Judge nixes piggyback challenge of redistricting map

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON
The Daily News

A Washington, D.C.-based group caried a challenge Galveston County's new commissioner-
 voting map through an old, unresolved lawsuit, a federal appeals court judge has ruled.

The Campaign Legal Center can't add a complaint about the 2021 county commissioner map to a 2013 challenge to the coun-
ty's judicial of the peace precincts. Judge Gregg Coats of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit said Tuesday.

County commissioners in November approved a map that
See MAPS A5

HOLIDAY | GALVESTON COUNTY MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON
The Daily News

Airstream rally adds to sights at Galveston Mardi Gras

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Airstream rally adds to sights at Galveston Mardi Gras

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The Daily News

Galveston

COMING WEDNESDAY

The favorite Mardi Gras parade of tossing beads might be a little more expensive this year.

Environmental responsibility among concerns over fireworks

By KERI HEATH
The Daily News

The question of whether Galveston should continue its traditional Fourth of July fireworks display might reach a flashpoint today when the Park Board of Trustees is scheduled to discuss the topic.

The question of whether to continue the popular event or
See FIREWORKS A5

HISTORY | ALBERTINE HALL YEAGER

‘This is a brave woman’

New marker to honor founder of Galveston orphanage

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON
The Daily News

A Bertie Hall Yeager must have been a woman who lived in Texas. How could she have missed?

At a time when Jim Crow laws were being passed to increase segregation in Texas, Yeager opened a business that aimed to help Black families — an orphanage and day care center. And then, more than a decade before desegregation was required under the law, she expanded her business to serve
Black and white families.

What Yeager accomplished beggars the mind, said Manu Wilson-Rappaport, director of

See MARRIOTT A3
Klan was still meeting on East Beach,” Wilson-Rappaport said. “This is a brave woman, on top of everything else.”

Soon, thanks to work done by Wilson-Rappaport, Younger will be immortalized with a new historical marker in Galveston.

The Texas Historical Commission earlier this month announced it would install a historical marker in Younger’s honor. Younger was chosen as part of the Underfield Marker program, a project to honor neglected Texas people and stories.

As a Black woman, Younger fits into two categories the historical commission looked to honor, said Joie Baker, chairwoman for the Galveston County Historical Commission, who helped Wilson-Rappaport prepare the application nominating Younger for a marker.

Younger’s story is tentative, Baker said, while concluding Wilson-Rappaport for doing the legwork to get the application together.

Younger, along with her husband, Charlie, founded the Younger Children’s Home in 1917 or 1918, not long after they moved to the island from Palestine, Texas. At the time, it was one of only a few private orphanages for Black children in Texas.

The orphanage also operated a day care center for mothers working in the wet industries during World War I. In the 1940s, during World War II, its business expanded to provide care to children regardless of race or religion.

The marker eventual- ly will be erected at 1111 22nd St., where Younger’s original orphanage and day care once stood, and where its replacement still operates a shelter for families in need. The shelter is operated by the Children’s Center.

The idea to honor Younger came up during development of the Galveston County Square on the corner of 22nd Street and The Strand.

JENNIFER REYNOLDS/For The Daily News

Marsha Wilson-Rappaport, director of community development at The Children’s Center, stands outside The Children’s Center building on 22nd Street in Galveston on Monday. The building was the site of the Younger Children’s Home, founded in about 1917 by Willie Bell Younger, a Galveston woman who built a home and orphanage for homeless children.

Strand. The 5,000-square-foot building on the side of the building in the middle of the city’s historic downtown district was part of the cultivation of Juneteenth becoming a national holiday.

Younger’s name came up as a person who might be honored on the mural, Wilson-Rappaport said. She ultimately wasn’t included, but Wilson-Rappaport wanted to dig deeper. She found a story about a woman who was loved and respected in Galveston but had faded into history, she said.

“Until this incredible story of a Black woman who was well before her time,” Wilson-Rappaport said.

Younger was a leader and organizer, and was supported by Galveston white leaders. In 1949, DuBo Ismore, the president of the Galveston Community Chest—the precursor to the United Way—invited Younger to the organization’s annual meeting.

In the 1950s, Henry Lunn, president of the Galveston Independent School District, board of trustees, became president of the Younger Children’s Home board of directors.

Younger died in 1969. Six years later, the new shelter on 22nd Street was opened and dedicated in her honor. When the new shelter opened, state and local leaders, including Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks and state Sen. A.R. “Babe” Schjeider, went to Galveston and made resolutions in her honor.

“They got the support and attention of all the people who lived here,” Wilson-Rappaport said. “Who do you have to be to pull that off?”

In Younger’s obituary, The Galveston Daily News wrote she had cared for 1,000 children during her lifetime.

It could be said some time before the historic plaque honoring Younger and her orphanage are placed in Galveston, Baker said. There’s at least a one-year window in getting the plaques produced, she said.

The Powell Mardi Gras Arch is reflected in the window of Arne and Mike Buegge’s Roseanne Arch on Friday. The couple from Minnesota were part of the Astrolene reunion at Mardi Gras.

“Once you get there, you find out how good it feels,” said Nancy Fitzgerald, an Air-Stream owner who helped plan the event. “I think it’s been a good partnership.”

JENNIFER REYNOLDS/For The Daily News

Heather Molander and Martha Anderson make their way along an Airstream-lined Mechanic Street in Galveston on Friday before the Funky Uptown Umbrella Bar goes at Mardi Gras.

AIRSTREAM

Continued on A1

The trailer owners paid an entrance fee and moved into the downtown area on Thursday evening.

They came from across the country, including Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Minnesota and New Jersey. Most of the trailers moved out on Saturday, the final day of the first weekend of Mardi Gras.

The trailers added a new element to the Mardi Gras celebration in part to the downtown that’s usually empty during the evening.

“This is probably one of the cocoon festivals of the people who have been in town and had a great time,” said Sid Dominguez, a Houston resident who said Air-Stream owners were among the trail on-parade downtown.

Parade, circulating through downtown, wound its way through the downtown area and past the Astrolene on Thursday. On Saturday morning, strings were hung and attention was placed on finishing the parade.

“Everyone was so awesome,” Dominguez said. “We were so happy the weather and flow of the parade.”

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Alberine Yeager's story reflects the good in all of us

Wilson-Rappaport, along with Julie Baker, marker chairwoman for the Galveston County Historical Commission, helped to bring Yeager's story to the forefront — and it's one that should be told for years to come.

We at The Daily News know how important it is to ensure regional and historical facts about all walks of life are chronicled and recorded for the public to see.

The collaboration between the historical commission and residents who worked to uncover Yeager's story should be commended.

Her story is one of perseverance, courage and passion.

Yeager died in 1969 and a new shelter was named in her honor in 1975 at its current location, new run by The Children's Center.

The story of Albertine Hall Yeager is a beacon of light for all of us. It's a reflection of the ideal that no matter what life may throw at you during the good or bad times, if you look at putting others before ourselves, good is sure to follow.

That's what this story is about. That's the good in people.

The good in all of us.

And when Yeager's marker makes its way to Galveston, we'll be there to celebrate. We're hoping you'll be there, too.

Angela Wilson

Todays Highlight in History

» On Feb. 25, 1946, Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) became world heavyweight boxing champion as he defeated Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

ON THIS DATE

» In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan.

» In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.

» In 1919, Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at one cent per gallon.

» In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser became Egyptian president after the country's president, Mohammed Naguib, was effectively ousted in a coup.

» In 1957, the Supreme Court, in Butler v. Michigan, overturned a Michigan statute making it a misdemeanor to post books containing obscene language that would tend to corrupt "the morals of youth.

» In 1973, the Stephen Sandheim musical "A Little Night Music" opened at Broadway's Shubert Theater.

» In 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a talented military, Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

» In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

» In 1994, American-born Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein opened fire with an automatic rifle inside the Tomb of the Patriarchs, killing 297 Muslims before he was beaten to death by worshippers.

» In 1997, a jury in Media, Pennsylvania, convicted chemical fortune heir John E. du Pont of third-degree murder, deciding he was mentally ill but not insane when he shot and killed wrestler David Schultz. (Du Pont died in prison in December 2010 while serving a 13- to 30-year sentence; he was 72.)

» In 2010, in Vancouver, the Canadian women's hockey team defeated Russia 2-0 for their third straight Olympic hockey title.

» In 2020, USA TODAY reported that the coronavirus was certain to spread more widely in the U.S. than previously expected.

» Last year sentence; he was 72.)

» David Schultz. (Du Pont died in prison in 2020.)

» John E. du Pont of third-degree murder, deciding he was mentally ill but not insane when he shot and killed wrestler David Schultz. (Du Pont died in prison in December 2010 while serving a 13- to 30-year sentence; he was 72.)