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In loving memory of
 Mr. José G. Esparza


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 HOUSTON, TEXAS

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HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS CITY'S THIRD COVID-19 CASE

The Houston Health Department announced tonight a new presumptive positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Houston, bringing the city's case total to three.

The case, a female in the 15 to 25 age range, is currently experiencing mild symptoms and quarantined in her home. She recently traveled to New York state.

An investigation conducted by the department will identify potential contacts exposed to the virus. The department will provide close contacts guidance about the virus and monitor them for the development of symptoms.

Earlier Wednesday, Mayor Sylvester Turner signed a proclamation declaring a Local State of Disaster Due to a Public Health Emergency to help contain and mitigate COVID-19 from spreading. As a result of the emergency order, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo closed and city-sponsored, produced and permitted events will be postponed or cancelled through the end of March.

The Houston Health Department also announced Wednesday new recommendations to Houstonians aimed at reducing their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

- People at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places with lots of people and large gatherings where there will be close contact with others. People at higher risk include:
 - People 60 and older

- People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
- People who have weakened immune systems
- People who are pregnant
- Workplaces should enact measures that allow people who can work from home to do so. Taking these measures can help reduce the number of workers who come into contact with the COVID-19 virus and help minimize absenteeism due to illness
- If you can feasibly avoid bringing large groups of people together, consider postponing events and gatherings.
- The Houston Health Department is not currently recommending closing schools. If a case of COVID-19 is diagnosed at a school, the health department will work with the school and the district to determine the best measures including potential closure of the school.
- People who are sick need to stay home to prevent infecting others.
- Avoid visiting hospitals, long term care facilities, or nursing homes to the extent possible. If you need to go, limit your time there and keep six feet away from patients.

People with symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, must call a healthcare provider. People with symptoms should not go to the emergency room unless it's a life-threatening emergency. Healthcare professionals will determine if COVID-19 is needed.

The Houston Health Department laboratory tests specimens collected by Greater Houston area medical providers from patients meeting the COVID-19 testing criteria set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Specimens that test positive are currently sent to the CDC lab in Atlanta for further confirmation,

but local testing is considered actionable.

Houstonians should visit HoustonEmergency.org for updated information about local risk, routine protective actions, frequently asked questions, communication resources, rumor control, emergency preparedness tips and more.



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COUNTY ATTORNEY RYAN SUES GENERIC DRUG MANUFACTURERS OVER MASSIVE PRICE FIXING SCHEME

Harris County Vince Ryan today sued generic drug manufacturers over a massive price fixing scheme that cost Harris County millions and the US healthcare system billions in inflated drug prices.

Ryan contends that the 43 companies named in the suit were part of an overarching conspiracy to significantly reduce competition and increase prices of at least 181 generic drugs across the entire industry. Because of this conspiracy, prices of generic drugs skyrocketed at unprecedented rates, many by more than 1000%, costing individual payers and the healthcare system billions of dollars.

“These manufacturers routinely and systematically sought out their competitors in an effort to reach agreements to allocate market share and maintain or raise prices,” said County Attorney Ryan. “We intend to hold these pharmaceutical companies accountable for one of the most egregious and massive price-fixing conspiracies in the history of the United States.”

Ryan explains in the lawsuit that while generic drugs are supposed to cost less than brand-name medications, these companies conspired to thwart price reductions by agreeing to manipulate the market, divide up clients among themselves and obstruct generic competition in an ongoing scheme to fix the price of generic drugs. This conspiracy resulted in massive profits for the companies at the expense of Harris County, as well as all consumers in the ge-

neric drug market nationwide.

Harris County provides health benefits, including coverage for prescription drugs, to 38,000 employees, retirees and their dependents. Harris County also purchases drugs administered to inmates in the county jail. Since 2013, the county has paid over \$25 million for the generic drugs involved in the price fixing scheme.

Typically, a branded drug manufacturer first develops an innovative drug and is rewarded with a patent granting them a period of exclusivity to sell the drug. During this period of patent protection, the manufacturer markets and sells its drug under a brand name and the lack of competition permits the manufacturer to set its prices extremely high. Once the brand-name drug’s exclusivity period ends, additional firms that receive Federal Drug Administration approval are permitted to manufacture and sell “generic” versions of the brand-name drug. Generic drugs provide a therapeutically equivalent substitute for brand-name drugs. They cost substantially less than branded drugs—up to 75 to 85 per cent less—in a competitive market with several manufacturers producing them.

County Attorney Ryan explains in the lawsuit that because so few companies manufacture generic drugs, the defendants can control nearly the entire market for a particular product. Ryan alleges the manufacturers by way of their conspiracy, agree among themselves how much of the mar-

ket each company will have—called the “fair share” inside the conspiracy—and agree not to undercut each other on price. On the other hand, when one manufacturer decides to raise prices, all the companies can do so too because their illegal “fair share” agreement mandates that they keep their individual percentage of the market.

Among the drugs whose prices were controlled by this conspiracy are those that treat hyperactivity disorders, asthma, skin conditions, painkillers, heart failure, seizures, bacterial infections, high blood pressure, Hepatitis B, arthritis, high cholesterol, epilepsy and Type 2 diabetes. Some of these drugs include the generic equivalents for Celebrex, Synthroid, Adderall, Lidoderm, prescription strength Tylenol, Penicillin, Lidocaine, Relafen, and Prozac. The generic drug Albuterol, so widely used by people

suffering from Asthma, is also at issue. And this is just to name a few.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Congress and attorneys general in many states have been investigating this price-fixing scheme.

“These 43 companies have violated national and state laws that make conspiracy, deceptive trade practices, anti-trust and unjust enrichment illegal,” said County Attorney Ryan. “We are seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to stop this scheme and reimbursement for the County.”

“For years, these manufacturers have leveraged the culture of cronyism within their industry to artificially inflate prices,” added Ryan. “We will not let them get away with this.”



LANDSCAPING SERVICES ITB

Houston First Corporation invites bids, using the best value method, from experienced contractors to provide landscape services on an as-needed basis throughout all greenspaces at its facilities,

including lawns, groundcover, plants, shrubbery, and trees. Please visit <https://www.houstonfirst.com/do-business> for complete details.



**BAYOU CITY
ART FESTIVAL**
MEMORIAL PARK
MARCH 27-29 2020

ART COLONY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES FEATURED ART- WORK FOR 2020 BAYOU CITY ART FESTIVAL MEMORIAL PARK

The Art Colony Association, Inc. (ACA) has announced the featured artwork for Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park 2020 - titled "Laundry Day" by featured artist McKenzie Fisk. Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park will be held on Friday- Sunday, March 27-29, 2020, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

According to Fisk, the artwork is a painting that captures the innocence of an elephant and a young boy. While he is wrapped up in a blanket with his eyes covered by a paper crown, the boy enjoys a moment of comfort and peace. Despite having a big task to complete, the boy chooses to sit while the elephant, representing the enormous chore, attempts to interact with the boy. Fisk challenges the viewer to come up with their relatable moment and discover what this piece means to them.

Fisk is a painter from Los Angeles who uses geometric shapes along with bright colors to paint both children and animals. Her paintings center around relatable childhood moments along with a new outlook on life experiences. The slightly broken pieces in her work demonstrate experiences and how people disassemble and reassemble themselves in their lives.

This spring, Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park will spotlight 300 artists from around the country representing 19 different disciplines. As one of the nation's premier outdoor art festivals, the three-day event provides guests with the opportunity to meet artists, view original works, and purchase one-of-a-kind art,

prints, jewelry, sculptures, functional art and more. Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park will benefit local nonprofits and features two music stages, chef demonstrations, strolling live entertainment, food trucks, and a craft beer and wine garden.

In the Children's Creative Zone sponsored by Texas Children's Hospital Specialty Care, the festival's nonprofit partners will host art activities for all ages and include an interactive area for all attendees to enjoy. An exhibition of student artwork composed of the top 30 finalists from the Middle School Art Competition will also be featured at Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park.

Online tickets are available now at www.artcolonyassociation.org. Tickets purchased online are \$12 and \$16 after March 20, 2020 for adults, \$5 for children 6 - 12; children five and under are free. Two-day passes are \$20 and family passes (two adults, two children tickets) are \$30 and available online and at the gate. Individual tickets can be purchased at the gate on festival days for \$15 cash or \$16 with a credit card. On-site public parking is not available, but shuttles are provided from Northwest Mall to the Memorial Park Festival site. Round trip shuttle rides are \$4 per adult online and before the festival, \$6 at the gate, children under 12 ride for free.

For updates on social media, follow the official event hashtags #HouArtFest and #BCAF, like the Facebook page, or follow on Twitter and Instagram. Also, subscribe to our newsletter here.

PLAYLIST



2020 Live @ the Lakefront Concert Series: Infinite Bus
Dates: March 13, 2020
Location: Arcade Amphitheater-Lake Charles Civic Center
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Price: Free

Annual Black Heritage Festival
Dates: March 14, 2020
Location: Lake Charles Civic Center
Time: 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Price: \$5

The Temptations
Dates: March 14, 2020
Location: Delta Downs Event Center
Time: 7:00 PM
Price: Starting at \$75

St. Patrick's Day @ MacFarlane's Celtic Pub
Dates: March 17, 2020
Location: MacFarlane's Celtic Pub
Time: 5:30 AM to 11:59 PM
Price: See description for details

Iowa Rabbit Festival
Dates: March 19, 2020 - March 21, 2020
Recurrence: Recurring daily
Location: Burton Complex
Price: Thursday Night Free; Friday & Saturday- \$10 (12 years and older)

2020 Live @ the Lakefront Concert Series: Rusty Metoyer and the Zydeco Krush
Dates: March 20, 2020
Location: Arcade Amphitheater-Lake Charles Civic Center
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Price: Free

Sara Evans Concert
Dates: March 20, 2020
Location: Golden Nugget Lake

Charles
Time: 8:30 PM
Price: Starting at \$25

The Kadillacs
Dates: March 21, 2020
Location: Isle of Capri Casino-Lone Wolf
Time: 8:00 PM
Price: Free

Blues Travelers
Dates: March 21, 2020
Location: L'Auberge Casino Resort
Time: 8:00 PM
Price: Starting at \$45

Lake Charles Civic Ballet: "Sleeping Beauty"
Dates: March 21, 2020 - March 22, 2020
Recurrence: Recurring daily
Location: Lake Charles Civic Center, Rosa Hart Theatre
Time: 6:00 PM

2020 Live @ the Lakefront Concert Series: The Flamethrowers
Dates: March 27, 2020
Location: Arcade Amphitheater-Lake Charles Civic Center
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Price: Free

The Original Downtown Lake Charles Crawfish Festival
Dates: March 28, 2020
Location: Lake Charles Civic Center
Time: 11 AM to 9 PM
Price: \$10 admission Kids 10 and under are free; Presale and Discount Tickets available online

Flea Fest
Location: Burton Event Complex
Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Price: \$5 for adults, kids 12 & under free

ENTRETINIMIENTO

MALUMA IS FIRST LATIN ARTIST FEATURED IN A CALVIN KLEIN CAMPAIGN

The Spring 2020 CALVIN KLEIN JEANS and CALVIN KLEIN UNDERWEAR global advertising campaign celebrates unapologetic confidence and self-love.

The campaign, fronted by a cast chosen for their willingness to bare themselves to the world, stars singer-songwriters Justin Bieber, Maluma and SZA, rapper and singer-songwriter Lil Nas X, model and actor Hunter Schafer, model Kendall Jenner and singer-songwriter and actor Lay Zhang. Shot by renowned photographer Mario Sorrenti with accompanying videos by Bardia Zinali, the surreal campaign mixes real emotion with fantasy for expressive imagery that exudes confidence. An ode to self-express-

sion, each set captures the talent in their own exaggerated world, with stripped-back and raw elements that are inherent to the brand and drive home the DEAL WITH IT narrative.

A continuation of the #MY-CALVINS movement, the campaign rollout will embrace a digital first, socially powered mindset. The campaign will be featured globally and supported by digital, social, high impact outdoor locations and print. Global styles featured in the new campaign include the latest CALVIN KLEIN JEANS sculpting Body Stretch denim with flexible fits and Iconic White silhouettes. Also featured are spring's newest CALVIN KLEIN UNDERWEAR Breathable, Strapless and Invisible collections.



BMI POSPONE PREMIOS LATINOS POR PREOCUPACIONES DE SALUD Y SEGURIDAD

— PREMIOS —
billboard
 DE LA MÚSICA LATINA

BMI anunció el martes (10 de marzo) que pospondrá sus Premios Latinos programados para el 31 de marzo en Los Ángeles por problemas de salud y seguridad relacionados con el coronavirus.

El dúo de reggaetón Wisin & Yandel será honrado con el premio del presidente de BMI en la 27a entrega anual de los premios Latinos, que se celebrará en el Beverly Wilshire Hotel en Beverly Hills. En un comunicado de prensa, los organizadores mencionaron planes para reprogramar los premios para una fecha posterior. La salud y seguridad de nuestros empleados y afiliados es nuestra prioridad principal y, como resultado, BMI pospondrá su próxima ceremonia de Premios Latinos, inicialmente programada para el 31 de marzo en Los Ángeles", dice el comunicado de prensa. "Planea-

mos volver a programar los Premios Latinos con una nueva fecha y estamos deseosos de rendir homenaje a Wisin y Yandel con nuestro premio Presidencial y celebrar a nuestra talentosa familia de creadores de la música latina. BMI seguirá evaluando caso por caso todos los eventos próximos.

Marc Anthony y Henry Cardenas posponen la gala de Maestro Cares debido a Coronavirus

La cancelación de los BMI Latin Awards se une a una larga lista de otros eventos musicales importantes que se están cerrando, incluidos South by Southwest, la conferencia Experience de ASCAP, Winter Music Conference y más sobre la preocupación por el brote de coronavirus en todo el mundo.

En el condado de Los Ángeles, los funcionarios de salud han confirmado hasta el momento 20 casos de coronavirus. A nivel mundial, se han reportado más de 110,000 casos.





CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AND TEXAN FRENCH ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS JOIN FORCES WITH A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF ALEGRÍA IN HOUSTON

Cirque du Soleil is pleased to be joining forces with the Texan French Alliance for the Arts (TFAA) for a performance of Alegria, their most iconic production. On March 31, 2020, the two organizations will team-up for a spectacular night of entertainment under the Big Top to fundraise for “Be the Peace-Be the Hope” (BTPBTH), an intensive professional development program for teachers and staff with a focus on social and emotional learning for students, culminating in community development and peacebuilding projects.

Sharing similar values as the Texan French Alliance for the Arts, Cirque du Soleil uses art

to positively impact communities and intervene in the lives of marginalized youth. In Houston, and in every city visited by its Big Top productions, Cirque du Soleil partners with local organizations to build a brighter future and inspire the world to shine. On February 28, 2020, Cirque du Soleil will also welcome 100 students and teachers from Sugar Grove Academy, an H.I.S.D. school that has been participating in BTPBTH for the past 4 years.

“It is an honor to have an organization like Cirque du Soleil recognize and support our efforts in Houston and beyond. As Carl Jung said: “There can be no transforming of darkness into light and



apathy into movement without emotion”- BTPBTH brings this notion into the real world, sharing transformative experiences and teaching life skills to youth facing darkness and risking destruction through violence and apathy in their ambient surroundings. Our team is immensely grateful to Cirque du Soleil for this meaningful partnership”, commented TFAA Executive Director Karine Parker-Lemoyne. “I am excited about the progress of the Be the Peace – Be the Hope program in our school, and the outreach from Cirque du Soleil is an extraordinary inspiration for our community,” shared Orlando Reyna, Principal of Sugar Grove Academy,

For more information and to purchase VIP tickets to the March 31

performance, visit <https://bepeacebehope.org/>.





MÉXICO SE ENFRENTARÁ A LA SELECCIÓN COLOMBIA EL SÁBADO 30 DE MAYO, EN EL EMPOWER FIELD AT MILE HIGH DE DENVER

La Federación Mexicana de Fútbol (FMF) y Soccer United Marketing (SUM) anunciaron hoy que México se enfrentará a la Selección Colombia, actualmente ubicada en el décimo puesto del ranking global de la FIFA, en un partido a jugarse el sábado 30 de mayo en el Empower Field at Mile High de Denver, como parte de la Gira Anual por Estados Unidos de la Selección Nacional de México. Ambas selecciones utilizarán el partido como preparación para los torneos internacionales que disputarán este verano. México participará en la semifinal de la Liga de Naciones de la Concacaf en junio, mientras que Colombia lo hará en la Copa América de la CONMEBOL.

Los boletos saldrán a la venta a través de www.MexTour.org y www.ticketmaster.com el 9

de marzo a las 10 a.m. local. Las entradas para los partidos previamente anunciados, a jugarse el 26 de marzo ante República Checa en Charlotte, NC, y el 29 de marzo contra Grecia, en Arlington, TX, ya están a la venta.

Para descargar declaraciones del DT de la Selección Nacional de México, Gerardo Martino sobre el partido contra Colombia, favor de visitar el siguiente enlace [AQUI](#).

En los 29 partidos que han disputado las dos selecciones, México ha ganado 12 de los encuentros, mientras que Colombia 7, y se han registrado 10 empates. Los equipos se enfrentaron por última vez en Miami en el 2012, en un encuentro que ganó la escuadra colombiana por 2-0. Colombia cuenta con jugadores



mundialmente reconocidos como James Rodríguez del Real Madrid y Juan Guillermo Cuadrado de la Juventus de Italia.

En las últimas dos décadas, Denver ha recibido a la Selección Nacional de México en varias ocasiones, tanto en el Empower Field at Mile High, como el Dicks Sporting Goods Park. México jugó en Denver por última vez el 19 de junio de 2019, derrotando a Canadá por 3-1, en un partido de la fase de grupos de la Copa Oro de la Concacaf jugada en el Empower Field.

Se invita a los aficionados a visitar www.MexTour.org, para la información más actualizada sobre la visita del equipo a Estados Unidos incluyendo el calendario de partidos, fechas de venta de boletos, guía de los juegos, actividades, eventos públicos y más. Los aficionados también pueden visitar la tienda online oficial de la Selección Nacional de México, ShopMNT.com, para encontrar los mejores productos deportivos, camisetas, gorras y más.

La Gira Anual por Estados Unidos de la Selección Nacional de México se ha convertido en uno de los eventos deportivos más populares del país, con un promedio de casi 54,500 aficionados por partido durante la edición de 2019. La Selección Nacional de México, con más de 90 partidos jugados desde 2002, ha establecido un puente para conectarse con su apasionada afición en Norteamérica y prepararse para competiciones importantes como la Liga de Naciones, las Eliminatorias, la Copa Mundial de la FIFA y la Copa Oro de la Concacaf.

La Gira de México, auspiciada por adidas, Allstate, AT&T, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Coca-Cola, Delta/Aeromexico, Bud Light Seltzer, Honey Nut Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Nissan, POWERADE, The Home Depot y Wells Fargo, visitará varias ciudades de Estados Unidos en 2020. Los partidos serán transmitidos por las cadenas de Univision y Fútbol de Primera Radio.



MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER DEVELA SU NUEVO HIMNO OFICIAL COMPUESTO POR EL LEGENDARIO HANS ZIMMER

Coincidiendo con el inicio de la histórica Temporada 25 de Major League Soccer, la liga presentó hoy su nuevo himno oficial. El tema está compuesto por Hans Zimmer, el músico de renombre mundial y compositor ganador de un Premio Grammy y el Oscar por su música para las cintas Gladiador, El Rey León y más de 150 películas importantes que abarcan más de cuatro décadas.

A partir del lanzamiento de la temporada 2020 de la MLS este sábado 29 de febrero, el nuevo himno sonará durante la procesión de los jugadores en todos los partidos de la MLS, durante las transmisiones televisivas de los juegos y pronto estará dis-

ponible en todos los servicios de streaming de música. El nuevo himno de Major League Soccer fue grabado a nivel nacional en Ocean Way Recording Studios en Nashville y contó con la participación de más de 40 músicos.

"Nada mueve a las personas como el fútbol y componer un himno para Major League Soccer fue un desafío emocionante y un gran honor dado su crecimiento y creciente nivel en el mundo", dijo Zimmer. "Estoy orgulloso del producto final y de todos los artistas que trabajaron en la pieza. Hemos creado un himno que atrapa el verdadero espíritu de la MLS y sus seguidores en esta era notable para la liga".

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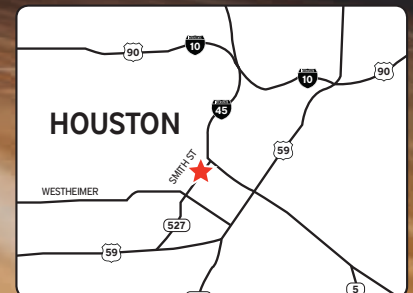


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RECAP: DYNAMO DROP FIRST ROAD TEST OF SEASON AT SPORTING KC

The Houston Dynamo fell for the first time in the 2020 MLS regular season as they dropped a 4-0 result to Sporting Kansas City at Children's Mercy Park this evening.

The Dynamo leapt out of the gates and controlled play in the early going, using a high press to pin Sporting into their own half and creating multiple dangerous opportunities. The Dynamo earned back-to-back corner kicks in the seventh minute after generating constant pressure to begin the game. Academy product Memo Rodriguez found defender Maynor Figueroa inside the box on the second corner kick, but his header was off target.

Sporting Kansas City forward Alan Pulido gave the hosts the lead in the 16th minute after he pounced on a one-touch pass from forward Khiry Shelton inside the box. The goal came on Sporting's first shot of the night.

Midfielder Roger Espinoza doubled Kansas City's lead in the 26th minute off a free kick at the near post. Forward Johnny Russell found Pulido inside the box and the Mexican forward headed the ball back toward the near post, where Espinoza finished the play for his first goal of the season.

The second half started much like the first, with the Dynamo coming out on the front foot and taking the fight to Sporting over the first 15 minutes, but were unable to capitalize. Midfielder Matías Vera won the ball at midfield in the 49th minute for Houston's first opportunity of

the second half. The Argentine midfielder laid the ball off to an oncoming Rodriguez on the left flank. Rodriguez dribbled into the box before ripping a low left-footed shot toward the back post, forcing a save with a low shot to the far post.

Kinda and Pulido combined for the third goal of the game in the 66th minute. The Mexican forward found Kinda near the heart of the box and the midfielder controlled the ball to create space for a shot that beat the Dynamo shot stopper at the far post. The final goal of the evening came in the 77th minute off a corner kick. Midfielder Gianluca Busio's cross eventually fell to Khiry Shelton at the edge of the six

yard box for his first goal of the season.

Houston forward Darwin Quintero, signed in the offseason, made his Dynamo debut when he came on for midfielder Tomás Martínez in the 57th minute. The Colombian was active in his 33-minute shift and got on the end of a well-placed centering pass from forward Mauro Mantas in the 86th minute, but his shot missed high.



RODNEY ELLIS

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT ONE

Gabriel: Today is February 5th, it's a Wednesday, and we are here with our county commissioner, Rodney Ellis from Precinct 1. Mr. Commissioner, how are you today?

Rodney: Good. Thank you for coming in. I've admired your work for many years. I remember you back when I was a staffer for Mickey Leland and I just appreciate your persistence and being such a successful entrepreneur for so many years.

Gabriel: Thank you so much, commissioner. How long have you been a commissioner?

Rodney: 3 years now. I was elected county commissioner 3 years ago and so I am obviously running for re-election. But it's been an honor and a privilege of my life to come back home after 26 years in the Texas Senate, 6 years on the Houston City of Council, and I enjoyed my time as a city councilperson in Houston. I enjoyed my 26 years in Austin in the State Senate. It's good to be back home.

Gabriel: Wonderful. Can you please explain to be the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of a commissioner?

Rodney: Well, a commissioner is 1 of 5 people on the governing board of Harris County. Harris County is a massive government entity. Precinct 1 has about 1.1 million residents. I have a sizable Hispanic population. 39% of the residents are Hispanic. This county has over 4 million residents. 43% of them are Hispanic, according to the American Community Survey. Many Harris County residents are immigrants from Latin American countries, and Precinct 1 is certainly no exception. We include among countries of origin: immigrants from Mexico, about 600,000, El Salvador - this is countywide - about 106,000, Honduras, 70,000, and it's a very massive entity.

The duties of a commis-

sioner, 4 of us along with the county judge, we have broad policy-making authority over county government. We conduct the county's general business. That includes counting the county's budget, setting the tax rate, hiring department heads, supervising construction of county infrastructure, writing contracts, and appointing members to various boards and commissioners. Each commissioner is responsible for building and maintaining county transportation networks. That means bridges and parks within that precinct.

And Precinct 1, we provide educational and social and recreational activities for seniors at 9 of our community centers. And for our youth, at 3 of our centers. We also have some innovative programs, such as a non-profit Harris County street Olympics. A year-round program that addresses youth and social service, healthcare, educational, and vocational needs. We have aquatics programs where we provide free learn-to-swim lessons. And we also do competitive swimming. We have an environmental education program that uses live animals and hands-on techniques to teach children about natural science and how to protect the environment. We put together an arts program and we are trying to expand it. You're going to see some activities where you'll see murals throughout the Precinct and the Hispanic community and other otherwise ethnic communities. We have a very aggressive cycling program. We have someone who's a professional cyclist in Mexico. Fernando Martinez. And we have bought a fleet of bikes, some used by Texas. We have some electric bikes and 3-wheel bikes. Don't call them trikes, 3-wheel bikes.

We're putting a massive amount of money on city streets and pedestrian and biking trails on city trails to connect bayous of county property. There was a commitment made that we have 150 new miles of protected linear



parks along our bayous. We're going to put some money in that will be on the commissioner's court in this next meeting, probably, to complete the bayous that were left behind. Most of what we do, we do where the equity lives. We try to pick areas in the city where we are going to help with infrastructure and streets where it makes sense, where large numbers of people would benefit, like the University of Houston main campus, and Texas Southern.

We're spending \$33 million+ to redo the streets in those areas to make them much more pedestrian friendly, bike friendly, and also do landscaping. Our budget for Precinct 1 is about \$320 million. And here's how we spend it: \$89 million in general fund budget. We spend it on road and bridge operations, park operations, and administration and



youth programs. I'll give you some of this in writing. About \$199 million in bond funds for roads, trails, sidewalks, capital projects, \$37 million in bonds funds for parks, including buildings and capital projects.

And about \$1 million for donations and revenue. And one of the things that I'm real proud of that we did: the county has some responsibility over flooding issues. We maintain the bayous. We do drainage in unincorporated areas. The city does drainage inside the city limits off the streets, but we handle it once it gets to the water. We have to work hand-in-hand with the county. After Harvey, this office advocated for a large-enough bond package with local money so we could hit a lot of those low-income Hispanic neighborhoods and African-American neighborhoods that have been neglected for decades. There was a flood when Harvey

rained, but they would flood when there was a shower. Greens and holes bayous in particular are two that impacts a lot of Hispanic areas that have been overlooked for a very long time because the federal money comes in from the corp engineers, and they will do a cost-benefit ratio analysis now. That means your property must cost enough to qualify. So we took that out. We advocated for equity language on the ballot. When we did that \$2.5 million bond package, and then when the new court came in - so appreciative to Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner Adrian Garcia - because with this new court, we could divide equity along the lines of something that helps people who have been devastated every time we took into account how many people have

migrant women on businesses. So there are Hispanic businesses and other minority groups who were left out of the economic pie of \$5 billion a year that the county controls. The county had no records on what percentage of the overall spending was going to minority businesses. With you help and others, we advocated that the county would do a disparage study so you'd collect the data and then, once you collect it and you see where there are disparities, you can design a program that won't be challenged in court. So we could try to do a better job of giving minority women on businesses who are qualified a piece of the pie. We created a new department of economic opportunity, which would focus on equity as well. What's fair about what we

in place. We have a lot of minority women in business who are making a good living because they got a chance to go in and compete on a level playing field with people who have been advantageous for years. So we created a new department, which will focus on implementing that program. We got to design our version of minority women's business enterprise program and benefit from their mistakes. The city, the state, other cities and countries, had a pass because we didn't have one. We focus a lot on a responsible criminal justice reform package. Nobody ought to be in jail because they're poor. This notion of, you can't post bail if you get stuck in jail. If you have money, you can get out.

system. We've expanded a public renters office. I fought to get Harris County to create a public renters office back when I was in the Senate. It was like pulling teeth to get them to do it. And then when I got it, it was only 8 or 10 percent of the cases. So we doubled the size of that office. I want to get it even larger. We want to break away from judges picking the lawyers for poor people who walk in their courts. That's just not fair.

Gabriel: Give them a second chance.

Rodney: Yeah, give them a second chance. I know I jumped on a lot of issues, but I want you to know that I've got a long history of fighting for immigrant rights. I passed a resolution, which was approved for the county to promote local immigrants rights hotline to residents. We've also, as a formal binding, condemned the terrible hate-motivated massacre in El Paso that targeted Hispanic customers at a Wal-Mart. I was there a couple of weeks ago. I was adamantly opposed to the show-your-papers bill when it was in the legislature and went on record when the old court tried to get a resolution passed opposing it. I believe I didn't get a second on that. But you know, this court has made a big difference. We've gone from being one of the most regressive counties in the country. Under Lina Hidalgo's leadership -



cars in their neighborhoods, and have cars who can't get out. You take into account on how many times they've flooded. You don't just go look at the value of the home. And I think that's going to lead to a lot more fairness in how we leverage our bond funds and spend our local money to draw down federal money.

Gabriel: Wonderful. You practically answered all of my questions.

Rodney: I got a couple more. I want to talk to you about the work you did. You played a key role in helping us to advocate for the county to have a program that targeted to help minority im-

should do? Should we put in workers' protection if someone was going to do business with the county? Should we have a requirement that they do some job training? Should we require them to have some version of a second chance program? Should we require them to pay a minimum wage, a livable wage, \$15 an hour, to their workers? Should we have apprenticeship programs? Should we have mentorship programs? We can benefit from what the city is doing because the city of Houston has done this for years. The state of Texas did a disparity study. Advocating for that back when I was in the Senate. That's a program there. Started on the Anne Richards - Governor Bush cabinet

Gabriel: Yeah, you can get deported.

Rodney: Yeah. We reformed that on the misdemeanor basis. We still can't get around ICE and the deportation issue; I'll be honest about that. But there are so many people for minor offenses like misdemeanor charges, like driving without a driver's license. Or you got a very small amount of marijuana that, unfortunately, a lot of our college kids just do. It's stuff you and I did, but we got away with it.

Gabriel: Some people get away with it, some people got caught.

Rodney: So we've reformed that

Gabriel: Yes, she's done really well, yes. You guys are doing wonderful. You guys are a good team now.

Rodney: We make a great team. Look, my relationship with the Hispanic community goes back to when I was chief of staff to Mickey Leland. He and Ben Reyes are close allies.

Gabriel: I remember Ben.

Rodney: When I went on City Council -

Gabriel: Leonel Castillo, Gracie Saenz, all those guys, yes. I was a little bit younger, but I do remember that. Well thank you, Mr. Commissioner.



Empresas tecnológicas y petroleras ofrecen becas a escuelas para educación STEM

El American Petroleum Institute (API) se ha sumado a empresas líderes como Boeing, Chevron o Microsoft a un programa de becas para carreras de ciencias y tecnología a través de Discovery Education, proveedor líder de recursos educativos digitales en Estados Unidos, al que se pueden suscribir distritos escolares de todo el país.

STEM Careers Coalition es un programa que ayudará a preparar a 10 millones de estudiantes para los trabajos del futuro con fondos que sufragarán todos los costes de formación digital en materias de ciencia e ingeniería para prepararles en el acceso a la universidad.

Unos 10 millones de estudiantes se beneficiarán de este programa hasta el año 2025. Los fondos han sido comprometidos por grandes empresas como Chevron, Boeing, Microsoft, Best Buy, u organizaciones gremiales como el Instituto Manufacturero y el Instituto Americano del Petróleo (API).

Todas estas empresas demandan y dependen de un flujo constante de buenos estudiantes de STEM, que además optan por las carreras mejor pagadas del mercado laboral en Estados Unidos y unas de las más estables y con más recorrido.

"Los miembros de la coalición están canalizando e implicándose a nivel regional en el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral con la creación de vías que conectan a estudiantes K-12 y educación pos-secundaria con la fuerza laboral de STEM", señaló la coalición en un comunicado.

Elia Quintana, directora de Stakeholder Relations del American Petroleum Institute (API), explicó que "una fuerza laboral diversa es fundamental para que las empresas representen la composición del país. Debemos representar a la población a la que servimos, no solo en la industria o a nivel filantrópico, sino también en toda la cadena de suministro y en de las comunidades en las que estamos".

LA INDUSTRIA DEL PETRÓLEO Y GAS

El American Petroleum Institute (API) es parte de esta coalición educativa y pondrá el foco en comunidades hispanas para que lancen sus carreras técnicas, de ciencia e ingeniería y consigan integrarse en el sector de petróleo y gas en Estados Unidos, uno de los más estables y mejor pagados del país.

En total, alrededor de 1,9 millones de puestos de trabajo estarán disponibles en el sector hasta 2035 debido, por una parte, al crecimiento económico que el gas y petróleo está experimentando en los últimos años, y por otra, a las bajas provocadas por las jubilaciones de los actuales empleados,

lo que convierte a este sector en un lugar atractivo para la población "millennial" y generaciones jóvenes.

La industria del petróleo y el gas demandará un gran número de empleos técnicos de nueva creación y para reemplazar a los puestos que se jubilan durante los próximos años y la comunidad hispana, una de las minorías que más importancia dan a la educación en Estados Unidos es una de las principales que podrá beneficiarse de estas nuevas oportunidades.

En la actualidad, el sector emplea de forma directa e indirecta a más de 10 millones de personas en el país y supone un 8 % del Producto Interior Bruto (PIB) estadounidense. Además, los empleos que requieren capacitación en ciencias técnicas o STEM se espera que crezcan en un 9% hasta 2024, con lo que la formación temprana será clave para poder tener acceso a talento cualificado.

Queremos entrenar y atraer al talento hispano con este programa", señaló Quintana, quien recuerda que la industria del petróleo y gas cuenta con los trabajos técnico mejor pagados de todo el país, tanto a nivel de certificación, como universitario.

STEM CONNECT

El programa cuenta con STEM Connect, un conjunto de recursos interdisciplinarios, que se inspiran en los Objetivos de Desarrollo de Naciones Unidas y el los Desafíos NAE en ingeniería, para mejorar el currículum formativo de los estudiantes, de modo que les provea con capacidades de resolución de problemas para la solución de desafíos en el mundo real y profesional.

Los estudiantes podrán formar parte de un programa que aplica lo último en investigación y donde se establecen prácticas de compartición de datos y colaboración a nivel global.

"La STEM Careers Coalition conectará a los colegios con carreras a una escala sin precedentes. Creemos que con una inversión directa en escuelas con el foco en la equidad y con la implicación de los miembros de la coalición, así como con la exposición a experiencias digitales STEM, más estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de verse en un futuro como líderes STEM", aseguró Lori McFarling, la presidente de asociaciones corporativas de Discovery Education.

Líderes locales y educadores pueden solicitar su participación de su distrito escolar en las becas de STEM Careers Coalition en el siguiente enlace: <https://www.discoveryeducation.com/corporate-and-non-profits/scholarships/>

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INMIGRACIÓN & POLÍTICA

¿POR QUÉ ICE HA PEDIDO MENOS SOLICITUDES DE RETENCIÓN DE INMIGRANTES EN CIUDADES SANTUARIO?

Después de una cooperación en crecimiento con policías locales y estatales, la oficina de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) ha bajado su solicitud de retención de inmigrantes indocumentados.

Tras la llegada del presidente Donald Trump, aumentaron los condados y ciudades santuario en entidades como California, Nueva York, Nueva Jersey e Illinois, lo que limitó la cooperación de autoridades locales con agentes migratorios, lo cual se refleja en las cifras de solicitudes.

En el año fiscal 2019, la agencia pidió su cooperación a 3,671 oficinas policíacas en 50 estados, lo que supuso un ligero descenso con el periodo anterior.

Esas órdenes, que requieren que las policías locales, estatales y federales retengan a individuos bajo su custodia por 72 horas a fin de que ICE tenga tiempo para arrestarlos e iniciar el proceso de deportación, se enviaron a agencias en 2,158 condados, según el Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), de la universidad en Syracuse, en Nueva York.

A pesar del gran número de agencias que recibieron esos pedidos, el uso de las órdenes de retención por parte de ICE disminuyó en el periodo fiscal 2019, con unos 165,768 trámites, comparado con los 177,295 en el periodo fiscal 2018.

La recepción de un pedido para la agencia local entregar a ICE alguien bajo su custodia "fue un acontecimiento relativamente inusitado para la mayoría de las agencias locales".

"El 34 % de estas agencias locales recibió tres o menos de tales pedidos durante todo el año pasado", agregó. "Alrededor del 16 % de las agencias recibió una sola orden de retención".

La agencia policial más apremiada por ICE en el periodo fiscal 2019 fue la Cárcel del Condado de Harris, en Texas, que recibió poco más de 5,000 órdenes de retención, seguida por la Cárcel del Condado de Maricopa, en Arizona, con 3,200; la Cárcel del Condado de Hidalgo, en Texas, con 2,800, y la Cárcel del Condado de Gwinnett, en Georgia, con 2,400.

"Tan solo el 9% de las agencias policíacas locales recibió más de cien órdenes de retención de ICE en el periodo fiscal 2019, esto es un promedio de dos o más por semana", señaló TRAC. "Y sólo ocho de estas agencias recibieron un promedio de cinco órdenes o más por día".

El uso de estas órdenes se incrementó año tras año desde 2003 y alcanzó una cima de 309,697 en el año fiscal 2011, durante el primer mandato del presidente Barack Obama (2009-2017).

Posteriormente descendió paulatinamente hasta una cima de 85,720 peticiones en el periodo fiscal 2016, a partir de cuando, ya con Trump como Presidente, comenzó a subir hasta 2018.

los "detainers" se han convertido en una de las principales disputas entre la Administración Trump y las jurisdicciones "santuario", aquellas que rechazan colaborar en la aplicación de las leyes migratorias, de competencia exclusiva del Gobierno federal.

Aunque no se informó de qué ciudades se trata, The New York Times, que citó a dos funcionarios que conocen el operativo, adelantó que son Nueva York, San Francisco, Los Ángeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, Nueva Orleans, Detroit y Newark (Nueva Jersey).



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MOTIVACIÓN

María Marín

ABRAZANDO EL ÉXITO CON LOS PIES

¿Te imaginas no tener brazos pero ser capaz de enhebrar una aguja, tocar chelo, picar tomate, cepillarle el cabello a tu hija y hasta comer sushi con palitos? Seguro piensas que no serías capaz de hacer estas cosas o vivir tu vida normal sin tener brazos, así pensaba yo hasta que conocí a Adriana Macías, la invitada a mi show transmitido a través de mi Facebook Live todos los miércoles en la noche el cual titulé esa noche “Famosa sin brazos te va a inspirar”

Esta mujer nació sin brazos. Hasta sus 7 años pensaba que sus brazos le iban a crecer, así como lo hacía su pelo, pero al darse cuenta que esto no iba a suceder sus padres le consiguieron unas prótesis que le facilitarían todo incluso la aceptación social, pero ella no se adaptó a éstas y se rehusó a usarlas y a partir de ese momento sus pies se volvieron en sus brazos, aprendió

a ser autosuficiente y en vez de ser una carga para su familia se convirtió en madre, abogada, pintora, escritora, conferencista y una gran motivadora que alienta a los demás a descubrir sus capacidades y luchar por sus sueños sin importar cualquier adversidad o limitación.

Después de haber tenido la fortuna de conocer a Adriana, puedo decir que la próxima vez que me pregunten a quién admiro seguro me vendrá ella a la mente y no por su limitación física sino por su talento de saber darle la vuelta a todo incluyendo lo más difícil, para ella todo tiene solución a tal punto que al no encontrar trabajo por su discapacidad creó su propia compañía, al no adaptarse a las prótesis aprendió a utilizar sus pies y para no sentirse una carga aprendió a ser autosuficiente y a valerse por ella misma en todos los aspectos de su vida. Así que si tu hoy te sientes des-



motivada para lograr un sueño, te invito a que recuerdes que siempre hay alguien más desafortunado que tú haciendo realidad sus sueños, por eso te pregunto ¿Qué limitaciones tienes tú? Te aseguro

que tus retos en la vida no se comparan con los que enfrenta Adriana todos los días, así que cualquiera que sea tu limitación, no es excusa para no lograr tus sueños.

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Visita el canal de Youtube: “El Empujoncito de Maria Marin”
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INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp raw honey
- 2 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp ground mustard
- 2 Asian pears, cored and sliced into matchsticks
- 1/4 head red cabbage, cored

- and thinly sliced (about 1 cup)
- 1/4 packed cup fresh parsley, chopped
- Fresh ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 lb lean ground pork
- 2 tsp mild chile powder
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- Olive oil cooking spray, optional
- 4 whole-wheat hamburger buns
- 1/2 cup baby spinach leaves
- 1 3/4 oz gorgonzola cheese, sliced

PREPARATION

1. In a large baking dish, prepare slaw: In a large bowl, whisk yogurt, honey, vinegar and mustard. Wrap pears in a double layer of paper towel and squeeze gently to remove as much moisture as possible.

Add pears to bowl, discarding paper towel. Add cabbage and parsley, stir gently and season with pepper.

2. Preheat a grill or broiler to high. In a separate large bowl, combine pork, chile powder, thyme and a few grinds of pepper. Shape mixture into 4 equal patties, about 1/2 inch thick each. Grill or broil (if broiling, place patties on a

broiler pan misted with cooking spray and cook about 8 to 10 inches from heat), turning once, until centers are no longer pink and juice runs clear, about 10 minutes.

3. To serve, fill each bun with spinach, patties, cheese and slaw, dividing evenly.

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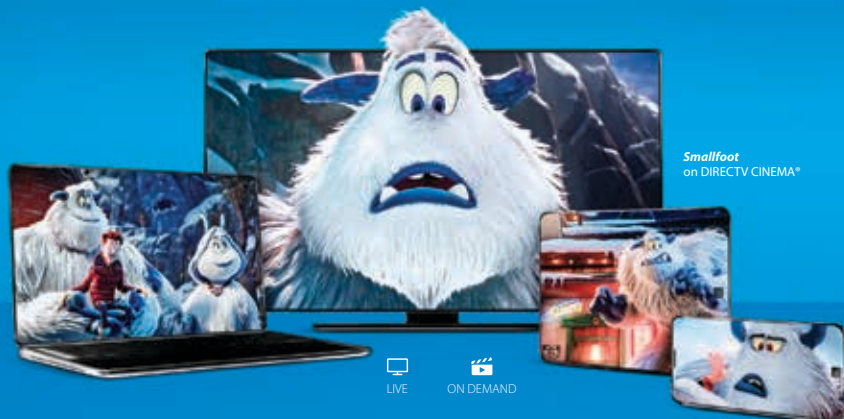
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