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The Daily News.

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GOVERNMENT | REDISTRICTING

Judge nixes piggyback challenge of redistricting map

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON
The Daily News

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A Washington, D.C.-based group can't 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 county's justice of the peace precincts, Judge Gregg Costa of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit said Tuesday.

County commissioners in November approved a map that

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HISTORY | ALBERTINE HALL YEAGER

'This is a brave woman' New marker to honor founder of Galveston orphanage



JULIE BAKER, left, marker chairwoman for the Galveston County Historical Commission, talks Monday about the Texas Historical Commission's Undertold Marker program and the marker awarded to Albertine Hall Yeager. Also pictured is Marsha Wilson-Rappaport, director of community development at The Children's Center, who did the research on Yeager, a Black woman who founded the Yeager Children's Home in 1917.

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Albertine Hall Yeager must have been afraid at times. How could she have not?

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 boggles the mind, said Marsha Wilson-Rappaport, director of



MARSHA WILSON-RAPPAORT, director of community development at The Children's Center, shows a photo Monday of the original Yeager Children's Home on 32nd Street in Galveston.

community development at The Children's Center, which traces its roots back to Yeager's creation.

"She did it at time when the

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HOLIDAY | GALVESTON COUNTY MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News
Dayna Lowke watches the approaching George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Award Honoree Parade from her Classic Airstream on Mechanic Street in Galveston on Friday. The iconic travel trailers lined the street as part of an Airstream rally for the first weekend of Mardi Gras.

Airstream rally adds to sights at Galveston Mardi Gras

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Camping out on city streets is a tradition during Galveston's Mardi Gras. This year, however, the campout included dozens of shiny new additions downtown.

Nearly 50 Airstream travel

trailers were lined up on either side of Mechanic Street, inside the downtown Mardi Gras events area, over the weekend. They were part of an inaugural Streamin' on the Strand Mardi Gras rally put together by a Houston-area Airstream club and event organizers.

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ENVIRONMENT | FIREWORKS

Environmental responsibility among concerns over fireworks

By KERI HEATH
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

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

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JENNIFER REYNOLDS/
The Daily News
file photo

People watch Fourth of July fireworks on the beach near 39th Street in Galveston on July 4, 2021.

COMING WEDNESDAY

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



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FROM THE FRONT

MARKER

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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, Yeager will be memorialized with a new historical marker in Galveston.

The Texas Historical Commission earlier this month announced it would install a historical marker in Yeager's honor.

Yeager was chosen as part of the Undertold Marker program, a project to honor neglected Texas people and stories.

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

Yeager's story is fantastic, Baker said, while crediting Wilson-Rappaport for doing the legwork to get the application together.

Yeager, along with her husband, Charlie, founded the Yeager 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 six private orphanages for Black children in Texas.

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

The marker eventually will be erected at 1111 32nd St., where Yeager's original orphanage and day care once stood, and where its replacement still operates a shelter for families and young people. The shelter is owned and operated by The Children's Home.

The idea to honor Yeager came up during development of a Juneteenth mural at Old Galveston Square on the corner of 22nd Street and The



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

Marsha Wilson-Rappaport, director of community development at The Children's Center, stands outside The Children's Center building on 32nd Street in Galveston on Monday. The building was the site of the Yeager Children's Home, founded in about 1917 by Albertine Hall Yeager.

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

'WELL BEFORE HER TIME'

Yeager'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.

"What ultimately developed was this incredible story of a Black woman who was well before her time," Wilson-Rappaport said.

Using newspaper archives and records from the Texas History Center at Rosenberg Library, she uncovered details showing that despite living in a segregated city in the South, Yeager operated an integrated business and was supported by Galveston's white leaders.

In 1949, Dan Kempner, the president of Imperial Sugar Co., advocated for Yeager's business to be funded by the Galveston Community Chest — the precursor to the United Way.

In the 1950s, Henry Jameson, president of the Galveston Independent School District's board of trustees, became president of the Yeager Children's Home's board of directors.

Yeager died in 1969. Six



COURTESY

Pictured is the original Yeager Children's Home, 1111 32nd St. in Galveston. The home was knocked down and replaced in the 1970s. The site of the orphanage will be honored with a historical marker later this year.

years later, the new shelter on 32nd 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" Schwartz, sent messages and made resolutions in her honor.

"She 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 Yeager's obituary, The Galveston Daily News wrote she had cared for 1,000 children during her life.

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

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JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

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

AIRSTREAM

Continued » A1

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

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

The trailers added a new element to the Mardi Gras celebration in part of the downtown that's usually empty during the annual event.

"This is probably one of the coolest rallies most of these people have ever been in," said Sal Dominguez, a Houston resident whose Airstream was among the trailers parked downtown. Parades circulating through downtown found themselves moving between the Airstreams. On Saturday morning, beads still were hanging from the antennas of some of the trailers.

"It was so awesome," Dominguez said of the experience watching the floats drive past. "We were in our front door and we were almost eye level with the floats. Our doorway was littered with beads everywhere."

There were some hiccups involved in the Airstreams' presence, Dominguez said. Marching bands that were used to having the entire width of the street had to adjust their lines on the fly, he said.

And on Saturday morning, a street sweeper cleaning up Mechanic Street swept up a welcome mat Dominguez had left in front of his trailer door.



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

Mardi Gras revelers pause in the middle of an Airstream-lined Mechanic Street in Galveston on Friday.



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

The Powell Mardi Gras Arch is reflected in the window of Amy and Mike Rueggsegger's Basecamp Airstream on Friday. The couple from Minnesota were part of the Airstream rally at Mardi Gras.

The Airstream owners said they hoped the rally would become an annual feature of Mardi Gras.

"We've got some kinks to work out here, but the feedback has been positive," said Nancy Fitzgerald, an Airstream owner who helped plan the rally. "I think it's been a pretty good partnership."

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OUR VIEW | BLACK HISTORY AND GALVESTON HISTORY

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

Kudos to the Texas Historical Commission for recognizing Albertine Hall Yeager's accomplishments with a new historical marker in Galveston.

The marker will be erected at the former Yeager Children's Home, founded by Charlie and Albertine Yeager in about 1917, at 1111 32nd St. in Galveston.

This important piece of Black history and Galveston history was chosen as part of the commission's Undertold Marker program, which honors neglected Texas people and stories.

Yeager and her husband opened the orphanage and day care center initially for Black families during a time in the United States when Jim Crow laws were the norm in the South. At its beginning, it was one of only six private orphanages for Black children in Texas.

The orphanage also operated a day care center for mothers working in the war industries during World War I. In the 1940s, during World War II, the business was expanded to provide care to children regardless of race or religion — more than a decade before desegregation was required under the law.

"What Yeager accomplished boggles the mind," said Marsha Wilson-Rappaport, director of community development at The Children's Center, which traces its roots back to Yeager's creation.



ALBERTINE HALL YEAGER

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 news 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, now 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 us during the good or bad times, if we look at putting others before ourselves, good is sure to follow.

That's what this story is about. 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

BEACH PATROL | PETER DAVIS

We're looking for a few good men, women on the beach

A group of men and women hold onto the pool wall, each in their respective lanes. Some are visibly nervous and already breathing hard. Others are taking deep, controlled breaths and look calm, at least on the outside.

"Swimmers, take your mark. Go!"

We're on the precipice. In just two weeks we will hold lifeguard try-outs at 9 a.m. March 12 in the University of Texas Medical Branch Alumni Field House swimming pool.

Prospective lifeguards will swim 500 meters. To make it to the academy, they must complete the swim in 10 minutes or less.

From the pool, the ones who pass will go directly to the beach patrol headquarters and drug test, fill out paperwork and dive right into the academy. Over the nine-day academy, candidates will take a high-level Red Cross first-aid and CPR course. They'll learn and practice open-water swimming and rescue techniques in the pool before using and building on these skills in the surf.

They'll have lessons about Galveston beach and lifesaving history and the way the city and the park board operate, and they'll learn about the importance of teamwork.

Front-line tourism ambassador training, how to diffuse conflict, how to build cultural competence and how to become a better leader and follower all are part of the syllabus, too.

Throughout the course, a variety of experienced instructors emphasize the essence of important concepts, including understanding of general rescue theory versus getting mired in details of techniques that may or may not work in a real rescue. They learn about the need for flexibility and independent thinking and the balance between concepts like chain of command and group decision making.

We repeatedly emphasize and practice the critical importance of physically and mentally rehearsing how to make a variety of rescues. Rehearsing and visualizing helps first responders make the basics automatic and it can help them focus and helps reduce "tunnel vision" when first responders are stressed.

During this 90-hour course, our returning lifeguards will be out working spring break. Once the candidates' course work is near completion, they'll get to join the more experienced guards and work some busy beach days.

There's nothing more valuable than putting their new skills into practice in real life under supervision.

We need guards. If you or someone you know is interested in a challenging, rewarding and life-changing job that helps people and allows you to explore your full potential, consider joining the men and women that protect Galveston's beaches.

There's specific information at galvestonislandbeachpatrol.com about the academy we offer and other ways to support Galveston's designated lifeguard service. Even if you're not one of those people in the pool on March 12, we still need everyone's help and there are many ways to serve your community and "pool" our resources and experiences.

Come by, say hello and get connected to us. Anyone can help save a life by listening to advisories, learning, sharing safe practices and being "water safe." And always, let us know if we can help. We're here to serve you.

Peter Davis is chief of the Galveston Island Beach Patrol. The views in this column are Davis' and do not necessarily represent those of the Beach Patrol, Galveston Park Board of Trustees or any other entity.

AP | TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2022. There are 309 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

» On Feb. 25, 1964, 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 the 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 Egypt's prime minister after the country's president, Mohamed 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 sell books containing obscene language that would tend to corrupt "the morals of youth."

» In 1973, the Stephen Sondheim 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 tainted election; 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 in the West Bank, killing 29 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 world-class 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 beat the United States 2-0 for their third straight Olympic hockey title.

» In 2020, U.S. health officials warned that the coronavirus was certain to spread more widely in the United States; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



JOHN LENT/AP file photo

Tennessee Williams is shown onstage after rehearsals of his play "Small Craft Warnings" at the New Theater in New York, June 7, 1972. On Feb. 25, 1983, Williams was found dead at age 71 in his suite at the Hotel Elysée in New York. An autopsy found he had died from a toxic level of Seconal, a barbiturate used to treat insomnia.



PAUL SAKUMA/AP file photo

Baggage is unloaded from United Airlines Flight 811 at Honolulu International Airport, Feb. 25, 1989. A gaping hole ripped open in the fuselage of the 747 at 20,000 feet during its flight from Honolulu, Hawaii, to New Zealand. The sudden decompression sucked out several rows of seats, killing nine passengers. The plane managed to return to Honolulu.

urged Americans to be prepared. President Donald Trump, speaking in India, said the virus was "very well under control" in the

United States.

» Ten years ago: A gunman killed two American military advisers with shots to the back of the head inside Afghanistan's heavily guarded Interior Ministry as protests raged for a fifth day over the burning of Qurans at a U.S. army base. Lynn D. "Buck" Compton, 90, a veteran whose World War II exploits were depicted in the television miniseries "Band of Brothers," died in Burlington, Washington.

» Five years ago: Democrats chose former Labor Secretary Tom Perez as their new national chairman during a meeting in Atlanta. A man accused of driving drunk plowed into a Mardi Gras parade crowd, injuring more than 30 people (Neilson Rizzuto later pleaded guilty to 11 felony counts of negligent vehicular injuring and 14 related misdemeanor counts; he was sentenced to roughly three years behind bars.) Actor Bill Paxton, 61, died in Los Angeles.

» One year ago: The Senate parliamentarian ruled that an increase in the minimum wage would have to be dropped from the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill that Democrats were trying to push through Congress. At a Senate hearing to examine wages at major companies, Costco's CEO said the company would increase its starting wage to \$16 an hour, surpassing most of its main competitors.

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