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VOLUME 6, NO. 26 (#230)THURSDAY, JUNE 28 & JULY 5, 2018www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

JACINTO CITY MARKET BY NIGHT

Saturday, July 14th, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm, 1025 Oates Rd. at Town Center Plaza, Jacinto City

GALENA PARK-JACINTO CITY CIP MEETING

TOUR OF SAN JACINTO COLLEGE MARITIME TRAINING ACADEMY - Thursday, August 2, 2018. 5:00 pm – vehicles leave Alvin Baggett parking lot if you sign up to take the bus or offer a ride to others. Seats on bus or in carpools are first come, first served.

5:30 – 5:45p – arrive at Maritime Academy. Box lunches in the meeting room.

6:00p – Opening business. Overview of Maritime Academy, followed by tour.

8:00p -- Adjourn

At San Jacinto College Maritime Training Academy, 3700 Old Highway 146/ Broadway, La Porte 77571

You may drive directly to the academy, sign up to take the Jacinto City bus, sign up to ride in a carpool, or sign up to drive a carpool. Unless you drive directly there, you will meet at the Alvin Baggett parking lot, 1302 Keene.

Vehicles will leave the lot at 5:00p.

Wear comfortable shoes—you'll be walking inside and outside. Dress comfortably, too.

1 BILLION DOLLAR NEW BELTWAY 8 BRIDGE UNDERWAY

By Allan Jamail

East Harris County - June 26, 2018 Harris County's largest costing single project in history is underway along the Sam Houston Tollway, between Highway 225 in Pasadena and I-10 in the North Channel area. The Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) is overseeing the project, with a cost of \$1 billion. The massive project which began in April will be paid for from toll revenues and without an increase in the \$1.50 toll bridge fee county officials said. The new bridge projected to open in 2024 will have 8 lanes (4 in each direction), full shoulders, no bridge supports in the water and no reduction of lanes during construction. The Port of Houston has been working to widen and deepen the navigation



Architects aerial rendering of new Beltway 8 Bridge without supports in the waterway, increasing the opening for ships to pass through from the existing 750 feet to 1,320 feet.

channel for several years. The new cable-stayed bridge will look similar to the Fred Hartman Bridge. HCTRA says the addition of inside and outside shoulder lanes and a gentler

slope will make the new bridge safer. The 4-mile-long program corridor will be constructed in three design-bid-build construction projects with a combined estimated construction cost of just under \$1 billion

and construction duration of 6-1/2 years. The first contract, which includes the cable-stayed main span bridge, is the largest single contract ever advertised by Harris County

was awarded to Ship Channel Contractors. Mike Perez and Wade Bonzon, Planning Engineers wrote in Road & Bridges the existing opening has a span for ships to travel through of 750 feet and has supports inside the ship channel waterway. The new bridge design will not have any supports in the waterway and increase the opening for ships to enter to 1,320 feet. The Sam Houston Tollway (SHT) is one of only five available means of crossing the Houston Ship Channel. It has experienced significant increases in traffic over the last several years, and traffic demands are expected to grow from 54,000 vehicles per day in 2013 to almost

See BRIDGE, page 3

Immigrant kids already housed in County

Southwest Key plans to add 5th site

By Gilbert Hoffman

As debate rages endlessly in the nation about the federal government policy of separating children from their parents who entered the country illegally, the debate has now moved to the Houston political stage because the state's largest provider of these services has requested a permit to use a building at 419 Emancipation Avenue on Houston's east side.

Southwest Key Programs is the largest provider in Texas, now housing 2,725 unaccompanied children in 16 locations.

This includes 4 facilities in the greater Houston area that are virtually unknown and unnoticed, including one that dates back to 1991. Two of these



This building at 15101 I-10 East Frontage Road, now houses about 200 immigrant children most of whom crossed into the U.S. without their parents. The building was formerly the Kindred Hospital, and before that the East Department of the East Houston Hospital. It has been run by Southwest Key Programs as a shelter for undocumented children for several years.

are in the North Channel/Northeast circulation area. Casa Montezuma is on the I-10 Feeder road in the Channelview area. Neighbors had suspected that the facility was a federal

children's shelter, but weren't sure, they told this newspaper. Records from the Texas Health and Human Services show that the facility is currently housing 191 children, and

recently had its license increased to 210, an increase of 11% similar to figures statewide. This shelter is licensed to provide child care services only, since May 2017. Children

housed are from 10 to 17 years of age.

The other facility in our area is at 7900 Mesa Drive, in Northeast Houston. It houses 54 children, ages 10 to 17, and is licensed for multiple services, including Emotional Disorders. It has had a license from the state since 1991.

Most of the Texas shelters are run by two nonprofits: Southwest Key Programs and BCFS Health and Human Services. The latter is a church sponsored group, based in Dallas. Southwest Key is a private company based in Austin, founded in 1987 by Juan Sanchez and his wife Jennifer.

Southwest Key receives most of its funding in grants and contract revenues. It's income has increased substantially, from \$193 million in 2015, to \$310 million in 2018 in the "unaccompanied alien chil-

See Immigrant kids, page 8

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Rep. Green announces Congressional Art Winner

Congressman Gene Green and Melissa Sosa, senior at Sam Rayburn High School and winner of the Congressional Art Competition for Texas' 29th Congressional District. Melissa and her parents traveled to Washington to attend the national ceremony that recognizes the first place winners from across the country. Each young artist will be joined by their Member of Congress and his/her artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol through May 2019.



FLOOD PREVENTION

Morman backs bond

By Lewis Spearman

NORTH SHORE, Texas – Last Thursday, Rotary Club of North Shore welcomed Country Commissioner Jack Morman as guest speaker at their noon luncheon. Comm. Morman talked to the Rotarians about the proposed bond to deal with flooding issues.

A \$2.5 billion dollar bond is proposed by the Commissioner's Court and this meeting was to help convince locals that there is a need in the Jackson Bayou vicinity, that is to get some flood control measures and addressed the down stream of the San Jacinto River Watershed.

The bond election is to be held August 25 - the

See Flooding, Page 3



Commissioner Jack Morman at North Shore Rotary Club meeting talked about the upcoming bond election for flood control.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Rotary installs new Officers



HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB held their Installation of Officers and Board of Directors last Friday night, June 22. Retired Judge Mike Parrott did the swearing-in ceremony. Seen above (not in order) are new officers Denise Smith, president; Sheila McDonald, President Elect for 2019; Patricia Scott, Treasurer; Teresa Martin, Secretary; Andy Scott, Sergeant at Arms; Delana Matthews, Community Service/Polio Plus chair; Betty Brewer,

Membership, Partners in Education chair; Charlie Ward, Foundation chair; Dr. Larry White, Scholarship chair; Weston Cotten, International Services chair, Gilbert Hoffman and Diana Weaver, Program chairs. Special guests at the ceremony included Bill and Debbie Palko, District Governor 5890 and wife; Bill Bowes, new president of North Shore Rotary; Assistant District Governor 5890 Gilbert Santana.

Crosby 6U Boys qualify for Little League World Series

After several tournaments and weeks of practice the Crosby 6U boys have earned their spot in the Little League World Series in Youngsville, LA July 11-15. If you are interested in sponsoring these great group of boys please contact Jason McWhorter at 832-514-1831 or visit our Go Fund Me page at www.gofundme.com/crosby-6u-allstars-world-series-18?member=359342

Pictured are (l-r) Coach Jason McWhorter, Colton Hartis, Colton Sweppenhiser, Levi Bullock, Brooks Wood, Brayden Brock, Cash Fulghum, Alex Carpio, Coach Chad Brock Coach Rocky Doby, Harper Loggins, Hunter Listi, Steven Romero, Jeremiah Doby, Porter Pierson, Coach Forrest Wood



“Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget”

San Jacinto College District will hold a public budget hearing meeting on Monday, July 9, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room, Suite A1.104, of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, located at 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the College District’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held immediately after at which time adoption of the 2018-2019 budget will be considered. The proposed budget will be available for inspection beginning on July 6, 2018, in the Budget Control Office, Room A2.213, 4620 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.



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CROSBY’S HOME
TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Flood aid recipients: Get insurance to stay eligible for repeat assistance

Some residents in high-risk areas must maintain flood coverage or risk missing out on future aid

AUSTIN, Texas – If disaster strikes once, it can strike again. Make sure you're prepared — and remain eligible for assistance from the federal government — by buying and maintaining flood insurance.

If your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and your property is in a high-risk zone known as a special flood hazard area (SFHA), you are required by law to purchase and maintain flood insurance if you have received federal disaster assistance for flood damage. Otherwise, when disaster strikes again, you will be ineligible for federal assistance for flood damage to your home or its contents.

Homeowners in SFHAs who receive disaster assistance must maintain flood insurance for as long as the property address exists. If the home is sold, the insurance requirement is passed to the new owner; therefore buyers should thoroughly research the history of their property before closing.

Renters in SFHAs who receive federal disaster assistance for flood-damaged personal property also must maintain flood insurance on the contents of their home for as long as they live at

that location. The insurance requirement, however, ends once the aid recipient moves away.

People in an SFHA who receive flood assistance through FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) may qualify for a Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP). The group policy is paid with IHP grant funds for survivors who receive disaster assistance and lack required flood insurance. To receive a group policy, you must have applied for a U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan and been found ineligible, among other requirements. A group policy expires at the end of 36 months, but the requirement to maintain flood insurance continues.

To learn more about flood insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program, call 800-427-4661, visit www.fema.gov/business/nfip or contact your insurance agent.

For information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit the Hurricane Harvey disaster web page at www.fema.gov/disaster/4332 or the Texas Division of Emergency Management website at www.dps.texas.gov/dem/

Judge declares mistrial in choking death

HOUSTON , Texas – A judge declared mistrial last Saturday, June 23 in the case of Terry Thompson.

Thompson, 42, is accused of choking John Hernandez, 24, to death after he caught him urinating outside a Denny's restaurant in Crosby last year.



Terry Thompson Chauna Thompson

In a captured video, Thompson and his wife, former deputy Chauna Thompson are seen on camera holding down Hernandez in a chokehold position.

Hernandez died in a hospital on May 31, 2017, three days after the fight in the parking lot of Denny's.

"It has been determined that Terry Thompson will be tried again for this homicide," The Harris County District Attorney's Office announced two days after jurors were deadlocked after 26 hours of deliberations.

Convictions in this case carry a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Former deputy Chauna Thompson will have her own trial later this year in October.

Flooding,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey's landfall. Early voting is to begin August 8th. It is to address Harris County's most prevalent natural disaster. The total need in the county for flood risk reduction is about \$25 billion, and the \$2.5 billion of this bond will provide matching funds to enable the H.C. Flood Control District to leverage the federal Harvey-related disaster funding that is on its way to Harris County. The cost to taxpayers would be spread over 10 to 15 years for an estimated 2-3 cents per \$100 valuation. An over-65 or disabled exemption and a home worth \$200,000 or less would not pay any additional taxes.

Morman said "In addition to the local Watersheds, this is an interconnective system. The water flow upstream will impact in a positive

way those folks that flood downstream. This is the most important election in my lifetime, it will be the most we can do to combat flooding for generations to come."

At a recent Flood Control District public meeting in Crosby, Harris County Engineer John Blount spoke to the dozen or so locals that showed to talk of projects underway, explain to this reporter why the dredging of the west fork of the San Jacinto River is back under review and the expected contract award withdrawn.

Commissioner Morman added to those comments, "It doesn't matter where rain falls in Harris County, just because there isn't a project with the name of their neighborhood, the bond benefits those downstream. We still need input from everyone that lives here to benefit all neighborhoods. A large part of the bond is to be met with federal dollars and of course you have to meet the federal standards to receive federal dollars. The feds use a cost benefit analysis ratio and it has to meet a certain ratio to get those federal dollars. There are a lot of projects in Precinct 2 that don't meet those criteria, so we will be using a big chunk of the bond on Precinct 2 projects to benefit our low income families, our middle income families and our richer families. This is a project designed to benefit everyone. I say again, this is going to be one of the most important elections in the history of Harris County, in my opinion. And probably the most important in my life. So we need to get the word out."

New Bridge,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

158,000 vehicles per day by 2035. Where it crosses the channel, the existing SHT is offset to the east side of a 200-ft-wide right-of-way and is surrounded by industrial facilities. When the existing bridge was constructed, it was envisioned that a twin span might someday be needed to upgrade traffic capacity on the tollway. However, the existing bridge, with only two lanes of traffic in each direction with no shoulders, was too narrow to satisfy future traffic needs.

To accomplish the SHT widening within the existing right-of-way while maintaining all four existing lanes of traffic throughout construction, the project team developed a phased construction sequence. First, a new four-lane southbound bridge would be constructed directly adjacent to the existing bridge. Traffic would then be switched to the first new bridge in a temporary bi-directional configuration while the existing bridge is demolished. The new northbound bridge would then be constructed along the alignment of the existing bridge. One final traffic switch would then allow each new structure to carry four lanes of traffic with full shoulders.

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OPINION PAGE

As July 4th fast approaches, National Fire Protection Association offers critical safety reminders

June 25, 2018 – With the Fourth of July fast approaching and the summer months upon us, indulging in barbecues, holiday parties and swimming often top the list of activities to enjoy during the summer season. To help everyone do so safely, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is reminding people about potential summer fire and electrical hazards, and providing tips and recommendations to minimize them.

“By knowing where potential fire and electrical hazards exist during the summer months and taking the needed steps to prevent them, people can enjoy activities such as grilling, swimming and celebrating the Fourth of July while keeping their families, guests and homes safe,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of NFPA’s Outreach and Advocacy Division.

Following are NFPA’s summer-related safety statistics and tips:

Fireworks: NFPA recommends that revelers refrain from using consumer fireworks and attend public fireworks displays put on by trained professionals.

Fireworks annually cause devastating burns, injuries, fires, and even death, making them too dangerous to be used safely by consumers. On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks account for nearly half of all reported U.S. fires, more than any other cause of fire.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s (CPSC) 2017 Fireworks Annual Report, fireworks were involved in an estimated 11,100 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2016. There were an estimated 900 emergency department-treated injuries associated with sparklers and 400 with bottle rockets. Sparklers were the most common type of fireworks causing injury to pre-schoolers, and 400 of the 900 sparkler injuries were related to children under five years old. Young adults 20 to 24 years of age had the highest estimated rate of emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries in 2016.

Grilling fire safety: All types of grills pose a risk for fires and burn injuries. According to NFPA statistics, July is the peak month for

grilling fires followed by May, June and August. Roughly 9,600 home grill fires were reported per year. The leading causes were a failure to clean, using the grill too close to something that could burn or having things that could catch fire too close to the grill, and unattended grill use. Leaks were the leading cause of gas grill fires. According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, 73 percent of consumers grill on the Fourth of July and 58 percent grill on Labor Day.

The following are tips for grillers:

- The grill should be placed well away from the home or deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. The grill should also be a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic. Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a three-foot (1 meter) “kid-free zone” around the grill.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease and fat buildup from the grates and trays below.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

Electric Shock Drowning (ESD): Electric Shock Drowning happens when marina or onboard electrical systems leak electric current into the water. The current then passes through the body and causes paralysis. When this happens, a person can no longer swim and ultimately drowns. Here are tips for swimmers and boat owners:

Tips for swimmers

- Never swim near a marina, dock or boatyard, or near a boat while it’s running.
- Obey all “no swimming” signs on docks.

Tips for boat owners

- Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. Docks or boats can leak electricity into the water causing water electrification.
- Each year, and after a major storm that affects the boat, have the boat’s electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including the American Boat & Yacht Council. Make the necessary repairs if recommended.

More information about electrical safety in pools, spas and hot tubs can be found on NFPA’s “electrical safety around water” webpage. Find this and related summer fire safety-related resources at www.nfpa.org/publiceducation.



Parents, children separated at border gain widespread attention

AUSTIN — Although border-crossing issues are largely federal matters, the Lone Star State has been a center of news reports about authorities separating children from their parents at detention centers along the Rio Grande.

President Trump on June 20 ordered a cease in the forced separation of family members who are in detention, but the fate of more than 2,000 minors who were taken away from their parents remained unresolved.

On June 21, a contingency of the non-partisan United States Conference of Mayors, including Austin Mayor Steve Adler, gathered at a border detention center in Tornillo, near El Paso. The mayors were not allowed to enter the facility where children reportedly were being held.

“Using children in order to deter or dissuade folks from coming to our border and seeking asylum is unjust. It is wrong. It is immoral and it is un-American. We are better than that,” Adler said at the beginning of a longer, widely disseminated video statement.

Meanwhile, many Republican and Democratic members of Congress are seeking solutions that would keep more asylum-seeking families together and reunite families that have been separated.

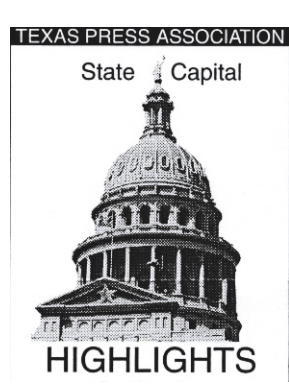
Court rules against ban

The Texas Supreme Court on June 22 upheld a ruling by the Texas 4th Court of Appeals that the city of Laredo’s ban on single-use plastic bags is illegal.

The ruling effectively invalidates bag bans across the state, said Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

“Municipalities violate the law when they unlawfully pass the burden of solid waste management to citizens and retailers through illegal bag bans. I hope that Laredo, Austin and any other jurisdictions that have enacted illegal bag bans will take note and voluntarily bring their ordinances into compliance with state law. Should

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



they decline to do so, I expect the ruling will be used to invalidate any other illegal bag bans statewide,” Paxton said.

Operation gets results

Attorney General Paxton on June 18 announced the Consumer Protection Division of his office had taken legal action against three companies, including a Houston-based labor poster operation, as a part of the Federal Trade Commission’s sweep targeting scam artists who attempt to defraud small businesses.

“Operation Main Street” resulted in 24 actions nationwide against individuals or companies accused of ripping off small businesses. The collaborative effort included participation by the offices of seven other state attorneys general, the Better Business Bureau and two U.S. attorneys’ offices, among others.

Paxton said his office obtained a temporary restraining order and asset freeze against Corporate Compliance Solutions, a company that solicited small businesses with warnings of their need to comply with federal labor laws. The company tricked business owners into thinking they needed to buy an \$84 labor law compliance poster or face fines and possible imprisonment, Paxton said.

Paxton’s office also obtained a permanent injunction and restitution order against American Advertising Concepts, a company that sold adver-

tising space on dry erase boards to small business owners nationwide by falsely claiming affiliations with schools and apartment complexes.

Additionally, Paxton’s office filed a lawsuit against Solvera, a company that Paxton said “duped individuals into paying thousands of dollars by falsely leading them to believe it could improve a business’ reputation in internet search results.”

Emergency election is set

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a proclamation ordering a July 31 emergency special election to fill the Senate District 19 seat formerly occupied by Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio.

Uresti resigned from office effective June 21. He was convicted of fraud and money laundering by a San Antonio federal district court on June 18.

Senate District 19 includes Brewster, Crockett, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Kinney, Maverick, Medina, Pecos, Real, Reeves, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde and Zavala counties and parts of Atascosa and Bexar counties.

SBOE OKs ethnic course

The State Board of Education on June 15 announced preliminarily approval a new social studies course titled “Ethnic Studies: Mexican American Studies.”

A second and final vote on curriculum standards for the course will take place at the board’s Sept. 11-14 meeting. If approved, the one-credit elective course would then become the first SBOE-approved ethnic studies course in Texas.

Once fully adopted, the course will be available for use in Texas public schools in the 2019-2020 school year. The course is based on a course created by the Houston Independent School District.

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MESSAGE FROM
REP. BRIAN BABIN

Border Situation

Washington, D.C. - June 19, 2018 – Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36) released the following statement regarding the border situation:

“What is happening at the border is unfortunate and a direct consequence of not implementing and enforcing our immigration laws. For this reason, I support the Administration’s zero tolerance policy and advocate for continuing it. Until our borders are secure, we cannot keep heading down a path that allows hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens, including criminals and terrorists, to continue crossing our borders and vanish into the interior of the U.S.

We are a compassionate nation, but we are also a nation of laws. We cannot continue to allow and encourage illegal immigration that eliminates jobs for American citizens and increases the risk of terrorists and MS-13 entering the country.

No one should be treated inhumanely, and the facilities in question are providing these children with a safe environment and the necessities for a temporary stay as officials work to resolve their individual situations as quickly as possible. This concept is no different than the steps our government takes when an American citizen is arrested or incarcerated, and their children are left without a parent or guardian.

We must also remember that many of these procedures are in place for the safety and protection of children. We already know that human trafficking and child labor is a problem in the U.S. and the last thing we want to see is more children in danger because the U.S. Border Patrol neglected to do its due diligence.

I am in support of changes to the law that would expedite the immigration review process and allow families to remain together in the same facility as they await the outcome of their case, but it needs to be part of a larger solution to fix our broken immigration system.

Democrats are choosing to attack the President for enforcing our immigration laws, but the sooner they end their political stunts and work with us on a comprehensive immigration and border security bill, the sooner this can end. I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to finally pass a bill to secure our borders and fix the immigration system that has been failing our country for decades.”

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LIFESTYLE

Beverley Jean Silverman



Beverley Jean Silverman, 87, passed away on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

Beverley was born on February 15, 1931 in Westville, Illinois to Owen and Margaret McArdle. She was a graduate of Westville High School and the University of Illinois.

She met Gil in 1959 when they both worked for RCA and were married in Beverly Hills, California, on September 4, 1960. David, her pride and joy, was born in 1963 and shortly thereafter they moved to Houston to be closer to her parents and siblings.

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OBITUARIES

Beverley was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. She'll always be remembered for her service to others and her love for her family and friends. She spent countless hours helping others through her dedicated service to Crosby United Methodist Church, where she was a member for over 40 years, and Churches United in Caring. She especially enjoyed her work with the Shut-in ministry, which provided meals and fellowship to many in the community. In May, she was recognized for 65 years of service to Epsilon Sigma Alpha. Her most cherished moments were spent playing cards, reading books, cooking and playing dress up with her precious granddaughter, Samantha Rose.

Beverley is survived by her only child David and

his wife Lisa; one granddaughter, Samantha Rose; her sisters, Shirley and husband Albert, and Marilyn; numerous nieces and nephews; and many dear friends. Beverley was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Gil; her parents, Owen and Margaret, and her two brothers, Jack and Dave.

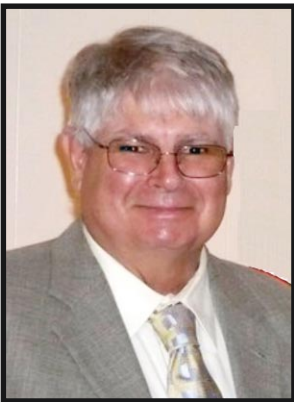
A Memorial Service was held at the Crosby United Methodist Church, 1334 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532, at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 22, 2018. Arrangements were entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562.

To send the family condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Crosby UMC, Churches United in Caring, or the charity of your choice.

Randal Irvin Wilson

September 2, 1952 – June 20, 2018



He was born in Corpus Christi on September 2, 1952 to Edward Irvin Wilson and Faye Jeanell (Condor) Wilson. At a young age, Randy inherited a love of horses and all things western from his father. During his time at Calallen High School, he began to compete as a calf roper with his beloved horse, Lindy, and was also an active member of FFA, raising animals and competing in career and leadership development events. He remained a proud supporter of FFA throughout his life.

Randy attended Sam Houston State University where he continued to compete in rodeo and received his degree in vocational agriculture education. After college, he worked as an ag teacher at Channelview High School and then Crosby High School. It was at Crosby HS that Randy met the math teacher and love of his life, Joyce Ann

(Koudelka) Wilson. It only took two proposals to convince her to marry him. Joyce and Randy were best friends and were blessed with forty years of marriage on June 11th. They had two children, Clint Randall Wilson and Mary Jeanell "MJ" (Wilson) Flannery, but were well known for opening their hearts and their homes to any child that needed it. Any one that could find a ride to 4908 Harvey Rd knew they had a place to sleep and a hot meal.

It was a hard decision for Randy, but when offered a position at Exxon Baytown Refinery, he left teaching to become a laboratory technician where he worked until retirement. Randy and Joyce lived in the Crosby community until 2013 when they moved to College Station, Texas to be closer to family. Randy loved sports and was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Houston Astros, but his favorite teams were the ones his kids or grandkids were playing on. He loved coaching softball for the Crosby Sports Association and mentoring aspiring calf-ropers. Randy was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby and participated in the Knights of Columbus Council #3229 and later Council #1834 in Bryan. He enjoyed competing in barbeque cook-offs and even attempted to learn golf after retirement.

Randy loved a good story and spun many yarns for his children and grandchildren. One of his favorite past times was sitting

with friends and "shootin' the bull". He was known for his irreverent humor and for leaving people hurting from laughing so hard at his stories. Even as he battled Multiple Systems Atrophy (MSA), Randy always smiled and never complained, cracking jokes and telling stories until the very end.

Randy is preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Mary Koudelka; and his horse, Lindy. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Wilson; son, Clint Wilson and wife Kissie; daughter, Dr. Mary Jeanell Flannery and husband Michael; grandchildren, Talia, C.J. and Jordyn Wilson; brother and sister-in-law, Morris and Sandy Wilson; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Joseph and Margaret Koudelka; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Georgia and Rick Rackel, and sister-in-law Joan Muniz; nephews and nieces, Jonathan Rackel, Amber Koudelka Manzano, Megan Koudelka, Mandy Muniz, Matthew Muniz, Lance Wilson, Tracey Eddy, and Suzanne Payne.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 26th at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in College Station with the Very Reverend Albert Laforet, Jr. officiating. Private interment will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Dime Box. Visitation will be from 5 – 8 p.m. Monday, June 25th with a rosary service at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Funeral Chapel in College Station.

Lake Houston UMC announces summer Vacation Bible School

Lake Houston United Methodist Church in Huffman is inviting kids ages Pre-K (4) through sixth grade to attend the upcoming "Rolling River Rampage" Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. At this weeklong event, kids can choose Pre-K/Kindergarten camp, fun Sports & Rec, creative Crafts or exciting Science. Campers will experience the ride of a lifetime with God

through Bible stories, talking with friends at campfire time, and with live praise music from the Revolution Youth praise band. This year's mission is "Fill the Raft Food Drive" that will benefit the Huffman Food Pantry. A limited number of spots are available for Rolling River Rampage VBS. Cost is \$10 per child with \$30 maximum per family which includes a VBS t-shirt and snack.

Lake Houston United Methodist Church is located in Huffman at 23606 FM 2100. VBS is the week of July 9-13, 2018 from 6:00-8:00pm each evening. Registration information and online payment is available online at www.lakehoustonumc.com or register at church office Mon-Thu 9am-4pm (closed noon-1pm). For additional information, contact the church office at 281-324-1541.

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.)

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I Corinthians 13:8

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I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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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

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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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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

Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for July?"



JULY's BIRTHSTONE IS RUBY

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium-dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the pres-

ASK DIAMOND JIM

ence of the element chromium. Its name comes from ruber, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with sapphire, emerald and diamond.

Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called blood-red or "pigeon blood", commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the

stone has been treated. Cut and carat (weight) are also an important factor in determining the price. The world's most expensive ruby is the Sunrise Ruby. Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. Among the natural gems only moissanite and diamond are harder, with diamond having a Mohs hardness of 10.0 and moissanite falling somewhere in between corundum (ruby) and diamond in hardness.

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk". Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually the rough stone is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.

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.

Looking to Make a Difference

Rarely does a week go by that we do not hear about crime and what we lack in the North Channel Area. At the same time, rarely does a day go by that someone does not reach out to me asking how they can get help or how they can help. Today as I prepare to attend the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) National Convention in New Orleans, I am planning a meeting with others who have a vested interest in our community and WANT to make a difference.

Perhaps as early as July 9, there will be an interest meeting held where we make a list of what all our community needs and who has a desire to help in which area. Then, together with Judge Joe Stephens, Judge- Elect Lucia Bates, local pastors and educators, we are going to prioritize the list and start making things happen. Of course, this is something that we cannot look for others to do if we are not willing to do ourselves. So many of the people who I have mentioned

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



in my columns since February are already active in planning, organizing and executing plans that it really will not be hard. Together with various community members who are involved in the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, Channelview Ministry Team and East Harris County Empowerment Council we will get a master calendar of events and a maintain a list of goals and work together as a team to help our community.

If this is something that YOU would like to be a part of, please email me at Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com or call me at 832-896-1633 and I will add you to the group. We need young visionaries as well as those who have poured the foundation in our community.

There are so many people in the Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD and Sheldon ISD that know of resources as well as the challenges. Yet there are many who started here and made the choice that no matter the circumstances, their belief that they could succeed in spite of any obstacle has become a way of life.

If you know of those who came before us and might like to come share their story and get involved in helping with upcoming events, please share my contact information with them as well.

Remember, nobody can do everything but EVERYONE can do something. I love y'all and there is nothing you can do about it. Have a great 4th of July Holiday and I will be back on July 5.

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...riding them in the 4th of July parade.



Kids: color stuff in!

Newspaper Fun!

Happy Fourth of July, Everyone!

How are Americans celebrating the Fourth of July? What are you doing? Can you fill in the puzzle with the first word of each clue below to find out some ways in which we are celebrating?

- _____ to speeches of freedom
- _____ to cool off
- _____ red, white and blue bunting from buildings
- _____ the Declaration of Independence
- _____ a pie-eating contest
- _____ decorated bicycles
- _____ places, battlefields and buildings where people fought for liberty
- _____ in the parade
- _____ fireworks light up the sky
- _____ patriotic songs
- _____ our country's flag
- _____ with family and friends

Help me find and circle all the words that begin with the letter 'F' on this page!



Betsy Ross is said to have sewn the first American flag.

Hot dog! Fire up the grill.

I love decorating my bicycle and riding it in the parade. And the fireworks are so cool! But, what is the celebration really about?

Free Stuff

Come to print out free puzzles: **Happy Fourth of July!**, and **Fresh at the Farmer's Market** @ www.readingclubfun.com

1 picnicking

2 listening

3 raising

4 riding

5 singing

6 reading

7 hanging

8 entering

9 visiting

10 swimming

11 watching

12


A cool slice of watermelon on a hot July day makes life just ducky.

This is our celebration of our country's independence. It means that we are not controlled by other countries. We are free. That's why we also call the Fourth of July **Independence Day**.

Famous People Pop Quiz!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

- King _____ III of England did not permit the colonies in America to have people to represent them in the British government, which upset and angered the colonists
- 13 American Colonies wanted to break away from the British Empire; Paul _____ took a midnight ride on his horse to warn the people near Boston that the British were coming
- George _____ was the Commander of the Continental Army (American forces) during the Revolutionary War; later became the first President (April 1789)
- writer of the Declaration of Independence; served as President of the United States; Thomas _____
- politician, scientist and inventor; diplomat who helped ensure victory of the American Revolution; Benjamin _____
- seamstress who worked making chair and couch cushions and pillows; credited with making the very first American flag; Betsy _____



What did the firecracker say when he saw the beautiful fireworks fill the night sky?

Nothing... he just burst with pride!

The 4th is the 'cat's meow'!

A-Mazing Fireworks!

Let's go to see the fireworks! Start at the star and help little ant find his way through the maze to the spectacle of fireworks.

Ooooo! Ahhhh!

1

2

3

4

5

6

Jefferson

Ross

Franklin

George

Revere

Washington

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Immigrant Kids,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Southwest Key facility at 9700 Mesa Drive, houstong 54 immigrant youths for child care services, including emotional disorders, since 1991.

dren” program. Its projected income next year is \$458 million. It currently houses about 5,100 immigrant children, and operates 26 immigrant youth facilities in Texas, Arizona, and California.

When it was announced that they would lease a building in Houston to expand their unaccompanied children program, local organizations and politicians raised their voices in opposition. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Pct. 1 County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, State Representatives Ana Hernandez and Armando Walle, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner have been seen either picketing or voicing objection over the media.

Mayor Turner said adamantly “I do not want to be an enabler in this process. I do not want the city to participate in this process.” He called on the State not to license the facility.

The building was formerly a Star of Hope residence hall, and can house about 200 persons. It is at 419 Emancipation Avnue.

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