SA INC
S.A. factory keeps 'lost art' of shoemaking alive in U.S. **B1**

S.A. LIFE
WHERE GIANT CATRINAS AND CALAVERAS MARK DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS IN SAN ANTONIO. **E1**



SPORTS
How Spurs sixth man Johnson pays it forward. **C1**

San Antonio Express-News

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School prosecution referrals on rise

2024 Round Rock case shows how children ages 10 to 13 get swept into state's juvenile justice system

By Kristian Hernández and Eva Ruth Moravec
STAFF WRITER

It started on the last day of school in 2024, in the restless moments before dismissal.

A sixth-grade boy at Walsh Middle in Round Rock was tossing around a stuffed monkey, which he said hit a female classmate. Another boy, who said he had thought they were playing a game, hit the girl's head with an empty lunchbox. A third student said he had "tapped" the girl with his finger.

But the girl said the boys had hit her with their fists and a cellphone — and that it had hurt. She had a bump on her head, records show.

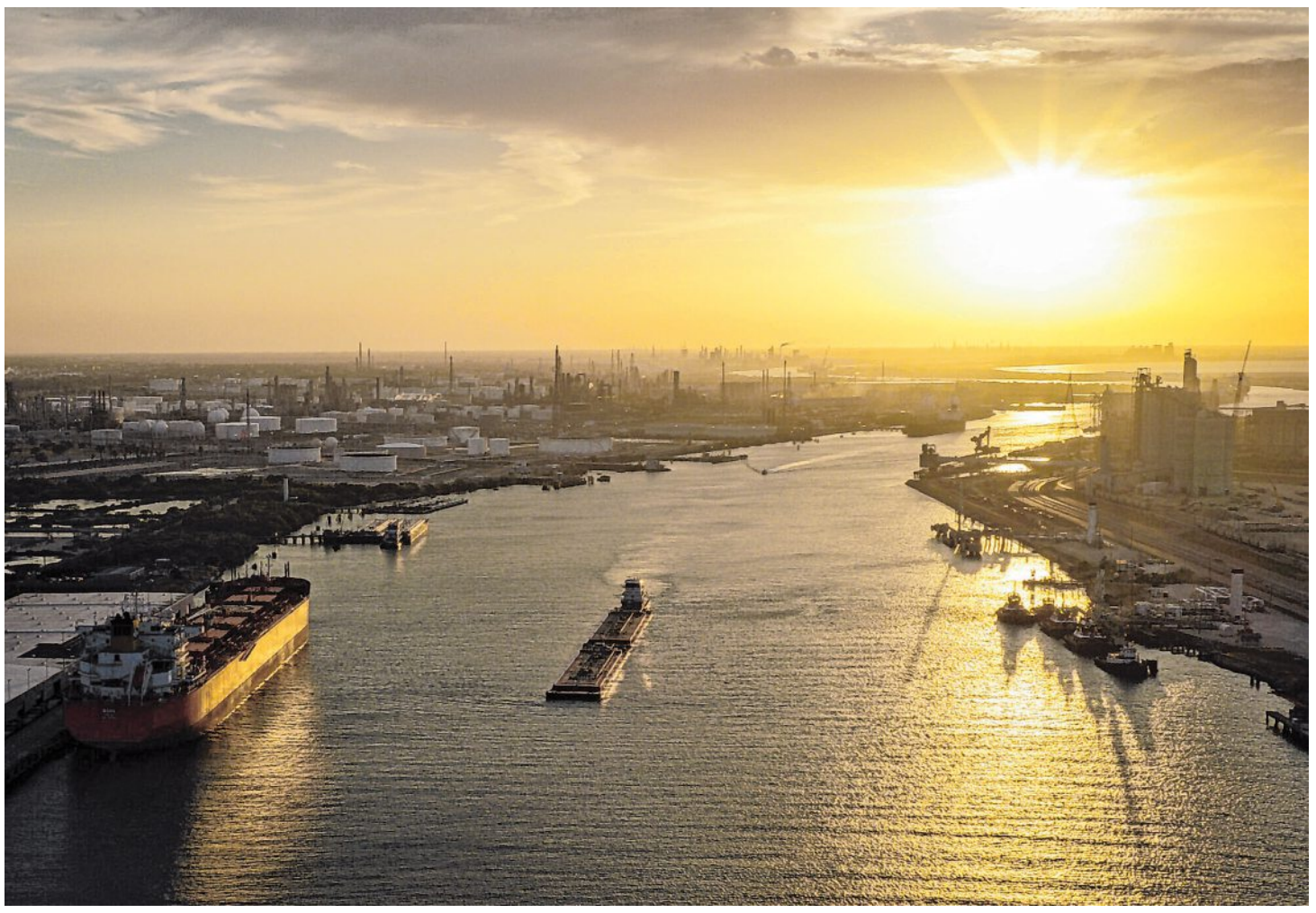
In the past, the boys, who were 11 and 12, might have been disciplined by the principal or a teacher. Instead, an assistant principal directed the girl's mother, who came to pick her up, to school district police officers, who later determined the boys had broken the law.

Weeks after the incident, at least two of the boys were handcuffed, put in the back of police cars and taken to the county juvenile justice center, their parents said in interviews.

"I thought we would sit down and apologize, and he would serve lunch detentions," said Kimmy Lueders, the mother of the boy who had the stuffed monkey. "I never expected him

Referrals continues on A16

State could end up paying Israeli company billions for Corpus Christi plant that promises to make seawater potable



Jon Shapley/Inside Climate News

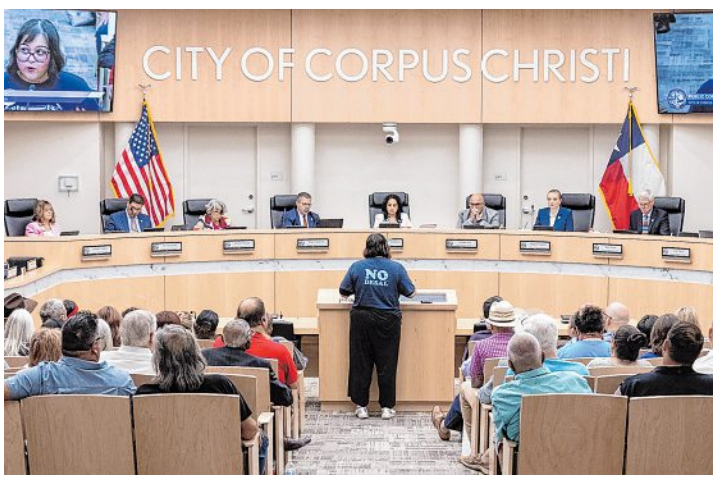
Corpus Christi is a major industrial port and the nation's principal export hub for crude oil. An Israeli company plans to build a massive desalination plant there.

Private desalination plan advances

By Dylan Baddour and Arcelia Martin
INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

CORPUS CHRISTI — Plans are moving ahead for an enormous seawater desalination plant on Texas' Gulf coast, described as the largest in the Western Hemisphere. But unlike other big water projects, this one wouldn't be a public undertaking. It would belong to a private water supplier based in Israel.

IDE Technologies, which operates some of the largest desalination plants in the world, was awarded the contract for the Harbor Island project by the Nueces River Authority.



Blaine Young/For the Texas Tribune

The proposed desalination plant was the subject of a spirited Corpus Christi City Council meeting in June.

"For our company, globally, this is Project One," IDE's regional sales director, Mark Ellison, told the river authority's board of directors in September. "Our top priority."

In Texas, rapid population growth and drought have combined to stretch water supplies to their limits. Generations of state leaders have touted the promise of desalination, which would produce fresh water from the salty Gulf of Mexico. But Texas still awaits its first such facility.

Today, IDE's Harbor Island project on Corpus Christi Bay

Water continues on A14



Election Day

Texas voters will go to the polls Tuesday to cast ballots for governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, state legislators and other public offices.

Voting sites will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For polling place locations and other information, go to elections.bexar.gov.

The San Antonio Express-News Voter Guide, which includes editorial recommendations, is at ExpressNews.com/vote. For full news coverage on Election Day, visit ExpressNews.com.

A midterm crossroads for both parties

By Steve Peoples
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The nation's major political parties are at a crossroads.

A decade after he began to remake the Republican Party in his image, President Donald Trump is facing the prospect of a voter rebellion Tuesday that could force conservatives to rethink their undying allegiance to the 80-year-old lame-duck leader and his "Make America Great Again" movement. Already, some Republican candidates have begun to distance themselves from him.

And Democrats, who remain unpopular despite midterm momentum, are speeding toward a tug-of-war between establishment leaders and emboldened progressives demanding nothing less than transformative

Trump continues on A17

INSIDE

Bexar County's early-voting tally reaches nearly 530K. **A2**

Paxton, Talarico make final push in tight Senate race. **A2**

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