

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

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

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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Join the Celebration!

Area residents are invited to attend the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the North Channel Library on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Festivities will be held at 1 p.m. as well as at 5 p.m. to commemorate the occasion. In May, 1994 the Channelview Branch and the Woodforest Branch combined their collections and the doors were opened for the North Channel Branch Library. When the merger/relocation first happened, residents were not prepared for just how much the community would grow, yet the overall experience has been valuable. This location is used for Harris County Early Voting and Election Day Voting as well. Today's collection included over 88,822 volumes of work and circulates over 363,000 items a year.

As a way of enriching lives and promoting cultural diversity, the North Channel Branch often collaborates with other organizations in the community to present various programs to expose community members to various countries and cultures. The Republic of the Philippines was highlighted May 8. The presentation included a vocal performances by the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce.

Another activity that our young people enjoy is participating in the Pokémon Club with a variety of events planned throughout the summer. The Library is home to basic computer classes, available in English and Spanish. And volunteer opportunities are available to assist with daily tasks, special projects as well as the Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale. Please contact Maira.rows@hcpl.net for more information.

### Business after hours

North Channel Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business After-Hrs. event, Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 5 pm - 7 pm at Bates Collision Center, 15532 I-10 East Freeway in Channelview. Please reserve to Blanca at blanca@ncchamber.com

### Fidelity Manor High School Reunion

It's also the 50th year reunion for the class of '69. All students who attended and/or graduated from Fidelity Manor Elementary and Fidelity Manor High School, former faculty and staff members are welcome to attend. Fidelity Manor HS was under the umbrella of Galena Park ISD. Fidelity Manor HS closed 50 years ago and there will be an "All-Class" reunion to celebrate the event as follows:

- May 17 - Sock Hop and Social @ St Matthew Family Life Center, 119 Fidelity St., 77029, 8 pm - 12 midnight.
- May 18 - Picnic at Evelyn Churchill Community Center (The Rec), 1508 Hunter St., 77547, 11 am - 6 pm. (food vendors will be on site)
- May 19 - Worship Service @ St Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity Street, 77029, 10 am.

Questions? call 832-908-2037.

### Jacinto City Public Events

• Jacinto City Residents Tire Roundup Day, Saturday, May 18th from 8 AM to 3 PM. To insure pick-up tires must be at curbside by 8 AM. No large truck tires, no tires on rims.

## Voters approve Channelview ISD Bonds, elect 2 in Galena Park ISD

NORTH CHANNEL – On Election Day, May 4, only 554 voters or 3.43% of eligible voters determined that Channelview ISD could proceed with their \$195.4 million bond package. And in Galena Park ISD, only 639 voted for new school board members. Jeff Miller was elected with 408 votes, and Ramon Garza with 454 votes. Herbert Sanchez had 107, Randy Orr 120 for Position #3, and Kristina Zatopek had 145 and Andrea Henry had 39 votes for Position #4.

Voters in Channelview ISD approved the school district bond proposition on the May 4 ballot. Unofficial results from Harris County indicate that 75 percent of voters approved the bond package.

With the passage of the bond election, the district now has authorization for \$195.4 million to address

growth and program expansions, campus renovations, safety and security, technology, land purchases and buses.

"This is an exciting day for Channelview ISD and the future of our school district," said Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis. "I am so thankful for the support from our community members, staff, parents and school board members who took time out of their busy schedules to vote."

Channelview ISD thanked each of the members of the Citizens' Bond Planning Committee who spent months studying and prioritizing the needs of the District to develop the bond package. These projects will allow Channelview ISD to have the capacity needed for future student growth while providing students with edu-



Channelview ISD voters approved the \$195.4 million bond package to address growth and program expansions, campus renovations, safety and security, technology, land purchases and buses. Preliminary election results from Harris County indicate that 75 percent of voters approved the bond package.

cational and extracurricular opportunities that prepare them to become creative, responsible, patriotic contributing members of society.

Specifically, the bond package includes the following projects:

- Replacement school for DeZavala Elementary
- Replacement school to combine Cobb Elementary and Schochler Elementary
- CHS Growth & Program Expansion:
- New Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center Addition
- New Auditorium
- Athletic Additions & Renovations

#### Campus Renovations:

- HVAC Systems
- Roofing
- Plumbing
- Electrical Systems
- Driveways & Parking
- Interior Finishes

#### Safety & Security:

- Upgraded controlled entrances at each campus
- Security cameras district-wide
- Enclosed connection between CHS and Kolarik
- Exterior door alarms at CHS
- New front entry at CHS Technology:
- Chromebook refresh
- Classroom projector refresh
- Cafeteria projectors
- Specialized technology for Elementary students

#### Land Purchase for Future School Sites

#### New Buses

Additional details about the Channelview ISD May 2019 bond are available on the district's bond website: [www.cvisdbond.org](http://www.cvisdbond.org).

## Bridge repairs completed, westbound lanes re-open



Westbound lanes of the I-10 bridge over the San Jacinto River were reopened in their normal state on Monday morning of this week. In addition, the entry ramp from Crosby-Lynchburg Road was reopened, and the temporary traffic signals at 4 Corners were removed. Motorists had been inconvenienced with traffic restrictions since a barge hit and seriously damaged a supporting column on February 11th. Contractors had to install two new steel columns in place of the concrete column that was split into two pieces.

## EPA HOLDS UPDATE MEETING

Almost a hundred area residents braved a heavy rainstorm and sharp lightening, to attend a meeting with EPA officials from Dallas regarding the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River. The meeting took place last Tuesday, May 7 at the Highlands Community Center.

Gary Baumgarten, the new project manager in charge of the Superfund site clean-up, showed a series of slides that outlined activities that were taking place in the present time.

A consent order was signed by the PRP (Potentially Responsible Parties) in April 2018, and Remedial Design has been underway since that time. This phase of the work may take as much as 2-1/2 years, he said.

Baumgarten said that the next steps in the Remedial Design were investigations of data, study of the treatability of the on-site materials, and construction plans.

He displayed a slide that showed recent borings, and a depth scale that indicated some had acceptable material, and some had toxic material.

Baumgarten discussed some of the



GARY BAUMGARTEN  
EPA project manager

problems with the maintenance of the site. In July 2018 and November 2018 repairs to the Cap were required. He said that the red marker buoys had also

*See EPA Meeting, Page 3*

## Rotary's annual Fish Fry and raffle set for May 18

North Shore Rotary's famous Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil will take place on Saturday, May 18th at the Rotary Pavilion behind the courthouse on Wallisville Road.

Fish Fry chairman Ryan Dagley and club president Bill Bowes report that tickets for the event are selling fast, and may even sell out completely this year. A \$100 ticket entitles the holder to a chance to win a new Toyota truck or car (winner's choice of model and color) as well as two great fish dinners. Tickets are available from any Rotarian, or call 281-685-1000 if you need help purchasing a ticket. Serving time for the dinners is 11am to 3pm, but come early so that they don't sell out. Individual meal tickets are \$15 at the door, \$12 presale.

This is the 44th Annual Fish Fry, according to Dagley. Each year the club nets about \$300,000 and in turn uses the money for projects that benefit the community, including scholarships, recreational programs, and many school and organizational events.

The All-day event also includes a silent and a live auction, and there are always great and unusual prizes in these auctions. Trips, sports memorabilia, Texas souvenirs, signed sports portraits, game tickets to top events, just to name a few. There are also 20 prizes in the raffle drawing, all worth more than the ticket. Don't miss this great event.



Your choice of two boiled crawfish or fried catfish dinners and all the fixin' with your raffle ticket.



And when you win the raffle, you have a choice of a new Toyota pickup truck or car.

## Rep. Sylvia Garcia and House Judiciary Committee hold Hearing in Houston on the Voting Rights Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – May, 3, 2019 – Rep. Sylvia Garcia and members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing in Houston on the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act in the state of Texas. The subcommittee gathered testimony from voting rights scholars and practitioners from throughout the state on barriers to exercising the right to vote in Texas.

"For all the modern successes within our wonderful Texas heritage, we also know Texas is failing many of our communities by denying them their constitutional right to vote," said Congresswoman Garcia. "Texas continues to show a widespread pattern of discrimination against minorities at the ballot box. The testimony here today has shown that. And this testimony has also



fact becomes a thing of the past."

Congresswoman Garcia continued, "Over 60 years ago, President Johnson, a Texan, said upon the signing of the Voting Rights Act: 'This right to vote is the basic right without which all others are meaningless. It gives people, people as individuals, control over their own destinies.'"

"Texas is and has always been a place for those who seek liberty and to take control over their own destinies. To be true to this liberty that we hold so dear, we cannot tolerate discrimination and suppression, either directly or indirectly, in accessing the ballot box."



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Crosby Senior Signing Day ceremony grows



Ninety two Crosby High School Seniors inked pledges and got photographed signing up for their future inside the auditorium on May 3. An annual event now, Senior Signing Day had students taking the plunge into their futures as they sat with parents and on occasion with Principal Terry Perkins. Of course, as every individual is different, some go on to college settings, some go to trade school, some enlist in the military and others go out into the job market. By those and similar divisions the students were clustered into groups to be photographed. Each year the Senior Signing Day grows in participation. It is an excellent opportunity to begin a commitment. The above photograph is of the entire group.

## Musketeers Trailride surprises Crosby




Last Saturday afternoon locals were stunned by the pageantry and diversity of a trail ride that came south on US 90 frontage road beside Friendly Ford of Crosby and proceeded onto the Old Beaumont Highway. The ride featured carriages, floats, horses, ATVs and varied other transportation with beauties dancing atop hoods and plenty of music. Believed to be associated with the Three Musketeers Trail-ride the tradition goes far back into the Old West. The troop travelled on to North Shore.

## KMCO restarts alarm testing

The purpose of this communication is to inform neighbors and members of the community that KMCO will be restarting the weekly alarm testing on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 11:00 am. The KMCO facility is located at 16503 Ramsey Road Crosby, TX 77532. Please note, that KMCO will be conducting the weekly alarm testing every Tuesday at

11:00 am. The local community may hear high pitch siren tones associated with the alarm testing. KMCO appreciates your patience, understanding, and continued support. Should you have any questions, please contact Kim George, Director-Human Resources and Communications at 281-328-0287 or 281-702-5505.

Back Issues of this newspaper are available to read, at Crosby Library and Highlands Stratford Library.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## \$6.25M jackpot-winning ticket sold at North Shore gas station

HOUSTON - A Houston gas station just helped one person become a millionaire after selling a \$6.25 million jackpot-winning lottery ticket.

The Lotto Texas drawing was held Saturday and the winning ticket matched all six of the numbers drawn (10-14-22-28-40-44). The ticket was purchased at Circle K lo-

cated at 16222 Wallisville Road.

So how much does the winner get?

The claimant will receive \$4,309,883.85 because the customer chose the cash value option at the time of purchase.

How long does the winner have to claim the prize?

The winner has 180

days from the draw date to make a claim.

"If you have the winning ticket, we encourage you to sign the ticket, put it in a safe place, seek financial and legal advice, and call the Texas Lottery before coming to Austin to claim the prize. We look forward to meeting you," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery.

## San Jacinto Battleground, Battleship Texas Reopen to the Public May 8

LA PORTE— The San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and the Battleship Texas State Historic Site will be re-opening to the public May 8 after the recent chemical fire in La Porte.

"After being away from the site for over six weeks, the staff are excited to again have the opportunity to share this site and our Texas heritage with the public," says William Irwin, Superintendent of the San Jacinto State Historic Site Complex.

The reopening comes

ahead of the D-Day 75th anniversary commemoration event aboard the Battleship Texas June 8. The event begins at 8 a.m. with the recognition of special guests including former Battleship Texas crew members and D-Day Medal of Honor recipients. Following the ceremony, the ship will host a D-Day exhibit, special access to the navigation bridge, living history reenactors and vintage radio recordings throughout the day. All activities are free with gen-

eral admission to the ship.

The Battleground is open daily from 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. The Battleship Texas is open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Entrance fees for the ship are \$12 for adults 12-65 years old, \$6 for seniors 65 years and older, \$3 for children 5-11 years old, and children 4 years and under are free.

For more information about the San Jacinto Battleground and the Battleship Texas, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's website.

## EPA update meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

moved, and studies were underway to relocate them at the edge of the cap.

Janetta Coats of EPA talked about her work with the community, through the CIP or Community Involvement Plan. She said that the group had determined that the main community concerns were Health, Clean-up, Community Involvement, Wildlife, and Watershed.

Health concerns included impacts of remaining material, and recreation, after the cleanup.

Cleanup concerns included how floods and hurricanes might affect the sediments.

Community Involvement included receiving information on status.

Wildlife concerns centered on affect to fish and other wildlife.

Watershed concerns included downstream wildlife affect, and water supply contamination.

An extended Question and Answer period followed the formal presentation. Everyone in the audience was given a chance to ask a question or give a fact or opinion.

Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation spoke of the efforts to post signs warning of fish advisories. He also said that more borings were needed in the Sand Separation area if a permit to dig that area for barges is granted. He thought pilings or something more substantial than the red buoys were needed to keep ships away from the cap.

Sean Matula, a life-long resident of Highlands and someone who grew up close

to the waste pits, told a personal story of his family's health problems from the toxins, leading to birth defects that had rendered him disabled and unable to work, and his point was that the waste pits are having a real effect on the lives of nearby residents. He and others raised the question of how the toxic waste could be classified as Non-hazardous for the purposes of disposing of it in a landfill, but toxic and hazardous in the river.

Baumgarten was questioned about how the waste was "characterized" for disposal purposes. He said that samples were tested, and though federal guidelines did not test for Dioxin, the state of Texas does test for this. However, depending upon levels, the waste could still be called "non-hazardous."

Bobby Stone of Channelview told how the site used to be much higher than the river, and wondered where the material had disappeared to.

Anna Holt, a Channelview native, hold about how she swam, boated, and skied in the river growing up, and ate the fish and crabs. Much like Matula's story, she said infertility was a major problem for many, including her family. She urged the EPA to understand that the waste pits were a serious, life-changing environmental problem.

Christine Singleton of THEA said they were concerned about the safety of workers who are on the waste pits cap, and will be working to remove it in the future. She urged the PRP to provide Data Safety Sheets to all workers so that they can protect themselves.

Lisa Gossett, an Environmental professional teacher, raised the question about how much information was in the official repository in Highlands, whether it was indexed and all accounted for, and whether new material when added was so noted.

She also pointed out that federal hazard testing looked for 40 chemicals, but not Dioxin. She noted



LISA GOSSETT

that Texas did test for this. She said that 50% of the original toxic material has washed away downstream.

Jackie Young of THEA reminded the audience that the area around the pits tests for a higher rate of 14 types of cancer than state average. She called on the EPA to correctly classify the hazardous waste and to send it to the proper disposal site. She said this characterization affects all other decisions in the Superfund cleanup process.

Other questions in the session centered on who is responsible for controlling barge traffic in the river, and has oversight on the dredging of boat slips near the waste pits. Gary Baumgarten said that this is the Army Corps of Engineers, and that EPA carefully reviews all permit applications they receive.

A member of the audience questioned whether there was some other way of disposing of the toxic waste at the site, other than removing it by truck or barge. She suggested chemical treatment or burning as two possibilities. EPA's John Meyer pointed out that a large quantity of hazardous waste is disposed of every day in Harris County, and the methods for doing this are safe and well known. He said that the material from the San Jacinto River site would be tested, characterized, and properly disposed of.



SEAN MATULA

## Upcoming Community Events

**East Houston Democrats** Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Club meets at the Milton Lusk Community Center located at 1022 Mercury Drive. Membership is open to any community members who line up with the values of the Democratic Party. For more information on joining, please contact President Linda Britten at 281.782.6437 or visit our Facebook page.

**American Red Cross** Sound the Alarm is looking for volunteers over the age of 16 who are available to meet this Saturday, May 11 at 8 a.m. at the Flukinger Center in Channelview. During the next 5 hours, the volunteers will install 250 smoke detectors in homes south of I-10. For more information, please contact Cindy Miller at 713-274-2208.

**North Shore Alumni** would like to thank alumni, area businesses and community leaders who came out to our First Annual Softball Tournament between Alumni and current Mustangs as well as supported our group, led by Pedro Valencia to raise \$3000 towards the cost of the Championship Football Rings for the players. The check has been presented to the GPISD Foundation. Anyone else in the community still wishing to contribute, please contact GPISD Foundation at 832-386-1000.

**Volunteer Deputized Voter Registrar Training** will be held later this month in our community. If you are interested in attending so that you will be able to help register voters before the next election, please contact Charlotte Jackson at 832-896-1633. We are working with the Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar's Office to schedule a weeknight training as well as a Saturday morning training.

**Cory Redding Annual 3D Football Camp** is still taking applications. The camp will be held on Saturday, June 22 at the Galena Park ISD Stadium. While the camp is open to youth ages 8 – 17 years of age and is free, the parents MUST pre-register their children online at [www.coryreddingfoundation.org](http://www.coryreddingfoundation.org)

**Greater Houston Area MADD Annual Fundraising Walk** will be held on Saturday, May 18 at Houston Community College Northeast. The event will begin with Opening Ceremonies at 9 a.m. Food, games, K-9 Demonstrations, Life Flight take-off and landing, first responder vehicles for "touch a truck" and more. Details are available at [www.walkikemadd.org/Texas](http://www.walkikemadd.org/Texas) or by contacting Heather at 281.590.2222

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OPINION

TEXAS  
SENATE NEWS

By Richard Lee

Senate approves major  
property tax and education  
finance Reform Bill

(Austin) The bill to change the way the state pays for public education while reducing local property taxes passed the Senate on Monday, moving the session's signature bill one step closer to the governor's desk. A top priority of state leadership throughout the year, the bill would reduce local school property tax rates by 10 cents while updating funding formulas to better address the modern student population in Texas, according to its author. "A system that started in the early 80s has had numerous Band-Aids attached to it," said Friendswood Senator Larry Taylor. "Here we are today with the system that we have: very complex, very outdated, and not meeting the demands we have before us." The current system is especially poor, said Taylor, at addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged students, which make up more than half of all public school students in Texas today.

To improve achievement among that population, the bill targets funding increases toward students from low-income backgrounds in early education, including money for full-day, high-quality pre-K programs in order to improve the number of kids reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. This is a critical standard to meet, said Taylor, as all future education hinges on a student's ability to read. This funding would be partially outcome-based; schools would get more money up-front to improve reading standards for economically-disadvantaged students, but would also get a bonus for every student that met standards. Schools would have discretion to use an accredited reading assessment other than the STAAR test.

Districts would get additional money for every economically disadvantaged student they educate, and would get more depending on how dense poverty levels are in the community served by the district. Regardless of low income population, all districts would see more money though a \$740 increase in the primary variable in the school finance formula, the basic allotment. There's more money for dual-language programs, dyslexia

services and post-secondary readiness. For teachers, the bill still includes the \$5,000 pay raise for all public school teachers and librarians, but also adds an effectiveness-based pay scale that would allow districts to pay their best teachers more and increase compensation to those who choose to work at more challenging campuses.

For property taxpayers, school rates would fall 10 cents and the bill would implement a 2.5 percent rollback rate on local school property taxes to slow growth. To pay for this, the bill initially contemplated a one-cent increase in the state sales tax, but an amendment to the bill developed by a Senate workgroup looking at alternatives would fund it through other sources. It would divert part of oil and gas severance tax revenue, about \$2.3 billion for the biennium, from the rainy day fund into a new fund dedicated toward property tax compression, called the Tax Reduction and Excellence in Education (TREE) fund. Along with some changes in the way the state collects sales tax from online purchases and a reallocation from the Permanent School Fund, plus \$2.7 billion already in the budget for property tax cuts, in total the bill would include about \$5.6 billion in property tax relief.

If passed into law, it would mark the first time in decades that the state has made significant reforms to education finance without a court mandate. If the Legislature doesn't address school finance on its own initiative, Taylor warns the state could soon find itself in a familiar situation. "We've been given the opportunity to work on this by the court and now is our time or we will fall back into the same old pattern we've been doing for the last 3 decades: supreme court decision, Band-Aid, more money in a particular area, supreme court decision, Band-Aid, more money in certain areas," he said. "We've got to break that cycle, we've got to move our school finance system into the 21st century." The bill will now head into negotiations with the House to resolve differences between the two versions of the measure.



Property tax reform bill goes  
to conference committee

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives on May 1 passed Senate Bill 2, legislation proposing to bring property tax relief to homeowners, but the lower house slowed the bill's momentum by tacking on 25 floor amendments.

If finally passed in the coming days, the legislation would lower the rollback rate for most local taxing authorities from 8 percent to 3.5 percent and 2 percent for school districts. The bill also allows local option elections on proposals to exceed rollback rates.

SB 2, like House Bill 1, the state budget bill, is now in the hands of a conference committee of five House members and five Senate members tasked with producing a final, agreed-to version. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the calendar and the clock as constitutional deadlines set in and the May 27 end of the session grows near.

Gov. Greg Abbott lauded the progress made on the property tax reform bill. "For too long, Texans have watched their property taxes skyrocket while being reduced to tenants of their own property. That is not the Texas way," Abbott said.

"In the final days of the legislative session, I am confident this historic legislation, combined with additional reforms working their way through the system, will reach my desk where I will sign them into law. I look forward to working with Lt. Gov. Patrick, Speaker Bonnen and the entire Legislature to deliver lasting property tax relief to every Texan."

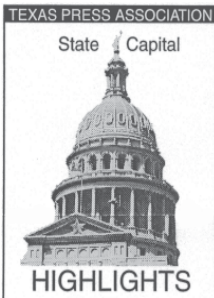
Parties settle  
voting suit

Parties in the lawsuit LULAC v. Texas Secretary of State David Whitley and consolidated cases agreed to a settlement over Whitley's Jan. 25 letter to county voter registrars.

In an announcement released April 26, Whitley wrote, "Today's agreement accomplishes our office's goal of maintaining an accurate list of qualified reg-

STATE CAPITAL  
HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



istered voters while eliminating the impact of any list maintenance activity on naturalized U.S. citizens. I will continue to work with all stakeholders in the election community to ensure this process is conducted in a manner that holds my office accountable and protects the voting rights of eligible Texans."

In his role as the state's chief elections officer, Whitley wrote the letter directing registrars to identify and remove from voter rolls non-U.S. citizens registered to vote in Texas. That letter sparked the lawsuit.

Plaintiffs agreed to dismiss their claims and the Secretary of State's office agreed to issue a new advisory notifying Texas counties on a revised process for identifying and removing non-U.S. citizens from the state's voter rolls.

The Secretary of State's office, in following the new process, will send to county voter registrars only the matching records of individuals who registered to vote before identifying themselves as non-U.S. citizens to the Texas Department of Public Safety when applying for a driver license or personal identification card.

House OKs  
marijuana bill

HB 63, legislation less-

ening penalties for possession of an ounce or less of marijuana, won House approval on April 30, on a vote of 103-42.

If passed, the penalty for minor possession of marijuana would be a misdemeanor citation, like a traffic ticket. Authored by House Speaker Pro-tempore Joe Moody, D-El Paso, the bill drew support from both political parties.

Before a final vote was called in the House, Moody said in the course of a longer statement, "Members, 22 states and the District of Columbia have passed bills like this and the sky hasn't fallen there. Whatever you think about Colorado-style legalization, this isn't it."

HB 63 was received in the Senate for consideration on April 30, but Lt. Gov. Patrick, who presides over the upper chamber, indicated in a social media post that he would not allow the bill to progress any further.

Revenue total  
increases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on May 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.8 billion in April, an amount 3 percent more than the amount reported in April 2018.

"State sales tax revenue continued to grow, but at a modest pace compared to recent months," Hegar said in an agency news release. "Increased sales tax collections were mostly from the construction and services sectors, while collections from retail trade saw a moderate decline," he added.

Furthermore, Hegar said, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in April 2019 was up 6.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

Social  
Security  
Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Russell Gloor  
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Dear Rusty: My young daughter is disabled, and I am trying to make ends meet financially. Can you help with a child's SSI claim? Signed: Needy Mother

Dear Needy Mother: "SSI", or "Supplemental Security Income", is a Federal benefit program administered by, but separate from Social Security. SSI is available for low-income disabled seniors and disabled minor children. As your daughter's parent you must apply directly with the Social Security Administration (you cannot apply online). You can do this at the general SSA number (1.800.772.1213) or at your local Social Security office, which you can find by going to this link: [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator). Here, you can enter your zip code and get back contact information for your local office, including location, hours, and telephone number to call.

You should call first to make an appointment so as to speed up the SSI application process and avoid long wait times. In order to expedite the application, you should first complete a Child Disability Report which will ask you to provide detailed information about the child and the child's medical condition. A child is considered disabled if suffering from physical or mental impairment which causes a severe functional impairment which has lasted (or is expected to last) more than a year. Go to link for complete information on applying for SSI: [www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/child.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/child.htm). In addition to information on the child's eligibility criteria and how to apply, at this SSA website you will also find a link to the Child Disability Report.

Completing the report online is relatively straightforward and intuitive if you have some computer skills but, if not, you can also obtain a copy of the form (SSA-3820) at this link: [www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-3820.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-3820.pdf). You can download the Child Disability Report form (SSA-3820), print it, fill it out as completely as possible by hand and provide it to Social Security when you submit the SSI application. Gathering all the information requested and providing it to Social Security via the Child Disability Report will serve to greatly expedite the SSI application for your child. Please be aware that there are household income limits and that SSI benefits are closely coordinated with the State in which you live. In fact, Social Security will contact your State's SSI benefit office to provide them with your application, and your State's SSI benefit office will verify the child's eligibility by contacting doctors, hospitals, teachers, medical providers, schools or other contacts you have provided who can verify the child's disability and eligibility. If the child is working, he/she must not be earning more than the monthly allowable amount (\$1220 for 2019) in order to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income. Also, be aware that if the application is initially denied, you have the right to appeal that initial decision. And for clarity, money for SSI benefits is not taken from Social Security funds but rather from the Government's general funds.

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LIFESTYLE

Historic Crosby (Phase 3)



By Joel Fuchs

This week’s historical photo of Crosby is of the downtown area, where FM 2100 crosses the railroad tracks. Today there is a beautiful overpass at this location, that carries traffic over the old downtown area. This photo was taken around 1915, and the photographer had climbed to the top of the railroad water tower to get this particular vantage point. The photo is looking east. At the time, Main Street (FM 2100) was just a small dirt trail crossing the tracks.

In the foreground is the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. It was built in 1895. At the time, Crosby had three railroad tracks. Four trains per day stopped at the depot to pick up and drop off passengers. The small building just beyond the depot, is most likely the water well and pump house. Many of the townsfolk hauled their water from there. The tall white building in the upper right center of the photo is the Texas Mercantile Compa-

ny Store. It was built in 1910, and it was the largest general store in the community. Starting in 1914, this building would also house the Crosby Telephone Company, which would bring telephone service to Crosby, Huffman, Highlands, Barbers Hill and Baytown.

In the lower right corner of the photo is a large stack of pipe. This was probably being used to construct the Gulf Pipeline that was being constructed along what we today call Gulf Pump Road. The small house behind the pipe was one of four homes that lined the tracks and served railroad workers. We can also see the backside of Ramsey’s Drugs (second tallest white building) at 5623 Main Street. A car is parked across Main Street in front of the Crosby Auto Supply Co. Next door to that was Dr. Cutler’s office (two-story building on the right), and even further to the right was the Sirocka Saloon. The small town was stunned in 1909, when a local boy named Larry Lynch was shot execution

style in front of the saloon. The assassin shot him in the back of the head with a double-barrel shotgun. The town was further stunned when another local kid named Walter Pira, was accused of the crime.

This is the third photo in a series, of historic photos of Crosby in honor of its upcoming bicentennial. Over the next few weeks, we will hopefully present some more historic photos. Crosby was settled in 1823, making it one of the oldest settlements in Texas. Lifetime resident Jody Fuchs, is preparing a photographic history of the community in preparation for the upcoming event, and is looking for other old or interesting photos of the community. He is working with members of the Crosby Historical Society, Donna Davenport and Klaus Duda. In June, the Historical Society will hold a meeting, where Jody will present some of the 1000’s of old photos that he has collected thus far in preparation of this project. The meeting is free and open to any interested persons, so

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please feel free to join us at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 1st at the Crosby Brethren Church.

The book will cover the entire 200-year pictorial history of the town, as well as briefly covering the surrounding communities of Highlands, Huffman, Lynchburg, Barrett, Baytown, Liberty, etc. If you have any interesting photos or artifacts of the area or its residents from 1823 until the present, please contact the Crosby Historical Society at 281-731-7010.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Luke in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What just and devout man held the baby Jesus when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple? Cyrenius, Ham, Simeon, Zara
3. Which of these books comes before the other three in the Old Testament (KJV)? Nahum, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Daniel

4. What sign sealed God's promise not to destroy the earth ever again by a flood? Solar eclipse, Rainbow, Full moon, Ocean wave
  5. From Proverbs 29 what does the fear of man bring? A snare, Redemption, Love of life, Death
  6. Whose daughter found the infant Moses in the river? David, Pharaoh, Solomon, Timothy
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Simeon; 3) Ecclesiastes; 4) Rainbow; 5) A snare; 6) Pharaoh

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I Corinthians 13:8

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Psalm: 46:1

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- Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.
- APOSTOLIC CHURCH
- First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

- Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516
- First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170
- Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

- Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409
- Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470
- Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723
- Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223
- Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

- Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.
- First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.
- Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650
- True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637
- Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

- First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564
- First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551
- First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888
- Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org
- Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557
- Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

- Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

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- Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448
- Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

- St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451
- St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422
- St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

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- Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.
- Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496
- Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742
- Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

- First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518
- Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

- Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

- Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Churhc St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT

- Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310
- Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705
- New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315
- Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000
- Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

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- Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

- Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616
- Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614
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BAPTIST

- New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082
- Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.
- Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.
- St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.
- First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.
- Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern

- Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.
- South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.
- First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.
- Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.
- First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC

- St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.
- Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- 2nd. St. Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. -281-452-4049.
- Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.
- Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

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METHODIST

- Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.
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- Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

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**ROMANS 8:18**

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and be strong.  
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aged, show respect for the  
elderly and revere your God.  
Leviticus 19:32



# ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## Thank a Mother Today

Not everyone grew up with the perfect mom, some women cannot become moms and still others have no desire to be a mom. At the same time, there are women in our community who have lost their children either to death, to prison, to the streets or have had them just vanish into thin air. Yet each one of us has multiple women in our lives who have stepped in to help us become the people we are today.

There are extended family members who have stood in the gap as well as stepmothers and adopted moms. There are older women in church, in the schools and in the community who have looked after, prayed for and supported each of us. I am a true believe that it takes a village to not only raise a child, but to survive.

I look around and I see women such as Shelley Williams, wife of Curt Williams who is the Founder and Executive Director of Youth Reach Houston. Not only has she loved on thousands of young boys who have been part of the success of Youth Reach, but as a doula, has helped over 100 babies arrive safely. In addition she and Curt have seven children of their own as well as thousands more whose lives have been made better by knowing her.

I have been more than blessed to have my biological children introduce me to young women who have endured the death of their moms, such as Ryann and Sarah.

I have one niece and after her mom passed away in 2009, I have moved into a more supportive role than ever. For many of the young homeless adults I have met, I am honored when they call me Mom. Over the 20+ years of working at the community college, I was blessed to be called Mom by international students, athletes, and colleagues. I have even thanked for being an example to many of the single moms who were ready to throw in the towel and scream. While working for the Rockets, I “adopted” many babies of season ticket holders as well as athletes who just needed a hug. When I answer my phone and hear the works “Hi Mom”, I cannot help but feel the love. As I walk down the hallway from my office and I hear Judge Stephens calling out “Hey Momma Charlotte, how are you?” I have to smile.

Even when mothers do not see eye to eye with their children, there is still a love that cannot be denied. As my mother has aged and can no longer go as much as she would like to, I find her taking more of an interest in the things I am involved in and what makes me the happiest is when someone meets her for the first time, learns about her giving community-mind heart, and says “No doubt Ms Oldham, I can tell where your daughter gets her passion for others from.”

Happy Mother's Day Mom. I love you.

## LyondellBasell sites honored for safety by American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers Association

HOUSTON, Texas, May 5, 2019 – LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB), one of the largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies in the world, today announces the receipt of three top honors for superior safety performance from the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM). In 2018, Lyondell-Basell achieved its lowest Total Recordable Industry Rate (TRIR) in the company's history, and the company's second-best Process Safety Incident Rate (PSIR).

Three LyondellBasell facilities – Channelview, Texas; Chocolate Bayou, Texas; and Clinton, Iowa – earned the Distinguished Safety Award (DSA) during the AFPM Safety Awards ceremony. The nominations were voted on by industry peers to recognize refining and petrochemical manufacturing facilities' efforts in delivering safety excellence.

“Only seven facilities in the country won the DSA this year. Receiving this level of recognition at three LyondellBasell plants which represent a small, medium and large site, shows that no matter the size of the facility or staff, we can deliver excellence every day,” said Dale Friedrichs, LyondellBasell Health Safety and Environment Vice President. “Our ultimate goal at LyondellBasell is that everyone who comes through our gates, goes home safely to their families.”

A total of nine Lyondell-Basell plants were nominated. The company earned awards in the following categories:

*Distinguished Safety Award for exemplary level of safety performance:*  
Channelview, Texas  
Chocolate Bayou, Texas  
Clinton, Iowa

*Elite Gold Award for exhibiting a superior level of safety performance and program innovation:*  
Houston Refinery, Texas  
Matagorda, Texas

*Elite Silver Award for exhibiting excellent safety performance and program innovation:*  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Victoria, Texas  
Morris, Illinois

Lake Charles, Louisiana

“It's only when you instill a comprehensive approach like Lyondell-Basell's that you get this type of outcome,” said Lara Swett, senior director, AFPM Safety Programs. “What this translates to is thousands of people who know they work in an environment where safety is a top priority and that dedication extends to the community and neighbors as well.”

Each location must undergo a rigorous screening process that includes a high bar for the total recordable incidence rate (TRIR), the amount of time employees missed work and process safety events for a calendar year. To qualify for the DSA, sites must have a recordable injury rate of 0.3 or lower and have zero significant process safety events. The DSA nominees must also go through a detailed interview session.

“Safety performance at this high level requires a diligent team effort,” said Tom Myers, Lyondell-Basell Director, Global Safety, Security and Operational Excellence. “We have representation in every category and it reflects the comprehensive commitment of all our employees and contractors to drive towards zero incidents and zero injuries.”

For several of the sites, achieving AFPM Safety Awards is a repeat performance.

“Channelview is dedicated to continually improving our programs and it's because the stellar staff here that this site has made the list again,” said Kim Foley, Channelview Complex site manager. “We take pride in our work and look out for each other and it shows in our company culture.”

Now in its 27th year, the AFPM Safety Awards event is designed to promote safety performance achievements and to serve as part of a comprehensive approach to developing accident prevention programs in the petroleum refining and petrochemical manufacturing industries.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

### Diamond Jim: "Where can I find people with manners and decency?"



Here we are...the year is 2019 and we're asking ourselves what ever happened to good manners, decency, and mutual respect. This is such a sad time in the history of the world.

In days past, as Americans we collectively knew who the enemy was and how to protect ourselves. From the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, we came together as a country (with few exceptions) and gave everything to protect liberty, freedom and human rights for Americans, as well as for people in far away lands.

Today, no matter where I travel, I hear many people having different conversations about the exact same question. They all know that many young people today display rude, disgusting, disrespectful, and perverted behavior in the clothes they wear, their immoral behavior, and the vile garbage that spews from their mouths disguised as language. The decent people of our society are dazed and confused as to how all of this has happened...how it came to be, who's to blame and, most importantly, “HOW can we fix it?!”

As any credible military strategist knows, the only way to defeat your enemy is to know who the enemy is and to know their tactics. Once you have this information, you can and must implement a counter offensive that will cripple and defeat them quickly in order to achieve success.

So, who is the enemy of our youth and who's responsible for the degradation of our society during the last two generations? We can blame television “programming”, social media, the obvious changes in

the education curriculums across our nation, politics, and even the sports and entertainment industries for leading children to believe that “celebrities” are worthy role models. I, however, choose to let the responsibility rest with the child's parents and/or grandparents. It is not society's job to raise the children to be kind, obedient, and respectful. That awesomeresponsibility rests solely with the mother and the father. They agreed to take on this enormous task the very moment they conceived that new life. It is they who the child looks to for shelter, guidance, nutrition, security, love, rewards, and punishment. It's the parents who MUST be the answer for our children, not the school, not the church, and definitely not the Government.

Being over the age of 18 does not make one an adult. And, being a biological parent does not make one a “Dad” or a “Mom”. Do all of humanity a favor....be a dad, or a mom! Teach your children to say “Please” and “Thank you”, “Yessir” or “No Ma'am”, and demand their respect while teaching them humility. But, most importantly, lead your children by your example. Show them what “manners and decency” are and how to apply these two pillars of moral character in every day life.

Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column.

*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 [jchak@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jchak@pineforestjewelry.com).*

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:  
  
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Awards, Incentives, Printing Signs, Promotional Products, Specialty Clothing & Trophies  
  
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Waste Removal Contract  
  
Bids will be received *until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 30, 2019*, at the Channelview I.S.D. Educational Support Center, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under DepartmentsBusiness OfficePurchasing.  
The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF JACINTO CITY

TO ALL INTERSTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED TWO VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE:

1. ELENO ESPINOZA AT 10230 NORVIC IS REQUESTING TO REPLACE A FENCE ON PREVIOUS STANDING FENCE LINE.

2. ERICELDA DEL ROSA & HILDA ZAMORA AT 10326 PALESTINE IS REQUESTING TO OPEN A BANQUET GATHERING ESTABLISHMENT.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETION ON MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTEREST PERSON MAY ATTEND.

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**Laura Choi, MD, FACS**  
Bariatric Surgeon

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- What are the common types of surgery?
- How do I know if I'm ready?



**Kendell Sowards, MD**  
Bariatric Surgeon

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