

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 7, NO. 21 (#275) THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Summer Festival

Saturday, June 1, 2019, 4:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Multicultural dance performances, vendors, food trucks, fun for the whole family and more. At the Box E. Pavilion, 421 US 90, Crosby, TX. 77532.

Fundraiser

VFW Post 9296, 1214 Maxey Road, Houston, TX, 77015. Saturday, June 1st. 1:00 p.m. Pork Loin, Chicken & Sausage, 2 sides, bread and desert \$10 per plate.

Chamber Luncheon

Friday, June 7, 2019 at San Jacinto College, 5800 Uvalde Rd. (inside Monument Room of the Student Center), 11:30 a.m. Speaker: Dr. Brenda Hellyer. Sponsors needed reserved to blanca@ncachamber.com

Buckshot Jamboree

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

Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club

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

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Amegy Bank on I-10, at noon. Please visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com.

North Shore Seniors Dance

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

Two flood prevention plans presented at Precinct 2 community meeting



Photo by Allan Jamail

Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2 Harris County Commissioner conducted a community meeting addressing Hurricane storm surge and flood protection.

By Allan Jamail

San Jacinto College – Central Campus, Pasadena, Texas – Wednesday, May 15, 2019 – Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2 Harris



Photo by Allan Jamail

Storm Surge Panel answering questions: L – R: Col. Len Waterworth- Texas A&M Galveston, Tony Williams Senior Director of Planning Coastal Resources Division Texas General Land Office, Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes, US Army Corps of Engineer Project Manager for the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study, Engineer Jim Blackburn representing Rice University's Severe Storm Prediction, Education & Evacuation from Disasters (SSPEED) Center.

County Commissioner sponsored a meeting to inform and obtain feedback from the communities from Galveston to Houston on the newest studies and proposals for Hurricane protection.

There were two separate plans presented, one

long term plan by the US Army Corps of Engineers costing from \$23 to \$32 billion. This plan is presently in the Study Phase, once the study is completed in about 2021 Congress then must approve the funding for the Design Phase which will take 4 or 5 years. The

Construction Phase could start in about 2025 if Congress approves the funding. The construction is estimated to take 10 to 15 years with completion in year's 2035 to 2040.

The second plan was explained by Engineer Jim Blackburn representing

Rice University's Severe Storm Prediction, Education & Evacuation from Disasters (SSPEED) Center, Charlie Penland, of Walter P. Moore Engineering and Robert M. Rogers,

See Flood Prevention Meeting, Page 6

HEART SCREENING FOR TEXAS ATHLETES

Cody Bill passes

The Cody Bill or House Bill 76 that provides an opt in opportunity for parents to have their children screened with an EKG before participating in competitive activities passed the Texas Senate on May 20 by a vote of 20-11 after clearing the House overwhelmingly.

The bill goes back to the House for an amendment before going on to the Governor who can sign it or do nothing after 15 days and the bill become law. The bill probably come into effect in 2020.

According to Scott Stephens, "We are going to have a better system. It has been seven years and two weeks to the day since Cody died in my easy chair for what we would later discover was unnecessary. So, my wife, Melanie and I said let's give this thing seven years to get passed while we show them that screenings can be done all over the state without excessive spending and save some young lives. It really is a God thing. Right now, some 100 kids among those that have been screened throughout the State of Texas have been told they need heart surgery. Some 2,600 students have been told they need to be aware of heart conditions



Dan Huberty R, House of Representatives District 27 and formerly Crosby's Representative with State Senator Carol Alvarado, D., District 6. These two carried the bill through their legislative bodies.

that could be a danger, now at least they have some knowledge of there is a condition. Right now, a Chiropractor can perform your child's screening, in 2020 we can offer parents a EKG. We are the first state to offer this, I

See Cody Bill, Page 6

Careers-on-Wheels at NS Elementary

NORTH SHORE – Under the direction of counselor Carmela Garcia, the students at North Shore Elementary participated in a unique Career Day event last Monday morning. About a dozen local businessmen and agencies set up information exhibits in the parking lot of the school, and groups of students listened to a talk about the unique qualities of that career.

Careers represented in-

cluded HPD police, EMS, Sheriff's deputies, County animal rescue, newspaper, cable installer, air conditioner repair, food truck, insurance, dentist, Constable's senior program, and more.

The event lasted about two hours, and groups of students listened to each career expert for about 15 minutes, and then rotated to another career.

See MORE photos on Page 6.



The Houston Police Department career display gained the most interest from the students, with its flashing lights, guns and bulletproof vests, and a Humvee vehicle.

North Shore Rotary Fish Fry sets record for people, dollars

NORTH SHORE – Catfish or Crawfish? It didn't matter, you had a good meal and a great time at last Saturday's 44th Annual Rotary Fish Fry. And at the same time, Rotary raised a record amount to use for community projects.

Event chairman Ryan Dagley, and club president Bill Bowes, reported that the club made about \$470,000 in ticket sales, live and silent auctions, and sponsorships.

Auctioneers Bill Busby and Scott Stephens brought record prices for the 86 lots in the Live Auction. Auction items varied from simple wine baskets, to exotic such as a 1-1/2 hour helicopter tour of Houston. Other unusual items included overnight stays at resorts, tickets for several sports events, fishing trips, signed sports memorabilia, and a 6-week-old Golden Doodle puppy!

MORE ON PAGE 5.



Rotarians Jim Wadzinski, Ryan Dagley, Raffle winner Dr. Chris Warford, and Rotarian Bill Palko view the new Toyota Tundra truck that Warford won in Saturday's drawing. About 1485 tickets were sold for the raffle for a new vehicle.



Catfish Fry or Crawfish Boil? Your Choice at the Rotary event Saturday. Over 1000 persons attended at the Rotary Pavilion behind the courthouse on Wallisville.

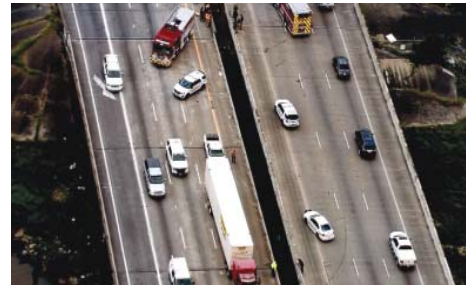
Collision on I-10 bridge flips car, kills 4 year old child

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – A tragic accident on the I-10 bridge over the San Jacinto River, between Channelview and Highlands, took the life of a 4-year-old girl and critically injured her father.

The accident occurred Wednesday morning, about 7:00 am according to authorities, when a semi truck and a sedan collided in a westbound lane.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez indicated the accident may have occurred when the semi tried to merge into the lane with the auto. Prosecutor Sean Teare, of the Harris County District Attorney's Office, said the truck swerved when a vehicle in front of the semi made an abrupt stop. Teare said that "this is just one of those convergence of events that ended in a horrible tragedy. Anybody who has driven in Houston knows that it happens all the time."

Sheriff's Sgt. Eduardo Rivera said the family was



OFFICERS at the lower edge of this aerial photo peer down at the overturned sedan car that fell through the space between the highway lanes on the I-10 bridge over the San Jacinto River. The car collided with the red truck in the photo, as they merged into the same lane, flipped and fell. The car had 3 family members inside, and the 4 year old girl was crushed under the overturned auto. (photo KPRC)

on its way home after working overnight. The father was identified as Jorge Alejandro Bonilla, 35, and the mother as Carmen Madrid, 24. Both are recent immigrants from Honduras, and both were wearing seatbelts. However, the child Bridgett Bon-

illa, 4, was not restrained in a child's seat, he said. Deputies and paramedics found her crushed under the car, and pronounced her dead.

The truck driver stayed at the scene, and to date no charges have been filed in this accident.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Channelview ISD May Students of the Month

Channelview ISD recently honored May Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon at Ray Maddy Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left: Carlos Aviles Campos (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Ashley Durbin (Channelview High School), Arlene Estrada (McMullan Elementary), Jasmine Sorto Martinez (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Antonio Segura (Alice Johnson Junior High). Front Row: Ethan Tierrablanca (Crenshaw Elementary), Xavi Saucedo (Schochler Elementary April Student), Devan Matias (Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center), Jenny Lee (Schochler Elementary), Nicole Gomez (Hamblen Elementary), Michael Rodriguez (Cobb Elementary), Oscar Quintos (DeZavala Elementary). Not Pictured: Berkeley Redmon (Anthony Aguirre Junior High).



Galena Park ISD- Dr. Angi Williams host Luncheon for Superintendent's Student Advisory Board

Galena Park ISD (GPISD) Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Angi Williams, hosted a luncheon for the members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SAB). This yearly luncheon is a small appreciation for the service these young men and women provide to the district. Throughout the school year, 25 high school students gather at the Administration Building to bring their unique perspective on issues related to student



Advisory Board scholarship winners, Iman Davis, right and Jasmine Montemayor, left.

performance, safety and security, and dropout prevention; in addition to providing feedback, the board's members perform community service projects, create an education portfolio and complete an annual book study. The members of SAB have demonstrated hard work, initiative and an admirable commitment to making Galena Park ISD the best it can be, and they are setting an outstanding example for their peers. Their insight is invaluable in providing our students with the best education possible.

We would also like to congratulate our two Student Advisory Board scholarship winners, Iman Davis from North Shore Senior High School and Jasmine Montemayor from Galena Park High School.

Galena Park ISD and Dr. Williams would like to thank the Student Advisory Board for their leadership and service this year.



Channelview ISD students receive a special award for meeting goal

Second-grade students at Harvey Brown Elementary accepted a reading challenge for the 2018-2019 school year. In an effort to motivate students and boost reading skills throughout the grade level, East Houston Empowerment Council and Changing Young Children's Lives through Education (CYCLE), joined forces to reward Channelview ISD students with bikes and helmets for reaching their literacy goals.

The CYCLE program was designed to ensure success for all participating students. Stakeholders joined forces as teachers, parents, and students collaborated to create personal goals. At the conclusion of the goal-setting process, students signed a contract, making a commitment to work hard to achieve their goals. "The Channelview Independent School District believes in the power



A total of 115 bicycles were awarded to second-grade students at Harvey Brown Elementary School.

of teamwork and collaboration," said Superintendent Greg Ollis. "When parents, community, and schools come together to celebrate academic success, students always win!"

The Harvey Brown Elementary School Library was filled with bicycles donated by Changing Young Children's Lives through

Education (CYCLE).

CYCLE motivates thousands of children at Title One schools in the Greater Houston area to improve their literacy skills and achieve in the classroom. To date, the organization has awarded over 150,000 bikes to deserving students.

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OPINION

TEXAS
SENATE NEWS
By Richard Lee

Senate approves
constitutional prohibition
on income tax

(Austin) Voters could enshrine a ban on a personal income tax in the state constitution under a measure approved by the Senate late Monday. Texas' lack of an income tax is one of the major drivers of the state's economic success, said bill sponsor and Prosper Senator Pat Fallon. "Every day more people move to Texas seeking an opportunity to make their lives better for themselves and their families," he said. "A big part of that is they know that a larger portion of what they earn will be kept in their pockets and not go to the government because Texas has a climate that is business-friendly, low-tax, high-prosperity and we have reasonable regulation." Many Texans, said Fallon, are under the mistaken impression that the state constitution explicitly prohibits a personal income tax, but it's more complicated than that. At issue is the "Bullock Amendment," named for the late Lt. Governor Bob Bullock, who pushed for the amendment in the early 90s. It requires that any personal income tax proposal be first approved by a majority of Texas voters. While that's not likely, as Fallon cited recent polling showing that more than 70 percent of Texans oppose an income tax, there is a way it could still become law. Any statute can pass the Legislature with a simple majority, meaning that 51 percent of lawmakers could hypothetically put the question of creating an income tax before voters. It takes a 2/3s majority of the Legislature to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot, however, so any future bills that seek to repeal this proposed income tax ban would require a supermajority of lawmakers in both houses.

One issue raised by those opposed to the legislation is the unintended impact it could have on the business franchise tax. The resolution would place this exact language in the constitution: "The legislature may not impose a tax on the net incomes of individuals, including an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income." A possible issue arises due to the use of the term "individual" in place of "natural person" as exists in the Bullock Amendment today.

According to the fiscal impact statement by the Legislative Budget Board, the term could open the door to legal challenges of the franchise tax. "The term 'individuals' is not defined and could be interpreted to include entities that are currently subject to the state's franchise tax," it reads.

There are places in state law where the definition of "person" includes a corporation or other business interest. Subject to a lawsuit, if a court rules that "individual" means "person", and affirms that "person" applies to corporations, then it could theoretically strike down all or part of the levy. The Comptroller's biennial revenue estimate projects that tax will bring in more than \$6 billion in revenue over the next two years, so a court ruling exempting some, or all, businesses from the franchise tax could introduce a significant deficit into the budget.

In response, Fallon emphasized that his proposal could only apply to personal income taxes. "The legislative intent of HJR 38 is that an individual is just like what it sounds: a single human being," he said. "There's no case law we can find where an individual is described by anything other than a single human being." More than that, he said, the amendment couldn't apply to the franchise tax. "The margins tax is not an income tax, the margins tax is a tax on gross margins," said Fallon. "So even if this didn't say 'individual' and said something else, it's still not the same thing."

Regardless of potential court rulings, other members worried that the amendment could be tying the hands of future legislatures. Brownsville Senator Eddie Lucio said that while he personally opposes an income tax, future lawmakers may see a need. "If they're going to vote to not have a state income tax in the future, they're shutting down an option for other legislatures," he said. "I'm not for shutting down options." Lucio said he preferred an interim study on the issue, so voters know the exact impact of what could effectively be an irreversible ban on a state income tax might be. Ultimately, the measure passed the Senate with the 2/3s approval necessary to be placed on the November ballot.

HIGHLANDS

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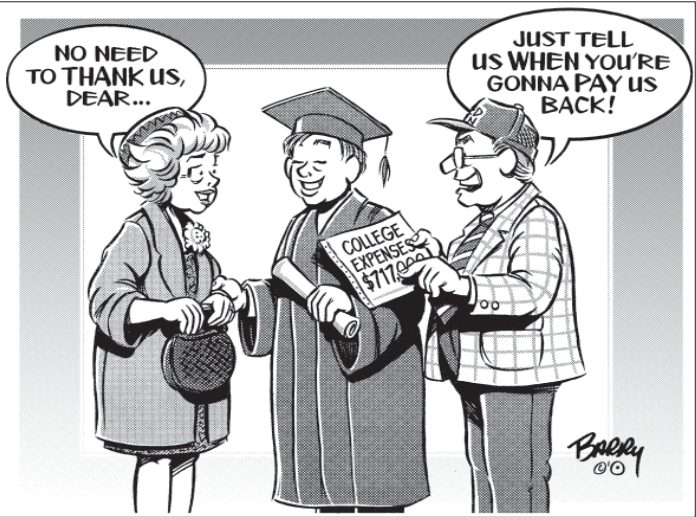
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MEMORIAL DAY 2019



Much remains on table as
Legislature begins final week

AUSTIN — As the Texas Legislature entered the final week of its 140-day 86th regular session, Texans continued to wait for lawmakers to wrap up priority issues: the 2020-2021 state budget, property tax reform and school finance reform.

Of the more than 7,000 bills Senate and House members have filed proposing to create, amend or repeal a law, only 56 had passed and been forwarded to the governor's desk for final approval as of Sunday, May 19. This is a low number of bills to have survived the threshing floors at both ends of the Capitol at this point in the session. Lawmakers with bones to pick with each other have used and may continue to use parliamentary maneuvers to speed or slow the movement of bills between now and May 27, the last day of the session.

Meanwhile, last week, the House and Senate passed and forwarded to the governor the following bills:

—HB 253 by Rep. Jessica Farrar, D-Houston, provides for development and implementation of a five-year strategic plan to improve access support services for postpartum depression.

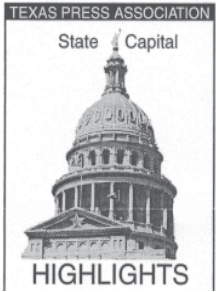
—HB 621 by Rep. Victoria Neave, D-Dallas, prohibits an employer from taking any adverse employment action against a child-care or education professional who reports possible child abuse or neglect.

—HB 869 by Rep. Cole Hefner, R-Mount Pleasant, provides for the prosecution of the interception, use or disclosure of certain communications, notably credit card skimming, as organized crime.

—HB 1218 by Rep. Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth, requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to establish a schedule for the distribution of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as "SNAP" benefits, that ensures the even distribution of the benefits each month over a 28-day period.

—HB 1631 by Rep. Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford, prohibits a local authority from implementing or operating a red light

STATE CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



traffic signal enforcement system, but a local authority may continue to operate a system under the terms of a contract until the contract expires. The law allowing cities to install and operate red light enforcement systems became law in 2007.

—SB 442 by Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, requires that insurance companies warn residential and commercial property policyholders if their policy does not cover flood damage so they may better prepare for future natural disasters.

—SB 649 by Sen. Zafirini, D-Laredo, seeks to reduce the volume of waste deposited in landfills by requiring the creation of a plan to stimulate the use of recyclable materials as feedstock in processing and manufacturing.

—SB 962 by Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, extends provisions in current law through 2034 requiring that the state's economic stabilization fund maintain a sufficient minimum balance before constitutionally approved transfers to the state highway fund may be executed.

Jobless rate drops again

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased another tenth of a point to 3.7 percent for the month of April, the Texas Workforce Commission reported May 17.

Growth in the Texas economy continued in

April, with 28,900 seasonally adjusted non-farm positions added over the month. April was the 108th consecutive month of annual growth for total non-farm employment.

"Our state's ongoing success is linked to the innovation and competitiveness of employers in a range of industries providing Texans more opportunities to demonstrate their world-class skills," said TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughes. "In fact, Chief Executive Magazine has named Texas the Best State for Business for the 15th year in a row."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded April's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 1.7 percent, followed by the Odessa MSA at 2.0 percent. The Amarillo MSA recorded the third-lowest rate: 2.1 percent.

Sales tax holidays are set

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on May 15 announced state sales tax holidays would be conducted across the Lone Star State May 25-27.

According to comptroller's office, shoppers will save about more than \$12 million in state and local sales tax during the Memorial Day weekend sales tax holidays.

Products displaying a "WaterSense" label or logo may be purchased tax-free for personal or business use. These include shower heads, bathroom sink faucets and accessories, toilets, urinals and landscape irrigation controls.

Certain products displaying the "ENERGY STAR" logo can be purchased tax-free, including air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less, refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dishwashers, dehumidifiers and clothes washers.

Social
Security
Matters

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Ask Rusty – What
Social Security
Benefit Will My
Wife Get If I Die?

Dear Rusty: I am 69 and have been holding off on collecting my Social Security payment until I'm 70 on the assumption that my wife would collect my benefit if I died first. My thought was that she would collect the monthly benefit I will earn at age 70 in the event of my death. Now a Social Security employee is telling me she would only be entitled to what my benefit would have been at age 66 (my full retirement age). That is about an \$800 drop in monthly benefits from what I thought it would be. My wife is a year younger than me, much healthier than I am, has mostly worked part time and she started collecting her SS at age 62 and gets about \$700 a month. So, is the Social Security employee correct? Signed: Concerned Husband

Dear Concerned: The Social Security employee you spoke with might have misunderstood your question. It sounds like the answer you were given pertained to the benefit your wife is entitled to as your spouse while you are living, which is based upon your "primary insurance amount," or "PIA" (your PIA is the amount you were due at your full retirement age, or "FRA").

When you claim your increased benefit at age 70 your wife can apply for her spousal benefit, which will be based on your FRA benefit amount (not the increased amount you'll get by waiting until age 70 to claim). She gets that spousal benefit if it is more than she is receiving on her own work record, which from what you've told me it will be. What actually happens is that she will continue to get her own benefit and she will also get a supplemental amount to make her total Social Security benefit equal to what she is entitled to as your spouse. That amount will be a bit less than half of your FRA benefit because she took her own benefit at age 62 (claiming Social Security early doesn't only affect one's own benefit, it affects their spousal benefit also). The spousal benefit your wife gets when you claim at age 70 will continue for as long as you are living.

But the Social Security benefit rules are different for your wife as your widow and your survivor. If you predecease your wife, her spousal benefit from your work record, as described above, will discontinue and she will be switched to her survivor's benefit. That survivor's benefit will be 100% of the benefit amount you were receiving at your death, instead of the lower amount she was receiving as your spouse when you were living. So, your original assumption is correct – as your widow your wife will get 100% of the increased benefit you were receiving when you pass. The Social Security employee was incorrect by telling you that, if you pass, your wife will only get what you were due at your full retirement age; instead she'll get the full amount of your current Social Security benefit (your full age 70 benefit, plus any COLA adjustments made after your claim).

Scenes from the 44th Annual North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil

Saturday, May 18, 2019 North Shore Rotary Pavilion



Scott Stephens and his wife, Melodie, are Major Donors Level 1 this year for North Shore Rotary, above he is serving as master of ceremonies for the 44th Annual Famous Fish Fry and Crawfish Boil at the North Shore Pavilion behind the Jim Fonteno Courthouse and introducing two other folks from Crosby, Bill Busby, the auctioneer and the very talented Madison Boaz who sang the National Anthem.



North Shore Rotary at their 44th Annual Famous Fish Fry and Crawfish Boil on May 18. Fundraiser had some of their scholarship recipients show up to bolster moral for the Live Auction on Saturday at the Rotary Pavilion near the Jim Fonteno Courthouse on Wallisville Rd. Major Sponsors were Community Toyota, and Ryan and Isis Dagley.



President-Elect and Fish Fry chairman Ryan Dagley, and Sean Silman, pull the winning raffle ticket from the 1450 stubs in the drum.



Winner of the Toyota Tundra pickup truck was Dr. Chris Warford from Baytown. At left, Rotarians Jim Wadzinski, Ryan Dagley, Dr. Warford, and Bill Palko.



A huge crowd attended the Fish Fry, and Live and Silent Auctions. The Rotary Club raised almost \$470,000 to be used for community projects.

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--Jeremiah 17:14

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I Corinthians 13:8

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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

Moore receives James
Becker Thompson award

Kendricka (Kiki) Moore, special education teacher and department head at Goose Creek Memorial High School, has been selected as the James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019. The 44th recipient, Moore joins the group of excellent teachers chosen for the award, established by Dr. Richard Thomson, a retired ophthalmologist, to honor his late brother James, who benefited from special education services. Moore received her associate degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado Tech while working as a paraprofessional at Ross S. Sterling High School for the Therapeutic Behavior Center. As a result of her

work with students, she decided to get her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice as well as her special education certification. In December 2018, she received her master's degree from Lamar University. Besides her work as a behavior support teacher for the past four years, Moore coaches freshman girls basketball and track. "I like that my job requires me to build a rapport with my students, and it gives me a chance to know a little about their background, so that when they're upset it allows me to calm them down and get them back on track to continue their education in the school setting," Moore said.

Kendricka (Kiki) Moore, special education teacher from Goose Creek Memorial High School, is the 44th recipient of the James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year Award.

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What we suffer now
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

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the 'Shirley Temple' diamond?"



The Shirley Temple Blue Diamond Is Back

(Courtesy of National Jeweler)

New York—The Shirley Temple Blue Diamond failed to sell at auction in 2016, but now it's found a new life.

The actress' father purchased the cushion-modified brilliant-cut fancy deep blue diamond, weighing 9.54 carats with VVS2 clarity, in 1940 to commemorate the 12-year-old's latest film, "The Blue Bird."

She owned the ring until her death in 2014. Her family put the diamond up for sale at Sotheby's April 2016 jewelry auction in New York, where it was predicted to garner between \$25 and \$35 million, though it didn't find a buyer.

That's when Windsor Jewelers stepped in. The antiques dealer bought the stone from Temple's family but decided to make an improvement before putting it back on the market.

"We showed it to some of the best cutters in the world and said there's a potentiality for it to go internally flawless," explained Windsor Jewelers President Paul Lubetsky.

Cutting the stone, and

slightly lowering the carat weight in the process, was not a decision taken lightly.

"Polishing such an important diamond involves an immense amount of challenges and risk," Windsor Jewelers' Principal Avi Fattal said. "The stone was thoroughly studied by the cutter and a team of gemologists for weeks before deciding to put this very rare diamond on the wheel.

"The color of a blue diamond, and in some cases, quality, can be drastically changed even with the slightest movement. We ultimately decided to go ahead and re-polish the stone to try to improve the clarity."

What Fattal described as many "nerve-wracking months" of polishing that involved several visits and consultations with the Gemological Institute of America resulted in not only an internally flawless stone—now weighing 9.3 carats—but also a richer blue color.

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 jmillis@pineforestjewelry.com.


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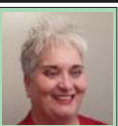

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Open Lines of Communication

Another week and another shooting death that could have been avoided. On Wednesday, we awoke to the tragic news that a group of teenagers and young adults were shooting at a local house. The homeowner, doing what many would do, walked outside and then in efforts to protect his family and home, opened up and fired a round of bullets. The result was a young man was killed.

Earlier in the week a Harris County Sheriff Deputy was riding home and he was stopped by a distraught woman. She started telling him about her son who was in the house causing problems. About that time, the young man yelled out for the deputy to leave. As the deputy was trying to explain that he was trying to help, it is alleged that the young man fired a shot at the officer.

When a community member reached out for assistance for her son, many people offered to assist. One person offered to take care of the financial needs and yet, 3 weeks later, on the day the money was needed, funds had not been paid. By the grace of God, a local business owner stepped up and took care of the financial need. A lady in the community with financial burdens on top of being legally blind reached out for assistance. Unfortunately, the property management underquoted the amount due and before community resources could be located, the lady faced an eviction notice.

Hurricane Harvey brought about many

issues which residents are still dealing with even today. Almost weekly someone mentions that in spite of all of the advertisements, they fell through the cracks and are no better off today than they were immediately after the hurricane.

Many community members cannot afford reliable transportation. There are often questions about why there is no public transportation in our area. There are still a few residents in the area who remember that in the early 70's when HouTran (predecessor of Metro) held an open forum and surveyed those in attendance and the result was that most people did not feel there was a need for public transportation. By the late 90's the community had grown as well as the need. Yet now in 2019, the routes have not been expanded. Let me mention they cannot be expanded without hearings, a vote and a sales tax increase. And unfortunately while there is a need, there have not been enough residents put their need into writing with authorities to start the process.

What is the answer? Unless we take time to get involved and open the line of communication, we will continue to have needs and continue to see situations that appear hopeless. I encourage every reader over the age of 18, to register to vote. Then take the time to put it in writing to each elected leader who represents you as to the needs you have. At the same time, offer to volunteer to improve the community. PLEASE do your part in opening the lines of communication.

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Career Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Young scholars learning about journalism and the newspaper career.



Two very popular career exhibits were the ROCO food truck, and the Rodeo Dental exhibit.



These older students wanted to hear details about journalism, and its use in newspapers and TV news.

Flood Prevention Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Rogers Partners.

Blackburn said their plan named the Galveston Bay Park Plan is different from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to build 71 miles of barriers along the Texas coast and instead their proposal is for a 25-foot-high wall running across Galveston Bay and barrier islands. He said construction could start almost immediately and completed by year 2027 with a total cost of \$3 to \$5 billion.

Blackburn wants to use the current dredging spoils from deepening and widening the Houston Ship Channel to build-up land barriers islands along the storm surge routes to lessen flooding inland from Galveston to Houston.

Commissioner Garcia, whose county precinct includes many of the communities along Galveston Bay and the ship channel said, "Hurricane protection is one of my top priorities that's why in the beginning of my first term I'm moving forward to get some progress started. For years we've heard so many times how something should be done, but we never see any progress, it's now time we must begin making progress before we're hit again without any protection."

Garcia expressed his excitement on the Galveston Bay Park Plan because of how quickly it could be built. He hoped the New Orleans' levees and gates could be a model for the Houston-Galveston Region.

The Storm Surge Panel answered questions from the 200 plus standing room only attendees in the college's music hall.

Recovery costs for Hurricane Ike in 2008 was \$38 billion and in 2017 Hurricane Harvey that didn't hit Houston directly had a recovery cost is \$125 billion because of the 4 feet of rain that fell over a few days and flooded the city with places reporting 12 to 15 feet deep.

Cody Bill passes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started getting calls from California, Florida and Massachusetts almost immediately to ask how we got it passed. Since the bill passed the Senate, I have heard from schools as small as Gilmer to Dallas ISD (that has 22 high schools and 32 middle schools to ask how to set up for first year. The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Foundation has been doing first year screenings for free but at most it is to cost parents

that opt in about \$10 to have their child screened. The main thing is, I want to thank Dan Huberty and Senator Carol Alvarado for their help in getting this bill passed."

There is still need to continue first time athletes, band members, UIL competitors for screening with EKG, according to Stephens, the fundraiser for The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Foundation will be in August.

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Galena Park ISD Board of Trustee recognize Cloverleaf Elementary parent volunteer

During the May Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD (GPISD) recognized Elena Rodriguez for being an exceptional volunteer at Cloverleaf Elementary School.

Mrs. Rodriguez has served as a volunteer at Cloverleaf Elementary for 11 years and currently has one child enrolled in GPISD. Although her child is now in middle school, she continues to demonstrate her dedication to Cloverleaf Elementary and its community. This year, she has completed over 360 volunteer hours on tasks such as laminating, cutting, decorating bulletin boards, cooking for countless events and assisting the school counselor with various tasks.

"Mrs. Rodriguez serves humbly without expecting anything in return and always has a positive attitude and smile," Ms. Garcia, Cloverleaf Elementary counselor, said.

Mrs. Rodriguez's time and efforts in support of Cloverleaf Elementary School are very much appreciated and valued.



Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees Recognize North Shore Senior High Criminal Justice Students



At the May Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD Recognized the North Shore Senior High School Criminal Justice students for their outstanding performance at the Texas Public Service Association (TPSA) Criminal Justice State contest.

The TPSA Criminal Justice State contest allows students to experience real world simulated scenarios which focus on public serves areas of law enforcement, forensic science, security, corrections

and court systems. The students competed against hundreds of students throughout the state. They placed in the following categories:

1st place in 911 taker: Mikenzie Benaim

2nd place in disturbance call: Ronquira Jones and Deyma Rosales

2nd place in felony traffic stop: Esperanza Saucedo, Maria Rios, Os'Shanique Thompson and Jesus Castaneda

2nd place in inmate pro-

cessing: Ronquira Jones

3rd place in misdemeanor traffic stop: Jessenia Hernandez

A special congratulations to Mikenzie Benaim who has been named State Vice President and Britney Tovar who has been selected as the State Treasure.

Congratulations to Mr. Kenneth Fisher, lead criminal justice teacher; Mr. Charlie McCullum, criminal justice teacher co-sponsor and the criminal justice students.

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