

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City

VOLUME 3, NO. 01

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

NEW "RED BOXES" INCREASE STAR DISTRIBUTION SPOTS

The North Channel Star has recently expanded the number of locations where readers can pick up a copy of the newspaper. About 30 plastic all-weather "Red Boxes" have been located on main thoroughfare for easy pick-up of this week's paper, and in addition the new boxes are weather-proof, insuring a dry copy.



Look for the boxes along the following streets: Clinton Drive, Mercury Drive, Normandy, Woodforest, Freeport, and I-10 frontage road. These new boxes are in addition to the list of traditional locations -- see the information ad inside the paper. Altogether, this makes about 80 locations to get your North Channel Star, a benefit to Readers and Advertisers.

GALENA PARK-JACINTO CITY CIP MEETING

This month Galena Park-Jacinto City Community Industry Partnership (CIP) meeting will take place on THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 beginning at 5:45 pm with a light dinner. At 6:15 pm - business starts with an Agenda review and Introductions. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park. Host plant will be Pasadena Refining System Inc. TOPIC OF MEETING: GALVESTON BAY REPORT CARD.

Special tax deal for Valero approved by city

Manchester neighbors unhappy with potential pollution

HOUSTON -- Houston City Council in December approved a deal with Valero Refinery to designate their property as outside the city limits, for tax purposes. Valero had asked several times for the abatement, saying that if it did not get the relief, it would probably build the expansion elsewhere, in Louisiana.

As planned, Valero said they will expand and spend up to \$800 million on the Manchester location, and bring 25 new permanent jobs to the area.

See VALERO REFINERY, page 6



VALERO REFINERY in the Manchester neighborhood of the City of Houston.

Obama won't back XL pipeline, plans to veto bill

Lateral segment already built in Mont Belvieu/Crosby

WASHINGTON, DC -- As Congress reconvenes this week, one of the top issues for early action is the resolution of whether the so-called XL pipeline segment will be allowed to be built.

The Republican controlled Congress has indicated they want to pass legislation to allow construction, but Democrats and the president have opposed this on environmental and economic reasons, and

See XL Pipeline, page 3



PRESIDENT OBAMA speaking last year at a pipe storage facility in the Midwest last year.

2014

Year in Review

Compiled from the files of the
NORTH CHANNEL STAR

DECEMBER 2013

-- Inaugural Issue of the North Channel STAR is published. Community leaders and businesses advertise their well-wishes to the publishers, Gil and Mei Hoffman.
-- Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman announces the rebuilding of Freeport Street

JANUARY

-- Santa Claus parades in Sheldon, Channelview, North Shore
-- Toxins in San Jacinto River are concern to citizens
-- LyondellBasell will restart Methanol plant in Channelview
-- Jim McIngvale receives Points of Light Award from President Bush
-- Galena Park FFA holds successful Livestock Sale
-- North Shore Rotary donates \$40,000 for bridge in Park
-- Large Rodeo Art Show held at North Shore High School

FEBRUARY

-- North Channel Chamber Gala features Debra Duncan
-- Margie Buentello new president of NC Chamber
-- EPA meeting examines dangers of toxins in the river near Channelview
-- Foster Park featured at Chamber luncheon
-- San Jacinto Legends of Baseball weekend held at SJC North
-- Silver Plating specialist at Pineforest Jewelry
-- Market Street Feed owner Randy Arter recalls history of store

MARCH

-- Trail Ride goes through North Shore on way to Rodeo
-- North Shore Mustangs are 5A State Basketball champs!
-- Water District #36 plans on new tower
-- Scott Stephens, East Houston Hospital partner for heart screenings of athletes

APRIL

-- Harris County holds large Safety Town Hall at North Shore HS
-- Baytown Homeless Shelter will serve North Shore communities
-- Channelview ISD holds FFA parade and Sale
-- Easter observed, large egg hunt in Jacinto City
-- GP Candidates Forum presents candidates for Mayor, Council

MAY

-- Election results in run-off for GP Mayor
-- Kinder Morgan plans new GP facility
-- Rotary Fish Fry raises big dollars for charity projects, scholarships
-- Pilot Club presents \$14,000 in scholarships
-- Shari Bigelow wins new car in Rotary Fish Fry raffle

YEAR IN REVIEW, Continued on page 8

COMMUNITY INSIGHT:

Economic Alliance names new event & Member Services Coordinator

DEER PARK -- A new Event & Member Services Coordinator has been named at the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region. Chad Burke, President and CEO of the organization announced early in December that Jerilyn Hansen has been identified to fill this position.

"We felt that Jerilyn's extensive background in event planning and customer service would be a great fit for the Economic Alliance as we continue to grow," Mr. Burke said.

Ms. Hansen brings a wealth of meeting and events management experience to the Economic Alliance. For nearly a decade, Ms. Hansen worked as a corporate trainer for an upscale international restaurant chain with a focus on managing corporate expectations for newly established restaurants within North America.

Most recently, Ms. Hansen worked in the medical field as a pharmaceutical meeting/event planner, primarily responsible for implementation of strategies, delivery of objectives, execution of logistics, and the development and execution of travel arrangements, while maintaining client relationships.

A native resident of New Jersey, Ms. Hansen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Restaurant and Hospitality Management from Florida International University in North Miami, Florida.

"Now is an exciting time to be moving to Texas," noted Ms. Hansen, "there is so much opportunity within the Houston Port Region and the Economic Alliance is an integral player at the heart of these opportunities; I'm excited to be a part of this wonderful team!"



Jerilyn Hansen new Event & Member Services Coordinator for the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region.

EAST HOUSTON REGIONAL:

Medical Center welcomes its First Baby of The New Year!

Houston, Texas, January 1, 2015 -- East Houston Regional Medical Center and Dr. Beryl Randolph helped Houstonians Viviana Martinez and Hector Chavez welcome their baby girl, Mikeila Paola, into the world at 10:12 am on January 1, 2015. Baby Mikeila is 5 lbs. and 10 oz. and is 17 inches long. She was one of five babies born on New Year's Day at East Houston Regional Medical Center.

"She surprised us, we were not expecting her to be born this soon," said Viviana, "we are very happy to add her to our family, and she has a 5 year old brother ready to meet her."

"We are thrilled to have the first baby born at East Houston Regional Medical Center for 2015. Each year we help families welcome their children into the world," said Alice Adams, Chief Executive Officer at East Houston Regional Medical Center. "It is wonderful to be the only community hospital dedicated to our resident's needs. It is so exciting to be a part of these families' lifetime memories."

The Martinez - Chavez family was presented with a beautiful basket of goodies for baby and mom, including diapers and formula.

To all the families we have served and to all of the families who will choose us this year to provide healthcare for their families, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year.



Baby Mikeila Paola makes her debut on New Year's Day at East Houston Regional Medical Center with her mother, Viviana Martinez, and father, Hector Chavez.



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XL Pipeline “Lateral” reaches Channelview

Continued from page 1

delayed the passage of the bill for seven years.

TransCanada Corp. has been trying to get the pipeline built, and claims it will create many construction and operational jobs. Obama disputes this, saying the 2000 or so construction jobs are not significant in the overall picture, and the pipeline offers no long term value to American consumers.

State Department figures place the employment much higher, as much as 42,000 temporary and related jobs, and TransCanada said that about 50 workers would be needed full time when completed.

Proponents and opponents of the pipeline have been waiting on a court ruling from the Nebraska Supreme Court, but action in Congress may supersede the court decision, and force Obama to declare his position, which now seems likely to be a veto.

The opponents of the XL pipeline cite the fact that it will carry bitumnet mined from oil sands by energy-intensive steam-based techniques, therefore carrying a bigger carbon footprint than

alternatives. They also object to the heavy oil itself, saying it is environmentally less friendly than other types of crude.

Some of this discussion is moot, since the oil is now being mined, and transported to the Gulf Coast of Texas refineries by rail car and other pipelines.

In fact, as seen in the accompanying map, the “XL Lateral” is currently being built to deliver Canadian Crude to a tank farm between Crosby and Channelview, on a side road off US90. Another branch takes the crude to refineries in the Beaumont area.

In a statement released to the press, TransCanada spokesperson Shawn Howard said “This is one of the largest infrastructure projects under consideration, funded with \$8 billion in private sector investment, and it will be built by thousands of American men and women.”

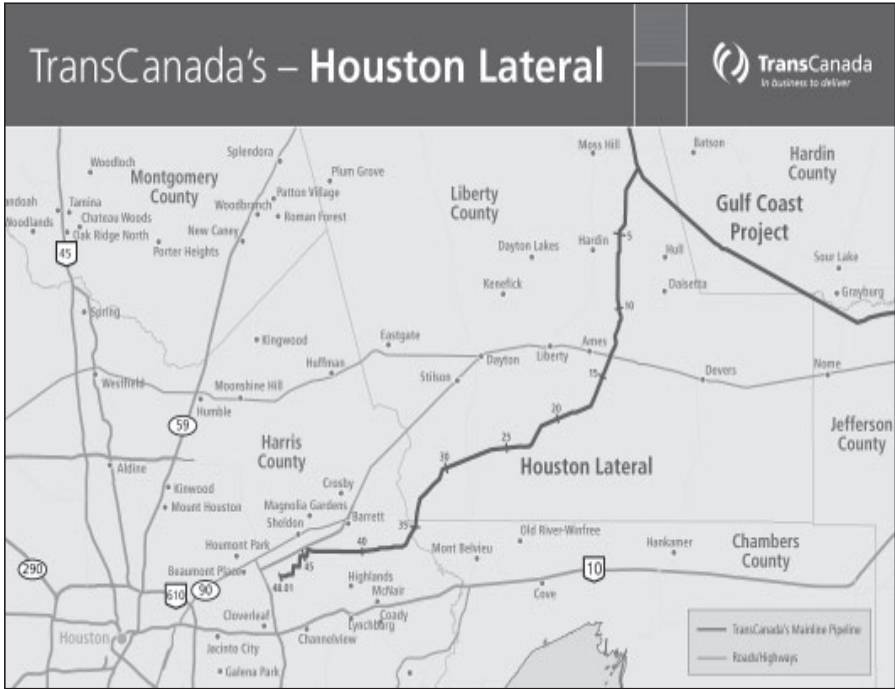
“Moving this oil by pipeline is safer, produces fewer emissions to get the product to a refinery or terminal and is a much more efficient way to move these crude oils over longer distances.”



Pipeline construction near US90 in Channelview is similar to this file photo.



PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION of the XL leg will run from Alberta, Canada to Steele City, Nebraska and hook up with existing lines now in use that end in the Gulf area.



Galena Park officer, passenger were attacked after crash

A Galena Park Officer was sent to the hospital after a hit-and-run incident on Christmas day.

The 29-year-old off-duty officer was returning from a Christmas party with an accompanying woman, Houston Police said. The officer was driving his personal vehicle south on Maxey when a black Infiniti pulled in front of them causing a collision and hitting the front driver side of the officer's car.

The driver of the Infiniti


speed away, and the off-duty officer was able to follow them to a nearby apartment complex. As the officer stepped out of his car to confront the other driver, a red Humvee arrived with four Hispanic males who began beating the officer and the woman, authorities said.

They stole his wallet, cell phone and a pistol.

Police are searching for the driver who caused the collision and the attackers.



Galena Park Officer's car damaged after the hit-and-run incident.

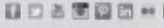


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OPINION PAGE

TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

Plays Lakes - Part 4

That's why sedimentation is such a danger to the wetlands. When sedimentation fills a lake, the depth is re-

municipal water, and the drastic decline in the water table over the past century, maintaining the natural functions and



duced and the water spreads over a broader area and evaporation accelerates. More detrimental, however, is when the sedimentation fills the cracks in the playa's clay bottom, which greatly impedes recharge and degrades all of the vital ecological services provided by playas. Since no state or federal legislation protects playa lakes, Birkenfeld is afraid that the intense drawdown of the Ogallala Aquifer and indifference to playa lakes by landowners, could lead to the loss of the wetland complex and irreparable damage to the lakes and the aquifer over the next 20 years.

"Clearly, without functioning playas, it will be impossible for us to preserve the Ogallala Aquifer over the long term when we are withdrawing a foot or more from the water table every year," warns Birkenfeld. "In much of the central Southern Plains, where the concentration of playas is as high as one per square mile, if these playas are conserved and remain functioning, then recharge from healthy playas could play a major role in stabilizing the Ogallala Aquifer and help to preserve it for generations."

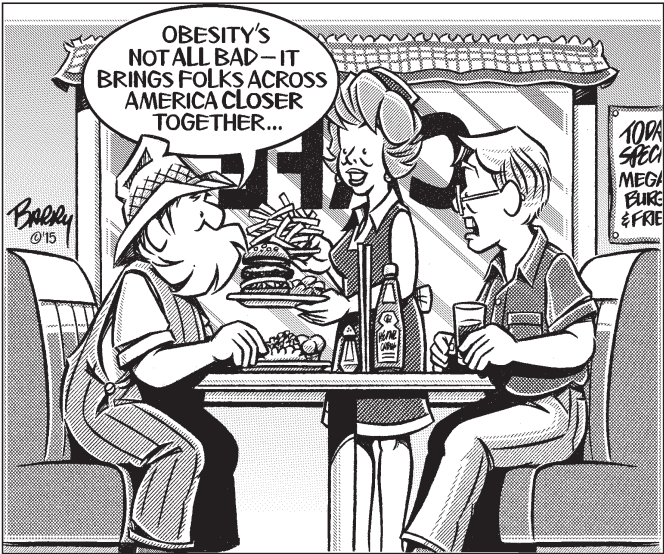
Anne Bartuszevige, Conservation Science Director for Playa Lakes Joint Venture agrees.

"Given the region's dependence on the aquifer for farm and

cycles of playas is crucial for sustaining the economies and communities of the western Great Plains," says Dr. Bartuszevige. "Over the past several decades, researchers have gathered substantial evidence pointing to playas lakes as the primary source of recharge for the Ogallala. This is big news for western Great Plains states, which have relied on pumping the Ogallala for agricultural, municipal and industrial use since the early 1900s. Since about 99 percent of playa lakes are located on private land, this information is crucial for farmers, ranchers, and natural resource managers who hope to conserve water and maintain agricultural economies of the region.

She says that the playas are not only important to the region, but also the entire nation. "The western Great Plains are known as the 'bread basket' of the United States," she explains. "This mostly due to irrigation water available from the aquifer. The region provides much of the wheat, corn, and livestock produced in the U.S. The agricultural economy in the region depends on water withdrawal from the aquifer.

However, recharge happens over many, many years, so the recharge that happens today will help future generations to live and work in this landscape."



New mix of lawmakers, officials heading for Austin

AUSTIN — When the 84th Texas Legislature convenes on Jan. 13 and oaths of office are administered, the political party split will be 21 Republicans to 10 Democrats in the 31-member Senate, and 98 Republicans to 52 Democrats in the 150-member House.

The composition and leadership of committees, the flow of legislation through those committees and control of floor debate will be according to the wishes of new Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick of Houston and House Speaker Joe Straus of San Antonio. Straus is subject to reelection by his peers. He is expected to retain the rostrum and gavel for a fourth consecutive term, even if challenged by a subgroup within the Republican party.

Fort Worth attorney George P. Bush was sworn in as Texas land commissioner on Jan. 2. He succeeds Jerry Patterson at the post. Son of former Florida governor and possible 2016 presidential candidate Jeb Bush, nephew of former president and Texas governor George W. Bush and grandson of former president George H.W. Bush, George P. Bush is 38 years old and enters an elected office for the first time.

Texans' attention now refocuses on Austin as new leadership in state government takes shape in the coming days and weeks. To review, general election voters in November picked a broad slate of Republicans to replace Republicans, ostensibly to keep the philosophy about the same at the Capitol. At the top, 12-year attorney general Greg Abbott of Houston succeeds 14-year governor Rick Perry as the state's chief executive. Abbott's successor as attorney general will be former state Sen. Ken Paxton of McKinney.

After 11 years as lieutenant governor, David Dewhurst, a former Texas land commissioner, CIA member and Air Force officer — and continuing businessman and cutting horse rider — will be succeeded by Dan Patrick, a state senator since 2007 and a radio talk show host.

Rice farmer and former state senator Glenn Hegar of Katy succeeds rancher-author-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



is running for mayor of San Antonio. And, there is a five-way race for the central Texas House District 17 seat vacated by Tim Kleinschmidt, who resigned from office in November to become general counsel for the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Schools certify compliance

Texas Education Agency on Dec. 18 announced that a majority of the state's school districts and charters certified compliance with a state law requiring fingerprinting and criminal background checks. Under a law passed in 2007, employees — certified, non-certified and substitute teachers — must be fingerprinted before their first day of employment.

In October, Texas Education Agency notified school superintendents asking them to certify that their district or charter school has complied with the state fingerprinting law and warned that failure to certify "may be subject to an investigation of the superintendent or chief operating officer who has violated state law by failing to complete the certification."

Wardens get helicopter

Texas Game Wardens, a division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with more than 500 employees, on Dec. 23 announced the acquisition of a new Airbus AS350 B3e helicopter.

The aircraft, according to the announcement, is outfitted with the latest law enforcement technology and emergency response equipment including a rescue hoist, thermal imager, searchlight, public address system, satellite communication and night vision. Some \$5 million in funding for the helicopter came through an appropriation made during the 83rd Texas Legislative session in 2013.

Learn the factors that influence prices at the pump

(NAPSI)—Over the next two weeks, millions of Americans are expected to make this holiday season one of the busiest for travel on record. Many drivers will take longer road trips than last year, due in no small part to major relief at the pump. Across the U.S., consumers are currently paying less than \$2.40 per gallon for regular gasoline, the lowest average price since May 2009.

Why was there such a steep plunge in gas prices after they were so high last summer? In order to understand why, you need to consider the series of factors that influence the price of oil, the commodity from which gasoline is produced.

Futures Fundamentals (www.futuresfundamentals.com), the new online resource brought to you by CME Group—the world's leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace—now provides visitors with an easy-to-follow infographic titled "The Facts Behind Oil Prices" to explain the many components that determine the price of fuel: from global demand to the changing supply landscape to geopolitical issues to others.

This diagram follows the release of Futures Fundamentals' video tutorial, "The Story of Oil," which takes viewers on a journey from the ground to the pump, explaining the extraction of crude from underground wells to price discovery at the exchange, and finally to the gas station.

"The Facts Behind Oil Prices" and "The Story of Oil" are just a few of the concepts made simple on the site, which also tackles complex topics like food prices and mortgage rates.

"In an increasingly interconnected world, we've seen growing interest among consumers and businesses for easy-to-understand information about what factors cause commodity prices to fluctuate and how to manage that risk," said Anita Liskey, CME Group Managing Director, Corporate Marketing & Communications. "Our educational website addresses these questions and demonstrates through simple images, videos and examples how futures and options can help people and businesses manage price risk."

Visit Futures Fundamentals today to uncover the reasons behind oil prices and start learning how the marketplace impacts the world around you.

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Thursday, Jan. 8 Lone Star Shooting Assoc. Learning action and advanced shooting 6:30-8p
Thursday Jan.8 & 22 Women on Draw Practical Practices for women's defence 2-4 p.m.
taught by NRA Woman of the Year Instructor Donna Vandermolen
2nd Thursday 6:15-8:15 NRA Winchester Youth Program 10-17 y.o.
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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Betty Lucille Smith

Betty Lucille Smith, 85, passed away Monday, December 29, 2014 in Pearland, Texas.

Betty was born September 15, 1929 in Treadway, Texas to parents Flavel and Bessie Adams. She enjoyed spending time with her family and the fellowship of her church family at North Channel Baptist Church. Betty loved spending time outdoors working with flowers.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Leon Adams; and her husband, Sam Ray Smith.

Betty is lovingly survived by her children, Betty C. Smith and husband Joe, Mitzi Bennett and Charlie French, Peggy DeAtley and husband Richard, Ted McMurry; 9 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous extended family members and dear friends. A celebration of Betty's life, officiated by Rev. Ken Durham, was held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 3, 2015 in the



chapel of Carter Funeral Home. Friends joined the family at noon Saturday before the service for a time of visitation. Graveside services immediately followed at San Jacinto Memorial Park, Houston, Texas.

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WILLIAM "BILL" MILLER



William "Bill" Miller, age 78, of Crosby, died at his home on Thursday, January 1, 2015. He was born June 12, 1936, in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, to Joseph C. Miller and Helen Eutsey Miller. He graduated high school in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, and went on to proudly serve his country in the United States Army Reserve from 1955 to 1963 and was honorably discharged. He worked many years for Gale-na Park ISD and eventually retired from the school district. Besides spending time with his family, he enjoyed raising chickens and sitting on the front porch.

Preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Helen Miller and a son, Joseph Miller; Mr. Miller is survived by his son, Martin Miller and wife, Sarai; daughter, Kami Miller; brother, David Miller; sisters, Helen Bowser and Beverly Slaugh; three grandchildren, Juan Morales, Melanie Morales, Megan Morales; and numerous other friends and family members. Mr. Miller will be deeply missed by all those who knew and loved him. Burial will be in Pennsylvania.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crespo & Jirrels Funeral and Cremation Services, 6123 Garth Road, Baytown, Texas 77521, 281-839-0700.

To view the obituary or post a tribute to the family, visit www.crespoandjirrels.com.

Huffman ISD students prepare for 2015 HLSR Art Show

Huffman ISD students of all ages are busy finishing up Rodeo Art entries. For years, the school has participated in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program and this year is no exception. Participants range from Pre-K through 12th grade. The program is designed to encourage the education and appreciation of our Western heritage. Students create Western-themed art entries that include paintings, drawings and sculpture.

Representatives from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program will judge nearly 200 art entries on January 8, 2015 at the district show. An Open House is



First grader, Lauren Martin, works on her artwork entry



Huffman Middle School student, Logan Neal, prepares his artwork entry.

scheduled for Friday, January 9, 2015 from 5-7 p.m. at the Copeland Elementary/Huffman Intermediate campus. All family members and friends can celebrate these winning works along with the

student artists. Winning entries will be on display at Reliant Center and select pieces will be on display at IT May Center in Huffman during the month of February.

LITTLE BIDDY BITS By Danny Biddy

2015 Peace Keeping Force

Oh, Lord, I ask for Your favor in 2015. I pray that we, Your people, will profess publicly and permanently our faith in You, promote Your holiness, and be forgiven of our sins. I ask that You protect the innocent and the helpless, provide hope for the hopeless, remove the strongholds of ungodliness, restore righteousness, rule over our homes; and most of all, return quickly to reign eternally, in Jesus name. Amen.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." (Colossians 3:15)



Hargrave High School student, Vivian Bieneck, diligently works on her oil painting entry for the Rodeo Art Show.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Isaiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 3, who made clothes for Adam and Eve out of skins? Adam, Eve, The Lord, Serpent
3. What did Jesus say His followers would never walk in?

Fear, Solitude, Darkness, Shame

4. Lamentations 3 speaks of the wormwood and the "what"? Serpent, Gall, Fence, Fig

5. Who had a vision of a lion that had eagle's wings? John the Baptist, Peter, Herod, Daniel

6. From 2 Samuel 20, who killed Amasa? Joab, Sheba, Abishai, Bichri

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) The Lord; 3) Darkness; 4) Gall; 5) Daniel; 6) Joab

CHURCH LISTINGS

CROSBY, HIGHLANDS, HUFFMAN, BAYTOWN

ANGLICAN CHURCH

• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516

• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170

• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409

• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810.

"Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.

• First Missionary Baptist Church, 3901 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-426-7634.

• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4554

• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5415

• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448

• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.

• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

IN CHRIST

• DMt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

INDEPENDENT

• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-7705

• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614

• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

• Pentecostals of Crosby, 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX 77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

CHANNELVIEW, JACINTO CITY, HOUSTON

• Second Street Church of Christ, 15821 2nd. Street, Channelview, TX. 77530.

www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com

BAPTIST

• New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049, 281-456-0082

BAPTIST-Southern

• Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

• South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

• First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.

CATHOLIC

• St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-7129.

EPISCOPAL

• St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

• Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

• Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

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Leviticus 19:32

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SPORTS, BUSINESS

CRIME:

Robber posing as holiday shopper robs bank inside supermarket

A man posed as a holiday shopper gave a threatening note to a teller to rob a bank on December 21, 2014 inside a Kroger grocery store on the east side of Houston. Surveillance cameras show a man pushing a car full of groceries before going to the 1st Convenience

Bank. The robbery happened around 1:20 p.m. The teller took cash from the drawer and gave it to the robber. The suspect fled the bank with cash, no one was injured and the suspect was believed to be unarmed. He is described as an His-

panic male around his 30's, weighing 150 to 180 pounds and about 5 foot 9" tall with a tattoo mark under his left eye and on his neck and arms. Anyone with information on this robber is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS, a reward is offered.

Valero Refinery Expansion gets tax break,

Continued from page 1

The approval by city council was on a 11-6 vote, with Robert Gallegos, who represents the Manchester neighborhood, voting against the measure. Also voting against were Dwight Boykins, Richard Nguyen, Ed Gonzalez, Mike Laster, and Larry Green.

Mayor Parker said that the company had met with Gallegos several times in 2014, and he had an opportunity to call for public meetings and did not. Therefore, when the Texas Organizing Project asked for a delay in the vote, she indicated it was too late.

Gallegos said that the city, led by Andy Icken the development director, had been negotiating with Valero for a year and a half, even before he was on council. He said that Valero claimed to have the neighborhood's approval for the expansion.

However, officials with Valero apparently communicated on their expansion plans, but not on the terms for a tax break with the city, which is an important part of this negotiation and action by city council.

Under the agreement with the city, about 160 acres of the total 190 acres that Valero owns will be designated as an industrial district, outside the city limits. The remaining 29 acres must remain in the city due to a quirk in the law about how far the property is from the Houston Ship Channel. This tax abatement is set to last for 15 years, according to the city.

This arrangement will result in a \$5.5 million reduction in taxes on the current facilities at the Manchester site, allowing it to use the money for the expansion.

Icken said that the city will actually make money on the deal, after fees are paid generated by the new facilities.

Without the industrial district designation, Valero would have paid \$55 million in taxes on existing and new facilities, but now this will be only \$38

million for the 15 year period, amounting to a savings of \$17 million for the company.

Valero pointed out in its request that its neighbor refineries are already in industrial districts, with lower taxes. Houston has 104 of these districts, with fees paid in lieu of property taxes.

The deal will expire in the year 2027 unless it is renegotiated. It also has milestones that must be met. Construction must start by 2017, and completed by 2020, or the property would be re-annexed into the city and the tax break annulled.

Valero also got a tax break on this project from the State of Texas. In exchange for committing to this expansion, the state gave Valero a \$1.6 million rebate of state sales and use taxes, related to the project.

Valero has been active statewide in seeking tax breaks for its facilities. In several cases it has sued school districts, to have its property assessed value reduced. In these cases, the school districts were forced to return taxes already collected and budgeted, thus putting their own budgets under duress.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim... What ARE pearls, anyway?



Natural pearls are made when a parasite enters a mollusk. If the parasite embeds itself into the mollusk's soft mantle, the mollusk will cover the parasite with a sac and begin to form layers of nacre around the irritant. Nacre is the smooth, shiny substance that makes up the interior of the mollusk, usually an oyster, and over time, the layers formed around the irritant will form a pearl. Today, natural pearls are extremely rare. Only a small percentage of mollusks form pearls—out of approximately 8,000 different species of mollusks, only about 20 are capable of regularly making pearls. Those that do produce pearls rarely generate stones that are large enough or the proper color to use as jewelry. The thicker the nacre, the more durable and desirable the pearl, which means that time needed for thicker nacre is also a factor. Natural pearls are sold by carat weight.

In response to the rarity of pearls found in their natural habitat, the Japanese began artificially producing pearls in the early 20th century. Cultured pearls are also created in mollusks, but they are formed by mollusks in captivity and have had irritants manually inserted. This process allows for more production of pearls and over time, has allowed them to become much more affordable. Today, cultured pearls are considered the norm by those in the jewelry industry. While natural pearls are still harvested, a strand of them could cost the buyer hundreds of thousands of dollars. Instead, cultured pearls allow for beautiful pearls to be purchased at

a greatly reduced cost. Unlike natural pearls, cultured pearls are sold by their size in millimeters. Cultured pearls are split into two basic categories - freshwater and saltwater. Freshwater pearls hold a lower value, but can be found in a vast amount of shapes and colors. Saltwater pearls are broken down further into categories based on origin. These categories are Akoya, Tahitian, and South Sea pearls.

Natural freshwater pearls come from mussels that live in ponds, rivers, and lakes. Pearls can also be cultured in freshwater, with the majority started by manually inserting a piece of the mussel's own mantle into its flesh. Found primarily in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the coastal waters of India and Japan, naturally formed saltwater pearls closely resemble freshwater pearls in shape and color. They are produced by a saltwater mollusk, such as the pearl oyster. The most common types of saltwater pearls used in jewelry are South Sea pearls, Akoya pearls, and Tahitian pearls. Cultured saltwater pearls show a slight difference from cultured freshwater pearls, and are thought to be closer to a perfect sphere.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals.

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.

See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FREE PARENT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING!

Galena Park ISD is offering FREE technology training for parents who have children in one or more GPISD schools! Registration: Call 832-386-1038 Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Training Topics: Word Processing and Internet Tools Additional Items: Snacks and FREE Babysitting for children under 12. Training Language: Training is being offered in both English and Spanish Training Location: Joyce Zott Education Center @ 13801 Holly Park, Houston Training Dates/Times: Select one training week (Monday-Thursday) January 12-15 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) February 9-12 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) February 23-26 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

JANUARY North Channel Library events

-Saturday, Jan. 10, 11-12:30 pm, Ask A Lawyer.
-Monday, Jan. 12, 4:30 pm Movie Madness
-Tuesday, Jan. 13, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool story time.
-Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1:30 pm & 4:30 pm, Strings Attached.
-Thursday, Jan. 15, 10:30 am, Baby Time.
COMPUTER CLASSES:
-Introduction to Excel, Lecture, Jan. 12, 1-3 pm.
-Introduction to Excel, Practice, Jan. 14, 1-3 pm.
*Requires registration
CLASES DE COMPUTACION:
-Introducción a Excel, Lectura, Jan. 13, 10am - 12 pm.
-Introducción a Excel, Práctica, Jan. 15, 10 am - 12 pm.
*Se require registrarse.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other classes.

JANUARY Galena Park Library events

-Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1 pm, Raton y Teclado; 4 pm, Mouse & Keyboard.
-Wednesday, Jan. 14, 11 am, Story Time.
-Thursday, Jan. 15, 11 am, Baby Time.
-Monday, Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day, Library CLOSED. Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.
The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

JANUARY 7, 2015

PICK-UP LOCATIONS FOR THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR

NORTH SHORE

North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg
Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd
Carter Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St.
San Jacinto College North, Student Center & Library
Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd
East Houston Hospital, I-10
Foodtown, Uvalde Rd
Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd
YMCA, Wallisville Rd
Fiesta Market, I-10
HPD Substation, I-10
Federal Road Barber Shop, Uvalde @ Halifax
Panera Restaurant, Beltway 8 @ Wallisville
GiGi's Pizza, Uvalde @ Woodforest
Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8
Fuddruggers, Normandy Rd
Walgreens, Maxey Rd @ Woodforest
Senator Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg
North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd
North Shore High School, at Wallisville Rd
Walgreens, 15511 Wallisville Rd
United Comm. Credit Union, Normandy
United Comm. Credit Union, Wallisville

CHANNELVIEW

K&T Western Wear, Sheldon Rd
Channelview High School, Sheldon Rd
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd
Food Fair, Sheldon Rd @ I-10
Flukinger Comm Ctr, Lorenzo St
Holiday Inn, I-10 E

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C. E. King High School, Tidwell Rd
Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest
Parkway Feed, CE King Blvd
Community Bank of Texas, Tidwell Road

CLOVERLEAF

HC WCID #36, Hollywood St
Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St
Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest
CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport
Gatti's Pizza, Uvalde
North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Freeport

JACINTO CITY

City Hall, Main Street
El Ahorro Market, Main Street
Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd
Capital Bank, I-10 E
Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St
State Rep Ana Hernandez of Office, Mercury Drive
Sellers Brothers Market, Market St
JC Police Dept., Market St
Market Street Feed Store, Market St

GALENA PARK

Baggett Community Center, Keene St
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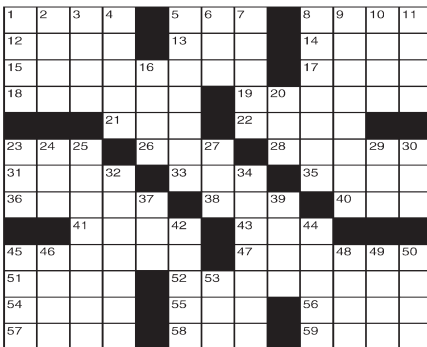
HIGHLANDS:
Library
Food Town
Community Center
Backdraft Rest.
Woodforest Bank
Conoco Station
Post Office (outside)

CROSBY:
Library
Community Center
Race Track
Arlan's Market
Kroger's Community Bank (2)

HUFFMAN
Exxon Station
Community Bank

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Birthright barterer
5 Shade provider
8 Agree
12 Money
13 "The Raven" writer
14 Quite some time
15 Desire for success
17 Break suddenly
18 Actors' lines
19 Patterned cotton fabric
21 Corn spike
22 Skirt feature
23 Klutzy sort
26 Light touch
28 Insinuating
31 Old Italian bread
33 Kitten's comment
35 Quite some time
36 Intoxicated
38 Pitching stat
40 Siesta
41 Mid-month date
43 Conclusion
45 Electricity problem
47 Begins
51 Not "fer"



52 Document with many signatures, maybe
54 Coin aperture
55 Ailing
56 Beige
57 Actress Daly
58 Hearty brew
59 Melody
6 of wit
7 Privy
7 Repairs
8 Flower used to flavor tea
9 Car starter
10 Throb
11 Catch sight of
16 Frog's cousin
20 They (Fr)
23 Antiquated
24 Football fill
25 Realization
27 Spelling contest
29 "CSI" evidence
30 Kreskin's skill
32 Slowish in music
34 Emulate
37 Small barrel
39 Con
42 Bygone photo hue
44 Goes out with
45 Brewery kiln
46 Unightly
48 Puerto —
49 Ripped
50 Tightly fitting
53 Right angle

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King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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HIGHLANDS ROTARY CHILI FEAST

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| 2013 CHEVY CAPTIVA LTZ 37079 Mi. \$18,991.00 | 2009 DODGE JOURNEY 83698Mi.□□\$ 9,991.00 | 2013 HYUN. ELANTRA 35591Mi. \$14,991.00 |
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2014 -- Year in Review

Continued from Page 1

JUNE

- Robbery at GameStop in North Shore leaves robber dead
- Graduation stories feature Top Students from local districts
- Kindred Hospital closes facility on I-10
- Esmeralda Moya elected new Mayor of Galena Park
- Maria Rodriguez new president of GP/JC Rotary Club

JULY

- Allatia Harris installed as new North Shore Rotary president
- Jacinto City city manager Jack Maner dies of cancer
- Galena Park Council, Mayor argue in chaotic meeting
- Julie Fallin installed as returning president of Pilot Club
- Air Quality Report cites health dangers in Galena Park

AUGUST

- EPA Environmental Hearing in Galena Park hears conflicting testimony on Air Quality
- First Baptist Church of Jacinto City celebrates its 70th Anniversary
- County Attorney Vince Ryan is featured speaker at NC Chamber
- Kinder-Morgan moves second large distilling tube on Clinton Drive
- Congressman Green holds Town Hall meeting in Galena Manor
- Judge Emmett proposed saving the Astrodome by converting it into an Indoor Public Park
- Students head "Back to School"
- North Channel Assistance Ministries plan new building to enlarge service to community

SEPTEMBER

- North Channel Chamber hears industry report from Courtney Ruth of LyondellBasell
- Police kill fugitive on Jacinto Blvd. wanted in 4 ChannelView murders
- Congressman Green seeks \$180 million for Port Authority work
- San Jacinto college announces new Maritime Campus near Port
- Environmentalis Jackie Young urges action on SJR Waste Pits

OCTOBER

- National Night Out observed in Galena Park
- Port of Houston CEO Roger Guenther speaks at Chamber
- Washburn Tunnel closed for Road Repairs
- North Shore Rotary dedicates new Park Bridge & Wall of Honor
- Chamber takes a Tour on the Port ship MV Sam Houston
- Sheriff Garcia tells NS Rotary about law enforcement efforts

NOVEMBER

- Sheriff's Deputy Jess Valdez III killed in head-on crash, county mourns
- North Channel Chamber holds Veterans Salute
- Ship Channel celebrates its 100th Anniversary
- Lulac Council Roasts & Toasts Chris & Ana Diaz
- Pct. 2 Commissioner Morman announces \$2 Billion in planned projects over the next few years
- Waste Pits Trial ends in mixed verdict, companies agree to \$30 million in penalties
- "Last Seat at the Dome" movie is shown, to benefit the preservation of the Astrodome

DECEMBER

- Galena Park holds FFA Show & Sale, raises over \$100,000
- North Shore football defeated by Cy-Ranch in play-offs
- Christmas Season observed in Jacinto City with Parade, Program, and Tree Lighting
- Toy Drive by combined Channelview and Cloverleaf Fire Departments is a huge success
- The Rotary Club and Pilot Club and Precinct2Gether awarded 150 bikes and helmets to elementary school students that had perfect attendance
- North Shore Rotary distributes 250 food baskets to needy families
- The North Channel STAR published their Season's Greetings Tree, along with Letters to Santa from local children. The Tree contained cards with Greetings from local leaders, businesses, and districts.

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11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, February 7, 2015**



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Proceeds donated back to our Community for Scholarships & Community Programs.

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| 1000th Ticket.....Blue Ray Disc Player | 500th Ticket.....Patio Set |
| 1500th Ticket.....Home Theater | 550th Ticket.....Shotgun |
| 2000th Ticket.....Kindle Fire | 600th Ticket.....\$300 Gift Card |
| 2500th Ticket.....\$200 Gift Card | 650th Ticket.....Yeti Cooler |
| 3000th Ticket.....Play Station - 4 | 700th Ticket.....42" TV |
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