

Cargo ship Solong damaged in crash, fire towed to port

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — A badly damaged cargo ship which collided with a U.S. tanker in the North Sea earlier this month arrived Friday in the Scottish port of Aberdeen, following a fire that lasted for nearly a week.

Following a tug-assisted journey that lasted a few days, the Portugal-flagged Solong docked in Aberdeen for “safe berthing” and damage assessment.

The damage to the ship following its collision on March 10 with an an-

chored tanker, the MV Stena Immaculate, and the ensuing fire, was clearly visible from the shore. The tanker was transporting jet fuel for the U.S. military in the North Sea.

“Salvage of the Solong has progressed to enable its relocation to the Port of Aberdeen for safe berthing,” said chief coastguard Paddy O’Callaghan. “The Stena Immaculate remains in a stable condition with salvage ongoing.”

A spokesperson for Ernt Russ, the company which owns the Solong, said the fire-stricken ship

will be “fully assessed by specialist marine assessors and insurers” in Aberdeen.

The Solong’s Russian captain, Vladimir Motin, has been remanded in custody over the death of a crew member, 38-year-old Filipino national Mark Angelo Pernia., who is missing and presumed dead. Motin, 59, has been charged with “gross negligence manslaughter” and is due to appear at the Central Criminal Court in London, better known as the Old Bailey, on April 14.

Rescuers saved 36 people from both ships.

TARIFFS

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trade than any politician I’ve ever talked to in my life,” Laffer said. “Do not take this paper in any way, shape or form as criticizing Donald Trump and what his strategies are.”

He added that he trusts the president and sees him as exceptionally competent.

While Trump’s tariff plans have frightened the stock market and U.S. consumers, Laffer’s analysis and other reports show the possible economic risks if the threat of import taxes is unable to produce a durable set of deals with other countries. The paper reminds Trump that it’s not too late to change course, specifically complimenting the USMCA negotiated in his first term as a “significant achievement.”

“The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) has served as a cornerstone of President Trump’s first term and has quickly become a dominant feature of North American trade policy, fostering economic growth, stabilizing supply chains, and strengthening

the U.S. auto industry,” Laffer writes.

The analysis says that the per vehicle cost without the USMCA exemption would be \$4,71, but that figure would be a lower \$2,765 if the exemptions were sustained.

Trump honored Laffer with the highest civilian honor 45 years after the economist famously sketched out on a napkin the Laffer curve, showing that there’s an optimal tax rate for collecting revenue.

The bell-shaped curve indicated that there’s a tax rate so high that it could be self-defeating for generating tax revenues. Many Republicans embraced the curve as evidence that lower tax rates could generate stronger growth that would lead to higher tax revenues.

“Dr. Laffer helped inspire, guide and implement extraordinary economic reforms that recognize the power of human freedom and ingenuity to grow our economy and lift families out of poverty and into a really bright future,” Trump said in awarding him the medal.

Laffer served on the economic policy advisory board of President Ronald Reagan, in addition to be-

ing a university professor. He has his own economic consultancy, Laffer Associates. In 1970, he was the first chief economist of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Laffer also advised Trump during his 2016 presidential campaign and co-wrote a flattering book, “Trumponomics: Inside the America First Plan to Revive Our Economy.”

Trump maintains that 25% tariffs will cause more foreign and domestic automakers to expand production and open new factories in the U.S. Last Monday, he celebrated a planned \$5.8 billion investment by South Korean automaker Hyundai to build a steel plant in Louisiana as evidence that his strategy would succeed.

Trump said the tariffs would help to reduce the federal budget deficit while moving more production into the U.S.

“For the most part, I think it’s going to lead cars to be made in one location,” Trump told reporters on Wednesday. “For right now, the car would be made here, sent to Canada, sent to Mexico, sent to all over the place. It’s ridiculous.”

INCOME

From page B8

data,” DeJohn wrote. “But in the largest U.S. cities, a single adult needs at least \$85,000 to sustain a comfortable lifestyle while a family of four requires nearly \$200,000.”

Most households aim to maintain a cushion between the necessary spending for day-to-day necessities such as housing, food, utilities and childcare, DeJohn said, and there is also a desire to “enjoy life in the moment and save for the future.”

“The 50/30/20 budget rule provides a framework for supporting such financial stability,” she wrote.

Indianapolis is the least expensive city for an adult to live comfortably, SmartAsset found. It takes an

estimated salary of \$85,000 to reach that threshold there. And Memphis, Tenn., is the easiest city for a family of four to feel comfortable. Two working adults with two children there would need a combined household salary of \$198,000, the lowest of any major U.S. city.

San Antonio also stood out for relative affordability. A single adult needs an estimated \$86,700 to be financially comfortable there, the sixth-lowest income of any major U.S. city. However, the median household income in San Antonio stands at \$62,322, suggesting that there, too, many individuals and families are under budgetary pressure.

In an email, DeJohn noted that some smaller Texas cities buck the general trend of city dwellers struggling to live comfort-

ably.

“Some cities do stand out as having particularly high rates of households earning at or above the thresholds needed for single adults to live comfortably,” she wrote. Texas cities where more than 50% of households reported earning above \$100,000 per year, where the threshold for an adult to live comfortably also starts around \$100,000 include Frisco, McKinney and Plano.

Houston, the fourth-largest city in the United States by population, was also the biggest city in the top 20. New York ranked 99th in this context: a single adult needs to earn \$136,656 a year to live comfortably there, SmartAsset found, and a family of four needs more than \$300,000, while the local median household income is \$76,577.



Virginia Mayo/Associated Press

Texas is weighing plans to ban SNAP recipients from using benefits on soda and other sugary drinks.

chase by the nation’s 41 million SNAP recipients.

“The top item that food stamps support through taxpayer dollars: sugary drinks, to a group of children that come from a lower socioeconomic ladder that are in many ways from very impoverished

families,” Rollins said according to Politico.

During her confirmation hearing, Rollins said one of her goals would be to make sure SNAP recipients would be able to use their benefits “effectively and efficiently for true nutrition reasons.”

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Notice to Creditors

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Notice to Creditors

Notice to Creditors

NO. 530391 ESTATE OF \$
IN PROBATE COURT \$ WILBER J. ARMATTA, \$
NO. 4 OF \$ DECEASED \$
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.
Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Wilber J. Armatta were issued to Jason Frank Armatta, whose mailing address is 1506 West 13th Street, Apt. 14, Austin, Texas 78703, and James Paul Armatta, whose mailing address is 349 West Baltimore Avenue, Larkspur, California 94939, by the Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas in Cause No. 530391, which is still pending, and that the Independent Co-Executors now hold such Letters Testamentary. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the claims to Jason Frank Armatta and James Paul Armatta, c/o Kelly C. Kocurek, DuBois, Bryant & Campbell, LLP, 303 Colorado, Suite 2300, Austin, TX 78701, within the time prescribed by law.

/s/
Kelly C. Kocurek
DuBois, Bryant and Campbell, LLP
303 Colorado Street, Suite 2300
Austin, Texas 78701

Dated: March 28, 2025
IPLHOU0076380

Legals/Public Notices

Legals/Public Notices

This is to give notice of intent to introduce in the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, a bill to be entitled an Act relating to the management and operation of the Gulf Coast Protection District. The territory of this district is comprised of Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Chambers, Jefferson, and Orange counties. Paid for by Mayes Middleton Campaign.

IPLHOU0076022

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

Bid Notice - Alief ISD will receive sealed proposals at 12102 High Star, Houston, TX 77072 for CSP 2505 RTU Replacements at Classroom Addition Buildings until 2:00 PM (CT), 04/15/2025. Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (CT) on 04/02/2025 at the Alief ISD Maintenance Building, located at 12135 High Star, Houston TX 77072. Alief ISD will receive electronic sealed proposals for RFP 2513 District Wide Foundation Repairs, RFP 2515 Lamps and Bulbs, RFP 2518 Fire Suppression Systems Inspections, Repair and Maintenance, RFP 2519 Fire Alarm/Security Alarm Systems Repair Parts and Labor until 2:00 PM (CT), 04/16/2025. Bid submission info at https://aliefisd.ionwave.net. Questions 281-988-3188.

IPLHOU0075999

Request for Proposals (RFPs)
Multiple Opportunities Available
Proposal Deadline: May 16, 2025, by 11:00 AM ET

The Governing Board of the Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC), acting as the Lead Public Agency on behalf of Edge Public and participating entities—including all K-12 schools, local and state government agencies, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations—is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for a range of RFPs:

- Food Distribution for Schools and Educational Facilities
- Fresh Produce Distribution for Schools and Educational Facilities
- Dairy Distribution for Schools and Educational Facilities
- Building and Facilities Supplies and Services – Retail Stores Purchases
- Janitorial and Sanitation Supplies

Contracts resulting from this solicitation may be awarded to multiple vendors. All RFPs are subject to the Lead Public Agency’s General Conditions & Requirements to Offerors. Full specifications and proposal documents are available via the CIESC Procurement Portal at https://ciesc.coopurchase.com. Only proposals submitted through this portal will be accepted.

Deadline for submission: Friday, May 16, 2025, by 11:00 AM ET.
IPLHOU0075881

PHILLIPS & JORDAN
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: Phillips & Jordan (P&J) is reopening the proposal window for the Oyster Creek Mitigation Improvements. Proposals will be received via email no later than 4:00 P.M. on April 7th, 2025 to BWSCCMAR@PANDJ.COM. RFP documentation can be found at https://www.civcastusa.com/project/67a-f5aa05866962659e0ec0/summary The successful firm will be selected through a one-step selection process by a Selection Panel for services briefly described as:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
OYSTER CREEK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS
HARRIS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

P&J may select a firm based on the Proposals received; or interviews may be conducted and may be used in final scoring. The project scope and submittal requirements can be found at https://www.civcastusa.com/project/67a-f5aa05866962659e0ec0/summary. Inquiries regarding the project scope or submittal requirements may be submitted via the CivCast link for this solicitation. P&J reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submittals, to waive technicalities, and to take whatever action is deemed in the best interest of P&J and its partners. This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any Contact(s) awarded under this Invitation for Bids is/are subject to the United States Iron and Steel (US I&S) requirements of Texas Water Code 17.183 and/or Texas Government Code, Chapter 2252, Subchapter F, as amended by SB 1289, 85th Legislative Session, as applicable.

Choice Partners (CP), a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is a national cooperative that will be accepting proposals in response to the following Request for Proposals (RFP). Interested proposers may go to www.choicepartners.org and register to download the solicitation or call 877-696-2122.

• RFP 25/0255SG for Promotional and Commemorative Items are due by Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 @ 2:00 PM CT

All proposals must be submitted via the HCDE online eBid System at the following link: https://hcdeebid.ionwave.net. Proposals will be opened via Zoom; Information regarding dates, times, and a link to join the meeting is located within the eBid System under the “Activities” tab specific to the solicitation.
IPLHOU0075613

TABC Notices

TABC Notices

LEGAL NOTICE Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer, Wine, food & Beverage permit by Miranda Duangrat Loetkhamfu dba MA Asian Kitchen, LLC., to be located at 2512 Rice Blvd., Houston, Harris County, Texas 77005. Officers of said corporation Miranda Duangrat Loetkhamfu owner.

IPLHOU0076339

LEGAL NOTICE Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mix Beverage, Food and Beverage permit by Miranda Duangrat Loetkhamfu dba KRUA LLC., to be located at 6324 Richmond Ave. Houston, Harris County, Texas 77057. Officers of said corporation Miranda Duangrat Loetkhamfu owner.

IPLHOU0076410

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a [Mixed beverage LICENSE/PERMIT] by [Leveled Up Investments, Inc] dba [Elevated bar and Lounge], to be located at 4217 Tidwell Rd. ST D, [Houston], [Harris], Texas. Officers of said corporation [Leveled Up Investments, Inc] are [Karla Pratt, President and owner].
IPLHOU0076116

Legals/Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicle
Iron impound
13129 Kuykendahl Rd, Houston, TX 77090
832-965-5410
Jayco Eagle Motorhome
Charges: \$4515
IPLHOU0076368

Legal Bids & Proposals

FORMAL BIDS - CFISD Nutrition Services will receive proposals on 04/25/2025 1:00 PM for Farm to School Produce for Nutrition Services 25-07-3425. 11355 Perry Rd., Houston, TX 77064. www.cfisd.net/bids IPLHOU0075954

Citation by Publication
CAUSE NUMBER: 202489586
RECEIPT NUM: 1021223
TRACKING NUMBER: 74457080
DEL TO: EML

Plaintiff: MCCARTY, SEAN ALAN
vs.
Defendant: BARRETT, JORDAN MILAN

IN THE 269th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: “You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.”

To: BARRETT, JORDAN MILAN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 269th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, MAY 12, 2025, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said Court on December 30, 2024, in a suit numbered 202489586 on the docket of said court, wherein MCCARTY, SEAN ALAN Plaintiff(s) and BARRETT, JORDAN MILAN, Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff’s demand being and the said petition alleging:

On or about May 10, 2023, Plaintiffs, Sean McCarty, was operating his 1999 Toyota Camry in the Northbound lane on the 1200 block of Shepherd Drive in the far-left lane at the intersection of 1200 Shepherd Drive and 4700 Nett Street in Houston, Harris County, Texas in a reasonable and prudent manner, exercising ordinary care for his safety, and the safety of others, when he was involved in a collision with a vehicle, which was owned by Defendant, The Safir Ali Group and being operated by and driven by Defendant, Jordan Milan Barrett. The collision, which was proximately caused by Defendants’ negligence, occurred as follows: Plaintiff, Sean McCarty, was operating his vehicle in a safe manner traveling northbound on Shepherd Drive when Defendant, Jordan Milan Barrett, made an unsafe lane change and collided with struck the vehicle that Mr. McCarty was driving. As a result of the negligent conduct of Defendant, Jordan Milan Barrett, as well as the negligence of Defendants, The Safir Ali Group and Hamper, Inc., and the resulting collision, Plaintiff sustained substantial physical injuries and property damage. Attempts to personally serve Jordan Milan Barrett have been unsuccessful.

Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to MAY 12, 2025, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on MAY 3, 2025, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS:Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas on March 27, 2025.

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

Issued at the request of: FAGGARD, AL-FRED MARKHAM 4320 CALDER AVE. BEAUMONT, TX 77706-409-835-4300
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