Julie 4 Fireworks light up sky in Jacinto City/Galena Park

EAST HARRIS COUNTY — For the third time in the last two months, a vehicle has plunged over the railing of a highway bridge, and the occupant was killed.

The most recent event occurred Wednesday, July 3 on the 1-410 East Loop bridge over the Houston Ship Channel. Authorities reported that an individual was observed to dive into a car that had cut in front of him, and passed through the median and exited the roadway, landing on the buildings below. Emergency responders attempted to remove the driver from the wreckage, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the truck was not immediately identified. He was a pedestrian who was crossing the bridge.

Photo by Allan Jalal

Excluisng fireworks mark Independence Day celebration in Jacinto City and Galena Park. Jacinto City and Galena Park had thousands of celebrants out to see their fireworks celebrating Independence Day. For 50 years the two cities have used giant exploding bursts of fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July. Both cities share the cost of the display that uses the vacant alley between the cities to shoot off the fireworks.

Photo by Allan Jalal

Divers recover body of driver of semi that plunged off I-10 into the River

The FRAME AND CAB OF THE SEMI truck that plunged into the San Jacinto River last Thursday, June 27 are lifted by a crane on a work barge on Saturday morning. The barge came from T & S Salvage in Galveston, and was required because the bridge and the nearby Waste Pipe Superfund site were not suitable for this type of heavy lifting.

Photo by Harris County Sheriff's Department

July 4 Fireworks light up sky in Jacinto City/Galena Park

Legislative Recap by Senator Carol Alvarado

Dear Friends,

The 86th Session of the Texas Legislature concluded last month and I am sure you share my pride and joy for the stand we made for a very productive first session.

I want to share some of the bills that passed this session including Harvey recovery, health related issues, workforce expansion and appropriations in response to the HHSC audit. Additionally, S.B. 250 of which were signed into law by Governor Abbott and will take effect on September 1, 2019.

Harvey Recovery & Disaster Preparedness

S.B. 170 will create the Natural Disaster Business Planning Task Force, a new state agency, to develop strategies for reducing the loss of life and property for future natural disasters. The new agency will be funded by a one mill property tax that will be placed on the November 2019 ballot.

HB 2150 creates a coordinated effort between TX DMV, Texas Department of Transportation, and TxDOT to provide vehicle tracking services on the I-10 corridor between Galveston and Houston.

HB 2811 will establish protections for the off

See SENATE RECAP, p.3

SAIL INTO SUMMER!

San Jac Alumni to honor
Dr. Charles Grant July 13

The San Jacinto College Alumni Association will be honoring Dr. Charles Grant with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Purchase your tickets today. Adults $10. Children $5. Family Four Pass $25. Purchase tickets at https://sailintosummer.sjcsailintosummer.com or call 281-999-6144 for more details.
**Community News**

**Church prays for bus**

The Youth Department has been working all year to raise funds to rent a Charter Bus to take them to camp in Delta, Indiana from Crosby, Texas. The bus is equipped with tv and outlet and a toilet. It comes with 2 certified drivers and does not have to make any stops on the way. This is a safe way for our youth to travel. However, this bus is filled with 56 passengers and we currently have an extra 30 students/adults that want to go. We are now need- ing to rent a 2nd Charter Bus. This will keep us for having to rent 2 vans and to find drivers and all associated require- ments.

The Charter Bus will be an easier way to travel and to keep all the students together. We need your help. We only have a few days till we leave for camp and need to raise another $4,000.00 for the 2nd Bus. Donations of any amount are greatly ap- preciated.

**Goose Creek CISD recognizes retirees and Teachers of the Year**

By: Susan Passmore

Goose Creek CISD recognized retirees and Teachers of the Year at a recent gala at Ross S. Sterling High School. The Theme was “100 Years of Class – Through the Decades” in honor of the 100th anniversary of Goose Creek CISD. The RSS String Quartet, under the direction of Camille Gustafson, provided music. After the program, guests enjoyed a reception and took photos in front of the 100th Anniversary Quilt, which features a quilt square created by each campus, finished by Sandy Martin, retired GCCISD employee.

Dr. Randal O’Brien welcomed guests and presented a brief history of Goose Creek CISD. Dr. Melissa Daar announced the retirees, and O’Brien and Pete Pape, board president, pre- sented each one with a clock and a plaque.

The highlight of the event was the naming of the District Teachers of the Year. Anna West from Victoria Walker Elementary, was announced as the District Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Angie Johnson from Goose Creek Memorial High School was named District Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Kristen Curette from Community Resources Credit Union pre- sented the two teachers with iPads. Joe Grabo, James Marion and Talsa McCawley, representing the Bayway Auto Group, specifically Bayshore Chrysler Jeep Dodge and Ram, presented each one with a cap and a key to a car for them to drive during the summer months.

The James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher Ken- drick (Kiki) Moore from Goose Creek Memorial High School was recognized by Janessa Crow, director of special education. The award was established by Dr. Richard Thomason, a retired optometrist, to honor his late brother James, who benefited from special education services. Moore is the 44th recipient.

**Home Health Care**

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Legislative ReCap by Senator Carol Alvarado,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

H.B. 1344 requires transportation hubs across the state to provide information on the indicators of human trafficking as well as the National Human Trafficking Hotline number publicly in conspicuous areas.

H.B. 1797 requires a comprehensive state plan to prevent and treat victims of child sex trafficking. This includes a treatment program for survivors and a matching grant program for municipality and law enforcement victim services and prevention programs (enacted by SB 20).

Workforce Expansion

I was the senate sponsor for H.B. 2794 which requires the Texas Workforce Commission to assist and administrate the Texas Educational Workforce Innovation Grant Program to encourage the private sector to develop specialized work training programs.

Local Issues

S.B. 1693 creates the Chancellorship Improvement and Innovation Fund which imposes fees and fines in order to rehabilitate outdated infrastructure.

Houston Ship Channel

This session, I had the privilege of serving on the Sen- ate Select Committee on the Houston Ship Channel, which is generally as the Port of Houston issues of the harvest port in the country and is in an integral part of the Senate District 6. Our work on this committee will ensure that the port continues to thrive successfully.

I passed S.B. 1915 which will separate the operations of the Board of Pilot Commissioners from Harris County Ports from that of the Port Commission of the Houston Port Authority.

IRC Incident

In March, the initial fire and following environ- mental damage at the Inter- Continental Terminals Co. facility in Deer Park drew my attention to the lack of regulatory oversight of such facilities. Through town halls, roundtable meetings, and a special Port Com- mittee hearing in the Cap-itol, my office worked with TCEQ and other agencies to investigate the damage. I advocated for additional funding for the TCEQ and Harris County environmental agencies to respond to and prevent chemical fires at the plant.

S.B. 1915, creating the Texas Healthy and Human Serv-ices to regulate detention facili- ties for minors.

S.B. 37 creating a children’s court for high school students

S.B. 717, allowing for school voter registration in Texas.

S.B. 1834, creating a music incubator robust program to relieve finan- cial burdens on small mu- sicians.

S.B. 967, requiring the Texas Health and Human Services to regulate detention facilities and any agency which must provide detention facilities in Texas.

S.B. 37 creating a children’s court for high school students.

S.B. 1832, creating a music incubator robust program to relieve finan- cial burdens on small mu- sicians.

S.B. 1834 expanding medical marijuana for treatment of certain ill- nesses.

S.B. 311, creating the Commission on the Texas Workforce in the Future to address workforce needs.

My first session was re- sult-oriented and I am looking forward to being back in Hous- ton, engaging with the community. Overall, it was my pleasure to serve the people of Senate District 6. I look forward to continue to hear and rep- resent your interests again next session.
Harris County Attorney Ryan opposes EPA emissions "loophole"

Friday, June 28, 2019 – Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan today filed a formal letter of opposition to a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule that would allow companies in Texas to avoid civil penalties for polluting air during so-called Start-Up, Shutdown, or Maintenance (SSM) activities.

Ryan is opposing to an EPA proposal to withdraw a 2015 finding that Texas's plan did not provide protection to human health and the environment, he said.

In his letter to the EPA, County Attorney Ryan laid out facts that led to his opposition.

Houston has some of the worst air in the nation, and the eight-county nonattainment area consistently fails to meet federal health-based ozone standards.

Communities around facilities with SSM events in the eight-county area are exposed to air pollution, low resource, linguistically isolated communities and are especially impacted by these events. The EPA is legally required by the Clean Air Act to close this loophole and correctly require Texas to do so.

Ryan also points out that the community impact of these SSM events continues to linger, as residents are required to choose between work or school and medical care, compounded by the strain of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He says these affirmative defenses allow companies to shoulder the cost of medical care, compounded by the strain of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Ryan believes polluters should not be able to avoid enforcement under the environmental laws.

"I urge EPA not to finalize its proposed rule and instead withdraw the proposal," said County Attorney Ryan. "SSM events have real adverse health impacts on communities around industrial facilities and allowing them to occur without fear of being held fully accountable under the law," said County Attorney Ryan.

"This loophole not only harms nearby communi ties but also endangers first responders, including County employees, who respond to SSM events," he said.

In addition to the EPA, County Attorney Ryan laid out facts that led to his opposition.

Houstons, TX – The announcement on Friday, June 28 that Texas's plan did not provide protection to human health and the environment comes as residents impacted by these pollutants are facing financial hardship, low resource, and disturbed coequal states to seek relief. Davis v. Bandemer, 478 U.S. 109 (1986), the high court's ruling in the gerrymandering. The panel hearing a case alleging racial gerrymandering. The court's ruling in the case, Shelby County v. Holder, 129 S. Ct. 1441 (2009), struck down a provision in the act that required Texas and certain other states to seek preclearance from the federal court before making changes to voting laws. In considering its testimony, Roberts noted that the Voting Rights Act has been essential to maintaining the integrity of the state voting system. Roberts said, "As Congress wrote the Voting Rights Act, we were concerned about the constitutionality of the principles that were articulated in Shelby County v. Holder. In particular, we were concerned about the power of the federal government's authority over the States on the ground that it might unconstitutionally subjugate the states to federal control. That's what the Voting Rights Act was designed to prevent. The question is whether the Voting Rights Act is consistent with the Constitution, and it is.

The panel hearing a case alleging racial gerrymandering. The court's ruling in the case, Shelby County v. Holder, 129 S. Ct. 1441 (2009), struck down a provision in the act that required Texas and certain other states to seek preclearance from the federal court before making changes to voting laws.
BERNICE JOYCE LEONARD
OBITUARIES

NITA WILKINSON

Nita Wilkinson, age 77, of Highlands, Texas, passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at First Baptist Highlands, Highlands, Texas. She lived a devoted Christian life, serving her community and her church with faith, love, and devotion to all; but, she was also a kind, loving and caring person, and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Nita was born in 1920 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Alexander Hohensee and Kate Goodman Hohensee. She entered this world on Friday, July 11, 1920 in New Orleans, Louisiana and departed this world on Saturday, June 22, 2019. She was very active in the community and participated in several archaeological offices in the Highlands Book Club Region and the Desk & Derrick Club of Houston. She was a former Pilot Club member and a founding member of the Baytown Women's Club. In addition, she was a member of the Houston Miss Ima Hogg Chapter, the Houston Miss America Chapter, and the Houston Miss America Foundation.

Nita was a member of the Baytown, Texas, area until retirement to Texas Eastern Transmission in 1965. She then moved to Houston, Texas and was a member of the Houston School of the Arts. She was a member of the Baytown High School Alumni Association and was an active member in her church, First Baptist Highlands, Highlands, Texas. She was a member of the Baytown, Texas, area until retirement to Texas Eastern Transmission in 1965.

Nita was faithful and dedicated to her church as a member in her church, First Baptist Highlands, Highlands, Texas. She also enjoyed her membership in the General Women's Club of Texas, both in the former High- nets this church and was a member of the General Women's Club of Texas. She was a member of the Baytown, Texas, area until retirement to Texas Eastern Transmission in 1965.

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**CAALENDAR OF EVENTS**

By Charlotte Jackson

**THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019**

**NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTOR**

**CALL THE EXPERT**

sometimes first aid isn’t a bandage, CPR, or he-

emili-ch or calling 911… Sometimes first aid is a YO! Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training teaches you how to identify signs of mental health distress, or sub-

stance use issues in your community. It will help you understand people’s challenges or crises and show you how to respond effectively. This free training is sched-

uled for Saturday, July 13 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The event will be held at Frame & Jewels Institute located at 2635 Woodforest Blvd., Suite 701, Houston 77015. For more information, please contact 832-951-4204 or HYPERLINK “mailto:info@jewelsbox.com” info@jewelsbox.com

**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

East Houston Democrats for their monthly meeting networking with special guest Harris County Precinct 13 Commissioner Adrian Garcia to share about current issues within the area and plans for up-

coming projects. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Milton Lusk Youth Activity Center, located at 832 Mercury Drive.

**ASK THE EXPERT**

One day last month, I learned two ladies had picked up trash along the stretch between Woodforest and Wallisville Road. The next day, I saw them again on Woodforest between Yale and Normandy. Not only were they removing all of the plastic signs but picking up the trash that had been thrown out of passing cars. I made a mental note to find out more about who they were and why they were cleaning the landscape. Their efforts continued. They were out there again. I noticed they got out early in the morning and worked diligently to clean the suspended daily. At 8 a.m., they were as clean as all of the trash. Many people do not realize it is a crime to post these illegal signs on public proper-

ty. There are fines which can be issued, but more importantly, they do not have to exist. I have seen people slowing down to copy down a number or to take a picture of the sign, even and almost cause the drivers to search for a new one on the first floor. I asked the co-owner of the One day last month, to ask the one lady about a language barrier but later learned my phone number for the call. I found her to be a with the benefit of unusual. Apparently, Woodforest of the 45th anniversary event. The碰子 has partnered with the Woodforest Water District 051 to help beautify the community. The Wood River District of red and purple hues, which are often found in yellowish, stones, green sapphires, browns, purple, and pink hues. Pastel-colored sapphires are those stones which exhibit ties more or tiles within a single stone. Australia is the largest producer of parti-

colored sapphires, but they are not commonly used in mosaics of jewelry and remain relatively unknown. Pastel-

colored sapphires cannot be created synthetically and naturally occur. Colorless sapphires are sometimes used as diamond substitutes in engagement rings. Pink sapphires occur in shades from light to dark pink, and deepen in color as the chromium content increases. The deeper the pink, the higher their monetary value. In the United States, a picture of their child-

**ASK CHARLOTTE’S WEB**

David Pope had spent the money to purchase the flags as well as the time and energy to display them to help beautify the area. David is no stranger to the community. The one lady was about to go home when I spotted this flag on the curb and asked if there was a problem. Apparently, Wood-

forest water District 051 to help beautify the community. The Wood River District of red and purple hues, which are often found in yellowish, stones, green sapphires, browns, purple, and pink hues. Pastel-colored sapphires are those stones which exhibit pairs more or tiles within a single stone. Australia is the largest producer of parti-

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**Ceremonies**

Ceremonies by Christian Bible Study

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**SERVICES**

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bible Study

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*Where Your Words Become Your Character*
Truck plunges into San Jacinto River, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bound lanes of the bridge after being side-swiped by another 18-wheeler.
A deputy had come upon the scene, and was just getting the truck driver out of his cab, as rescue workers tried to extract him.

ANOTHER TRUCK ACCIDENT is seen in this view, of an 18-wheeler that went over the side of the I-610 East Loop bridge over the Houston Ship Channel. The view of the bridge marks where the truck broke through the rail after swerving after hitting a car that cut in front of him. The bottom of the bridge shows where the truck landed on top of a chemical building at Huntsman Chemical, 150 below the bridge. The driver of the rig died pinned in his cab, as rescue workers tried to extract him.

Expansions of Park, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that could be served by the park.

Garcia noted that the new park could revitalize the East Alkins area, and add value to the surrounding community. He has budgeted $4 million dollars for the park development, but hopes with matching grants and other resources to expand the work to as much as $6 million.

Also making the presentation were Reynaldo Guerra, who is director of the Capital Projects for Precinct 2, and landscape architect, Ben Flock, of the firm Franklin.

Minn explained some of the features of the park design, including extensive bicycle access from the US 59 frontage road, special recreational equipment designated for persons with disabilities or limited mobility improvements to the existing equipment on the park elements, and the promotion of the park as County “Destination Park.”

Klein and Garcia emphasized that the park is in the early design stages, and are looking to get the team input on their desires and needs. Questionnaires were distributed, but there is also a website to submit your thoughts at: https://www.northchannelpark.com.

Amendments that were suggested for the park include a playground, splash pool, embroidery improvements, walking and bike trails, fitness stations, picnic for community events, open lawn, art and sculpture, and restrooms.

Boat crashes into bulkhead, one dead

CHANNEL VIEW—Authorities were dialed to end their search for a missing boater Tuesday night when they discovered the body of a man thought to be Luis Gonzalez, 35.

Sunday night about 7:30 pm a motorboat traveling at a high rate of speed on the San Jacinto River, Rio Villa, crashed into a bulkhead, crippling the boat and seriously injuring two people on the boat, with the third person thrown overboard and declared missing.

Authorities reported that Galin Ruiz was transported by LifeFlight to a hospital after being thrown from the boat, and Michelle Ruff was transported to a hospital with lacerations, a broken rib, and internal injuries.

Sheriff’s Deputies and Texas Parks and Wildlife said that the boat had a number of beer cans and keggs in the interior, 150 off the southeast end of 806 and was the operator of the boat. He was allegedly drunk, and has now been charged with felony murder.

The accident occurred near 1950 Bandridge Court and Rio Villa Drive, in Channelview. After the crash, a neighbor came to the assistance of the operator and are credited with saving their lives.

The investigation is continuing, and is under the direction of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks at the northeast Community Center on Tuesday, June 25 as area residents put their ideas on the paper idea board behind Garcia.

Read the complete story on page 11.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Continued from Page 1

bound lanes of the bridge after being side-swiped by another 18-wheeler. A deputy had come upon the scene, and was just getting the truck driver out of his cab, as rescue workers tried to extract him.

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