

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 7, NO. 39 (#295) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Jacinto City U.M. Church 75th Anniversary

Jacinto City United Methodist Church 75th Anniversary celebration, Sunday, October 27th from 3 to 4 pm at 10730 Wiggins St. Jacinto City, TX. 77029.

### Channelview Community Environmental Meeting Oct. 24

The public is invited to the second community meeting on the environment and air and water pollution problems in the Channelview area.

Meeting is October 24 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Channelview Fire Station #3, 1210 Dell Dale Avenue.

For additional information, call Carolyn Stone, 281-452-0733.

### North Channel Chamber "SALUTES" set for Nov. 7

The North Channel Chamber will hold its 11th annual Salute to Veterans, current military personnel, and First Responders.

Also taking place will be a Business Expo and Health Fair. The event will be held at Armenta's Reception Hall in Channelview, 823 Sheldon Road, from 10am to 2pm.

Booths and Sponsorships are available, call the Chamber at 713-450-3600.

## North Shore Mustangs stampede over Deer Park 49-7

By Allan Jamail

Deer Park, TX. – Friday, October 11, 2019 at the Clyde Abshier Stadium the Deer Park Deer were overwhelmed by 7 touchdowns (TD) from the visiting North Shore Mustangs in a district game, 49 to 7.

Coach Jon Kay's Mustangs now have a 5 – 1 record, undefeated in district play. They led at half-time 35 to 0 and 49 to 0 after 3 quarters. Deer Park only made 1 touchdown coming in the 4th quarter.

The Mustangs offense made 475 total yards, 245 rushing yards with 2 TD's and 235 passing yards with 4 TD's and a Deer fumble ran back for a TD by defensive back Jermond Bastiste. Kicker John Vil-



Photo by Allan Jamail

Mustangs running back Zach Evans crosses the goal for a touchdown.

lalobos was perfect again making all 7 extra point kicks.

North Shore's defense held the Deer to only 153

total yards.

Friday, October 18th at 7 PM the Mustang's play a home district game at their GPISD stadium, 353 N. Castlegory Road, Houston, TX 77049.



Mustang wide receiver Shadrach Banks hauls in a 28 yard Demetrius Davis pass for a touchdown. Photo by Allan Jamail

## Art is highlight of this month's Jacinto City Night Market

Jacinto City's Market by Night had its largest crowd last Saturday, with an emphasis on an art show, and other types of artistic involvement, such as music and chalk drawing on the plaza, as seen in these photos.

Crowds appreciated the crafts and food vendors, and jewelry and other showcase items. The plaza at Town Center was crowded with display tents and tables full of homemade pastries and other delicious edibles.

Halloween displays also were a theme as October 31 approaches, with yard decorations and table displays available.



Never too young for accordian music.



Paintings by Mei Hoffman were on display, with the help of art curator Henry Murillo.



Chalk drawings were a popular art activity for the young.

## Northeast monthly Safety meeting

By Allan Jamail

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 8:30 am at the Houston Police Department's East Freeway Storefront, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia provided district and legislative updates.

Commander C. T. Hatcher, Houston Police Department Northeast Division, gave the August Northeast District 9 crime report. She said overall crime in the area is about the same now as it was in 2018. For a current crime report for any area visit the website: [www.houston.tx.gov/police](http://www.houston.tx.gov/police).

Hatcher made available several helpful websites citizens can use to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. By using HPD's, ALERT SLIP. Citizens can



Commander C. T. Hatcher, Houston Police Department Northeast Division, giving the Northeast District 9 August crime report. (Allan Jamail photo)

use it to request increased patrols around their home or business for a prowler, speeding vehicle, excessive burglaries and thefts, being on vacation, or for reasons causing them concern

*See Safety Meeting, Page 6*

## Galena Park I.S.D. school board recognizes North Shore Rotary



The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized the North Shore Rotary Club at the October Board Meeting for being a strong supporter of GPISD. Representing the North Shore Rotary Club was Ryan Dagley, president of the club.

The Rotary Club has gone above and beyond to help our students and community through their generous giving of student and vocational scholarships, sponsoring the annual Immunization Day and the purchase of Electrocardiogram machines that will provide heart screening for our student-athletes. The North Shore Rotary Club was also the largest supporter of the 2018-2019 State Champion Football Banquet. In addition, they are the sponsors of the Early Act First Knight program at multiple Galena Park I.S.D. elementary campuses.

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank the North Shore Rotary Club for all they do for our students and the GPISD community!

## 45th Texas Renaissance Festival now open thru December 1st

The Texas Renaissance Festival is the nation's largest and most acclaimed Renaissance-themed event. Established in 1974, the event attracts more than half a million visitors each year to its 55-acre recreation of a 16th century European village.

This immersive experience features world-renowned live entertainment, works by master artists and craftspeople, award-winning food and drink, hand-powered rides and games, and over 100 interactive characters during its nine themed weekends from Oct. 5 through Dec. 1, 2019.

The festival and the adjacent Fields of New Market Campground are located in Todd Mission, Texas, 50 miles northwest of downtown Houston. For more information, visit [TexRenFest.com](http://TexRenFest.com).

The 45th season will feature nine themed weekends, including Oktoberfest, 1001 Dreams, Barbarian Invasion, Pirate Adventure, All Hallows Eve, Heroes and Villains, Highland Fling and Celtic Christmas. A special themed weekend on Nov. 2-



3, Return to the Renaissance, celebrates the festival's 45th anniversary and takes a nostalgic look back at the festival's beginnings.

"We are thrilled to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Texas Renaissance Festival this

season," said Joe Bailey, CEO and General Manager, Texas Renaissance Festival. "We look forward to continuing the magical enchantment that can only be found within the gates of the festival."



## Crosby Fire Department holds Open House



Firefighters above demonstrate how to Vertical Vent, a tactic used to exhaust hot gases trapped within a burning building.

Future firefighters listen intently as law enforcement and firefighters tell them about the Smoke House, a display that teaches kids how to find their way from a blazing building and escape without getting burned. And there is climbing involved. You have to listen to know what to do some part of being a good recruit firefighter is listening to instructions. Harris County also brought in some experts to involve kids. The fire house offered frito pie and chili dogs to the kids and many got to sit inside a real fire truck.



AT RIGHT, seldom is there a kid that does not like to squirt things with water and this young lady is no exception Each recruit is offered the challenge of knocking down flames inside a toy house, the hose is under pressure for about 35 feet of squirting water. The open house was Saturday from 4 until 7 p.m.

## Crosby enjoys a Nite at the Races on Saturday

CROSBY – The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce hosted a “A Nite at the Races” at the Crawfish Shak last Saturday featuring some Mexican delights rather than the worlds greatest Cajun cuisine as normally found at this restaurant during season. The event was to raise funds so that the community business based organization could be financially enabled to continue representing Crosby to the extended business community. Crosby continues to recover economically from the hurricane and flooding events.



There were prizes for best hats and everyone knows when your horse is winning.



Justin League rolls the races as all the play money bets are in for one of 12 races. The event was said to be the most fun Chamber event they had attended by many. Winnings at the end can purchase gift baskets.

## Get the flu shot in October

HOUSTON - The Houston Health Department encourages everyone ages six months and older to protect themselves, their family and community from the flu by getting a flu shot before the end of October.

Flu outbreaks can occur as early as October and last as late as May.

“It may seem early but let me assure everyone that now is the ideal time to get a flu shot,” said Dr. David Perse, local health authority for the Houston Health Department. “Although we can’t predict exactly when the inevitable spike in Houston cases will occur, we know it will indeed occur. That’s why everyone should take the important step of getting a flu shot now.”

People can visit their doctor, neighborhood pharmacy or local health department to get a flu shot. Many grocery stores also offer the vaccine.

The Houston Health Department offers flu shots at its health centers to uninsured and underinsured people on a sliding scale that ranges from free to \$15. To find the nearest health center, people can call 832-393-5427 or the City of Houston 311 Help and Info line. Health center locations and hours of operation are also available at [HoustonHealth.org](http://HoustonHealth.org).

In addition to vaccination, people can help stop the spread of the flu and other illness by:

- Washing hands frequently
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Staying home if sick and at least 24 hours after their fever is gone, except to get medical care

People at high risk for flu are young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, dia-

betes, heart disease, lung disease, and those age 65 and older. They also are at greater risk of severe complications if they get the flu.

The flu – caused by different related viruses – is a contagious disease that results in symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, cough, nasal congestion, sore throat and body aches. People with a combination of these symptoms need to see a medical provider promptly.

Most people recover in one to two weeks, but some develop complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis and sinus and ear infections. Flu also can make chronic medical conditions worse.

Doctors can prescribe antiviral medications that help make the illness shorter and milder. Antiviral medications work best if started within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Channelview ISD October Students of the Month



Channelview ISD recently honored November Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon at Ray Maddy Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Leonardo Velasco Alvarez (Channelview High School), Daisy Colmenero Oropeza (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Norma Rivera (Crenshaw Elementary), Celeste Garcia (Anthony Aguirre Junior High), Diamond Delacruz (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Ashley Guerrero Cantu (Hamblen Elementary), Raine Jenkins (Alice Johnson Junior High). Bottom row: Katelynn Silva (Cobb Elementary), Allison Tamez (Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center), Devin Jaques (Brown Elementary), Ana Diaz Morales (DeZavala Elementary), Alyssa Sandoval (Schochler Elementary), Kimberlee Ayala (McMullan Elementary).

## Galena Park I.S.D. Student Nutrition Department recognized at Board Meeting



In recognition of National School Lunch Week, Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized our Student Nutrition Department and the campus cafeteria managers at the October Board Meeting. National School Lunch Week is observed October 14-18 across the country. The National School Lunch Program is dedicated to the health and well-being of our children and has been joined through the years by many other feeding program. GPISD would like to thank the Student Nutrition Department and all of the campus cafeteria employees for everything they do!

## Channelview ISD students awarded musical instruments



Alice Johnson Junior High students Arlyn Ramos, Jeremy Hernandez, Azavan Walter-Gibbs, Jasmine Arias, Isidro Ramos, Elijah Ocuna are pictured with instruments donated by Hungry for Music.

Channelview Independent School District is proud to announce 6 students from Alice Johnson Junior High were awarded instruments through the Hungry for Music organization. Ms. Jeri Collins, assistant band director at Alice Johnson Junior High School, nominated 10 students from the junior high school's band program. She believes that all students should have unlimited access to musical instruments. "Our students have the ability to make significant contributions to the arts," said Ms. Collins. "Through the Hungry for Music organization, our students will have the advantage of owning their instruments and building their musical talent. Band students were selected based on their desire to continue their participation in band, their future goals, and musical ability. Established in 1994, Hungry for Music has donated more than 13,000 instruments to aspiring musicians in 49 states and 30 countries worldwide.

## Department of Education awards San Jacinto College \$3 million grant

PASADENA, Texas – The U.S. Department of Education has awarded San Jacinto College a \$3 million Title V grant for the College's Integrated Planning and Advising System (IPAS). The grant will enable San Jacinto College to implement key strategic initiatives and to enhance institutional capacity to improve outcomes for Hispanic students and other underrepresented populations served by the College. "Over the last several years, San Jacinto College has been focused on helping students achieve their educational goals by removing barriers to their success both inside and outside the classroom," says Joanna Zimmermann, San Jacinto College's Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services. "This grant builds on the work that we have been doing and will help us provide significant support for our students." The five-year project, led by Zimmermann, aims to enhance institutional advising capacity and delivery with bilingual and evidence-based student success strategies underpinned by technology-mediated solutions to streamline communication and access to information across San Jacinto College campuses to create the IPAS. Key project activities will be implemented throughout the project timeline, including:

- Redesigning the advising model to include virtual advising
- Hiring additional San Jacinto College advisors
- Optimizing and extending existing IT software solutions via a new student portal
- Improving student-faculty communication with an institutionally-funded CRM system
- Facilitating faculty and staff training development around the new advising model, curricula restructure, and IT capabilities

"This grant will provide necessary resources to assist in the development of an onboarding and advising process that is personalized, tailored to individual student needs, and delivered by a team of professionals who are dedicated to each student's success," Zimmermann says. "Our goal is to develop a student-centered, intentional, timely, proactive experience that seamlessly brings together onboarding, academic, career, financial, and social supports, including improved software and communication tools that will reach students where they are on their unique journey. We are very excited about the tremendous impact that these funds will have on our college and on our students." San Jacinto College is currently ranked as the nation's No. 4 community college for Hispanic students, with Hispanic or Latino students accounting for 60 percent of the College's overall student population.

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## Medicare recipients eligible for free benefits counseling from Area Agency on Aging

Open enrollment for 2020 begins October 15

HOUSTON - Medicare beneficiaries reviewing their 2020 health and prescription drug plan options can get free help from benefits counselors with the Harris County Area Agency on Aging (AAA), a division of the Houston Health Department.

Medicare open enrollment begins October 15 and runs through December 7. It is a period for beneficiaries to compare all their Medicare options and make changes to their health or prescription drug coverage for the following year.

"Mulling over the wide range of Medicare health care options can seem quite daunting to some seniors and people with disabilities, said Rose Ortega, a benefits counselor with AAA. "Guiding them as they evaluate their options can help them find the Medicare plans that better suit their health needs."

Open enrollment for most beneficiaries may be the only time they can make changes to their Medicare coverage. They can:

- change their Medicare health or prescription drug coverage for 2020;
- decide which plan will meet their needs for 2020;
- check for changes in their plan such as costs;
- check drug coverage; and
- check if they will be able to see their preferred doctor or pharmacy.

Medicare beneficiaries or their legal representatives can obtain benefits counseling or more information by calling AAA's call center at 832-393-4301.

Benefits counselors do not recommend or endorse any specific insurance product, insurance company or plan. They provide information and advice so beneficiaries can make their own decisions.

People can enroll in Medicare if they are 65 or older, under 65 and have a disability or have either end-stage renal disease or ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease.

New coverage begins January 1.



## Comptroller releases 2020-2021 estimate of state revenue

AUSTIN — State budget writers likely will have more funds to meet the needs of Texas in the near term, based on information released Oct. 10 by the comptroller's office.

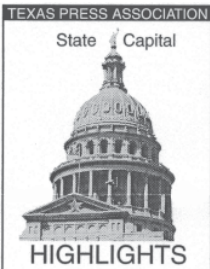
Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said revenue available for general spending in 2020-21 is expected to total about \$121.76 billion, up 9.6 percent from the 2018-19 biennium. This revenue would support the \$118.86 billion in general-purpose spending called for by the 86th Texas Legislature and would result in a final balance available for certification of \$2.89 billion.

Before each regular legislative session, the comptroller issues a biennial revenue estimate that forecasts how much money will be available for spending in the state's next two-year budget cycle. After the session, the comptroller releases the certification revenue estimate providing the detailed basis by which the comptroller certified the budget. The certification estimate revises the biennial revenue estimate to reflect legislative activity and current economic information and takes into account final revenue numbers for the recently ended fiscal year.

"In fiscal 2019, the Texas economy continued to grow at rates among the highest in the nation," Hegar said. "We are projecting continued expansion of the Texas economy in this biennium. The most likely scenario is one of steady expansion at a pace below that of the 2018-19 biennium. Risks to the estimate, however, include ongoing uncertainty about trade and national economic policy, slowing global economic growth and volatility in energy prices resulting from instability and potential conflict in the Middle East."

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



Hegar, who closely monitors the economy and state revenue, said he would keep the public informed of significant events as they arise.

**Hegar distributes revenue**  
Comptroller Hegar on Oct. 9 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$773.1 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of October.

The amount to be distributed is 5.1 percent more than the amount reported in October 2018. Allocations are based on sales made in August by businesses that report tax monthly.

**Texas wages look biggest**  
When compared with the other 49 states, Texas boasts the highest average wages after adjusting for cost of living.

This is according to TexIndex, a tool on the Texas comptroller's website that lets users see how Texas and its diverse regions fit into the national picture.

The comptroller has a 50-state scorecard which

now includes regional data in TexIndex, allowing a more detailed look at the state. Data range from information on the state's under-18 population and degreed professionals to home values and the state tax burden.

### Syphilis testing mandated

The Texas Department of State Health Services recently announced Texas public health officials are reminding health care professionals about a new law increasing syphilis testing during pregnancy. Texas law now mandates three syphilis tests: at the first prenatal exam, during the third trimester and at delivery. The new requirement took effect Sept. 1 and comes as the state has seen a sharp increase in the number of syphilis infections passed from mother to child.

Congenital syphilis cases reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services more than doubled last year amid an ongoing increase in syphilis among women of childbearing age and an enhanced public health effort to detect and track cases. There were 367 cases of congenital syphilis in Texas in 2018, up from 164 in 2017.

"Congenital syphilis can have devastating effects on a child, but it is preventable when treatment begins in time," said Dr. John Hellerstedt, DSHS commissioner. "Testing in accordance with the new law will provide the best opportunity to treat the infection so the infant doesn't suffer permanent consequences."

### Update: Vaping, lung issues

The Department of State Health Services on Oct. 8 reported Texas has identified 95 cases of severe lung disease in people who report "vaping" before developing symptoms. One of the patients died.

The agency said state health officials continue to gather information about 28 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in cases in Texas and 48 other states.

Information about vaping and e-cigarettes is available online at [dshs.texas.gov/vaping/](https://dshs.texas.gov/vaping/).

### Early voting schedule is set

According to the Texas Secretary of State, the 10-day period for early voting will begin on Monday, Oct. 21, and end on Friday, Nov. 1.

## THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### "The Kind of Dog I Am"

When my husband, Peter, and I met, we each had a dog.

Peter had a collie named "The Pretty Boy." (Yes, "The" was part of his name) and I had a pound puppy, part golden retriever, part border collie mix named "Milo." The Pretty Boy died shortly before we were married, about five years ago, and Milo died just over a year ago.

We talk about getting a new dog, of course, but all the good reasons not to have a dog prevail. Extended travel—actually travel of any kind—is enormously complicated with a dog. So, for a year now, Peter and I have stuck to our guns and only for a moment here and there been seriously tempted. But this doesn't mean we have stopped loving dogs.

I see dogs every day and I no longer even hesitate to interrupt some poor person's walk to talk to their dog. I talk to the dog and the dog lets me know if it is shy or finds me a little tedious or would prefer to keep walking or, in some cases, is really excited to meet me.

Being less focused on my own dog and more aware of other dogs has given me a new appreciation for all the breeds of dogs I never noticed before. In the great universe of dogs, I no longer play favorites. And I think this is a good thing because, the more dogs I meet, the less difference I see between dogs and people.

This got me wondering what kind of dog I am.

Naturally, in the past, I assumed I was a lot like the dog I owned. I imagined I was sort of a golden retriever mix. I was a cool dog, a chill dog. I was mellow and relaxed and, if something out of the ordinary occurred, I would tilt my head slightly in bemusement.

I am actually nothing at all like this.

If I were a dog, I would jump on the furniture when a new person entered the house. "Look at me! Look at me! Don't you like me?!" I would yap. If they failed to react, I would run circles around them until I got their attention. I would get overexcited and probably piddle on the kitchen floor. (For the record, I do not do this in real life.)

Whoever had to live with me would heave an exasperated sigh. "Does someone need to go for a walk?" they would ask me.

"A WALK?" I would bark, as if I had never had a walk before in my life. "I want to go for a WALK!" I would lunge for the leash and race towards the door. You know this kind of dog. This is what I am.

It would be nice to be the golden retriever I imagine myself to be. The problem is that I will never be that dog. And so, instead of thinking of myself as a golden retriever who always falls short of the mark, I've begun to think of myself as the dog I am—not much hair, rather small and hyperactive, impatient and desperate for affection—that's the dog I am. Maybe, I thought, maybe I could love the dog I am, just as I am.

This is a useful way of thinking about others as well because it's a lot easier to love a dog for what it is—whether that dog is me or someone else.

"Oh! You're a good dog!" I say. "You are just perfect for the kind of dog you are."

Till next time,  
Carrie

## LETTERS To The Editor

### INCORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT MT. ROSE CHURCH

I noticed on page 5, I don't know who took the picture of Mt Rose Church of God in Christ, but they put Mt Rose Church of Christ instead of Mt Rose Church of God in Christ, also they listed the event as a bazaar? It was a free market day giving away food, clothing items, etc., free of charge.  
— READER

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IN THE STARS

Crosby  
Historical  
Society meeting

The Crosby Historical Society will hold a meeting at 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 19th at the Crosby Brethren Church. The meeting is free and open to any interested persons, so please feel free to join us where they will present some of the 1000's of old photos of the community that have been graciously shared with the group.

Goose Creek  
CISD Parent  
Resource Fair

Goose Creek CISD is hosting the Raising a Happy & Healthy Child - Parent Resource Fair Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Sterling High School, 300 West Baker Road.

Highlights include a children's costume contest, door prizes, free flu shots for children and adults, trick or treating, free children's immunizations (based on eligibility) and an appearance by the Chick-fil-A Cow!

Park in the Garth Road side parking lot. Free transportation is available using the Harris County Transit Fixed Route - Baytown Route 3.

Please call Harris County Transit at 832-927-4835 for transportation information.

Northside  
Baptist  
Anniversary

Northside Baptist Church of Highlands will celebrate Homecoming Day and their 58th Anniversary on October 20, 2019 at 10:45 am. NOTE: Worship Service will begin 15 minutes earlier. "Dinner on the Grounds" will follow the service.

Please join us for a great time of singing, preaching, fellowship, and good food. Everyone welcome.

Northside is located at 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX. 77562; nsbchighlands.org.

Food Bank  
Mobile Unit

POINT Alternative Center at 401 Jones Road in Highlands will host the Houston Food Bank Mobile Unit. Pick up free healthy food, such as milk, produce, cereal and canned goods, Friday, October 25, 2019, from 4-6 p.m. This event is open to the community. Please bring bags for the food items.

SCENES FROM THE ART MARKET  
JACINTO CITY MARKET BY NIGHT

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019



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--Jeremiah 17:14

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but wisdom is found in  
those who take advice.

★  
**OBITUARIES**

**Kwang Yeon Ko**  
1/27/1942 – 10/8/2019

Mr. Ko was born in Korea and grewup in South Korea. He married the love of his life, Soo Nam Kang, who went to be with the Lord in 2012.

His only Brother Kwang Ho Ko has also passed away.

Mr. Ko leaves behind, his daughter, Eun Jong Ellison, son in law, Trey Ellison, grandchildren, Elijah Ellison, Ellie Ellison, and Ethan Ellison.

Mr. Ko, was a faithful member of Crosby Church. A Celebration of Life will be at Crosby Church Saturday October 19th at 12 p.m.



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# ASK THE EXPERT

## Newspapers featured on ABC13+ program



TV Channel 13 featured a number of local businesses on their ABC13+ segment, which airs on broadcast TV and also Facebook and Twitter. One of the segments featured Star-Courier and North Channel Star publisher Gilbert Hoffman, seen above with cameraman Willie and reporter Pooja Lodhia. Others featured in the program included the Crosby Heliport, Crosby Stars Cheerleaders and athletes and band, United in Christ charity, La Casita Taqueria restaurant, Straight Off the Road BBQ restaurant, and Scott Stephens of the Cody Foundation. Viewers can see the videos on the ABC13.com/plus website, or on Facebook and Twitter. The link to see the program is <https://abc13.com/society/meet-the-man-behind-the-crosby-star-courier-5589062/>.

## Safety Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the “other” box. To use the ALERT SLIP visit the website: [www.houstontx.gov/police/alert\\_slip](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/alert_slip) HPD’s Online Police Report Form. The purpose of this form is to allow Houston citizens to conveniently file police reports from home, work, or anywhere with internet access. After completing the necessary information you will receive an actual incident number, and you will be able to print the report for your records. [www.houstontx.gov/police/online\\_report.htm](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm)

These web sites should never be used to report an emergency, a crime in progress, or any type of injury. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For any other situation that requires the re-

sponse of a police officer, call 713-884-3131.

Other Community business was Maria Pillar Aponte an engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation said progress is being made on the new sidewalk project north of IH 10 East Freeway from Normandy Street going west along the feeder to Maxey Road (FM 526) and then going north up past Woodforest Blvd. to Nola Court.

Dwantrina Russell, Recruiting Manager said anyone wanting to earn \$19.50 an hour can be a United States Census Taker by applying on line at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855-job-2020.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Why doesn't Pineforest Jewelry have "sales" on their jewelry?"

Another very good question and one that I'm happy to answer.

Let's look at an example of why some stores have "sales". There are several national clothing store chains out there. Look around and you'll find a "70% off" rack in nearly every one of those stores. Did you ever wonder why? There are a couple of reasons to offer customers 70% off. When big chain stores have a "sale" what they're really telling you is, "Our originally overpriced merchandise is not selling fast enough. Not many people were interested in these items at our 700% mark-up so we're willing to only make a 210% mark-up". Yes, it's true. Those stores do not lose a dime...in fact they're making a lot of money from customers who purchased at the original price and those buying at the "sale" price of 70% off. It's a business and marketing ploy or tactic that works because most people think they're getting a "great deal". Well, they're not.

My wife Linda and I built Pineforest Jewelry with one goal in mind; To offer quality jewelry, related items, and repair services at a fair profit. After 32 years in our current location and 38,540 customers later, we've earned the trust and

respect of our customers. I see it every time a customer recognizes the quality in the item they're buying and the value in the price they're paying.

We proudly offer active duty, reserve, and former military personnel and first responders (firefighters, EMT's, and law enforcement) 10% off as a "Thank You" for protecting all of us! And from time to time we will have a special contest, a game, or a "Diamond Jim's Special" event however, I seriously doubt you'll ever see a "sale" at Pineforest Jewelry. The mall stores, big box stores, and chain stores can have their "sales". As an independent jeweler, our everyday prices are already lower than the sale prices from the "big name" stores.

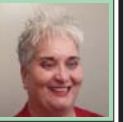
Thank you for being our customer!

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

*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



## Be Intentional

I looked up this week and somehow we are already in the middle of the month of October. Yes, just a few weeks before we enter into the season of "grazing and praising". I am sure you know what I am talking about, you open your email or your mailbox and there is an onslaught of invitations as well as greeting cards wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. But wait, what happened to 2019? We often start asking ourselves if we accomplished anything this year. If we are not careful, we can find ourselves comparing our lives to those of others.

Something that I realized many years ago was that spending time with others was much more valuable than spending money on them. While we all have different amounts in our bank accounts or different opportunities afforded to us, time is the one thing that we all have the same amount of. Therefore, we must be intentional about how we spend our allotment.

My childhood friend, Tim Fleming, often tells people that he met a nerd in 1974 at North Shore Junior High. This new friend not only carried a calendar with her, but constantly made lists of seemingly trivial information. The friend would get people's names, birthdays and interests. You guessed it, I was that nerd.

I am not sure when or where I learned the value of keeping notes as well as a calendar but over the years, long before social media would send a reminder as to who was celebrating a birthday or anniversary, my friend Jayne McFarland would

call me her "walking calendar". And it has truly paid off to be a collector of information as well as of dates. I am sure there are a few unnamed spouses who have been saved because I mentioned their anniversary or other special date.

In listening to people, I have learned details that the person never thought I paid attention to, yet years later when someone would tell me their child was considering attending a certain university or studying a certain major, I have been able to connect them.

Connecting people has truly been a gift. My son Daniel suggested back in 2009, that I register the name "Connecting DOTS" so that someday, I could use it as a source of making money. It did not take long until he realized the importance of a quote that my longtime colleague J. D. Mota had shared "Do you want to make a difference or just make a living?" This was a quote that J.D. had learned from a previous colleague and felt important enough to share. Over the 22 years I worked at the college, I do not know how many students asked about it.

When someone asks me how to being living an intentional life, I tell them to buy a calendar. Starts with listing all of the family birthdays and anniversaries in it. Then move to add important yearly community events. Keep adding and keep adding to your list of "things to remember". Live intentionally. For more information, reach out, contact me at [charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com](mailto:charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com)

### NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# Galena Park I.S.D Hosts Ribbon Cutting ceremony and Open House for new Childcare Center

The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Childcare Center hosted their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House on Wednesday, October 9. The event was attended by students, parents, staff, elected officials and community members. This facility includes eight classrooms for infants and early childcare learners and a multipurpose room used for trainings.

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce kicked off the festivities with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Galena Park I.S.D. Childcare Center director, Ms. Barbara Garrett, was joined by Chamber of Commerce members, GPISD superintendent, Dr. Angi Williams, and the GPISD Board of Trustees for the cutting of the ribbon.

Ms. Garrett was presented with a proclamation from



Faculty, students and members of the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce at ribbon cutting of Childcare center.

Representative Ana Hernandez's office in recognition of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

After the presentation of the proclamation, Ms. Garrett reflected on the construction process and how special this new facility is to the students, faculty and community.

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, Yuroba Harris from Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's office, Senator Carol Alvarado, Maria Delgado from Representative Ana Hernandez's office, Major David Jones from Constable Sherman Eagleton's office and Sgt. Blanca Martinez and David Matthews from Constable Chris Diaz' office for attending and showing their support at the Galena Park I.S.D. Childcare Center ribbon cutting ceremony.

# Galena Park I.S.D. Principals Honored at Board Meeting



In recognition of Principals Month, the Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized our 26 principals for their hard work and dedication at the October Board Meeting.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared October 2019 to be Principals Month and acknowledged all elementary, middle and high school principals for playing a vital part of our children's education as they set the academic tone for their school.

"I encourage Texans to learn more about the contributions of principals and the roles they play in ensuring every child has access to a high quality education in a safe, supportive environment," said Governor Abbott.

GPISD would like to thank our principals for everything they do!

**RICHARD "RICK" GONZALES**  
**FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT I**

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# Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees Recognizes Vanessa Squirrell

The Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees recognized Ms. Vanessa Squirrell as the new director for school culture at the October board meeting. Ms. Squirrell most recently served as a prevention safe schools specialist at Alief I.S.D. and has 23 years of experience in education. Congratulations, Ms. Squirrell, and welcome to Galena Park I.S.D.!



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