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VOLUME 6, NO. 25 (#229) THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS



Washburn Tunnel closure June 21 & 28

HOUSTON, Texas - The Washburn Tunnel will be closed for maintenance from 8 p.m. Thursday, June 21st to 4 a.m. Friday, June 22nd. The extended closure will be repeated the following week from 8 p.m. Thursday, June 28th to 4 a.m. Friday, June 29th

Drivers are reminded to use alternate routes during the closures, including I-610 East Loop Freeway, Sam Houston Parkway, and Highway 146.

Maintenance conducted during the extended closure is part of the Precinct's Washburn Tunnel Concrete Repair project, which was planned proactively to extend the life of the Tunnel. This \$670,000 project includes repairing various spots of the Tunnel's concrete lining, with most work taking place during the regularly scheduled maintenance closures.

The project will require a complete 10-day shutdown of the Washburn Tunnel in upcoming weeks. Drivers are encouraged to monitor www.hcp2.com, or like "Harris County Precinct 2" and "Washburn Tunnel - Harris County Precinct 2" on Facebook for updates on the upcoming closure.

Green Citizenship Day June 23rd

Congressman Gene Green will host his 24th Annual Citizenship Day on Saturday, June 23 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Houston Community College Northline Campus, 8001 Fulton, Houston 77022. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 5 years of legal permanent residency, or marriage to a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years, and speak and read English.

Locals hear from experts on hurricane preparedness



Photo by Allan Jamail

L - R: JP Judge Joe Stephens, Congressman Gene Green, Harris County's Emergency Operations Center Manager Misty Gunn, Harris County Flood Control Precinct 2 Coordinator Jeremy Ratcliff and Houston City Councilman District 1 Robert Gallegos.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Monday, June 11, 2018 Congressman Gene Green brought governmental agency representatives together to give the preparedness advice to citizens since we're now in the hurricane season from June 1 through November 30th.

Misty Gunn, Harris County's Emergency Operations Center Manager said, this is the time citizens should make an

Emergency Essentials Kit. The contents needed for the kit can be located at, WWW.READYHARRIS.ORG.

"In addition to your kits contents, if you're evacuating from high water put inside a water proof container or plastic bag your prescription drugs, a printed list of all relatives, doctors and insurance agents phone numbers, cell phone and cell phone charger, credit cards and checkbook, important family documents (birth certificates, insurance/ bank ac-

count information, etc.)," Guinn said.

Harris County Flood Control Precinct 2 Coordinator Jeremy Ratcliff and Communications Officers Robert Lazaro said Commissioners Court plans to call a bond election for August 25, 2018, for the Harris County Flood Control District. Voters will be asked to vote on what could be \$2.5 billion in bonds for flood risk reduc-

See Disaster, Page 6

Galena Park honors retired Police Captain Ken Ponder



Photo by Allan Jamail

L to R: Police Commissioner Rodney Chersky, retired Police Captain Ken Ponder and Mayor Esmeralda Moya. Detective Tim D'Antonio received his retirement badge but was unable to be present for the photo.

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – Friday, June 15, 2018 Mayor Esmeralda Moya and Police Commissioner Rodney Chersky presented 26 year retired Police Captain Ken Ponder a gold retirement badge and a proclamation signed by the mayor commending him for his honorable service to the city.

Chersky said before his and Moya's time in office the city failed to present

retiring Captain Ken Ponder and Detective Tim D'Antonio their retirement badges. When I learned of it I made Mayor Moya aware of it too.

"Mayor Moya adamantly agreed with me and told me to make sure this happened and that it happened soon! A retirement badge is something a police officer cherishes. This is a symbol from the depart-

See Honors, page 6

Judge Emmett speaks on \$2.5 billion flood bonds

HOUSTON – In a wide ranging talk before the Rotary Club of Houston, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett spoke about a number of topics of interest. He started by talking about his appreciation for the work that Rotary does in the community, and across the world. He gave examples from his own experience of how he has been touched by and involved in this work.

Then he spoke about the upcoming \$2.5 billion bond issue that will

be on the ballot in a special election on August 25th. He explained that the date is the one year anniversary of the devastation when Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast, causing flooding throughout Harris County and other parts of the state.

"Harvey changed a lot of lives, he said." He noted that 154,000 homes in Harris County and Houston flooded. The Hurricane dropped 51" of rain in a four day period. Many homes were



Judge Ed Emmett speaking at the Rotary Club of Houston last week.

destroyed or made unlivable, and there were many deaths in the flood waters.

Emmett looked at the history of floods in the Houston area. In 1936 downtown was inundated by water, and as a result 2 reservoirs were built in the 40s as protection. But Hurricane Harvey exceeded the 100 year flood, and perhaps the 500 year flood.

Emmett talked about, and distributed a bro-

See EMMETT, page 3

North Channel Little League District 17 All Star Champs



The North Channel Little League 9 Year Old Live Arm team went undefeated to take the District 17 All Star Tournament. Players: from bottom left to right Daniel Correa, Kevin Guerra, Daniel Olivas, Ivan Espino, Juan Sias, Josue Rebollar, Adrian Olivas, Ethan Bonilla, Damian Correa, Athan Castillo, Fabian Beltran and Alex Rodriguez. Coaches: from top left to right Robert Rodriguez, David Rodriguez and Roland Rodriguez.

Improving Lives Day by Day

It has probably been close to 10 years since a young man walked into my office and asked me to share with him why I loved the North Channel Area so much. I explained that after moving here in October, 1971 and living through so many of the changes, I had a love that could not be explained. It is just one of those things that happens.

Over the next decade, I would run into Terence "Trey" Narcisse at every twist and turn but especially when there was a major need in the area. He was asking why the east side of Harris County was typically "forgotten". He wanted to know why other parts of Harris County seemed to always get the attention not only of business owners looking to invest in communities but also the attention of elected leaders. He could not understand why with so many needs in our area

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson

why there was not more assistance. He asked why re-create the wheel, why not work together. He could not understand why businesses, non-profits, government agencies and churches seemed to compete instead of collaborate. Everyone seemed to be wanting to improve the area except everyone wanted to do it their own way.

Over the next few years, he alongside others from East Harris County Empowerment Council began to work with Crosby ISD, Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD and Sheldon ISD building relationships.

The team from EHCEC slowly but surely started

looking at the basic needs of the area and trying to find existing resources to help those in need.

Families with limited income were looking for ways to provide not just entertainment, but exposure to the arts as well as to professional sporting events and at the same time, looking for opportunities to pour a foundation that would lead their children to know that higher education is obtainable. The group also wanted the families to know the value of giving back. Projects were planned to not only take the children and

See Improving Lives, page 6

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crosby resident snares monster



This is not a marketing for the new Jurassic Park Movie but an actual thirteen foot alligator pulled, tagged and eliminated from eating humans from Lake Houston in Crosby by Ricky Larkin last Friday, June 15. As friends looked on during a barbecue cook-out. Larkin is no stranger to eliminating monsters as he works for law enforcement for Precinct 3 and is the Chairman of the Board of the Crosby Fair & Rodeo.

Harris County Senior Justice Assessment Center celebrates first anniversary

In honor of World Elder Abuse Day on June 15, Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan is lauding the accomplishments and contributions of the Harris County Senior Justice Assessment Center (SJAC).

In its first year, the SJAC has compiled a successful record of serving senior victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation. The County Attorney's Office works collaboratively with several agencies and experts at the SJAC to help Harris County victims over the age of 65. The facility is the first of its kind in Texas.

"Many of our seniors are vulnerable to outrageous crimes, sometimes by their own family members or caregivers," County Attorney Ryan said. "They deserve our respect and assistance after years of working, raising families and helping our community."

The other agencies involved with SJAC are the Harris County Guardianship Program, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Adult Protective Services), the Texas Attorney General's Office, the Better Business Bureau Education Foundation, the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Harris Health System, the Houston Police Department, and UTHealth.

The agencies meet regularly—at least twice each month—to review referrals from participating agencies and law enforcement. The SJAC teams discuss each client's needs and how they can be met. Other professionals, including a forensic nurse, a psychiatrist, forensic case managers, geriatric health specialists, mental health professionals and lawyers participate in the discussions and planning.

Since SJAC first began this collaboration April 1, 2017, through May 23, 2018, it has opened 133 cases. Thirty-nine have been closed and 94 are still active.

The most common type of elder abuse is financial exploitation, situations in which someone takes advantage of a senior's diminishing capacity. SJAC has handled over 100 of these cases since it opened. One case involved the forgery of a senior's signature to a deed resulting in the sale of the property to an unsuspecting third party. Through SJAC, the Houston Police Department's investigation led to the prosecution by the District Attorney of the forger who was ordered to pay the senior \$27,500 in restitution.

Another case involved a person employed at an assisted living facility who obtained identifying information and financial accounts for three seniors. The case was referred to the Department of Public Safety, whose investigation led to an arrest and prosecution for three felonies. An SJAC forensic case manager contacted the seniors or their caregivers to educate them about how to prevent future exploitation and re-victimization.

A number of seniors are victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse or both. The SJAC helped prove a woman had been sexually assaulted at a senior facility during her stay there. The alleged perpetrator was identified and was found to have a history of committing assaults at similar facilities. He was convicted and sentenced to prison for life.

Seniors who are 80 or older are most likely to be victimized. Since SJAC has been in operation, 18 charges have been filed against individuals victimizing seniors with six convictions so far.

"Approximately ten percent of Harris County's population is age 65 or older," County Attorney Ryan said. "Many of them suffer from abuse and neglect but few cases are reported. We want to let our seniors and their caregivers know that there is a place where they can get help and justice."

If you know of a senior who needs help, contact the Texas Family and Protective Services hotline at 1 - 8 0 0 - 2 5 2 - 5 4 0 0 or www.txabusehotline.org, or contact your local law enforcement agency. These entities will then refer the case to the SJAC when necessary.

FEMA awards \$51 million for Harris County property acquisition

AUSTIN, Texas – June 14, 2018 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded more than \$51 million to the Harris County Flood Control District for the acquisition of 294 flood-prone homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Once the structures are removed, the land will be dedicated and maintained as open space to conserve natural floodplain functions.

Previously, the Harris County Flood Control District was awarded more than \$25 million to acquire and remove 169 residential structures. These awards are part of a larger project to acquire and remove 985 flood-prone properties in Harris County. The overall proposed federal share is \$163 million.

The acquisition and removal of properties is a part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The program requires a 25 percent non-federal match. The total cost of the project is \$217 million.

FEMA has a long-term commitment to help Texas and its communities recover from Hurricane Harvey and to become more resilient.

HMGP provides funds to implement hazard mitigation measures following a presidentially declared disaster. Hazard mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the long term risks to people and property from natural hazards.

Grants are designed to assist local communities, states, federally recognized tribes and territories with implementing mitigation measures during the recovery process. The goal is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on federal funding in future disasters.

Harris County Flood Control District expands flood warning system

New Gages Inside and Outside Harris County Add Rainfall and Flooding Information

HARRIS COUNTY, TX – June 15, 2018 – In response to the devastating flooding of Hurricane Harvey, the Harris County Flood Control District has added several new rainfall and flood-stage gages – both inside and outside of Harris County – to the Harris County Flood Warning System www.harriscountyfws.org.

Seven new gages make a total of 163 stations strategically placed along bayous and tributaries, providing information that is used by the Flood Control District and by the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to inform the public of estimated flooding impacts across the region. Five of those new gages have been installed in the San Jacinto watershed, including the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, Peach Creek, Caney Creek, the East Fork of the San Jacinto River and the F.M. 1960 bridge over Lake Houston.

Of the seven new gages, three are in Montgomery County and one is in Liberty County. The system already includes gage locations just outside Harris County in Waller County, Fort Bend County, Brazoria County and Chambers County.

"While the majority of the flooding in Harris County comes from what falls directly on top of the county, we do get some water from locations to our north, including Montgomery County," said meteorologist Jeff Lindner, head of the Flood Control District's Hydrologic Operations Division. "Adding those new gages provides additional information that Harris County residents, as well as visitors from neighboring counties, need to make safety decisions during flooding events."

New gage locations include:

- Gage 765: West Fork of the San Jacinto River at State Highway 99 in Montgomery County – Rainfall equipment added to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) water level device which was already in place
- Gage 785: Peach Creek at F.M. 2090 in Montgomery County – Rainfall equipment added to the USGS water level device which was already in place
- Gage 780: Caney Creek at F.M. 2090 in Montgomery County – Rainfall equipment added to the USGS water level device which was already in place
- Gage 795: East Fork of the San Jacinto River at FM 2090 in Liberty County – New rainfall and stage gage added
- Gage 740: Lake Houston at F.M. 1960 – Full weather station installed, providing rainfall, Lake Houston water level, wind direction and speed, temperature, humidity and barometric pressure
- Gage 2265: Buffalo Bayou at Piney Point – Rainfall equipment added to the USGS water level device which was already in place
- Gage 2115: Langham Creek at Clay Road– Rainfall equipment added to the USGS water level device which was already in place

In addition, Gage 755 on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River has been relocated to the West Lake Houston Parkway bridge. "At its previous location, the Kingwood Country Club, this gage was flooded multiple times in the last several years and was not operational when needed the most," said Lindner. "The new location is above Harvey flood levels and should be able to provide continuous data to the residents of Kingwood during flooding."

These gages are all currently live on the Harris County FWS website, www.harriscountyfws.org.

Since the Tax Day Flood of April 2016, the Flood Warning System has added a total of 21 additional gages, including several that are outside Harris County. Those new gages are within the watersheds of Cedar Bayou, Spring Creek, Cypress Creek, Langham Creek, Upper Buffalo Bayou, and the San Jacinto River.

HOW IT WORKS

- Go to www.harriscountyfws.org on your desktop or mobile device.
- Go to the "ADDRESS SEARCH" box in the lower left column and type your address.
- The map will zoom to the gage station nearest to your location of interest. The icon shows the amount of rainfall (in inches) received at that location in the past 24 hours.
- Click on the gage station icon for more detailed information.
- "MAP VIEW OPTIONS" allow you to add watershed boundaries, drainage channels and channel status icons to the county map. A new inundation mapping option provides information about areas of current bayou and channel flooding. (When there has been no rainfall, the inundation mapping feature will not be available.)
- You can also change the setting in the "RAINFALL DATA" section to see rainfall during various time periods, including historical rain events dating back to 2015.
- An instructional video that shows how to use the Flood Warning System is available on our YouTube page at: <https://youtu.be/eb4AFIspQSQ>

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Emmett,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chure, outlining 16 steps that need to be taken to make the county “resilient” and able to withstand future floods. These steps include revised flood maps and regulations not allowing building in flood plains, a new third reservoir, completion of planned flood control projects, Lakes Houston and Conroe should be blood con-

trol facilities, underpasses that flood need to be signed, and blocked, buyout of homes at risk in the flood plain should be implemented, and existing reservoirs should be repaired and improved. Emmett noted that the bond issue is necessary because the property tax is not enough to

pay for this type of work. He thinks the county should receive part of the sales tax that the state collects. Emmett also spoke about the plans for renovating the Astrodome into a usable park-like county facility, with recreation areas built over a 1400 car parking structure.

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OPINION PAGE

Legislators protest separation of children from Immigrant parents



PROTESTING THE PLAN TO HOUSE CHILDREN IN A “KIDS JAIL” in Houston, are City Councilman Robert Gallego, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, State Representatives Ana Hernandez and Armando Walle. The facility would be for children separated from their immigrant parents at the south Texas border. Mayor Sylvester Turner said “There is no place for this in Houston.”

Ana Hernandez:
“We will not stand by and silently watch while families are being torn apart and children are detained in prison facilities. A baby jail for immigrant minors forcibly taken from their families has no place in Houston.”



CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE inspects the detention facilities for children separated from their immigrant parents, at a location in south Texas.

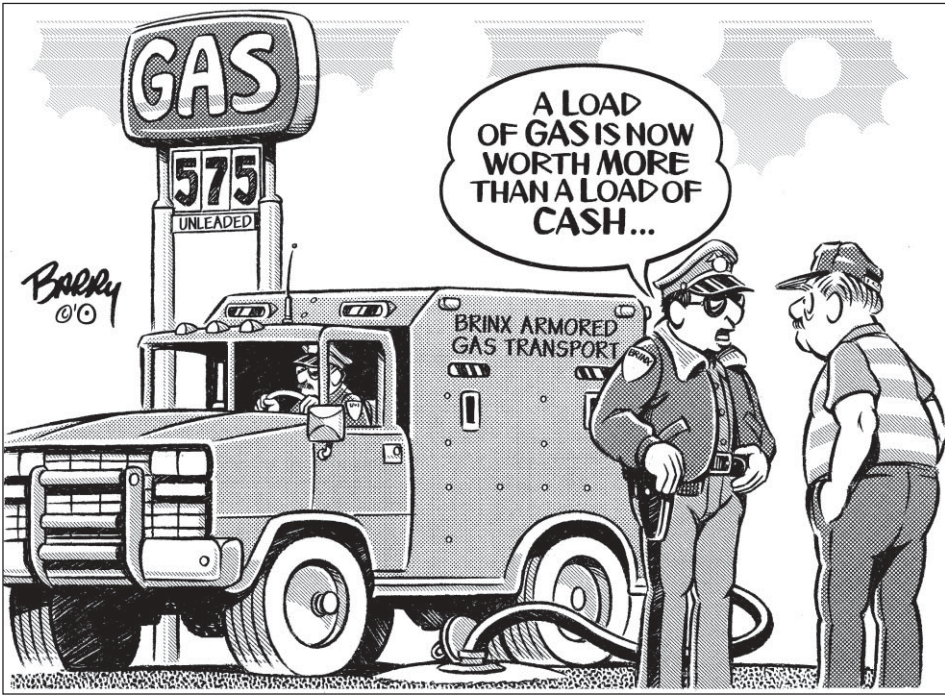
This week it was discovered that federal authorities, in conjunction with contracted private partners, have signed a lease to open a baby jail to detain child immigrants just east of downtown Houston. State Senator Sylvia Garcia issued the following statement in reaction:
State Senator Sylvia Garcia:
"Now is the time to gather together to stop this baby jail before a single child seeking refuge is locked up in our city. The Trump administration has made it clear that it will rip children away from their parents despite legal and child development experts telling them that it is unnecessary and known to cause lifelong harm. No law requires this. Humanity demands compassion. We must say as a community with one voice that jailing children away from their parents is wrong, it should not happen anywhere, and we as Houstonians will not allow it to happen here. Not now. Not ever."

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Senate panel conducts hearings on school violence, safety

AUSTIN — A panel of Texas Senate members on June 11 and 12 received input about ways to improve security on public school campuses.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, formed the legislative body’s Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Safety following the May shooting at Santa Fe High School in which a student shot and killed 10 people and injured 10 others.

The Senate district of Committee Chair Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, includes Santa Fe Independent School District. Taylor underlined the complexity of the problem, saying, “This is a multi-faceted deal. There is no one solution. A metal detector is not the end-all.”

The committee heard ideas regarding enhanced control of campus access and improved safety measures such as security cameras. San Antonio ISD Police Chief Joe Curiel told the committee that the police presence works as a deterrent and preventative measure, and that increasing positive interactions between officers and students can help students feel more comfortable communicating about actual and possible problems with officers.

Midway ISD School Resource Officer Jeff Foley told the committee, “While we need to do our best to keep these kids secure and keep them safe, we also don’t want them to feel like they’re in a prison.”

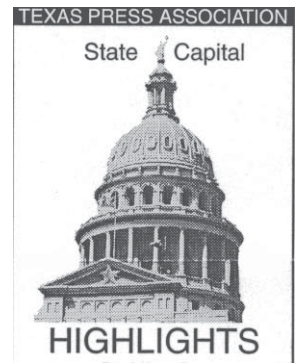
Christopher Huckabee of the Texas Society of Architects School Safety Workgroup talked about internal and external threats. He said school design is trending toward more compact structures that are built “up” rather than “out” so sections of a building can be locked down to contain a shooter.

Kim Vickers, director of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, said that under current law, school marshals must be licensed to carry a handgun in the state, must be employees of the school, must complete an 80-hour training course and pass a psychological

★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



excellence in fighting fraud, waste and abuse.

Paxton said the unit was selected for the top award from 50 units nationwide because of its “highly effective collaboration with the Office of the Inspector General, the FBI and other federal partners.”

During fiscal year 2017, the unit obtained 108 indictments, 137 convictions and led the nation in recovering more than \$534 million, Paxton said.

“Medicaid fraud drives up the cost of health care for all of us and steals from taxpayer-funded programs that help Texans receive medical care,” added Paxton.

Proclamation is extended

Gov. Greg Abbott on June 8 extended his disaster proclamation for Texas counties impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Abbott issued the original proclamation on Aug. 23, 2017, and has extended the proclamation every month since then.

The proclamation applies to the counties of Aransas, Austin, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Liberty, Live Oak, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Waller, Wharton and Wilson.

Also, Angelina, Atascosa, Bastrop, Bexar, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Cameron, Comal, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Jasper, Kerr, Lee, Leon, Madison, Milam, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Washington and Willacy.

The proclamation authorizes the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

evaluation. Vickers said schools may elect to use a less restrictive “guardianship program” that only requires that a school board to vote to allow specific teachers or staff to be armed, but there is no state oversight over those.

Texas School Safety Center Director Kathy Martinez-Prather said the Lone Star State has the largest on-campus police presence in the country. While more than 240 school districts have their own police departments, many more use school resource officers who are local police assigned to the school, she added.

Speaker orders studies

Texas House Speaker Joe Straus, in response to the Santa Fe High School shooting, charged a number of House committees to study issues related to school security and firearm safety and to make recommendations based on their findings by the month of August, when the new school year begins.

Straus said his instructions to committees reflect ideas recommended by Gov. Greg Abbott and suggestions offered by educators, behavioral health experts, law enforcement and others.

Fraud unit is recognized

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on June 12 announced that his office’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit received the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General’s award of

LIFESTYLE

Crosby Alumni announces scholarship recipients



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: left to right: Joyce Polka Boyles, Shirley Lesikar Sebesta, Ryland Hicks, Chelsea Menderes, Garrett Welch, Franny Martin Hobbs, John Lindsey, Emma Bradberry McDonald and Patsy Svrcek Spitzmiller.

Plans are underway for the 36th Annual Crosby High School Alumni Reunion. The event will be held on Saturday, August 4th, 2018 at the Crosby American Legion Hall located on FM 2100.

The reunion begins at 5:00 pm with a social time and refreshments. Music by Stanley Kubin, from the

Crosby High School graduating class of 1963 and The Barn Band begins @ 7 pm until 10 pm. The public is invited, as well as all former Crosby High School graduates regardless of the year graduated.

The Crosby Alumni Association committee is proud to announce the recipients of the three 2018

Alumni Association Scholarships. Crosby High School seniors Ryland Hicks, Chelsea Menderes and Garrett Welch. Each recipient received a \$3,000 scholarship.

The association has awarded \$121,050.00 in scholarships to 74 CHS seniors. This annual reunion is the only fundraiser that

is held, and money generated, allow the scholarships to be presented to CHS seniors the following year.

For more information on this event, call or text Franny Martin Hobbs (832-514-9892) or Melanie Ransom (melliesue54@verizon.net).

Celebrate America at Eastgate

Eastgate Church will host, "CELEBRATE AMERICA" on Tuesday night, July 3rd at 6 p.m. with food, concert, games for the kids, and fireworks display. Fun for all ages and it's FREE! Come celebrate with us!

Eastgate Church is located 6 miles east of Huffman on FM 1960, then 1/4 mile south on CR 611 (at the Shell Station.)

Goose Creek CISD students compete at National History Day

Connor Fanning, sixth-grade student at Gentry Junior School, is pictured with MK Marshall, Texas History Day coordinator, at the University of Maryland during the National History Day competition. Connor was recognized by Texas History Day with the Outstanding Entry Award, and he placed sixth in Junior Individual Documentary at National History Day. Connor is the son of Michael Fanning (Ross S. Sterling High School) and Natosha Fanning (Ross S. Sterling High School). This is the 28th consecutive year Goose Creek CISD students have advanced to National History Day.



Six Goose Creek CISD students competed at the recent National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C. on the campus of the University of Maryland. Pictured are (from left) Ruth Patino, 10th grade, Goose Creek Memorial High School; Reese Benoit, sixth grade, Cedar Bayou Junior School; Connor Fanning, sixth grade, Gentry Junior School; Brandon Broussard, eighth grade, Gentry Junior School; Riley Benoit, eighth grade, Cedar Bayou Junior and Madeleine Broussard, eighth grade, Gentry Junior School. Connor's entry received the Outstanding Entry Award at the Texas History Day competition and placed sixth in Junior Individual Documentary at National History Day. Goose Creek CISD has taken students to National History Day for 28 years.

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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"One must be deeply aware of the impermanence of the world."

"All true artists, whether they know it or not, create from a place of no-mind, from inner stillness."

"Have good trust in yourself ... not in the One that you think you should be, but in the One that you are."

"Life isn't as serious as the mind makes it out to be."

"Things are as they are. Looking out into the universe at night, we make no comparisons between right and wrong stars, nor between well and badly arranged constellations."

"If you are unable to find the truth right where you are, where else do you expect to find it?"

"As a bee gathering nectar does not harm or disturb the color and fragrance of the flower; so do the wise move through the world."

"It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

"To follow the path, look to the master, follow the master, walk with the master, see through the master, become the master."

"Watch what you say, and whatever you say, practice it."

"Nothing ever exists entirely alone. Everything is in relation to everything else."

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Disaster, Improving Lives,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion projects throughout the county. To learn more about the flood bonds visit, WWW.HCFCD.ORG/BOND-PROGRAM.

Judge Joe Stephens Justice of the Peace said, "East Houston has been impacted tremendously by Hurricane Harvey, not only have we lost property and life we have lost our only Hospital (East Houston Regional). In the past we have put our lives back together one piece of sheet-rock at a time with little to no governmental help. Unlike Kingwood, Bellaire, River Oaks and the more affluent areas of town where they could probably do a neighborhood fundraiser and fix their flooding problems we are a working class side of town. We need and deserve a comprehensive plan going forward for how the flooding and Bayous that run through this area (Greens, Carpenter, and Hunting-ton) will be remediated and mitigated to prevent future catastrophes like Allison and Harvey. My ultimate concern is that the east side gets help from the \$2.5 billion flood control bond program and we need a hospital immediately."

Houston City Councilman Robert Gallegos said, "Harris County Flood Control officials are hosting community meetings to seek input on projects that will be funded with the \$2.5 billion in bonds that voters will be asked to approve in August. Projects could include channel improvements, floodplain buyouts, and creation of more green-space and detention basins throughout the entire county.

This is the opportunity for residents, especially those who live near flood prone areas along Hunting and Greens bayous, to make their voices heard on which projects to prioritize and complete. A list of the community meetings can be found at, WWW.HCFCD.ORG/BOND-PROGRAM."

Continued From Page 1

youth to events such as Texans, Rockets and Astros games but opportunities were designed for the families to be able to volunteer together to help with the Houston Food Bank as well as community clean-up projects.

Last summer Trey introduced another component of EHCEC to myself and others which would provide opportunities for leaders from the four local ISDs as well as San Jacinto College to work with the churches, non-profits and service organizations to hold meetings throughout 2017-2018. This group would be meeting as Local Integrated Network of Knowledge or LINK. As we began to plan the topics and schedule the location of the meetings along came Hurricane Harvey.

As you know, the damages done to our community were felt deeply and even while other parts of Harris County saw film coverage of the area, it took a monumental effort by many to get the resources to start putting lives back to some form of "normal". Trey was one of the first to become a symbol of standing strong and not taking no for an answer. He along with others from organizations such as North Channel Area Chamber, Royalwood Pentecostal Church, the Rotary Club of North Shore, Christian Tabernacle and North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith began to rally the troops and form partnerships. Elected leaders such as Judge Joe Stephens, Constables Sherman Eagleton and

Chris Diaz, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and others seemed to have gone months with no sleep.

Rarely was there a day that went by without 40 to 80 calls, text messages or emails asking for volunteers, addresses of who needed help, asking for specific needs to be identified and for help getting the supplies distributed to those in need. EHCEC organized multiple distribution events at Harvey Brown Elementary, North Shore Middle School and Crosby Middle School. EHCEC has moved into a new facility and as they are quickly approaching their 10th Anniversary, I would like to say thank you to Trey and the others for continually working to improve lives daily in our community.

Honors,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment in which they've served and a keepsake for their own memories in

their retirement years. It is something to be proud of and I will tell you, I am VERY proud of both of these fine men and I feel truly humbled to be a part of assuring both Captain Ponder and Detective

D'Antonio they are not forgotten. I am honored to have been a part of making this day happen, I stand proud knowing that the city did the right thing," Chersky said.

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Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by Fax, or by email, to: northchannelstar@gmail.com

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Furr High School hosts Spring Festival

By Allan Jamail

Furr High School student's spring festival brought hundreds to visit their activities. Presentations included agriculture, digital media, health science and natural resources. Attendees enjoyed watching the Green Ag space outside where students planted fruit trees and vegetable crops, Fine Arts dance performances, healthy diet advice and pet care suggestions.

The STEAM Lab (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) class was heavily attended where students gave demonstrations of their projects.

The Astros World Series Trophy was the main attraction drawing hundreds to get their photo made with it.



L – R: STEAM Lab members Jazmyn Aguirre, Aimee Silva and Jazmmine Escalante explain pet care to NC Star writer Allan Jamail (yellow shirt). The harmless Texas White Rat Snake shown here named Casper can live 15 to 20 years. They're beneficial to keeping rats populations down on farms, costing over \$300 each.



Green Ambassadors Andre Saenz, left, and Nalleli Hidalgo, right, student teachers from Texas A&M Forest Service.



L to R: Posing with the Astros World Series Trophy at Furr High School are Jade Colunga, Erica Colunga, HISD Officer Ralph Colunga and Robert Colunga.

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