



Reba McEntire Opens at Houston Rodeo on Tuesday, March 4.

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VOLUME 13, NO. 4 (#552) THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Severe Weather with Ice & SNOW this week

The US Weather Service has warned motorists and homeowners that unusually cold temperatures this week will present dangerous conditions.

By midweek, temperatures at night are expected to reach 20 degrees, with no more than 50 degrees during the day.

Precipitation will bring ice and snow in some locations. Forecasters say Houston may get 2 to 5 inches of snow, and elsewhere roads may be icy. Mayor Whitmire has advised all residents to stay home on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Most school districts, and colleges have cancelled classes for Tuesday and Wednesday, also.

North Channel Chamber 48th Annual Gala

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce presents its 48th Annual Gala on Friday, January 31, 2025 6:30pm Reception, 7:00pm Dinner. Attire: Cocktail Masquerade.

Awards and Installation Gala Banquet, at the Hyatt Regency Baytown Houston Hotel. Tickets \$100. RSVP 713-450-3600 or yesenia@ncchamber.com.

Senator Alvarado Receives Important Committee Assignments for 89th Legislature

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

With the start of the 89th Texas Legislature comes the all-important committee assignments for each legislator. Sen. Carol Alvarado received placement on some powerful committees that will be beneficial to her constituents.

This session, she was appointed to the Senate Committee on Finance, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Senate Committee on



Texas State Senator Carol Alvarado

Natural Resources, and Senate Committee on Nominations.

Alvarado has already proposed a bill relating to performance by CenterPoint Energy following the debacle after the last hurricane.

“My position on these powerful committees is an opportunity to be a strong voice for Houston, Harris County and our entire region,” she said from Austin.

“These appointments reflect my career-long commitment to meeting

the needs of everyday Texans, creating economic opportunity and bolstering economic engines like the Port of Houston/Ship Channel area.”

Alvarado will act as an appropriator of a nearly \$200 billion biennial budget.

“My focus will be on accountability, responsibility and investment in our public education system. I appreciate the trust the Lieutenant Governor has placed in me with these assignments,” she said.

HIGHLANDS ROTARY

Chili Feast will feature Unique Auction items

HIGHLANDS – Rotarians are in full preparation for their big annual Chili Feast, to be held Saturday, February 1st at the social hall of St. Jude’s Catholic Church on S. Main Street.

A large crowd is expected again this year, and people are anxious to get out and meet their friends in this 50th year tradition.

The event includes delicious chili dinners, cooked with Chester Stasney’s world-famous recipe, a raffle for 16 prizes including a new 2025 Chevy SUV, a silent auction and a live auction. Chili Feast Chairman Patricia Scott pointed out that the live auction contains a number of desirable items, which are



The Live Auction will include several beautiful and unique Quilts made by Rotarian Connie Russell. These are always a favorite of the crowd. Above, a quilt that was in the auction last year.

offered only once a year to event participants.

This year the auction will include an outdoor porch swing, a Dooley &

Burke designer purse, gift cards for crawfish lovers from the Crawfish Shack and the Mud Bug which include crawfish dinners

and other memorabilia, a Craftsman Tool Set, gardening cart and supplies, 4 passes to the Crosby Fair & Rodeo plus parking, mechanics 297 piece tool set, Picnic Table, ad in the Star Courier, Stihl chain saw, SuperBowl liquor basket, Banana Pudding Cheese Cake, miniature childrens’ vehicles, and Valentine themed items. This is only a partial listing with more to come.

Also available will be three unique and special handmade quilts by Connie Russell, including patriotic and sports team themes including the Astros.

With Valentine’s Day coming up, there are sev-

eral Valentine themed items to be auctioned.

Rotarians and local businesses are selling tickets now, for \$100 for the raffle and two chili dinners. Club president Gay-Lynn Milliorn said they are going fast this year. Tickets are available at local banks, businesses, Dr. White’s dental office, Turner Chevrolet, and many other locations. Or you can call 713-906-2337 for more information.

Chairperson Scott reminds everyone that Rotary welcomes corporate sponsors, and donations of items to the live and silent auctions. Contact her at 713-906-2337.

Music Legends and Rising Stars Collide: The 2025 RODEOHOUSTON® Unveils Epic Entertainment Lineup

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is thrilled to release the star entertainer lineup for the 2025 Rodeo season, scheduled for March 4 – March 23. It showcases a diverse lineup that includes a variety of country music, pop, rock, regional Mexican, as well as Christian, R&B and hip-hop.

“Each season, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo aims to bring a strong lineup of artists that reflect our Western roots while still offering an array of music that embraces Houston’s culture,” said Chris Boleman, president and CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. “Nine entertainers will make their debut on the star stage, alongside some Rodeo fan-favorites and hall-of-fame artists, some of which are returning for the first time in nearly 20 years.”

The artists that will light up the star stage for the first time in 2025 include Riley Green, Bailey Zimmerman, Carin León, AJR, Warren Zeiders, Grupo Frontera, Charley Crockett, Zach Top and Post Malone. Among long-time returning Rodeo artists are Brad Paisley and

Date	Day	Artist 1	Artist 2
4	Tuesday	REBA MCENTIRE	JOURNEY
5	Wednesday	RILEY GREEN	WARREN ZEIDERS
6	Thursday	AJR	GRUPO FRONTERA
7	Friday	BUN B'S BIRTHDAY BONANZA	CHARLEY CROCKETT
8	Saturday	BAILEY ZIMMERMAN	POST MALONE
9	Sunday	CARIN LEÓN	OLD DOMINION
10	Monday	BRAD PAISLEY	CODY JINKS
11	Tuesday	ZACH TOP	PARKER MCGOLLUM
12	Wednesday	LAUREN DAIGLE	BROOKS & DUNN
13	Thursday	JON PARDI	LUKE BRYAN

Luke Bryan. The 2025 Rodeo will be Paisley’s 17th performance and Bryan’s 12th.

REBA MCENTIRE holds one of the organization’s highest honors as the first woman inducted to RODEOHOUSTON’s Star Trail of Fame in 2007. Her 2025 appearance will mark her 20th performance at the Rodeo and her first time back in 18 years.

In a highly requested appearance, Grupo Frontera will make their debut on Go Tejano Day, presented by Fiesta Mart, on Sunday, March 16. For the second year, the 2025 lineup features two Latin artists with Carin León also making his debut performance on Sunday, March 9. The Rodeo is also thrilled to bring back fan favorite artists, including Brooks & Dunn, Cody Jinks, Lauren Daigle, Jon Pardi, Old Dominion and the Greater Houston area’s very own, Parker McCollum and Bun B.

Bun B will bring another group of popular R&B and hip-hop artists to the stage with him again this year for his Birthday Bo-

Continued. See RODEOHOUSTON, Page 5

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees Hosts first Spotlight Awards Ceremony



The Board of Trustees recently held its first-ever Sheldon Spotlight Awards, recognizing the exceptional achievements of approximately 160 students from across the school district. The event, which will now occur twice a year, honors students for their accomplishments at the regional, state, and national levels in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. On January 14, parents, faculty, and community members gathered to celebrate the students' hard work and dedication. This new tradition highlights the school's commitment to acknowledging student excellence and inspiring continued success.

KHS Senior Named to TMEA All State Choir



Arielle Monuma-Antoine, a member of the C.E. King High School Choir will perform with the Texas All-State Treble Choir in San Antonio, Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the Henry B. González Convention Center as part of the 2025 Texas Music Educators Association Clinici/Convention.

Arielle Monuma-Antoine was chosen for this prestigious honor through a competitive process held this year across the state at District, Region, and Area levels. Arielle Monuma-Antoine sings at C.E. King High School under the direction of Taylor G.

Surratt and Cryselle Cruz, who are members of the Texas Music Educators Association, a 14,000+ member organization headquartered in Austin. This is Arielle Monuma-Antoine's first time to perform as a member of a TMEA All-State organization. Arielle Monuma-Antoine is the child of Claude Monuma. She is one of two students in the history of King High School to be named to the All-State Choir.

High school students selected to perform in the All-State concerts have competed through auditions to qualify at the state

level. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. 1,875 students are selected through a process that began with over 70,000 students from around the state vying for this honor to perform in one of 18 ensembles.

A special congratulations to C.E. King High School band students oboe player, senior Santiago Cruz, tuba player, sophomore Kadya Henry and tenor, sophomore Nicholas Montelongo for participating in the Area audition round which is the final step in the All-State selection process.

Galena Park ISD Trustees Honored During School Board Recognition Month



Photo By: Christopher Gause

Story by Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Houston, Texas: January is School Board Recognition Month, and Galena Park ISD (GPISD) is celebrating its trustees for their commitment to meeting the educational needs of all children. As strong advocates for public education, our locally elected school board members also work to empower students to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and ever-changing world. GPISD trustees also work closely with parents, educational professionals, and other community members to create an educational vision. Such characteristics seamlessly align with this year's School Board Recognition Month theme of "Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas."

"Our board members' commitment to education—and this community—is vital. It is their vision and leadership that makes Galena Park ISD...A Great Place to Be," GPISD Superintendent Dr. John Moore said.

As Dan Troxel, Texas Association of School Board Executive Director, stated, "This year's theme emphasizes the critical role board members play in shaping the future of our state. School Boards help connect education to opportunity and the theme, 'Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas' showcases their investment in our state's future work."

Thank you to our Board of Trustees, Norma Hernandez, President; Ramon Garza, Vice-President; Linda Clark Sherrard, Secretary; Adrian Stephens, Trustee; Noe Esparza, Trustee; Jose Jimenez, Trustee; and Amanda Erebia, Trustee for your leadership through Galena Park ISD!

Learn more about Galena Park ISD's Board of Trustees at: <https://www.galenaparkisd.com>



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CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

How do we help

When devastation hits, we want to help but often do not know where to begin. There will be national organizations that will arrive to help and there will be agencies associated with the state as well as with the county assisting after a natural disaster. There are larger businesses who will step in to assist the community with needs and we are fortunate enough to have many churches and relief organizations ready to help. Over the past few years, our community has worked together to form alliances, and instead of competing with one another, they have worked to collaborate in the times of great needs.

After you know that your dwelling place is safe and secure, then you can move into action. Check on your family members, your neighbors, your coworkers and on the others in the area. If we can access the internet, there will be resources made available. But please think about the neighbors who may not have access to the internet or even to television. Keep a list handy of the Seniors, single parent families, the non-English speakers as well as the unsheltered community members. Check on those individuals. If you see a relief distribution scheduled, be sure to tell others.

Even before disaster strikes, we should spend time at home, decluttering items we no longer need. Prepare an emergency item box and throughout the year, toss those items that you no longer need, such as old jackets, coats, sweaters, blankets, and even old towels. As you sort the items, think about what you can give to individuals, to non-profits, shelters and even what can be used to wrap your neighbors' pipes if they happen to be out of town when harsh weather strikes.

Many of the older residents in Channeview, Galena Park, Jacinto City, North Shore, and Sheldon are unable to prepare for severe weather and certainly need assistance after severe weather strikes. It is so much easier to be prepared than to be caught off-guard when an emergency strikes. All of us should have learned during COVID how important it is to keep toilet tissue, bottled water and over the counter medicines stocked up for the future. I remember growing up my dad would tell us to always fill the gas tank as soon as it got to the half tank, and I will never forget how upset I was with myself with the tornadoes of 1992 happened and I could not get gas to reach my parents' destroyed home to check on my mother's safety. Today, I try to always fill it at the half tank level.

The older I grow, the more I have learned to plan and keep lists of what needs to be prepared just in case dangerous weather arrives. And it is understood that it is more important than ever to begin those plans with prayer.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Welcomes First Baby of 2025



Swaddled with love, Baby Ariely was born at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital at 3:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1. (Photo: Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital)

BAYTOWN - (Jan. 1, 2025) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital announced the birth of its first baby of the New Year. The joyous event took place at 3 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1, marking a bright new beginning to the year for the family. Baby Ariely Yarleth Contreras, a girl, arrived weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19 inches long.

Parents Brenda Peralta and Ruben Contreras of Baytown are both elated about the birth of their new daughter and thank the entire health care team for providing great care throughout the labor and delivery process.

The family also received a special gift basket prepared by the labor and delivery department nurses in honor of them delivering the first baby of the year.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: 'Does Chlorine Affect gold jewelry'



When it comes to jewelry, one of the most common concerns for people is whether their beautiful gold pieces will be damaged or affected by various substances they may come into contact with, including chlorine. So, does chlorine affect gold jewelry? In this article, we will delve into the answer to this question, exploring the effects of chlorine on gold jewelry, what to expect, and what precautions you can take to protect your treasured items.

What is Chlorine?

Chlorine is a common element that is often found in household cleaning products, pools, and spas. In its pure form, chlorine is a toxic, greenish-yellow gas. In the form of sodium hypochlorite, also known as bleach, chlorine is commonly used in households for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.

Does Chlorine Affect Gold Jewelry?

To directly answer the question: Yes, chlorine can affect gold jewelry. Exposure to chlorine can damage, discolor, and tarnish gold jewelry, regardless of its purity level or karat weight.

Here are some potential effects of chlorine on gold jewelry:

- **Corrosion:** Chlorine can react with the metal compounds in gold, leading to corrosion and the weakening of the jewelry's structure.
- **Discoloration:** Chlorine can cause gold jewelry to darken, become yellowish or greyish, or develop white spots, depending on the concentration of the substance.
- **Tarnish:** Chlorine can cause gold jewelry to tarnish, leading to the appearance of black or grey lines or streaks.

How Does Chlorine Affect Gold Jewelry?

The effects of chlorine on gold jewelry can vary depending on several factors, including:

- **Duration of exposure:** The longer your gold jewelry is exposed to chlorine, the greater the damage will be.
- **Concentration of chlorine:** The higher the concentration of chlorine, the greater the damage will be.
- **Type of gold:** Different types of gold, such as white gold, yellow gold, or rose gold, can be affected differently by chlorine. **White gold**, for example, is more susceptible to discoloration due to its high copper content.
- **Protective coatings:** Some gold jewelry may have protective coatings or treatments that can prevent chlorine damage. **Rhodium plating**, for instance, can provide extra protection against corrosion and discoloration.

Table 1: Effects of Chlorine on Gold Jewelry by Karat Weight

Karat Weight	Potential Effects
9K, 14K, 18K	Corrosion, Discoloration, Tarnish
22K, 23K	More severe corrosion and discoloration
24K (fine gold)	Prone to tarnish due to high copper content

How to Protect Your Gold Jewelry from Chlorine Damage

To minimize the effects of chlorine on your gold jewelry, follow these guidelines:

- **Avoid wearing gold jewelry while bathing, swimming, or participating in activities that involve water exposure.**
- **Take off your gold jewelry when cleaning or using cleaning products.**
- **Clean your gold jewelry separately** using mild soap and water, and avoid exposing it to harsh chemicals or ultrasonic cleaners.
- **Store your gold jewelry separately** from other metals to prevent scratching or tangling.
- **Use jewelry storage cases or cloth-lined cases** to store your gold jewelry and keep it away from chlorine fumes or spills.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while gold jewelry is often seen as a durable and low-maintenance material, chlorine can still cause significant damage to your treasured items. By understanding how chlorine affects gold jewelry, what to expect, and what precautions to take, you can enjoy your beautiful gold pieces for years to come. Remember to store them properly, clean them regularly, and avoid exposure to chlorine whenever possible.

Remember, **prevention is the best protection against chlorine damage.** So, take the necessary steps to safeguard your gold jewelry from the harmful effects of chlorine, and enjoy wearing them with confidence.

Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization and the Retail Jewelers Organization for many years.

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.

top ten

GIRL BABY NAMES

1. Olivia	6. Amelia
2. Emma	7. Isabella
3. Ava	8. Mia
4. Charlotte	9. Evelyn
5. Sophia	10. Harper



Source: Social Security, 2020

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Texas Budget Writers Will be Helped Again by a Large Budget Surplus

By Rahul Sreenivasan

Earlier this week, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that he expects \$194.6 billion of state revenue to be available for general-purpose spending in the fiscal 2026-27 biennium. This biennial revenue estimate is an important step in the continuous two-year state budget process and gives initial funding parameters to House and Senate budget writers for the legislative session now underway.

Here are some initial takeaways on what the numbers could mean for Texas:

Expected Fund Balance and Steady Revenue Collections Drive Projections

The \$194.6 billion in available revenue is, for the second straight budget cycle, substantially boosted by a fund balance, or “budget surplus,” of \$23.8 billion carried over from the previous biennium.

A fund balance of this magnitude is possible due in part to a combination of supplemental COVID-related federal aid as well as legislators’ discipline in allocating resources for maintaining state government operations that leaves a sizable portion of the increased revenue from the current and previous budget cycles.

Also, Texas’ consistently robust economy has driven growth in recent years in the largest source of state tax revenue — sales tax collections.

Opportunity to Address Big Issues

This large “surplus” and strong anticipated revenue outlook gives budget writers more flexibility. Similar to last session, this outlook presents an opportunity to strategically and more comprehensively address difficult, long-term challenges like looming water infrastructure and supply issues.

Lawmakers can also address workforce readiness by continuing the work begun in previous sessions on school finance, coordination of education and workforce agencies and community college funding reform to ensure Texas’ educational and workforce systems can meet rapidly evolving labor force needs.

Legislative leaders have signaled interest in pursuing more funding for the Texas Energy Fund, additional property tax relief, as well as for public education. The revenue outlook likely makes these priorities more viable.

Economic Stabilization Fund is Expected to Reach its Cap

Hegar also announced that Texas is expected to reach the \$26.5 billion cap on the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) more commonly referred to as the Rainy Day Fund, at the beginning of fiscal year 2026. This would mark the first time the Rainy Day Fund has hit its fund balance limit in its nearly 40-year history.

In response to hitting the cap, oil and gas severance tax revenues that would have been transferred to the ESF would go to the general revenue fund instead.

What’s Next

The release of the revenue estimate kicks off the part of the two-year state budget cycle where lawmakers weigh in on finalized budget requests from state agencies. Initial drafts of the state budget should be filed in the House and Senate in upcoming weeks, and legislators will begin hearings shortly after on their 1,000-plus page state budget.

At Texas 2036, we will continue to analyze and keep you up to speed on the state budget as it progresses and the implications for Texas in the days and months ahead. Follow us at www.texas2036.org for the latest updates.

Rahul Sreenivasan is director of government performance and fiscal policy for Texas 2036, a nonprofit public policy organization building data-driven strategies to improve opportunities for all Texans.

Houston Rodeo announces Star-Studded 2025 Lineup,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



STAR ENTERTAINMENT
The following entertainers will perform on the RODEO-HOUSTON stage in NRG Stadium, March 4 – 23.

Tuesday, March 4 - REBA McENTIRE Opening Day, presented by Shell Federal Credit Union

Wednesday, March 5 - Riley Green Armed Forces Appreciation Day, presented by Crown Royal

Thursday, March 6 - AJR

Friday, March 7 - Bun B's Birthday Bonanza Black Heritage Day, presented by Kroger

Saturday, March 8 - Bailey Zimmerman

Sunday, March 9 - Carin León

Monday, March 10 - Brad Paisley First Responders Day, presented by BP America

Tuesday, March 11 - Zach Top

Wednesday, March 12 - Lauren Daigle Community Day, presented by TC Energy

Thursday, March 13 - Jon Pardi Volunteer Appreciation Day, presented Phillips 66

Friday, March 14 - Journey

Saturday, March 15 - Warren Zeiders

Sunday, March 16 - Grupo Frontera Go Tejano Day, presented by Fiesta Mart

Monday, March 17 - Charley Crockett

Tuesday, March 18 - Post Malone

Wednesday, March 19 - Old Dominion

Thursday, March 20 - Cody Jinks

Friday, March 21 - Parker McCollum

Saturday, March 22 - Brooks & Dunn

Sunday, March 23 - Luke Bryan

Stay tuned for details about who will join his performance on Black Heritage Day, presented by Kroger, as March 7 inches closer.

Together, the 20 acts have a total of 67 Academy of Country Music Awards, 51 Country Music Association Awards, 34 American Music Awards, 26 Billboard Music Awards and 10 GRAMMY Awards and 5 Latin GRAMMY® Awards.

INDIVIDUAL RODEO TICKETS

Tickets will go on sale at rodeohouston.com/tickets Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, in two waves, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Wave 1 tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. for March 4 – March 13 performances.

Wave 2 tickets go on sale at 2 p.m. for March 14 – 23 performances.

(The Online Waiting

Rooms will open at 9:30 a.m. for Wave 1 and 1:30 p.m. for Wave 2. Customers in the Waiting Room will be randomly selected to enter the store to purchase tickets at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

A place in the Waiting Room does not guarantee tickets.

Ticket prices start at \$25, plus a \$4 convenience fee.

Individual Rodeo tickets can be purchased online. All tickets will be delivered electronically via AXS Mobile ID Delivery; please allow 48 hours for delivery.

To access your purchased tickets, download the RODEOHOUSTON app and login with the email used to purchase tickets.

About the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The Houston Livestock

Show and Rodeo promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth, showcases Western heritage, and provides year-round educational support within the community. Since its beginning in 1932, the Rodeo has committed more than \$630 million to the youth of Texas and education. The 2025 Rodeo is scheduled for March 4 – March 23. The 2025 World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Contest, presented by Cotton Holdings, is scheduled for Feb. 27 – March 1.

For more information, visit rodeohouston.com, download the RODEOHOUSTON app and follow RODEOHOUSTON online via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube for all the latest news.

KHS Pantherette Colonel named to All-State Dance Team



King High School Pantherettes Colonel Dezerai Williams has been selected as a member of the Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA) All-State Dance Team. She represented Sheldon ISD at the TDEA Convention in Houston. Dezerai was one of 300 students selected from a statewide process for this honor, and she was selected as a featured dancer during their performance. Dezerai is a junior at King High School and is a part of the Early College High School.

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Police Warn Public of Surge in 'Jugging'

Have you ever felt uneasy after withdrawing cash from your bank's ATM? Or even after visiting a teller inside the bank for a withdrawal?

Sure, we all know it's wise to be aware of our surroundings, hide our PIN numbers, and avoid withdrawing large sums. But now, a growing crime trend known as "jugging" or "bank jugging" targets individuals right after they leave financial institutions, making every trip to the bank a potential risk. Here's what you need

to know to protect yourself and your hard-earned money.

What Is Jugging?

Jugging is a term used to describe a criminal activity in which individuals loiter around banks, ATMs, or other check-cashing establishments to observe customers who are withdrawing cash. These criminals patiently track their target and wait for the opportune moment to commit a theft or robbery. Individuals need to remain vigilant both during and after the cash



withdrawal process, especially when transitioning to other locations, as this is when targets are most

vulnerable to potential jugging incidents.

A Nationwide Concern

While Texas has seen a significant spike in jugging incidents, with Austin Police saying more than \$500,000 was lost in 2022 alone, this crime of opportunity is not isolated to the Lone Star State.

Officials in Florida said a man was caught on video smashing a car window and grabbing an envelope of cash. Police say it's possible he followed the vehicle from a Bank of America and waited until the driver was inside a restaurant to strike.

Another notable case of the crime was in Fairfax, Virginia. Three criminals targeted someone who had made a \$10,000 withdrawal from the bank. They followed the victim to a local shopping center and waited until the target exited the car to smash and grab the money. Authorities believe there have likely been more victims targeted by this particular group.

Authorities are warning that bank jugging is on the rise, with perpetrators lingering at banks, eavesdropping on conversations, and then targeting individuals who withdraw significant sums.

What Is the Punishment for Jugging?

While "jugging" is not currently defined by the law, a person accused of bank jugging may be charged with a theft offense, such as robbery or burglary of motor vehicles.

In Texas, if a person is convicted of robbing a bank patron, they could face a prison sentence of two to 20 years, along with a fine of up to \$10,000. This is considered a second-degree felony. If the person used a weapon during the robbery, it would be classified as a first-degree felony, carrying a prison term of up to 99 years and a fine of up to \$10,000.

If the jugging takes place in a motor vehicle, it would be considered burglary of a vehicle, which is

a class A misdemeanor. If convicted of this offense, a person could be sentenced to up to one year in jail and fined up to \$4,000.

Protecting Yourself

How can you avoid falling victim to this disturbing trend?

Law enforcement agencies offer several tips to protect yourself the next time you withdraw cash:

- Take note of anyone who is hanging around in the lobby of the bank or parking lot that does not appear to be immediately occupied.

- Don't allow yourself to be distracted while visiting a financial institution: don't be on your phone or don't wear earbuds.

- Notice any vehicles that may follow you out of the parking lot to ensure you are not being followed.

- After receiving cash, secure it in a different bag before you leave the counter; use a briefcase or a purse, rather than the standard zipper cash bag or envelope.

- Lock your car doors when you get into your vehicle.

- Do not leave large amounts of money inside your vehicle.

- If you believe you're being followed for any length of time upon leaving a financial institution, call 911 or drive to the nearest police station or fire/EMS station.

- Speak with bank security to see if they can help you with large withdrawals or if they have any safety suggestions for withdrawing a significant amount of cash.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The first step to safeguarding oneself from "jugging" is to be aware of it and take steps to reduce the risk of falling victim to this new crime tactic.

<https://truthfully.com/article/beware-of-jugging-robbery-on-the-rise>

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

GALENA PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2024

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Local, Intermediate, and Out of State Revenues	\$ 117,437,557	\$ 36,739,162	\$ 1,169,640	\$ 3,059,193	\$158,405,552
5800 State Program Revenues	132,167,175	2,320,984	-	4,001,215	\$138,489,374
5900 Federal Program Revenues	5,952,601	-	-	60,633,169	\$ 66,585,770
5020 Total Revenues	255,557,333	39,060,146	1,169,640	67,693,577	363,480,696
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	133,904,051	-	-	26,670,680	160,574,731
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	2,672,850	-	-	58,290	2,731,140
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	4,593,967	-	-	4,762,271	9,356,238
0021 Instructional Leadership	5,787,505	-	-	742,156	6,529,661
0023 School Leadership	17,730,761	-	-	370,176	18,100,937
0031 Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	9,197,382	-	-	1,394,995	10,592,377
0032 Social Work Services	519,121	-	-	853,789	1,372,910
0033 Health Services	2,215,875	-	-	482,933	2,698,808
0034 Student Transportation	10,045,739	-	-	918,317	10,964,056
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	18,502,966	18,502,966
0036 Extracurricular Activities	4,664,701	-	-	1,765,219	6,429,920
0041 General Administration	9,995,645	-	-	245,032	10,240,677
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	29,396,362	-	-	5,029,022	34,425,384
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	4,180,209	-	-	2,727,923	6,908,132
0053 Data Processing Services	5,907,895	-	-	239,696	6,147,591
0061 Community Services	1,583,618	-	-	1,640,759	3,224,377
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long-Term Debt	1,181,450	21,290,673	-	294,748	22,766,871
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long-Term Debt	13,658	16,988,296	455,122	21,505	17,478,581
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Costs and Fees	-	6,200	-	-	6,200
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,393,634	-	26,286,267	2,994	27,682,895
Intergovernmental:					
0093 Payments related to shared service arrangements	-	-	-	372,894	372,894
0099 Payments to County Appraisal District	1,172,330	-	-	-	1,172,330
6030 Total Expenditures	246,156,753	38,285,169	26,741,389	67,096,365	378,279,676
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	9,400,580	774,977	(25,571,749)	597,212	(14,798,980)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7912 Sales of Real or Personal Property	159,043	-	-	52,358	211,401
7913 Issuance of Lease Assets	1,377,967	-	-	18,803	1,396,770
7915 Transfers In	-	-	10,443,567	-	10,443,567
7949 Issuance of SBITA Assets	944,550	-	-	110,886	1,055,436
8911 Transfers Out	(10,498,567)	-	-	-	(10,498,567)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(8,017,007)	-	10,443,567	182,047	2,608,607
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	1,383,573	774,977	(15,128,182)	779,259	(12,190,373)
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	220,569,462	2,089,638	33,176,480	7,498,497	263,334,077
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 221,953,035	\$ 2,864,615	\$ 18,048,298	\$ 8,277,756	\$251,143,704

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LEGAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS & CLAIMANTS

All Persons, firms and corporations having claims against Ruby Edna Jackson of Houston Texas, deceased as of February 6, 2023, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 25th day of April 2025. Debtors of the deceased are asked to make immediate payment.

The matter is held in Harris County Courts under #523977.

Paula Benson, Executor 12315 San Lucia River Dr. Houston, Texas 77026.

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Quintessa Swindell, left, and Leo Woodall star.

“Prime Target”

“Queer” (R) — Former James Bond portrayer Daniel Craig took up quite an interesting role in this period romantic drama from director Luca Guadagnino (“Challengers”). Based on the novella by William S. Burroughs, the film takes place in 1950s Mexico City and follows American expatriate William Lee (Craig). While bar hopping one day, Lee comes across a young man named Eugene (Drew Starkey) and instantly becomes infatuated with him. The quiet Eugene attempts to reciprocate Lee’s actions but only gives up so much of himself at a time when homophobia runs rampant throughout society. Out now to rent, “Queer” makes viewers feel like they happened upon a few diary entries about a man’s greatest love affair. (VUDU)

“Kinds of Kindness” (R) — Emma Stone (“Poor Things”) and Jesse Plemons (“Civil War”) lead this movie with three separate winding tales that will leave you at a bit of a loss, to be frank, not necessarily in a good or bad way. The first story centers around an employee named Robert Fletcher who lives his life exactly how his boss tells him to, including his meals, his house, and his relationship. It explores what happens to Robert when his boss suddenly refuses to dictate his life anymore. The second story’s plot seems straight out of a “Black Mirror” episode, with a police officer convinced that his wife has been replaced by a clone. The third and final story tells a tale about sex cult members who are looking for a woman with the ability to reawaken the dead. All of these stories are loosely connected, but it’ll take some sleuthing to figure out exactly how. Out now. (Hulu)

“Small Things Like These” (PG-13) — Oscar winner Cillian

Murphy and also (“Oppenheimer”) stars in this historical drama taking place in Ireland during Christmas 1985. He plays coal merchant Bill Furlong, who spends his days laboring and his nights at home with his wife and five daughters. Tortured by memories of his childhood, Bill often keeps to himself and rarely falls out of line with his routine. But one day, as he sets off for work early, he encounters a pregnant teenage girl who is locked in the coal shed of the local convent. His discovery of her subsequently leads to his planning to free her from the abusive nuns, and in turn, he is able to confront the ghosts of his past. This short 98-minute film is out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Prime Target” (TV-MA) — Leo Woodall (“One Day”) has clinched his second main role after getting his big break in the second season of “The White Lotus” as Jack. In this thriller miniseries, he stars as Edward, a brilliant mathematics student whose work will eventually enable him to access every computer in the world. Obviously, an invention such as this would be disastrous in the wrong hands, and the wrong hands are hard at work to make sure that Edward’s work doesn’t come to fruition. Luckily, NSA agent Taylah Sanders (Quintessa Swindell) has been tasked with watching over Edward, and if they put their two minds together, they’ll be able to figure out who’s sabotaging the project. The show premieres Jan. 22. (Apple TV+)

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Q: I’m really enjoying the show “Silo” — so much so that I went back and read the books that the show is based on in between seasons. Who is the actress who plays Juliette? — K.I.

A: Swedish actress Rebecca Ferguson stars as engineer-turned-sheriff Juliette Nichols in the dystopian drama “Silo,” which recently finished its second season on Apple TV+. It’s based on a series of novels by author Hugh Howey. “Silo” has been renewed for a third season with Ferguson returning. If she looks familiar, it’s because she’s co-starred in several hit films, most notably the recent “Mission: Impossible” sequels with Tom Cruise as well as “Dune: Part One” and “Part Two” with Timothy Chalamet.

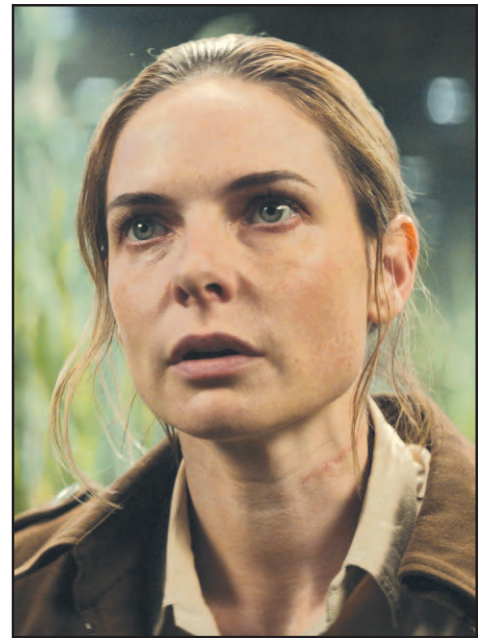
Ferguson honed her acting skills on a Swedish soap opera as a teen before eventually branching out into American productions. Cruise took note of her performance in the STARZ miniseries “The White Queen,” resulting in her being cast in “Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation.” Her talent eventually led to her snagging roles opposite Michael Fassbender in “The Snowman,” Hugh Jackman in “The Greatest Showman,” and Chris Hemsworth in “Men in Black: International.”

Her future is bright. Next up for her is the untitled “Peaky Blinders” film with Cillian Murphy and the untitled Kathryn Bigelow-directed White House thriller with Idris Elba.

Q: What ever happened to The Weeknd after his show on HBO was canceled? Is he just going to concentrate on singing now? — K.K.

A: Abel Tesfaye, also known as The Weeknd, hasn’t quit acting, but it would be understandable if he got discouraged after his series “The Idol” was canceled by HBO after one season. Prior to this, he had a setback on stage where he had to cut his live concert in Los Angeles short after losing his voice. He says now in an interview with Entertainment Weekly that the voice loss was mental, a result of all the stress around filming “The Idol” while also touring.

He’s ready to bounce back not only with a new album but with another



Rebecca Ferguson as Juliette Nichols in “Silo” (2022)

starring role. His sixth studio album “Hurry Up Tomorrow” will be released on Jan. 26, and a film of the same name will be released on May 16. Billed as a “musically driven psychological thriller,” the film not only stars The Weeknd but also Barry Keoghan (“Saltburn”) and Jenna Ortega (“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice”).

Q: I thought Bill Maher was going to quit his TV show if President Trump was reelected, but it looks like it’s coming back soon. Did he change his mind? — M.M.

A: Bill Maher’s weekly HBO talk show “Real Time” returned this January for its 23rd season, but he has no plans to quit. Nina Rosenstein from HBO Programming, Late Night and Specials told Deadline that Maher was “joking around,” and his first love will always be “Real Time.”

Where you won’t find Maher anytime soon is on the road. He’s confirmed that he’s done touring as a stand-up comedian and that, after 40 years, he needs a break from it. However, as far as “Real Time” goes, HBO will have to drag him off for him to quit.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFW5, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GEEZ TIME GOES BY FAST. IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY I WAS JUST YOUR AGE.

SOMEDAY YOU’LL BE GROWN WITH KIDS OF YOUR OWN AND A NICE YOUNG WIFE.

NO WAY! I’M GONNA TRAVEL THE WORLD SEEKING ADVENTURE AS A LONE WOLF.

A MAN OF EXCITEMENT WHO RIDES ALONE, MAINLY BECAUSE GIRLS ARE WEIRD.

by BUD BLAKE

WOW!

TOO GROUNDED! I’M GONNA FIND A BETTER HILL.

TOO STEEP.

TOO MANY TREES.

TOO ROCKY.

THIS IS PERFECT.

FINA BETTER HILL.

YUP BUT IT WAS TOO LONELY.

by Jeff Pickering

THEY SHOULD BAN PRE-SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE!!

WHY?

TO MAKE AMERICA “GRATE” AGAIN!!

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

King Crossword

January 20, 2025 Posting Date

ACROSS

- Pickle holders
- Klutz
- Pre-weekend yell
- Layered cookie
- School org.
- Nozzle site
- Complaint
- Mahal pre-ceder
- Memory method
- Jungle trek
- Apple product
- "Lunch break is over!"
- Sports bar fixture
- "Mangia!"
- Avril follower
- Marsh plant
- "Blue Bloods" airer
- Nov. honorees
- 401(k) alternative
- Notable time
- Trig terms
- Consecutive
- Puerto —
- Small apes
- Help a hood
- Fanatic
- Aswan’s river
- Roster

DOWN

- Want-ad listings
- Region
- Coral formation
- Sleeper
- Eye-related
- One-time link
- Tex-Mex wraps
- Compass dir.
- Radiate
- bitty
- Carried out
- Lushes
- Service charge
- Squealer
- Soup cooker
- Skewered entree
- Assess
- Smooch
- Chicago paper, briefly
- Actress Farniga
- "American Idol" host Ryan
- Sang softly
- Minnesota footballers
- Catchall abbr.
- Learning ctr.
- Poker pot
- Played a part
- Actor O’Shea
- Conspiracy
- Stitches
- Boxing legend
- Morsel
- Numerical prefix

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1. The Duffer Brothers; 2. Wyoming; 3. Uranus; 4. Kevin; 5. Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn; 6. Grapes; 7. Cambodia; 8. Hazelnut; 9. Polo; 10. Clydesdale

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Who created the retro TV series “Stranger Things”?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Yellowstone National Park?
- ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system to rotate on its side?
- MOVIES: What is the given name of the large bird in the animated movie “Up”?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three zodiac signs are considered earth signs?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of Hagrid’s half-brother in the “Harry Potter” book series?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital city of Australia?
- FOOD & DRINK: What type of nut is used in the chocolate spread Nutella?
- SPORTS: What kind of sports match is divided into 7-minute periods called chukkas?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What type of horses often are used in Budweiser beer ads?

Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword



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