

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 5, NO. 17 (#1701) THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

## CHANNEL CHATTER

## Early voting for San Jacinto College Board of Trustees election underway

Polling locations throughout the College District

### Galena Manor Press Conference

A Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Galena Manor Recreation Center underneath the pavilion concerning the Evelyn Churchill Recreation Building. The purpose of the press conference is to allow concerned citizens to exercise the First Amendment in an open forum.

### Senior Honor Student's Luncheon

Friday – April 28, 2017. San Jacinto College North - Monument Room. SPONSORS NEEDED. Sponsor a student for \$20 or become a Contributing Partner for \$250 (LIMITED SPACE). Please contact bianca at the North Channel Chamber, 713-450-3600 for more details.

### Keep Houston Beautiful

Congressman Gene Green will be hosting the 15th Annual North Channel Area Community Clean-Up, Saturday, April 29, 8:30 am - 12 pm. Kickoff site: East Freeway HPD Storefront, 12001 A- East Freeway, Houston, TX. 77029. Volunteers are needed! Please call 281-999-5879 to register.

### Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017 5:45 – light dinner. 6:15- business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

Host plant: PCI Nitrogen. Your RSVP by noon on Mon. May 1 will help us plan food and seating.

Contact facilitator Diane Sheridan at [dsfacilitator@gmail.com](mailto:dsfacilitator@gmail.com) or 281-326-5253.

PASADENA, Texas – Early voting for the May 6, 2017, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees election begins Monday, April 24, 2017. Voters within the San Jacinto College District will vote on two trustee positions.

Residents that live within the Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Sheldon, Channelview, Galena

Park, and a portion of the Clear Creek, Humble and Pearland independent school districts, can vote in person at the designated early voting branch location for their precinct during designated times. There are 15 early voting locations throughout the San Jacinto College district during the early vot-

ing period, which runs Monday, April 24, 2017, through Tuesday, May 2, 2017 (except Saturdays and Sundays).

Early voting hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, April 24 through Monday, May 1; and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Tuesday, May 2. To find an early voting location for

your precinct visit the San Jacinto College election website at [sanjac.edu/board-trustees-election](http://sanjac.edu/board-trustees-election) and click on "Polling Locations" on the left side. Polling locations are subject to change.

Board of Trustees Positions 1 and 2 will be filled in the election. Each position is for a six-year term.

Mr. Rick Guerrero and Mrs. Erica Davis Rouse have filed for Position 1. Dr. Ruede Wheeler, incumbent, is the only person to have filed for Position 2. More information about the candidates can be found online at [sanjac.edu/board-trustees-election](http://sanjac.edu/board-trustees-election).

Election Day is Saturday, May 6, 2017.

## JACINTO CITY RABIES CLINIC Homeless Dog Finds A Caring Owner



Photo by Allan Jamall

City Manager Lon Squyres said, over 200 pets received their vaccinations in order to comply with the city's law. The law requires all dogs and cats to be licensed and to have a collar with a current city tag attached to it at all times regardless if the pet is within a fence or not. Law violators are subject to a \$200 fine and having their pet picked up and placed in the city's pound.

By Allan Jamall  
Jacinto City, TX. April 22, 2017 – Jacinto City's Health & Humane Depart-

ment and Northshore Animal Hospital's Veterinarian Francis Martin, 210 Uvalde, Houston (713-453-0149) provided pet

owners a discount for having their dogs and cats vaccinated at the annual rabies clinic.

## North Shore Rotary selling Fish Fry Raffle tickets



JIM MILLS, North Shore Rotarian and owner of Pineforest Jewelry, displays the top prize in the North Shore Rotary Raffle, a new 2017 Toyota pickup truck. Jim is urging you to buy a raffle ticket for \$100 from any Rotarian, including himself, to support the Rotary in their community projects.

NORTH SHORE – Rotarians are busy preparing for their 42nd annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, which will be held Saturday May 20 at the North Shore Rotary Pavilion behind the courthouse.

The address is 14350 Wallisville Road. Serving of food will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. but come early and enjoy the day.

There will also be a si-

lent and live auction, according to Adam Lund, chairman of the Fish Fry this year.

Raffle tickets are \$100, and meal only tickets are \$10. The raffle ticket also will be good for any of the 20 prizes, all of which have a value higher than \$100.

Each year the club raises several 100,000 dollars which is returned by funding community projects.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## Community helps clown smile again



Photo by Mario Jaime

Galena Park, TX. April 22, 2017 – Clown Payasito Yiyi (Hugo Alvarado) needing funds for a major surgery got help from Lupita's Crazy Energy Z Fitness class and Keep Jacinto City Clean members.

Zumba dancers performed at the city park pavilion for those in the community who came out to contribute to the fund raising event, nachos and refreshments were provided.



Photo by Mario Jaime

Lupita Jaime presents funds to Clown Payasito Yiyi and wife Maria Vaca.

## TEXAS HISTORY

## San Jacinto battle reenacted Saturday



Twin Sisters announce the 20 Minute battle that changed the history of America, Texas and Mexico, adding one third of the land mass of the United States following the Mexican American Conflict in 1847. The Texas Revolution culminated on April 21, 1836, at San Jacinto. Sam Houston led a rag tag, diverse army against almost twice his number of defenders under General Santa Anna.

See more pictures, page 8



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Houston Firefighters Scholarship Fund Fundraiser

Crawfish Fundraiser for City of Houston Firefighters Children & Grandchildren Scholarships, Saturday, April 29, 2017, 12 pm - 5 pm at Crawfish Shack, 5822 FM 2100, Crosby, TX, 77532. Crawfish Shack will be donating 25% of all sales to the fundraiser. For more info call 281-385-8525.

### Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Stonebridge at Newport, 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby, TX. Sunday, April 30, 2017 – 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Enjoy a Salad Buffet (Pasta, Tuna, Chicken, Egg & Greens) Assorted Desserts & Tea. Displays for Jewelry, Hand Bags, Make-Up, Oils and More. Door prizes every 20 minutes. Special prize recognition for: Oldest and Youngest Mother, Most generations.

Reservations may be made at Management Office (281) 462-4199 Ext. 10 or Pro Shop at Golf Course (281) 328-3576 Ext. 1.

### Spring Fling

Crosby Brethren Church to host its annual Spring Fling this Sunday, April 30, at the American Legion Hall from 11 am to 2 pm. Activities for the day include:

- Worship 9:00 am
- Fish Dinner 11 am – 2 pm
- Live Auction 12 pm
- Raffle 2 pm

Proceeds from this year's festival will benefit these local ministries: Churches United in Caring and the Meal Ministry to shut-ins and seniors in Crosby. It will also benefit a mission, Cade Lake Community Chapel in Burleson County and mission teams in Mexico and the Czech Republic.

### Library Computer Class

Stratford Library - Highlands offers beginning computer classes every Monday night at 6:30 PM. The classes include Computer Basics, Email & Internet, Word, Library Apps, and Resume Help. No experience necessary! Space is limited and registration is required. Please call 832-927-5400 to sign up or with any questions. The Stratford Library is located at 509 Stratford Highlands, TX 77562, 2 blocks behind Food Town.

### Crosby Alumni Assoc. Mtg.

"The Crosby Alumni Association has announced the dates of the 4 meetings for planning the annual All-Classes CHS Alumni Reunion to be held on August 5, 2017 at the American Legion Hall.

The meetings will be held at the Crosby Community Center on Hare Road beginning at 6 pm. The dates are: May 16, June 20 and July 18. All graduates of Crosby High School are invited to attend these meetings regardless of year graduated."

## News of Local Rotary Clubs

Rotary District 5890 completed their annual District Conference last weekend, and a number of local clubs and Rotarians were awarded recognition for their efforts in their communities.

Delegations from Baytown, Highlands, North Shore and Galena Park/Jacinto City attended the conference, that mixed training and learning opportunities with recreation, fellowship and relaxation.

The event was held April 20-23 at the La Torretta resort on Lake Conroe. District 5890 has 62 clubs, with over 3000 members.



**BEST LARGE SIZE CLUB IN THE DISTRICT** was awarded to the Baytown Club for "outstanding service to humanity" and support of Rotary 5890 and Rotary International. Seen accepting the award at the District conference are Sandra Bell, Kathy Clausen, president Sandy Delmonico, Gilbert Santana, Daryl Fontenot, president-elect Nick Woolery and District Governor Eric Liu.



**North Shore Rotary President KIM GONZALEZ, right,** receives the award for Best President of a large club, from District Governor Eric Liu.



**5890 District Membership Chair DERRILL PAINTER** was awarded for his outstanding efforts.



**AMIR KHAN, right,** receives the award for outstanding effort for Public Relations for District 5890, from District Governor Eric Liu and wife Sandra Liu.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY DISTRICT 5890

### Banuelos Elementary Celebrates Earth Day

Antonio Salazar, Noelani Flavien and Z'Nai Horn from Linda Le Day's fourth-grade GATE class at Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary plant new flowers and plants in the Butterfly Garden, celebrating Earth Day.



## OPINION Concerned Citizens of Galena Manor

Definite Line of Demarcation Drawn for African American Residents of Galena Park, Texas

In lieu of recent events concerning the Mayor of Galena Park, a Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Galena Manor Recreation Center underneath the pavilion concerning the Evelyn Churchill Recreation Building. The purpose of the press conference is to allow concerned citizens to exercise the First Amendment in an open forum. Mayor Moya has refused to return telephone calls and answer questions regarding the closing and halting of the renovation of the Evelyn Churchill Building since August, 2016.

The recreation center is the African American section of Galena Park has been closed since August, 2016. The remodeling project has been discontinued due to differences between Commissioner Eric Broussard and Mayor Moya.

There is approximately 1.1 million dollars in the overall Parks and Recreation budget. However, Mayor Moya refuses to allow the remodeling project to continue and also refuses to pay the contractors for work completed. Monies allocated to each budget must be used to accommodate the needs of the citizens and not withheld in order to reinforce disapproval when a said commissioner disagrees with the mayor. She appears to be intimidating the elderly citizens by refusing to talk to them in a manner that is blatant discrimination in a subtle form.

Currently, Mayor Moya has refused to speak to residents of Galena Manor and Galena Park regarding the closing of the recreation facility.

The Alvin Baggett Community Center is located in the previously all-White section of the City. Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas is not contracted to provide a bus route within the City of Galena Park on a regular basis. The commute takes approximately 50 minutes via walking and 10 minutes by a vehicle from the recreational facilities.

Without question, the non-African American citizens of Galena Park are not faced with a challenge to access city operated facilities. A definite line of demarcation has been drawn since recreational services are being adamantly denied to the residents of Galena Manor.

The City of Galena Park has experienced controversy since electing Mayor Moya to serve as the first Hispanic and female mayor since June 21, 2014. Mayor Moya appears to be in violation of the city charter in several areas while refusing to communicate with her constituents.

Please Note: Galena Park is located east of the 610 Loop, north of the Houston Ship Channel and adjacent to the City of Jacinto City and Houston neighborhoods of Clinton Park and Fidelity. Clinton Drive is the main arterial road for Galena Park and traffic to and from the ship channel and the Port of Houston uses this road. The area around Galena

Park includes freeways, freight railway, and heavy industry. [12]

The border between Galena Park, previously an all-White city and Clinton Park, an African-American neighborhood, is barricaded as of 2008. Rafael Longoria and Susan Rogers of the Rice Design Alliance said in 2008 that the barricade "provides a stark example of how the prevailing segregationist sentiments of the era is still in evidence." (Longoria, Rafael and Susan Rogers. "The Rurban Horseshoe." (Archive) Cite 73. The Rice Design Alliance, (Northern Hemisphere) Winter 2008. Pages 18-19. Retrieved on February 24, 2010.) "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice"; However, the arch is bending mighty wide in the case of the recreation facility being reopened.

The press conference is open to the public and participation from the audience is encouraged. Information will be provided to the community and feedback is encouraged. The Press Conference will begin at the Galena Manor Park, 1508 Hunter Street, Galena Park, TX 77547 on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The City of Galena Park Council Meeting will be held at the City Hall in Galena Park on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please leave a message at [concernedcitizensgalenapark@gmail.com](mailto:concernedcitizensgalenapark@gmail.com) or call 281-819-2990.

Concerned Citizens of Galena Manor Civic Club in Galena Park, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS OPINION PIECE BY THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF GALENA MANOR CC DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THIS NEWSPAPER OR ITS EDITORS.



Claudia Leblanc Jenny Hinson Donna Haynes  
Jodie Roane Jack Noonan Kathy Laramore

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OPINION PAGE

### JUST BETWEEN US

By Kristan Hoffman & Angie Liang

Motherhood: A New Life, A New Layer

By Kristan Hoffman

At the beginning of 2016, I knew my life was changing. I just had no idea how much.

My husband and I had been trying to conceive for a few months. Finally we got that much-anticipated positive sign on a pregnancy test. Such a little thing, with such an enormous impact. Suddenly all of our hypotheticals were on their way to becoming reality, and the questions we used to ponder just for fun would need answers. (For example: What to name the baby?) We knew there was no way to be fully prepared, but you kind of have to try anyway.

Overall I was lucky to have a smooth pregnancy. Still it was strange to see my belly growing and to share my body. Some days I felt excited and wondered what this tiny creature would be like. Other days, to be honest, I resented the weight gain, nausea, and exhaustion.

Then one morning, about halfway through my pregnancy, I felt my daughter move inside me. Just a faint wiggle at first, but soon she grew stronger and more active. She was like a goldfish, and I was the bowl. It was incredible! Kicking, hiccuping, squirming, pushing — I looked forward to all of her movements, no matter how uncomfortable they made me. Even her 4 AM dance parties brought a smile to my face. She no longer felt like something vague and imperceptible, but rather a goofy little buddy who kept me company all the time. I started to talk to her. I started to fall in love.

She was born two weeks early, on my mother's birthday. Because we hadn't been expecting her yet, my husband was actually several hours away on a business trip when I went into labor. As soon as I called, he quickly prepped his team to handle the rest of the week's events without him, and then drove through the night to get to me. He managed to arrive just twelve minutes before our daughter did.

Those first couple months as a family of three were special but grueling. Physically, I felt much worse than I had during any part of my



pregnancy. Plus I was sleep deprived, struggling to figure out breastfeeding, and constantly second-guessing myself. The joys of parenthood are real, but so are the hardships and worries.

After a period of colic (now called Agpurple crying) Ah! our daughter turned a corner, sleeping better and smiling more. Now at six months old, she is such a joy. Every morning I look forward to her waking up. I sing silly songs to her, and she snuggles into my neck. We play with her toys in the living room, and she approaches everything with avid curiosity. Books, blocks, her feet, sitting, rolling, standing. I can practically see the wheels turning in her brain as she tries to figure out each new thing, and I love it. I never realized how spectacular it would be to witness a tiny human — my tiny human — exploring the world.

But even with an easy, cheerful baby, parenthood is demanding. Exhausting. Mind-numbingly repetitive. And it's intimidating, to be responsible for another being, especially one as pure and helpless as a baby. Turns out, dirty diapers are the least of a parent's problems. What's really tough is making decisions for someone else. What should she wear today? How long should I let her cry before going in to help her sleep? Will traveling at a young age be too stressful and disruptive? Where should she go to school?

In spite of the pressures, I wouldn't give up the immense privilege — the unparalleled pleasure — of being her mother. Of helping her to discover and become the person she's meant to be.

At the same time, I'm still striving to become the person I'm meant to be. I still have my own wants, needs, and dreams. Motherhood hasn't changed me at the core; it's just a new layer. One I'm still learning how to wear.



House passes legislation to reform school finance law

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives on April 19 approved school finance legislation that would reduce the amount of local tax dollars that property-rich school districts are required to share with other school districts under the so-called "Robin Hood" process.

House Bill 21 by House Public Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston, passed on a vote of 134-16. It would increase per-student state funding for most school districts and charter schools and would adjust formulas used to calculate how much funding the state sends to school districts.

House Speaker Joe Straus, who designated school finance reform a top priority for lawmakers to address in the 85th session of the Texas Legislature, lauded the passage of HB 21. "Texas public schools are doing a good job and House Bill 21 will make them even better," Straus said. "This bill puts needed resources into Texas classrooms. It begins to bring long-overdue improvements to our school finance formulas. And it reduces the impact of Robin Hood by keeping more local dollars in local schools."

"Parents and taxpayers know that our school finance system needs reform. House Bill 21 begins to implement those reforms," added Straus. "If this type of legislation does not become law, property taxes will increase and more school districts will send their local dollars to other parts of the state. We cannot and should not continue to put more and more of the burden on property taxes. Fully reforming our school finance system may take several years and much more work but now is the right time to start."

**Senate tackles school finance**  
Meanwhile, on April 19, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on SB 2145, legislation that would change the way the funding of public education is calculated.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Ed Sterling

Written by the committee's chair, Sen. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, SB 2145 would reduce the current, multi-layered formula to what he referred to as "a single line."

Taylor said his bill would make school funding "simpler, easier to understand and more equitable" by repealing all or part of 49 separate sections of the Education Code and put projected savings from efficiencies back into the system.

As redesigned by Taylor, five instructional allotments would be added together: the regular program allotment based on the basic allotment determined at the state level and allotments for special education, career and technology, compensatory education and bilingual education. The sum multiplied by the local school property tax rate, plus a transportation cost allotment, is how much a district would get every year, according to the Senate News Service.

Taylor said his bill "establishes a fresh start for school finance by removing inefficiencies and creating a funding system based on actual costs and that takes taxpayer effort into consideration." His formula is designed to take into account local tax effort, he said, such that districts could hold elections to increase local property taxes up to the current cap of \$1.17 and would receive more money commensurate with each penny increase.

Budget to be hashed out

Speaker Straus and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week appointed members to a conference committee whose job it will be to reconcile differences in House version and the Senate version of Senate Bill 1, the state budget for 2018 and 2019.



House members named to serve on the 10-member committee are: John Zerwas, R-Richmond; Sarah Davis, R-Houston; Larry Gonzales, R-Round Rock; Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin; and Oscar Longoria, D-La Joya. Senate members include: Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound; Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen; Joan Huffman, R-Houston; Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; and Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown.

Jobless rate increases

The Texas Workforce Commission on April 21 reported that the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.0 percent during the month of March, up slightly from 4.9 percent in February.

Despite the increase in the unemployment rate, the Texas job total showed continued health in March with the addition of 9,500 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs.

The Texas Workforce Commission also reported that the Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the month's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 3.5 percent, followed by a rate of 3.6 percent achieved by the College Station-Bryan and Austin-Round Rock MSAs. The Lubbock and Midland MSAs each registered a rate of 4.0 percent for March.

Thank A Teacher

(NAPSI)—Although National Teacher Appreciation Week begins on Sunday, May 7, 2017, any time is a good time to acknowledge all the teachers who make a positive impact on children's lives.

Send A Free Thank-You Video E-card

To help facilitate giving thanks to our nation's often undervalued K-12 teachers, the national nonprofit AdoptAClassroom.org offers a free and easy way to thank teachers. Kicking off April 17, it allows people to preschedule free digital video thank-you e-cards, which the nonprofit will automatically send out during Teacher Appreciation Week.

"We wanted to make it easy for people to shower their teachers with gratitude during Teacher Appreciation Week," says Ann Ness, executive director of AdoptAClassroom.org. "We believe our video e-cards will put smiles on the faces of our nation's teachers."

To preschedule free video e-cards, go to [adoptaclassroom.org/ThankATeacher](http://adoptaclassroom.org/ThankATeacher), enter your teacher's name and e-mail address, select your favorite video e-card and add a personal message. AdoptAClassroom.org will automatically send all e-cards out beginning May 7.

Join Sheryl Crow  
Nine-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow wants everyone to understand the importance of thanking teachers.

"We need to support the teachers who changed our lives for the better; teaching is the most important job that exists," said Crow. "Join me and AdoptAClassroom.org in letting teachers know how important and appreciated they are for the work they do."

As a former teacher who comes from a family of teachers, Crow understands just how challenging the profession can be.

On average, U.S. teachers spend \$600 a year purchasing school supplies for their classrooms and students. Twenty percent of teachers spend more than \$1,000 annually.

Give teachers your support this Teacher Appreciation Week. In addition to sending a meaningful thank-you e-card, you can make a donation to your favorite teacher on AdoptAClassroom.org to show your gratitude.

As an award-winning 501(c)(3), AdoptAClassroom.org makes it easy for individual donors and corporate sponsors to donate funds to K-12 classrooms in public, private and charter schools throughout the United States. To date, AdoptAClassroom.org has donated more than \$50 million to teachers and their classrooms.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Carla Faye Mohon

Carla Faye Mohon, 56, of Crosby, Texas went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. She was born on October 6, 1960 in Houston, Texas to J.L. Maza and Charlotte Jones Maza. She was a graduate of North Shore High School. Carla worked for Tri Con Works LLC, as a purchasing agent for over 20 years. Carla enjoyed arts and crafts, quilting, fishing, traveling and was a very devoted member of the Atascocita United Methodist Church. Carla was a hardworking, honest, caring, and giving woman who will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, William "Bill" Mohon; parents, Charlotte and J.L. Maza; and five aunts. Carla is survived by her brother, Jay Maza; aunt, Fannie Wells; niece, Kelly Herring and husband Phillip; great nephew, Aiden Herring; beloved felines, Snowball, Stormy, Wendy and Ms. Ike; numerous cousins, two aunts, and a host of extended family and friends.



A visitation for family and friends will be held on Monday, April 24, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Sterling White Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 10:00 am also at Sterling White Funeral Home. Interment will be in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com). In lieu of flowers and plants, donations can be made in Carla's memory to Atascocita United Methodist Church, 19325 Pinehurst Trail Dr., Humble, TX 77346, [www.aumc.com](http://www.aumc.com), 281-852-1000.



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John 7:38

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Right of way

By Jill Pertler

I've never claimed to be a great driver. Good, perhaps. Careful, for sure. My family would tell you I am cautious – sometimes to the point of being jumpy at the wheel.

By jumpy I mean on the lookout for surprises, aka accidents waiting to happen. Pedestrians who come out of nowhere. Squirrels darting across the street. Dogs without leashes. And cars. Mostly other cars. I have trust issues with other cars, or more specifically the drivers of those cars.

You can't count on them to see you or follow the rules of the road. Many are looking at phones. Everyone knows you shouldn't text and drive but I see it all the time. Hence my caution and predisposition to brake first and ask question later. Defensive driving 101 – I practically invented the topic.

This seasoned roadie has learned that not all driving is created equal. Some situations are worse than others. There are a few scenarios where a diligent driver (like me) is likely to be more road-leery and brake-ready than usual.

Uncontrolled intersections are risky business. When I encounter a cross street with another vehicle inching out onto my roadway, I slow down and prepare to avoid a collision should they attempt to come crashing into me.

Four-way stop signs are controlled intersections and as such should bring comfort to a control freak. Unfortunately this isn't the case. The concept of waiting your turn was mastered by most of us in kindergarten. All that good knowledge goes flying out the window when drivers encounter a four-way stop and leap into a me-first mentality. Some motorists even piggyback on the car

in front of their own, so that both vehicles go through the intersection at the same time. Clearly illegal. So many things could go wrong at a four-way stop. So I am wary.

As I am with left turns. I go out of my way to avoid them. Left turns involve cross traffic, which could result in a T-bone that has nothing to do with a juicy steak. Besides, why make a left when three rights will get you the same outcome?

Making a left turn at a four-way stop is a double whammy. Enough said.

Not all hazards of driving occur on the roadways. Parking lots are the Wild, Wild West of the driving world. Anarchy rules and laws and logic are ignored. Drivers in parking lots pay no heed to stop signs. They cut across traffic and fail to yield to other vehicles. People drive up the down lane, clearly ignoring the directional arrows painted on the pavement. One must be ever-alert and attentive to avoid running into shopping carts and reckless drivers.

I wish I could avoid

parking lots like I avoid left turns.

My son, who often rides shotgun in my vehicle, gets annoyed with my vigilant behind-the-wheel behaviors.

"You've got the right of way," he says with the smug authority of someone with a brand new permit in his wallet and a pocketful of knowledge gleaned from a recent stint in driver's training class. Clearly his nouveau insight far surpasses my decades of dependably cautious driving experience.

"If they come crashing into us it doesn't matter who has the right of way," I tell him with the authority of a driver who long ago graduated from training permit to full-fledged license.

And then I make a few right turns toward home. It's all in the name of safety.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Crosby Brethren Church Spring Fling

Crosby Brethren Church to host its annual Spring Fling this Sunday, April 30, at the American Legion Hall from 11 am to 2 pm. Activities for the day include:

- Worship 9:00 am
- Fish Dinner 11 am – 2 pm
- Live Auction 12 pm
- Raffle 2 pm

Proceeds from this year's festival will benefit these local ministries: Churches United in Caring and the Meal Ministry to

shut-ins and seniors in Crosby. It will also benefit a mission, Cade Lake Community Chapel in Burleson County and mission teams in Mexico and the Czech Republic.

Crosby Brethren Church has been blessed and seeks to be a blessing to others in the community, state and world. A meal, a kolach, a raffle ticket, an auction item donated or bought will bless another life in Crosby and around the world.

BIBLE TRIVIA  
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 38, who was the first individual killed by God for being wicked? Cain, Er, Onan, Gomorrah
3. How long had the woman been sick that touched the hem of

Jesus' garment? 1 month, 6 months, 3 years, 12 years  
4. From 1 Kings 6, who constructed the first altar covered with gold? Gideon, Josiah, Noah, Solomon  
5. How often does the Year of Jubilee come around, once every how many years? 5, 25, 50, 75  
6. Which king ordered Daniel into the lions' den? Darius, Eglon, Herod, Caesar  
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Er; 3) 12 years; 4) Solomon; 5) 50; 6) Darius

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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.  
Leviticus 19:32

# ASK THE EXPERT

## Diamond Jim: "What are some of the most famous Diamonds in the world?"



**Famous Diamonds Examined by GIA (Gemological Institute of America)**  
The Hope Diamond, the Dresden Green, the Idol's Eye, the Portuguese Diamond and the Moussaieff Red – these famous diamonds are spectacularly beautiful jewels that have been admired for centuries. An aura of mystery has always surrounded these rare natural wonders, so it was quite an honor when GIA researchers examined them.

**The Hope Diamond**  
VS1 • 45.52 ct  
The Hope Diamond. Courtesy of Chip Clark/Smithsonian Institution.  
The Hope Diamond may be the most famous colored diamond in the world. A team of GIA gemologists graded it in 1988. Because they were able to weigh the diamond unmounted, they quickly made a notable discovery: the diamond was 45.52 ct, and not 44.50 ct, which had been its previously recorded weight. GIA graders also reported that the Hope Diamond is a cushion antique brilliant. The diamond was color graded as a natural color Fancy dark grayish blue diamond.

Since the 1800s, the Hope Diamond had been described as being flawless. During their examination, the GIA team noticed that the diamond had accumulated a few wear marks over the years and had whitish graining and a few minor feathers. Its clarity was graded as VS1 (Very slightly included). Good polish and Fair to Good symmetry were also noted. Technical specifications aside, the Hope Diamond captivates the imagination like no other gemstone.

**The Dresden Green**  
41 ct  
The Dresden Green  
In late 1988, GIA gemologists secured permission to examine the famed Dresden Green diamond in the Green Vaults, which was then in East Germany. They were particularly excited, as it promised to provide insight into distinguishing natural from laboratory-irradiated green diamonds

### ASK DIAMOND JIM

(radiation is usually the cause of color in both instances). Because the diamond's history had been recorded since 1741, researchers could be confident that it had not been treated in a laboratory. As the diamond remained mounted upon examination, GIA gemologists were not able to issue a grading report. GIA researchers described the Dresden Green as Fancy green, with a modified pear-shaped brilliant cut. The natural green color has medium tone and slightly grayish saturation. The Green Vaults records indicate it weighs 41 ct.

**The Portuguese Diamond**  
VS1 • 127.01 ct  
The Portuguese Diamond. Courtesy of Harold and Erica Van Pelt.  
Of South African origin, the Portuguese Diamond weighs 127.01 ct. GIA gemologists graded it an M on the GIA Color Scale, and gave it a VS1 clarity grade because of a small bruise on one of the facets and two very minor scratches on the table.

The Portuguese has Very Strong blue fluorescence, and this may help mask the faint yellow color in the diamond. Because the fluorescence is so strong, in 1924 it was advertised by Black, Starr & Frost to be a blue diamond.

**Idol's Eye**  
VVVS1 • 70.20 ct  
Idol's Eye. Courtesy of Graff Diamonds.  
Another famous diamond shrouded in myth, the Idol's Eye was probably mined in India's Golconda District – an area famed for producing fine diamonds. There are many tall tales about the diamond, including one that says the Idol's Eye is also the Nassak. This has been disproven. The first confirmed documentation of the Idol's Eye was in one of the lots being sold at auction by Christie's London in July 1865. GIA gemologists confirmed that the Idol's Eye weighs 70.20 ct. Its color grade is Very Light blue and its clarity is VVS1 (Very

very slightly included).

**The Moussaieff Red**  
5.11 ct  
The Moussaieff Red  
Although the Moussaieff Red weighs just 5.11 ct, it's a predominantly red diamond (no secondary hues like purple), which means it's incredibly rare. A description of Fancy red is remarkable. GIA records show that from 1957 to 1987 there was no mention of a GIA report issued for a diamond with "red" as the only descriptive term.

Only a handful of Fancy red diamonds are known, because in diamonds the color red is often modified with another hue, such as purplish red or orangy red. A Brazilian farmer discovered the Moussaieff Red in the 1990s. It was cut and polished from a 13.9 ct crystal.

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com). If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

Christy Faylene Connell



Christy Faylene Connell, 88, of Galena Park, Texas, passed away at her home on April 24, 2017 in Galena Park, Texas. Born December 31, 1928 in the Buena Vista community, Shelby County, Texas. She is the daughter of the late Ben Sam and Hettie Obara (Hall) Rhodes. Visitation will be held from 12PM on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Timpson Missionary Baptist Church, Hwy 59N., Timpson, Texas. Funeral service will be Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 1:00 PM at Timpson Missionary Baptist Church, Hwy 59N., Timpson, Texas with Bro. Steven Pace and Bro. Levi Cohorst officiating. Interment will follow at Timpson Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Timpson, Texas.

Faylene was born and raised in the Buena Vista Community, Shelby County, Texas. After graduating from Timpson High School in 1946, she soon found the love of her life, the late Charles "Pete" Connell,

## OBITUARIES

whom she married in 1946. They spent over 56 years together before he went to be with the Lord in March of 2003.

Faylene enjoyed cooking, playing dominoes, 42 & 88, and going on senior citizen trips with her friends. She found great joy in spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren whom she loved very much. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Faylene was recently crowned Senior Citizen Valentine Queen of the Heritage Hall of Jacinto City. She was a charter member of Twinland Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. She spent over 30 years working in the Galena Park Elementary School's cafeteria before retiring. Faylene was blessed being able to remain very active in life up until the last two months.

Faylene is survived by her sons, Mark Connell and wife Leisa of Kingwood, Texas, David Connell of Galena Park, Texas; daughters, Elaine Welch and husband Marcus of Pasadena, Texas, Becky O'Neal and husband Bill of Dayton, Texas; brothers, John Wallace Rhodes and wife Mary Lou of Dayton, Texas, Ben Sam Rhodes Jr. and wife Linda Sue of Livingston, Texas; grandchildren, Jason Welch and wife Kristi, Kelly Welch, Ralph Graham, Rafell Graham, Tina Graham, Julie Chandler and husband Dustin, Ben Connell, Sam Connell, Jonathan Connell and wife Kelsey, Britton West and husband Steele, Lauren Connell and Dodge Collins, Katlin Connell; great grandchildren, Bradley Welch, Joel Romero, Marci Camacho, Abigail Connell, Lane Connell, Brielle West, William "Bubba" Collins Jr, Ayla Collins and Wyatt Collins; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of family and friends that will miss her dearly.


She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles "Pete" Connell; parents Ben Sam and Hettie Rhodes; son, Milton Connell; sister, Martha Jo Rhodes; and brother, Jerry Van Rhodes.

A very special thanks goes to her longtime neighbors, Minerva Cortes and Eloim Cortes, Kaushalya "Minita" and Baljeet Singh, whom she thought of as her own grandkids, of Galena Park, Texas.

The family is being served by Taylor Funeral Home in Timpson, Texas.

To send condolences or to sign an online register, visit [www.taylorfh.net](http://www.taylorfh.net).

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 From one end to t'other

5 Egg

9 Potential syrup

12 Vast time period

13 Water barrier

14 Biz deg.

15 Fast

17 Foreman foe

18 Diamond round- trippers

19 Stair part

21 Qua

22 Weak soup

24 Present

27 Island garland

28 Buy stuff

31 Lubricate

32 Past

33 Rage

34 Use an old phone

36 DIY buy

37 Leftovers recipe

38 Lucky number

40 Accomplish

41 California- Nevada lake

43 Propels

47 That guy

48 Landfill, essentially

51 Commotion

52 Swindles

53 Pond organ- ism

54 Symbol of intrigue

55 Ardor

56 Despot

DOWN

1 Rotation gauge, for short

2 Villain's adversary

3 Wander

4 Oust from office

5 Likelihood

6 See 38-

8 Paris subway

9 Big success

10 Competent

11 Twosome

16 Storefront sign abbr.

20 "Monty Python" opener

22 Start

23 Laugh-a-minute

24 Deity

25 "Richard -"

26 Sudden assembly that some find entertaining

27 Michigan, for

29 Raw rock

30 Church seat

35 Writer Buscaglia

37 "Who cares?"

39 Fodder plant

40 Simpson's interjection

41 Dissolve

42 Assistant

43 "Hey, you!"

44 Congers

45 Sitarist's rendition

46 Mast

49 Fish eggs

50 Literary collection



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## Representative Green: No Need for GOP Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON, DC – (April 25, 2017) Representative Green released the following statement as Congress prepares to vote on a spending bill this week to fund the government and avert a government shutdown Friday at midnight:

"We are days away from yet another avoidable government shutdown and once again funding for federal programs might be delayed because of partisan politics," said Green. President Trump and my

Republican colleagues must choose to serve the people or the party."

"Sabotaging the Affordable Care Act by withholding subsidies that allow working families to purchase affordable, high-quality health insurance and threatening to shut down the government if a down payment for President Trump's border wall is not included is simply irresponsible. I will continue to oppose any funding for the border wall in Congress, which is opposed by

a majority of Texans for good reason – it will harm our economy, our border communities, and become a permanent stain on our state's close ties with Mexico. We already have barriers and protection on our border."

"Americans expect Congress to work together and find bipartisan solutions that address real challenges, like discovering cures for the most challenging diseases or rebuilding our aging infrastructure, and not wasting taxpayer's

money on an unnecessary wall. I urge both sides to put politics aside and work together to get the job done."

The last government shutdown in October 2013, lasted 16 days, and led to the furlough of hundreds of thousands of federal workers, closed national parks, shuttered childcare for military families, froze government contracts for large and small businesses, as well as adding billions of dollars to the federal deficit.

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Battle of San Jacinto,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Following the disastrous surrender and massacre at Goliad of General Fannin's Battalion, residence were forced to flee before Santa Anna's Army of over 5,000 or be oppressed. This retreat is called "The Run Away Scrape."



General Houston assembled and led his army away from Santa Anna's waiting for the "Napoleon of the West" to make a mistake.



After figuring that the Texans were never going to attack, Santa Anna sent the bulk of his force to Allen, Texas to capture the Revolutionary Congress, that unknown to him would have just fled ahead of his forces. Santa Anna was caught in a fatal mistake on the south Bank of the San Jacinto River with about 1998 soldiers. Houston would launch a surprise attack with 767 men that caught the Mexican Army unprepared and napping. The fierce Texans overran the breastworks and began to slaughter the Mexicans for the rest of the afternoon. Santa Anna was captured the following day and surrendered Texas to a wounded Sam Houston. Santa Anna would be treated to a trip to Washington hosted by President Jackson. Sam Houston almost died wounded and unattended on a boat to New Orleans, but he did survive to become first President of Texas after a constitution was ratified. Houston became a President, a Governor and a Senator.

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42ND ANNUAL NORTH SHORE ROTARY CATFISH FRY & CRAWFISH BOIL A FUND RAISING EVENT BENEFITING OUR COMMUNITY

at Northshore Rotary Pavilion 14350 Wallisville Road Live Auction, Entertainment and 20 Prizes in Raffle Drawing

Raffle Tickets \$100 (Includes 2 Meals)

GRAND PRIZE



North Shore Rotary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Winners must be present to win. Payment of all taxes, fees, & license fees will be the responsibility of the winners. Automobile Courtesy of Community Toyota 4711 US East Hwy. Houston 77057. Prizes may not represent exact vehicle if similar equipment. No refund will be made for loss or total theft. Poster Designed by: Design42000 www.gotrotary.com