

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

TxDOT Study Meetings for I-10

TxDOT is conducting four public study meetings to discuss the future of I-10, with possible changes and enlargement. Dates are:
Feb. 13, Barber Hill HS
Feb. 15, Goose Creek Memorial HS
Feb. 20, Channelview HS
Feb. 22, Mickey Leland College.

Pilot Club Bunco fundraiser

Friday, March 23, 2018, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. at Flukinger Center, 16003 Lorenzo in Channelview. Enjoy an evening of dinner, bunco and silent auction while raising funds for the San Jacinto Pilot Club. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Table sponsorships are available for \$100.

Port of Houston Tribute to Small Businesses

Tribute to Small Business on the 15th Anniversary of the Port's program. GRB Convention Center, Feb. 27, 6-8:30 pm, by invitation. Contact smallbusiness@poha.com for more information.

Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors holds a dance every Thursday from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

Galena Park restores 1936 Fire Truck

Firemen Refurbish Antique Fire Truck

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. -- February 6, 2018 at the regular council meeting Mayor Esmeralda Moya recognized and commended Firemen Sam Henry and Robbie Beall for their volunteering to restore the city's first fire truck. Because of the invaluable volunteer service of



Photo by Allan Jamail

Mayor Moya giving an engraved plate to firemen Henry and Beall with their names on it to be attached to the truck. L - R: Fire Chief Paul Gregory, Mayor Esmeralda Moya, Sam Henry and Robbie Beall.

See Fire Truck Restored, page 2

Galena Park & Jacinto City seniors enjoy Valentine's party



Photo by Allan Jamail

Seniors and organizers at the first Annual Valentine's Dance Party.

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX- Feb-

ruary 13, 2018 citizens of Galena Park and Jacinto City came together to provide area seniors with a

Valentine's Dance Party. Jose Ramon one of the organizers said, "This is our first year to provide a

Valentine's party for the seniors and we're hoping this will become an annual event."

Seniors enjoyed dancing, food, refreshments and door prizes.

Rep. Ana Hernandez 11th annual senior's Valentine's dance

By Allan Jamail

February, 9, 2018 Representative Ana Hernandez leads the seniors in a line dance. Seniors from senior clubs all across District 143 were bused to the Grayson Community Center for food, music, dancing and door prizes. Hernandez began the annual Valentine's event in 2007 with 250 seniors coming; now it's grown to over 400 participants.



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

LyondellBasell Channelview Complex opens new administration building

CHANNELVIEW, Texas -- Feb. 14, 2018 -- The Channelview Complex of LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB), one of the largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies in the world, today opened the doors to a new, state-of-the-art administration building. The site began construction of the \$70 million, 96,347 square foot building last year as part of ongoing safety enhancements for the complex. Harris County Precinct Two Commissioner Jack Morman and several other local community leaders and residents joined LyondellBasell employees and Executive Vice President

of Global Manufacturing Dan Coombs to celebrate the opening of the three-story building during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. "This building investment represents our commitment to putting safety first in everything we do," said Coombs. "As a company, we are always seeking ways we can improve the safety of our sites. This building, with its enhanced safety features and new location, showcases our continued focus on this effort." The new building is located away from operating units and features a number of safety and work enhancements for the site,

including on-site security, security card-access to offices and improved fire suppression systems. It also has an on-site Health Center and a room for new mothers. In addition to relocating the administration building, the site also moved the operations control room for the north plant and maintenance department to the new campus. Kim Foley, Channelview Complex site manager, remarked, "This project creates a safe environment for our employees, contractors and visitors as well as im-

See LyondellBasell New Building, page 3



LyondellBasell officials joined Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman on Wednesday, to cut the ribbon opening their new administration building. Helping with the scissors are site manager Kim Foley and EVP Dan Coombs, center.

COMMUNITY NEWS

EPA updates Galveston residents on Waste Pits

Agency responds to request, but attendance is low

HIGHLANDS – Jackie Young conducted the monthly meeting of the San Jacinto River Coalition of THEA last Tuesday night, February 6th, and brought the audience updates on activities at EPA headquarters in Washington D.C. and at a public meeting presentation by EPA in Galveston.

Young was invited to attend a very interesting meeting at the EPA in Washington, with the director Scott Pruitt and some of his department heads. Young was part of a group of environmental activists from various parts of the United States, with their own pollution problems that they needed the agency's help to solve.

Pruitt has indicated that he wants to put his "Top Ten" projects on a fast track, to get action in the near future. To that end, he has appointed an overseer on his staff, Albert Kelley, formerly an Oklahoma banker. His job will be to move the waste pits project ahead faster than the normal Superfund process

takes, according to Pruitt. They said that Kelley will meet every three months with the activist group, to report on progress.

One of the environmental activists that was present at this meeting was Lois Gibbs, known nationally for exposing the toxins at the Love Canal site, a landmark environmental project.

Young learned that although EPA has not had their own funds for clean-up purposes since a polluter fee was abolished by Congress in the 90's, there is now a bill in Congress to reinstate the "kitty" and have more money for clean-ups.

Young then showed slides of the court documents that led to the revelation that the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) of the waste pits had been funding several groups that were claiming to be independent citizens voices. These included the San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution, with a KeepItCapped website, and the Galveston Mari-



At February's meeting of the THEA/San Jacinto River Coalition, director Jackie Young brought the group up to date on her trip to the EPA in Washington, DC and the public update meeting that the EPA held in Galveston on January 30th at the request of those residents. Present at the meeting were EPA regional superfund manager John Meyer, and Technical Manager Gary Miller, who presented a slide show similar to the one presented in Highlands in December. Then they answered questions from the audience.



An Environmental group meets with EPA director Scott Pruitt (at far end of table) to discuss the agency's recent initiatives to speed up the clean-up process for projects throughout the United States, including the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. Seated at left, in blue sweater, is Houston's environmental activist Jackie Young. At right, a stack of papers is the actual letters and comments that were submitted to EPA regarding the waste pits. Most of the comments asked for complete removal of the toxic material.

time Business Association.

The GMBA is headed by J. T. Edwards, who in an interview with FOX26 television newsmen Greg Groogan, claimed that his organization was funded by independent trial lawyers. When he learned

from court documents that the PRP had paid for PR work against the removal of the toxic waste, he allegedly said he did not see a problem with that money, and would welcome additional support, presumably from the PRP.

Edwards has been a vocal opponent of the EPA decision to remove the toxins from the site, saying "I think it's going to be good for the community," referring to a cap instead of removal. Edwards is supposedly a former employee of Waste Management, although that has not been confirmed.

The January 30 meeting in Galveston was held at the request of a number of the public who had been at the December EPA meeting in Highlands, and felt

that the possibility of toxic material washing down the river to pollute the bay at Galveston deserved consideration and explanation in a meeting close to affected people in Galveston. The meeting was well publicized, and held at the Old Galveston Courthouse hearing room. However, only about 30 persons were present at the meeting, many of them EPA staff and related public employees in other agencies. It was noted that only a few of the public that complained in Highlands in December were present to hear about the information they had requested.

At the February SJRC meeting, Young went on to present further updates that she had learned about. She mentioned that

the river had attempted to cut a new channel west of the pits during Hurricane Harvey, showing the power of the river.

She also said that the public had been advised of TxDOT plans to improve I-10 in the area of the pits, with more lanes and a new, higher bridge over the river. If that happens, the pits could not stay in their present location, she noted.

Young reminded that group of the schedule of working, saying that Negotiation with the PRP would take the next 6-9 months, then Engineering design 6-9 months, and the Clean-up removal of the wastes would be 12-15 months.

The next SJRC meeting is scheduled for March 13.

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Fire Truck Restored,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Henry and Beall the 1936 Ford Seagate fire truck was restored for \$14,000 compared to the \$124,000 price tag quoted by a company specializing in fire truck restorations. Their work took 22 months to complete with the help of two local companies. Am-Spec restored the chrome, Burbank Barrel polished the brass and San Jacinto College painted it. The antique truck is only used now for parades or on display at city events.

Fire Chief Paul Grego-

ry said Galena Park firemen and a policeman drove this fire truck to aid in the historical Texas City disaster. It was an industrial accident that occurred April 16, 1947, in the Port of Texas City. It was the deadliest industrial accident in U.S. history, and one of the largest non-nuclear explosions. Originating with a mid-morning fire on board the French-registered vessel SS Grandcamp, her cargo of approximately 2,200 tons of ammonium nitrate det-

onated, with the initial blast and subsequent chain-reaction of further fires and explosions in other ships and nearby oil-storage facilities. It killed at least 581 people, including all but one member of the Texas City fire department.

Gregory said the Galena Park firemen stayed at the disaster for days doing rescue work and the Galena Park police officer was placed in charge of the on-site temporary morgue.

We Celebrate BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

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—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."
—Thurgood Marshall, First African American U.S. Supreme Court Member

COMMUNITY NEWS

Channelview’s Taylor signs with Grand View



Channelview Falcon offensive lineman Lonnie Taylor signed a letter of intent on National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 7 to play football for Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa this fall. Academically, Taylor plans to major in education. Pictured with Taylor, from left, are his mother Kimberly Taylor, CHS Head Football Coach Averion Hurts and father Lonnie Taylor Sr.

LyondelBasell Opens New Administration Building,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



LYONDELLBASELL'S NEW OFFICES IN CHANNELVIEW were officially dedicated on Wednesday of this week. The building is the first of eight that LyondellBasell plans to build, to move non-operating personnel away from the refining process to a safer environment. The building cost \$70 million dollars, and is over 96,000 square feet in size. The building will house over 300 employees and contractors.

TXDOT meetings to study changes to I-10

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District will hold a series of public meetings regarding the I-10 East Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. The study encompasses I-10 East from I-69 in Harris County to SH 99 (Grand Parkway) in Chambers County. The I-10 East PEL study is a high-level, early-planning process. The goal of a PEL study is to gather feedback during planning to inform the environmental review process, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The public meetings will be held on four separate nights and will be open house formats (no formal presentations) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, February 13, 2018, Barbers Hill High School, 9696 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580

• Thursday, February 15, 2018, Goose Creek Memorial High School, 6001 East Wallisville Road, Baytown, TX 77521

• Tuesday, February 20, 2018, Channelview High School, 1100 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530

• Thursday, February 22, 2018, Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men, 1700 Gregg Street, Houston, TX 77020

The purpose of the public meetings is to introduce the I-10 East PEL study and receive comments on information collected to date. Additionally, TxDOT would like to receive input on issues and ideas for future corridor goals.

Maps of the study corridor and exhibits will be available at the public meeting. This information will also be available for review by appointment Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m., excluding state holidays, at the TxDOT Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007. To schedule an appointment, please contact Pat Henry, P.E. at (713) 802-5241. Project information can also be viewed at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/houston-pel-i-10.html>.

Written comments may be submitted at the meeting; by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, TX 77251; or electronically to HOU-PIOWebMail@txdot.gov or at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/houston-pel-i-10.html>. Please reference Project No: 0912-00-535. Written comments must be postmarked or submitted electronically by Friday, March 9, 2018.

proves the process safety of our site by relocating our control rooms and other critical functions.”

The building will house over 300 employees and contractors including site management, human resources, accounting, process safety, operations, engineering and medical

personnel. Employees at the complex will have access to a workout facility and gymnasium as well as a newly renovated meeting and event venue located next to the new administration building.

“I am pleased to share in this celebration with LyondellBasell. This is another

example of the ongoing investments they are making in the Houston area,” said Commissioner Jack Morman. “This new building represents more than just bricks and mortar, it represents a better approach to safety at our industrial facilities.”

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for Commissioner
Position 1 - Water
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Political Ad paid for by Esmeralda Moya campaign. Sergio Moya treasurer

OPINION PAGE

Reasons why hiring older employees is a smart decision

By Cathy K. Hayes

In the 2015 movie The Intern, Robert DeNiro starred as a 70-year-old widower who returns to the work-force as an under-appreciated and seemingly out-of-step intern working for a young boss played by Anne Hathaway.

Initially, Hathaway's character can't quite relate to this baby boomer who ditched retirement out of boredom, but by the film's finale she comes to appreciate his skills and experience.

In real life you're unlikely to encounter many septuagenarian interns, but it's not unusual for people to re-enter the labor market or launch new careers when they are well into what was once considered retirement age.

And that can be good for businesses that are willing to take advantage of all those decades of hard-earned experience, says Andrew Simon, a partner in Simon Associate Management Consultants (www.simonassociates.net) who himself is in his 70s..

"Starting a new career after 60 is not for everyone," Simon says. "But it can be rewarding for those with energy and commitment levels that are high, and who are willing to learn new skills and keep up with the constantly evolving technology."

The question is whether businesses will talk at hiring workers who, in many cases, are old enough to be the parents of the people supervising them. Sure there are downsides, Simon says, but the upsides can be tremendous when it's the right fit for the right person.

He says a few things businesses should keep in mind as they weigh whether to hire older workers include:

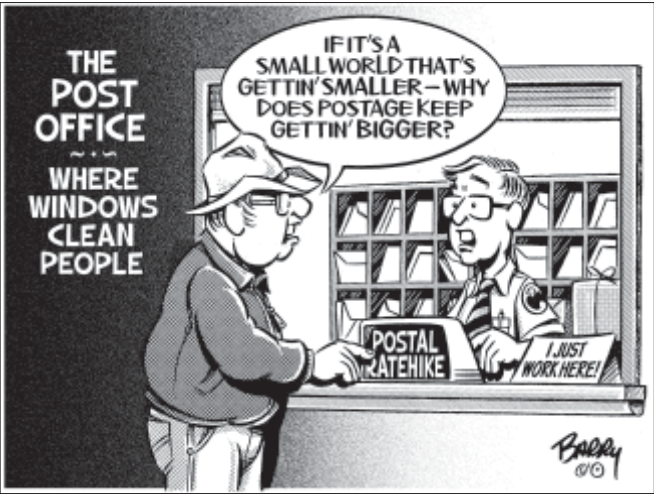
- Experience counts.

Baby boomers come to the table with a whole set of experiences, including 30 or 40 years of interpersonal people skills that make them more adept at dealing with unique situations or different types of people. "On the flip side," Simon says, "some of them could lack the technical skills that we take for granted in today's workforce. So, be careful what you are asking them to do."

- Self-motivation. The odds are older employees will be self-motivated. "If these potential workers would like to join an organization or start a new career after 60, they probably like the idea of work," Simon says. "They need to do something every day. Perhaps they view their job as intellectually stimulating." You do need to make sure of their motivation, though, he says. If they're just working for a paycheck, that might not cut it.

- Different age groups have their own behaviors. Baby boomers often have a very different set of values than millennials. "Different things motivate them," Simon says. "The culture of an organization is very important and can be tricky. You want to make sure these older workers have an opportunity to thrive in your new environment." While it's best to avoid stereotyping the generations too much, in general baby boomers tend to be productive, loyal to the company, willing to put in long hours to get the job done and prefer to have conversations in person.

"Companies that pass on hiring older workers risk missing out on people who could become some of their most valuable employees," Simon says. "Age shouldn't be the issue. Instead, as with any hire, the issue is what skills and experiences each of these people can bring to the workforce."



Legislation passed by Congress includes hurricane relief funds

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 9 lauded Congress' passage of budget legislation that contains nearly \$90 billion in hurricane and wildfire disaster relief funding for Texas, Florida, California and Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Harvey pounded Texas from Aug. 25-31, resulting in disaster status for some 60 counties. The federal Office of Coastal Management has estimated the total cost of Harvey at \$125 billion. Cost estimates by various other organizations have reached as high as \$200 billion.

"Today's passage of disaster funding marks another crucial step forward as Texans continue to recover and rebuild in the aftermath of Harvey, and I thank the Texas delegation and leaders in Congress for taking action to pass this critical recovery package," Abbott said.

"The much-needed funding included in the bill for flood mitigation projects, housing and infrastructure repairs will provide a meaningful benefit to Texas. While Texans will continue to struggle in Harvey's wake long after today's vote, our resilient spirit remains strong, and we will continue working at the federal, state and local levels to ensure we emerge from this disaster stronger than ever," Abbott added.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, commented, saying: "While long overdue, this bill is a big step forward for Texans impacted by Hurricane Harvey up and down our coast. We know the recovery process is far from over, but these resources will go a long way for Texas families, small businesses and communities who are still rebuilding. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Gov. Abbott and our congressional delegation to ensure Texans impacted by this once-in-a-lifetime storm aren't left behind."

Cornyn said the disaster relief part of the Bipartisan Budget Act:

- Ensures Texas will

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



have increased access to Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds;

- Ensures that \$15 billion of U.S. Army Corps funding will go directly toward construction in high-priority areas impacted by flooding;

- Provides flexibility to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow them to carry out necessary projects in Texas;

- Includes funding to help Texas address lingering transportation issues resulting from Hurricane Harvey;

- Allows the Federal Transit Administration to distribute formula money using 2000 Census data for areas that temporarily fell below a population of 50,000 as a result of a major disaster (this applies to Galveston); and

- Authorizes \$10 million for the Ready Reserve Fleet port facility in Beaumont damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

On Feb. 8, Texas' junior U.S. senator, Republican Ted Cruz, commented: "After much consideration, I will reluctantly vote for this legislation. This bill contains major victories; if hurricane relief and restoring vital defense spending were the only elements of this bill, I would be sup-

porting it energetically and enthusiastically. Unfortunately, in addition to funding those critical priorities, this bill also unnecessarily balloons the deficit."

Comptroller to send revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 7 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$911.9 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of February.

The amount is 6.2 percent more than was distributed in February 2017. The allocations are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2017 sales by businesses that report tax annually, Hegar said.

AG seeks election safeguards

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Feb. 5 sent a letter to state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, chair of the Senate Select Committee on Election Integrity, announcing a voter-fraud initiative.

The letter mentions the Office of the Attorney General's "brief investigative survey" of four counties where "165 unlawfully registered non-citizens had been removed from the voter rolls after casting 100 illegal votes in Texas elections in the last two years."

And, after stating that the Office of the Attorney General "is unable to determine the scope of non-citizens voting across Texas," Paxton refers to "the lack of safeguards in the voting system to detect ineligible voters." He suggests additional measures to address mail-in ballot fraud and the use of public funds for political activity.

Accreditations are released

The Texas Education Agency on Feb. 9 released accreditation statuses for school districts and charter schools across the state.

These statuses are based on state academic accountability ratings, the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, data reporting, special program effectiveness and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Statuses for the 2017-2018 school year for 1,201 Texas school districts and charter schools are as follows: Accredited (1,185); Accredited-Warning (9); Accredited-Probation (2); Not Accredited-Revoked (4); and Pending (1).

JUDGE EMMETT:

Passage of Congressional Disaster Relief Funding

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett's statement on Congressional passage of a budget agreement containing funding for local disaster relief and flood mitigation projects:

"I am relieved and grateful that Congress has finally acted on our many requests to assist Harris County and Texas in rebuilding from one of the worst weather catastrophes in American history," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. "Unfortunately, recovery is a long, ongoing process, and I hope that the funds approved by Congress can be made available quickly."

"And now that Congress has acted, we move on to the next stages, which is to request action from the State of Texas on our joint city-county request for at least \$200 million in aid to shore up our damaged flooding infrastructure. With that in hand, the county can finally move forward in funding its own mitigation and buy-back programs."

Know the basics about virtual currencies

(NAPSI)—The recent run-up in price for Bitcoin and other virtual currencies has piqued investors' interest. However, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) advises investors to understand the risks that go with virtual currencies before adding them to their portfolios.

What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is a convertible virtual currency. Virtual currency is a digital representation of value that may function as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, and/or a store of value.

Is Bitcoin a commodity?

Yes, Bitcoin and other virtual currencies have been determined to be commodities under the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA).

Does the CFTC oversee Bitcoin?

The CFTC's jurisdiction is implicated when a virtual currency is used in a derivatives contract, such as futures or options contracts. The CFTC's oversight over commodity cash markets is limited. The CFTC maintains general anti-fraud and manipulation enforcement authority over virtual currency cash markets as a commodity in interstate commerce.

What risks come with virtual currencies?

While virtual currencies may have potential benefits, purchasing virtual currencies on the cash market—spending dollars to purchase Bitcoin for your personal wallet, for example—comes with a number of significant risks, including:

- Most cash markets are not regulated or supervised by a federal government agency.

- Platforms in the cash market may lack system safeguards, including customer protections.

- Cash market manipulation.

- Platforms selling from their own accounts and putting customers at a disadvantage.

- Price volatility risks.
- Cybersecurity risks.

What do I do if I suspect fraud?

To report suspicious activity, contact the CFTC at (866) 366-2382, consumers@cftc.gov, or visit SmartCheck.gov/SubmitTip.

For more information, visit www.cftc.gov/bitcoin.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Denise Lynn Phillips



Denise Lynn Phillips, 53, of Houston, Texas, passed from this life, January 30, 2018. Denise was born July 19, 1964 in Mansfield, Ohio to parents, Charles and Joyce Johnston. She was preceded in death by her mother, Joyce Johnston-Mortimer. She is survived by children, Steven Phillips, and Lauren Aranda, by father, Charles Johnson, Sr. and brother, Charles Johnston, Jr.; as well as by many other family and friends.

Carter-Conley Funeral Home
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Robert Arnold Jurek



Robert Arnold Jurek, 69, of Crosby, Texas went to be with the Lord on February 8, 2018. Robert was born on October 6, 1948 in Houston, Texas to Arnold and Lydia (Dlouhy) Jurek. Robert served his country during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after receiving 2 purple heart awards and several Bronze star awards, one with the V device for acts of valor or meritorious service. Robert owned his own telephone business in the Houston area for many years. He was a long-time member of St. Dominic's Catholic Church and presently is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He was a 4th degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus and volunteered numerous hours with the organization. In his free time Robert enjoyed working outdoors, being in the country, BBQing, drinking cold LoneStar's, hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. Robert was a very patriotic, generous and caring man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Lydia Jurek; sister, Claudine Lewis and nephew, Kenny Lewis. Robert is survived by his

loving wife of 45 years, Madelyn Masaryk Jurek of Crosby; daughter, Larissa Wright and husband Kenneth of Crosby; Son, Brian Jurek and wife Amy of Houston; daughter, Amanda McBee and husband Josh of La Porte; grandchildren, Zoe Dugat-Burge, Madison Wright, Kaitlyn Wright, Jay McBee, Kaitlyn McBee, Milo Jurek, Louis Jurek; and many other relatives and friends. A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White on Sunday, February 11, 2018 from 5pm-8pm with a rosary starting at 7pm. A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018 11am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby with interment following at Sterling-White Cemetery. Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com

Cub Scouts help at Food Drive



Back Row: Mark Owen, Cub Master; Kay Mitchell, CUIC; Andria Ginn, Den Leader. Cub Scouts middle row: Shaun Harvey, Logan Darjean, Erik Hayes. Cub Scouts front row: Etahan Hayes, Noah Murrin.

Cub Scout Pack 264 from Crosby participated in a nationwide Boy Scouts of America event on February 2nd called Scouting For Food. Each year, scouts from across the country collect food for their local food pantry on Superbowl weekend. This year, Pack 264 collected over 1,000 non-perishable items and delivered them to Churches United in Car-

ing, Cub Master Mark Owen, along with Den Leader Andria Flowers, headed up the event this year. Over 20 local Cub Scouts participated. Kay Mitchell, a CUIC volunteer, along with many other volunteers were present Saturday, February 10 to accept the food donations.

CUIC is a Non-Profit organization run by volun-

teers for residents of Crosby, Huffman, and Barrett Station. CUIC's Thrift Shop is open Mohn-Sat from 10am - 2pm and also accepts donations of gently used items during these hours. The assistance Center accepts applications on Mon, Wed, and Fri from 10am - 11:30am. If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, please visit www.beascout.org.

Stratford Library Highlands: One-on-One Computer Appointments

Need help on the computer? The Stratford Library in Highlands has one-on-one computer appointments available to help with learning about computer basics, editing your resume, or learning

how to use Excel. Have a specific computer question that you need help with? Give the library a call and set up an appointment! More information can be found online at www.hcpl.net, on our Fa-

cebook page: "Stratford Branch Library" or give us a call: 832-927-5400. Stratford Library is located 2 blocks behind Foodtown at 509 Stratford St in Highlands.

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John 7:38

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Pride only breeds quarrels,
but wisdom is found in
those who take advice.

God is our refuge
and strength, a
very present help
in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

Northside Baptist, Highlands to Study Revelation

The biblical book of Revelation will be the focus of a study at Northside Baptist Church of Highlands. Revelation is the last biblical book and deals with end times and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Revelation says, Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy,

and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

The study will begin February 21, 2018 at 6pm and continue each Wednesday from 6-7pm. This informal study will be led by pastor David R. Brumelow, a graduate of ETBU and SWBTS, and

will especially deal with the Premillennial viewpoint.

The commentary, Be Victorious by Warren W. Wiersbe will also be used. Dress is casual and snacks will be served. Northside is located at 317 Barbers Hill Road, Highlands, TX 77562.

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ROMANS 8:18

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

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Does a genuine Violet Diamond really exist?"

Rio Tinto Unveils 'Impossibly Rare' Violet Diamond

The 2.83-carat Argyle Violet is "impossibly rare and limited by nature," said Patrick Coppens, general manager of sales for Rio Tinto Diamonds, and will be "highly sought after for its beauty, size and provenance."

MAY 6, 2016

Melbourne, Australia—In 2015, Rio Tinto made an astounding discovery at its Argyle mine in Western Australia and never said a word about it. The diamond mining company unearthed a 9.17-carat piece of rough that yielded a stone Rio Tinto Diamonds' Patrick Coppens describes as "impossibly rare"—a 2.83-carat fancy deep grayish blue violet diamond that it dubbed the "Argyle Violet."

It is the largest violet diamond ever recovered from the mine. And now it will embark on a world tour, of sorts, as part of the 2016 Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender.

The Gemological Institute of America assigned the oval-shaped stone a color grade of fancy deep grayish blue violet. In a peer-reviewed article in the spring 2009 edition of Gems & Gemology, the GIA noted that the Argyle mine is the world's only known source of type IaB hydrogen- and nitrogen-rich diamonds

colored gray to blue to violet. The article also noted that the more violet-hued stones in this range are colored by nickel defects. Rio Tinto said the Argyle Violet has a clarity of SI1.

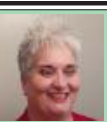
When asked for an estimated sale price, the mining company said it is difficult to know what the stone will sell for given the rarity of violet diamonds but noted that "violet diamonds sit in the limited company of red diamonds as an indicator of value."

In November 2014, Christie's Hong Kong auctioned a heart-shaped 2.09-carat SI2 fancy red for \$5.1 million, or \$2.44 million per carat.

The oval-shaped Argyle Violet was to be the star of the 2016 Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender, Rio Tinto's annual sale of rare diamonds from its Argyle mine in Western Australia. The mine produces 90 percent of the world's pink diamonds.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: 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.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Everyone Can Make a Difference

While this week is dedicated to Random Acts of Kindness and almost every employer, service organization, church and school give out some type of award for those who go the extra mile, have you ever stopped and made a list of the people who have made a difference in your life? If you are like me, you will find that the longer you live, the longer the list will grow.

I am truly blessed that I have resided in the North Channel Area since 1971 and I am not sure if I could ever document everyone who has made an impact on my life. There are individuals, businesses, organizations, several groups of friends, coworkers and many more who have reached out and blessed my life. From the earliest days of living here, I can recall people who went beyond what I could imagine.

I recall hearing Dr. Gerald Cobb, Superintendent of Galena Park ISD, speak to our elementary PTA as a child. He mentioned that success is not measured by the amount of money in the bank or the number of degrees that are hanging on your wall. He said it matters more how many lives you have touched. Now, decades later, many people think of Gerald Cobb as one of the founders of Woodforest National Bank. They think of what a successful businessman he is. Yet, there are many who remember him as a coach prior to becoming the Superintendent of GPSD. There are many retired educators who speak highly of what a fair supervisor he was. There are hundreds of scholarship recipients who will forever be thankful the money he gave and raised over the years. There are many who have been blessed by attending church, being active in Rotary or playing golf with him over the years.

In those early days of living in North Shore, I remember Bob Seale who owned Woodforest Drug Store. Life was

much simpler then. Mr. Seale knew everyone who came in the store. It is no surprise that his precious daughter Pamela Seale Humphries has invested in the community as well. She is the owner of Creative Corner Child Development Center as well as Little Stoltens and Creative Corner Child Development Center Newport. She takes pride in following her students as they enter public school and often celebrates their accomplishments of graduating from North Shore High School, San Jacinto College, University of Houston, University of Texas, Texas A & M, Rice University and Baylor University. She has given selflessly over the decades of her time to serve with Woodforest Civic Association and on the San Jacinto College Advisory Board for Child Development. She has been active with the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, Pilot Club and an active member of South Main Baptist Church located in Downtown Houston. She and her husband raised their children in Woodforest and continue to make it their home.

The love she has shown to countless children and parents alike is something that inspires many. She is always quick to point out that she loves our community and is thankful for those who call it home.

Over the next few months, I hope to share more stories about the amazing people, organizations, small businesses and churches that have impacted not only my life, but many more in the North Channel Area. Should you have suggestions of how living in the North Channel Area has positively impacted your life, send me your suggestions for topics for upcoming columns. I look forward to celebrating the joys of the community. My email address is Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com.

OBITUARIES

B.J. Westbrook



B.J. Westbrook was born in a three-room house on County Line Road three miles west of Electra Texas on November 8, 1926. His parents were giving, hardworking people who instilled those qualities in their son. His large life was defined by determination and honor and like his parents, he worked hard and gave much.

He served in the army in WW II where his assignment as a medic inspired him to dentistry. He graduated from Midwestern University with a B.S. in Chemistry then earned a D.D.S from the University of Texas, graduating in the top 10 % of his class. During the Korean War he entered the Air Force as a dental officer.

After honorably serving, B.J. opened a dental practice in Columbus, Texas then moved to the North Shore area of East Houston where he became a force in its civic, political, medical and educational communities.

In 1958, he and a group of local businessmen founded the Rotary Club of North Shore, Houston, Texas. Their signature event, the Rotary Club Catfish Crawfish Boil currently raises over \$300,000 annually.

He received the prestigious Dr. Kermit Reneau Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

B.J. was a founding board member of Woodforest National Bank. The bank, which started with one branch in North Shore, now boasts 788 branches in seventeen states.

B.J. lived by the Rotary motto, "Service above self." He was a generous supporter of the University of Texas School of Dentistry, San Jacinto College, and the Rotary Club. He served on Texas Medical Center Development Board, University of Texas Development Board, the University of Texas Dental School Board and the Wendel D. Ley YMCA Board. For the past fifty years, he

was president of the Harris County Fresh Water District 51. In recognition of his many contributions Westbrook Street, located in East Houston, was named after him.

B.J. was passionate about life. Though an avid hunter, fisherman, scuba diver and pilot, his first love was people. His vision, philanthropy and laughter made him an icon and hero to all who knew him.

B.J. was married for sixty years to Rosalie Westbrook who passed away in 2007. Their middle daughter, Marcie, died in 2015. He is survived by his two daughters Renee and Mickie, two brothers Ken and Floyd Westbrook, and a host of adoring nephews and nieces. He will be missed. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to San Jacinto College at Sanjac.edu (Give/Scholarships/Established Fund/cart/Westbrook) cash or check donations will also be received at the service. A visitation will be held Thursday, February 15, 2018 at Carter Conley Funeral Home from 5-8:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held 10:00 am. Friday, February 16, 2018 at Fellowship of the Nations Church, 13305 Woodforest Blvd. Houston, Texas with graveside services to follow at 12:30 in Sterling White Cemetery in Highlands, Texas. A reception will follow at 1:30 at the Houston Yacht Club, 3620 Miramar Drive, Shoreacres, TX 77571.

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Sealed Bids addressed to the City Secretary of the City of Jacinto City, Texas and marked "SEALED BID" and listing the vehicle being bid on will be received at the Jacinto City City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, Texas until 5:00 P. M. on February 22, 2018 for the sale of (1) 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, Vin: 5396 and (1) 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, Vin: 5398. Vehicles sold as is, MINIMUM BIDS APPLY. Vehicles may be viewed at the Police Station, 10429 Market Street.

The bids will be opened and publicly read in the Council Chamber, 10301 Market Street at the regular Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 22, 2018.

The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, to waive any/or all technicalities and to accept any bid or part thereof which in the opinion of the council is most advantageous to the city.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The City of Jacinto City, Texas is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to provide the following site-specific Hurricane Harvey-related Disaster Debris services in accordance with applicable local, state, and Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations. This RFP applies to debris stored at the temporary debris site located at 12202 Market Street.

- DEBRIS MONITORING SERVICES
- DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Two (2) paper copies of the Proposal must be delivered to:

Office of the City Secretary

1301 Mercury Drive

Houston, Texas 77029

RFP Contact

Lon Squyres

713-674-8424

lon.squyres@jacintocity-tx.gov

The City reserves the right to refuse any and all proposals and to waive any technicalities or formalities. The City is an equal opportunity employer without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, persons with disabilities, or limited English proficiency.

Small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit qualifications and vendors using subcontractors must consider such firms in accordance with 2 CFR 200.321.

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, February 22, 2018, to the RFP contact listed above.

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TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with V.T.C.A., Water Code, §49.052, the Board of Directors of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 21 has, on January 1, 2018, formally designated an office outside the boundaries of the District at the offices of Baker Williams Matthiesen LLP, 5005 Woodway, Suite 201, Houston, Texas 77056, which shall be used for the purpose of conducting the business of the District as is not required to be done within the District, and for the purpose of keeping District records. Said office is hereby declared to be a public place and open to the public.

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