

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Houston ISD claims grades changed at Furr High

Houston ISD officials released a statement last Tuesday, May 22 reporting on the results of an eighth month investigation of academic conditions at Furr High School. The probe was led by outside attorneys for the school district.

The report said that administrators at the school changed grades to ensure that students passed classes and therefore the results would be more favorable. The officials also said that teachers were instructed not to assign grades below 50 percent, and to alter attendance records, thereby awarding students who otherwise would not meet attendance requirements.

This report is an amazing turn of events for a school under its well-known principal Bertie Simmons, had won a \$10 million dollar grant from the XQ Foundation of Apple founder Steve Jobs.

HISD officials did not name anyone responsible for the manipulations, but principal Simmons has been on forced leave since eight months ago. After she left, six other administrators left too, but HISD does not implicate anyone in the misconduct.

Simmon's attorney said that she denies any allegations of misconduct, and will fight the charges and dismissal in court.

### 16TH ANNUAL JOB FAIR

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at San Jacinto College North Campus, Allied Natural and Health Science Building #17, 5800 Uvalde, Houston, TX 77049. Bring resume & dress professionally. Employers from a variety of industries will be represented. Hosted by Congressman Gene Green in conjunction with Workforce Solutions.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC COUNCIL #4703, 1217 15th Street, Galena Park, TX 77547.

The 19th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Roast & Toast, Thursday, May 31, 2018 at Houston Community College - Eastside Campus 6815 Rustic St., Houston, TX 77087. 6:00 p.m. Reception 7:00 p.m. Dinner 7:45 p.m. Program & Silent Auction.

### GALENA PARK-JACINTO CITY CIP MEETING

Thursday, June 7, 2018 5:45 p.m. - light dinner. 6:15- business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building in the conference room by the south door, 1302 Keene in Galena Park. Host plant: PCI Nitrogen.

## Furr High School holds ribbon cutting for new building

By Allan Jamail

Furr High School, Houston, TX. May 18, 2018 Furr High School's Interim Principal Rose Hernandez began the Building Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony welcoming citizens, community leaders and officials.

The ceremony began with Furr's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) led by Emily Gomez Cadet Colonel posting the Colors, Commander Sergeant Major Isiah Galindo led in the pledge. Entertainment by the JROTC Drill team led by Commander Grace Danas, the

See **FURR HS**, page 3



PHOTO / By Allan Jamail  
L- R: Councilman Robert Gallegos (blue shirt), Constable Chris Diaz, Representative Ana Hernandez, Interim Principal Rose Hernandez, HISD Trustee Holly Maria Flinn Vilaseca, Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan, Area Superintendent Jorge Arredondo, Interim Chief Academic Officer Noelia Longoria and School Support Officer Cesar Martinez.

## Nadolney wins top prize in Rotary Fish Fry Raffle



THE WINNING RAFFLE TICKET is pulled from the tumbler at the end of the Fish Fry. It belonged to Rotarian Frank Nadolney. ABOVE, raffle chairman Shawn Silman helps announce the winner, after Fish Fry chairman Bill Bowes pulls it out.

A record crowd showed up at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville Road last Saturday, May 19 to participate in the 43rd annual North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil.

Attendees are motivated by the opportunity to win a new car or truck in the raffle, but they also benefit from time spent with friends.

The Fish Fry is held ev-

LIST OF ALL WINNERS  
See chart on Page 3

ery year to raise money for local community projects, scholarships, and the International projects such as Polio Plus.

In addition to the raffle, there was a live auction with a record 82 items, many of them selling for

over a thousand dollars.

The major sponsors for the event were Community Toyota, Bestway Oilfield, Blue Northern A/C, Channelview Education Foundation, Crawfish Shack, Galena Park Education Foundation, North Channel Area Foundation, and San Jacinto College

See **FISH FRY**, page 3

## Community newspaper teaches Journalism



Allan Jamail NC Star writer and Principal Sandra Rodriguez, at Woodland Acres Elementary Career Day.

Houston, TX. - Thursday, May 17, 2018 Career Day at Woodland Acres Elementary School, of Galena Park Independent School District.

NC Star writer Allan Jamail presented the career path to journalism and the educational requirements for becoming a journalist to the 150 third,

fourth and fifth graders in attendance.

Jamail said, "You need to prepare yourself while in elementary school, and after completing high school, then take journalism courses in college. A good background in English, along with language

See **Journalism**, Page 3

## GUNS, THREATS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

### Police investigate at Huffman, Crosby

CROSBY - In the wake of the shooting at Santa Fe High School, an incident in which a student brought a pistol to Hargrave High School in Huffman - Crosby was taking nothing for granted when a threat was found to be written on a bathroom wall indicating there would be a shooting at Crosby High School on May 30, later that threat would allegedly be moved up to May 22.

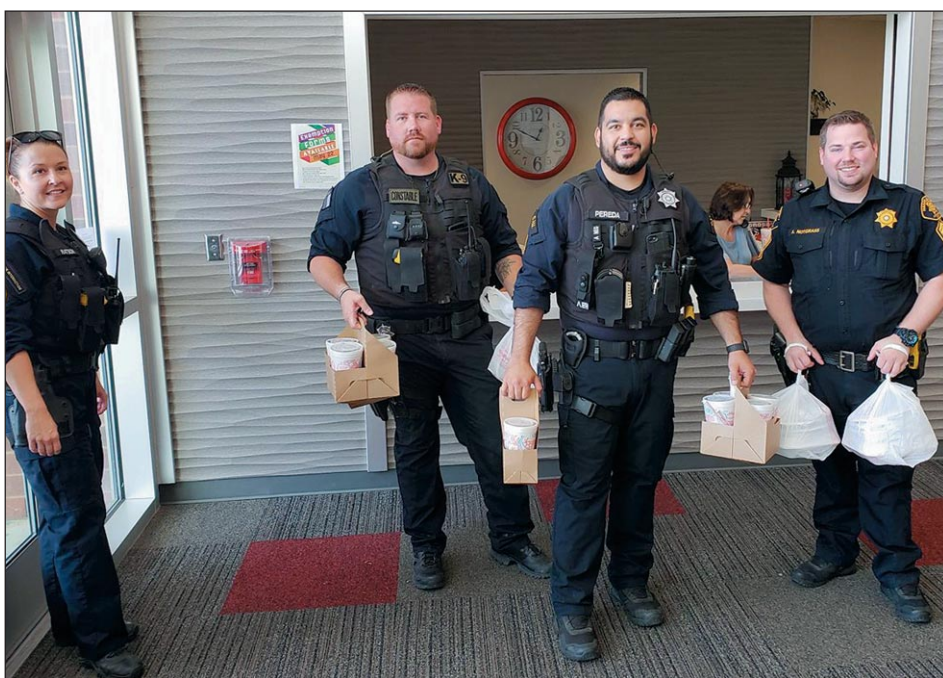
The Superintendent's Office issued the following statement at 11:55 on May 21.

"We have received a report this morning that a threat was written on a bathroom wall at Crosby High School. The threat alleges a shooting that would take place on May 30th. At this time, administrators and our school resource officers are investigating the threat to determine its source. We are asking that our staff, par-

ents, and students be especially vigilant in the coming days. In the aftermath of any school shooting, hoax threats are often made. However, we are not taking lightly any threat made against student safety. The threat did not name a specific student or group of students. A thorough investigation is in progress and appropriate consequences will be taken once we have more information. We strongly encourage you to directly report any information you have regarding this or other safety threats directly to the school district or you can use the Crosby ISD app, which has an anonymous tip line for the reporting of information related to any type of threat. We will keep you updated on the situation."

Later on June 21 at

See **Schools Safety**, Page 6



Precinct 3 Deputies turn out in force at Crosby High School after a threat was made on a bathroom wall. The threat is being thoroughly investigated and locals fed the offices special lunches as thanks.



# COMMUNITY

## Taiko drummers take over Crosby library

CROSBY – The Edith Faye Cook Cole Harris County Public Library was the noisiest place around briefly Saturday morning as the stirring sound of drums and wild shouts raised local interest in higher learning for a little extra time last weekend.

None would speculate if this was a promotion for their giant book sale coming up soon.

However a troop of Japanese Drummers, Kaminari Taiko, put on a performance that astounded many got others involved and moved the Earth a little.

It is a Japanese tradition that gets the casual observer involved and enjoying.

The fact is lessons in Japanese drumming, Taiko is being offered in lessons. Interested parties of adults and adults with children are offered at the website [www.ilovetaiko.org](http://www.ilovetaiko.org) and their are a variety of workshops on can sign up for that cover the basics of rhythm, form, spirit, and stage presence. The Beginner Taiko class is open to students ages 16 and up and is now offered on Sundays 9:00 until 10:15 a.m.

Recreational Taiko is a short-term course for personal enrichment and a little exercise with a fun element. Students learn new rhythms and songs. They form a group and learn to play together, great for group building.



## Five arrested for Crosby Kroger robbery



Five were arested by a combination of Harris County Sheriff's Deputies and Houston Police Department on US 90 for their role in a robbery of the Kroger store in Crosby. At about 9:17 a.m. five men armed with weapons and crowbars arrived riding in a maroon van. They went straight to the cash drawers and left the store after terrorizing everyone inside. The crew drove to the Crosby Meadows Apartments on Krenek Road behind the CVS Pharmacy; abandoned the van and boarded a white Ford Crown Victoria. They then headed to US 90 on Krenek. Robbery investigators recovered three cash drawers with cash still inside. Multiple law enforcement vehicles were present at the arrest.

## Harris County releases Hurricane Harvey "After Action Report"

(Houston, TX) - The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) has released its Hurricane Harvey After Action Report (AAR) which reviews the county's overall response efforts. Some of the items listed are quick fixes, while others will require a major long-term investment of time and money.

"Planning and practice pay off, but real events show how ready we truly are," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. "Hurricane Harvey's test of our emergency response highlighted remarkable successes and areas for improvement. Applying those lessons will certainly make us better prepared for the next disaster."

The AAR was created with the input and collaboration of numerous local, state, federal, private and non-profits organizations. According to the report, the overall response and recovery efforts by HCOHSEM and its partners demonstrated professional and well-practiced levels of planning, coordination and collaboration.

Some of the major strengths that were listed as sustains include:

- Pre-positioning county, state, and federal assets enabled quick deployment
- Pairing civilians and resources with skilled professionals to assist with rescue operations
- Utilization of First Contact Program to provide immediate essentials
- Support from regional public safety information officers in the Regional Joint Information Center

The report also identified some primary areas for improvement including:

- Developing a county-wide Continuity Of Operations Plan
- Training non-traditional support personnel who may be involved in disaster response operations
- Transitioning from response to recovery operations in the Emergency Operations Center
- Working with the City of Houston to address the current Donations Management strategy

"The Harvey report represents a substantial effort by both the county and its partners, but it is only one of many tools we will use to better serve our residents," added Judge Emmett. "Many of the lessons outlined in the report are already in place, and the process for identifying the next steps continues."

Furthermore, Harris County also conducted an AAR on Regional Joint Information Center operations, and other county departments have conducted internal reviews as well.

While Harris County works to improve its response to future disasters, it continues to focus on the long road to recovery facing our most devastated communities.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Career Day - Woodland Acres Elementary Wildcats with Career Presenters

PHOTO by Allan Jamail

Journalism,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

arts, humanities and social studies are needed. You must have excellent verbal and written communication abilities.”

He stressed the need for students to strive to perfect their skills in spelling, punctuation, pronunciation, grammar and writ-

ing. Journalists investigate to give the public accurate information on current events through the newspapers, magazines, television, radio and internet online websites. Their job is to thoroughly investi-

gate and research important news stories and to present them in a clear and understandable manner. Jamail explained Photojournalism, and said it was a form of journalism in which stories are presented mainly through photo-

graphs rather than words. A photojournalist presents the images that shape his news story. Few other news means has the ability to cross all language and cultural barriers the way a good photograph can. To properly investigate

a news story to get the information needed so the public understands a news story Jamail obtains the answers to, WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? and WHO?

New Furr HS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school band, the Sparkles dancers and cheerleaders. Reflections on Furr were made by students, Angela Gomez, Caleb Elam and Ernesto Salazar.

Principal Hernandez stated, “The Furr vision is to transform the outdated urban high school which was opened in the fall of 1961 into a next-generation, student-driven facility that addresses global and local challenges. With our new 182,000 square feet, three-story building design that holds flexible learning spaces that meets the needs of all learners, we believe we will do just that.”

“With our new state of the art facility, we will provide a personalized, rigor-

ous academic experience that will encourage students to tackle issues from environmentalism to social justice by providing students with strong, positive mentorships, hands on internships and project based learning.”

“Furr will foster a relationship driven culture of trust, where educators nurture a sense of hope and possibility for all students. In our 21st century flexible space, students will have access to multiple learning pathways such as Health Science, Digital Media, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and yes even an opportunity to earn their Associates in Arts Degree through our Future’s Program.”

Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said, “I am so honored to be here today to share this momentous occasion with you. Furr students now have modern classrooms with access to state-of-the-art technology, new seating areas, a new band hall and science labs, and a lovely new dining commons. And soon your new athletics fields will be completed.”

“This building was designed for one purpose: to create a bright, welcoming space and a positive learning environment for Furr students. This is truly a 21st-century learning space, and when the 2012 Bond program is complete – and we are halfway there – HISD will have one of the most modern portfolios of urban high schools in the nation,” Latham said.

State Representative Ana Hernandez who’s District includes the new school said, “Today marks a new chapter for the Furr High School family,” Hernandez said. “In 2012, our community voted to invest in the future of our children. The dedication and opening of this new campus delivers on that commitment. These new facilities will transform lives and open new frontiers of possibilities for the



PHOTO by Allan Jamail

State Representative Ana Hernandez, left, and Caleb Elam, right, 2018 Furr Student Hero award recipient for his outstanding acts of kindness, charity and unselfish service towards others. Caleb a Junior plays defensive linebacker for the Brahman’s.

next generation of young leaders.” Robert Gallegos, Houston City Councilman, District I said he’s happy to see the new school which is in his district bring to his constituents the learning tools they need to advance into a career that’ll

bring them many successes in life.

State Board of Education Lawrence Allen Jr. presented Caleb Elam with the Furr 2018 Student Hero award.

Representative Carol Alvarado thanked the HISD Board for their bringing about the new school as well as the new Milby High School where she graduated.

Local citizens Ann Estes and Sue Blackburn, members of the Songwood Civic Community Members was recognized for their unwavering commitment to passing on wisdom and encouragement to the students especially when planting trees in the community garden at Herman Brown Park.

Rotary Fish Fry,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



AUCTIONEERS were Rotarian Scott Stephens, and Ed Phillips.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Foundation, as well as 16 other businesses and individuals.

The North Shore Rotary Club typically raised

several hundred thousand dollars at this event, and in turn provides scholarships, and supports groups such as Little League, Pct. 2 parks, and needy families at the holidays.



THE SILENT AUCTION, under the direction of Margie Buenetella and Lucia Bates, seen here, included this unique stuffed lobster pillow. One of many items available only at the Fish Fry.

CHART OF RAFFLE WINNERS

TKT NO.	NAME	PRIZE
865	San Jac Coll.Fdtn	\$300 Food gift card
229	Roger Le, MD	Restaurant Package
350	Brent Hughes	Drone
667	Sheila Benton	RITC Cooler Package
793	Fred Zabak	Houston Texans tickets
1029	B.J. Johnson	DeWalt tools
1180	Lynn Nutt	Houston Rodeo tickets
217	Hasco Marine	Apple iPad
1272	Mark Tice	Houston Astros tickets
617	Angela Friedrichs	Whole Hog from FFA
446	Gilbert Rodriguez	Houston Texans tickets
388	Virginia Celanec	50" Vizio TV
112	Bill Davis	YETI Cooler
815	Mark Stephens	Houston Astros tickets
769	Gloria Joy	Whole Hog from FFA
756	Elizabeth Rodriguez	Fireworks Package
1399	Cynthia Wimblry	Astros & Dynamo tickets
1042	Paul Kiessling	YMCA Family Membership
415	Tony Hopkins	Half side of Beef from FFA
1318	Frank Nadolney	Toyota vehicle car or truck

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# OPINION PAGE

## Gift ideas for dads and grads

(StatePoint) Whether you're shopping for Father's Day or celebrating the accomplishments of a graduating senior, make a point of selecting thoughtful, unforgettable gifts this "dads and grads" season. Here are five ideas to get you started.

**1. The gift that keeps on giving.** These days, there are monthly subscription boxes for just about everything. From stylish socks to slick grooming tools to jazz records to fine wine, take stock of your gift recipient's interests and needs and give a gift that keeps on giving.

**2. The gift of form and function.** A timepiece upgrade makes for a sophisticated yet functional gift that will keep your recipient on time for all appointments. Check out connected timepieces such as the EDIFICE EQB800, which features Casio's Smartphone Link capability. Pairing with the wearer's smartphone, the watch can access the correct time for over 300 cities worldwide. Users also have the capability to swap their specified home time and world time, as well as update alarms and other time settings. By automatically syncing with a time server four times daily, the watch ensures ultimate accuracy.

**3. The gift of your company.** A pair of event tickets is a great way to show your dad or grad that you want to spend time together. Whether it's a day at the ballpark or your favorite band is coming to town, scope out the perfect event to attend together.

**4. The gift of entertainment.** Is your dad or grad's entertainment center in need of an upgrade? Consider gifting a projector for better gaming and movie nights. For a mercury-free option, check out Casio Lamp-Free projectors, which combine a laser and LED light source for high-brightness and energy efficiency, using half the amount of power per unit than its traditional lamp-based counterparts. Those from the Advanced Series, like the XJ-F210WN, reach full brightness in as fast as five seconds and feature Intelligent Light Control to automatically adjust the projection brightness according to ambient light. This innovative feature will ensure that movie fans have spectacular visuals any time of day and in any lighting conditions.

**5. The gift of music.** Has your gift recipient always wanted to play piano? Gift the tools needed for success. For beginner keyboard players, one good option for learning at home is Casio's CT-X700, a portable keyboard featuring a Step-Up Lesson System that displays proper music notation and correct hand positioning, allowing beginners to learn songs at their own pace. The keyboard's new AiX Sound Source faithfully reproduces the sound of acoustic instruments such as guitar, drums, bass, brass, wind instruments, string ensembles and more. Additionally, it includes an extensive library of 600 tones and 195 rhythms.



## Governor speaks about issues related to shooting at high school

AUSTIN — Local, state and federal law enforcement on May 18 responded to a shooting that left 10 people dead and 10 others injured at Santa Fe High School near Galveston.

One of the school's 1,400 students was taken into custody, authorities said.

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered flags to half-staff until May 22 in memory of those who lost their lives in what he called "probably the worst disaster to strike this community."

During a news conference at the high school, Abbott said he plans to work with members of the Texas Legislature and with educators, parents and students across Texas "on swift solutions to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again." He mentioned background checks and "strategies to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose an immediate danger to others." He also suggested more safety personnel and mental health intervention capabilities on school campuses.

"In the fog of the aftermath of a catastrophe like this, the answers are not always immediate, but the answers will come by us working together," Abbott said.

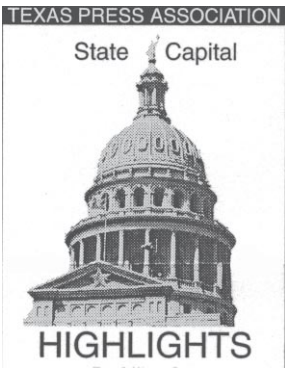
### Goal: To end harassment

Texas House Speaker Joe Straus on May 16 established a workgroup of House members to recommend additional steps to prevent and eradicate sexual harassment in the Legislature.

Straus tasked the workgroup with reviewing existing sexual harassment policies,

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



researching best policies and practices from other states and providing recommendations for any rule changes that would support a professional work environment.

"This is the next step in our effort to make sure that sexual harassment is not tolerated at the Texas Capitol. Now that a stronger and more transparent sexual harassment policy is in place, this workgroup will recommend additional ways to make the legislative work environment safer," Straus said.

The House Committee on Administration adopted a sexual harassment policy in December, clarifying ways Texas House employees can identify and report sexual harassment and get assistance. The policy also requires House staff to undergo new anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training. All current members of the Texas House have completed that training, Straus said.

Straus named state Reps. Linda Koop, R-Dallas, and Donna Howard, D-Austin, as co-chairs of the workgroup. Other members include Reps. Angie Chen Button, R-Richardson; Tony Dale, R-Cedar Park; Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth; Lina Ortega, D-El Paso; Abel Herrero, D-Corpus Christi, Tom Oliverson, R-Houston, Gary VanDeaver, R-New Boston; and Gene Wu, D-Houston.

### Sales tax holiday is set

Texas families and businesses can save on the purchase of certain water and energy efficient products during the state's "Water-Efficient Products" and "Energy Star" sales tax holidays.

The state comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save more than \$10 million in state and local sales tax during the Memorial Day weekend May 26-28.

As of May 1, more than 60 percent of the state was in abnormally dry or drought conditions, and the upcoming summer heat puts a strain on the power grid. Those factors make it a good time to upgrade outdated water systems and inefficient appliances, Hegar said.

### Program funds repairs

Gov. Abbott and Land Commissioner George P. Bush on May 15 announced more than

15,000 Hurricane Harvey-stricken homes have received repairs through the Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering program in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The program provides basic repairs that allow homeowners to live in their homes and their communities as they make more permanent repairs to their homes. Up to \$20,000 in repairs, including restoring electricity, air conditioning/heating and hot water, debris removal, limited drywall and insulation and restoring functional bathroom and kitchen facilities, have been provided to return the homes to safe, sanitary and secure standards, the officials said.

### Paxton files opioid suit

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on May 15 announced that his office had filed a consumer protection lawsuit in a Travis County state district court alleging that Purdue Pharma violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act relating to the company's manufacturing and marketing of prescription opioids, including OxyContin.

The attorneys general of five other states took similar legal action on May 15 against the Stamford, Connecticut-based company.

"My office is holding Purdue Pharma accountable for fueling the nation's opioid epidemic by deceptively marketing prescription painkillers including OxyContin when it knew their drugs were potentially dangerous and that its use had a high likelihood of leading to addiction," Paxton said.

## AG Paxton reminds Texans of May 31 deadline to claim Western Union refunds

Austin, TX. May 21, 2018 – Attorney General Ken Paxton today reminded Texans of the May 31 deadline to submit claims in a \$586 million settlement with Western Union affecting consumers who were deceived into sending payments to scam artists using the company's wire transfer service. As many as 39,000 Texans are eligible for refunds.

"Texans who were tricked into sending funds via Western Union and qualify for refunds deserve justice, but many may not know about this opportunity," Attorney General Paxton said. "My office is reminding affected consumers that May 31 is the deadline to submit a claim so they can get back funds lost to wire transfer scams."

Texans who were a victim of a fraud-induced wire transfer using Western Union between January 1, 2004, and January 19, 2017, may file a claim online at <http://www.westernunionisinn.com>

Last year, Attorney General Paxton announced a multi-state settlement with Western Union over complaints by people who were tricked into using the company's wire transfer service to send money to third parties involved in various schemes to defraud consumers. Western Union agreed to establish an anti-fraud program to deter such criminal activity in the future.

The settlement is being administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Victim Asset Recovery Program, which will be reviewing all claims submitted by consumers. The global settlement requiring Western Union to forfeit \$586 million dollars was entered with the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice. The multi-state settlement included Texas, 49 other states and the District of Columbia.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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LIFESTYLE

Crosby Chamber  
awards scholarships



Kaytlyn J. Kuta, middle, and Brandon K. Fletcher, right, from Hargrave High School in Huffman, Texas received the Ken Moran scholarship for outstanding achievement last Thursday at the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



Ryland K. Hicks, Hunter Houser, and Lauren A. Brummett from Crosby High School received the Ken Moran scholarship for outstanding achievement last Thursday at the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.

THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH  
Feel the Fall. Listen to the Pain

By Dr. Mark Trice

If you have ridden many horses, run the roads on a bicycle, or raced through the dirt on a screaming motorcycle, chances are you have felt the ground rise up and meet you in an abrupt fashion. They say if you fall off a skyscraper it's not the fall that kills you, but the sudden stop.

We were all taught by our parents to get right back up and go on. As we get older, our falls seem to hurt just a little bit more, our recovery time seems to take just a little bit longer. Our desire to get back up and ride is just a little bit more delayed than it used to be. Are we not as tough, not as flexible... or have we just aged and increased in wisdom?

We all experience falls in life. Sometimes people, life, and circumstances have a way of taking us off the horse of success we seem to be riding so effortlessly across the pastures of our God-given assignments. (Jer 29:11) God has always had great plans for our lives, and He still has those plans even in these times: He will use our falls.

Sometimes the fall makes us look up and realize that God is waiting for us to call upon Him. Even if our hurts are deeper than being bucked off a horse, or a tragic accident... Yes, some things are worse than physical pain, like when a friend or church member betrays you, speaks ill of you, goes behind your back... When you want to get even, but you know you can't; when you're just brokenhearted.... (Ps 34:18) God is still there. He heals the brokenhearted and those who have a crushed spirit. I wonder how Jesus felt as He was betrayed by those closest to Him. It was truly love that held Him to the cross!

2. PAIN – FORCES YOU TO LEAN ON THE ARM OF GOD INSTEAD OF MEN

3. PAIN - FORCES YOU TO LONG FOR HIS PRESENCE AND HEALING

4. PAIN – FORCES YOU TO LISTEN FOR CHANGES IN GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

5. PAIN – FORCES YOU TO LOVE WHATEVER REMAINS

(Ps 147:3) You may have fallen, you may have been hurt, but you have a great Father who is a doctor or anything else you might need. So, when you feel the fall, listen to the pain. Recover and learn; don't make the same mistakes over and over. God has great plans and success for you.

LISTEN TO THE PAIN

1. PAIN – FORCES YOU TO LOOK TO THE WORD OF GOD FOR ANSWERS

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Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

HOSEA 10:12

"Man with Scythe in Wheat Field and Other Figures"  
by Vincent Van Gogh, 1890

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**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

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Psalm: 46:1

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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

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# Ask The Expert

## Wise Choices

It is that time of the year when many young people are celebrating upcoming graduations, engagements, friendships and special plans. The one bit of advice that I would like to share with them is that the same middle letter of sin is the same middle letter of the word pride. One little letter than can make or break so many things in your life. When we focus on “I”, we tend to make choices to have fun, to join our friends in things that we really know we should not participate in and too often, end up with consequences that haunt us for a lifetime.

Several of you have heard the expression “Sin thrills, kills and destroys.” For what many young people do in less than 15 minutes that they consider, often leads to a lifetime of regret. Too often we hear of young people experimenting with drugs and alcohol who end up in accidents or dead before the next day. We also

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



hear about marriages that end because of a few minutes of pleasure with someone other than a spouse. I recently visited with a woman my own age who had been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease with no cure. Sadly, she has been sexually celibate for years and this infection had been dormant until a series of events in her life led to stress and stress led to her first outbreak.

Two young men decided to take some items from a discontinued program at their job. Little did they know the person who told them they could have the items, did not have permission to give the items away.

Imagine when one young man was waiting on a notice from Human Resources for a new position he had applied for, only to be contacted and told he was not only being terminated but being charged with theft as well. He kept saying “Not me. I am too valuable to the company.” Unfortunately, he ended up on probation and being shamed in the community.

I say all of this to say, stop and think. Life is too short to live with regrets. Make friends wisely and make choices after much thought. Never act on a first instinct. Make your time count. Make positive choices and enjoy life.

## School Safety,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about 4:07 p.m. “The threat that was discovered in a boy’s bathroom this morning at Crosby High School is still being investigated. Because so many students had already accessed that bathroom before the threat had been reported, it has proven difficult to narrow down the person who might have originally posted the threat. Regardless, administrators and our school resource officers are exhausting all avenues to determine the source of the threat. We will update if there is new information.”

Safety measures were offered on May 22 they were and related to May 29 and next year.

“School resource officers are on-site at CHS and CMS. We will also have school resource officer presence on each of our elementary campuses. Our SROs are no longer on traffic duty in the morning in order to allow them to be on campuses.

We are employing additional School Resource Officers to increase presence at each campus through the end of the school year.

- K9 units conducted a sweep at Crosby High School this morning and nothing was found to indicate an imminent threat.

Beginning this week, Crosby Middle School campuses will not allow students to bring backpacks to school for the remainder of the year. Teachers will provide necessary resources to students in class.

Beginning Tuesday (May 29th) of next week, Crosby High School campus will not allow students to bring backpacks to school for the remainder of the year. Teachers will provide necessary resources to students in class. Female students will be allowed to bring a small purse for personal items. Any students in athletics can keep their workout clothes or needed items in their athletic locker. Students are completing Mac-Book turn-in this week, and next week will be finals week with early release each day

All campus main entrances are secured and do not allow open access to student areas without appropriate screening.

Periphery doors around each campus are locked regularly to prevent unauthorized entry and are only accessible by staff members with appropriate entry credentials.

Our Crosby ISD app includes an anonymous tip line that filters tips directly to each campus.

A camera assessment has been performed at each facility and additional cameras have been added to increase coverage. Older cameras have already been replaced with new cameras that provide higher definition coverage.

Administrators and other staff will be participating in National Incident Management Strategies (NIMS) June 11 and 12.

**For 2018-2019 School Year:** - The Emergency

Operations Plan will be aligned to match NIMS strategies and available to key staff via MyEOP app.

We will be implementing a Threat Assessment Team to provide a vehicle for staff to refer students who exhibit concerning behavior.

Crime Stoppers will renew efforts in the fall to promote student reporting efforts and to publicize available tip lines. This summer, we would like to host a community forum to discuss potential solutions moving forward. This is an extremely complicated issue with no clear answer and we want to work in collaboration with our community and field experts to determine the best solutions for the safety of our students and staff.

A special called Crosby ISD Board of Trustees meeting was called for May 24 at 7:00 in the Operations Building.

Crosby’s Interim Superintendent Kirk Lewis issued the following statements concerning preparedness.

“It’s hard to believe we find ourselves mourning again the loss of life inside a school. That this one is so close to home drives the loss more deeply in our hearts. Our prayers go out to the Santa Fe community and the parents of those lost.

Since the tragedy in Florida in February, Crosby ISD administrative teams and teacher leaders have been conducting response training. Members of our senior staff have learned from presentations from local law enforcement officials to the Secret Service. Much of the information we’ve been given is being incorporated into a complete revision of the district’s Emergency Operation Plan currently being drafted by experts in school safety at the Harris County Department of Education.

Our principals and teachers have conducted multiple trainings of staff since February ensuring that our staff fully understand the fluid nature of active shooter incidents and the multiple possible responses based on each individual campus. It is important for our district and campus teams to know how to quickly evaluate a

situation and appropriately respond to it. Our initial training has been focused on preparing our people. Our training and drills will extend to students at an age appropriate level in the days to come. In the event of an incident on one of our campuses today, I believe our teachers are much better prepared to provide the instructions our students need as they deal with the threat.

Please understand the reality of what we know. Most of these active shooters were students who most likely sat through active shooter drills and were fully aware of what students were being told to do. That reality means our teachers and staff must be fully trained and ready to react to very dynamic and fluid situations. It also must temper, to some extent, what we share students.

In light of this most recent occurrence, however, we will conduct a basic, active shooter drill before the end of the school year at our schools and follow up with more specific training as school begins next year.

Our heart’s desire and fervent prayer is that our schools and our students and staff will never face this kind of threat. Yet, we must prepare as if it could happen any day.

This is certainly not the message I prefer to send out this time of year. I’d much rather extol the achievement of the Crosby students as we prepare for the end of school and for graduation. Amid the tragedy, we will pray, do the things we can do, and find the heart and will to still celebrate the joy of this time of year.”

On Monday, May 21, officials at Huffman ISD confirmed that a student was arrested with a gun in his backpack at Hargrave High School. School officials had gotten a tip concerning a male with a pistol in his backpack and intent to harm himself. Huffman went on a brief lockdown as a precaution, while a K-9 Officer swept the high school. Parents were then allowed to pick up their student. Students and administration were congratulated on making the tip count and no one was injured.

## Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for June?"



June birthstones are pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone. For now, let’s take a good look at Pearl.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

For centuries, pearls have been used as an adornment, and were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire. Later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age.

Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of

round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

The qualities that determine the overall value of a natural or cultured pearl or a piece of pearl jewelry are size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality, and—for jewelry with two or more pearls—matching.

**Size:** When other value factors are equal, larger pearls are rarer and more valuable than smaller pearls of the same type.

**Shape:** Round is the most difficult shape to culture, making it the rarest cultured pearl shape and—if all other factors are equal—also generally the most valuable. There are exceptions, though. Well-formed pear, oval, or baroque (irregularly shaped) cultured pearls are also prized by pearl lovers.

**Color:** Natural and cultured pearls occur in a broad range of hues. There are warm hues like yellow, orange, and pink, and cool hues like blue, green, and violet. Pearls have a wide range of tone from light to dark. Pearl colors tend to be muted, with a soft, subtle quality.

Pearl jewelry is classy, tasteful, and never seems to go out of style. Pearls will always look good on her whether she’s wearing blue jeans or that little black dress. From casual to formal, pearls easily make the transition.

*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).*

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# TOP TEN STUDENTS

## GALENA PARK ISD North Shore High School Top 10



NSSH Class of 2018 TOP TEN: 1-Lorelei D. Dearing, 2-Martin, Patrick S. Martin, 3- Grace E. Lam, 4-Aatika F. Rizwan, 5-Joanne Cobos, 6-Raquel Sanchez, 7-Venice Marie C. Macawili, 8-Ivon P. Lopez, 9- Angie B. Peralta, 10- Makenna S. Pouland.

## Galena Park High School Top Ten



GPHS Class of 2018 TOP TEN: 1-William Hernandez, 2-Erin B. Rickey, 3-Jennifer Ramirez, 4-Eduardo M. Hernandez Lopez, 5-Liliana R. Salinas, 6-Eli A. Gallo, 7-Carina L. Reynoso, 8-Melissa Garcia Ramirez, 9-Luis A. Jr. Alvarado, 10-Gloria A. Pulido.

## Channelview High School's Top 10



Channelview High School graduation will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 26 at Aldine ISD's M.O. Campbell Center. The top 10 graduates from CHS are, from left, Kimberly Sanchez (Valedictorian), Cartier Dionne Asberry (Salutatorian), Johana Martinez, Jovan Lopez, Jackeline Rodriguez, Donna Que Vuong, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Brandon Ly, Dianne Celenstino Camarillo and Kennedi Lynette Henderson (pictured above).

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