

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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VOLUME 6, NO. 22 (#226) THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### NEW TIME FOR JACINTO CITY "MARKET BY NIGHTS"

Jacinto City Market by Nights, Saturday, June 9th, 2018 from 6 PM – 10 PM @ 1025 Oates Rd. / WWW.JACINTOCITY-TX.GOV

### 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.

## Jacinto City's new swimming pool opens

By Allan Jamail

Saturday, May 26, 2018 - Jacinto City opened its swimming pool that boasts a twisting turbo slide, splash pad and an area with a river-like current that takes swimmers swirling swiftly at fast speeds around the pool.

City Manager Lon Squyres said the state of the art pool automatically checks and adjusts the chlorine and chemical levels of the water to insure the water stays healthy while in use.

The pool will primarily serve the citizens of Jacinto City," Squyres said. Progressive Commercial Aquatics was contracted to build the pool for \$ 1,178,000. Call 713-673-4624 or 713-674-8424 for pool hours and information.

*See other pic, page 8*



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL  
Back row L – R: City Manager Lon Squyres, Linda Jamail (Community Liaison Rep. Ana Hernandez office), Councilmen Jimmy "JJ" Rivas, Allen Lee, Mario Gonzales and Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director.  
Cutting the ribbon L – R: Brothers Ricardo and Emmanuel Navarro, Councilman Gregg Robinson and Mayor Ana Diaz.

## Jacinto City recognizes top Galena Park ISD students



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Jacinto City's 2018 top 10 percent GPISD graduates, L – R: Sydney Becerra, Melissa Garcia Ramirez, Alyssa Lopez and Christopher Diaz Jr.  
Not present: Eli Anahi Gallo, Nallely Lizeth Garcia Mejia, Stephanie Garcia, Sarae Marie Gutierrez, Eduardo Hernandez Lopez, Jayda Alexis Martinez, Frank Nieto, Alyssa Victoria Puga, Carina Lucia Reynoso, Jocelyn C. Salgado, and Jaqueline Vela.

## Jacinto City swears in new Police Officer



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Officer Desiree Montez (in black suit and white shirt) was sworn in recently as new Jacinto City Officer, to her right, Mayor Ana Diaz, to he left, Chief Joe Ayala and Sabrina Gutierrez (Officer's sister).

## GALENA PARK ISD Cloverleaf Elementary breaks ground for new building

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. May 22, 2018 Galena Park School District's Cloverleaf Elementary held their ground breaking ceremony with community members and both former and current staff members present.

"We look back with nostalgia and forward with excitement as Cloverleaf Elementary students and staff celebrated the ground breaking. It is difficult for us to let go of such a historic part of the Galena Park ISD community, but we know the new building will continue the legacy of serving the families of the Cloverleaf neighborhood," says Lee Brown, principal of Cloverleaf.

"Cloverleaf is so much more than a building. There is something truly special about the community, teachers and administration at Cloverleaf," says Ofelia Garza, former Cloverleaf Principal. "It is about family... I know the legacy will remain for future generations, and they



L – R: John Moore and Sonya George, (GPISD), Linda Jamail, (Community Liaison State Representative Ana Hernandez office), State Senator Sylvia Garcia, Yuroba Harris, (Community Liaison Congressman Gene Green office), Cloverleaf Principal Lee Brown, Dr. Wanna Giacona, (GPISD), Ken Wallace, Realtor Frank Nadolney, and Wilfred Broussard, Jr. (GPISD).

will maintain the family atmosphere which has existed since the original campus opened."

Known as the Cloverleaf Bears, with the motto of The Cloverleaf Way, stu-

dents strive to Work Hard, Do Right, Help Others and Achieve Goals.

Students with report card grades 80 and above can participate in the Dig-

iTech Kids Club program which introduces students to a variety of digital tools such as photography, video, graphic design, and basic computer science.

Cloverleaf Elementary celebrated 75 years of educating students this school year and it's been the center of its community since 1943. Cloverleaf is

the second oldest elementary school and the fourth oldest school in the District that's increased from six classrooms to 57 classrooms.



# COMMUNITY

## New Sheriff's Captain details District 3

CROSBY – About 20 locals interested in the local situation attended a meeting at Crosby Community Center last Thursday, May 24.

Captain John Morrison heads the Patrol Bureau for District 3 and lives within that district in Crosby, he came out to communicate with locals as part of Sheriff Ed Gonzales' Communication aspect of Community Policing.

According to Captain Morrison, compared with other parts of District 3 Crosby has very little crime and the major problem confronting Crosby from a policing perspective is traffic. Asserted Captain Morrison to questions in a one hour address nuisance abatement is the most frequent call for local assistance. That call can include everything from barking dogs and loud neighbors to the more zany human experiences.

First speaker at the gathering at Crosby Community Center was Amanda Petroff, Assistant District Attorney, reviewed what the District



Amanda Petroff, with District Attorney Kim Ogg's Office as Assistant District Attorney, Chief of the Intake Division with Captain John Morrison, Harris County Sheriff's Office District III Patrol.

Attorney's Office does. She is the Chief of the Intake Division. She gave an overview of how legal charges get filed in Harris County. She expound-

ed on how if a person has a concern about charges or about charges not being filed they can contact the D.A.'s Office.

## Government issues Final Report on Arkema fire

### CSB Releases Arkema Final Report

Houston, TX, May 24, 2018: The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released its final investigation report into the August 31, 2017, fire at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas. In the days leading up to the incident, an unprecedented amount of rain fell at the plant due to Hurricane Harvey, causing equipment to flood and fail. As a result, chemicals stored at the plant decomposed and burned, releasing fumes and smoke into the air.

CSB Chairperson Vanessa Allen Sutherland said, "Our investigation found that there is a significant lack of guidance in planning for flooding or other severe weather events. Based on other government reports, we know that there is a greater likelihood of more severe weather across the country. As we prepare for this year's hurricane season, it is critical that industry better understand the safety hazards posed by extreme weather events."

The Arkema chemical plant manufactures and distributes organic peroxides used to produce consumer goods such as solid surface countertops and polystyrene cups and plates. Some of the organic peroxides produced at the plant must be kept below 32 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent them from decomposing and catching fire. Under normal operation, the organic peroxides are stored in low temperature warehouses and shipped in refrigerated trailers.

Extensive flooding caused by heavy rainfall from Hurricane Harvey caused the plant to lose power and backup power to all of the low temperature warehouses. Workers at the Arkema facility moved the organic peroxides from the warehouses to the refrigerated trailers, which were then relocated to a high elevation area of the plant. Three of those trailers, however, were unable to be moved and eventually flooded and failed. With refrigeration on those trailers lost, there was nothing to stop the chemicals inside from heating up and catching fire.

All of Arkema's employees were evacuated from the facility and more than 200 residents living nearby the facility were evacuated and could not return home for a week. Twenty-one people sought medical attention from reported exposures to the fumes and smoke released into the air.

In its final report, the CSB called for more robust industry guidance to help hazardous chemical facilities better prepare for extreme weather events, like flooding, so that similar incidents can be avoided. The key lessons for companies within areas that are susceptible to extreme weather include:

Facilities should perform an analysis to determine susceptibility to potential extreme natural events— such as flooding, earthquakes, and high winds.

When conducting analyses of process hazards, or facility siting, companies should evaluate the potential risk of extreme weather events and the adequacy of safeguards.

When evaluating and mitigating the risk from extreme weather events facilities should strive to apply a sufficiently conservative risk management approach.

If flooding is the risk, facilities must ensure that critical safeguards and equipment are not susceptible to failure by a common cause and that independent layers of protection are available in the event of high water levels.

The CSB also released a new safety video about the incident at Arkema titled "Caught in the Storm: Extreme Weather Hazards." It is available to view on CSB.gov and YouTube.

CSB Chairperson Vanessa Allen Sutherland said, "Considering that extreme weather events are likely to increase in number and severity, the chemical industry must be prepared for worst case scenarios at their facilities. We cannot stop the storms, but working together, we can mitigate the damage and avoid a future catastrophic incident."

The CSB is an independent, non-regulatory federal agency whose mission is to drive chemical safety change through independent investigations to protect people and the environment. The agency's board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical incidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems. For more information, contact public@csb.gov.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## DPS warns of dangers of leaving children in vehicles

Rising temperatures increase risk of vehicular heatstroke

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is warning residents that warmer weather places children at greater risk of injury or death if left unattended in a vehicle. Every year children die from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle or entering a vehicle unnoticed. Such negligence could lead to criminal charges. A child should never be left unattended in a vehicle.

“Children are needlessly dying every year because they are left unattended in vehicles,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “The public can do their part by notifying emergency personnel if they witness a child alone or in distress inside a vehicle – regardless of the weather conditions.”

According to the Nation-

al Highway Traffic Safety Administration, heatstroke is one of the leading causes of non-crash-related fatalities among children. Temperatures inside a car can rise more than 20 degrees in only 10 minutes; and even with an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature inside a car can reach 110 degrees. Leaving windows partially rolled down does not help. In addition, young children are particularly at risk since their bodies heat up faster than an adult.

DPS offers the following tips for preventing vehicular heatstroke deaths and injuries:

- Never leave your child unattended in the vehicle.
- Call 9-1-1 if you see a child alone in a car, and emergency personnel will provide guidance.

- Teach children not to play in vehicles, and make sure to place the keys out of reach when not being used.

- Always check the back seats or cargo areas of your vehicle before walking away.

- Establish reminders that help ensure you remove children from the vehicle. For example: leave your bag, lunch or cell phone in the back seat with the child's car seat.

- If a child goes missing, open the doors and trunks to every vehicle in the area. Many heatstroke deaths occur when a child accesses a parked car unnoticed.

Additionally, animals are also susceptible to heat-related injury or death – don't put your pets in these life-threatening conditions.

## San Jacinto College student appointed to State coordinating board

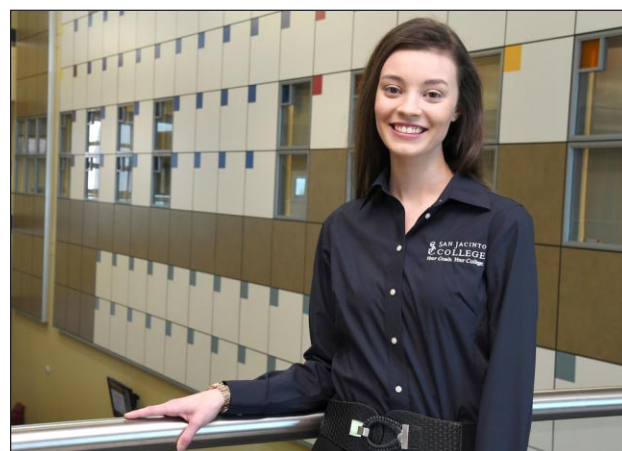
HOUSTON, Texas – San Jacinto College student Hope Cory has been appointed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) as a student representative.

“This is an amazing opportunity that I'm so thankful for,” said Cory. “I was encouraged to apply by my advisor and I'm excited to get to work.”

Cory, who graduated May 12, will take on her new role as a THECB student representative in June. As a student representative, she will serve on the committee for undergraduate education with an emphasis on the 60x30 strategic plan. This THECB strategic plan has set a goal that by 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.

“I think it's amazing to set that huge goal,” Cory said. “I'm excited because it facilitates pathways for students, employers and so many other avenues not only at San Jac, but all over the state.”

This is not the 21-year-old's first foray into the world of politics. She served as the San Jacinto College North Campus' Student Government Association president for the last three semesters and



Hope Cory is the San Jacinto College North Campus Student Government Association president and recently was appointed as a student representative to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Photo credit: Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations and government affairs department.

was chosen to attend a trip to Washington D.C., with the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region to meet and speak with Texas representatives.

“Being SGA president has been amazing,” Cory said. “It's more than a resume builder. I'm involved because I'm passionate about meeting students' needs and being a liaison between teachers and students.”

Currently, Cory plans to transfer to the University

of Houston-Clear Lake and major in public policy.

Now, as a graduate from San Jacinto College, Cory will pass the torch on her SGA presidency.

“I fell in love with San Jac and I don't want to leave,” Cory said. “I love how much the faculty are encouraged to support student, to show interest and support. My SGA advisors have made a huge impact on me in the last year and a half. The will continue to be my life mentors.”

## Channelview ISD launching Summer Food Program

Channelview ISD's Nutrition Services Department is providing free breakfast and lunch to all children as part of its Summer Food Service Program.

The Summer Food Service Program serves healthy meals to children 18 and younger. Participants enjoy meals and there is no registration or identification requirements. Kids simply show up to receive a healthy meal at no cost. Adults must be accompanied by a child and may purchase breakfast for \$2 or lunch for \$3.

The program will be held throughout the Channelview area in June and July. Locations and serving times are as follows:

•Channelview High School  
1100 Sheldon Road  
June 4-28 – Breakfast:  
6:45-8:30 a.m., Lunch: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

July 9-31 – Breakfast:  
7:30-8:30 a.m., Lunch: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday through Thursday  
•Crenshaw Elementary  
16204 Wood Drive  
June 4-28

Breakfast: 7:15-8:30 a.m.,  
Lunch: 10:45 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Monday through Thursday  
•Early Childhood Center  
915 Sheldon Road  
June 4-28

Breakfast: 7-8:15 a.m.,  
Lunch: 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Monday through Thursday  
•De Zavala Elementary

16150 Second Street  
July 30-Aug. 3

Breakfast: 7:30-8 a.m.,  
Lunch: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday through Friday  
•Viola Cobb Elementary

915 Dell Dale  
July 30-Aug. 3

Breakfast: 7:30-8 a.m.,  
Lunch: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday through Friday

•McMullan Elementary  
1290 Dell Dale

July 30-Aug. 3  
Breakfast: 7:30-8 a.m.,  
Lunch: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday through Friday  
•Harvey Brown Elementary

16550 Wallisville  
July 30-Aug. 3

Breakfast: 7:30-8 a.m.,  
Lunch: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday through Friday  
For more information,

please call the district's Nutrition Services Department at 281-860-3807.

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# OPINION PAGE

## Retiring? You have a choice to make on Medicare

By Bob Moos/  
Southwest regional  
public affairs officer for  
the U.S. Centers for  
Medicare and Medicaid  
Services

When you retire and qualify for Medicare at 65, you'll need to decide how you'd like to receive your health care benefits.

Because you'll be new to Medicare, you may not realize you have two options.

One is to join the government's fee-for-service program that's existed for 53 years. The other is to buy a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

The choice may seem bewildering at first, so let's go over each option.

With traditional fee-for-service coverage, you may go to any doctor, hospital or other provider that accepts Medicare. Medicare pays the provider a fee for the service you receive. Once you meet your annual deductible, Medicare typically covers 80 percent of the cost for your care.

You have a few choices for covering the other 20 percent:

- You may use your retiree health plan from your former employer, if you're retired and have such a policy. Some retiree plans may cost less or provide more benefits than other supplemental coverage.

- You may qualify for Medicaid, if you have limited income and savings. Besides helping with your out-of-pocket costs like deductibles and co-insurance, Medicaid may pay for your monthly Medicare premiums.

- If neither of those applies, you may buy a "Medigap" policy from a private insurer to cover what Medicare does not. There are 10 kinds of Medigap plans, with different benefits, so you'll need to decide which is best for you.

If you choose the traditional fee-for-service program, you'll probably also want to buy a prescription drug plan to go with your other coverage.

Traditional Medicare remains the favorite among people wanting the broadest possible access to doctors, hospitals and other providers. When coupled with a supplemental plan, it also makes your health care costs relatively predictable.

Still, 33 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries – including 33 percent of Texans with Medicare -- now prefer to get their health care benefits through a private insurer. The number of people buying private Medicare Advantage plans has more than doubled over the last 10 years.

With Medicare Advantage, insurance companies contract with the government to provide care. Every private plan must cover all the benefits that traditional Medicare covers. In some cases, Medicare Advantage plans may offer extra benefits, like routine hearing or vision care.

Many plans charge a premium on top of the amount you'll pay each month for Medicare's Part B medical insurance, but there's no need to buy a supplemental Medigap policy. Likewise, most Medicare Advantage plans include drug coverage with their other benefits.

The premiums, deductibles and co-payments will vary from one Medicare Advantage plan to another. But all plans, by law, must have annual limits on their overall out-of-pocket costs.

Unlike the traditional fee-for-service program, most Medicare Advantage plans require you to go to doctors and hospitals within their network of providers or pay more for getting care outside the network.

Still, the private health plans have been especially popular among people with low to moderate incomes. They provide relatively affordable supplemental coverage, with lower premiums than those for Medigap policies.

So, which is better -- the traditional fee-for-service coverage or a private Medicare Advantage plan? That depends on your own circumstances and preferences. What's best for one person may not work as well for someone else.

To find out more about your options, you can visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and browse through the "Medicare and You" handbook. The website will also give you detailed information about the Medigap and Medicare Advantage policies available in your area.

Becoming informed will help you select the health care option that best fits your needs. It will also help you avoid mistakes that may cost you money.



## Valdez wins race to face Abbott in November gubernatorial election

AUSTIN — Former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez defeated Houston businessman Andrew White, the son of the late former governor, Mark White, in the May 22 Texas Democratic Party primary runoff.

Valdez, the first Latina to win a gubernatorial primary in Texas, will run against incumbent Republican Governor Greg Abbott, who is seeking a second four-year term, in the November 6 general election.

Valdez garnered 230,467 votes, or 53.32 percent of the total vote, to White's 201,713 votes, which came to 46.67 percent. Historically, this was the lowest recorded turnout for a Texas Democratic Party gubernatorial runoff. Only 2.83 percent of the state's 15,249,541 registered voters cast a ballot.

Notably, two incumbent state legislators were defeated in the runoffs:

— Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville, lost to Alex Dominguez, a Cameron County commissioner. House District 27, which Oliveira represents, includes part of Cameron County. First elected in 1981, Oliveira, the dean of Rio Grande Valley legislative delegation, is the fifth-most senior member of the Texas House of Representatives. He currently chairs the House Committee on Business and Industry and is a three-time past chairman of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means.

— Rep. Scott Cosper, R-Killeen, lost to Dr. Brad Buckley, a Killeen veterinarian. Cosper, a former mayor of Killeen, was elected to represent House District 54 in 2016. He is a member of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee. House District 54 includes Lampasas County and part of Bell County.

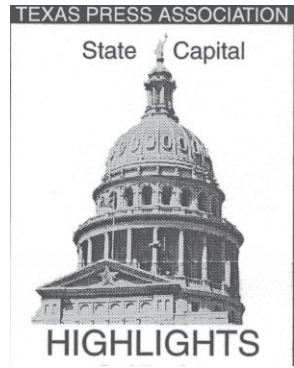
### Safety talks are held

Gov. Abbott on May 22 launched a series of roundtable discussions "to generate solutions that improve safety and security at Texas schools and in our communities."

Abbott's forums at the Capitol were in the af-

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



termath of the May 18 shooting that left 10 dead and 10 injured at Santa Fe High School near Galveston. Invited to participate in the discussions were parents, teachers, students, legislators and interest groups that advocate for and against further gun regulations.

Also invited to participate were victims, educators and family members from Santa Fe, Sutherland Springs, Alpine and Italy, Texas, where other shootings occurred. Other invitees included school administrators who allow the arming of teachers and those who do not, as well as experts on matters of school safety, mental health, law enforcement, bullying and more.

"I am seeking the best solutions to make our schools more secure and to keep our communities safe. I look forward to hearing from all sides of the debate, and from expert perspectives on these issues. Working together, we can ensure a safe learning environment for students and safer communities for all Texans," Abbott said before the hearings.

In other news, on May 20, Abbott issued a statewide call for Texans to take part in a moment of silence at 10 a.m. on May 21 to honor the memory of the Santa Fe shooting.

### Plain language is goal

Texas Insurance Commissioner Kent Sullivan on May 23 announced that the Texas Department of Insur-

ance is redesigning its website to help customers solve problems.

Sullivan, who refers to himself as a "plain language champion" admits it's unlikely that the agency can get rid of terms like "contingent nonforfeiture benefit" overnight, but progress is being made.

The agency is calling for volunteers to help make sure consumer information is easy to understand.

Sullivan said he issued guidance to long-term care insurers about writing rate notices in plain language and that letters and forms are being rewritten with an eye toward shorter words and formats that are easier to read.

Sullivan said the goal is to use plain language in everything the agency does — on the website, in writing and on the phone.

"It's not enough to be technically accurate if no one understands your message. It's win-win when consumers understand insurance and how it works," he said. "We invite you to hold us accountable. Insurance can be complex. That makes it even more important to keep the language simple."

### Zika cases are reported

The Texas Department of State Health Services on May 22 said the agency has received reports of the first Texas Zika cases of 2018.

The two reported cases are travel-related, involving residents of Williamson County who got sick while abroad.

Some 55 cases of Zika were reported in calendar year 2017. More data for previous years is available at [TexasZika.org](http://TexasZika.org).

The health department is urging people to protect themselves from mosquito bites this spring as they travel, particularly to warmer climates where Zika is more prevalent, namely Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

## Social Security Matters

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

Association of Mature American Citizens

### Ask Rusty – Spousal and Survivor Benefits

*Dear Rusty:* I worked in my career, but I now get Social Security disability. My husband retired in 2015 at age 66 and took his Social Security at that time. When he is 70 can I get spousal benefits from his Social Security or is that not allowed? And if I can't get them when he turns 70, can I get them if he dies before me? I am 5 years younger than my husband, but my health is up and down, so if I die before him can he get spousal benefits from my Social Security? Signed: Kentucky Woman

*Dear Kentucky Woman:* Since your husband is already receiving his Social Security retirement benefits, you are eligible to collect spousal benefits at any time after you reach age 62, even though you are collecting Social Security Disability benefits (you don't have to wait until he's 70); however, if you start those spousal benefits before you reach your full retirement age (FRA) they will be reduced. How much of a reduction depends upon how soon before your full retirement age that you claim your spousal benefit. If you claim at or after your full retirement age (66+2 months) your spousal benefit would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age benefit; but if you start earlier than your FRA it would be less. If you file for spousal benefits at age 63, you would get 37.5% of your husband's FRA benefit, instead of 50%.

Please note too that your Social Security Disability Insurance benefits will automatically convert to regular Social Security benefits when you reach your full retirement age but will continue at the same amount you were receiving on disability (including the spousal portion). If your husband predeceases you, and you have already reached your full retirement age, you will get 100% of whatever Social Security benefit he was receiving, instead of any disability benefit or spousal benefit you may be receiving. If he passes and you claim survivor's benefits before you reach your full retirement age, those benefits will be reduced to something less than 100% of the benefit he was receiving. How much of a reduction depends upon how many months before your FRA that you start the survivor's benefit. If you were to predecease your husband, he would get survivor's benefits from you only if that benefit is higher than the amount he is already receiving from his own work record.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only.

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LIFESTYLE



Goose Creek Memorial High School Top 10

#1 Trenton Carr , #2 Gabrielle Cabigquez, #3 Bianca Pierce, #4 Jada Phan, #5 Makeila Pulcher, #6 Fabian Macias, #7 Ashley Crawford, #8 Aidan Cottar, #9 Johnathan Cuellar and #10 Mykala Kaopua.



Ross S. Sterling High School Top 10

#1 Ayush Agrawal, #2 Havi Nguyen, #3 Bryn Benoit, #4 Victoria Chang, #5 Sarah Gregorcyk, #6 Casey Benskin, #7 Lauren Hillin, #8 Megan Clausen, #9 Paris Landry and #10 Emily Thomas.



Robert E. Lee High School Top Ten

#1 Kayla Marie, #2 Klarissa Garza, #3 Savannah Xiao-Wei Annette Cushman, #4 Diana Anne De Lara, #5 Janette Velasquez, #6 Nile Stewart, #7 Drayton Sherrill, #8 Melizza Hernandez, #9 Zion Stewart and #10 Thesiana Jacqueline Graham.



IMPACT Early College High School Top 10

#1 Divya Singh, #2 Chyna Lewis, #3 Elisa Garcia, #4 Martina Flores Guzman, #5 Kaegan Knox, #6 Maria J. Sierra, #7 Ailenne Victoria, #8 Kimberly Fonseca, #9 Paige Soape and #10 Alondra Martinez

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Matthew 17:20

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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

# Summer Reading program begins at Crosby library

Crosby, TX – June 4 – Aug 4 – The Crosby Branch Library is proud to announce Harris County Public Library Summer Reading 2015: Libraries Rock! It is for children and adults of all ages and begins on June 4th and continues through August 4th. Its purpose is to encourage reading and foster a love of libraries. Sign up in the library or online at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).

Following this year's rock theme, the Crosby Branch Library will have activities planned for all age groups on different days throughout the summer. Kick off activities include a Bubble Party for kids and an Ice Cream Dance Party for Teens and Tweens. Stop by the library for an activities calendar for a full list of all programs.

The Crosby Branch Library in partnership with the Houston Food Bank will also be a Kids' Café site. Kids aged 1-18 and their caregivers can come to the library for a free lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday, starting June 5th (Tuesday) until August 10th .

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 281-328-3535 or log on to <http://www.hcpl.net/location/crosby-branch-library>.

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ROMANS 8:18

All of them were filled with  
the Holy Spirit and began to  
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Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in  
the faith. Have courage  
and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the  
aged, show respect for the  
elderly and revere your God.  
Leviticus 19:32



# Ask The Expert

## Where did the time go?

Thirty-eight years ago tonight, along with over 360 classmates, I walked out onto the field at North Shore Senior High School for our graduation. Father Wayne Elkins of St. Dominic Catholic Church addressed the crowd and in the blink of an eye, we were Graduates.

Somehow we managed to pull off a 10 year reunion as well as a 20 year reunion. Small groups of us have stayed connected and gathered over the years. Somehow we decided to skip the 30 year reunion. We were successful with organizing and holding a 35 year event. And now, we are mulling over the idea of a 40th for the summer of 2020.

Time has flown in some ways. Some of our fellow classmates have passed away, many moved away and some seem to have disappeared completely. The community has changed greatly over the years. The 2018 graduating class is almost four times the size of our class and while our campus held four classes, today's campus is home to only three.

The bonds which remain the strongest today are often those which were formed as teenagers. When I think about those who were in my circle of influence, it amazes me that even though we do not see each other often enough, if there is an emergency, I can pick up the phone and they

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



would be there for me. Kristal Kirksey may have moved to The Heights, where she owns one of the most successful shops on 19th Street, but the roots for her success were started way back when her mother opened The Hope Chest on Uvalde Road. She jokes about how those who shopped with her mom back then, now shop with her at Jubilee on 19th Street. Her older sister, Kandice also owns a successful business in Old Town Spring as well.

Joe Weir, who was the Class of 1980 President, recently announced his retirement after teaching choir for 34 years. I cannot begin to imagine all of the lives he has touched. As each school year ended with amazing choir productions, it was always great to look in the audience and see so many of our former classmates who now had children in Joe's choir. Tim Fleming is yet another one of the many who graduated in 1980 and has left an impact on many lives. He went into the Catholic Seminary and later served at St Andrew's in Channelview. He was very active during the

Reagan years helping undocumented neighbors with their paperwork. Even after he left the priesthood, he has continued to help many. Over the years, he has volunteered with many projects in the community.

My friend Vicki Steed McCoy has for the most part remained in the North Channel Area like me. She serves on staff with a local church and is busy preparing to move into an RV. Somehow, I have visions of her and her three grandchildren traveling on exciting excursions every chance they get.

Stacey Robinson Johnson is yet another one who I hugged 29 years ago tonight, now knowing how God would keep her in my life. Our friendship started back in 1973, as Office Assistants at North Shore Elementary. Little did we know that years later, her precious cousin Sherree would become one of my closest friends. When we get together, it is guaranteed to be laughter for hours.

This week will bring about many opportunities to hug, laugh and take pictures. If you have a graduate, hug them a little tighter and remind them to make lots of memories.



## Diamond Jim: "Can you tell us about the United States Army?"

The United States Army (USA) is the largest branch of the United States Armed Forces and performs land-based military operations. It is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States and is designated as the Army of the United States in the United States Constitution, Article 2, Section 2, Clause 1. As the largest and senior branch of the U.S. military, the modern U.S. Army has its roots in the Continental Army, which was formed (14 June 1775) to fight the American Revolutionary War (1775–83)—before the U.S. was established as a country. The Congress of the Confederation created the United States Army on 3 June 1784, to replace the disbanded Continental Army. The United States Army considers itself descended from the Continental Army, and dates its institutional inception from the origin of that armed force in 1775.

As a uniformed military service, the Army is part of the Department of the Army, which is one of the three military departments of the Department of Defense. The U.S. Army is headed by a civilian senior appointed civil servant, the Secretary of the Army (SECARMY), and by a chief military officer, the

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) who is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In the fiscal year 2016, the projected end strength for the Regular Army (USA) was 475,000 soldiers; the Army National Guard (ARNG) had 342,000 soldiers, and the United States Army Reserve (USAR) had 198,000 soldiers; the combined-component strength of the U.S. Army was 1,015,000 soldiers. As a branch of the armed forces, the mission of the U.S. Army is "to fight and win our Nation's wars, by providing prompt, sustained, land dominance, across the full range of military operations and the spectrum of conflict, in support of combatant commanders. The service participates in conflicts worldwide and is the major ground-based offensive and defensive force.

Currently, the army is divided into the Regular Army, the Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. The army is also divided into major branches such as Air Defense Artillery, Infantry, Aviation, Signal Corps, Corps of Engineers, and Armor. Before 1903 members of the National Guard were considered state soldiers unless federalized (i.e., activated) by the President. Since the Militia Act of 1903 all National Guard soldiers have held dual

status: as National Guardsmen under the authority of the governor of their state or territory and, when activated, as a reserve of the U.S. Army under the authority of the President.

Since the adoption of the total force policy, in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, reserve component soldiers have taken a more active role in U.S. military operations. For example, Reserve and Guard units took part in the Gulf War, peacekeeping in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The staff entire at Pineforest Jewelry salute all of our service men and women, from every branch of the military, stationed here in the USA and all over the world. You have our deep respect and our unending appreciation.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Brown Elementary celebrates opening of SPARK Park

After three months since its groundbreaking, the Brown Elementary SPARK Park is now open for everyone to enjoy.

Students, teachers, dignitaries and district officials celebrated the grand opening of the park during a special ceremony on May 17.

Brown is one of 30 Houston area schools receiving new parks through a \$5 million contribution to SPARK from the Houston Endowment and the Kinder Foundation. In addition, Brown held several fundraisers that generated more than \$40,000 that went toward the project.

The SPARK Park organization was founded in 1983 by former Houston City Council member Eleanor Tinsley. Since its inception, SPARK has built over 200 community parks in 12 different school districts throughout the Houston area. Each park is designed based on ideas and needs of the school and surrounding neighborhoods.

“This is the day that we’ve waited for and it’s finally become a reality,” said Brown Elementary Principal LaKeisha LeBlanc. “The excitement to finally be able to take advantage this park has been building among the kids.”

The facility is certainly seeing its share of activity since it has opened. Every day during good weather, it’s not unusual to see large groups of children playing on the new equipment. The park includes a custom playground unit for ages 5 to 12 featuring an infinity triple climber, an inclusive spinner and four slides. Also new are four swings, musical instruments and benches.



Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis thanks SPARK Park Executive Director Kathleen Ownby for her efforts in helping the park become a reality at Brown Elementary during special opening ceremonies.



Children enjoy playing on the new playground equipment at Brown Elementary's new SPARK Park in Channelview.

“Our community and our school district is very fortunate and blessed to have been selected for this project,” said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD Superintendent. “We want to thank the Kinder Foundation, the Houston Endowment, the Powell Foundation and the SPARK Park organization for this generous gift that will be enjoyed for years to come.”

SPARK Park Executive Director Kathleen Ownby said the area near Brown Elementary was identified in a Trust for Public Land

study that described the area as a “park desert.” A park desert is defined as an area where no parks are located in a half-mile radius or resident cannot access green space within a 10-minute walk.

“This project has come to life because of the shared vision and dedication of so many people,” Ownby said. “Now the Channelview community has a wonderful place where kids are able to run free and enjoy the great outdoor.”

## Swimming Pool

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Kids playing in the new pool's splash pad took time out for a photo.

Photo by Allan Jamail

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Amegy Bank on I-10, at noon. For more information, please visit [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

### Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club

This newly chartered club meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church. For more information, see the Facebook page entitled Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club or call 832-264-1565 / 832-289-4762.

### New Hours at the Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 6 pm - 9 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

### Galena Park Senior Dance

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

### North Shore Senior Dance

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

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