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EPA announces new Air Quality website

•EPA and TCEQ announce story map resource
•Interactive tool provides easy access for ITC fire data

DALLAS – (March 31, 2019) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) announce a new interactive resource to help keep the public updated and informed about the response activities for the Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC (ITC) Fire in La Porte, Texas.

The new resource, a collaborative, interactive "story map," can be viewed on EPA's website at response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire.

EPA and TCEQ's re-

sponse actions, as well as maps, photos and sampling locations are featured.

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC facility, EPA, TCEQ, along with state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. EPA and TCEQ continue to be onsite for the emergency response focused on providing the assistance and coordination needed to address any discharges from the site. EPA and TCEQ have been conducting water sampling and air monitoring throughout the affected areas from the onset of the response.

TCEQ and the EPA have decades of experience responding to natural and man-made disasters. Both

agencies are assisting in this response with equipment and expertise in response management and air and water quality testing and analysis. EPA has conducted ground level air monitoring with hand held equipment and the Airborne Spectral Photometric Technology aircraft (ASPECT). The EPA Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) has also been monitoring for organic compounds in the air. The TCEQ continues to work around the clock, pulling in inspectors from regions around the state to conduct air monitoring and water quality sampling. Test results are being posted to the TCEQ's incident website daily

PRESIDENT TRUMP VISITS CROSBY AREA

CROSBY – "It's like the circus is coming to town!" exclaimed one Republican resident, of the combined excitement and trepidation of having the presidential motorcade come to an unincorporated area that voted for him in the Presidential election by a whopping 74%.

A flurry of questions poured into this newspaper concerning where folks could get a view or when traffic could be expected to be stopped on FM 2100 or Foley Road. Trump landed his plane at Ellington



President Donald Trump signed two executive orders in Crosby, easing regulations on pipelines and water quality.

Field, and travelled by Motorcade to Crosby on US90. After his talk, he returned to Ellington for a fundraiser dinner at the Lone Star Air Museum.

The speech and signing ceremony at the IUOE center was attended by about 400 invited guests, from

Harris County and a few from Crosby. A number of industry friends of Trump attended, some even riding the Airforce One with the president.

Arrival at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) center was attended by about 400 invited guests, from

Commissioner Adrian Garcia meets with Federal Officials to address ITC incident

HOUSTON – Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia met with federal officials in Washington, D.C., this week to advocate for infrastructure resources and enhancing safety and collaboration with the chemical industry after the ITC explosion.

During the visit, which spanned Monday, April 1, through Thursday, April 4,

Commissioner Garcia met with EPA officials to address the lack of air monitors available after a fire broke out at Intercontinental Terminals Company in Deer Park March 17 and burned for days. Garcia emphasized the need for more foam on site to be able to combat these blazes, as well as the importance of knowing quickly what is inside the tanks so

first-responders can be both safe and effective.

"We need to work together, at all levels of government, to ensure industry leaders and our communities cannot just co-exist, but be good neighbors and look out for each

See Harris County issues, Page 6



Commissioner Garcia with State Officials at Washington, D.C.

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2019
Pre-K and Kindergarten
REGISTRATION

GALENA PARK
Independent School District

Early Registration for Next School Year

Registration for all new Kindergarten and eligible Pre-Kindergarten students for the 2019-2020 school year will take place at all elementary campuses. Registration must be done in person and Pre-Kindergarten placement is on a first come, first serve basis.



All elementary campuses will hold on-site registration during the following dates and times:

DATES
April 24 & 26

TIMES
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOCATIONS
All elementary campuses

LATE NIGHT
April 25
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- ✓ Child's birth certificate
- ✓ Child's social security card
- ✓ Child's immunization record
- ✓ Parent's or guardian's driver's license or other form of identification
- ✓ Proof of residency: valid lease agreement, electric, gas or water bill dated within 30 days. Disconnection notices are NOT accepted.

*For more information and a complete list of allowable documents, please visit district website.

Registration for District Pre-K 3 Year Old Program will be held April 30th and May 1st. Please visit website for location, times, and eligibility requirements.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRE-K

- ✓ Must be 4 yrs. old on/before Sept. 1, 2019
- ✓ Must be a resident of Galena Park ISD AND meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Child is economically disadvantaged or
 - Child is a limited English speaker or
 - Child is homeless or
 - Child of an active military member or
 - Child of a military member killed or injured while serving on active duty or
 - Child is or has been in CPS custody or
 - Child of a first responder eligible for Star of Texas Award

www.galenaparkisd.com

To Our Neighbors and Our Community

Last week was heartbreaking for KMCO, LLC in Crosby. The tragic incident at our plant was devastating for me personally, for our entire KMCO team and their families, but most of all for our injured team members and the tragic loss of our friend and coworker, James "Bubba" Mangum.

We grieve with James' family while we continue to pray for the recovery and to support the families of two other coworkers who remain in the care of local hospitals.

We know last week was challenging for our neighbors in Crosby as well. We want to again apologize for the inconvenience and worry the incident caused in our community and beyond. We thank so many of you who have expressed your empathetic well wishes and offered your prayers for those most affected.

On behalf of all of us at KMCO, I especially want to extend our deepest appreciation to the Sheriff's Department, the Harris County Fire Marshal Office, Crosby Fire Department, Life Flight crews, hospital staff, all the Harris County first responders, and the mutual aid teams from partner plants, who rushed to the aid of our people and our plant. We will be forever grateful for their courage and their skill in helping us extinguish the fire and care for our injured colleagues.

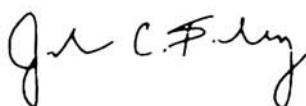
The facility is stabilized. KMCO is working in close cooperation with the Fire Marshal, federal Chemical Safety Board and OSHA investigators to determine the cause of last week's tragic incident. I can assure the community that no investigation will be more thorough than our own. We never want to see anything like this occur in the future.

Safe and compliant operations are our number one priority every day, and the measure of our ultimate success every night. As we work to remediate and rebuild, we will resume the four-year capital investment program we were implementing to upgrade our facility with the latest technologies, safety systems and training.

The events of last week have been a terrible setback. But while it has broken our hearts, it has not broken our spirit. As one of our employees put it this week, "A New Tomorrow: Stronger, Safer, Better."

We are determined to finish the job we started and fully transform KMCO into a next-generation, best-practice operator that exceeds the expectations of our customers, employees, surrounding communities, regulators and the industry at large.

With gratitude,



John C. Foley
President and CEO
KMCO, LLC



COMMUNITY NEWS

Safety and security, technology important focus of Channelview ISD’s May Bond

With the projected growth facing the Channelview community, Channelview ISD has called for a May bond election. Included in the bond are district-wide improvements to safety, security and technology that will allow the district to continue to provide safe, equitable, updated learning environments for current and future students.

The bond, which will be on the May 4 ballot, includes district-wide safety and security improvements. If approved, the proposition will provide security cameras across the district and upgraded controlled entrances at each of CISD’s 12 campuses. These upgraded entrances will increase campus-level safety and security by creating a controlled vestibule that will require visitors to be granted access to a reception area and forced to check in before entering any part of the campus.

Additionally, the connection between Channelview High School and the Kolarik Ninth Grade Center will be enclosed, further securing the area by eliminating multiple access points and keeping students under one roof during passing periods. CHS will also receive a new front entry addition with a reconfigured reception area to create a controlled entry vestibule. Exterior door alarms will also be installed for increased campus protection.

“We’re proud of the safety plans and measures we currently have in place across the district,” Mike Niemeyer, Assistant Superintendent of Administration said. “The safety of our students and staff is always at the forefront of our minds, and we recog-



The CISD 2019 school bond addresses safety and security across all campuses in the district. For more information, visit cvsdbond.org. The bond election would provide extended opportunities for students to explore new and innovative technology.

nize the importance of constantly updating and improving our approach. This bond proposes replacing aging equipment and installing new equipment, allowing us to continue to fortify our security measures across the district.”

On the technology front, the bond includes updated tools for teachers and students, including a refresh to Chromebooks and classroom projectors. The updated technology will help teachers tailor their lessons to each student and allow for more efficient, individualized learning. Likewise, elementary campuses will receive technology specialized for young learners.

Also included in the bond proposition are cafeteria projectors to be used for programs, performances and assemblies, among other events. These projectors allow the cafeteria to be more than just a place to eat; they turn the cafeteria into an additional learning space that can be used throughout the day

and evening. “Preparing our students for their future will continue to revolve around technology,” Niemeyer added. “In order to ensure they’re ready for what lies ahead, whether it’s college, joining the workforce or any other option, we work hard to make equipment available

to them. This bond election would provide opportunity for our students to explore new, innovative technology that would help prepare them for further education and the 21st century workforce.”

If approved, this bond equates to an increase of approximately \$9.30 a month for the average home valued at \$120,000. State law freezes the tax rate of homeowners 65 years of age and older and have filed their exemption with the Harris County Appraisal District. Therefore, senior citizens with an exemption on file will not see an increase associated with this bond.

The deadline to register to vote in the May 4, 2019 election is Thursday, April 4, 2019. Early voting begins Monday, April 22 and ends Tuesday, April 30. Election day is Saturday, May 4.

If you have questions about the bond election, or if you would like more information, visit the Channelview ISD bond website at cvsdbond.org.

GALENA PARK ISD

North Shore Senior High student receives Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship



Dr. Wiley Johnson, North Shore Senior High Deputy Principal; Merlyn Roldan, Amazon Scholarship recipient; Nathalie Pante, North Shore Senior High teacher; and Tabitha Sapien, North Shore Senior High counselor.

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2018 Chevy Malibu, STK#JP229528, MSRP: \$36,465, \$2,803 dealer discount, \$730 DPA thru GM Financial, \$4,482 factory rebate, \$28,450 Final Price, plus T.T.&L. and doc fee of \$150. approved credit Must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 04/30/2019

OPINION



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Social Security’s “First Year” Rule

Dear Rusty: I’ve been trying to determine the best way to proceed with retirement and could use some help. I’d like to retire on or about my 62nd birthday this September. Waiting for “full retirement” does not motivate as I have income replacement through my real estate investments. I’ll have way over any earnings limits for 2019, but I don’t want to have my benefits reduced. Can I apply as SSA suggests three months before my 62nd birthday without running afoul of SSA’s arcane benefit reduction rules? Or should I quit first then apply? Please don’t refer me to my Financial Advisor or local SSA office, they just confuse. Signed: Anxious to Retire

Dear Anxious: Well I’m afraid I can’t offer you any obscure methods to avoid Social Security’s rules & regulations, but perhaps I can clarify some things which will help you manage the timing of your application for Social Security benefits. From what you’ve said, I assume you mean you plan to retire from your working career in September, but by that time you will have greatly exceeded Social Security’s annual earnings limit (which is \$17,640 for 2019). Again, from what you’ve said, you wish to claim SS as soon as possible but you don’t want to lose any benefits because of exceeding the earnings limit. So, if you wish to claim SS as soon as you turn 62, you’ll be happy to know that there is a special rule which applies for your first year of collecting benefits before your full retirement age (66 in your case).

That “first year rule” essentially says that if you start benefits in mid-year, earnings prior to the month your benefits start don’t count; instead you’ll be subject to a monthly earnings test for the remainder of that year, once your benefits have started. So in your case, your first month of eligibility for SS would be the month of October (you must be 62 for the entire month to be eligible for benefits), and your benefit payment for October would be paid the following month (the payment date will be either the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Wednesday of the month,

depending on the day of the month you were born). Then, starting with the month of October, if you do not have earnings from working which exceed \$1,470 in any of the remaining months of 2019, your benefits will not be cut; but if you have earnings from working which exceed that monthly amount in any month for the rest of 2019, then you will not be entitled to SS benefits for that month. So, if your plan is to retire from your working career in September and depend upon your savings and investments for income, and if you claim Social Security as soon as you’re eligible in October and you have no further earnings from working, you’ll not suffer any loss of benefits in 2019.

But just as a caution, after 2019 you’ll still be subject to the annual “earnings test” because you’re claiming Social Security before you reach your full retirement age, and the annual earnings test will apply until the month that you reach your full retirement age (after that, there is no longer a limit to what you can earn). As for when you should apply for benefits, Social Security recommends that you apply 3 months before you wish your benefits to begin. When applying, you can specify the month you want your benefits to start, so if you wish that to be at age 62 simply specify October 2019 as your benefit start month. Applying prior to September and specifying October as your benefit start month will not expose you to any extra earnings limitations over those explained above.

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House passes legislation to reform school finance, property taxes

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives on April 3 approved much-anticipated legislation written to revise the state’s public school finance system. The vote was 148-1, and the bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

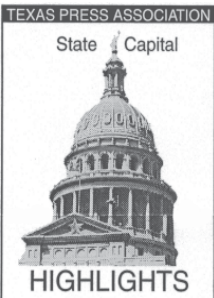
House Bill 3 would increase pay for public school classroom teachers, librarians and other full-time personnel and also would enable property tax relief. Primarily authored by House Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston, joint authors include Reps. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio; John Zerwas, R-Richmond; Ken King, R-Canadian; and Alma Allen, D-Houston.

HB 3’s estimated net cost would be \$9.5 billion, covering the fiscal biennium that ends Aug. 31, 2021. In addition to pay increases and incentives, HB 3 would reduce recapture and enable some \$2.7 billion in property tax relief. The legislation, among its general provisions, changes the order in which the Foundation School Program is financed so that state-available school funds would be applied before locally generated property tax revenue.

After the House voted, Gov. Greg Abbott applauded lawmakers for their work and said, “Texans are demanding meaningful reforms to our school finance system, and today’s passage of HB 3 in the House is a vital step toward that goal. By reducing recapture, investing more money in our schools and in our teachers, the Legislature is making changes that will have a lasting impact on our education system, and more importantly, our students.”

State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, chair of the House Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Education, in an April 3 news release called HB 3 “the bill we have been working for.”

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



exactly how the funds would be spent is still up for debate.

Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, said, “We continue to negotiate this issue with the House, but both chambers have now reached \$9 billion set aside for whatever agreement we reach.”

Revenue increase noted

State sales tax revenue totaled \$2.6 billion last month, an amount 9 percent greater than the amount calculated for the month of March 2018, Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar announced April 2.

The comptroller’s office reported increased collections in all major economic sectors, including retail trade, information services, oil and gas and restaurants. “Much of the increase stemmed more from consumer spending rather than business spending,” Hegar said.

Furthermore, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in March 2019 was up 7.3 percent compared to the same period a year ago, according to agency statistics.

RRC marks anniversary

On March 31, 1919, the Texas Legislature enacted a statute giving the Texas Railroad Commission regulatory authority over the oil and gas industry in the Lone Star State.

Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick wrote an April 1 editorial commemorating the milestone. Among the points she made was that the commission’s well-plugging program is hitting historic numbers. In fiscal years 2018-2019, the Texas Legislature set a performance goal for the agency to plug 1,958 abandoned wells. However, Craddick said, the commission is on track to plug about 3,000. Craddick pointed out that funds to plug the wells come from fees paid by the energy industry, not from Texas taxpayers.

Be ‘Earth-Minded’

(NAPSI)—In celebration of Earth Day this month, an online Environmental Survey can help families and classroom students score their environmental habits and get practical tips on how to conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.

The free survey can be taken in just a few minutes on a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Based on their survey input, families and classes will receive personalized recommendations that can help them reduce their environmental footprint and, in some cases, even save money.

“Covering all types of household topics, the Environmental Survey is a fun and informative way for classrooms and families to understand how they impact the environment and to learn commonsense behaviors that help children and adults be more environmentally responsible,” says Joe Haworth from the Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation.

Home and school versions of the free survey with detailed results are available online at www.thinkearth.org/surveys.

Founded in 1988, Think Earth is a nonprofit organization that pioneered the development of classroom lesson plans promoting environmental awareness and behaviors. Think Earth lessons for K-5 elementary grades have reached more than 4 million students. Educators and parents can download the free materials at www.thinkearth.org.

How are you going to celebrate Earth Day?

(NAPSI)—On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans gathered in the streets, in parks and in auditoriums around the country in support of a healthy, sustainable environment. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This year, the EPA is hoping that same number of Americans will make a difference—by pledging to choose ENERGY STAR certified products. Products that earn the ENERGY STAR label—everything from appliances and electronics to LED lighting, smart thermostats and air conditioners—are independently certified to save energy and reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases associated with climate change.

ENERGY STAR certified products not only help protect the climate, they help lower energy bills. According to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a typical household spends about \$2,000 a year on energy. A home outfitted with products that have earned the ENERGY STAR can save 30 percent, or about \$575 a year. Over their lifetime, these products can save the average homeowner about \$8,750 on utility bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 77,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

For more information about the ENERGY STAR pledge, visit www.energystar.gov/earthday.

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LIFESTYLE

Carmen in Highlands



The Highlands Ministerial Alliance brought the legenday CARMEN to sing and preach at the Highlands Middle School on April 5 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Carmen Domenic Licciardello a popular contemporary gospel singer and evangelist was a charismatic part of the genesis of the new Christian Music movement from 1982 until present. Carmen became a born again Christian at an Andrae’ Crouch concert.

Eastgate Church Easter “Love Is Alive.”

Eastgate Church Easter Production, LOVE IS ALIVE, will be Easter Sunday at 10 :30 a.m. with an Egg Hunt and BBQ lunch following the service. There will also be a special Saturday Matinee Performance at 4 p.m. with a Hamburger Supper, Egg Hunt, and activities for the kids afterward. Eastgate Church is located at 1707 CR 611 - 6 miles east of Huffman on FM 1960, then south 1/4 mile on CR 611. www.eastgate-church.com

Hippity Hop Egg Hunt at Crosby Community Center

Children up to age nine are welcome to join in the fun-filled activities at Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532, Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Activities include crafts, a picture with the Easter bunny, train ride, treats, and hunting for goodies nestled in bright plastic eggs. Children are encouraged to bring an Easter basket. Space is limited, so register today by calling the Center at (281) 462-0543. Easter Egg Hunt Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Ages 3 and under 10 a.m. Ages 4 through 6 10:30 a.m. Ages 7 through 9

CHS Alumni Committee meeting dates

The Crosby High School Alumni Association has announced the dates of the meetings to plan the 2019 Annual All Classes Reunion. The meetings are held at the Crosby Community Center on Hare Road beginning at 6 pm. The dates are: Wednesday, April 24, Wednesday, May 22, Wednesday, June 26 and Wednesday, July 24. The 37th Annual All Classes Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, August 3, 2019 at the Crosby American Legion Hall.

Dylan Wade Daskocil

Dylan Wade Daskocil, of Crosby, passed away on March 28, 2019 at the age of 29. He was born on May 25, 1989 in Baytown, Texas to Cheryl Bayless and Royce Daskocil. Dylan was an amazing father to his two little beautiful girls, Haylee and Makenna. He enjoyed going to the beach, hunting, fishing on the boat, and playing softball. Dylan also enjoyed hanging out at family gatherings. He was a good brother and protector to his younger sisters. Dylan was working hard towards becoming a Master Electrician, and anytime he accomplished something he couldn't wait to show off his achievements to his family. He was a fun-loving, happy-go-lucky man that was always smiling. Dylan was a kid at heart with a big personality who will be missed dearly by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother Sandra Bayless; and grandfather Raymond Daskocil.

Dylan is survived by his two girls Haylee and Makenna; mother and stepfather Cheryl Bayless & James Bell; father and step-mother Royce & Angela Daskocil; sisters Cheyanne Reis, Amanda Raye Daskocil, Cassandra Bell and Ava Daskocil; grandfather Young Jim Bayless; and grandmother Doris “Memaw” Daskocil. He is also survived by a very big family and many friends.

OBITUARIES



by, TX 77532. Funeral services were held at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Crosby Church. Interment followed in Sterling-White Cemetery. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

In lieu of flowers, Dylan's family has set up a memorial fund that will benefit his daughters. The family requests that donations be made C\O CommunityBank of Texas, PO Box 929, Crosby, Texas 77532. Attn: Judy Culbreath 281-328-4815. Checks may be made payable to either of his daughters, Haylee or Makenna Daskocil. Thank you for respecting these wishes.

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A visitation for family and friends was held on Friday, April 5, 2019 from 5:00-8:00 pm at Crosby Church, 5725 US-90, Crosby, TX 77532.

Annual Czech Spring Festival set April 28

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Harris County Chapter is preparing for our Annual Czech SpringFest. We will hold our festival on Sunday, April 28, 2019. It will be held at the SPJST Lodge #88, 1435 Beall St. Houston, in the Heights Area.

This being our 24th Annual Czech SpringFest, we look forward to having an outstanding crowd with

much entertainment and many vendors selling their wares. Our usual Country Store and Sausage Booth will be available. This year we will have a Czech Market selling decorative accessories, books and other Czech items. A small silent auction of boutique items will be adjacent to the Czech Market.

Craft Artist Vladimir Klimis from the Czech Republic will be there to demonstrate his skill of wood carving.

A traditional Czech Sunday dinner will be served from 11 am till 2 pm.

Music will be provided by the Kovanda Czech Band from 11 am till 3 pm and The Texas legacy Czech Band will play from 3 pm till 6:30 pm.

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can move
MOUNTAINS
Matthew 17:20

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I Corinthians 13:8

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through Christ who
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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

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be willing to give the best.*

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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



Alumni Making a Difference

I wonder if when the first graduating class from North Shore Senior High walked across the stage in 1965, did the thought cross their minds about giving back to the school or community? Without a doubt. From that first class of 1965, there have been graduates who have continued to give back. Alumni such as Charles Grant, Bill Palko, Judge Joe Stephens, Pamela Seale Humphries and Janice Carter Wilson have impacted many lives. Dr Grant was a graduate of that first class as well as the first San Jacinto College President who graduated from San Jacinto College. Bill Palko not only serves with Amergy Bank but served as the District 5890 Governor for Rotary International. Pamela and Janice have touched the lives of many families in our area, as both own successful children's centers.

Others such as Darryl Reeves, Mary Janes Ibberson Zatopek and others diligently work to raise funds for the North Shore Alumni Scholarship. It seems like with every class there is a group determined to make a difference. Last year, the 1992 class formed a group on Facebook for ALL classes to connect. The Facebook group has nearly 4000 members. They held the First Annual All Class Picnic and with the excitement that North Shore has experienced this year with athletic championships on the line, many of the class of 1992 and overs traveled to games around the city and the state. The Second Annual All Class Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 11. All of the details can be

found on social media or by emailing 9duece.6@gmail.com

After North Shore won the State Football Championship, alumni were quick to jump in and ask how they could assist with celebrations. Many attended the district-sponsored banquet and contributed to help offset the cost of the championship rings for the athletes. With there still being a large balance for the rings, Alumni Pedro Valencia called on friends and former athletes to organize the North Shore Alumni Softball Tourney Fundraiser which will be held this Sunday, April 14 beginning at 1 p.m. The fundraiser will be held at 14440 Wallisville, Houston 77049. For more information, please contact Pedro or visit www.etrw.com

While there are many alumni who leave North Shore, their roots run deep and they are frequently supporting the community. One of my favorite events each year on the Saturday after Father's Day is the Cory Redding Foundation 3D Football Camp. Annually there are over 200 youth who come out to participate and at the same time, most of the 65 volunteers are North Shore Alumni. For more information to register your child for the FREE camp or to find out about sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer, please visit www.coryreddingfoundation.org or call 281.241.7059.

And last but not least, we have Alumni who employed within the District. They touch lives daily. Many Alumni volunteer on numerous committee in the district as well as in the community.

NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER Korea's SeAH Steel invests in Houston



ROBERT GUERRERO of SeAH Steel USA speaking at last week's North Channel Chamber luncheon.

NORTH CHANNEL – When SeAH Steel established itself in the North Channel industrial area in 2016, it wanted to show the community it was a good neighbor as well as a strong worldwide producer of steel casings, pipe, tubing and sheets.

It joined the Chamber as a first step, and then donated \$65,000 to its scholarship fund. They also gave \$100,000 to employee families that were affected by Hurrican Harvey.

At last Friday's monthly luncheon of the chamber, Robert Guerrero of the company told the audience

at San Jacinto College about the history and growth of SeAH, starting in Korea in 1960 and now growing to multiple plants worldwide, and 49 affiliated firms.

The company has grown rapidly, partially because of technological development of welding technics, and colorization of steel.

The company now has 240 employees in Houston, and expects to open another plant with 50 workers.

Their primary product in the Houston plant is Casing and pipe, cut to length in 40' to 44' lengths. Their plant is off US90 near Sheldon Road.

Harris County issues,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other," Commissioner Garcia said.

ITC continued to be addressed in meetings with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's team, Senator John Cornyn, various members of Congress and the American Chemical Council. Also in those discussions, Commissioner Garcia pushed for infrastructure resources in Precinct 2, specifically around the Port of Houston and advocated for more funding for community colleges to help

with workforce development.

"I'm working to make sure Precinct 2 is the place where people and companies alike come to thrive," Garcia said. "But I can't do it alone. All government stakeholders need be aware of our needs and exactly what needs to be done to address it."

Garcia wrapped up the trip Thursday with meetings with Rep. Lizzie Fletcher and the National Association of Counties.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: " What is Moissanite and does it differ from Diamond?"



Moissanite, also known as silicon carbide, is a gemstone unlike any other. With more brilliance and fire than diamond, this stone has been a source of intense interest ever since its discovery more than a century ago. Moissanite dances with sparkles of light that draw the eye and delight the senses. Its unique internal beauty lends a captivating allure to jewelry, making a magnificent statement at a fraction of the cost of other gemstones. But only you know what you paid - envious passers-by see only a grand statement of opulence.

Today's alluring Moissanite gemstones are the end result of a 110 year old geological discovery. Moissanite was first discovered in 1893 by the Nobel Prize-winning French chemist Dr. Henri Moissan at the site of a massive meteorite strike in Arizona. The tiny particles he unearthed were initially mistaken for diamond due to their hardness and brilliant reflectiveness, but after painstaking testing, were identified as naturally-occurring silicon carbide. This intriguing new stone was named Moissanite in his honor, and Moissan spent the rest of his life attempting to recreate this exceptional mineral, which is among the hardest materials on Earth.

Moissanite vs Diamonds The resulting gemstones exhibit more brilliance than diamond, and are more durable than ruby, emerald, and sapphire. With a refractive index of 2.65-2.69, Moissanite is truly the World's Most Brilliant Gem®. And thanks to a dispersion level that produces 2.4 times the fire of diamond, Moissanite bends light into mesmerizing rainbow flashes of fire. By day and by night, Moissanite's conspicuous brilliance is spectacular.

The unrivaled fire and brilliance of Moissanite is guaranteed to last forever. The sparkle that makes this gemstone so beloved will never fade or dull, and is protected by a limited lifetime warranty from Charles & Colvard. Due to a hardness that is second only to that of diamond, Moissanite is

highly unlikely to ever break, scratch or chip. And unlike diamonds, Moissanite stones are conflict-free and sustainable, grown as they are in a lab rather than mined from the earth.

Natural Moissanite is incredibly rare on Earth; in fact, the largest natural Moissanite gems are too small to be set into jewelry. Nearly one hundred years after Dr. Moissan's discovery, scientists at a research laboratory in central North Carolina perfected and patented the innovative process that creates silicon carbide crystals for Charles & Colvard®. Within a controlled environment that mimics the forces of nature, our researchers produce durable, super-hard crystals with a minimum of ecological impact, and absolutely no mining. Today, Charles & Colvard® remains committed to producing the highest quality Moissanite gemstones using innovative techniques and technologies.

Moissanite was introduced to the jewelry market in 1998. It is regarded as a diamond alternative, with some optical properties exceeding those of diamond. Its lower price and less exploitative mining practices necessary to obtain it make it a popular alternative to diamonds. In addition, thermoluminescence is exhibited in Moissanite, such that heating it gradually will cause it to change color starting at around 150 degrees Fahrenheit. This color change can be diagnostic for distinguishing diamond and Moissanite, although birefringence and electrical conductivity differential are more practical diagnostic differentiators. On the Mohs scale of mineral hardness it is a 9.5, with a diamond being a 10.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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Spring Cleaning Tips From Connie

Let's get out the cleaning supplies and tackle "spring cleaning." The number one piece of equipment is your vacuum cleaner, so don't overlook the maintenance.

- Change the bags frequently and the filters every 10 bags. Bagless vacuums need the filters checked and cleaned. Dirty filters bog the machine down and can cause damage to the circuit board and the motor.
- Check the beater bar/brush roller (the spinning brush underneath the vacuum that brushes dirt out of carpet). Use scissors or your hands to remove anything wrapped around or caught in the brush roller.
- Check the electric cord. Take time to rewind cord properly and remove gently from wall socket. This will save the cord from damage.
- For hardwood or laminate floors see us for cleaning and refreshing products.
- Dusting blinds, pictures, window frames and hard to reach places will be easier with an ostrich feather duster.

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•and MORE! HAPPY SPRING CLEANING!"





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"Proposals for RFP 19-006 UIL Student Athletic Insurance will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Tuesday, May 7, 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."

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 473407; Estate of MARY LUCILLE ROUSE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on March 29, 2019.

LEGAL NOTICE

DANIEL JAMES ROUSE, JR. and LORETTA SHERRI GREGERSEN

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is: c/o Weston Cotten 5223 Garth Rd. Baytown, TX 77521

LEGAL NOTICE

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this April 4, 2019

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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DANIEL JAMES ROUSE, JR. and LORETTA SHERRI GREGERSEN

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EVENTS

Buda Lions Country Fair and Wiener Dog Races, April 27-28, Buck's Backyard, FM 1626, Buda, TX. For more info, visit www.budalions.com.

Hearne – Crossroads Home Town Festival, April 13, 2019, Hearne, TX. Festival opens at 10 a.m., Street Dance 8-11 p.m. Kids zone, live entertainment, food & more. www.crossroadshometownfestival.com.

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet, April 19-21, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common St., New Braunfels. No dogs please. www.newbraunfelsareacareclub.com.

McQueeney – Texas Reptile Expo, April 13-14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Lions Club, 3211 FM 78, McQueeney, TX. Adults \$10; \$5 for kids under 10. 501-454-9357, texasreptiles.com.

Mount Vernon – 15th Annual Tour de Cypress Ride, Sat., April 20. Enjoy a Franklin County weekend of activities: Bike Ride, Music and Barbecue. 10, 20 45, 52 Mile and 100K rides. Beautiful routes past Exotic Animal Farm and Lake Cypress Springs. www.tourdecypress.com.

Seguin – 49th Texas Ladies State Chili Championship, Sat., April 13, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Max Starcke Park East, Seguin, TX, Chili, Craft and Food Vendors, Music, Silent Auction, Raffles, Family Fun! Judging begins at 12:30 p.m. Sign up to be a judge at <https://www.tlscoco.com/chili-judges-needed.html>. 830-401-5000, visitseguin.com.

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