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

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THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

East Side Veterans Flag Day Ceremony

Hosted by Eastside Veterans and Community Bank of Texas. Friday, June 15, 2019 from 9 am - 2 pm at 6202 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas, 77532. Flag presentation by Baytown Ceremonial Team. Free hot dogs and drinks to all Veterans.

Cancer Survivors Celebration Houston Methodist Hosp.

At Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, 4301 Garth Rd., Baytown, 77521. Wednesday, June 26, 2019 from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Celebration of life with music, photo booth, lunch and Cancer walk. See AD, page 8 for details.

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.

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.

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.

Governor Abbott signs SB2 Property Tax Reforms into law



GOVERNOR ABBOTT SIGNS SB2 BILL IN AUSTIN RESTAURANT (PHOTO: Office Of The Governor)

AUSTIN - June 12, 2019 – Governor Greg Abbott today signed into law Senate Bill 2, which delivers significant property tax reforms that will cap property tax increases without voter approval and provide tax reform to homeowners and businesses across Texas. The Governor hosted the bill signing at Wally's Burger Express in Austin, TX. Wally's Burger Express is a family-owned

business founded in 1980 that has been struggling due to skyrocketing property taxes. Just this year, Wally's property taxes increased 44%.

The Governor was joined at the bill signing by Robert Mayfield, the owner of Wally's Burger Express, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Representatives Dustin Burrows, Terry Canales,

and John Zerwas, and Senators Kelly Hancock, Dawn Buckingham and Charles Perry.

"We made it clear from the outset of this session that our goal was not to simply mask the problem of skyrocketing property taxes, but to make transformative changes that would provide meaningful

See Property Tax Reform, Page 8

11-yr-old boy dies in shooting in Channelview

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez was visibly shaken by the events he was reporting, at a shooting in Channelview that resulted in the death of an 11-year-old boy.

The shooting occurred last Sunday, about 4:20 a.m. at a home at 15117 N. Brentwood Street, off Dell Dale. Sheriff Gonzalez said it appeared someone with an assault rifle fired into the home, perhaps not knowing that an adult and five children were sleeping inside. It was not known if the assailant was walking or driving past the house.

A neighbor described the sound of about 22 shots, that were fired into

the house and cars parked in the driveway.

The 11-year-old was dead at the scene, but the other occupants were not injured.

Sheriff Gonzalez called the shooters "cowards" for shooting "into a home not knowing who was in there. They shot an innocent child that was there, and this is uncalled for." Gonzalez vowed to find them and bring them to justice.

The house had been occupied only a few months by the current family, and it was reported that the previous occupants had apparently been involved in some criminal activities at the house.



OVER 20 SHOTS were fired into this house and adjacent cars on N. Brentwood in Channelview.

HARRIS COUNTY CLERK DIANE TRAUTMAN ANNOUNCEMENT

New procedures simplify Primary Voting

County Clerk Trautman offers Joint Primary Dem. or Rep. Registration

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at the Harris County Clerk's office, a new speedier and private process was presented by Clerk Diane Trautman, Michael Winn, Administrator of Elections and Ms. Teneshia Hudspeth, Director of Communications.

Trautman said after numerous Primary Elections she's heard of voters not voting because they

See PRIMARY VOTING, page 3



A mock demonstration by Harris County Clerk employee Margaret Aguilar (left) posing as a voter using a touchscreen tablet privately discloses her political party affiliation to both Democrat C. Patrick McIlvain (right) and Republican Kathryn Gray both election clerks in order to vote in a Primary Election. (PHOTO ALLAN JAMAIL)



County Clerk Diane Trautman (left) and Michael B. Winn, Director of Elections explaining the new procedure of how voter's will be able to privately declare their political party's affiliation. (PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL)

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

State Rep. Ana Hernandez Session Wrap-up

After months of proposed legislation, negotiations, and passionate debate, the 86th Legislative Session has come to an end.

The decisions made and laws passed by the Legislature will direct our state for the next two years until the next legislative session in 2021. Until then, we will continue to work together to identify acute needs that must be addressed. I am proud to have passed several key pieces of legislation addressing a range of concerns including public safety, quality of life, and workforce development. These new laws will make a lasting, positive difference in our state.

Over the course of the next several months, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives will present each committee with their interim charges in preparation for the next legislative session. As a



REP. HERNANDEZ WITH NORTH SHORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

member of the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures, and the House Committee on State Affairs, I look forward to working on your behalf during the interim on critical issues facing our state. As we seek to resolve

real challenges, I am eager to advocate for District 143 and to work with you in preparing our policy priorities for the 87th Legislative Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Texas House of Representa-

tives. I welcome any and all suggestions on how we can better advocate for you. It has been and continues to be my pleasure to represent you in Austin.

*Kind regards,
Ana Hernandez*

Passing the State's Biennial Budget

The Legislature approved a \$250.7 billion two-year budget with House Bill 1, a 16% increase in spending over the last biennium. Some key highlights include:

- Over \$100 million dollars for school safety improvements;
- \$7.7 billion dollars for substance abuse services;

*See Session Recap,
Page 3*

COMMUNITY NEWS

National History Day Competitors Visit With Babin



Goose Creek CISD students competing at National History Day in Washington, D.C. visit with U.S. Congressman Brian Babin in his office at the Capitol. Pictured are Brandon Broussard, Tramy Nguyen, Babin, Ruth Patino, Reese Benoit and (back right) Reese's brother Riley Benoit.

Goose Creek CISD swears in new Board members



Shae Cottar is sworn in as a Goose Creek CISD School Board member, representing District 7, at the recent regular board meeting.



Tiffany Guy takes her Oath of Office, representing District 6 on the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees.

Jessica Woods, signs her Oath of Office after being sworn in for a second term, representing District 3 on the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees.



Rodeo Wrap-up



Flanked by Rodeo Chairman Ricky Larkin and Eddie Glover of the Rodeo Board are the scholarship recipients for 2010 year.



2019 Crosby Fair & Rodeo Grand and Reserve Exhibitors.



Crosby Fair & Rodeo recognizes the service of Kris Dalquist here with husband Lonny at left and Mr. Gillespie at right with a bracelet.



Above Jayden Mathney clung on for dear life to win Thursday's Mutton Bustin'.



Gene Hicks Senior was recognized for his many years of service and dedication to the Crosby Fair & Rodeo with a Lifetime Membership Award at the 2019 Livestock Auction.



Pink Heals Foundation Houston Methodist Baytown Cancer Center is pleased with their check for \$130,000 even though the photographed one is a bit dated.

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

2019 North Channel Little League Minor All Stars

Congratulations!!! To the North Channel Little League All Stars for being the runner-up in the Minor 9, 10 and 11 Year Old Division of the 2019 District 17 All Star tournament. The team made a great run for the Championship playing 6 games in four days after losing the first game of the double elimination tournament. Great job guys and thanks for all the hard work!!

Pictured from front, Left to right: Nicolas Gomez, Athan Castillo, Daniel Correa, Damian Correa, Juan Sias and Daniel Olivas. Middle, left to right Adrian Olivas, Alex Rodriguez, Kevin Guerra, Fabian Beltran, Ronald Ponce, Ivan Espino and Josue Rebolivar. Coaches from top left to right Elizabeth Rodriguez, David Rodriguez, Roland Rodriguez, Rudy Castillo and Nestor Olivas.



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia and House Democrats Pass Historic Immigration Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 4, 2019 – Congresswoman Garcia (TX-29) joined fellow Democrats to vote and pass in the U.S. House of Representatives H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, the most sweeping and historic immigration reform legislation of the past 25 years.

“For the last two years, the Trump Administration has recklessly thrown the lives of DREAMers, TPS,

and DED recipients into uncertainty and disarray. At every step, the President has attempted to deny their rights, block their applications, and deport them from this country. That’s why myself and House Democrats are acting now to end this inhumane and unwise treatment of immigrants with the Dream and Promise Act,” Rep. Garcia said. “Today, I am proud to vote

for this historic piece of legislation as an original co-sponsor.”

Rep. Garcia continued, “With this bill, we will change the lives of hundreds of thousands of Texas and US residents who are Americans in their hearts and have only known this country as their home. DREAMers, TPS, and DED recipients are essential components of our communities and the economy. They’re our

neighbors, friends, and colleagues, and with the passage of Dream and Promise Act, we’ve renewed our commitment to them and the American Dream.”

The Dream and Promise Act creates a pathway to citizenship for eligible DREAMers and those with TPS or DED status. If made into law, it will also repeal outdated policies that penalize states for extending rights of residency to undocumented individuals. This legislation provides legal protections for immigrants to prevent deportations and ensure the rights and dignity of all living under these designations.

The bill passed the House of Representatives and will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

Session Recap,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- \$86 million in rate increases for community care and Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) providers, pediatric home therapists and pediatric private duty nursing;
- \$48 million for rate increases and cost growth for Early Childhood Intervention, \$11.7 million for salary increases to hire and retain Adult Protective Services workers and support Community Based Care expansion for foster care;

- A 24.3% increase in women's health funding over the previous biennium;
- \$1.7 billion to develop a Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund and a Flood Infrastructure Fund to support long-term Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts;

- \$6.1 billion to TXDOT for non-tolled highway construction;
- An additional \$86 million for transportation maintenance;
- \$223.7 million for the driver's license program to reduce wait times, improve customer service, hire new employees, and add three additional driver's license offices statewide;

- \$500 million in formula funding increases for higher education institutions;
- An additional \$5.9 million to support community college operating budgets;
- \$219 million for various special education programs to comply with federal maintenance of financial support;

- \$56.6 million to eliminate the rape kit backlog and increase crime lab capacity;
- \$8.6 million for rape crisis centers and SANE nurses to the Office of the Attorney General; and

- \$58.4 million in funding to address human trafficking across multiple agencies.

Additionally, the Legislature made supplemental appropriations to support educators through Senate Bill 500, which include:

- Dedicate \$589 million to TRS to provide retired teachers with a \$2,000 13th check on average;
- Appropriating \$524 million to make TRS actuarially sound, which needed to happen before the state can provide a cost of living adjustment down the line; and

- Providing an additional \$230.8 million to cover shortfalls at TRS and ensure retired teachers' healthcare premiums do not increase.

Property Tax Reform

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 2, which requires cities and counties to receive voter approval before raising 3.5% more property tax revenue than the previous year. Community college districts, hospital districts, and local entities taxing at 2.5 cents per \$100 valuation or less would need to hold an election to surpass 8% in revenue growth.

Public School Finance Reform

The Legislature also passed House Bill 3, a sweeping measure that devotes \$4.5 billion to education reforms, \$2 billion for dynamic teacher pay raises, and will reduce recapture by \$3.6 billion. Additionally, the bill provides \$5.1 billion in property tax relief by increasing the state's share in education funding, mandating ongoing school district property tax reductions, and requiring districts to conduct efficiency audits to guarantee that taxpayer dollars are being used responsibly.

Public school funding in the bill will be utilized to support full-day Pre-K for

eligible 4-year-olds, increase financial support for programs to educate students in low-income communities, improve dyslexia programs and encourage the creation of dual-language initiatives.

The bill also increases the minimum teacher salary schedule, and requires school districts to use a portion of the basic allotment increase on salary increases and benefits for teachers, librarians, counselors and nurses, with any other additional remaining dollars to be utilized to support all employees as school district leadership feels is appropriate.

EDUCATION

- House Bill 1702, creating a foster care liaison at institutions to help students who were formerly in the foster care system;

- House Bill 3906, reducing testing stress on teachers and students by allowing STAAR and end-of-course assessments to be administered in multiple parts over more than one day. Additionally, this bill limits the number of multiple choice questions that can be included on STAAR tests, eliminates the stand-alone writing tests in grades 4 and 7, requires the state to develop a plan to transition to electronic assessments, and establishes a pilot program to explore the possibility of replacing the STAAR with a different test; and
- Senate Bill 25, streamlining the transfer of credits between community colleges and general academic institutions.

SECOND PART ON
SESSION WRAP
UP, NEXT WEEK

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Primary Voting Procedures,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

felt uncomfortable stating their party's affiliation out loud to where others could hear. She said, “This new process is to remove any fear from one declaring their party affiliation out loud; the voter will have complete anonymity. This is not a partisan issue to help either party separately; this is to make all voters of both parties feel more comfortable.”

Michael Winn, Administrator of Elections’ said, “combing the amount of staff from both parties to run just one polling location allows for fewer clerks needed. This also reduces the amount of party specific staff needed at the locations but at the same time will also increase the number of locations to which staff can be assigned.”

The use of Election Day

Vote Centers (EDVC) another new program of Trautman's allows voters to vote anywhere regardless of their home precinct which will save them time by not having to stand in lines, they can go vote at any location that's doesn't have a long line. The EDVC will remove the problem of a voter not getting to vote because of going to the wrong location.

The process should reduce the amount of Provisional Ballots cast. One of the leading causes of a Provisional Ballot is because voters went to the wrong location due to their registered precinct or party selection. Allowing all voters to vote anywhere they choose and make their own party selection will overall reduce the number of provisional's needed.

Trautman said, “Having a Joint Primary Election will reduce voter confusion and make the entire process less stressful for the voters and allow them to perform the most important right they possess, the right to VOTE,” she emphasized.

According to Teneshia Hudspeth, Director of Communications she said the county already has the necessary equipment to implement this process and said it's estimated to save tax dollars of about \$275,000.

The Joint Election process has been reviewed by both the Democratic and Republican Party Chairs, it will only take effect upon the approval of both chairs. The deadline for approval is July 15, 2019.

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OPINION



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

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty – Older Father Seeks Benefits for Young Children and Wife

Dear Rusty: I was 62 in February and my 44-year-old wife and I have 3 young daughters ages 5, 7 and 13. My 2019 income via wages will be about \$98,000. My wife does not work outside our home. In round numbers my Social Security full retirement benefit is estimated to be about \$3,000 per month if I wait until 2023. I understand I am eligible to start receiving reduced benefits at age 62 and I could also collect an additional 50% up to 80% of my full retirement benefit for my young daughters until they graduate from high school. My questions are: What determines where in the range of between and 150% and 180% my extra benefit would be? Would my benefit be reduced because of my income (I know my benefits may be taxed but the question is, will my benefits be reduced)? Finally, is my wife also eligible to receive any benefits because we have 3 young children? Signed: Older Father

Dear Older Father: In your situation the Family Maximum would apply and there is a rather complex formula which Social Security uses to determine that maximum. The computation is based upon your "primary insurance amount" (PIA), which is the amount you are entitled to at your full retirement age (regardless of when you claim). Your PIA is broken into 4 parts, and a percentage of each part is taken as an amount which contributes to your family maximum. The four parts (in 2019) and percentages taken are: 150% of the first \$1184 of your PIA; 272% of your PIA amount between \$1185 and \$1708; 134% of your PIA amount between \$1709 and \$2228; and 175% of your PIA amount over \$2228. Your family maximum will be the sum of those computations. What's left after your PIA is deducted is equally apportioned among your other eligible beneficiaries. For example, if your estimated 2023 PIA is \$3000, using the above formula your family maximum would be about \$5245. After subtracting your PIA amount, there would be about \$2245 to be apportioned evenly among your 4 eligible

dependents (\$561 each). But no dependent benefits can be paid until you start collecting your benefits. Once your benefits start, your wife will be eligible to collect "child in care" spousal benefits, but the amount will be limited by the Family Maximum as described above. You already know that your children can no longer receive benefits when they graduate high school (or turn 19). When a child is no longer receiving benefits, the amount they were receiving is added proportionately to your remaining dependents. When your youngest daughter reaches 16 years of age, your wife can no longer receive child-in-care spousal benefits, but she will be eligible for regular spousal benefits when she turns 62. Yes, your Social Security benefit will be reduced by your earnings if you claim SS benefits before your full retirement age and your current earnings are over the annual earnings limit. If you claim in 2019, you will not be entitled to benefits for any month you earn more than \$1470. After this first year, you'll be subject to the annual earnings limit (which changes yearly but for 2019 is \$17,640) and exceeding that limit will mean that SS will withhold \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. In the year you reach your full retirement age (which is 66), the earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times (\$46,920 for 2019) and the penalty is less (\$1 for every \$3 over the limit), and once you reach your full retirement age there is no longer an earnings limit. But if you exceed the annual limit, SS will withhold future benefits until they have recovered what is due. But here's a big red flag: anyone collecting benefits on your record will also be "contingently liable" for any overpayment made to you, so their benefits will be withheld as well until Social Security recovers any overpayment as a result of you exceeding the earnings limit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance.



Governor signs school safety, mental health bill

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on June 6 signed three bills into law to improve school safety and expand access to mental health resources.

"After the horrific shooting (at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2018) and the subsequent school safety roundtables, I made school safety an emergency item to help prevent a tragedy like this from happening again," Abbott said. "Today, I am proud to sign legislation to make Texas schools safer for students and teachers. I thank members from both chambers, as well as the many stakeholders, who worked tirelessly to get these bills through the Legislature and to my desk today."

—Senate Bill 11, by Senate Education Chair Larry Taylor and sponsored by Rep. Greg Bonnen, both R-Friendswood, strengthens emergency preparedness and response protocols, improves school facilities standards, establishes better threat assessment protocols, and provides schools more funding for school safety efforts, Abbott said. The bill also establishes the Texas Child Mental Health Consortium to leverage higher education expertise in the state to improve the mental health care systems for Texas children.

—House Bill 18 by House Calendars Committee Chair Walter "Four" Price IV, R-Amarillo, and sponsored by Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, increases mental health training for educators and other school professionals to aid in early identification and intervention; emphasizes importance of mental health education for students; and improves access to mental and behavioral health services through school-based mental health centers and the hiring of mental health professionals.

—House Bill 1387 by Rep. Cole Hefner, R-Mount Pleasant, and sponsored by Senate Higher Education Chair Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, removes the cap on the number of school marshals that may be appointed per campus.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Abbott was joined at the bill signing by members Sens. Taylor, Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, Watson, Sen. Higher Education Vice Chair Royce West, D-Dallas; and Reps. Greg Bonnen; Will Metcalf, R-Conroe; Price; and House Appropriations Chair John Zerwas, R-Richmond.

Hegar certifies budget
Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 5 announced the certification of House Bill 1, the general appropriations act for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

HB 1, legislation appropriating \$250.7 billion in total spending, was approved by both houses of the Legislature in late May. The next stop for the budget bill after Hegar's certification is the governor's desk for final approval. "I'm proud to certify this budget and send it on to Gov. Abbott for final approval," Hegar said.

Hegar, who manages the state's pocketbook, pledged to continue to monitor the Texas economy, noting that it has expanded at a rapid pace over the last 18 months.

"We've seen tremendous growth in Texas over the last year and a half, which allowed lawmakers to make historic investments in education and provide much-needed property tax relief," Hegar added. "Uncertainty in the global economy, however, as well as increasing unpredictability surrounding international trade policy at the federal level, may have dampening effects on the Texas economy in the coming years."

Revenues increase in May
Comptroller Hegar last week said state sales tax

revenue totaled \$3.01 billion for the month of May, an amount 9 percent more than reported in May 2018.

The revenue growth was propelled by both business and consumer spending, Hegar said, adding that the strongest growth was in remittances from the manufacturing, wholesale trade and services sectors, with strength apparent in the retail trade sector.

Hegar also said state franchise tax revenue for May was \$3.47 billion, up 7.4 percent from May 2018 and slightly above projections he presented to the Legislature in the Biennial Revenue Estimate in January.

Hurricane season begins

The Texas Department of Public Safety launched its hurricane readiness campaign just before June 1, the first day of hurricane season.

Gov. Greg Abbott said emergency management professionals across the state are prepared to assist in the event of severe weather. He urged Texans to heed all warnings from local and state officials and to have a plan in place to protect loved ones and property in the event of a hurricane.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can spawn tornadoes, dangerous coastal water conditions and storm surges, and can cause extensive flooding damage. DPS Director Steve McCraw said, "There are a few steps everyone can take now that can make all the difference, like assembling an emergency disaster kit and reviewing hurricane evacuation maps and routes. By helping your family plan ahead, you will be ready to respond quickly should a storm head your way."

★
OPINION
By REP. DAN CRENSHAW

Government's part in recovering from Harvey and prepping for future storms

HOUSTON, TX — June 6, 2019 – In the days and weeks after Hurricane Harvey hit in August 2017, the Houston area faced an unimaginable level of devastation and destruction. Families were forced to move from flooded homes, businesses were destroyed, and our city found itself in a state of shock.

My district, Texas' 2nd Congressional District, was hit from all sides. Seventy thousand households made FEMA claims totaling more than \$700 million.

But in the midst of the chaos, we saw something amazing and unique. Houston and the surrounding communities persevered and came together. Every day, ordinary Texans became heroes.

Texans pride themselves on being self-reliant. This is why we voted to pass a \$2.5 billion bond to invest in flood mitigation projects. When we turned to the federal government and asked for help, it was because we truly needed it.

Perhaps most important, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Management and Budget need to release the congressionally appropriated \$4 billion that our community desperately needs. Much of the Texas delegation in D.C. is laser-focused on getting these funds into Texas. We've written letters, put forth legislation, and are in contact with both agencies regularly.

A bipartisan piece of legislation cosponsored by members of the Houston region and the surrounding areas would release these funds within 60 days. A similar provision, mandating the release of funds within 90 days, was included in the \$19.1 billion disaster relief package. That package passed the House Monday night and will be signed into law by the president.

Hurricane Harvey tested our community in the most extreme circumstances. But unsurprisingly, Houstonians rose to the challenge during the worst of times. We saw the best in one another and learned valuable lessons.

Now, as we begin 2019's hurricane season, it is time to take what we've learned and act on it. We need to make tangible changes that will protect our families, our neighbors, and our communities before another catastrophic weather event tests us again.

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HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS



200 years of local history

By Gilbert Hoffman

In 2023 the town of Crosby will celebrate its Bicentennial, or its 200th birthday. Local historian Jody Fuchs has been collecting a massive amount of old photographs, to publish in a book to commemorate the occasion.

Jody is a trained architect, with a natural interest in historical buildings and townscape. He has retired from the petrochemical industry, and works full-time on a book that at present is 500+ pages. He is not sure how many pages the book will eventually hold, because he is still collecting and editing his collection. He says that he has reviewed at least 40,000 photos for this project, and so far 2500 have been included in the draft copy of the book, entitled “A Visual History of Crosby.”

Jody is writing a series of historical articles that are being published in the *Star-Courier*, and he also presented some of this information to the Highlands Rotary club last week.

The first settlers in Crosby came about 1821, he said, and at that time there were only 10 towns in Texas. In 1823 the town was formally founded, at first named Gentry and in 1877 changed to Crosby. It was named after the railroad’s attorney, he said. Crosby also has been known as “Licksillet” a nickname without a true



JODY FUCHS presented some of his historical research to the Highlands Rotary club recently.

reason. In 1823 there were about 250 families in the area, and Crosby was a prominent town. However, Lynchburg was the largest town in southeast Texas at that time. After the railroad came through Crosby in 1860, it became the largest town on the east side. By 1839 there were only about 1500 persons living in the town of Houston.

An Indian tribe known as the Karabwa was first on the land, but by 1840 they were gone.

Crosby was populated by a rich mix of ethnic races, including Swedes, Czechs, Germans, and former slaves.

As a sign of their commercial success, Crosby has a bank by 1913, 2 saloons (most of Texas was dry), liberty stables (you could pay for a ride, like a taxi, or rent a wagon and horse), 5 or 6 cotton gins,

and an ice house.

Progress came early to Crosby, and in 1913 they had phone service connecting local businesses and reaching out to towns such as Goose Creek, and in 1918 they had one of the first concrete roads built in Texas. It was a novelty that drew builders from all over the state to see it.

Highlands at the time was a large, 34,000 acre agricultural farming community. It was known as Elena, and the Elena Fruit and Cotton Farm was 17,000 acres, growing figs and rice among other crops. Elena was an important stop on the Interurban, which carried workers from Houston to oil fields in Baytown regularly.

Jody said he is actively looking for more photos and information to finish his book, and urges you to contact the Crosby Historical Society if you have any material, at

Texas History Day Participants



Goose Creek CISD students recently participated in Texas History Day on the University of Texas campus. Pictured are (back row, from left) Kevin Salazar, Brooke Schrull, the Texas Armadillo, Puneet Singh, Evelyn Longorio, Adam Kinder, Brandon Broussard, Connor Fanning, Gabriel Brock, Atharv Sinde, (middle row, from left) Ruth Patino, Harsh Agrawal, Hannah Coker, Reese Benoit, Samantha Phan, Viridiana Nunez, Lilyanna Garcia, Isabel De La Rosa, (front row) Anushka Ranjan, Arin Sood, Swayam Gupta, Alek Chen-Barbosa, Abraham Greene, Allen Chen and Dylan Cantin. Not pictured are Tramy Nguyen, Simran Singh and Matthew Cosep. Patino, Nguyen, Broussard and Benoit will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in National History Day on the University of Maryland campus June 9-13. History Day competitions are under the direction of Faith Longorio, social studies coordinator. Steve Koester, director of educational technology, drives the projects to the national competition each year.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Timothy in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Luke 6, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do to those who cursed them? Smile, Walk away, Laugh, Bless them

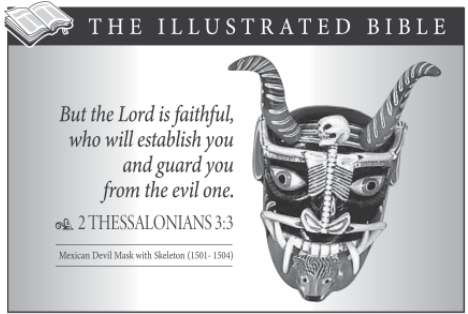
3. What instrument did David play for Saul that caused the evil spirit to depart? Drum, Harp, Tambourine, Flute

4. From John 3, who lifted up the serpent in the wilderness? Paul, Peter, John the Baptist, Moses

5. What horrible things did Ezekiel see filling a valley? Serpents, Locusts, Dry bones, Demons

6. Who was the father of James and John? Zebedee, Nahum, Haggai, Hizkiah?

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Bless them; 3) Harp; 4) Moses; 5) Dry bones; 6) Zebedee



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Psalm: 46:1

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ROMANS 8:18

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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

Mike Weindel named as new president of Dupré Logistics

Lafayette, Louisiana – Dupré Logistics announces that Mike Weindel has been appointed as president of the company effective June 1. Reggie Dupré will continue to focus on his role as CEO, working closely with the entire executive team.

"I have tremendous respect for Mike Weindel. He is being promoted to assure we live out our values, pursue our vision and deliver our mission as we continue to grow the company," said Reggie Dupré, Dupré Logistics CEO. "Mike's leadership roles and experience in asset operations, human resources, risk management, dedicated and brokerage businesses have prepared him well to be a leader at Dupré Logistics."

Weindel has more than 20 years' experience in the transportation and logistics industry. He joined Dupré Logistics in July 2016 as vice president of Strategic Capacity Services.

Dupré said that Weindel's strengths in team building, developing and promoting good leaders and building a high-performance, people-focused culture played important roles in the decision to appoint him as president of the company. "Dupré Logistics' motto of 'Always forward thinking' along with our vision to become 'the Ideal Place to Work' has been an inspiration to me and goes to the core of who we are as a company. Working with and learning from Reggie and his great team has been a privilege," said Weindel. "I am incredibly honored, humbled and energized to help lead the company into the next phase of forward thinking."



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the history of Father's Day?"



The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972–58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2019 occurs on Sunday, June 16.

Origins of Father's Day The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's Day—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have." On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

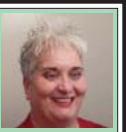
Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day. When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution. In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2018 occurred on June 17; the following year, Father's Day 2019 falls on June 16.

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

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Homeless in our Community

Rarely is there a day that goes by that we do not hear or read comments about the homeless in our area. Perhaps what bothers me most are the comments that are law enforcement officers are not doing anything about it. I visited with Harris County Sheriff Sergeant Donnie Williams to see if he could share how the deputies assigned to the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) spend their time. The following is from one day last week.

- Business 90 & Beltway 8, met with homeless consumer 12/23/90, refused all services

- Traveled old 90 on CE King, north all the way to Tidwell, no consumers located

- Stopped by King Grocery, at Green River Rd and CE King Pkwy, owner was given business card.

- Traveled old 90 to Royalwood. Checked area around Dollar General. Checked vacant houses on Forrest Knoll. No homeless consumers located.

- Traveled down the beltway from old 90 to Wallisville.

- Wallisville, West side of belt, made contact with Homeless Consumer DOB 04/29/86. Provided with information card, water, Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and hygiene kit.

- Wallisville, East side of belt, made contact with homeless consumer DOB 10/27/58. Refused all services.

- Checked Carpenters Bayou under bridge where homeless consumers were located in the past. Signs of past homeless consumers, none located at this time.

- Checked areas surrounding the Wallisville Walmart. No homeless consumers located.

- Checked areas surrounding the Wallisville Lowes. No homeless consumers located.

- Checked surrounding areas of Woodforest Kroger. Behind the Baytown Seafood made contact with homeless consumer DOB 11/30/87.

Provided with waters, MREs, Hygiene Kits, and information card

- Checked areas surrounding Freeport Walmart. Met with Homeless Consumers DOB 11/18/58, DOB 11/7/61, DOB 8/27/80, 8/24/72. All provided with waters, MREs, Hygiene Kits, and information card. Both xxxxx and xxxxx were transported by Unit to Baytown to obtain resources.

Please note, this is from ONE day. And please notice the birthdates that are listed. While several are young adults, the average age for this group is almost 41 years of age. Sadly there were only two individuals on this day that accepted transportation to a location in Baytown to obtain resources. And while it is not a crime to be homeless, the deputies talk with the residents and remind them to do their part in not littering so that others in the community do not get upset. (As a side note, there is an organization in the community that does not distribute food to these neighbors but does make a point to not only prepare the hygiene kits for distribution but drops off large plastic bags for the groups to be able to clean up after themselves.)

I know this information will not make everyone happy but at least it will provide an insight to let others know the law enforcement deputies are working to make a difference. In addition, very similar to the Life Fair which was a collaborative effort of many law enforcement agencies, churches and others on April 27, there will be another one held in July. Sometimes you have to show people that you care several times before they feel they can trust you. Together we can make a difference not only in the lives of the homeless but in our own as well.

If you would like additional information about collaborating for the upcoming Life Fair, please reach out and we will welcome you with open arms.


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FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR CHILDREN
PUBLIC RELEASE

This summer, the Galena Park Independent School District will be sponsoring the TDA Summer Food Service Program which will provide Free Breakfasts and Free Lunches to all children 18 years of age and younger. Serving sites and serving times are listed below.

This program is scheduled to run from June 4 until July 17, 2019. Program dates for each site will vary as well as serving hours. (See information listed below.) Children do not have to sign up for meals; they simply need to come to the school site during serving hours. Regulations require that meals must be eaten at the feeding site.

Site	Dates of Service	Breakfast Serving Time	Lunch Serving Time
Sam Houston Elementary 4101 E. Sam Houston Pkwy, N., Houston 77015	June 3 to July 10, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:20 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
Shirley J. Williamson Elementary 6720 New Forest Pkwy., Houston 77049	June 3 to July 10, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:20 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
Galena Park High School 1000 Keene St., Galena Park 77547	June 3 to June 28, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:00 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
MacArthur Elementary 1801 N. Main, Galena Park 77547	June 3 to June 28, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:20 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
North Shore Senior High 353 North Castlegory, Houston 77015	June 3 to July 11, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:00 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
Woodland Acres Elementary 12936 Sarah Lane, Houston 77015	June 3 to July 18 2019 Monday - Friday	7:20 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
North Shore Elementary 14310 Duncannon, Houston 77015	June 3 to July 17, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:20 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30
Galena Park Elementary 401 N. Main, Galena Park 77547	June 3 to July 10, 2019 Monday - Friday	7:20 - 8:30 (Site will be closed on July 4, 2019)	10:45 - 12:30

For more information about the program contact the Galena Park I.S.D. Student Nutrition Dept. at 832-386-1211

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4 firemen injured in fighting Channelview Industrial blaze

A fire atop a grain silo at the Cargill plant in Jacintoport last Monday sent four firefighters to the hospital. The fire started Sunday night about 11 p.m. and several fire companies including Houston and Channelview responded. The fire was in a conveyor belt at the top of the silo, and firemen had to climb about 10 stories to reach the top. They suffered from heat exhaustion, and four went to the hospital, with one kept for treatment of smoke inhalation. The others were released.



FIREFIGHTERS BATTLED THE BLAZE ATOP A GRAIN SILO AT THE CARGILL PLANT ON PENINSULA STREET IN CHANNELVIEW.

Property Tax Reforms,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and lasting reform," said Governor Abbott. "Because of the work by legislators this session, we are ensuring that Texas remains the best state in the nation to live, work, start a business, and raise a family. By signing Senate Bill 2 into law, we are making tremendous strides to provide long-awaited relief to Texas homeowners and businesses." Senate Bill 2 lowers the property tax rollback rate to 3.5% for cities and counties. Any increase to this rollback rate in cities, counties, and some special districts will require voter approval and automatically trigger a tax ratification election. This roll-

back rate will be renamed the voter approval tax rate going forward. SB 2 also requires taxing units to post their budgets, tax rates, and tax rate calculation worksheets online. The bill makes numerous improvements to the appraisal and protest process, such as prohibiting an Appraisal Review Board (ARB) from increasing the value of a taxpayer property above its initial value, increasing training requirements for ARB members and arbitrators, and entitling taxpayers to the evidence the appraisal district plans to present at their ARB hearing free of charge.

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CANCER SURVIVORS CELEBRATION

Wednesday, June 26 | 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown welcomes local cancer survivors and a guest to join us as we honor those living with a history of cancer.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

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