

## TAKING HER SHOT

Houston boxer Reyes ready for title fight.

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## FOOD-SHARING LAW SPURS SUIT

Food Not Bombs sues the city over tickets for feeding homeless people.

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## TIME TO PARTY!

Galveston Mardi Gras is two weeks of fun.

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# HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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## Bill seen as move toward carbon tariff

Policy meant to compare climate impacts has big implications for Texas oil and gas

By James Osborne  
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The day when products imported into the United States are priced based on how much greenhouse gas was released into the atmosphere during manufacture and transport appears to be coming closer to reality.

As nations worldwide examine carbon tariffs in the model of what the European Union is set to begin rolling out in 2026, Con-

gress is weighing legislation that would authorize the Department of Energy to start tracking the carbon intensity across a wide variety of sectors to see how American industry matches up against foreign competitors.

With Democrats and some Republicans in the Senate already signed on and the backing of industry groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Petroleum Institute, the bill, named the Prove it

Act, is widely viewed as the beginning of a U.S. effort to establish a carbon tariff on products imported from abroad, with huge implications for polluting industries like Texas's oil and gas sector.

"It's not a direct first step, but it's a first step in the conversation about how we integrate climate policy into trade policy," said Ben Pendergrass, vice president of government affairs at the Citizens Climate Lobby, a nonprofit whose board includes climate scientists and former cabinet members. "Domestic emissions are important, but *Carbon continues on A5*



Jon Shapley/Staff file photo

Legislation under consideration in Congress would track the carbon intensity across various industries.

## Home elevation program extended



Photos by Jason Fochtman/Staff photographer

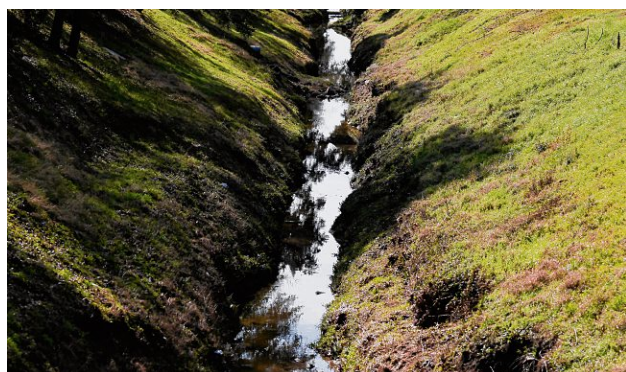
Crews work on a new home Tuesday on Heatherglenn Drive in Meyerland, which has a mix of raised and grade-level homes.

### City approves another year to pay residents using federal flood grants

By Abby Church  
STAFF WRITER

Houston will get another year to pay out federal flood grants to residents who need to elevate homes and close out accounting on the grant program following a Wednesday City Council vote.

The program, given to the city through FEMA, was put in place after flooding events on Memorial Day, Tax Day and Halloween in 2015 and 2016, Public Works spokesperson Erin Jones wrote in an email. The program began its



A drainage area is shown along Chimney Rock. The Meyerland area has seen flood events in recent years.

administration in 2018, and it was supposed to elevate 40 homes, according to a council agenda note.

Only 20 of those planned homes have been elevated so far, and one more is in progress, Jones said Wednesday. What happened to the other 19 is unclear. Public Works is looking into their fate, but Jones posited that the homeowners either proceeded with elevating their homes on their own or structures were elevated under another flood plain ordinance. *Flood continues on A6*

## Hidalgo criticizes colleagues for raise

38% boost in pay for toll road agency boss upsets county judge

By Jen Rice  
STAFF WRITER

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo briefly clashed with fellow members of Commissioners Court this week over a raise of nearly 40% for Harris County Toll Road Authority Executive Director Roberto Trevino.

Hidalgo raised the issue in a sharp exchange at the tail end of a Commissioners Court meeting Tuesday, arguing the major pay increase "feels insanely icky."

The court reclassified Trevino's position, allowing his pay to be raised by 38% from \$350,531 to \$485,000, according to county officials.



Hidalgo

The confrontation arose shortly after members of the court returned from discussing the personnel matter privately during a closed-door executive session held near the end of the public meeting.

When four of the five members returned to the chamber, Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis reconvened the public portion of the meeting so they could hold a vote on the pay increase.

Hidalgo, who presides over the court, then returned to the chamber and asked why the other members had resumed without her. She took the unusual step of publicly sharing information from the court's private discussion of Trevino's pay increase.

"It's because supposedly he's going to be offered a job at the city?" Hidalgo said. "He doesn't even have a paper offer yet. They said the offer is just verbal."

Houston Mayor John Whitmire's office declined to comment on whether Trevino is being considered for a job.

But Hidalgo questioned colleagues about why Trevino would be receiving such a substantial increase.

"I don't know what's behind it, but nobody's so good that they deserve a 40% salary increase overnight," she said.

Hidalgo emphasized that she appreciates Trevino, as well as *Pay raise continues on A5*

## Biden sanctions Israeli settlers in West Bank

By Colleen Long, Zeke Miller and Aamer Madhani  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday issued an executive order that

targets Israeli settlers in the West Bank who have been accused of attacking Palestinians and Israeli peace activists in the occupied territory, imposing financial sanctions and visa bans in an initial round against four individuals.

The settlers were involved in acts of violence, as well as threats and attempts to destroy or seize Palestinian property, according to the order. The penalties aim to block the four from using the U.S. financial system and bar American citi-

zens from dealing with them. U.S. officials said they were evaluating whether to punish others involved in attacks that have intensified during the Israel-Hamas war.

Biden's order is a rare step *Sanctions continues on A6*

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