboring, including being transported by ambulance to show Sweet-Pea.

Throughout her high school years, Jonashia's love of food, agriculture, and leadership connected as puzzle pieces as she learned about where food came from, how food is manufactured, and how food can be influenced. "One thing all human beings have in common is food," so Jonashia Garrett wants to influence the food industry by helping herself and others in ways that matter like providing affordable meals, affordable produce, and healthy food. Jonashia hopes to develop the skill and talent

needed to be a culinary influencer as she majors in applied food science at the CIA in Hyde Park, NY.



Another outstanding senior, Darma Montes, maintains a tiny physical stature, she asserts herself with "I can do it; I know I can do it" as she talks about her desire to be a diesel mechanic and eventually an engineer who builds and designs diesel engines. Her petite frame is a sort of mirage for her immense determination.

As she began high school, she had an intense desire to understand and learn how things work and the inner workings of machines. Her interest led to learning how to repair diesel engines. She will graduate with her Associate Degree of Applied Science in Diesel Technology.

One may be skeptical of Darma due to her size and gender, but her skill and determination eliminate all doubt. As she mastered the complexities of diesel engines with ease, she emerged as a physical and intellectual force. Her instructors and school administrators quickly recognized her talent and tenacity. Darma is transferring such recognition to the diesel and mechanic community by networking and a sheer eagerness to fully immerse herself in the industry.

Darma looks forward to majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Houston, Texas Tech, or the University of Houston Clear Lake. She has been accepted to each of them, which is a further testament to Darma Montes' unwavering resolve and passion for mechanics. She is sure to be a trailblazer who shatters barriers and stereotypes!

The final GPISD senior at whom one must marvel is David Morales Jr., who made history this year! David's Texas Long Stare painting (recreated on the cover of this GPS edition) was auctioned off at this year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo High School Art Competition for an amazing \$25,000.

He is the only student in GPISD's recent 17 years to advance to auction, further affirming his potential to impact the art world. David stepped outside of his usual style of artwork-concept and digital artwork-and achieved the largest feat of his art career thus far. Now that he is headed to a new institute of learning, we are certain he will once again excel!

David Morales, Jr., Galena Park High School



David's work includes conveying complex emotions and narrative through visual media. He blends traditional techniques with contemporary themes to challenge and redefine artistic boundaries. He even did a stint in the band, until his junior year when he decided to focus all of his efforts toward art. Concept art is David's true passion. Companies and professional organizations create films, television shows, and video games, beginning with concepts and original ideas that lead to characters and settings.

David looks forward to contracting, consulting, and leading his own team toward those efforts.

While he is planning to be an art major at San Jacinto Community College in Houston, TX, David is reaching out to other artists to grow his talent and his community of support. While he will also have the fife of Best of Show from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, David Morales Jr. will also be one of GPISD's best!

Jonashia, Darma, and David, with their own accomplishments and dreams, exemplify the diverse talent and paths in Galena Park ISD. Their stories are a testament to the idea that with passion and perseverance, students can forge their own unique paths to success, contributing to a richer, more diverse world.

Student-Hero

By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

At Galena Park ISD's (GPISD) June 10, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting, State Board of Education (SBOE) Member Staci Childs joined the GPISD Trustees in congratulating Johnny Dixon III for receiving the 2024 Student Heroes Award for SBOE District 4. The Student Heroes program recognizes Texas public school students who do an outstanding volunteer service that benefits their fellow students, schools, or communities. To be nominated for this award, the volunteer service project performed by the student cannot be associated with any curriculum requirement, school service program, or community program. Because the GPISD



Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

community has benefited from several of his projects that have strengthened us, Johnny is one of only fifteen students to be recognized this year. Johnny is an outstanding representative for SBOE's District 4 and especially GPISD!

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD Education Foundation selected as recipient of Legacy of Learning Grant



At the second annual Generation Park Juneteenth event, the Sheldon Education Foundation was announced as the recipient of the Legacy of Learning Grant totaling \$500. The Foundation was chosen due to their unwavering dedication to advancing educational opportunities within the Sheldon Independent School District.

The Education Foundation's efforts include funding innovative classroom projects, awarding scholarships to deserving students, and supporting professional development opportunities for educators. Their work ensures that students have access to the tools and experiences they need to succeed academically and beyond.

Sheldon ISD Prepares for first day of school Monday, August 12th

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.

Jacuzzi | BATH REMODEL

YOUR BATHROOM. YOUR WAY. IN AS LITTLE AS **ONE DAY**

CALL NOW **844.265.7098**

SPECIAL OFFER
50% OFF Installation
 WITH **No Interest**
No Payments for 1 Year
 PLUS **FREE Safety Upgrade***
If paid in full by end of 12 months.

*Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 3/31/2024.



You can read the North Channel Star current and back issues on our website: www.northchannelstar.com

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Time Waits for Nobody

How is next week July? It seems like time is moving quickly and someday, I wonder if I have accomplished anything. Children just got out of school and with some of the districts returning early, it will not be long until they are back in school.

How have you been spending your "lazy days of summer"? I guess technically, summer just started last week. But are you planning a trip for the summer? Will you travel alone or with friends or family?

I remember growing up with a native Texan for a father. He would tell us there was so much to see in Texas, we did not need to travel out of state. Somehow my two sons have only traveled briefly, yet my daughter, due to being in the Army, visited many places. I have been fortunate enough to travel to Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Boston, New York City, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, Phoenix, and Oklahoma City. In addition, I have visited twenty-eight countries, without a passport. What? Yes, when you visit an embassy, it is the same as visiting that country.

There are plenty of places to visit here in Houston. Many families plan staycations and visit the local museums as well as the Houston Zoo. A friend of mine shared that she recently visited more than fifteen different houses of worship in our city. She spent an entire week, visiting different temples, mosques, churches of different denominations and said she felt like she had learned much.

There are so many amazing non-profits that do remarkable things in our county. Check out opportunities to volunteer at the Houston Food Bank, at a local library or with a youth development program. There is always a need for volunteers to assist with projects ranging from pet shelters, to cleaning gutters of homes of the elderly. There are opportunities to volunteer with many Veterans programs as well as with a variety of children's programs. I just learned of someone I grew up with who is now certified as a Child Advocate when children are going into Foster Care or preparing for adoption. Another friend keeps a list handy of what projects are out there and is not afraid to call on others for donations.

Perhaps you would like to escape the big city and travel to a much quieter place. There are many options for weekend road trips. Maybe you cannot stay overnight, but you would love to relax and enjoy some time in the country or at the beach. You can visit small towns such as Dayton, Liberty, Moss Hill or head to Galveston Island or Surfside Beach. You do not have to spend the night, but you can enjoy the slower pace.

Whatever you choose to do, make some memories. Travel with family or friends. Go on an adventure on your own but take the time to enjoy life.

Baytown Man Admits to Making Bomb Threats to White House

HOUSTON – A 37-year-old local man has entered a guilty plea to three counts of sending threatening communications through interstate commerce, announced U.S. Attorney Alamdar S. Hamdani.

Joshua Guadalupe Magana admitted to sending bomb threats on multiple occasions to the White House, FBI and other organizations over the course of several years. Law enforcement had previously warned him that making such threats is a crime and could subject him to imprisonment.

Specifically, Magana pleaded guilty to the charge related to a threat made June 4, 2019, when he called the FBI and said he would blow up the White House. "There is a bomb. I'm going to blow up the White House," he stated and then hung up. Magana admitted to making the call and claimed he picked the White House because it

was the most important building he could think of and wanted a "big, serious" response.

Magana contacted the White House directly Dec. 15, 2021, and sent an email with the subject line reading "Contact the President" and a message stating "Bomb the White House." On Feb. 27, 2022, Magana contacted the White House again and sent a similar threatening email.

"We take all threats seriously," said Hamdani. "People cannot convey their political or social disagreements through threats or violence."

U.S. District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal will impose sentencing Oct. 2. At that time, Magana faces up to five years in federal prison.

He has been and will remain in custody pending that hearing.

Secret Service and FBI conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather Winter is prosecuting the case.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "what is Common Sense and Does it still Exist?"

The Death of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault.



Common sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults are in charge not children). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of an 8 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student but, could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common sense was preceded in death, by His parents, Truth and Trust His wife, Discretion His daughter, Responsibility His son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers I know my rights I want my rights I want it now I'm a victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you're struggling to understand all of this...it's just Common Sense.

If you are looking for a "common sense" jewelry store that you can trust, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. Contact us or simply stop by our store if you would like assistance learning how we can be of service to you.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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

City of Houston and Bezos Academy Open Three Free Preschools

HOUSTON - Following the announcement of a 10-year lease agreement between the City of Houston and Bezos Academy last year, three preschools are now open in Houston and currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. The partnership is championed by the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement which worked to place the preschools in Houston's most historically under resourced communities, ensuring every child will have equitable opportunities for education that propels them to a meaningful and successful future.

Bezos Academy Houston locations include the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center, in Magnolia Park at the Community Family Center Building, and in North Shore at the San Jacinto College North Campus.

These preschools were also supported by the Mayor's Office of Complete Communities, the Houston Health Department, Community Family Centers, and San Jacinto College. All three sites will offer year-round programming, five days a week, for children ages 3-5 years old. Students will also be provided with everything needed during the day, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. To learn more about eligibility, visit the Bezos Academy website.

"We are happy to continue to work with Bezos Academy to fight for the future of all children, especially those within our Complete Communities," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "When we invest in our children, we are investing in a brighter and more equitable future for our city."

Studies show that children who have access to high-quality early childhood programs complete high school with lower rates of suspension, arrests, and substance abuse issues, and have higher rates of employment as adults. In Harris County, there are approximately 360,000 children between the ages of 0 and 4, however, childcare capacity in

Houston can only meet the needs of about 185,000 children. The opening of these three schools will help to close this gap and give those in our historically most under resourced communities access to education that nurtures the potential in every child.

"Having spent my career teaching and leading in Texas, I know from experience the tremendous leg-up that preschool provides our students," said Dr. A. Tracie Brown, Bezos Academy Superintendent of Schools. "Mayor Turner's vision to expand that access for kids who wouldn't otherwise have it made Houston an obvious place for us to open schools. Now that our first three schools are up and running, that vision has become a reality for the children who show up at a Bezos Academy preschool each day, and we can't wait to welcome more."

All three locations are still accepting applications through 11:59 p.m. PST, Monday, June 5th.

About the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement

Public education is a human right, the great social equalizer, and a key to a prosperous community. Mayor Sylvester Turner believes that each generation of children should be assured a better life and education. Through collaboration, communication, and coordination, the Mayor's Office of Education strives to ensure this goal for all families in Houston by promoting access to equitable education and opportunities.

About Bezos Academy Bezos Academy is a non-profit organization that is building a network of tuition-free preschools. Our preschools offer year-round, full-day programming, five days a week, for children ages 3-5 years old from low-income families. Bezos Academy also provides students with all necessary educational supplies and services to set each student up for success, including Montessori materials, books, arts and crafts, field trips, and meals. For more information, visit: www.bezosacademy.org.

DENTAL Insurance
Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit

It's easy! Call today
1-866-603-1174
Dental50Plus.com/Starcourier

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company




inogen


PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE

Call us toll-free at
1-855-944-6046

CLAIM YOUR **14-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**




She wonders how you really feel



The wondering is over!

PineforestJewelry.com
1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77015
713.451.1321



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

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Asher Lehrer-Small

What's in Houston ISD's \$4.4 billion bond plan?

As Houston ISD leaders consider asking voters to endorse the largest school bond package in Texas history, the specifics of their plan are beginning to come into focus.

HISD released this week its most detailed information yet on how it could spend \$4.4 billion to renovate and rebuild campuses, fix faulty air systems, improve security and more.

A successful bond election authorizes school districts to use property tax money to finance investments in campus facilities, technology and other items.

HISD last passed a bond 12 years ago, even though large urban school districts typically ask voters to approve a bond roughly every five years.

Recent polling suggests voters may be receptive to the current proposal, with about two-thirds of nearly 3,000 HISD residents surveyed by Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research saying they would support a bond if it does not raise property taxes by more than \$25 per year.

However, some community members also have said they don't have confidence in Superintendent Mike Miles, who was appointed last year by Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath, to responsibly spend bond money.

As the HISD community takes stock of the proposed investments and what they would mean, here are five takeaways from the plans released so far.

1. Elementary and middle schools to see the biggest upgrades

All schools will see some level of investment under the bond plan, but elementary and middle schools will receive the vast majority of the funds — roughly \$3.1 billion of \$3.3 billion total slated for campus-level improvements.

HISD's youngest learners stand to benefit most from the investments because those campuses have gone the longest without receiving facilities upgrades.

Two dozen of HISD's elementary and middle schools were built in the 1930s or earlier, and families interviewed by the Houston Landing in April said some of the campuses are in dire need of fixes.

2. Over 30 schools to be rebuilt, undergo major renovations

HISD plans to rebuild or renovate about 35 schools in need of the largest improvements, at a total cost of \$2.5 billion.

Eighteen schools would be fully rebuilt, while 16 would get renovated or expanded.

Of the 18 schools to get rebuilt, eight would receive investments over \$100 million. Those schools are:

- Lanier Middle School (\$180 million)
--Black Middle School (\$178 million)
--Revere Middle School (\$162 million)
--Fleming Middle School (\$150 million)
--Holland Middle School (\$149 million)
--Hamilton Middle School (\$144 million)
--Bonham Elementary School (\$121 million)
--McNamara Elementary School (\$120 million).

Full details for those and other campuses are available at the Landing's searchable database of HISD's stated bond plans.

The roughly 35 campuses slated for rebuilds and renovations collectively use 500 temporary trailer-like structures to educate students. The classrooms, which are located on campus property but outside of the main building, can be hard to heat and cool.

3. Some schools to "co-locate" at another campus, but keep staff

Eight schools could relocate and merge onto another campus. Under that arrangement, the joined schools would operate separately and maintain much of their own staffing, though they would share some facilities like cafeterias and gymnasiums, Miles said.

Under the bond plan, six elementary schools would move to existing middle school campuses, while two middle schools would join existing elementary school campuses.

The proposed moves include:
--Blackshear Elementary School, moving to Baylor College of Medicine at Ryan Middle School
--Kashmere Gardens Elementary School, moving to Key Middle School

- Sanchez Elementary School, moving to Deady Middle School
--Isaacs Elementary School, moving to Fleming Middle School
--Port Houston and Pleasantville elementary schools, joining Holland Middle School
--Edison Middle School, moving to Franklin Elementary School
--Project Chrysalis Middle School, which is already co-located with Cage Elementary School, moving to a newly built Cage Elementary campus

4. New pre-K classrooms, career and technical education campuses

HISD said it plans to use roughly \$1 billion from the bond package to finance investments in pre-kindergarten, new technology and career and technical education, though details on the plans remain scarce.

The district currently has enough pre-K seats for about 14,000 students, equivalent to only one-third of the 3- and 4-year-olds in the district. The bond proposal would allow HISD to open roughly 4,000 new seats, district officials said, accounting for less than one-fifth of the existing gap.

HISD has not said where the new pre-K classrooms would open, but it identified the Wisdom and Lamar high school feeder patterns as the areas with the greatest need.

For career and technical education, HISD said it plans to open four new campuses in addition to the current Barbara Jordan Career Center, which functions as a districtwide hub. Officials have not released exact price tags or locations for the potential new schools, but indicated they would be spread across the district, with one in each quadrant.

5. HISD expects enrollment to continue to decline

District officials expect HISD to continue to bleed students in coming years, losing roughly 10,000 students by 2028-29, according to projections included in the bond plan.

The 269 HISD campuses included plan, which excludes the district's virtual charter school and several other in-district charter schools, enrolled about 171,000 children this past school year. That total is projected to drop to 161,000 in 2028-29.

HISD has lost students over the past eight years, with district-wide enrollment falling from 216,000 in 2016-17 to roughly 184,000 in 2023-24.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Rewriting my Story



I've been working on a script with a producer named Eli.

I'm going to perform a show made from pieces of columns I've written over the years. I've been looking for themes and ideas and stringing them together, and I thought I'd done a pretty good job, so I sent off a draft to Eli.

"This is not what we talked about!" Eli told me.

I was hurt. When we first spoke, I wasn't sure what to write. I had a lot of ideas about different things. But, since then, I'd read a bunch of books about how to write a script properly, and everything I read said I needed to be focused. I needed to know exactly what topic I wanted to talk about and stay on track.

Staying on track is sometimes hard for me when there are so many enticing bunny trails along the way. So I'd spent the last few weeks tossing out all the stray ideas. I made the whole thing one streamlined thesis, and I was pretty pleased with myself—until I talked to Eli.

"You were going to write about all kinds of things, not just one subject!" he went on, not sounding happy with me at all.

"Well, yes," I admitted, "but that was before I understood how important it was to find one main topic and stick to it and..."

"I like the other idea better!"

I didn't know what to say. I don't know Eli very well, but I respect him a lot. I thought he'd be pleased I had done all this research and was so much better organized.

"But the 'other idea' wasn't really an idea!" I told him. "I just had a picture in my head of a lot of stories about different things that may or may not be connected."

"I like that better!" he said.

So then I had to think. And I've been thinking ever since.

Because Eli wants this script to be something bigger than a few funny stories. He doesn't want a single, easy-to-digest theme. Eli wants the whole shebang. He wants me to tell a story about how I see the world and why. He wants me to take the happy and funny and sad and the painful and mix them in a way that makes sense of them as a whole.

And he's made me realize that we are all storytellers, telling ourselves our story every day.

We take stories from our youth and struggles we've had as adults and heartache and disappointments and moments of indescribable joy, and we make sense of them in a way that defines us—to ourselves. All the happiest parts and all the hardest parts and every part in between, all the things that happened to us and what we thought about them afterward and how they changed us and become the story of who we are.

And Eli is right.

There is no point in trying to tell one piece of the story. The advice from the books I read would be great if I had some terrific new idea about how to do something faster or cheaper or more efficiently—but I don't have any ideas like that.

I just have this idea that it's good to embrace our stories—because they are ours, because we have the power to tell them in a way that allows us to change and grow. We can use our stories to make the rest of our lives a little better and more compassionate.

So now I'm rewriting my story for Eli—and for me.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Drought Conditions Ease Slightly While Heat Dome Returns

Drought conditions across the state dropped a percentage point in May compared to the previous month, with 26% of the state in some stage of drought, primarily in West and South Texas and parts of the Panhandle.

Massive storms in late April and into May caused flooding and wind damage in East and North Texas but did pull those regions out of drought. Some parts of Central and East Texas received three times their average rainfall in May, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

Meanwhile, Texans are starting down another miserably hot summer and wondering if it will be as bad as last year's, which was the second hottest on record. A heat dome, which is a high-pressure system that traps heat and keeps it sticking around, is making its way across the state. It has already heated the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to about the same temperatures as last year, according to a report in the Texas Standard.

The heat dome is also driving up temperatures on land. San Antonio last week saw a record heat index of 117 degrees. Some South Texas cities are already seeing heat temperatures broken, and not just by a small amount.

"They usually might beat it by half a degree and maybe, at most, 1 degree," said Victor Murphy of the National Weather service. "So, to see 120-, 150-year records shatter by 2 to 3 degrees is pretty significant. It shows you the magnitude and the strength of this heat ridge."

On the somewhat-bright side, Murphy said summer in Texas is not likely to be quite as bad as last year, which brought 45 days straight of triple-digit heat to much of the state.

ELECTION OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE HOLES IN BALLOT SECURITY

During a Texas House Election Committee hearing last week, election officials acknowledged holes in election laws that have exposed some ballots cast by Texas voters to public scrutiny, The Dallas Morning News reported.

A group of activists suing the



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Texas secretary of state claim they have created an algorithm that can match any voter to an anonymous ballot, though their legal filing redacted details on how their hack of ballot security works.

The secretary of state's office, which oversees the state's elections, has sent guidance to county election officials on how to adopt procedures to ensure ballots available for public inspection are scrubbed of any identifying information, The News reported.

"Every Texan has the right to a secret ballot, and that right must remain sacred. It is unacceptable for any voter to have their ballot choices publicized," Secretary of State Jane Nelson said. "I am issuing emergency guidance to protect the privacy of Texas voters."

MOST SCHOOLS STILL DON'T HAVE ARMED GUARDS, DESPITE LAW

Despite a law that went into effect nine months ago requiring an armed officer at every public school in Texas, most schools have not done so, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Hearst Newspapers, owner of the Chronicle and other Texas newspapers, conducted an analysis of 100 randomly selected school districts around the state and found that at least half adopted an exception provided in the law to avoid having to hire an armed guard. Just one fourth of the surveyed districts had an armed security guard at each campus, while another 22 did not respond.

Some district leaders told the newspaper they were struggling to both pay for the added security or find people to take the

jobs. Grafrod ISD Superintendent Brandon Perry said his single-campus district west of Fort Worth got about \$18,500 in state dollars but needed \$80,000 to hire an officer.

"They require us to hire armed security, hire a school resource officer, but they did not attach additional funding to pay for that expense," Perry said.

State Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, was one of the bill's backers. He acknowledged that legislators had "set a standard that is not attainable," largely because there aren't enough qualified officers willing to take the positions.

"There's physically not enough law enforcement in the state of Texas trained to this level to fill all the positions," he said, making the exemption clause necessary. Otherwise, campuses would be forced to shut down.

FAR FEWER MIGRANTS BEING BUSSED OUT OF STATE

While Gov. Greg Abbott insists he intends to keep busping migrants to cities led by Democratic mayors outside Texas, there has been a dramatic drop in the past six months, the Chronicle reported.

In the last half of 2023, the governor's busing program sent about 77,000 migrants to six U.S. cities with Democratic mayors. That number over the past six months has dropped to about 17,000 amidst court cases and more aggressive efforts by Mexico to stop migrants from getting to Texas.

Abbott's office declined to comment on the dropping busing numbers.

Since 2021, the state has spent \$11 billion on Operation Lone Star in an attempt to stem the tide of migrant arrivals, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The GOP chair of the Senate Border Security Committee has questioned how long Texans will be asked to bear the cost for the operation.

"How long can we do this?"

Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, who has chaired the Border Security Committee since its inception in 2023, asked officials in charge of oversight of the border initiative. "Because the day will come when the comptroller is going to tell us there's a (budget) shortfall; that means some tough decisions here."

BESIDES HEAT WOES, IT'S MATING SEASON FOR TARANTULAS

It is time for male tarantulas to start looking for love, sometimes in all the wrong places, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The state is home to 14 species of the creature, the most common of which is the Texas brown tarantula. Males are out looking for mates, according to

Texas A&M's Field Guide to Common Insects.

Starting next month, female tarantulas will begin laying eggs, anywhere from 100 to 1,000 in a web. While the furry critters are venomous and can be downright scary looking, severe reactions to a bite are rare. And tarantulas will often warn before striking by raising their front legs in a "threat pose."

That means it is time to back off, in case you were wondering.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel editions.

New Health & Social Service Hub in East Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cluding areas of Channelview, Cloverleaf, Highlands, North Shore and Sheldon have been underserved and have experienced limitations in accessing healthcare services, affordable housing options, workforce development opportunities, and social services resources. The Hub will expand services that are currently unavailable.

It'll be a catalyst in bringing critical services that are currently not available in the surrounding areas. It'll provide access to community resources, as well as assist citizens with financial literacy education, improve their understanding of benefits for which they qualify, increase civic engagement, and help them find true housing security.

The areas homeless encampments and families that are under-housed and insecure are prevalent in the North Channel Area and need housing security. In addition, many area residents lack access to health care and social services, which in turn hinders their ability to live healthy, successful lives.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey devastated the North



Pct 2 East Harris County New Healthcare & Social Services Hub Ground Breaking participants. Left to Right: State Senator Carol Alvarado (yellow pants), JP Lucia Bates & Commissioner Adrian Garcia (center).



Harris County Sheriff's Department Deputies with County Commissioner Adrian Garcia (center) breaking ground for the new Pct 2 East Harris County New Healthcare & Social Services Hub.

Channel Area and forced the closure of the only hospital in the area. With the lack of readily access to health care resulting from the closure worsened previously existing health disparities in the area. Additionally, a limited number of service organizations are available in the area to provide access to social services and case management resources to the community.

My friendship with Adrian (Commissioner Garcia) goes way back to when he was a Houston Police Officer working patrol in Houston's East End for 23 years in the early 1980's. Afterwards he served as Houston's City Councilman, (2004 to 2008) Harris County's Sherriff (2009 to 2015) and now Pct. 2 County Commissioner, which begun in 2019, his current term ends on December 31, 2026. With nearly 45 years of service as a public servant his broad experiences from the grassroots level to commissioner enables him to see ways of making real life improvements in people's lives.

No Ban on Fireworks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

100 feet of fireworks stands, gas stations, or even where fireworks are stored.

The fireworks season began on Monday, June 24, and runs through July 4.

"Please be mindful of your neighbors, pets, and especially our veterans who may be suffering from PTSD. Be considerate," she asked.

One of the largest fireworks retailers in Harris County is Top Dog. Their stores open at 10 a.m. and they operate 14 warehouse stores in the Greater Houston area.

"We have lots of deals going on at each of our stores that are all staffed and operated by non-profits who earn money for their high school bands, project graduations and other groups," said Sue Davis, spokesperson for Top Dog.

Top Dog has contributed over \$3 million to community organizations through their work at its

stores.

Davis said they stress safety and fireworks should be handled with care.

Here's a few safety tips to remember:

SAFETY TIPS

—Know where you can legally shoot fireworks. All local cities ban shooting fireworks within their boundaries. Additionally, fireworks may not be shot within 600 feet of a church, hospital, day care center or school, within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids or fireworks are stored and may not be thrown from a motor vehicle.

—Always read and follow label directions.

—Have an adult present. Never give fireworks to small children—fireworks are not toys!

—Always shoot fireworks on level ground away from buildings and vegetation.

—Stay away from illegal explosives. Never ex-

periment or make your own fireworks.

—Always have water handy (a garden hose or a water bucket).

—Never try to re-light a "dud" firework. (Wait 15-20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.)

—Light only one firework at a time.

—Never throw or point fireworks at other people.

—The shooter should wear eye protection. Never have any part of your body over the firework.

—Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can. Do not put fireworks that are still hot in the trash can—this can lead to house fires.

—If necessary to store fireworks, keep them in a cool, dry place.

—And be courteous to your neighbors. Don't shoot fireworks in the early morning hours and pick up your debris.

GP/JC Annual Fireworks Show,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they are the authority having jurisdiction. For that reason, the pyrotechnician will work very closely with their Fire Marshal in order to assure a safe show," Squyres said.

The pyrotechnician this year, Ramiro Chavero, is an employee of Jacinto City who has worked hard over the years to obtain his state license to conduct this type of show. The state licensing process involves

an apprenticeship and a written examination.

The high road will be closed on July 3rd to allow Ramiro and his staff to set up the equipment. The next morning the actual fireworks are loaded into the mortars and wired to the firing system. Weather permitting, the show begins at about 9:15 PM on July 4.

The show is approximately 30 minutes long

and this year will not be simulcast. No one is offering that option to the outlying cities.

The money for the show is budgeted by each city, this year costing taxpayers \$13,500 for each city.

"It's something that is well-attended and enjoyed by everyone," Squyres said.

The public is invited to attend.

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

Good for Summer Grilling!
Order now for 4th of July Parties

Summer Like You Mean It With WORLD-FAMOUS PERFECTION

- ✓ The world's most tender, flavorful steaks, extra-aged to perfection.
- ✓ The juiciest air-chilled chicken, tastiest pork, and so much more.
- ✓ Every bite is a 100% guaranteed gourmet experience you'll crave.



All-Time Grilling Faves

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Potatoes au Gratin (2.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)

75432TMT separately \$234.99

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE **\$99.99**

8 FREE BURGERS (A \$23.99 VALUE)

ORDER NOW! » 1.833.513.1381 Ask for 75432TMT
OmahaSteaks.com/GrillFaves2520

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 75432. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use.pdf. Expires 06/30/24. 24M6132 | Omaha Steaks, LLC



June thru October is Hurricane Season. Protect your Family by Calling now for Information!!



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 713-325-0552 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.





CHAMBER NEWS



Magic OF CHAMBER

CASINO FUNDRAISER
 JOIN US AUGUST 9, 2024
 7PM-11PM
JACINTO CITY TOWNCENTER
 1025 OATES RD
 JACINTO CITY, TX 77029

PLATINUM SPONSOR:





- SILVER SPONSOR: \$1,800**, Includes recognition on all social media and marketing materials, time at event to speak, food and drinks for 12 people, and 70K in casino money.
- CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$700**, Includes food and drinks for 8 people, 40K in casino money and recognition on all social media and marketing materials.
- INDIVIDUALS \$90**, Includes food and drinks, 5K in casino money.
- RAFFLE SPONSOR: (\$200 Value)**
- DONATION TO FOUNDATION: \$ _____**

COMPANY NAME: _____

REP. NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE #: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____

EXP: _____ CCISDI: _____ DATE: _____

You can also make payment over the phone at 713.450.3600, mail a check to 13301 East Freeway, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77015 or request link to pay online.

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

RSVP BY 8/2/24

NORTHCHANNELAREA.COM | 713-450-3600 | @ncacc

\$25 increase for individual tickets after deadline.

Consumer Cellular®

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING. FREEDOM CALLS.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

855-821-6277

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

Carter~Conley Funeral Home

13701 Corpus Christi St.
Houston, TX 77015

(713) 455-5100

*Funerals *Cremations *Pre-Arrangements

Family Owned and Operated
Since 1992

www.CarterConleyFH.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

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



The Season for Big Savings Is Now!

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000



- ✓ Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems
- ✓ Many Payment Options to choose from
- ✓ Service Available Seven Days a Week
- ✓ Licensed and Professional Technicians

Call today! (855) 241-1293

\$49

Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

Price valid for one working unit. Excludes oil fired systems. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$0.01. Offer expires 3/31/2024.

License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

SAVE UP TO \$2000

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

Savings requires purchase and installation of select complete heating and cooling system. Removal and disposal by Company of existing heating and cooling system required. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$0.01. Offer expires 3/31/2024.

License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

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

SERVICES
SERVICES
SERVICES

Mobile Home Title Services

Need assistance with a Mobile, Modular or Manufactured home title, bond or appraisal?

HOUSTON AUTO APPRAISERS

www.texasmobilehometitle.com
281-424-6466



Roy Theophilus Bent, Jr.

SERVICES
SERVICES
SERVICES
SERVICES

MOBILE MECHANIC+

IMPORT or DOMESTIC CARS & TRUCKS SINCE 1981
24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK

WE COME TO YOU



713-465-7300
3515 Hillcroft

www.mobilemechanicofhouston.com
House Calls By Professional Mechanics



MISS TWIBBETT'S PLACE

JOELLEN BALL 713/202-4285

**Pet Sitting 24 Hours a Day
7 Days a Week in My Home**

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

FQ: I just started watching the comedy series "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." I know that two people on the series are married in real life. Did they meet on the show? — G.W.

A: Debuting in 2005 and still going strong, this hit FX (and FXX) network sitcom is the longest-running, non-animated comedy series ever, surpassing the previous record holder "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet." It was created by Rob McElhenney, who plays Mac on show, and stars his off-screen wife Kaitlin Olson as Dee, Glenn Howerton as Dennis, and Charlie Day as Charlie.

Olson and McElhenney fell in love on the set of "It's Always Sunny," but initially kept their romance a secret from their co-stars. They wed two years later and now have two sons.

The strikes in Hollywood pushed back production, but there will be a 17th season — just don't expect it until late 2024 or early 2025.



Rob McElhenney and Kaitlin Olson star in "It's Always Sunny"

HOLLYWOOD — Fifty-five-year-old Hugh Jackman put his Broadway musical training to good use when making "Deadpool & Wolverine."

"When I came back to it, it was really fun, and I was thrilled," Jackman confessed. "My body was still responding, and I realized how good it was for your brain. The hardest bit ... [was] the food! ... For me, for my body type, I'm naturally skinny. To get the size on, that's the hardest bit." Poor Jackman!

Ryan Reynolds said of Jackman, "Just the sheer relentlessness that [he] dedicated [himself] toward stunts, choreography. It was the first time I'd ever seen how invaluable a background in song and dance is when you are doing an action movie!"



Actor and comedian Dick Van Dyke

Another actor eating his way to stardom is Chris Hemsworth, who bounced from the animated Paramount/Hasbro film "Transformers One" (due Sept. 20) to the upcoming "Transformers/G.I. Joe" crossover movie. Why keep making "Transformer" films? Maybe the \$439 million grosses for "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" last summer explain it.

The Barnes & Noble bookstore at The Grove in Hollywood had to call for extra security to handle throngs of fans of Thaa Penghli (of "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital" fame), who came for his book signing of "Seducing Celebrities One Meal at a Time." He regaled them with delicious tales about Claudette Colbert, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Charlton Heston and more. But his favorite moments came when he was joined by his "Days" co-stars Susan Seaforth Hayes and Leanne Hunley, who came to celebrate his book.

of big stars. One such star was Dick Van Dyke, who came to events with his wife at the time, Margie Willett. Dick taught me a great lesson. Back in 1974 at a publicity event, I saw Dick standing in a corner by himself. I approached him, asking, "All alone, Dick? Where's your lovely wife?" He replied, "We separated today. She got the house, I got the mortgage. She got the car, I got the payments. She got the elevator, I got the shaft!"

Undaunted, I forged ahead, trying to save myself, and said, "Well, at least you have 'The New Dick Van Dyke Show' to keep you busy!" "It was canceled today," he sadly said. And from then on, I learned not to mention spouses or TV series to actors ever again!

Now at 98, Dick has announced, "I'd still like to do a one-man show. Cary Grant did it. And Gregory Peck. Went on the road and talked about their careers. I think it'd be fun!" What I'd never dare say to him is that Grant died doing that show in Davenport, Iowa! Can you say swan song?!

Junkie last year and is also releasing a book titled "Inheriting Magic," which is set for publication this December.

Q: Did Bette Midler get cast as one of the cast members on "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" like she wanted? I never heard anything further about it. — W.M.

A: Back in March, film actress Bette Midler ("The First Wives Club") asked via social media if it was "too late" for her to be a "Real Housewife." She was in the mood to "talk some s**t" and get paid for it. Alas, her name was not among the cast of the upcoming season, but she does have a new project on the horizon.

She's part of the ensemble cast of the comedy "The Fabulous Four," which hits theaters this July. Midler stars as a bride whose old college pals (played by Susan Sarandon, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Megan Mullaly) make up her bridal party at her destination wedding.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Having covered Hollywood parties for decades, I became friends with lots

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Q: Whatever happened to actress Jennifer Love Hewitt? I loved her show "Ghost Whisperer" and would love to see her do a supernatural theme again. — W.J.

A: Jennifer Love Hewitt first gained fame as Sarah in the 1990s drama series "Party of Five." She followed that up with the hit scary film "I Know What You Did Last Summer" before starring in the TV show "Ghost Whisperer," which ended in 2010 after five seasons. Since then, she's starred in three other hit series: "The Client List," "Criminal Minds" and "9-1-1."

Next up, she'll star, direct and produce "The Holiday Junkie," a TV movie for Lifetime later in 2024. Her husband, Brian Hallisay, and their children will also appear in the film. It's a very personal project for Hewitt about moving on during the winter holiday season while coping with the loss of her mother.

Elaine Frontain Bryant (EVP, head of programming genres for A&E, Lifetime and LMN) stated that "Jennifer is beloved by Lifetime and our viewers. We're excited to work with her again on this special project near and dear to her and to have it as one of our cornerstones for our 'It's a Wonderful Lifetime' slate."

In addition, Hewitt launched her marketing and consumer brand The Holiday

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

NICE. SUMMER IS HERE. THE FLOWERS ARE ALL BLOOMED AND BRIGHT RED.

AND LOOK AT THE SOUTH PASTURE. IT IS SUCH A VIBRANT SHADE OF GREEN.

WOW, THAT SKY IS A DAZZLING BLUE AND THAT SUN IS A BRIGHT....

BLINDING STARK WHITE AND YELLOW WITH PURPLE POLKA DOTS AND SWIRLS.

TIGER

by Bud Blake

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

LOVE MAY BE BLIND...

...BUT MARRIAGE IS A REAL EYE-OPENER!!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Legs are moved. 2. Hair is different. 3. Dog's leg is moved. 4. Cap is turned around. 5. Tongue is added. 6. Apron is missing.

June 24, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

ACROSS

- Mortgage again, for short
- Carried out
- Classic Fords
- Golf bag item
- King, in Cannes
- Black-and-white cookie
- Candidate
- Texas city
- Fall flowers
- Activate
- Wee bit
- Elevator name
- Enjoy the Alps
- "Family Guy" daughter
- "Have —!"
- Teller's partner
- '60s war zone
- Canyon sound
- Loses color
- eBay offer
- Badge metal
- Computer debut of 1998
- Wrong (Pref.)
- Tranquil
- Circular window
- War god
- Cancel a choice
- Pudding variety
- Greek H
- Hardy cabbage
- '60s war zone
- Deeds
- Radiator sound
- Loves' quarrel
- Winter Games org.
- "Same here"
- Like some jeans
- Cut across
- 1920s art style
- Anon
- Baby carriage
- Actress Hagen
- Suntan lotion letters
- Mauna —
- Roundabout
- Prattle
- Sushi fish
- Great weight
- Archivals
- Brunch cocktails
- Diego
- "Monopoly" cubes
- Surrenders
- Mopes
- Poet Teasdale
- Idle of Monty Python
- Bound
- Golden State sch.
- Editor's "keep it"
- UFO crew

DOWN

- Morning co-host Kelly
- Messes up
- Yard fraction
- Map within a map
- City on the Elbe

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia Test Answers

1. Jamestown, Virginia; 2. Dakota Johnson; 3. Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4, 1872; 4. Normandy, France; 5. Temperature; 6. The Dog Star, Sirius; 7. Barry, Robin and Maurice; 8. Allstate; 9. Fire; 10. A pout.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: What is America's first colony?
2. ENTERTAINERS: Which actress' mother is actress Melanie Griffith and grandmother is actress Tippi Hedren?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is the only one born on Independence Day?
4. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the Mont-Saint-Michel medieval monastery located?
5. SCIENCE: What does a kelvin measure?
6. ASTRONOMY: Which star is the brightest in the sky?
7. MUSIC: What are the first names of the Gibb brothers who formed The Bee Gees?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which company's slogan is "You're in good hands"?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What did Prometheus steal from the gods, resulting in his eternal punishment?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby turkey called?

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



HOUSTON METHODIST LEADING CARE where you need us

Convenient, easy-to-access locations for primary, specialty and emergency care in Baytown

We offer a full spectrum of care, including:

- Primary care physicians for you and your family, providing personal care and service
- Specialists with innovative treatments and customized programs for all conditions
- Collaborative teams of experts using the newest technologies and latest research

