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VOLUME 6, NO. 48 (#252) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018 www.northchannelstar.com

**TX District 6 Senate  
Candidate  
CAROL ALVARADO**  
See Page 8

## Channelview ISD Christmas Open House & Wassail

The Channelview Independent School District invites the community to the Annual Christmas Open House and Wassail. The occasion will highlight unique musical selections from CISD choirs and bands. Wassail and cookies will be served to all guests, and Santa will be present for special greetings and photos. The event will be held on December 13, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at CISD Joyce Hendrix Educational Support Center.

## Final round of Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund grants announced

HOUSTON - The Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund is disbursing its final round of grants for aid and services to local flood victims, bringing the total of distributed charitable donations to \$113.6 million to assist about 190,000 households through 124 experienced and carefully selected non-profit organizations.

The fifth and final round of \$3 million is going to 17 non-profits groups that will provide furniture, cash assistance and other basic needs and case management to qualified victims.

The Fund was established by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett in 2017 to provide immediate, medium and long-

See *Harvey Relief,*  
Page 3

## NS Mustangs defeat Katy Tigers 49-38 Northshore advances to finals

By Allan Jamail

Friday, November 30, 2018 at NRG Stadium the football game between two of the state's topped ranked teams ended with the Northshore Mustangs knocking-out the Katy Tigers 49 to 38 in the regional semifinal showdown. This makes twice this season Katy lost to Northshore in their annual rivalry.

A year ago on December 9, 2017 at NRG Stadium it was the Katy Tigers who prevailed 31 - 3 in the playoffs to pay-back the Northshore Mus-



Photo by Allan Jamail

See *Northshore  
Mustangs,* Page 3

Mustangs defensive lineman #95 Jordan Revels tackles Katy's running back Deondrick Glass for a loss of yards, Upton Stout assisted on the stop.

## Christmas arrives at Jacinto City



### Christmas Parade Marks the Holiday Season start

Jacinto City Pre-School Gingerbread House, one of the many participants at the Jacinto City's annual Christmas parade held last Saturday, December 1, 2018.

Photos by Allan Jamail



Elected officials hayride in the annual Jacinto City Christmas Parade  
L - R seated: Senator Sylvia Garcia, Tara Dennis, (Congresswoman Lee's District Director) Helen Green, Mayor Ana Diaz. L - R standing: City Council Maria Gonzales, Allen Lee, Carmela Garcia, State Rep. Ana Hernandez, City Councilmen Gregg Robinson, Jimmy "JJ" Rivas, Congressman Gene Green and Pct. 2 Constable Chris Diaz.

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This breadth of real life experience is what gives Ana the drive and passion to represent you fiercely in the Texas Senate.

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## SanJac Board of Trustees authorizes development at Generation Park

San Jacinto College aims to open new facility by fall 2020

### PHASE 1

- 1. PROVIDE 2 AC ACADEMIC BUILDINGS (200,000 SQ FT)
- 2. PROVIDE 2 AC ACADEMIC BUILDINGS (200,000 SQ FT)
- 3. PROVIDE 2 AC ACADEMIC BUILDINGS (200,000 SQ FT)
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- 5. PROVIDE 2 AC ACADEMIC BUILDINGS (200,000 SQ FT)
- 6. PROVIDE 2 AC ACADEMIC BUILDINGS (200,000 SQ FT)



PASADENA, Texas – The San Jacinto College Board of Trustees has authorized College administration to plan, develop and construct a new facility at Generation Park, located in Northeast Harris County in the northernmost edge of the San Jacinto College taxing area.

The College owns 56.826 acres in a central portion of Generation Park, which is one of the fastest growing areas in Houston. The current development proposal consists of a 50,000 square foot facility to accommodate general education and other academic classes. Additional buildout on the land at Generation Park will move forward in the future as demand dictates. The current proposal includes the necessary infrastructure, parking and other amenities to accommodate the first phase of development.

"We have conducted extensive research on the areas surrounding Generation Park to ensure that the first phase of development pro-

vides flexible instructional spaces to meet the needs of the growing region," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "We know that growth is occurring more rapidly in that part of Houston, and we are committed to responding to the higher education needs of the residential and business populations."

In a demographic study conducted by the College, it was determined that over the next decade the fastest growing population growth is projected to be concentrated near the northern and southern boundaries of the district. Several of the fastest growing zip codes in the Houston area are adjacent to the proposed Generation Park Campus, and the population around Generation Park is growing at approximately twice the rate of the rest of the College district. It is expected that the majority of the students that attend the Generation Park Campus will be new to the district. This campus will

also be designed to meet the workforce needs of the businesses in the region.

Upon selection of a construction manager-at-risk and architect for the project, the College will begin the design phase for the new facility. The goal is to open the new campus for classes in fall 2020.

### About Generation Park:

Generation Park is a 4,000-acre, master-planned enterprise park in Houston, Texas. Located on the northeast corner of Beltway 8, Generation Park is an innovative business and lifestyle destination. The location offers five beltway intersections, 2.5 miles of beltway frontage, more than 21 miles of major thoroughfares and convenient access to all major land, air and sea transportation corridors in Houston. Home to 174 million square feet in innovative future developments, Generation Park is Houston's new business destination. For more information, please visit generationpark.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Precinct 2 begins road improvements in Lynchburg area



Road improvements in Lynchburg area.

LYNCHBURG, Texas – Commissioner Jack Morman announced the start of construction on a new BetterStreets2Neighborhoods (BS2N) project for late November along various roadways in the Lynchburg area. BS2N is a Precinct 2 program dedicated to preserving asphalt roadways by restoring the base and overlaying it with new asphalt to create a brand new, smooth riding surface. This \$1.4 million project will utilize the full-depth reclamation technique, a multi-phased process that recycles the asphalt pavement and integrates a cement slurry to produce a stabilized base for the roadway. This in-depth method is most commonly used on asphalt roadways that have reached the end

of their useful life. The roadways to be improved are: Center Street, Lakeview Drive, Kilgore Avenue, Oakland Street, Burnett Street, Ilfrey Street, and Maple Street. Residents will have access to their homes at all times, and mailing services are not to be impacted during construction. Traffic patterns may shift during construction, so drivers are urged to be mindful of signage and flaggers when travelling through work zones. Construction is expected to be complete in the second quarter of 2019. Be sure to visit [www.hcp2.com](http://www.hcp2.com) or like the "Harris County Precinct 2" Facebook page for more information on the Precinct.

Highlands Rotary Club 70th Anniversary

The Highlands Rotary Club has reached milestone in its history. Although the club had a small beginning, and has never been a large club, it persevered to become the most influential and popular organizations in Highlands. Thousands of dollars have been collected and returned to the community and around the world with projects that benefit others. Our club has received recognition from the district on many occasions including:

2005-06 Steve Miller awarded District 5890 Club President of the Year  
2007-08 We were #1 in Per Capita Giving to the Rotary Foundation and were 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club  
2009-10 Robert Woodall was selected as Small Club President of the Year  
2015-16 With Dr. Larry White leading the way our club was selected as the "Medium Size Club of the Year"

Because of their efforts, Highlands Rotary Club is recognized as a successful club in Rotary District 5890 even earning the nickname as "The Biggest Little Club in the District."



Past President Weston Cotten, right, introduces guests and club members at president Denise Smith, center, looks on.



A Paul Harris Award is made to Johnny Gaeke, left, by Past District Governor Bill Palko, right, and Highlands club president Denise Smith.



Club member Chester Stasney was honored for 51 years of membership. With him is his wife Marie Stasney.



Club members Chuck Radney, and wife Carol Radney, receive Paul Harris Awards.



Pat Robinson, center, receives a Paul Harris Award presented by her husband, Richard Robinson, a past president of the club.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Northshore Mustangs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tangs for having defeated the Tigers the previous year on November 25, 2016 in a 20-17 regional final showdown.

Jon Kay, Northshores' coach had the Mustangs sharply focused both offensively and defensively so the Tigers could never gain the upper hand or momentum. There were star performances on both sides of the ball as it's been all season which explains their 13-0 undefeated season.

The Tigers team ran threw a huge banner on the field which read, "You laughed at our setback, but you're not ready for our comeback." The Mustangs made sure there'd be no Katy comeback, and it fired up the Mustangs more than it did the intended Tigers.

On the first play of the game Mustangs quarterback Demetrius Davis threw a 61 yard laser pass to Shadrach Banks rattling the Tigers and shutting down their chanting fans. That wasn't the end for the Davis and Banks combination; Davis hits Banks again for a 29 yard touchdown strike with 6 minutes still in the first quarter, making it a 14-0 Mustang lead, and again for a third touchdown pass before halftime.

Another Katy banner read, "Challenges, everyone has them, but Katy CONQUERS them." The Mustangs made the banner's author regret having made that boast by scoring more points on the Tigers in a playoff game in 13 years.

The Mustangs offense made 7 touchdowns from, Shadrach Banks (3), Chance Pillar, Jordan Revels, Zach Evans and Upton Stout. They had made 500 yards, 341 passing yards, 159 running yards. Kicker John Villalobos again was flawless making all 7 extra points.

Mustangs defense has so many standout players there's too many to mention them all. Defensive lineman Jordan Revels and teammates shutdown Katy's running game stopping Deondrick Glass, one of colleges highly sought after running backs. On an offensive play in the third quarter Revels caught a 13 yard Davis pass which showed his all-around talents. The same 245 pound defensive tackle Rev-



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Mustangs Chance Pillar outruns a Katy Tiger and scores on a 78 yard lateral pass play from Demetrius Davis.



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Mustangs #19 Shadrach Banks catches a Demetrius Davis pass on a 61 yard touchdown play. The Davis-Banks pair connected 3 times for touchdowns.



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Mustangs #3 Zach Evans outruns Katy defenders for a 59 yard touchdown.

els last week intercepted a pass and ran it back for a 55 yard touchdown.

To seal the victory with 4 minutes of the fourth quarter remaining Mustang defensive back Upton Stout intercepted a Tiger pass and ran for a 51 yard touchdown. At this point

more than half of the Katy fans began pouring out of the stadium.

Northshore Mustangs 13 - 0 will now play Cy-Fair Bobcats 11 -2 Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 6 PM at NRG Stadium Class in the 6A, Division 1 Region 3 Finals.

## Harvey Relief,

Continued from page 1

LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVED FUNDS, with totals:  
-- BakerRipley, \$13,800,000  
--Habitat for Humanity, \$2,400,000  
--Houston LISC, \$17,000,000  
-- North Channel Assistance Ministries, \$1,000,000  
-- Northwest Assistance Ministries, \$4,860,328  
-- San Jacinto College Foundation, \$100,000  
-- Sheldon ISD, \$60,500  
-- Salvation Army, \$660,000  
-- YMCA, \$245,000  
-- YWCA, \$4,548,324

term disaster relief. It is administered by the Greater Houston Community Foundation.

"The effects of Harvey will be felt for years to come," added County Judge Ed Emmett. "These local nonprofit grantees have strong track records of supporting our communities. We're confident that they can make a real difference in the longer term."

"It's been over a year since Harvey, but there is still work that needs to be done to help people get back on their feet," Mayor Turner said. "This last round of funding strengthens our communities and supports recovery across the city."

In preparation for this round of grant making, the Fund surveyed organizations based in the hardest hit communities to determine remaining needs. The Fund also reviewed published studies, and distributions by other charity funds, to ensure the final round has maximum effect.

"It was also important to review the progress of Round 3 and Round 4 grantees to identify challenges in service delivery and determine the support needed for Round 5 grant recommendations," said Renee Wizing-Barrios, senior vice president and chief philanthropy officer at Greater Houston Community Foundation. "Using what we've learned, we were able to target our remaining resources to bring relief assistance to those who need it the most."

Among the 17 nonprofits that received Round 5 funding, an advisory board approved grants to two that had not previously received HHRF grants: Angel By Nature and West Street Recovery. Grants were also distributed to the Home Preservation Fund to be administered by Avenue CDC, which helps homeowners whose home repairs are stalled because they were unable to make timely mortgage payments.

The Fund will continue to publish updates and report on grantee activities over the coming months.

More information can be found on Greater Houston Community Foundation's website at [www.gnfc.org](http://www.gnfc.org).

## NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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OPINION PAGE



by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty – Financial Advisor Spoke of Extra Spouse Benefit

**Dear Rusty:** I have applied for and been approved to start collecting my Social Security this month (at age 66). My wife will turn 62 in March 2019 and is planning to apply for benefits then. In a group meeting with a financial advisor he mentioned a spousal benefit of \$500/month in addition to her own monthly benefit. Can you enlighten me on the proper name for this benefit and how do I apply for it? Signed: Wanting to Know

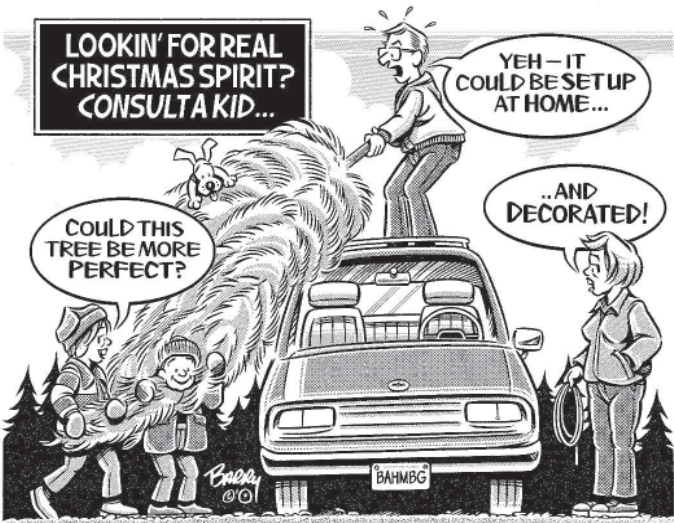
**Dear Wanting:** I can only speculate on what the financial advisor in that group meeting was referring to, but it may have been one of the following:

When she is 62 your wife can claim her own Social Security and, if her benefit on her own work record is considerably less than yours, she may also be entitled to a "spousal benefit." If she were to claim Social Security at her full retirement age her spousal benefit would be 50% of your benefit amount. But if she takes it at age 62, it will be something less – about 34% of yours. If she is entitled to the spousal benefit, she gets that larger amount as her full Social Security benefit. The spousal benefit is an amount which is added to your wife's own benefit to bring her up to what she's due as your spouse. In this sense, it is extra benefit on top of your wife's benefit, but only up to the total amount she's entitled to as your spouse. Your wife doesn't need to apply separately to receive the spousal benefit because, if you are already collecting benefits when she files at age 62, she will be automatically deemed to be filing for any spousal benefit she is

due from your record.

If at the time of your group meeting with the financial advisor you had not yet claimed your Social Security, he may have been referring to something called a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." You qualify for the restricted application (RA) because you were born before the January 1, 1954 cut-off date after which it was eliminated. If your wife claims her own Social Security first, you can file the "restricted application for spousal benefits only" and collect 50% of your wife's full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount while allowing your own Social Security benefit to grow. That growth would be 8% per year of delay (0.667% per month), and at age 70 your benefit would be 32% more than it is at age 66. But there's a catch - you can only do this if you have not yet claimed your own benefits. Thus, the only way the RA could work for you now would be for you to withdraw your current benefit application, wait until your wife files at age 62, and then file the "restricted application for spousal benefits only" to get 50% of her FRA amount. If you withdraw your application now you will need to pay back any benefits, which have already been paid, essentially wiping the slate clean with Social Security, and this can only be done within one year of when you first applied. But doing that will give you an extra spouse benefit while your own benefit grows. Again, I can only speculate on what the financial advisor in that group meeting was referring to, but the above seem most probable.

*This article is intended for information purposes only.*



Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush dies Nov. 30

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Dec. 1 issued the following statement on the Nov. 30 death of George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st president of the United States:

"The state of Texas mourns with the nation at the passing of one of our greatest presidents. George H.W. Bush was an American hero and icon, he was a friend to all he met, he embodied class and dignity. Texans are genuinely honored that he called the Lone Star State home and we collectively grieve this monumental loss. On behalf of Texas, Cecilia and I offer our thoughts and prayers to the Bush family in their time of need."

Bush, 94, a Republican, served as the president from 1989 to 1993. He served as vice president from 1981 to 1989 alongside President Ronald Reagan. He served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Texas Congressional District 7, from 1967 to 1971, and went on to serve the nation in many other high-level appointed positions.

Fund transfer is completed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Nov. 29 announced the transfer of \$2.77 billion into the State Highway Fund and the Economic Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund. Each

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Ed Sterling

fund received more than \$1.38 billion or 50 percent of the total transfer, Hegar said.

The transfer amounts are based on crude oil and natural gas production tax revenues in excess of 1987 collections. If either tax generates more revenue than the 1987 threshold, an amount equal to 75 percent of the excess is transferred.

In November 2014, voters approved a constitutional amendment allocating at least half of these severance taxes to the Rainy Day Fund, with the remainder going to the SHF for use on non-toll highway construction, maintenance and right-of-way acquisition.

When fiscal 2018 ended on Aug. 31, the Rainy Day Fund balance was \$11.04 billion. The new balance of \$12.48 billion, not accounting for currently outstanding spending authority, will decline as agencies spend down the remaining appropriation authority, Hegar said.

Also, the high balance helps Texas maintain its AAA credit rating. "That's why I have asked the Legislature to authorize me to invest a portion of the fund in a more prudent and responsible manner and use the returns to address the types of long-term liabilities that have crippled the finances of states such as Illinois and New Jersey. Significant portions of this money have not been keeping up with inflation, and we must not allow the power of this asset to erode over time," Hegar added.

Returns reach landmark

Comptroller Hegar on Nov. 29 announced his office had returned \$1 billion in unclaimed property to rightful owners since he took office in January 2015.

"This landmark achievement represents the commitment this office has made to reuniting unclaimed property with its rightful owners," Hegar said. "I'm proud of the folks in our Unclaimed Property program, and I encourage everyone to go to our website and see if there is money waiting for them."

About 830,000 claims have been approved while Hegar has been comptroller, he said, and since 2015, the comptroller's office has redesigned its unclaimed property website and internal systems to make the claims process faster, easier and more efficient.

ClaimitTexas.org allows users to upload claim documentation and is mobile-optimized to make it easier to search for unclaimed property on smartphones and tablets. The state has returned more than \$3 billion in unclaimed property to its rightful owners since the program's inception in 1962, Hegar added.

**Tax scammers target many**  
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 26 warned Texans that entities impersonating the Internal Revenue Service are sending fraudulent email messages.

Fraudsters may use the subject line "tax transcripts" in email messages that attempt to bait Texans into opening links and documents that contain malware designed to steal sensitive financial data.

Paxton said the IRS never calls or emails citizens to demand repayment for penalties, and if any citizen receives a fraudulent call or email message they should call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

"My office stands ready to assist hard-working Texas consumers. The consumer protection section of our website contains several resources on how to recognize, prevent and report scams like this. Being informed is the best way to prevent fraud and loss," added Paxton.

Many may purchase units

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on Nov. 28 announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency granted a program under which Hurricane Harvey survivors still residing in temporary housing units may purchase the federally funded manufactured housing units and travel trailers.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance is set to expire on Feb. 25, 2019, 18 months after the date of the disaster. Currently, there are 1,582 households in temporary housing units — manufactured housing and travel trailers — administered by the Texas General Land Office.

How to stretch your Holiday budget by saving on mobile devices

(StatePoint) With this year's holiday spending expected to rise over last year, according to the National Retail Federation estimates, you may be planning to spend more on décor, gift-giving and travel. If your seasonal plans also include upgrading mobile devices for yourself or for loved ones, keep in mind that you can make room in your budget for those other holiday expenditures by not paying the price for a brand-new model.

The alternative? A refurbished device. Experts say the idea that all refurbished devices were broken or had problems in a past life is a misconception.

"Whether you're bargain hunting or you're looking to go green and reduce electronic waste, you're in luck," says David Conti, senior director of eCommerce at MyWit. "In today's market it is very easy to find affordable, high-quality refurbished devices."

Indeed, many mobile phones, tablets and accessories that come from trade-in and upgrade programs were perfectly good devices that owners traded in for newer models. With so many consumers out there reliably seeking the latest, such trade-ins and sales are becoming more popular, making it easier to navigate the market for a previously owned device.

If you do go this route this holiday season, be sure to stick with reputable sources where you can trust the device to be in fully functional condition and opt for the longest guarantee available, at least 90 days. For example, those from MyWit undergo an extensive 65+ point inspection of cosmetics, functionality and connectivity to ensure optimal performance. Tests verify every function that a customer can use (camera, audio, SIM, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc.) is in 100 percent working order and connectivity tests ensure wireless devices deliver a consistent quality of connection and do not drop available signals.

When it comes to mobile upgrades, replacements and tech gifts, you can make this holiday season merrier and more affordable with refurbished devices.

Counties agreeing to participate in the sales program include Austin, Calhoun, Galveston, Harris, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler and Victoria. However, some cities within those counties have opted out of the program.

FEMA approval of the sales program for the housing units "provides Texas communities with one more tool in our recovery toolbox," Bush said.

Letter to Santa

Dear Santa, \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

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77057 or e-mailed to  
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LIFESTYLE

★  
OBITUARIES

Stephen Lynn Smith

Stephen Lynn Smith, 56, passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer on November 30, 2018 in Austin, Texas. Stephen was born on March 17, 1962 to parents Jimmy and Ann Smith in Houston, Texas. He was a true outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing golf.

Stephen loved spending time with his family and playing with his grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his brother, Jeffrey Scott Smith. Stephen is lovingly survived by his wife, Deanna Smith; parents, Jimmy and Ann Smith; brother, Michael Todd Smith; children, Jeremy Mayo and wife Kelly, Ashley Knowles and husband Andrew; grandchildren, Emily Mayo, Mackenzie Mayo, Chandler Woodruff, Adam Knowles; his beloved dog, Jax; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation Tuesday, December



4th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services officiated by Pastor Danny Kilcoyne will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

Graveside services will immediately follow at San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

LUKE 2: 6,7

### Santa arrives in Highlands

SANTA picks the Best Decorated Tree, made by Highlands Junior School art students.

HOT CHOCOLATE and cookies served by the Rotary Club members, help fight off the cold weather, for all the kids and their parents attending the Christmas event in the park.

Truck crashes on I-10 bridge, closes the highway for hours



Firefighters from Highlands, Channelview, and Baytown were busy last Sunday, fighting a fire that consumed this semi-truck after it crashed into a guardrail, jackknifed across all 3 lanes of the I-10 highway over the San Jacinto River, and



caused traffic to stop from 3pm Sunday for at least 5 hours in the westbound lanes, and for a shorter time in the eastbound lanes. Authorities believe the driver, who was uninjured, may have fallen asleep and missed the curve. Photos courtesy of Highlands Fire Department.

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Matthew 17:20

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I Corinthians 13:8

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**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

### Northside Baptist Christmas Program

Northside Baptist Church of Highlands will have its Christmas Program on Sunday, December 9 at 6pm. It will be led by Music Minister Gene Littlejohn and pianist Karen Bascom. The Program will feature Christmas singing, special music, and tell of the miraculous birth of our Savior. A Fellowship with food and drinks will follow.

Northside will also be featuring Christmas music and preaching throughout the month of December on Sundays at 11am and 6pm. Dress is casual.

Everyone invited.

Northside Baptist Church of Highlands is located at 317 Barbers Hill Road, Highlands, TX 77562. For more information visit [nsbchighlands.org](http://nsbchighlands.org).

"There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." -Luke 2:11.

Crosby Chamber welcomes new member

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce Welcomed New Member Huddle House to the Huffman community. They have great service with great comfort food and are ready for you and your family for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Please stop in and see them at 24110 FM 2100 in Huffman.



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ROMANS 8:18

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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

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



ASK THE EXPERT

Diamond Jim: "What is Alexandrite and where is it found?"



Often described by gem aficionados as “emerald by day, ruby by night,” Alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia’s Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it’s now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.

This 7.19-carat alexandrite was cut to feature its beautiful color change. When the light source changes from daylight to incandescent light, the gem’s color changes from bluish green to reddish purple.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities, is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Alexandrite’s dramatic color change is sometimes described as “emerald by day, ruby by night.” Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but

this gem’s transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called “the alexandrite effect.”

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn’t arise from the gem’s pleochroism, but rather from the mineral’s unusual light-absorbing properties. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chrysoberyl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.

**History**

Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia’s Ural Mountains. Those first Alexandrite were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country’s attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn’t last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality

Touching Lives and Leaving a Legacy

CHARLOTTE’S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Every day we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. It is up to us to choose if that difference will be a positive or negative experience. Unless you have been under a rock for the past two weeks, you are aware that our city lost three individuals who spent the better part of their lives helping others.

Bob McNair, owner of the Houston Texans, passed away on November 23. Ray Hill, graduate of Galena Park High School and passionate writer, activist, actor and raconteur passed away on November 24. And on November 30, former President George HW Bush passed away. Each of these men lived lives that seemed unparal-

leled by others, yet each of these men had several things in common. They had a passion for helping others, they gave continually of themselves and they loved Houston almost as much as they loved life.

Bob McNair who will forever be remembered as the man behind bringing professional football back to Houston. As they began to play in 2002, he acknowledged he was blessed and continued to serve alongside of his wife Janice in touching lives through involvement with various philanthropic organizations. They spent much time raising college scholarships and working to make not only lives of Houstonians better but also the lives of students at Columbia College, Northwood University and the University of South Carolina.

Ray Hill affectionately known to many as one of the founders of the Houston Pride Parade as well as the host of the Friday Night Prison Show, was always going to be the life of the party. He had a heart bigger than Texas for those who were often neglected, abused, marginalized and forgotten. He was a football player and graduate of Galena Park High School after spending several years as a teenage Baptist Evangelist. He was sentenced to 160 years of prison for a burglary in 1971, yet by the grace of God, he was released in 1975. He spent his life fighting for equal rights

and lived by the motto “Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”

President George HW Bush will no doubt be remembered for his love of his wife Barbara as well as his family. He was very down to Earth and caring. One evening while working in the Lexus Lounge at Toyota Center, I was talking to a patron when I heard a familiar voice speaking to my coworker. I looked up to see it was President Bush. Immediately, he noticed my nametag and looked me in the eyes, asking me how I was doing, by name. I instantly replied “I am blessed and highly favored Sir.” At that moment he stopped in his tracks, with three Secret Service Agents almost tripping over him.

He asked me why I felt I was blessed. I let him know that it was not just something I felt, but that it was something I knew. I explained that living in Houston had provided many opportunities and for that I was blessed. He asked for examples. I shared about working at a Community College where I could get to know young people, attending St John’s Downtown where I could love on those often forgotten about and I could come to this part time job and shake hands with people such as himself. He looked at me, nodded his head and smiled. “Yes Charlotte, you are blessed. And I know the lives you touch are blessed as well.”

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