

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 7, NO. 37 (#292) THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

San Jacinto Pilot Club Casino Party Fundraiser

Saturday, September 28, 2019, 6 - 11 p.m. at Baldree Building, 13828 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015. Call 281-921-1616 for more details or visit www.sanjacintopilot.com

Greens Bayou Regatta

4th Annual Greens Bayou Regatta, September 28th, 9 am - 2 pm. This is a 7.5 mile kayak/paddle race on Greens Bayou. All proceeds from this event goes to the development of a 27.5 mile Paddle Trail and creation of kayak/canoe launches. For details, visit www.greensbayou.org/events

North Channel National Night Out

First Annual North Channel Community National Night Out, Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at Parking lot of the brand new Harris County Cultural Arts Center (front building - formerly Christian Tabernacle) 1334 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Safety & Improvement Meeting

To be hosted by the Office of Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, scheduled on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 8:30am at the HPD East Freeway Storefront, 12001-A East Freeway (next to Burlington's).

North Channel Area Chamber Luncheon

OCTOBER LUNCHEON, Friday, October 4, 11:30AM at San Jacinto College North - Student Center, 5800 Uvalde Rd. Houston, TX 77049 (Inside Monument Room, 2nd floor). Speakers: local School Superintendents. RSVP: 713-450-3600.

Sen. Alvarado's State of the District

By Allan Jamail

Houston Texas, Saturday, September 21, 2019 in the morning at the Houston Community College Eastside and then again in the afternoon at the Leonel Castillo Community Center Senator Carol Alvarado gave her first State Of the District Legislative Report. Over 90 percent of her Bills have been signed into law.

Both events began with a prayer and the Posting of the Colors with the Pledge

of Allegiance to the Flag. The breakfast event began with a prayer by Father Joe Doran from St. Pius Catholic Church of Pasadena and the Colors posted by the Chavez High School JROTC Color Guard. The lunchtime event began with a prayer by Father Tom Hawxhurst from St. Patrick Catholic Church in Houston and the Colors were posted by the Northside High School JROTC Color Guard.

Senator Alvarado of the 6th Senate District welcomed the guests with her first legislative session results since being elected to the Texas Senate on December 11, 2018 in a Special Election. Alvarado's guests were visibly happy and impressed when she said she's was happy to report the Governor signed into law 29 of her 32 bills she authored and or sponsored.



Photo by Allan Jamail

Senator Carol Alvarado delivers her first State of the District report after the 86th Texas Legislature.

Alvarado gave a short but detailed briefing on

See State of the District, Page 8

T.S. IMELDA FLOODING PARALYZES HOUSTON

20" of Rain in 24 hours; 1500 High Water Rescues

By Gilbert Hoffman

HARRIS COUNTY - Tropical Storm IMELDA never reached hurricane status, but it ended up doing more flooding than Hurricane Harvey two years ago, according to authorities.

The storm came ashore near Freeport on Tuesday evening, and by Thursday had dropped massive amounts of water on Harris County and counties to the north and east of Houston, all the way to Beaumont.

See Imelda, Page 8



High water rescues were common throughout the county. Above, deputy Sheriff's rescue some residents from their flooded homes.



High water at the East Freeway at Wayside stopped traffic. This was typical all over Houston area highways.

BARGE STRIKE DAMAGES I-10 BRIDGE, SHUTS TRAFFIC

Tropical Storm Imelda brought widespread flooding to many areas to the north and east in Harris County, and bayous and rivers rose rapidly.

In the San Jacinto River, nine barges loaded with petroleum products broke loose from their moorings near the Waste Pits Thursday morning about midnight, and travelled downstream with two of the barges striking support columns of the I-10 bridge over the river.

The extensive structural damage caused TxDOT to close the bridge to all vehicular traffic in both directions, and announced that they would remain closed until the waters receded and the supports could be examined.

With very few alterna-



This aerial drone photo, furnished by the EPA, shows one of the two barges that struck the I-10 bridge supports, shearing them from the beams above, and totally destroying the structural integrity. The damage can be seen on the columns supporting the westbound lanes of the highway, but TxDOT will send divers and engineers to examine supports of both east and west arteries before deciding whether to reopen them for traffic.

tive east/west routes, a tremendous traffic jam occurred on the east side of the county, affecting thoroughfares and local roads. Alternate routes SH225/146/330, and US90 were jammed with traffic that also blocked FM2100 for miles. This condition lasted for six days, until TxDOT decided they could use the eastbound side of the highway for two-way traffic, and re-opened with a concrete divider and new striping for two lanes in each direction.

However, it still is unclear what long term repairs will be required for the damaged spans, and how long this might take. Earlier this year a barge hit and damaged a column, and it took three months for repair work.

WASTE PITS EPA holds update session

Representatives of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were in Highlands last Tuesday evening, to tell a large crowd what progress has been made on removing the Waste Pits from the Superfund site in the San Jacinto River.

A lengthy presentation by EPA Project Manager Gary Baumgarten was very technical in nature, covering testing, strategies for planning the removal of the toxins, and schedules for the work.

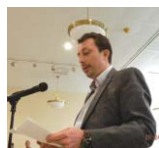
Baumgarten also covered the subject on everyone's mind, the run-away barges in the rain swollen river, and the damage to the I-10 bridge. He covered the details of the incident, the damage to the site, and the fact that no pollution from the site or the barges

has been detected. One barge was on top of the pits, though, and after it was removed Sunday more testing for damage must take place, he said.

With wry humor, he quipped that he had never worked on a site that had so many



Jackie Young and Sean Matula were among about 20 persons that spoke.



things happen to it, including floods, an 18 wheel crash, and barge strikes.

See EPA, page 6



A large crowd of concerned residents filled the hall of the Highlands Community Center.

SHELDON ISD Homecoming King & Queen



C. E. King senior Sabrina Hernandez was crowned 2019 KHS Homecoming Queen and Bryson Washington was selected as Homecoming King before last Saturday's inaugural varsity football game at Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium.

(courtesy photo / SHELDON ISD YEARBOOK STAFF).

New stadium site of Panther win 34-7



C. E. King High School junior defensive end Will Evans returns an interception in the second quarter of Saturday's varsity football game against Clear Brook. The Panthers went on to beat the Wolverines, 34-7, in Saturday's inaugural game at the new Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium (Sheldon ISD courtesy photo / DERIK MOORE).

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Mayor, Harris County Judge urge support for Imelda Assistance Fund

Harris County, Texas - Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo yesterday urged residents to consider donating money to the Imelda Assistance Fund. The Fund was established in the hours following Tropical Storm Imelda's landfall to meet the needs of those who were displaced and/or whose homes were damaged by the flooding that followed.

The effort between Mayor Turner and Judge Hidalgo is in cooperation with the Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF), an organization with deep knowledge of the community and expertise in disaster relief charitable work. GHCF previously administered the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund (HHRF) on behalf of the City of Houston and Harris County after Hurricane Harvey struck the region in August 2017. The fund will work with nonprofit organizations that are vetted and have experience to deliver support to affected residents.

"While the giving spirit of the Houston area knows no bounds, storms such as Tropical Storm Imelda and Hurricane Harvey never observe government boundaries. Imelda displaced people and damaged homes on both sides of the city limits. It is crucial that the city and county move forward as one to help coordinate charitable assistance to the victims. That's why I am joining with Judge Hidalgo to launch this campaign," Mayor Turner said.

"All of us have a role to play in helping our community recover from Tropical Storm Imelda," said Harris County Judge Lina


Hidalgo. "Today, there are dozens of communities across the county still digging out from this disaster, and they deserve all the support we can offer. For those who can help, please consider donating financial assistance through this fund. It is one of the most powerful things you can do to help survivors get back on their feet."

Recovery resources for residents are available at ReadyHarris.org. Residents can also dial 211. Additionally, the County has opened two Local Recovery Centers (LRCs) to provide residents an additional way to learn about various recovery programs that may be able to assist them in their recovery efforts. The Centers will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays at the following locations:

- Kingwood United Methodist Church, 1799 Woodland Hills Drive, Rm K 105, Kingwood, TX 77339
- Grayson Community Center, 13828 Corpus Christie St., Houston, TX 77015

At the LRCs, staff are available to answer specific questions about recovery programs and resources. This includes information about where residents can find access to food and temporary housing, support for cleanup and debris removal, legal services, and guidance on how to file insurance claims.

Residents should continue checking ReadyHarris.org or dialing 211 for support and the latest information on additional resources that are being made available.



Precinct 2
Debris Removal Update

Debris removal crews will be in the following subdivisions/roadways starting Monday, September 23rd - Friday, September 27th. Please be sure to place your items out on the curb. If you do not see your area listed below, please call 713-274-3880.

ALDINE AREA
Aldine Village
Hill Rd. W.
Aldine Gardens
Fairgreen
High Meadows East
Sherwood Place
Castlewood North & South

BAYTOWN/HIGHLANDS AREA
Apache Ln.
Highland Terrace
Hunters Village
Highland Shores
Kings Colony
Meadowlake Village
Cedar Bayou Park W.


BARRETT STATION
Dreamland Place
Barrett Settlement
Arcadian Gardens
St. Charles Place

CROSBY
Riverdale Subdivision
Hadden Rd.
Highland Estates Subdivision
Highland Ridge
Holy Rd.
Lake Shadows Subdivision
Foley Rd.
Indian Shores Subdivision
Rustic Acres Subdivision
Newport North, West, & South

HUFFMAN AREA
Lochshire Subdivision

PLEASE NOTE:
Debris collectors will make three passes in your area.

TO REPORT DEBRIS REMOVAL, CALL THE HARRIS COUNTY RESIDENTIAL DEBRIS AND DAMAGE ASSESSMENT HOTLINE AT (713) 274-3880



WWW.HCP2.COM

Chamber’s Nite at the Races Oct. 12

“And there off!” Please join the Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce as they host a “Nite at the Races” on Saturday, October 12th at the Crawfish Shack at 5 pm. Its FREE, BYOB and open to the public.

It's a great night full of fun, food, and horse racing. Your free entry gets you \$10 in play money to bet on the 10 races. Extra play money will be for sale. At the end of the night you use your play money to bid on over 35 awesome auction items.

There will be a Kentucky Derby Hat contest for the ladies that pays \$100 cash to the winner.

It's also a kid friendly event and they are encouraged to dress up if they come. There will also be several card draws during the event.

The Chamber has sponsorships available. You can also purchase a horse for \$25. You get to name the horse, owner, and jockey and it will be in the official race program the night of the event. Plus if you are in attendance and your horse wins, you win \$50 in play money.

If you have any questions, or want to purchase a reserved table for \$50, please contact the chamber office at 281-328-6984.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #36 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2019 on October 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at 903 Hollywood, Houston, TX 77015. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Ronald S. Holder, Gerardo Parra, Maria E. Koukoulakis, Felix Eddy, Edbert Cantu

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.35000/\$100	\$.32000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.03000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)	-8.57%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 64,871	\$ 70,135
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 12,974	\$ 14,027
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 51,897	\$ 56,108
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 181.63	\$ 179.54
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ -2.09	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	-1.15%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY F.W.S.D. #51 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2019 on October 9, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at 367 Queenstown, Houston, Texas 77015. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Jerry Dominy, William Bowes, Cary Stephens, Mike Bilnoski and Les LeBleu

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.25000/\$100	\$.25000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.00000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)	.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 138,203	\$ 148,877
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 27,641	\$ 29,775
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 110,562	\$ 119,102
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 276.40	\$ 297.75
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 21.35	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	7.72%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHANNELVIEW ISD Board Approves First Bond Sale, Decreases Overall Tax Rate

Due to the impact of House Bill 3, a school finance bill passed recently by the 86th Texas Legislature, and more favorable bond terms than originally anticipated, the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees adopted an overall tax rate of \$1.3577 per \$100 of certified property value, an almost four-cent decrease from the 2018-19 tax rate of \$1.396.

Under the new tax rate of \$1.3577, 97 cents will go toward the maintenance and operations (M&O) fund, and 38.77 cents is for the interest and sinking (I&S) fund.

The maintenance and operations budget funds daily costs and recurring or consumable expenditures, such as teacher and staff salaries, supplies, food, gas and utilities. House Bill 3 compressed public school maintenance and operations tax rates in order to provide property tax relief to Texans. This resulted in a M&O decrease of 7 cents for the 2019-20 school year in Channelview ISD.

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking	Total Tax Rate
2018-19	\$1.04	\$0.356	\$1.396
2019-20	\$0.97	\$0.3877	\$1.3577

The I&S fund is used to repay debt for longer-term capital improvements approved by voters through bond elections. In July, the Board also approved the first bond sale of \$70 million from the \$195.4 million bond election approved by voters in May.

Bonds are sold in phases to match the construction schedule of the proposed projects. This was the first of three sales planned. The next sale will be in 2020, and the final sale will take place in 2021.

"We are very pleased that the timing of the bond sale was able to take advantage of historically low interest rates, resulting in a tax rate lower than what was communicated to voters during the election," said Superintendent Greg Ollis.

CISD has maintained outstanding ratings from Moody's, Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Fitch Ratings, the top three credit rating agencies. Those ratings allow CISD to achieve the lowest interest rates available for all bond financings. The original estimated interest rate was 4.25% and the actual secured interest rate for the initial \$70 million sold on August 28, 2019, is 2.59%. This resulted in a 3.27-cent I&S rate increase for the initial \$70 million instead of a projected 3.75-cent increase.

"CISD continually looks for ways to make the most out of taxpayer dollars," added Ollis. "We will continue to effectively manage the district's debt and finances and ensure economical and efficient operations."

Sheldon ISD Board recognizes dedication

Sheldon ISD Executive Director for Student Services J. R. Webster received the "Distinguished Administrator Award" by the Texas Music Educators Association last night in a special ceremony at the SISD School Board meeting. Webster, who was nominated by C. E. King Middle School band directors Crystal Hoisager and Brice Harkness, was recognized for his continued dedication and support for the fine arts. Over the past years, Webster has also been instrumental in preserving quality music education program throughout the district. Pictured (from left) are J. R. Webster, Crystal Hoisager, and Brice Harkness.



Congratulations to Sheldon ISD's Child Nutrition Department for successfully meeting all the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program requirements assessed earlier this year. This review covered critical and general areas of review both districtwide and at C. E. King Middle School, KASE Academy, and Monahan Elementary.

Pictured are (from left) King Davis, Sheldon ISD Superintendent; Carmen Nauling, SISD Child Nutrition Operation Supervisor; Lindsay Montalbano, SISD Dietitian; and Latricia Archie, Sheldon ISD School Board President.



B. H. Hamblen Scholarship Golf Tournament set

The Channelview ISD Education Foundation will host the 22nd Annual B.H. Hamblen Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament on October 14, 2019. The event will be held at the River Terrace Golf Club at 16777 Wallisville Road from 10:45 am to 4:30 pm. The awards ceremony for first – sixth place teams and the silent auction will start at 4:30 pm. The foundation is seeking teams and sponsors to participate in the 4 Player Scramble.

The Channelview Independent School District's Education Scholarship Foundation organized with the purpose of providing money for scholarships to all qualified graduates of Channelview High School who plan to further their educational careers. The foundation provides graduates with choices they may not have without this program. The 2018 tournament raised over \$32,640 and awarded 45 scholarship to graduating seniors. Registration and sponsorship information

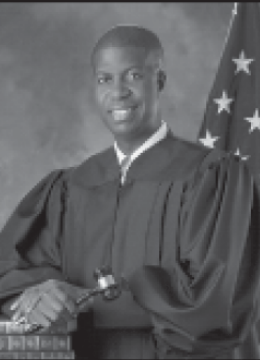
for the four-player scramble is available on www.cvisd.org

In 21 years, the B.H. Hamblen Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, sponsored by the CISD Education Foundation, has raised over \$496,111 in scholarships for graduating seniors at Channelview High School.

For additional information about playing in the tournament, or to become a sponsor, please contact Darcy Blackstock, 281-452-8008.



HELP US BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY
through Good Food, Good Friends and
Good Fun at the 1st Annual
North Channel Community National Night Out



**Tuesday, October 1, 2019
6:00 pm**

**Parking Lot of the Brand
New Harris County
Cultural Arts Center
(Front Building - Formerly
Christian Tabernacle)
13334 Wallisville, Rd.
Houston, TX 77049**

FEATURING
Kid Zone-Food Truck-Music-Car Show -Pet Parade and More...

**NORTH CHANNEL COMMUNITY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
IS SPONSORED BY HARRIS COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL in
partnership with the office of Judge Joe Stephens,
Justice of the Peace, Precint 3
www.harriscountycac.org info@harriscountycac.org 281-318-1319**

Alligator found at North Shore High School



One result of Imelda's heavy rains was "critters" such as this alligator showing up at places not expected. This 'gator was found at the athletic fields at North Shore High School, and had to be handled by Pct. 3 deputies and Texas Fish and Wildlife experts.

Channelview ISD School Board honors local community donors

The Channelview Independent School District Board of Trustees recognized local community organizations for their generous donations of Back-to-School supplies at the September 17, 2019, board meeting. Local organizations donated backpacks, school supplies, uniforms, and other necessities for the students and staff of Channelview Independent School District.

"Channelview Independent School District is fortunate to have local community members who help our families transition into the new school year by donating supplies that benefit our students, their families, and our staff," said Superintendent Greg Ollis. "Through on-going collaboration with local community agencies, we are able to cultivate strategic partnerships, implement innovative outreach strategies, and develop lasting relationships for the Channelview community."

The community organizations recognized at the meeting were Channelview Church of Christ, Channelview Senior Group, East Harris County Empowerment Council, LyondellBasell, MidAmerica Mortgage, Lakeside Garden Club, Legend Oaks Rehabilitation Center, Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, Peter Piper Pizza, Rebecca's Purple Rose Foundation, Inc., and the Wendel D. Ley YMCA.



The Channelview Independent School District Board of Trustees recognized Rebecca's Purple Rose Foundation for their donation of school supplies to students at Hamblen Elementary School.



The Lakeside Garden Club was recognized by the board of trustees for donating school supplies to students at Alice Johnson Junior High School.



The East Harris County Empowerment Council was recognized by the board of trustees for their donations to Cobb Elementary, Crenshaw Elementary, and Schochler Elementary.

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

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OBITUARIES

Richard Frederick Arfmann

Richard Frederick Arfmann, 89, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Saturday, September 21, 2019. He was born in Higginsville, Missouri on June 26, 1930 to George Fredrick Arfmann and Leona W. Tagtmeyer. He was a fun, loving, steady, strong, gentle, courageous and loyal man. Richard proudly served in the Navy in the Korean Conflict. Later he retired as a pipefitter. Richard enjoyed gardening, socializing and volunteering at VFW Post 9761. "Papa" never missed sending a birthday card. He was the "rock of his family," that held everyone together. He will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Cheryl Lynn Higley Arfmann; parents, George and Leona Arfmann; brother, Dale Arfmann; and sister, June Arfmann.

Richard is survived by his children, Teresa McAlexander and husband Mark, Bertha Rush and husband Jeff, Micheal Arfmann, Leah Frye and husband Donny, Tammy Holst and husband Charlie, and Matthew Arfmann and wife Kelli Baker; best friend and running buddy, Tom Devlin and wife



Nancy; brother, James "Jim" Arfmann and wife Janet; sister, Donna Campbell and husband John; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Richard and Cheryl were united December 21, 1968, and were reunited September 21, 2019.

A visitation for family and friends was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Sterling White Funeral Home. A Celebration of Richard's Life began at 7:00pm. Arrangements were entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. To share memories and offer condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

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FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

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11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd.
Highlands, TX 77562

Noah Lafayette Pruett



Noah Lafayette Pruett, 91, of Baytown, Texas died on September 11, 2019. He was born in Balmorhea, Texas in Reeves County on April 5, 1928 to the union of the late Verde E. and Mary E. Pruett. Noah served his country through the Army in 1946. He was a Customs Inspector for the US Customs and retired after 40 years of service. He attended the Crosby Church of Christ. In 2000 he met Joan M. Perry and on April 6, 2001 they were united in matrimony. Noah enjoyed dancing. He enjoyed it so that every Thursday morning he and Joan would go dancing at the Baytown Community Center. He and Joan would also go every Friday to the Highlands Community Center and participate in various activities. He would travel every year to Treasure Lake Camp Ground in Branson, MO. He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Elmer Pruett. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Joan and a daughter, Catherine Furnace and two grandchildren.

Earthman Baytown Funeral Home & Memory Gardens Cemetery
www.EarthmanBaytown.com
281-422-8181

VETERANS

★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Reducing the Rate of Military Suicides

In a joint venture to reduce suicides, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and the Vet Centers have hooked up to provide counseling and outreach to the National Guard on drill weekends and during training. In 2017, the National Guard had the highest rate of suicide of all the military.

Now, however, the rate of National Guard members using the Vet Centers has risen 38%, and the suicide rate has fallen to its the low-

est level in five years. It's thought that the increased use of the Vet Center services could be the reason.

Meanwhile, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office's most recent report saw 2018 deaths-by-suicide numbers that were mostly higher than the year before: Air Force 60, Army 139, Marine Corps 58, Navy 68, Reserves 216 and National Guard 135.

As the VA continues to try to understand the reasons for veteran suicides, it's looking at limited access to health care and isolation. Up until 2016, Vermont had

the nation's highest rate of veteran suicide. By this year, it was reported in Congress that Montana had the highest rate. First thoughts point to rural living and cold weather, yet in California, sunny and warm San Diego has the highest rate for that state.

If you think you might be in trouble, or if you know a veteran who is, call the Veterans Crisis Hotline 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255 or go online to www.veteranscrisisline.net. You also can send a text to 838255.

Besides the 24/7 hotline, National Guard and Reservists are eligible to use the services of the Vet Centers (there are 300) and Mobile Vet Centers (there are 80). To find out more about what the Vet Centers do, or to find one in your area, go online to www.vetcenter.va.gov.

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TOP TEN MOVIES

1. It Chapter Two (R) Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy
2. Hustlers (R) Constance Wu, Jennifer Lopez
3. Angel Has Fallen (R) Gerard Butler, Frederick Schmidt
4. Good Boys (R) Jacob Tremblay, Keith L. Williams
5. The Lion King (PG) animated
6. Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13) Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham
7. Overcomer (PG) Alex Kendrick, Shari Rigby
8. The Goldfinch (R) Oakes Fegley, Ansel Elgort
9. The Peanut Butter Falcon (PG-13) Shia LaBeouf, Dakota Johnson
10. Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG) Isabella Moner, Eugenio Derbez

top ten

GEN Z Social Media

1. Instagram

2. YouTube

3. Snap

4. Facebook

5. Twitter

6. Facebook Messenger

7. Pinterest

8. TiTok

9. Discord

10. Tumblr

Source: Business Insider survey

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Levi in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Proverbs 29, what happens when the wicked have authority? People mourn, Heavens blackened, Masses kill, Taxes abound
3. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall" do what? Obtain mercy, Inherit the earth, See God, Be called children of God
4. In what book of the Bible do we find the good Samaritan parable? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
5. From Numbers 22, what animal did God allow to speak? Lamb, Donkey, Camel, Ram
6. From 2 Chronicles, what did Solomon ask for? Wealth, Long life, Wisdom, Honor

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) People mourn; 3) Inherit the earth; 4) Luke; 5) Donkey; 6) Wisdom

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and I will be healed;
save me & I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise
--Jeremiah 17:14

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I Corinthians 13:8

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...I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

MATTHEW 5:44-45

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OD	OR	STUD	STONE	ES	P	BE	DOG	DALLY	BEAR	LYRE	EGG		
AR	OLLING	STONE	ES	P	BE	DOG	DALLY	BEAR	LYRE	EGG			
AI	R	MAY	BEAR	LYRE	EGG								
F	RAUD	JAN	BEAR	LYRE	EGG								
B	E	E	DOG	DALLY	BEAR	LYRE	EGG						
G	A	THERS	NOMOS	S									
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ACROSS

1 Bread choice

4 Ignore

8 Platter

12 " — the fields we go"

13 Watergate evidence

14 "Do — others ..."

15 Succumb to gravity

16 Bloodhound's clue

17 Poker variety

18 Half an aphorism

21 Atmosphere

22 Spring time

23 Counterfeit

26 Festive

27 Kreskin's claim

30 " — Lang Syne"

31 Tenor Peerce

32 Tolerate

33 Spelldown

34 Follow relentlessly

35 Linger

36 Old French coin

37 Scale member

38 18-Across' other half

45 PC operator

46 Requisite

47 Martini ingredient

48 Stead

49 Figure-skating jump

50 Genetic stuff

51 Mary's follower

52 Muse's musicmaker

53 Early bird?

DOWN

1 Parks or Bonheur

2 Calendar quota

3 Therefore

4 Impassive

5 Bottom

6 "Once — a

7 "The Seventh Seal" director

8 Failing the white glove test

9 Grooving on

10 Phaser setting

11 "The Da Vinci —"

19 Praise highly

20 Put into words

23 "Terrif"

24 Wish otherwise

25 Hearty quaff

26 Joke

27 Wet wriggler

28 "Erie Canal" mule

29 Use a crowbar

31 Blog

32 Ointment

34 Fawn's mom

35 Random drawing?

36 Bush

37 Villain's look

38 Sea flier

39 Largest of the seven

40 Abound

41 Alluring

42 Shrek, e.g.

43 Croon

44 Hosiery mishap

State of the District,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

how the laws will affect Texans. She was successful with bills affecting a host of issues. Including but not limited to, the economy, education, environment, women's and men's health, mental health, property tax reform, law enforcement, incarceration, flood damage, human trafficking, Houston Ship Channel and more.

The Senator introduced two special guests, Melody Stephens and Julie Voss who she worked closely with to get their bills passed (see photos and cut-lines).

Alvarado announced to help school districts with funding she worked to increase the state's share of public education funding from 38% to 45%. Also for HISD teachers and staff to get from a 3.5 to 8 percent pay increase and for all other school employees to get an increase in the minimum wage from \$12 to \$14 an hour. Retired teachers will get a one-time check of \$2,000.

She said there's going to be state funding for free full-day pre-K, the cost of educating low-income students and a permanent state fund to lower school district tax rates. The law makers put a 3.5 percent per year maximum tax increase by a taxing authority on property owners.

Because of the three chemical fires, one at the Japanese owned Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Deer Park facility (March 2019), one at the KMCO plant in Crosby (April 2019) and another at the France-based company Arkema Inc. plant in Crosby (August 2017) citizens were forced to evacuate or shelter in place. Because of inadequate air monitoring systems being used first



Photo by Allan Jamail
Melody Stephens of Crosby whose son Cody Stephens died in 2012 from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) praised Senator Alvarado and others for helping to get The Cody Law (HB 76) passed. Stephens said on the fifth try the passage of the law now requires public school districts to inform U.I.L. student athletes of the option to request an EKG heart exam. To learn more, please visit www.codystephensfoundation.org.



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL
Photo taken at Senator Alvarado's first State of the District report. "Today is the first time my entire family was able to attend one of my events. I'm so proud of them," Alvarado said. "My family has always fully supported me and that's been a great inspiration for me." From left to right: Frank Alvarado, Jr., Yolanda Alvarado, Senator Carol Alvarado, Ted Zepeda, Liz Zepeda, Bobby Alvarado, Ida Alvarado & Linda Alvarado.



Photo by Allan Jamail
Julie Voss, Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Organization said because of Senator Alvarado support and other Legislators H. B. 170 was passed into law. Visit komen-houston.org for learn more.

responders and citizens were given confusing information as to their safety with the air quality.

To improve air monitoring equipment, Alvarado was successful in making three budget funding requests, not limited only to the ship channel industries corridor but anywhere in the vicinity and or state where's there's an emergency due to a dangerous chemical release into the air.

Alvarado worked to get \$1.1 million for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the state's environmental agency for purchasing a new monitoring vehicle with ultraviolet spectrometer technology.

And to upgrade two vans with new mass spectrometer technology and to replace the chemical scanning electron microscope used to scan for chemicals in an environment and 15 new real-time handheld air monitors.

Senator Alvarado was able to help secure funds to assist in the University of Houston's first medical school facility, construction will begin this fall. She supported the acquisition of \$45 million to refurbish the university's law school building.

She worked to provide funding for the University of Houston Downtown's "Wonderworks" that provides after-school and summer enrichment courses for high school students.

Wonderwork also provides need-based scholarships in form of full-tuition waivers for all academically-qualified Houston-area students.

Chief of Staff Alex Hammond and District Director Sara Montelongo-Oyervidez assisted by providing information to the article.

Senator Alvarado's Houston offices are located at 8799 North Loop Frwy. East, Suite 240, Houston, TX 77029 and 4450 Harrisburg, Suite 238, Houston, TX 77011 / telephone (713) 453-5100.

T.S. Imelda "worse than Harvey,"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The storm took five lives, three in Beaumont and two in Harris County. Authorities said a man drove into high water on Will Clayton Parkway in Humble, and another body of Rene Salas, 52, was found in a ditch near W. Mt. Houston.

Houston recorded as much as 10" of rain in a 24 hour period, and a total of about 20" in three days. Northeast Harris County, including Crosby and Huffman, recorded about 30" in that period, and a record was set in Winnie, in Chambers County, of 43" total for a storm.

Many of the same houses and neighborhoods that were under water two years ago after Hurricane Harvey suffered the same damage this time. Many who were interviewed expressed despair and depression over this continued personal disaster, and asked why the government had not done more. Last year the county passed a \$2.5 billion bond issue to improve the



Huffman and Crosby were inundated in flooding. Pictured above is a rescue by boat in Huffman. Houston sent 3 high water vehicles to Crosby to help the fire department. Harris County authorities had to tow over 1600 autos to clear major highways.



Many rescue operations were required in the Deer Run neighborhood in Crosby last week as the accumulation of water began to enter houses and threaten residents.



County judge Lina Hidalgo urged motorists not to drive into high water, and to call 211 if they needed help. Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia sent trucks to help rescue.



Three workers were injured when part of the roof of the main Houston Post Office on Aldine Bender collapsed.

flooding situation, but County Judge Lina Hidalgo stated that flood relief projects took time to plan and build. Some detention ponds and larger drainage bayous are under construction, and the county voted recently to accelerate the schedule.

The Red Cross has established shelters in 19 locations, and Gallery Furniture, North Freeway and Lakewood Church opened as shelters.

Harris County announced Local Recovery Centers at:

- Kingwood United Methodist Church
- Grayson Community Center, Channelview

Almost all school districts were closed on Friday. Authorities said that over 1500 high water rescues had been made in two days. Bush Airport was closed in incoming flights, and many others were delayed or cancelled.

Residents needing help can call 211 to be connected to resources.

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