

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

### Jacinto City Night Market set for Saturday, Aug. 10

The Jacinto City Night Market will hold another session this Saturday, August 10 from 5pm to 9pm at the Town-Center on Challenger Drive. The open air venue, partially covered, provides a pleasant environment for shopping and people watching on summer evenings.

Visitors can expect many vendors showing crafts, jewelry, baked goods, artwork, library books, perfume, candles, and much more.

In addition, there will be music by a guitarist, and a first class food truck with many special items.

Market Director Rebecca Mier has put together a unique and special event, and said that with the weather cooling off, many more people are expected to attend.

Jacinto City Night Market is held every second Saturday of the month.

### Free Youth Heart Screenings Sat. August 10

Youth Heart Screening Saturday, August 10 from 10am to 3pm. C. E. King High School. Free for all school districts. These heart screenings of high school students can detect early heart problems and save lives.

Sponsored by North Shore Rotary, Cody Stephens Foundation, and Sheldon ISD.

### Back to School Outreach in Cloverleaf Aug.10

Event will be from 10 – 1 pm. The event will be held at North Shore Rotary Park located at 14000 Force Street. Free back to school supplies. Parents MUST bring current utility bill to show proof of address. This event is sponsored by Juncture Church, Walmart, Luz Lopez and JP Cares.

### Go Big or Go Home Gala August 17

Cody Stephens Foundation annual fundraiser and Gala, at Southern Lakes Estates in Crosby. Tickets are \$100 and are available by calling Scott Stephens Associates, 713-451-3600. Hurry, its a sell-out every year. Donations and Sponsorships are also welcome.

### 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. New members are welcome. Please visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com.

## Commissioner Garcia details his plans for Pct. 2 improvements

By Gilbert Hoffman

Speaking last week at a North Channel Chamber luncheon, Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia covered a wide range of topics related to his concepts of improving conditions for all the resi-

Garcia said that his focus at all times is on Precinct 2, and what he can do to better conditions there. He said a fundamental change in how the precinct is run is his emphasis on spending county money to hire companies and workers that are located in the precinct. He introduced his purchasing director, Jose Jimenez, saying he was they key to implementing the new plan.

Garcia reflected on his first seven months in office, and how it seemed like an unending string of catastrophes. He noted that his term started the first week with an ExxonMobil fire in the refinery in Baytown, and currently was ending the period the same



Commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks at the Chamber luncheon about his plans for Pct. 2

way with the same disaster. He noted that the refineries in Precinct 2 have a history of violations of air and water pollution, and vowed that the county would implement new procedures to minimize these. Because of the large number of petrochemical plants in his district, he said that environmental concerns and safety would be a pri-

mary concern that he would focus on.

Garcia noted that his precinct has the lowest household income in the county, and related to that is the lowest home ownership percentage. He noted how important this is, related to other problems of educational achievement and crime rates.

He said a priority is to

raise the level of educational achievement, and as a start he has partnered with HCDE, the Harris County Department of Education, to provide free SAT college preparation for about 200 motivated students that need help to pass the college entrance tests. This is a four week course for high school students, and if successful will be repeated for more. Garcia noted that passing the SAT will open more educational opportunities, and result in more job and career choices and opportunities.

Garcia told the students, "Go on to succeed, but come back to Precinct 2 and Give Back."

Garcia said that healthcare was a major concern, and noted that he had started the first "food pantry" at a Clinic in the district, to provide more healthy food to clients. He noted that other factors affecting access to good healthcare included transportation, which is being

provided.

Noting that his precinct has the highest rate of cancer in Texas, probably due to proximity to refineries and other polluting sources, he was putting an accent on providing park space of a high quality, knowing that it affects our health. He is also working with a local healthcare company and the City of Houston to provide more park space.

A significant new type of park, known as an "inclusive" park designed for users with special needs as well as the general public, has been designated for development at James Drive Park in Northeast Houston. When finished, he sees it as a prototype for extension to other parks, in part or in whole through the county.

Another major concern, for Garcia as well as many residents of the precinct, is extreme flooding and the

See Precinct 2, page 6

## Hurricane Recovery snagged by floodplain rules

HARRIS COUNTY - The public doubtlessly wants to stop flooding but with new rules adopted in early July building new will come at a premium.

Harris County Commissioner's Court has established new rules that require that builders set off as much retention as would handle flooding at the 500-year floodplain. The vote was unanimous on July 9 concerning unincorporated Harris County to move the model from the 100-year to 500-year floodplain. The new rules are related to projecting increases in the state's rain from federal studies and the Atlas -14 rainfall data. All

of this is atop of any other requirements by enforcers like the Harris County Flood Control District.

According to County Judge Lina Hidalgo at the assembly, "to make sure the new development takes into account the latest rainfall projections and the new development is required to retain as much water as possible so as to offset any impact they would have on the folks downstream."

All eyes now are on the Federal Emergency Management Agency that is affixing flood maps that are due in 2021. The county's guidelines are much like the new rules

adopted by Houston. Locations that did not flood during Hurricane Harvey are being made to build higher and have more detention because they are in the 500-year floodplain.

All this, of course, has builders upset and begging for enactment to be delayed or reconsidered based on development cost. Houston Association of Realtors for instance, although they are in favor of unincorporated Harris County having housing being better able to withstand floods; they are reacting with sticker shock over building costs.

## Casino Night Aug. 9 will benefit Scholarships

Roll up your sleeves, put on your green visor, and squint at your cards.

This Friday night is the Bill Palko Scholarship Fundraiser CASINO NIGHT to raise money for the scholarship fund of the North Channel Chamber Foundation.

The event will be held at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road at Challenger 7 Street, from 7pm to 11pm.

This fun summer night includes games such as poker, blackjack, roulette, and more, of course just played for fun. But you can also win some prizes if you are lucky or a great gam-

bler. Individual tickets are \$75, and Corporate sponsorships are \$600. This includes food, drinks, and either \$5K casino money for individuals, or \$40K for corporate sponsors.

The main corporate sponsor is Bestway Oilfield, with Chick-fil-A as the Catering sponsor, and others include North Shore Rotary, HTX Roll-Offs, Amegy Bank, Woodforest Bank, San Jacinto College Foundation, Arkema, Heights Builders, and ScAH Steel USA.

Tickets and information, call Blanca at 713-450-1114.

## First Baptist Church Jacinto City celebrating its 75th Anniversary

Remaining in the same location since the beginning, the First Baptist Church of Jacinto City (FBCJC) will celebrate its 75th anniversary on August 18, 2019. Located at 10701 Wiggins, the church and its members have seen many changes throughout the community but it has remained strong and committed to presenting the message of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

With the first meeting on August 6, 1944, and housed in a tent, a church was formed with the name of Universal Baptist Church. With an initial membership of 117, the last charter member on the roll died in 2008. The first building was completed in 1945 and served as the sanctuary, office space and classrooms. This building now serves as a worship center for a Hispanic Congregation, Iglesia Bautista Resurreccion, and the church offices.

Shortly after Jacinto City became incorporated, the church took the name

of First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, this was in March 1947. In August 1951, on the 7th anniversary, the second building, a new sanctuary was completed. Because of continued growth and the need for more meeting areas, the Education Building was completed in June 1965 and includes classrooms and a nursery for infants and children through the age of three years. With more growth and the desire to reach people throughout the greater North Channel area, the Christian Family Life Center (CFLC) was completed in July 1986 and includes a full size gym, kitchen facilities, a fellowship area and additional classrooms. A renovation and updating of the sanctuary was completed in time for the church's 50th anniversary.

Our church has gone through a complete makeover since this time including our new sign with new logo and we welcome everyone to come see the new



face lift, but more important, come see the work that God has done within the members. This church is very much alive and will continue to grow.

Bro. Rick Blount will celebrate his 15th anniversary as Pastor at the same time as the 75th anniversary for the church is recognized on August 18, 2019. Invitations have been sent to many of the previous members, asking them to celebrate with the present members. Following the morning worship service, which begins at 10:50 a.m.

There have been many changes in Jacinto City but the church has continued to have a strong Christian foundation. Under the leadership of Bro. Blount and a committed congregation, the church accepts the mission to follow God's leadership into the future. If you are looking for a place to worship, you are welcome to come and worship with FBCJC.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

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CRIME WATCH

## Spouse abuse turns to murder in Highlands



This scene was found on Tuesday afternoon on Thompson Road near Wallisville in Highlands. Detectives and deputies had closed the road.

HIGHLANDS – According to Sergeant Ben Beall, on Tuesday, August 06, at 11:20 a.m. Harris County Sheriff’s Deputies responded to a Domestic Disturbance / Shooting at a residence, located at 8235 Thompson RD, in east Harris County.

The husband, Billy Warford, stated that he argued with his wife, Rochelle Salazar. Warford claimed that Salazar pointed a pistol at him, and he then attempted to disarm her. While they struggled for control of the pistol, the pistol discharged, striking Salazar in the chest.

Highlands EMS responded to the scene and pronounced Salazar dead. Sheriff’s Office Homicide and Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene. Warford provided investigators with a statement. Investigators contacted the Harris County District Attorney’s Office.

Murder charges are pending against Billy Warford. The case is being investigated by the Harris County Sheriff’s Office Homicide Unit. Anyone with information regarding the case is asked to contact the Homicide Unit at 713.274.9100.

## RUOK? program expands with CASA

*Now includes Senior Hispanic community*

Harris County Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton is on the move again. Constable Eagleton has a heart for people and is fervent about putting the community first. Upon taking office in January 2017, he created a program called RUOK?. The purpose of RUOK is to focus on the well-being of elderly members of the community. Ms. Charlotte Jackson coordinates the RUOK program which consists of making a phone call to seniors of the community enrolled in the program. Ms. Jackson simply asks, “Are you OK?” If the senior answers the call and responds that all is well, they move on to the next individual. If, however, the senior does not respond after three calls, a deputy is dispatched to their location to check on their welfare.

Recently, Constable Eagleton saw a need to extend this program to the Hispanic community. With this in mind, CASA was created to work in conjunction with RUOK. CASA was designed for those in the Hispanic community whose primary language is Spanish. The coordinator of CASA is Ms. Rebecca Gonzales. Gonzales, who is fluent in Spanish, contacts seniors in the Spanish speaking community simply to ask if everything is okay. CASA offers this service for seniors, or those with disabilities who have no family living in the area. When there is no response, it could indicate that individuals many have fallen, misplaced their phone, or may be injured. The CASA phone call maintains connection with the individual.

CASA stands for Cuidando Ancionos con Seguridad y Asistencia. To participate in this program at no cost, and complete an application to enroll, contact:

RUOK?-Ms. Charlotte Jackson  
(713) 274-2513

CASA-Ms. Rebecca Gonzales  
(713) 274-9732



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COMMUNITY WATCH

## Shots on Ulrich becomes murder

CROSBY – The first call in what the Harris County Sheriff’s Office would call a murder case came in at 4:37 a.m. Saturday of a shooting of a man on Ulrich Road.

That man would be identified as Sean Lindburg by Harris County Sheriff’s Media Relations after he had been flown by Lifeflight Helicopters to Hermann Memorial Hospital.

Witnesses indicate that there was a screech of tires after a gunshot and a man known in the neighborhood as Sean Ramsey lay in the street. He reportedly died of gunshot wounds Tuesday Morning.

## Two die in Old 90 bike - truck crash

According to Deputy L. Anders, “On August 3, 2019 at approximately 10:10 a.m. James Wesley Watson was operating a motorcycle eastbound in the 13800 block of Beaumont Highway with a female passenger. A tow truck was exiting the Chevron gas station and attempted to cross the eastbound lanes in front of his motorcycle. A collision resulted with the tow truck.

The impact caused Watson and female passenger to be thrown from the motorcycle. Both the Watson and female passenger were wearing helmets at the time of the collision. The tow truck driver was transported to the hospital by ambulance with minor injuries. A passenger inside the tow truck was also transported from the scene with minor injuries. The complainant was found at the scene with no signs of life. The female passenger on the motorcycle was transported to the hospital by ambulance with severe injuries. The female passenger of the motorcycle later died at the hospital from her injuries. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriffs Office Vehicular Crimes Division.

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**CROSBY’S HOME TOWN HOME CARE**

## “Strike Out Cancer” supports Coach Garcia

**Fantastic barbecue and myriad festivities raised fund for Coach John Garcia as Crosby locals moved to Strike Out Cancer at Country Chic, 18302 Noyce Rd. on August 4 Strike Out Cancer was a family friendly event with a host of kid’s activities, a Cinderella appearance and Live Elvis performance and Eddie Foster conducted a Live Auction. There was a Silent Auction and a raffle drawing in lavish settings of Country Chic. The auction was said to have taken in about \$24,000.**

Strike Out Cancer was hosted by Country Chic in Crosby last Sunday in support of John Garcia and family. John was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and is currently undergoing cancer treatments at MD Anderson. The event was scheduled in hopes of raising funds to help ease this tremendous financial burden. Donations are still needed and for instructions on how best to make them please e-mail: coachjohnsjourney@gmail.com and help strike out cancer.

Following a stem cell transplant, the doctors monitor his condition closely. Thursday his counts were .1, Friday .3, Saturday, 1.3 and Sunday 3.7. A speedy recovery was wished by all.

A family spokesperson posted, “As far as the benefit goes, on behalf of the family, we’d like to thank all who took time out your busy lives to make a difference. Those who volunteered, those who bought barbecue, raffle tickets, bid on auction items, etc... we cannot begin to express our gratitude. Seeing this turnout and love for a friend/family member truly enforces our faith in humanity.

Again, thank you all for your support. Whether it be financially or through prayer and love, you are all appreciated and loved. God Bless you all!”

**Larry Stasney enjoying festivities at Country Chic last Sunday indicated that Fast Eddie Foster would be performing the auction at 3:00 p.m.**



COMMUNITY NEWS

GALENA PARK ISD  
SENIOR GOLD CARD

**What are the benefits of the Senior Gold Card?**  
The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Senior Gold Card provides members with free admission to all GPISD performing arts and athletic events (excluding playoffs and away games).

**Who is eligible to receive a GPISD Senior Gold Card?**  
The GPISD Senior Gold Card Program is available to all GPISD residents 55 years of age or older.

**How much does the GPISD Senior Gold Card cost?**  
The GPISD Gold Card is FREE to all qualifying members because we value the many contributions these individuals have made to our community and our schools over the years. We want area seniors to continue to be active members of our community and schools.

**How do I get my Senior Gold Card?**

To receive your Senior Gold Card, please bring a valid driver's license or I.D. to either the GPISD Administration Building, located at 14705 Woodforest Boulevard, or the GPISD Athletic Complex, located at 15025 Wallisville Road, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

For questions or additional assistance, please call 832-386-1000.



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CRIME WATCH

East Loop Driver shot in back by another car's passenger

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Major Assaults Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspects responsible for an Aggravated Assault – Deadly Weapon.

On Saturday, June 22, 2019, at approximately 4:15 p.m., the victim was shot in the 100 block of the East I.H. 610 Freeway - North in Houston.

During the incident, the victim was driving on the ship channel bridge when a vehicle (a white four door Nissan Maxima or Altima) merging onto the freeway

nearly struck the victim's vehicle. The suspect vehicle slowed down and got behind the victim's vehicle. A passenger from the suspect vehicle then opened fire on the victim's vehicle. One of the bullets went through the rear hatch of the victim's vehicle, through the driver's seat, and into the victim's back.

As a result, the victim was transported to a local hospital and treated for multiple internal injuries. The suspects fled the scene in the Nissan in an unknown direction of travel. The suspect vehicle is

described as a white four door Nissan (Maxima or Altima), around the 2010 year model, and was occupied by three black males in their early 20's.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspects in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crimestoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. All tipsters remain anonymous.

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Precinct 2,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prospect of continued high water in the future. Garcia noted that although the voters approved \$2.5 Billion in drainage improvements last year, nevertheless it would be spread through the whole county, and would only be a partial solution to the problem.

He said that more planning and expenditures would be required to solve the flooding problem, and he and his staff were working on a comprehensive engineering analysis of the infrastructure of the precinct, to see where improvements would be the most effective use of the money. This will result in a Master Plan for work in the future.

Garcia noted that in this budget year, \$30 million will be spent on flood improvement projects in the North Shore area.

He discussed other problems including pervasive homelessness that results in some living on the streets and under highway overpasses. He thought that instead of incarcerating these persons, intervention to provide counseling, good, and housing would be required. He noted that the Harris County Jail is the largest psychiatric facility in the county, and could be useful to deal with this homeless problem, and slow down the return of these people to life on the streets.

He said that many people were suffering from trauma caused by the string of natural disasters, and needed access to psychiatric resources to help them cope.

Another area that Garcia is addressing is affordable housing, and he said that he is working on a new approach with the Harris County Appraisal District, where the Precinct would take delinquent or foreclosed properties and make a land trust, for building new homes in a partner

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OPINION

By PCT. 2 COMMISSIONER  
ADRIAN GARCIA



# Bail Reform gets us closer to a system that works for everyone

A person is guilty until proven innocent or wealthy. This is how our old outdated justice system has been working in Harris County for far too long. There have been incidents that an individual may stay in jail for months. Most are jailed not because they are violent criminals or guilty, but because they cannot afford to pay a bond. This system is far from just and fair because it penalizes the poor. This may be a single mother who was arrested for failing to pay a traffic ticket, loses her job, misses payments for her mortgage and as a result, loses her home. She is now homeless. Or it could be a young man who was wrongfully accused but spent 6 months in jail before someone took a closer look at his case. We have to fix this. We can do better. We must do better.

My career in law enforcement has shown me where government fails and where we could improve. Not everyone who goes to jail is guilty. Not everyone who is arrested is a criminal. I have seen the wasted human capital that sits behind bars that could otherwise be contributing to our economy. Instead, they are in jail awaiting trial, being supported by our tax dollars. Some families are being torn apart, parents losing custody of their children. The poorer you are, the more likely you are to miss a court date: You cannot afford childcare, you cannot afford to miss work, and you cannot afford a car to get to the courthouse. If we are going to keep people out of jail for being poor, we need to have a criminal justice system that works for everyone.

The old outdated system of holding people in jail until they can pay bail – or keeping them until trial if they cannot – does not make the public safer; in fact, studies have shown it increases crime. A 2013 study by the Laura and John Arnold Founda-

tion found that people who were detained after arrest were more likely to commit more crimes. In fact, the longer a person was detained, the more likely they are to commit a crime after disposition of their current offense. As the former Sheriff, I witnessed how this unconstitutional cash bail system helped to create the most overcrowded jail in our recent history that depended on lucrative contracts with private jails to house thousands of inmates, while still requiring the taxpayers to pay millions more in overtime to keep the jail compliant with state jail standards. I had no problem holding onto the most violent and dangerous, but the great majority had made mistakes that posed no direct threat to anyone but themselves. When our criminal justice system can deal with people proportionate to their mistakes then we not only become fair and just but safer because the first time/nonviolent offenders will have fewer opportunities to learn from the worst in jails.

The impact goes far beyond the person who is incarcerated. Children with an incarcerated parent are more likely to experience higher rates of poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, and physical health problems. They are also twice as likely as their peers without a parent in prison to develop behavioral or mental health problems, including increased aggression, depression, anxiety and migrate toward gang involvement. They are also more likely to associate with delinquent peers, get into fights, skip school, have trouble concentrating, and perform poorly in school. This system is far from just, makes us less safe and negatively impacts our children. We have to do better.

The settlement announced this week is the first step Harris County takes at fixing this broken system.

The decree applies only to individuals charged with misdemeanors except for cases of family violence, bond violations, and repeat DWI. These are crimes where a person is more likely to re-offend and will receive a magistrate hearing within 48 hours to determine what kind of bond they may be released under. Those individuals outside of these exceptions will be released on a personal recognizance bond, which means the person commits to making their court dates. Under the consent decree, they will be ensured the opportunity to be able to be represented by counsel at these proceedings.

Freedom should never be for sale, and it is time we take our seat as a national leader in civil rights reform. I know the best way to keep our communities safe is having a multi-tiered approach that allows our District Attorney and law enforcement officers to focus on the most dangerous while enhancing a criminal justice system that promotes fairness for all. Let us be committed to our constitution that proclaims a person is innocent until proven guilty.



## MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel—

\* On Aug. 25, 1835, the start of a six-part series announcing the discovery of life on the moon appears in the New York Sun newspaper. Sales of the paper soared as readers believed the tales about unicorns, two-legged beavers and furry, winged humanoids. Even Yale University scientists were fooled.

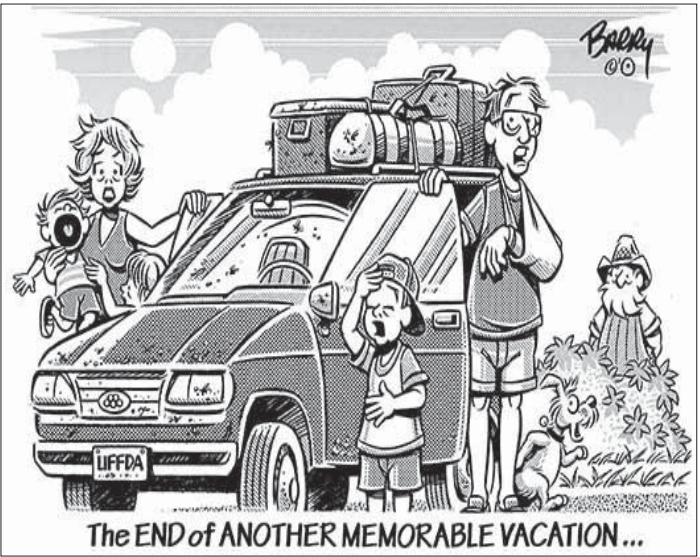
\* On Aug. 24, 1873, William Henry Jackson takes the first photographs of Colorado's elusive Mount of the Holy Cross, providing reliable proof of its existence. The phenomenon formed after thousands of years of erosion of two deep ravines, which by sheltering winter snow from the sun created a perfect cross.

\* On Aug. 19, 1909, the first race is held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. After the unstable rock and tar track caused the deaths of six people that day, the surface was replaced with 3.2 million paving bricks.

\* On Aug. 21, 1920, Daphne Milne, wife of writer A.A. Milne, gives birth to a son, whom they name Christopher Robin Milne. He would be immortalized in A.A. Milne's books "Winnie-the-Pooh" and "The House at Pooh Corner."

\* On Aug. 20, 1975, Viking 1, an unmanned U.S. planetary probe, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a mission to Mars. On July 20, 1976, the Viking 1 lander touched down on the Chryse Planitia region, becoming the first spacecraft to successfully land on Mars.

\* On Aug. 22, 1989, Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers becomes the first pitcher in major league history to record 5,000 career strikeouts. Ryan would go on to compile 5,714 strikeouts, a record that still stands.



## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

# Abbott, Patrick react after 20 die in deadly shooting

AUSTIN — After a gunman was arrested in the killing of 20 people and wounding 26 others at a popular shopping venue in El Paso on Aug. 3, Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick offered thoughts and prayers.

Abbott ordered flags lowered in memory of those who lost their lives and said flags should remain at half-staff through sunset on Aug. 8.

The suspect, 21-year-old Patrick Crusius of Allen, Texas, surrendered after waves of first responders arrived on scene.

Crusius was charged with capital murder. He remains in custody in El Paso.

### Lawmaker to take new post

Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, last week announced his retirement from the state House of Representatives, effective Sept. 30.

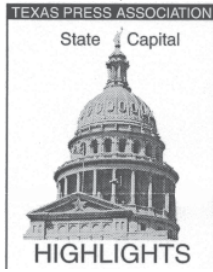
Zerwas, a physician for more than 30 years and past president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2007. He is the 29th most senior lawmaker in the 150-member lower chamber.

Zerwas currently serves as chair of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee, and served in the same capacity in the 2017 Texas Legislature. He earlier served as chair of the House Committee on Higher Education.

On Aug. 1, the University of Texas System announced the appointment of Zerwas as executive vice chancellor for health affairs, effective Oct. 1.

Kevin Eltife, chairman of the UT System Board of Regents and a former state senator, said Zerwas "comes to the UT System with a very high regard among colleagues in the medical, business and legislative arenas."

More than two-thirds of the UT System's annual budget is dedicated to health care, education and research, and UT institutions produce almost two-thirds of the state's health professionals, according to the UT System



news release.

### Mitigation contracts issued

Eleven contracts totaling nearly \$14.6 million in the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust settlement have been issued, mainly to school districts, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced Aug. 1.

The settlement is a result of litigation over emissions-control defeat devices that were found to have been installed on vehicles manufactured by Volkswagen and its subsidiaries. Some 590,000 vehicles are affected, according to the TCEQ.

Entities that have applied for funds from the trust will use the money to replace aging diesel school buses, shuttle buses or transit buses with new models.

### Alert system is launched

The Texas Department of Public Safety on July 30 announced the implementation of CLEAR Alert, the Coordinated Law Enforcement Adult Rescue Alert.

The new alert system is designed to assist law enforcement in locating and rescuing missing adults who may have been kidnapped, abducted or who are in immediate danger of injury or death, and to aid in locating potential suspects.

Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood, authored HB 1769 creating the CLEAR Alert and Sen. Larry Taylor,

R-Friendswood, sponsored the legislation in the Senate. It was signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in May and takes effect on Sept. 1.

The system, to be managed by the DPS, will be operated in the same manner as AMBER, Silver, Blue and Endangered Missing Persons alerts.

### Revenue total is reported

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.86 billion in July, an amount 4.3 percent more than the amount reported for the month of July 2018.

"State sales tax revenue growth in July was moderate, with services and restaurant sectors leading the growth," Hegar said. "Tax receipts from the construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors also grew modestly, while receipts from the oil- and gas-mining sector remained about the same as a year ago."

### Update: Measles cases

State health officials on July 29 confirmed that 21 cases of measles have been diagnosed in Texas so far this year.

The Department of State Health Services urged health care providers to consider measles when diagnosing patients because early identification, along with immunization, are keys to preventing the spread of measles.

A contagious respiratory illness, measles is a rash that begins as flat, red spots on the face and spreads down the neck and trunk to the rest of the body. Other symptoms include high fever over 101 degrees, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes.

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★

OBITUARIES

PEGGY SUE MATHEWS

Peggy Sue Mathews, 85, went to be with her Lord on July 17, 2019. She was born to parents R.D. and Nettie Bell (Jenkins) Cargill on June 15, 1934 in Baytown, Texas.

Peggy married the love of her life, Herbert Ray Mathews, on December 31, 1953 and would be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary, if not for his passing in 1988.

She was a lifetime member of Uvalde Baptist Church, where she was a leader of the Keenagers Group. Peggy spent numerous days a week volunteering at East Houston



Regional Medical Center, where she also ran the gift shop for 27 years until the hospital's closing.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and brother, Ray Cargill.

Peggy is lovingly survived by her children, Sheri Czekanski and husband Shawn Spann, Teri Van Horn; granddaughter, Jennifer Pontillo and husband Daniel; great-grandchildren, Luke Pontillo, and Cameron Pontillo, as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Memorial services for Peggy will be held at a later date.

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For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23 NKJV  
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8  
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. -John 3:16  
God, be merciful to me a sinner! -Luke 18:13  
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9  
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. -Acts 16:31

To sum up: Repent, Believe, Jesus Saves.  
We invite you to Northside to learn more about God's love and salvation. Join us each Sunday at 11am; 6pm.

-David R. Brumbelow, pastor, **Northside Baptist Church, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. nsbchighlands.org**

WB Auction  
packs in  
customers for  
bargains



Walter Boullion, owner of W.B. Auction on FM 1942 has set his schedule for the first third and fifth Saturdays of the month for June through August and seldom sees an empty seat but will put out more seats if more attend. The action pack live auction setting has many attending and hoping to find those rare items at a bargain price.



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

Social  
Security  
Matters

Ask Rusty – State  
pension may eliminate  
survivor benefit

Dear Rusty: Please validate or negate this dreadful information: My husband and I are recently retired and living on our combined retirement plans. I was told that when my husband dies, I will NOT be allowed to draw ANY of his hard-earned Social Security income. I cannot survive on my Louisiana teacher retirement alone. We were never informed of this until we had worked hard for 40 years

& retired. Can you advise me on this dreadful turn of events. Signed: Bewildered in Louisiana

Dear Bewildered: Unfortunately, I don't have good news. If your teaching career and the associated pension were in the State of Louisiana, I'm afraid that any Social Security survivor benefit you might be eligible for from your husband will be impacted by the Govern-

ment Pension Offset (GPO) - a provision of Social Security which applies to anyone with a pension from an employer who did not participate in the Social Security program. Louisiana is, unfortunately, one of 27 U.S. States whose employees may be affected by the GPO, because neither you nor the State of Louisiana contributed to the Social Security program while you were employed there. It's unfortunate you weren't made aware of this by your employer, but it's well documented in the State's "LASERS" information which you can view at this link: <https://www.lsuhsce.edu/administration/hrm/benefits-retirement-nonss.aspx>

The GPO will reduce your Social Security survivor benefit by 2/3rds of the amount of your LA State pension, and if 2/3rds of your LA pension is more than your SS survivor's benefit, the Social Security survivor benefit will be eliminated. I know it's no solace, but you are not alone in your dismay over this provision. In fact, a bill is active in Congress to eliminate the GPO (and a sister provision known as the Windfall Elimination Provision, or WEP), but that bill has made little headway despite having 195 Congressional co-sponsors. The bill I'm referring to is known as the "Social Security

Fairness Act", which is House bill H.R. 1205 (there is a corresponding Senate bill S.915). You can examine it at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1205>, but I must let you know that very little progress has been made on this bill since it was introduced almost two years ago. For the record, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has expressed support for the bill's passage, but to no avail in a Congress which is instead debating ways to resolve Social Security's larger financial issues which are now projected to deplete the Trust Fund by 2035. I'm afraid the only suggestion I can offer for your personal situation is to contact your Congressional Representatives and ask for their support and action on H.R. 1205 and S.915.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website or email us.*

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and I will be healed;  
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for you are the one I praise  
--Jeremiah 17:14

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I Corinthians 13:8

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# ASK THE EXPERT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

By Charlotte Jackson

**08/09/2019 Galena Park Fun Club**  
Business Meeting at 11:30 a.m., Games before meeting. Covered dish luncheon after meeting. Seniors are invited to join. Dues are \$5/year. Group meets at the Alvin Baggett Center.

**08/10/2019 East Harris County Community Event**  
Lockheed Martin is sponsoring STEM Training for students. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the event will conclude at 3 p.m. The event is being held at the Grayson Community Center. In addition, Voter Education and E-Slate Training will be conducted for adults. These events will encourage and empower children to do well in school and empower and encourage the community to be active participants in making our communities the best they can be. For more information, please contact Linda at 281.782.6437

**08/10/2019 Back 2 School Weekend! Backpack Giveaway 2019**  
Royalwood Church is hosting their Annual Backpack Giveaway on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. for the first 600 students. And on Sunday, beginning at 11:15 a.m. they will be having a free carnival and Celebration of Education Service. For more information visit: [www.royalwood.church](http://www.royalwood.church)

**08/10/2019 Cloverleaf Back to School Outreach**  
Event will be from 10 – 1 pm. The event will be held at North Shore Rotary Park located at 14000 Force Street. Free back to school supplies. Parents MUST bring current utility bill to show proof of address. This event is sponsored by Juncture Church, Walmart, Luz Lopez and JP Cares.

**08/10/2019 East Harris County Empowerment Council Hurricane Recovery**  
Join others to receive resources and information beginning at 10 a.m. at the Alvin Baggett Center, 1302 Keene Street, Galena Park.

**08/10/2019 Galena Park Community Resource Center Back to School**  
Residents of the City of Galena Park are invited to come out at 10 a.m. to the Community Resource Center, located at 1721 16<sup>th</sup> Street for back to school supplies and activities.

**08/10/2019 North Shore Alumni Kickball Tournament**  
All North Shore Alumni are invited to come out to North Shore Park at 5 p.m. for a friendly game of kickball. The event is open to all classes from 1965 to 2019. For more information, please contact Eria at 832.799.3377

**08/15/2019 East Houston Democrats Monthly Meeting**  
Join local Democrats at 6:30 p.m. at the Milton J. Lusk Youth Activity Center on Mercury Drive to learn about upcoming events and meet local candidates. Meeting is from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. For information, please contact Linda at 281.782.6437

**08/17/2019 GPISD and Harris Health System Annual District Immunization Day**  
This event is held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at North Shore Senior High School. All children ages two months to 18 years must be accompanied by a parent and must have shot record. There will be activities for children and lots of great preventative health information for parents. For more details, please call 832.386.1033.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Can you tell us about the different types of Pearls?”



Welcome to the world of pearls. With the tremendous variety of pearls on the market today, pearls are considered the least understood of all gemstones. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the different types of pearls, pearl grading, their history and care before you make a new pearl purchase.

**TYPES OF PEARLS**  
**AKOYA PEARLS**  
The Classic Pearl  
For nearly 100 years, akoya pearls grown off the coast of Japan have been the classic pearl of choice. When one pictures a round strand of white pearls, they are usually thinking of akoya.

Although rare baroque shapes and natural colors like silver-blue and gold do exist, akoya pearls are best known for their perfectly round shape and sharp, reflective luster.

While exceptions do exist, most akoya pearls produced today range in sizes from 4 to 10 mm.

If you are looking for a classic strand of round, white pearls, you are probably looking for a strand of akoya pearls.

**FRESHWATER PEARLS**  
The Fashion-Forward Pearl  
The most affordable pearls sold today, freshwater pearls are known for baroque shapes, white and pastel body colors and softer luster than akoya (except in the case of rare metallics).

With natural pastel colors and shapes that range from perfectly round to free-form baroque, freshwater pearls offer a widest range of options.

Common sizes range from 5 mm to 12 mm, but recent advances have led to the development of round and baroque pearls as large as 20 mm.

If you are looking for an affordable piece or something more fashion-forward with unique combinations of colors and shapes, shop freshwater pearls.

**TAHITIAN PEARLS**  
The Dark, Exotic Pearl  
Tahitian pearls grown in French Polynesia are the only naturally dark pearls. Although often referred to as black, Tahitian pearls come in a rainbow of exotic colors.

Round Tahitian pearls are quite rare but other fun shapes like drops, baroques and ovals are highly-sought and still considered very valuable.

When measured perpendicular to the drill hole, most Tahitians range in size from 8 mm to 15 mm regardless of shape.

If you are looking for a naturally dark pearls that go well with almost any style, Tahitian pearls may be your best choice.

**SOUTH SEA PEARLS**  
The Rolls Royce of Pearls  
Grown primarily in Australia

the Philippines and Indonesia and ranging in color from white to gold, South Sea pearls are the largest saltwater pearls grown today. Because of their tremendous size, perfectly round South Sea pearls are quite rare. Other more common shapes are drops, baroques and ovals. All are considered very valuable.

While South Sea pearls range in size from 8 mm to 18 mm, the most common sizes range from 10 mm to 14 mm.

If you looking for the statement piece of jewelry with large pearls, South Sea may be the way to go.

**SELECTING A PEARL**  
One of the most important considerations in selecting a piece of pearl jewelry is determining the type of pearl that is best suited to your budget and preference. There are two basic varieties of cultured pearls; freshwater and saltwater. Freshwater pearls are grown primarily in man-made lakes and reservoirs in China. Saltwater pearls, which include akoya, Tahitian and South Sea, are grown in bays, inlets and atolls in many places around the world. Saltwater pearls are considered more valuable than freshwater pearls, although rare and very high-quality freshwater pearls can be exceedingly valuable.

**GRADING PEARLS**  
Pearl grading is one of the most difficult aspects of pearl selection to understand. There is no officially recognized, standard system for grading pearls, except in the case of Tahitian pearls, where grading and export is controlled by the French Polynesian government. For that reason, it is important to understand the grading used by the company from which you purchase. A detailed explanation of luster, surface, shape and color is necessary to make an educated purchase decision. We invite you to examine our grading system in detail.

**PEARL CARE**  
Pearls are the world's only organic gemstone, and therefore, tend to be quite delicate. Proper care of your pearl jewelry is essential to ensure your investment will last a lifetime. Personal care products, such as perfume or hairspray, can severely damage the luster and beauty of a pearl.

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

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com). If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

All It Takes is a Hand and a Heart

Imagine being the oldest of four children. You are the one who must always set the example. You are the one who is expected to help the younger siblings. You are the one who steps in and becomes the “third” parent when needed.

Imagine getting married before your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and when needed, providing a roof over your siblings' heads. Along the way, you and your spouse have two handsome sons, start your own business and experience some great losses. You are blessed to adopt a beautiful young daughter. You are able to move into a new home, built specifically for the family gatherings. Even more important, you you're your home to many for the holiday gatherings and Bible studies. At times there are well over 50 guests in one day.

You take on added stress by having children in the band, playing football and let's not forget that you and your husband are actively involved in youth ministry. You keep an optimistic attitude even when you have a van load of pre-teens and teenagers daily. There are no holidays that you are not up early and making sure everyone's needs are met.

When a cousin needs some help with her teenage daughter, you open your home. When countless friends need encouragement, you listen. You pray and you give. Along the way, your sister deals with domestic abuse and near homelessness with her three sons. You are always by her side. You add others to the family celebrations. The family businesses are doing well, but you downsize to just one location.

When your parents' and in law's health starts to deteriorate, you take

on being the chauffer, personal shopper, caregiver and much more. Your children are graduating and as you can begin to feel some relief. You and your husband build a smaller home. Your children experience marriages, a divorce a miscarriage and you are the strong foundation for them as well as praying for God to show you the plans He has for your future.

In the midst of everything, God puts a burden on our heart for single parents and their children. A ministry is birthed. While you love your home church, you want to reach outside of the walls and love on others. You pray. You seek guidance. You receive blessing after blessing and you give and give. Business is successful. Your husband is honored time and time again for the dedication to the company and the two of you are still giving and giving.

You find yourself organizing a single parent ministry and throughout the year, you hold events to make each individual in the group feel the love of Christ. You find yourself asking your husband for financial and physical support. He contributes much more.....a loving spirit and prayer.

On Monday, Hand in Hand Ministry served a large group of single parents and children not just with back to school supplies, but an end of summer pool party. Children who had never been in a pool other than at the apartments they live in, were treated to a private pool party in honor of their families. It is amazing people like **Alecia Gonzalez**, founder of Hand in Hand Ministry who make this world a much better place.

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## OPINION

## Reader asks Commissioner to reconsider priorities

Dear Commissioner  
Adrian Garcia:

We are pleased that you are considering updates to our community. But, before you start investing your time and our money to enhance parks in our community, maybe you should consider improving the neighborhood.

We read and saw pictures in the NORTH CHANNEL STAR newspaper, where you attended the community meeting to promote parks in Channelview. Wished you had attended our community meeting on June 3rd at the Martin L. Flukinger Community Center, where we voiced our concerns.

You would have been made aware that we all had the same concerns and vision for Precinct 2. The number one complaint was the problem with the homeless people under I-10 and Sheldon Road. When you exit the freeway to enter our community, that is what we the residents and potential new residents to our area first see.

It is illegal to allow your dog to foul in a public place and clean up after it. But you allow the homeless to foul, fight, do drugs, drink alcohol and litter the streets. Do we in Channelview not reside under the same ideals, the same motto "DO NOT MESS WITH TEXAS"?

The number two concern that residents had was lack of "street lighting". We all know that it is a fact that illumination

helps prevent crime. Street lighting also improves safety for drivers, riders, and pedestrians. Especially around parks, like River Terrace Park on Lakeside Drive. Nowhere on your list of Proposed Improvements to that park did you mention lighting. Main streets, like Market Street, Sheldon Road, Dell Dale, Woodforest, Lakeside Drive and other streets need lighting.

Another concern is stray dogs and cats. They are a big nuisance. We understand that there is a law in place that all dogs must be on a leash. That needs to be enforced for everyone's safety. The animal problem must be addressed or no one will be able to enjoy the parks.

Other concerns we have are that we do not have Urgent Care or a Hospital in Channelview. We have no transit transportation. We do not have access to large trash dump sites. Some residents use their front yards, back yards, and make their own dump sites along abandoned areas. We have vacant homes and abandoned properties that attract drugs, crime, squatters, and fires.

We hope that you can get with county officials to help find a solution to these problems before you start spending money trying to enhance the parks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Citizens of Channelview



- Saturday, August 17, 2019
- North Shore Senior High School  
353 Castlegory Dr., Houston, TX  
77049
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Children 2 months to 18 years
- Parents should bring child's shot  
record

- North Shore Senior High School  
353 Castlegory Dr., Houston, TX  
77049

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

- Children 2 months to 18 years

- Parents should bring child's shot record

- Free Immunizations
- Activities for the children
- Immunizations provided by Harris Health System Troubleshooting for Health Program
- Lots of great preventive health information for children and adults

- Activities for the children

- Immunizations provided by Harris Health System Troubleshooting for Health Program

- Lots of great preventive health information for children and adults

For more information, please call the Galena Park I.S.D.  
Department of Educational Support at 832-386-1033.

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