

# NORTH CHANNEL

## ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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### CHANNEL CURRENTS

#### Hazardous Waste collection Mar. 2 in Jacinto City

Harris County HazMobile Neighborhood Collection event, Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Jacinto City Fire Department, 1196 Mercury Dr., Jacinto City, TX 77029, 8 am - 11 am

The HazMobile is a mobile collection system that can accommodate Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from approximately 100 households. HHW will be collected on a first-come, first-served basis until the unit reaches full capacity. The containers must be 5 gallon or less in size.

##### WHAT TO BRING:

Fertilizers and other yard products  
Paint and paint-related products  
Household cleaners  
Automotive products (oil/gas)  
Pool chemicals  
Tires (up to 20)  
Aerosol cans  
Fluorescent bulbs and CFLs  
Batteries (small to car battery size)  
Mercury thermometers  
Small and BBQ size propane  
Household fire extinguishers

Items NOT accepted at this Mobile collection event include: Electronics, business waste, medical waste, radioactive waste, PCBs or dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or household trash.

#### Jacinto City Night Market Kick-off March 9

By Allan Jamail  
The City of Jacinto City's Market by Night will kick-off their second year of the Market. for the 2019 season. The 2019 season will begin on Saturday, March 9th, from 5 PM to 9 PM and following every 2nd Saturday.

According to Market Chairwoman – Rebecca Mier at the Market they'll be lots of vendors, live music and curbside food vendors.

Jacinto City is committed to providing a local venue to help create and foster a healthy community through providing the community with direct access to local producers. As well as offering support to local consumers, farmers, artists and entrepreneurs.

Local residents with backyard gardens with seasonal produce from their garden may participate in a community booth at no charge, there's limited booth spaces available.

Available will be fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, other agricultural and horticultural products, honey sales, natural skin care products and quality hand-crafted arts will also be available.

Chairwoman Mier said, "come out and see what we have been up to lately, please take the time to come out this "market season"; we would love to see you there! We'll be located at Jacinto City Town Center plaza located at 1025 Oates Rd. Jacinto City, TX 77029."

Gardeners and anyone interested in being a vendor must contact Market Chairwoman – Rebecca Mier, email: [Marketcities@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:Marketcities@jacintocity-tx.gov) or call (713)-674-8424 or (832) 554-6905. The Market guidelines can be found at [www.jacintocity-tx.gov](http://www.jacintocity-tx.gov).

### SAN JACINTO RIVER SUPERFUND SITE

## SJRC stops one permit, faces other threats



JACKIE YOUNG,  
San Jacinto River Coalition

HIGHLANDS – Since the beginning of the year, the San Jacinto River Coalition, part of THEA, has held two public meetings to update everyone on developments around the

Waste Pits site.

The clean-up itself is in the Remedial Design phase, with the work plan approved. EPA and the PRP are actually working on Pre-Design Phase 1, which can be seen on the EPA website. Phase II will be posted by Feb. 12, she said, and will continue through July. Young expected work to remove the waste material could start by the end of 2019.

Young said that the PRP had hired a new consulting firm, GHD Consultants, with experience in this type of Superfund site. They will be helping prepare the work plan and

Remedial Action plan. Maintenance of the current Cap is under the direction of another engineering firm, Anchor QEA & Integral.

Sampling of the current material under the cap is taking place, to categorize the degree of hazardous material, and decide where to dispose of it. On site, core samples can be seen in drums, and water level samples in red storage tanks. These will be sent to a lab for testing.

Young criticized the sampling effort, noting that they are not testing for PCBs. "We really don't understand what is the composition of this waste,"



SAMPLES of ground water, and cores are being stored in these drums, and then taken off-site for lab tests to determine the toxicity of the material under the cap, and how high the water table is below.

she said. She also questioned whether workers on the site had adequate environmental protection gear, and whether samples taken were protected from

tampering or alteration.

**DREDGING PERMIT**  
Since December, SJRC

*See River, page 6*

## North Shore Lady Mustangs eliminated in Playoffs

By Allan Jamail

February 11, 2019 – Deer Park was the neutral site for the Girls 6A Bi-District Basketball Playoffs where the Dobbie Lady Longhorns eliminated the Lady Mustangs 35-29. It was a defensive game and the lead changed and was tied several times until the final few minutes. The Lady Mustangs turned-over the ball numerous times in the final minutes, the Lady Longhorns easily scored from the turn-over's and pulled away with the win.



Photo by Allan Jamail

Lady Mustang freshman #5 Donalyn Johnson leaps high over two Dobbie Lady Longhorn defenders to tie the game late in the third quarter. Lady Mustangs were eliminated 35-29.



AT RIGHT: Lady Mustangs (in white) successfully keep the Lady Longhorns from scoring in a defensive battle until the final minutes. However, turnovers cost the Lady Mustangs the game, 25-29.

Photo by Allan Jamail

## Rep. Hernandez hosts Seniors Valentine's Dance



Rep. Hernandez with senior citizens at the Valentine's Day Dance

Friday, February 8th saw a day full of dancing and socializing at the 12th Annual District 143 Seniors Valentine's Day Dance at the Leon Grayson Community

Center in the North Channel area. As always, there was delicious food, dancing, and a good time was had by all thanks to the hard work of volunteers and sponsors.

## NS Mustangs advance in Playoffs

### Defeat South Houston 42-35; Dickinson next

By Allan Jamail

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 the North Shore Mustangs basketball team advanced in the 2019 Boys State Basketball Championships - 6A Regions 1 & 3 tournament by defeating the Trojans of South Houston 42 to 35 in Deer Park a

neutral site.

The North Shore Mustangs will play next the Dickinson Gators Friday, February 22, at 8:00 PM at the Phillips Field House, 2909 Dabney Dr., Pasadena, 77502

The Mustangs have an

overall record of 29 wins and 3 losses, the Dickinson Gators record is 21-8. If the Mustangs win this Area Around game they'll advance to the Regional Quarter-Finals against the winner of the Dawson and Humble game.



# 1 Mustang Joshua Cooper makes North Shore's first score of the game.



#11 Mustang Ian Butler jumps high past Trojan defenders with a layup for a score.

### Artist's Showcase



24x30 oil on canvas  
713-977-2555 please visit: [paintingsbymei.com](http://paintingsbymei.com)  
by mei hoffman



COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Flood Control District receives federal grant award letter for stormwater tunnel feasibility study

Harris County Flood Control District has received an award letter from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in connection with a \$400,000 feasibility investigation of large-diameter, deep underground stormwater conveyance tunnels.

Once Harris County Commissioners Court has accepted the \$320,000 grant – to be matched by \$80,000 in local funds provided through the 2018 Bond Program – the four-month investigation is expected to get underway in 2019. It will assess the potential for stormwater tunnels to help drain or increase the capacity of existing bayous and drainage channels in Harris County.

The feasibility investigation will include a review of soil and groundwater conditions, as well as other geotechnical, geological and environmental assessments. Developing better cost information for tunnel construction in our area, based on these preliminary findings, will be part of this study.

A feasibility study is an early step in the life-cycle of a flood damage reduction project. In the case of the Stormwater Tunnel Feasibility Study, the study would examine whether this technology is even possible in our area, which is

characterized by soft soils and a high groundwater table. We will be looking at our soil and water table conditions and compare those to the technology that exists in the tunnel construction industry to ensure there is a fit.

If the use of tunnels is found to be feasible, future efforts could examine potential tunnel routes, complete hydraulic analyses to determine the required tunnel diameters, and determine proposed inlet and outlet shaft locations.

In this concept, tunnels would collect stormwater at upstream locations along the bayous, convey the stormwater downstream via gravity in deep underground tunnels measuring 20 feet or more in diameter, and discharge the stormwater into the Houston Ship Channel at a safe location. The goal would be to significantly reduce flood risks in Harris County watersheds where tunnels could be constructed.

The grant comes via an EDA grant program in connection with the 2017 Hurricane Harvey presidential Disaster Declaration. The grant could be submitted to Commissioners Court for authorization to accept as early as the February 26 meeting.

While costly, tunnels have been employed to carry stormwater in other locations in Texas and

nationwide as an alternative to traditional stormwater conveyance improvement projects. Tunnels can utilize existing public rights-of-way – such as roadway corridors – and with relatively little disruption to developed urban areas, which helps to reduce cost. Cost per mile may vary widely – between roughly \$40 million and \$163 million per mile for projects in San Antonio, Dallas and Austin – depending on soil conditions and other factors. Tunnels typically are constructed using tunnel boring machines, at a depth of from 100 to 150 feet.

The 2018 Bond Program includes a total of \$20 million for preliminary engineering in connection with the tunnel concept.

ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

The Harris County Flood Control District provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit [www.hcfd.org](http://www.hcfd.org).

Best of Show Art Winners

Goose Creek CISD's 2019 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Best of Show Art Award winners are (front) Elementary: Christopher Vega, third-grader at Carver Elementary, with "Long Day, Res," Harry Barber, art teacher; Junior School: Tiffany Hernandez, eighth-grader at Gentry Junior School, with "Bronceado," Jennifer Martin, art teacher and High School: Skylar Newton, 11th-grader at Goose Creek Memorial, with "Deep in the Heart," Johnna Morris, art teacher.



Rodeo Art - GCCISD Superintendent's Choice



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

The Superintendent's Choice Awards from Goose Creek CISD's Rodeo Art are (from left) Elementary: Andrew Zamora, fifth-grader at Clark Elementary, with "The Old Tractor;" Molly Barr, art teacher; Junior School: Allison Trejo, eighth-grader at Gentry Junior, with "What's for Dinner?" Jennifer Martin, art teacher and High School: Vianey Trejo, 10th-grader at Goose Creek Memorial, with "Praying on a Summer Day," Johnna Morris, art teacher. They are pictured with Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## C. E. King junior recognized for heroism at Tuesday's board meeting

C. E. King High School and Sheldon Early High School junior Josias Delgado was recognized at last night's Sheldon ISD School Board meeting for his act of heroism in helping prevent a catastrophe because he was persistent in helping notify an individual that their house was about to be consumed by a fire that had started at a neighbor's home next door.

It all happened a few weeks ago after Delgado's mom had picked him up from work at the Buffalo Wild Wings off of Wallisville Road. As they were driving home, they both noticed some smoke and flames nearby.

Originally, they believed a car was on fire, but after driving closer to the scene they quickly realized a home was on fire – and the home next to that one was taking on intense heat...with its structure beginning to melt. What made matters worse was that they noticed lights on inside the house that was about to be consumed with flames, so they knew immediately that someone must be inside.

By this time, the back of the home was on fire...so Delgado and his mother began knocking on the door – however, it was protected with a steel frame, and they weren't able to get inside. They both im-



Sheldon ISD Board Vice President Eileen Palmer (right) presents a \$500 scholarship to KHS junior Josias Delgado for helping save her mother's life after a house fire that started at a neighbor's home nearly consumed her residence. Also pictured are Norma Santa Cruz, Delgado's mother; Dorris Becvar; and Josias Delgado.

provised and grabbed rocks and began throwing them at the door to get the homeowner's attention, while also calling 911.

Luckily, the person inside the home – Ms. Dorris Becvar – finally came to the door, and they were able to exit the home before the flames destroyed that side of the house.

Sheldon ISD Superintendent King Davis and the Sisd school board members honored Delgado for his persistence in helping Ms. Becvar escape from harm's way. Ms. Becvar is also Sheldon ISD Board Vice President Eileen Palmer's mother.

Palmer, also a C. E. King

alum, shocked Delgado by presenting him with a \$500 scholarship for his act of bravery in helping get her mother out of harm's way. Also, Palmer's sister, Lynn Kennerly and husband Donnell, were in attendance for the presentation.

A little background information about Josias: Josias is currently pursuing his associate's degree from San Jacinto College's Pre-Med Studies program. Following high school graduation, he wants to attend Baylor University. He is also an avid tennis player and is a member of the C. E. King Panthers tennis team.

## North Shore Rotary supports Judge Stephen's Boys Camp



THE NORTH SHORE ROTARY PRESENTED a check for \$5000 to Judge Joe Stephens, to help pay for his Boys Camp, called Boys Rock. It is a one day learning experience, teaching Life Skills to young men. This year the Camp was held at the new North Forest High School. Judge Stephens started the idea of a Boys Camp in 1986, when he still played professional basketball for the Houston Rockets. He has held 4 of these camps in Precinct 3 in the last 4 years, with hundreds of boys attending. Pictured with Judge Stephens are Club President Bill Bowes, and Youth Chairman Adam Lund. The funds are from a DAF matching grant from the Rotary District 5890 and the Rotary International.

## GALENA PARK ISD 18 GPISD Football Players signed Letters of Intent on National Signing Day

On February 6, 18 GPISD football players signed a letter of intent to their respective colleges on National Signing Day. Families, friends, coaches and teachers gathered together to show support as these athletes took the next step in their athletic and academic careers. Congratulations on this accomplishment!



From Galena Park High School: Xavier Leija and Ramiro Serna- Wayland Baptist University

## Women Leading the Way



Representative Hernandez joining colleagues and the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce

In the past decade, the number of women-owned businesses has grown five times faster than general business growth — that means women entrepreneurs are leading Texas' economy. Representative Hernandez joined colleagues in the Texas House and the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce at the Texas Capitol to recognize the achievements of women in the private sector.



From North Shore Senior High School: Johnathan Benjamin-Blinn College; Tony Bradford-Texas Tech University; Ajani Carter- Utah State University; Deidrick Cole- Wayland Baptist University; Darius Fitzpatrick- Navarro College; Kevin Gilliam- Stephen F. Austin State University; Dorian Hewett- University of Southern California; Daymon Lewis- Blinn College; Dorian Manual- University of Arkansas at Monticello; Eyan Means- West Texas A&M University; Chance Pillar- Southwest Baptist University; Jordan Revels- Texas State University; Ashton Reynolds- West Texas A&M University; Keeyon Stewart- Texas Christian University; James Taylor- Pittsburg State University and Damarcus Thomas- McNeese State University.

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# OPINION

## TEXAS SENATE NEWS

By Richard Lee

### Senate finance wraps up first round of hearings

(Austin) After four weeks of hearing agency requests for funding, the Senate Finance Committee will now move on to the next phase of developing the Senate proposal for state spending in 2020 and 2021. Since January 22nd, the committee met 13 times publicly to consider the advice of the Legislative Budget Board and question agency representatives, offering praise for a job well done in many cases but in others, demanding answers on why long-term problems go unsolved. Hearings were broken down by budget article, with Articles II and III taking up both the most hearing time and the most proposed funding. Those are the sections of the budget that fund health and human services and public education, respectively, and together they make up about 85 percent of total proposed state spending. In keeping with priorities laid out by the Governor and Lt. Governor earlier in the session, the Senate budget as filed includes \$6 billion in spending in Article III to pay for across-the-board teacher pay raises and to offset revenue lost by any property tax reform measures passed this session. Next, senators on the 15-member committee will break up into workgroups focused on individual budget articles and develop a spending plan for that section of state government. Then each workgroup recommendation will be rolled into a final version to be voted on by the full committee.

Monday, the Senate Property Tax Committee amended and passed the property tax growth reform bill, Senate Bill 2, by committee chair and Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt, after adding 15 amendments. "This will be a big step in Texans getting the needed property tax relief that they deserve," he said. Bettencourt added these changes were developed following more than 11 hours of public testimony on the bill in a hearing last Wednesday. The major provisions in the bill remain: the 2.5 percent rollback rate, automatic trigger for tax ratification, or rollback, elections, as well as the myriad of transparency and appraisal review board changes. Most of the amendments were technical corrections, but there were some significant modifica-

tions. Perhaps the biggest change is an amendment added by Conroe Senator Brandon Creighton, which would allow voters in smaller taxing jurisdictions a chance to decide if they want to implement the provisions of SB 2. As filed, the bill exempted those taxing entities that collected less than \$15 million in combined sales and property tax revenue. Another change would prohibit cities and counties from cutting funding to first responders due to fears of lost revenue caused by passage of the bill itself, and a third would change the name of the rollback rate to the "voter-approved rate." Author Senator Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills said he believed that this would better describe what the rollback rate means, that is, the maximum rate of annual growth in a property tax rate allowed before taxpayers get the final say. That bill now heads to the full Senate.

Also out of committee this week is Flower Mound Senator Jane Nelson's proposal to better coordinate mental health services on a statewide level and improve service delivery to the state's children and adolescents. SB 10 would create the Mental Health Consortium, which would coordinate behavioral health services and research at Texas medical schools and other health-related institutions of higher learning. It would give pediatricians the opportunity to consult with mental health professionals about treatment of their young patients using telemedical technologies, allowing assessment and treatment to begin as early as possible. The bill would also provide access to telemedical consultations for at-risk public school students. Nelson said that youth mental health in Texas is approaching a crisis point, and the state needs to act. "I firmly believe that this legislation will help identify youth at risk, get them to treatment, and prevent them from becoming a danger to themselves or others." This bill was passed by the Health and Human Services Committee unanimously and should fare just as well before the full Senate, as all 31 members are signed on as co-authors.

The Senate reconvened Tuesday, February 19, at 11 a.m.



### Senate panel focuses on funding of public education

AUSTIN — When Texas legislatures meet every two years, lawmakers' singular, must-do assignment is to produce a state budget.

Toward that goal, the Senate Finance Committee held meetings on Feb. 11, 12 and 13 to work on Article III of Senate Bill 1. That article focuses on the public and higher education parts of the state budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

The meetings, replete with acronym-spattered expert testimony from the Texas Education Agency, the Teacher Retirement System and others, dealt with funding areas within public education. Lumped together, public education funding almost certainly will require more than half of the state's general revenue. The ballpark estimate of total general revenue is \$112 billion.

Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, said SB 1 includes:

- \$2.4 billion to fund enrollment growth for public education, based on an estimated 65,000 additional students per year;
- \$3.7 billion in additional funding for teacher pay raises;
- \$2.3 billion to reduce reliance on recapture under the so-called "Robin Hood" system;
- \$8 million, an increase of \$3 million, for Pathways in Technology Early College High School, a partnership between technology-based companies and public education; and
- \$230 million to maintain current health insurance premiums and benefits for our retired teachers through TRS-Care.

Nelson also mentioned SB 500, the supplemental appropriations bill, which as presently written includes \$100 million for school safety, more than \$600 million to address Hurricane Harvey-related expenses for public education and \$300 million to address the Teachers Retirement System pension. "As a former teacher," Nelson said, "I want to en-

February 20, 2019 — Miguel wasn't the fastest kid in his class, but he could run. Fast enough for third-grade softball, you know. And fast enough to get a kite up in the air. It was recess and several other kids were flying kites today. Just enough breeze to keep one up.

So Miguel went to the downwind end of the big playground and took off. He fed the string out quickly, and by the time he'd reached the monkey bars at the other end of the field, he discovered he'd been successful. The kite stayed up and swung with the breeze, and the tug on the string told him he had once again mastered flight.

He fed out even more

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

sure that our schools have the resources necessary to properly educate our students and prepare them for success. Education is the great equalizer, and we need to make sure all

come a danger to themselves and others. Under this legislation we can also better address our workforce needs and support mental health research," Nelson said.

In addition to creating the consortium, SB 10 would:

- Establish mental health "hubs" at health-related institutions consisting of psychiatrists, social workers, referral specialists and other mental health professionals;
- Establish the Child Psychiatry Access Network, allowing pediatricians and primary care providers to consult with mental health experts on treatment options for their patients; and
- Establish a program allowing youth to be screened for mental health conditions through telemedicine.

SB 10 also would:

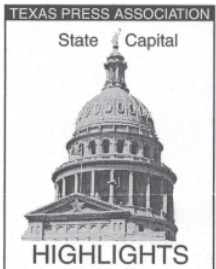
- Increase residency opportunities for psychiatry students in community settings;
- Expand and coordinate mental health research at our health-related institutions; and
- Direct that judges be educated about mental health resources in their communities.

Viewer displays more data

The Texas Railroad Commission on Feb. 12 announced that its public geographic information system map viewer now displays data for multiple oil and gas wells in a defined radius area set by a user.

Surface and down-hole data on multiple wells can now be downloaded and opened with commonly used computer software. Those who have an Internet connection may research information for multiple wells in a specifically designated area, rather than one well at a time.

The map viewer may be accessed online at <http://www.gisp.rrc.texas.gov/GIS-Viewer2/>.



Texas students have access to a quality education," Nelson added.

Panel OKs mental health bill

Senate Bill 10, legislation to create the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium, was unanimously approved by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Feb. 12. Next stop for the bill will be consideration by the full Senate.

Authored by Sen. Jane Nelson, the bill would leverage the expertise of Texas' medical schools to bolster mental health resources for Texas children and adolescents. The Senate budget, as outlined in SB 1, would allocate \$100 million in new funding for SB 10.

Gov. Abbott declared the legislation an emergency item in his State of the State address. All 31 senators are signed on as co-authors of SB 10.

"Texas has been making strong progress on mental health with innovative programs that expand access to care. This bill will help better identify children and adolescents with mental health challenges and connect them with the treatment they need before they be-

## HOME COUNTRY

By Slim Randles



string until his kite was over the street, then even more until it flew over the houses across the street. Finally, he was down to the stick itself. It was all there, in his hands. Flight.

I'll bet if I had enough string I could sail this to the moon.

He grinned and looked around at the other happy pilots, and then he saw Joey sitting over to one side in his wheelchair, and Joey was smiling, too.

What fun, being a pilot ... pretending this was your own jet fighter, waiting in the sky to do your bidding.

Carefully, Miguel moved his command post over to Joey's wheelchair and handed him the controls. The magic of flight is too special not to be shared.

Brought to you by The Fly Fisherman's Bucket List by Slim Randles. Available from [www.riograndebooks.com](http://www.riograndebooks.com).

## MESSAGE FROM

REP. BRIAN BABIN



### Rep. Babin's Statement on Government Funding Vote

WASHINGTON — February 14, 2019 — U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement after voting against the conference report to fund the government.

"I am very disappointed that the conference report to fully fund our government comes nowhere close to addressing the humanitarian and security crisis at our border and, in reality, takes several steps backwards. It includes neither the funding levels nor specific provisions our border security professionals say is necessary, and limitations on how we can spend what little funding it ostensibly sets aside for barriers will prohibit most of it from ever being spent. Further, language in the bill incentivizes even more illegality by hamstringing law enforcement's ability to detain those illegally crossing our border. It will also exacerbate the worsening humanitarian problem of criminals bringing unaccompanied minors on the dangerous trek across Mexico to avoid deportation by claiming phony guardianship. We all want to reopen the government, but we can't give away the farm to do it. This bill will do nothing significant to secure our borders and will in fact set back our border and national security efforts, therefore I cannot support it."

## OPINION

By REP. DAN CRENSHAW



### Crenshaw rejects Spending Bill

WASHINGTON, DC — February 14, 2019 — Congressman Dan Crenshaw released the following statement after voting against the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019.

"I reluctantly voted against this bill," said Crenshaw. "There are many things to like in this bill and many examples of good-faith compromises. But this vote was about the border security debate, an issue which shouldn't be debatable in the first place. There are approximately 400,000 illegal immigrants apprehended while crossing our border each year, and this bill does not take the necessary steps to fix this problem. This issue is not about who wins arbitrary political battles; it's about the security and sovereignty of our nation. When will we start taking it seriously and finally give our border agents the resources they've requested?"

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LIFESTYLE

Church Family Embraces  
Change of name of Maranatha  
Church to “Hillside Church”

Mont Belvieu, TX. February 19 – On February 3, 2019, Pastor Mark Trice announced to the Maranatha Church congregation that the organization's name had changed to Hillside Church. This move comes after over 45 years of being first Maranatha Temple, and then Maranatha Church.

While “maranatha” (meaning “Rejoice, the Lord is coming soon”) was a common word during the Jesus movement of the 1970s, it is now somewhat dated and has fallen out of

use, which has led to some confusion in the community. With this in mind, Pastor Mark & Dena Trice spent years praying about making a change that would be both culturally relevant and a reflection of the church's determination to be an even greater light in the community.

The church's new name refers both to the fact that its campus rests on the side of Barbers Hill and Matthew 5:14(NKJV) - “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” The name is especially ap-

propriate since, as Pastor Mark pointed out in his announcement, most of the important events in Scripture took place on the side of a hill.

Hillside Church intends to extend its reach into the community in a greater way than ever before. Its new Mission - “Be the Light & Leave Your Mark” – reflects the congregation's determination to influence the world with the love and message of Jesus Christ. Their goal is to “be a miracle to everyone, every day, everywhere.”

Change

Change: Like it or not, it is an inevitable part of life. Seasons change, at least in most parts of the world, through winter, spring, summer, and fall. Babies change from birth to toddlerhood and beyond. Plants change as they grow to fill the spaces allotted to them. Caterpillars change into butterflies. Tadpoles change into bullfrogs...

Some changes delight and excite us while others repel and frighten us. Some people reject change while others embrace it. Some let it defeat them while others use it as a chance to rise to new heights. It all depends on who we are, what we're facing, and how we face it.

This is nothing new, of course. Head into the Old Testament and you'll see a world of change. A man's name defined him at that point, so God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Jacob's to Israel. Not only were their lives transformed as a result, but their descendants were affected as well. We still see evidence of it in the Israel of today.

And then there is national change – for instance, the Israelites who took part in the Exodus from Egypt. For the most part, they resisted the change God was calling them to embrace. As a result, their fears and sin de-

feated them, keeping a whole generation stuck in the desert. The next generation, however, joyfully accepted the necessity of change and moved with confidence into the Promised Land; their dedication to God's plan led them into great victories.


Change is exactly what we get when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, and even more so as we truly accept Him as our Lord, allowing Him to mold our lives to fit His will so that He can transform us into who we need to be to fulfill His ultimate plan. From before we were in our mothers' wombs, He knew us and had His eyes set on our futures. (Jeremiah 1:5) He put us on this earth for a reason, and it is up to us to grow in Him and discover our purposes.

Spiritual growth, of course, should be what we


are all after. Naturally, our direction must come from God if it is to take us in the right direction, and the only way to ensure we are following God is to develop and maintain deep, personal relationships with Him. For this kind of growth to happen, it is imperative that we pray, read our Bibles, and be plugged in to the local churches God has called us to.

So let us focus on Him, and on staying sensitive to the Spirit of God, refusing to be stuck in a rut. Is He telling you to take off down a road you've never traveled? Well, get a move on. Pay attention to what God says over and over again in Joshua chapter 1: “Be strong and courageous.” Your God has your destination in mind and battles for you to win when you get there. It's time to enter your Promised Land!

THOUGHTS FROM  
MARANATHA CHURCH  
By Dr. Mark Trice



Geneva Lee Harmon



Geneva Lee Harmon, 80, went to be with her Lord on February 14, 2019 in Houston, Texas. She was born in Houston to parents Walter “Jack” and Lois Welch on May 25, 1938.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and by her sister, Patricia Ann Cooper. She is lovingly survived by her husband of 62 years,

OBITUARIES

Bennie Harmon; son, Keith Harmon and wife Julia; and granddaughter, Mari Clair Harmon; as well as other extended family members and friends.


The family invites you to join them at Carter-Conley Funeral Home for a visitation on Monday, February 18, 2019 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Funeral services will take place on Tuesday, February 19, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. The family invites you to join them for light breakfast snacks and share personal stories. Graveside services will immediately follow at Sterling White

Cemetery, under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made payable to Baylor College of Medicine – Alzheimer's Research fund and mailed to c/o Office of Institutional Advancement, MSC #800, P.O. Box 4976, Houston, TX 77210.

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Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.



Detail of “Prayer of Manasseh” by Hester Sainsbury (1929)

2 CHRONICLES 33: 12,13

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I Corinthians 13:8

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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but wisdom is found in  
those who take advice.

God is our refuge  
and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

Home and garden improvements  
that will benefit local wildlife

(StatePoint) When it comes to changing the world, your own backyard is a great place to start. As you make home improvements, consider their potential to benefit local wildlife that travel in and around your property.

Here are a few important steps you can take.

Plant Native Species  
By planning native species exclusively in your garden and yard, you will be promoting a healthy local ecosystem while providing proper nourishment and a natural habitat for visiting wildlife, whether that be insects, birds or furry creatures. Because native plant species are meant to thrive in your local climate, they will require less maintenance, which means a beautiful yard with less stress.

Prevent Bird Strikes  
You may not realize it, but your home poses a risk to birds. Window strikes are common among many species of migrating birds, and millions of wild birds are killed annually flying into windows.

However, a simple home improvement project can make your home safer for birds. Birds can see certain light frequencies that humans can't, so by applying



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Sharon Day / stock.Adobe.com

UV decals and UV liquid to your home's windows and sliding glass doors, you can make windows visible to birds in a way that won't obstruct your own view.

“Protecting birds adds beauty to your garden, is good for the environment and most importantly, saves lives,” says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert, a company that offers UV decals and UV Liquid.

The UV decals and liquid from WindowAlert have been proven to effectively alter the flight path of birds to prevent window strikes. The coating will look like etched glass to the human eye, but be very visible to a bird. As UV reflectivity may fade over

time, it's important to replace the decals and liquid every four months. Application techniques can be found by visiting WindowAlert.com.

Build a Bird house  
Add beauty to your yard with a wooden bird house. Find a design you love or get creative and craft your own, using your own home's architecture for inspiration. A strategically placed bird house -- either within three feet of a window or over 30 feet away - will help avoid bird strikes.

Be a good neighbor -- not just to the other humans. Make improvements to your home that will help protect both local and migratory wildlife.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Pharisee in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Matthew 21, to what type of tree did Jesus say, “Let

- no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever?” Cedar, Oak, Apple, Fig
3. From 2 Corinthians 6, what did Paul warn Christians about being “yoked” with? Debt, Unbelievers, Shame, Abundance
4. In biblical times, what was a tambourine or small hand drum

- called?Timbrel, Cornet, Tartu, Cymbal
  5. How many days and nights was Jonah in the belly of the great fish? 2, 3, 5, 8
  6. Who was the father of Michal? David, Titus, Saul, Stephen
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Fig; 3) Unbelievers; 4) Timbrel; 5) 3; 6) Saul

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is nothing compared  
to the glory He will  
reveal to us later  
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

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## R-U-OK?

For residents within the boundaries of Harris County Constable Precinct 3 Sherman Eagleton's area, who have reached the age of 65, there is a specialized program which few are aware of. Seniors who sign up for this program indicate how often they would like to receive a phone call from the Constable's staff. Some of the residents like to be contacted three times a week and there are others who stay busy and only have time for one call weekly.

The Seniors can register on-line at [www.constable3.harriscountytexas.gov](http://www.constable3.harriscountytexas.gov) or pick up an application at one of the Constable's locations. The forms are also available at any of the Coffee with a Cop Meetings or at the various Harris County Precinct 2gether Senior activities. The Seniors who wish to enroll in the program provide their contact information as well as two other individuals who can be contacted in the event that the Senior cannot be reached. In the event that neither of these individuals answer or know the whereabouts, the staff from the RUOK? Program will then have a Deputy dispatched to check on the senior.

In working with the Community Centers served by Precinct2gether, as well as with churches, apartment complexes and community events Constable Eagleton is hoping to increase enrollment in the program in the next few months. When the Seniors are contacted they often want to share what has been going on in their lives yet sometimes they are looking for resources to make their lives a little more comfortable. The staff of the program utilize a variety of resources to assist the residents.

If you are over the age of 65 and need help completing the form, please contact the RUOK? Program at 713-274-2500. If you would like a representative of the program to speak to a group in the community, please contact the staff, which are available to speak to groups during the daytime or evenings. If your organization is hosting a community event and you would like a table to be set up with information available, please send information to [RUOK@cn3.hctx.net](mailto:RUOK@cn3.hctx.net).

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "I'm confused. What's the difference between Mined vs Lab Grown vs Synthetic gemstones?"



Would a rose by any other name smell as sweet? People have used lots of words to describe laboratory grown gemstones, some a bit sweeter than others. Perhaps the best "lab-grown" gemstones are grown by a company called 'Chatham'. They prefer to call their gems "lab-grown" because they feel it most clearly describes what their gemstones really are. Chatham is a company which grows gemstone crystals.

When Carroll Chatham grew his first emerald crystals in the 1930s, the jewelry industry was worried that the value of natural gems would collapse. They were also worried they wouldn't be able to tell lab-grown emeralds from mined emeralds. In 1959, the Federal Trade Commission stepped in to make strict rules about what companies like Chatham could call their products. The commission ordered Carroll Chatham to release all the details of his process in order to decide whether his gems could be called "cultured." Because he refused to divulge the secret of how his gems were grown, Carroll agreed to stop calling them "cultured" and to call them "Chatham-created."

Other terms that are often used to describe lab-grown gems are "lab created gemstones," "synthetic gemstones," "created gemstones," "lab gemstones," "man-made gemstones," and "cultured gemstones." These are good ways to describe lab-grown gems too as long as they are used correctly.

To make this debate about nomenclature even more confusing, there are some gem materials that are man-made and also imitations. Cubic zirconia is man-made but it's an imitation diamond, not a synthetic or lab-grown diamond (because it's not actually diamond.) Unfortunately, plenty of unscrupulous people use "lab," "man-made," or "created" to refer to imitations that are not the actual minerals described. That's not just bad etiquette. That's

deceptive and clearly against FTC rules.

We also think consumers should know the difference between inexpensive flame fusion (or pulled created gemstones) and the more expensive lab-grown gems. Not all gem varieties can be made inexpensively by flame fusion or pulling: sapphire, ruby, and spinel are the main ones. That's how sapphire watch crystals are made. In these inexpensive processes, powdered chemical ingredients are melted into a large block in an hour, not grown as crystals taking over a year to complete. The crystal structure of flame fusion or pulled synthetics is disoriented, like glass, due to the way it's made. It doesn't have natural crystal facets. From a crystallography perspective, flame fusion isn't the same as mined ruby or sapphire.

The crystal structure of flux-grown ruby or sapphire is the same as mined ruby and sapphire. Its internal structure is identical. That's why it's worth devoting a year to letting it grow. Because the structure is identical, you get the same brilliance and reflection from the crystal structure and that is why people fall in love with gems in the first place.

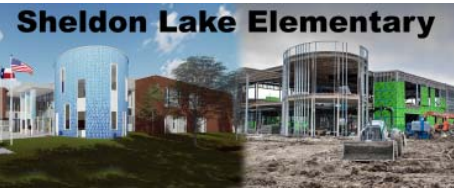
In the end, that's what this is all about: understanding what the differences are between different kinds of gems so you can make an informed smart choice: natural mined, lab-grown, man-made, or imitation. It's up to you!

See an amazing display of Chatham lab grown, Eco friendly and affordable gemstones. Visit Pineforest Jewelry today!

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

*If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

## Board approves naming of new Sheldon ISD elementary school



It's official. Sheldon ISD's Board of Trustees voted last night to name the district's sixth elementary school Sheldon Lake Elementary.

Chris Hopkins of Stan-tec architects, the designers of the new performing and visual arts campus, told board members that a committee was formed whose task was to come up with a list of possible

names for the new facility. Hopkins presented six names to the board - as well as recommended the committee's top three selections.

Sheldon Lake Elementary is a tribute to nearby Sheldon Lake State Park, a traditional icon in the northeast Houston area as well as the Sheldon community.

## River,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has been working with residents to oppose a dredging permit that would remove sediment from a shoreline area just west of the Waste Pits, and send it to a landfill in Beach City. With the help of Congressman Brian Babin, and a concerted effort of petitions and letters, the coalition has been able to get a reprieve from the project and its environmental dangers.

The petitioner, Holtmar Land LLC, has told the Corps of Engineers that it would like to withdraw its request to dredge the material in the River, and deposit it in Beach City. The Corps announced on Feb. 8 that the permit had been cancelled.

However, Young pointed out that the petitioner still wants to remove the material and deposit it on another site they own, probably off River Road in Channelview. There will probably be another battle from the residential neighborhood to stop this.

The permit application stated that Holtmar planned to dredge 31,000 cu. yards of material, and transport it by barge to the landfill. It would truck the material to the site from the barge, which would take about 2,200 truckloads, according to Young. On Monday, Beach City Mayor Jackie Lasater was able to announce that the Corps had officially notified him that the permit had been cancelled, at the request of Holtmar Land. Lasater had spearheaded the opposition to the proposal to use Beach City as the landfill site, and had an ordinance passed by council that barred any dumping.

Now the San Jacinto River Coalition must face the possibility that Holtmar will try to continue the project and dump the dredged material on a site they own in Channelview, in the River Bottom area of River Road. Court records show that Holtmar Land owns 12 properties in that general area, and it is known that they have approached some residents to get their permission to use the sites for landfill.

Young urged the audiences at her meetings to

follow developments on a new website, [www.SanJacDredgeSpoil.com](http://www.SanJacDredgeSpoil.com).

### EPA NOT RESPONSIVE

Young pointed out that during the recent shutdown of the government, she and the public were unable to reach anyone at EPA offices, to discuss the permit problems or to report any further infractions in the San Jacinto River site area.

EPA workers were not only not in their offices, but they were prohibited from taking calls on their cell phones out of the office.

She cautioned that since the primary contact for toxic waste was not available, she recommended reporting to the Harris County Pollution Control department. She expressed concern that federal offices faced another potential shutdown after Feb. 15, according to President Trump.

### ANOTHER PERMIT

The San Jacinto River Coalition has been advised of another permit request, that will affect the area immediately adjacent to the Superfund Waste Pits site.

San Jacinto River Fleet, which maintains an office next to the site, and cleans and stores dozens of barges that are anchored in the river near the Superfund site, has requested a permit for "Construction and Maintenance on Existing Docking Facilities."

Their permit application, available on the COE website, shows work on rebuilding a dock on the East Bank, in Highlands, and other work around the mooring sites in the river.

Some of this work is in an area known as the Sand Separation Area, and is within the boundaries set by EPA as part of the Superfund Site.

Young questions whether adequate precautions will be taken not to disturb any toxic waste material during this construction, and if so, who to report it to if the government is shut down.

The Corps of Engineers is requesting comments on this application, but has set a deadline of Feb. 14.



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“Proposals for RFP 19-003 Armored Courier Services will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Friday, March 8, 2019 @ 2:30 PM CSDT. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Brooke Lakner, Director of Purchasing at 832-386-1008 or on our website: <http://galenaparkisd.com>. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.”

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Premier Equine Auctions Spring Fling Horse Sale April 5th & 6th, Lufkin, Texas. Consignment deadline is March 1st. [PremierEquineAuctions.com](http://PremierEquineAuctions.com), Mike Pedersen & Steve Friskup owners. Phone 337-494-1333.

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EVENTS

Huntsville, TX – Run With Sam 5K, March 2, Registration begins at 7 a.m., race at 8 a.m. The Sam Houston Birthday & Texas Independence Day 5K Fun Run at Sam Houston State University, \$20, first 100 registrants get T-shirts. Plaques and medals awarded in 13 age divisions. Register at [RunWithSam.org](http://RunWithSam.org), email [runwithsam1793@gmail.com](mailto:runwithsam1793@gmail.com).

Beaumont, TX - Home & Garden Show, March 1-3, Ford Park, Beaumont. Golden Triangle Home & Garden Show – Everything for the Home, a multitude of home improvement professionals in one location, [GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com](http://GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com).

Beaumont, TX - Boat, Sport & RV Show, March 1-3, Ford Park, Beaumont. Southeast Texas Boat, Sport & RV Show is the place to buy your new boat or RV. See over 35 boat brands and 100 RV brands in one location. [SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com](http://SouthEastTexasBoatRVShow.com).

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Feb. 7-24. For entertainment lineup and tickets, go to [sarodeo.com](http://sarodeo.com). 210-225-5851.

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9						7		6	
	5			1					7
		4	7	6		1			
6					5				3
	3		9					4	
	7		6					1	
4				3		2			
		2			8				9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Baby's shirt has stripes. 2. Picture is different. 3. Carlin's bowl is larger. 4. Boy's glass is missing. 5. Wall outlet is missing. 6. Boy's glasses are missing. 7. Carlin's bowl is larger. 8. Boy's glasses are missing. 9. Wall outlet is missing.

King Crossword

Posting Date February 18, 2019

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Beavers' structure  
4 Second letter  
8 Wild and crazy  
12 Indivisible  
13 Mideast airline  
14 Sheltered  
15 Gin, e.g.  
17 Grad rags?  
18 First murderer  
19 Iron  
20 Suitor  
22 Paddock parent  
24 Long-running Broadway musical  
25 Pheasant or grouse  
29 Fuss  
30 Dental filling  
31 Ultramodern (Pref.)  
32 Backyard attraction  
34 Somewhere out there  
35 Feedbag fodder  
36 Surprise big-time  
37 Engine  
40 Unwanted email  
41 On in years  
42 Morning garb  
46 Entreaty  
47 "Super-food"

DOWN

1 "What's up, —?"  
2 Literary collection  
3 16th-century cartographer  
4 Start  
5 Verve  
6 Highland hat  
7 Brewery prod-  
8 Capital of Croatia  
9 Shaving cream additive  
10 Information  
11 Longings  
16 Speaker's spot  
19 Quarry  
20 Wound cover  
21 Gully  
22 Soda shop orders  
23 Asian nurse  
25 Summertime pest  
26 Notorious  
27 Caboose's place  
28 Collegian quarters  
30 Construction piece  
33 Gizmo  
34 Winged  
36 Garden intruder  
37 3-Down's creations  
38 Leering look  
39 Adolescent  
40 Luminary  
42 "Humbug!"  
43 Expert  
44 Lingerie item  
45 Conclusion

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Trivia

test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MEDICAL: What is the condition that carries the official name "diaphoresis"?  
2. MOVIES: Who played the president in the film "The American President" (1995)?  
3. HISTORY: What was the nickname of the Haitian president Francois Duvalier, who died in 1971?  
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many future presidents of the United States signed the Declaration of Independence?  
5. TELEVISION: Who was the nemesis of Detective Steve McGarrett in the original "Hawaii 5-O" TV drama?  
6. SCIENCE: What is the name of the ocean current that warms the eastern seaboard of North America?  
7. LITERATURE: What was the name of the bank in the "Harry Potter" book series?  
8. ANATOMY: Where is the pinna in the human body?  
9. U.S. STATES: Which state is nicknamed the "Cornhusker State"?  
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the common commercial name of the drug called diazepam?

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