



# 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

### North Shore 54-25 over undefeated Westbrook



*By Allan Jamail*

BEAUMONT, TX. – Thursday, October 24 – The Mustangs remain undefeated in district play by beating the undefeated Westbrook Bruins 54 – 25.

Mustang Coach Jon Kay mixed up his offense using several players both rushing and pass receiving to never fall behind in the game. His special teams players shined and scored numerous times.

North Shore's offense racked up 470 total yards with 267 yards rushing and 203 yards passing. Their defense allowed the Bruins to make 500 yards but not allowing them in the end zone enough to threaten their lead.



Mustang #14, Charles King wide receiver dives and stretches ball across the goal line scoring on a Demetrius Davis pass.



North Shore's #3 Zach Evans gallops 64 yards for a touchdown. (Photos by Allan Jamail)

More North Shore, Page 8

### 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 10 am to 2 pm on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019. The public is invited. There are booths and sponsorships available by calling the Chamber at 713-450-3600. Last year's photo from the Expo.

**Flukinger Community Center events**

- Monday, Nov. 4, Corpus Christi Overnight Bus Trip
- Thursday, Nov. 7, Special Ladies Auction, browse @ 8:00, starts 9:45. Gospel night 7-9 pm.

Questions, please call 713-274-2132. Center located at 16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview, TX 77530.

**VFW 10462 BBQ**

Bet with Vets, November 9, 2019. Noon until gone. BBQ plates: chicken, sausage, potatoe salad & beans. \$10 plate. VFW 823 Nadolney, Houston, TX 77015. All proceeds for VFW building maintenance.

**Alzheimer Awareness Program**

Thursday, November 14, 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo St. Channelview, TX. Call 713-274-2132 to RSVP. Visit Alz.org for more information.

### LyondellBasell volunteers help Rio Villa Community repair front entrance after Imelda



Group of volunteers before any repairs and work done at Rio Villa entrance.



Original sign before any work.

HOUSTON, Texas – Oct. 28, 2019 – Lyondell-Basell employees recently dedicated a Saturday to helping out their Rio Villa neighbors after the community flooded following Tropical Storm Imelda.

About 40 volunteers, family members and Rio Villa residents gathered at the front entrance of the neighborhood on Oct. 19 armed with heavy equipment and landscaping materials to repair and beautify the two entrance signs that were nearly covered up by floodwater.

"As a company, it is part of our culture to give back to our communities even during normal times," said Mark Gasper, project manager for LyondellBasell's propylene oxide and tertiary butyl alcohol (PO/TBA) project taking place in Channelview. "It's even more important that we assist our neighbors during their time of need. Rio Villa is a very close-knit community

*See Global Day Care, Page 8*

### Yellowjackets defeat Patriots 26 –18 in Homecoming game

*By Allan Jamail*

Galena Park ISD Stadium, Homecoming game, Friday, October 25, 2019 - The Yellowjackets played good football on both offense and defense, defeating the Baytown Goose Creek Memorial Patriots 26 to 18.

Head Coach Spiro Amarantos of the Galena Park Yellowjackets had the team playing better than ever this season. His offense rushing game made 201 yards, the passing game needs more plays to better balance the offense



2019 Galena Park Homecoming King, Eddie Rodriguez (band member) and Queen Karla Reyes.

### Jacinto City's Day of Good Works



Jacinto City, Tx. – Friday, October 25, 2019 at the Jacinto City Town Center volunteers stepped up to make sure the food staples, health and personal dental hygiene kits was distributed to those requesting assistance. Over 200 people were assisted from the local communities.

L – R: Volunteers: Pamela Perez, Irasema Salinas, Vice-Pres. Keep Jacinto City Clean Committee, Lucinni Balar, URS logo, Ivan Rojas, Jacinto City Recreation Director, Gloria Montano, Summit Dental Center, Rodrigo P. De Luna, Angels Medical, Roa Espinosa, and Rudolfo Nunez, United Healthcare. Others not in photo, Vicente Salinas, Lupe Gomez and Omar Cortez.

See Galena Park, Page 8

★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

## Florus running for Constable



Deborah Florus was the featured center of the Crosby American Legion fish fry dinner last Friday. A live auction featured Eddie Foster as auctioneer.

## Boo Bash



"Chuck" Thompson smiles as he chaperones the hay ride around the park near Crosby Community Center and the Crosby Branch Library. The hay ride was one of a bevy of activities at the Boo Bash last Saturday near Hare Road in Crosby. Delicious sandwiches were also for sale to supporters. The majority of the Crosby Community Center activities are self supporting and members supported rather than a tax based pay out. The weather was certainly favorable for turn out and outdoor fun.

## Robert E. Lee High School named Apple Distinguished School

Robert E. Lee High School is pleased to announce that it has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022 for its unique implementation of technology where every student learns with iPad and teachers use iPad and Apple TV to help facilitate learning.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence that use Apple technology to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment and have documented results of academic accomplishment.

"Becoming an Apple Distinguished School for the third time is unprecedented in Goose Creek CISD. This is another great example of the professionalism and constant focus our teachers have in improving the level of instruction on our campus," said Dr. Joseph Farnsworth, REL principal. "Lori Roberts, our educational technology specialist, played a huge role in our success! We have embraced the 21st Century technological skills that our students need to be successful after high school. This is a tremendous recognition that again illustrates the fact that Robert E. Lee High School is the flagship high school of Baytown."

The selection of Robert E. Lee High School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights the school's success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment. Students are engaged in collaboration and teamwork through the use of iPad. In Ginger Zoidis' Culinary Arts classes, students use iPad to create how-to recipe videos using iMovie and Clips to share their knowledge on creating a variety of dishes. With iMovie, Deaf Education students DeJaree Gray, Stephanie Hernandez, and Yaneli Gonzales were able to add picture-in-picture American Sign Language (ASL) translations to their recipe instructions. Algebra II



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Katie Ward (second from left), Algebra II teacher, and student Esmerelda Gonzalez (middle) show Shae Cottar (left), Goose Creek CISD board member, and Jess Cottar, community member, how the Classkick app works.



Photo by Katie Dean

Lauren Spyker tries out a new recipe while Ethan Selman videos in Chef Ginger Zoidis' Culinary Arts class.

teacher Katie Ward is able to give her students instant and relevant feedback on their math work using the app Classkick. Through Classkick, students are also able to anonymously ask for assistance from their instructor or classmates on solving problems if they are stuck. Student Juan De La O likes Classkick "because it helps improve my learning and gives me immediate feedback." Learning for teachers is also embedded into the school culture. Teachers participate in digital badge challenges and professional development to help increase their technology skills. Ninety-four percent of the faculty (including teachers, administrators, and counselors) has earned Apple Teacher Certification for iPad. These examples and more can be found in the book This is Us: Robert E. Lee High School on Apple Books for iPhone, iPad, or Mac. Visit <http://bit.ly/relads2019> to download and read the book.

Built in 1928, Robert E. Lee High School has a rich history as the oldest high school in Baytown. Traditions, such as the school colors of maroon and white, the Gander mascot and the saying, "Once a Gander, Always a Gander," have been passed down through the years. Proud alumni recall Doc Severinsen playing a concert with the REL Band in the 1960s and the excitement surrounding President Ford's visit to Stallworth Stadium for a Gander football game in 1976. Nearly destroyed by fire in 1987, the school was rebuilt, and it was honored with a historical marker dedication, sponsored by the Baytown Historical Preservation Association, in 2013. Today, REL serves nearly 1,800 students and houses the STEM Academy, which recently achieved Model Status, the highest rating granted by the National Career Academy Coalition.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Harris County Flood Control District completes phase one study of large diameter tunnels for stormwater conveyance

The Harris County Flood Control District worked with a team of underground construction experts to take an initial look at the feasibility of constructing large-diameter, deep tunnels to convey stormwater. Underground tunnels could supplement existing bayou and creek capacity to mitigate flooding in Harris County. The team was led by Freese and Nichols with support from Parsons, Brierley Associates, Terracon, HVJ, Sowell Consulting Engineers, and Middleton Brown.

The study was the first phase of a multi-phased approach and focused on determining the applicability of tunneling by evaluating the hydraulic capacity of tunnels, developing schedules and cost projections, and by comparing geotechnical conditions in Harris County with other active and completed tunnel projects around the United States and the world.

Washington, D.C., currently has two large underground tunnels that were built in part for flood mitigation purposes.

"Our analysis of the geotechnical conditions indicate that the soil and groundwater conditions in Harris County are similar to Washington, D.C. - and

could potentially be even better for tunneling," said Brian Gettinger, P.E., Tunneling Services Leader at Freese and Nichols. "This is a key factor in the phase-one study as it validates that large-diameter, deep tunnels are constructable in Harris County."

The deep tunnel concept has similarities to a 1996 Flood Control District feasibility study that considered a trenched box culvert system along the Interstate 10 right-of-way. Unlike the 1996 study, the large-diameter tunnel concept has the potential to convey much larger flow rates and to convey the flow all the way into the Houston Ship Channel. The benefits include avoiding impacts to surface structures and property and potentially offering flood damage reduction benefits to a larger region.

"Geotechnical conditions do not appear to present any remarkable nor non-negotiable concerns for the large diameter tunnels at this time," said Scott Elmer, P.E., Engineering Division Manager at Harris County Flood Control District. "Geologic faults in Harris County may require special design and construction considerations if crossed by a tunnel, but it is not a fatal

flaw." Preliminary estimates prepared during the phase-one study show that a 10-mile-long, 25- and 40-foot diameter tunnel would cost approximately \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively, to construct.

Harris County Flood Control District funded the phase-one study through a \$320,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and an \$80,000 cost-share from the Flood Control District's 2018 Bond Program. Considerations for the next phase of the study are currently in development.

### ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).

## State Rep. Ana Hernandez hosts breakfast and fellowship in honor of National Clergy Appreciation Month



On Tuesday, October 29, 2019 State Rep Ana Hernandez celebrated National Clergy Month with Pastors and the community at North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church located at 444 Maxey Road, Robert Dixon II, Pastor. Breakfast was provided and many topics of concern about the community were discussed.

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★ OPINION PAGE ★



# Social Security Matters

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

## Income Tax on Social Security vs. the Earnings Test

**Dear Rusty:** I retired from work this year (age 62) and I will receive my first social security benefits in September. Is there a special rule for the first year you retire that allows you to not pay taxes on your social security since you have earned no other income since you retired? Before I retired, I earned about \$50,000, which I know is more than the usual allowed income. Signed: Retired Senior

**Dear Retired Senior:** I'm afraid there is no such "first year" rule which exempts you from paying income tax on your Social Security benefits. When you file your Federal income taxes with the IRS you will need to claim your Social Security (SS) benefits as part of your income, and whether it is taxable will depend upon whether your "modified adjusted gross income" (MAGI) for the year exceeds \$25,000 (if you file single) or \$32,000 (if you file married-jointly). "MAGI" includes your taxable income from all sources (your "adjusted gross income" from your Federal income tax return), plus any tax-exempt interest you may have received, plus half of your annual Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds the above levels, then up to 50% of your Social Security benefits will become a part of your taxable income; or if you exceed \$34,000 (filing single) or \$44,000 (filing married-jointly) then up to 85% of your annual SS benefits will become taxable. If you don't exceed those levels your SS benefits aren't taxable as income.

However, I suspect you may be confusing income tax on your Social Security benefits with another rule - Social Security's "earnings test" which, if you have not yet reached your full retirement age, sets a limit on what you can earn without your benefit payments being affected. If you are collecting benefits before you have reached your full retirement age and you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$17,640 for 2019) Social

Security will withhold some of your benefits - \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If that is what you're referring to then, yes, there is a special rule for the first year you are collecting Social Security. That special first year rule says that if you claim benefits mid-year and you have not yet reached your full retirement age, you'll be subject to a monthly earnings test for the remainder of that year, rather than the annual test. So, if your benefits start in September, provided you don't earn more than \$1470 in September or any month thereafter in 2019 you won't lose any benefits. But if you do exceed that monthly limit, even by \$1, you won't be entitled to any SS benefits for that month. The monthly test is only in the calendar year you claim benefits - it goes away for you in 2020 and you'll be subject to the annual earnings test only for next year.

Please note that the earnings limits are considerably more if you are claiming in the year you will reach your full retirement age. If this were the year you will reach your full retirement age, the annual limit would be \$46,920 and the monthly limit would be \$3910 (these limits change annually). However, if you stay fully retired and don't return to work you will not need to worry about the Social Security earnings test but, depending on your "MAGI," you may need to pay income taxes on your Social Security benefits.

*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.*



## Governor issues disaster declaration for storm-stricken counties

AUSTIN — After severe weather struck north and east Texas on Oct. 20, Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration naming a list of counties in that region.

Among the counties named are: Cass, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Erath, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Panola, Rains, Rockwall, Rusk, Tarrant, Van Zandt and Wood.

"By issuing this declaration, Texas is providing local officials with the resources they need to quickly respond and recover from this storm," Abbott said. In addition to providing access to state resources, the declaration waived certain regulations to make it easier for utility companies to bring in out-of-state resources to assist in restoring power.

The storm brought high winds, heavy rains and at least four tornadoes. Tornado action ravaged a swath 40 miles long through the Dallas area, causing widespread destruction in residential areas and businesses, forcing many closures and resulting in the loss of electrical power to tens of thousands of customers.

Damages attributed to the storm, currently estimated at more than \$2 billion, continue to be updated.

### Report: The digital divide

More than two million Texas households still do not have access to high-speed internet service.

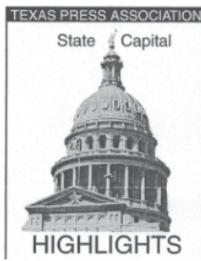
Those findings are included in the top story of the October edition of "Fiscal Notes," a monthly publication produced by the comptroller's office.

The story says the digital divide between urban and rural Texans "has serious implications for education, telemedicine, agriculture and small business."

Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar commented about the story in an Oct. 23 news release, saying, "It's a wired world today and we can't expect our state to flourish unless we make sure as many Texans as possible have access to de-

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



### Update: Vaping, lung issues

The Texas Department of State Health Services has identified 147 Texas cases of severe lung disease in people who reported they had "vaped" before developing symptoms. One of the patients has died.

In its Oct. 22 weekly update on the use of e-cigarettes ("vaping") and lung disease, the agency reported that state health officials are gathering more information about 17 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in cases in Texas and 48 other states.

Respiratory symptoms include difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and coughing. Some people have also experienced nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Clinicians are urged to ask patients with these symptoms about a history of vaping, gather as much information as possible about suspected cases, and report them to DSHS.

Nationally, 1,479 cases have been reported. The DSHS and agencies in other states are working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration to gather evidence about what the cases have in common and to determine a cause.

### AGs target online sales

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Oct. 22 announced he has joined a bipartisan coalition of 47 state and territorial attorneys general in calling on Facebook, Craigslist and eBay to take action against alcohol sales on their platforms.

A letter from the coalition asks the companies to:

- Review the current content posted to their websites and to remove illegal postings for the sales and/or transfer of alcohol products; and
- Develop and deploy programming to block and prevent platform users from violating state laws.

Coalition members also invited the companies to join them in forming a work group with stakeholders from government and industry to explore how to establish protocols for preventing illegal alcohol sales.

pendable high-speed internet for everything from educational and medical services to agricultural technology and online sales."

### Air monitoring increases

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is enhancing its air-monitoring capabilities thanks to new equipment funded by the Texas Legislature and savings from the agency's 2019 budget.

The Legislature granted TCEQ's request to equip up to three new vehicles with real-time, mobile air-monitoring technology. Meanwhile, budget savings are being used to fund the installation of three new automated gas chromatograph air monitoring stations in the Houston area and the purchase of new handheld air monitors.

Previously TCEQ's vans were equipped with instruments only capable of collecting data while stationary and required a time-consuming process to deploy and calibrate. The newly equipped vans will provide the ability for rapid survey assessments, allowing the agency to quickly sample pollutant hot spots, map air concentrations, and identify locations for sampling over longer durations.

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## THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### "More Owls"

First, I noticed the owl. "Peter! Did you see the owl?!" Our last Airbnb in Spain had a ceramic owl. So, when I found a similar owl—in a similarly inconvenient location—I took it as a good omen. "What owl?" my husband, Peter, said. Then I found four more owls, bringing our tally up to five. "Five owls! Now I know this is going to be a good trip!" "Huh," Peter agreed. (Sometimes Peter's not as effusive as I am.)

We are staying in Frigiliana, a small town in the south of Spain. The rent was suspiciously cheap, but the reviews were all good except to say that the house was on a road with stairs. There is a good reason for this: the town predates wheels. Roads with stairs work perfectly fine if you don't drive on them.

We were dropped off as close as possible, then faced the challenge of dragging our luggage up the stairs (which was actually the road) to the little blue door of our house. We met our landlady who was both informative and hardy as she hefted our luggage over the cobblestone.

Peter and I have our travel priorities well synched. First, Peter made ice cubes because we need more ice than any European can imagine. We don't care. We like ice. Peter makes ice cubes in small plastic cups he brings along.

"Wonderful ice cubes!" Peter remarks, every time he does this.

Then we found the tourism office (there actually was one!) after we took a wrong turn and asked directions at the gelato shop. I did not have a gelato as it was threatening to rain and no one likes to eat gelato in the rain. Plus, I had just polished off an entire bag of cookies I bought just to see if they were any good. (They were.)

Then we went to the big grocery store which was not big but had everything we needed. They had a lot of vegetables and a variety of beans, including some I could not identify. So, naturally, I bought them. It turns out they were mammoth fava beans with skin still on them. Who knew fava beans had skin? Who knew it had to be removed?

Peter made soup with the fava beans. After the soup was cooked, Peter fished the beans out of the soup and skinned them. This is not the recommended order of operations.

"It's not that bad!" Peter said. "It's like shucking shrimp!" (Peter is such a romantic.)

Then I went up to the bathroom and opened the door to the rooftop terrace. The bathroom is upstairs, all by itself, and the entrance to the terrace is through the bathroom. (It is an unusual arrangement.) Outside I discovered two cats on the roof who immediately made it clear they were expecting a handout. I rustled up some milk. I am quite sure they will show up tomorrow expecting bigger things.

Of course, not everything could go well. We failed to find any kitchen towels—which now constitutes an emergency. (A person needs at least one minor emergency just to keep sharp.)

We went to bed early. It started to rain. There had not been much rain, so everyone was grateful. I was lying in bed when I saw it.

"Peter! Another owl!" The church bells stop ringing at 10:00 pm. At least, I think they do, as that is the last thing I remember.

"Six owls!" I said to Peter, as the church bells rang. "Umm," Peter replied. I could tell he was impressed.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

OBITUARIES

Robert Eugene Hughes



Robert Eugene Hughes, Sr., 92, passed away October 25, 2019 in Pasadena, Texas. Robert was born on April 23, 1927 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to parents Claude and Viola (Gray) Hughes. He was a WWII veteran, and Robert proudly served his country in the Army, 86th Ordinance, 147th Company, as well as in the Coast Guard as a Merchant Marine. At the conclusion of the war, Robert met and married the love of his life, Derna Maria (Memmo) and they enjoyed 70 years of marriage until her passing in 2017. He enjoyed fishing and he also had fun going to the casinos.

Robert will be remembered as a dedicated and loving father, grandfather and friend. He is preceded in death by his wife, Derna Maria Hughes; granddaughters, Bethanny and Caitlyn Hughes; half-brothers, Norman J. "Toodles" Hughes and Donald "Don" Hughes. Robert is survived by his children, Lilly Hughes and partner, Dennis W. Renfro, Robert E. Hughes, Jr. and wife LeeAnn, Roger Hughes and wife Jerri; grandchildren, Austin Hughes, Zackery Hughes, Jarred Hughes; great-grandchildren, Kandis Golden, Kolby Hughes, Tucker Hughes, Tred Hughes; half-sister, Vel McAllister; as well as extended family members and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, October 31, 2019 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home with Pastor Kent Wilson to officiate. Graveside services with military honors will follow at 1:00 P.M. in Houston National Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Melba Robles Ortiz



Melba Robles Ortiz, 84, joined her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Oct. 22, 2019. She was born on Aug. 5, 1935 in Laredo, TX, and lived in Channelview, TX, for 55 years. She was preceded in death by her husband Ramiro G. Ortiz, parents Blas and Angela (Pedraza) Robles, sister Aurora Robles, and brothers Antonio Robles, Blas Robles, Daniel Robles, David Robles, and Jose Guadalupe Robles. She is survived by her sisters Delia Casablanca of San Antonio, TX, Elidia Robles of Corpus Christi, TX, and Dolores Torres (Raymond) of Pasadena, TX; by her brothers Santiago Robles (Lala) of Lake Forest, CA, Joe L. Robles (Rose) of San Diego, CA, and Richard Robles (Benita) of Pasadena, TX; by her sisters-in-law Lili Robles of Corpus Christi, TX, Delia Robles of Houston, TX, and Dolores Bolanos of Corpus Christi, TX; and by her brother-in-law Juan Ortiz of Phoenix, AZ.

She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother. She is survived by her children Ramiro Ortiz (Wanda), Antonio Ortiz (Susan), Mary Ortiz-Dvorak, Raymond Ortiz, Richard Ortiz (Sylvia), Melbie Vinson (Chuck), Angie Wolf (Jon), Mandy Ortiz, and Carlos Ortiz (Theresa). Her legacy includes her 23 grandchildren,

great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She was an active member of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church of Channelview for almost 50 years. She gave selflessly of her time, talents, and heart in many volunteer activities, caring for community members even when struggling herself. She was involved in the church as a eucharistic minister, as a member of the "Double Nickel" social group, counting weekend offerings, and other church services, such as visiting those who were homebound or in nursing homes. She was also active in Catholic Daughters of the Americas #2068, Legion of Mary, Vincentian Society of St. Vincent De Paul, and St. Andrew's Annual Bazaar, among others. Even with these volunteer activities, she was always there for her children, grandchildren, and their families. She also opened her loving home and heart to her children's friends whenever they were in need. She will be remembered as truly demonstrating the hands and

feet of Jesus.

She was known for her love of life and adventure, as well as her competitive spirit. In addition to being an avid checkers player and die-hard Astros fan, she enjoyed riding her bicycle, parasailing, and tubing well into her '80s. She stayed active with yoga and exercise classes, loved to dance, and attended every quinceañera, graduation, and wedding she could, often being the last on the dance floor. She was proud of her children Ramiro, Antonio, and Mary, as well as her grandson-in-law Jackie, who served in the US Marine Corps. She also had the honor of attending the 243rd Marine Corps Ball in Camp Pendleton, CA, for the 5th Marine Regiment. Visitation will be on Mon., Oct. 28 from 5-8 pm at Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St., Houston. Visitation and rosary will be at 5 pm on Tues., Oct. 29 at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview (rosary at 6:30 pm, refreshments afterward in the parish hall). Funeral mass will be on Wed., Oct. 30 at 11:30 am at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Friends and family will gather for interment at 2 pm at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Historical Society views old Crosby photos

The Crosby Historical Society held their quarterly meeting last Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Brethren Church hall.

The members and guests, totalling about 75 persons, were given a preview of Jody Fuchs historical picture book "Two Hundred Years: Crosby's Bicentennial Story."

Fuchs has been collecting photos for about two years, and has amassed an impressive archive of about 3500 photos, out of about 40,000 that he has screened.

Crosby was settled in 1823, making it one of the oldest settlements in Texas. It will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2023.

Lifetime resident Jody Fuchs, is preparing a photographic history of the community in preparation



Jody Fuchs

for the upcoming BiCentennial event, and is looking for other old or interesting photos of the community. He is working with members of the Crosby Historical Society, Donna Davenport and Klaus Duda.

Some of these photos are also on Facebook, with new postings regularly.



Railroad and Town Center, now FM2100.



Original Crosby schoolhouse, with biplane.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 1 Peter in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. At the time of Rehoboam there was a split: The Kingdom of Israel was in the north, while the southern

kingdom was called ... ? Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judah, Syria

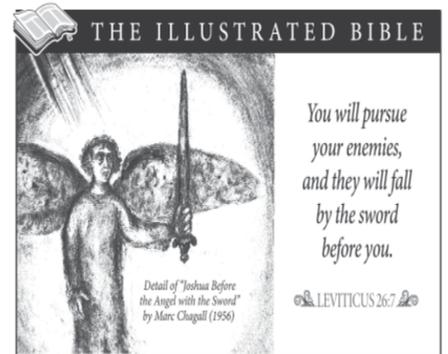
3. From Luke 13, which king was referred to by Jesus as "that fox"? Herod, Solomon, Ahab, Caesar

4. What was a Persian gold coin also used by the Hebrews? Loon, Daric, Denarius, Falc

5. Who said, "Be sure your sin will find you out"? Matthew, David, Noah, Moses

6. Jebus is another name for ... ? Jericho, Jerusalem, Judah, Joshua

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Judah; 3) Herod; 4) Daric; 5) Moses; 6) Jerusalem



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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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ROMANS 8:18

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# ASK THE EXPERT

## 5 Important Medicare Changes Coming For 2020

(NAPSI)—If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, or are considering one, you will have more plan choices with a wider range of benefits to help you better manage your day-to-day health needs during this year's open enrollment period.

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, gives Medicare enrollees a chance to revisit their Medicare insurance coverage, make sure it still fits their needs and make changes for the coming year.

Online health insurance broker eHealth outlines five of the most important Medicare changes to be aware of this year:

1. New benefits to help those with chronic illness. Starting in January, 2020, some Medicare Advantage Plans will include benefits for people with chronic illness that will help to support their care. A few examples include nutrition services, transportation to doctor's appointments and home improvements like shower grips and wheelchair access. More traditional services like dental care, vision care and hearing aids also have been expanded.

2. Medicare Advantage premiums will be lower next year. The average monthly premium for Medicare Advantage plans is expected to be \$23 in 2020, a decrease of 14% from an average of \$26.87 in 2019, and down 28 percent since 2017. The average Medicare Advantage premium this year is the lowest it's been since 2007.

3. Part D drug plan premiums will be lower, too.

The average Medicare prescription drug plan premium for 2020 is \$30, a decline of 13.5% as compared with 2019 costs. Savings on out-of-pocket costs may be available as well. A recent eHealth analysis of people using eHealthMedicare.com to compare Medicare plans found that fewer than one in ten were enrolled in the lowest cost plan for their personal prescription drug regimen. Those who switched to their optimal drug plan stood to save an average of \$900 per year.

4. Seeing a doctor without leaving home will get easier. Many seniors will have access to Medicare Advantage telehealth benefits to connect with health care providers online or by phone. For 2020, more than half of all Medicare Advantage plans will offer added telehealth benefits, reaching up to about 1.7 million enrollees.

5. Medigap plan options are changing. Two of the most popular supplemental plans (so-called Medigap plans) used by those enrolled in original Medicare—Plan F and Plan C—will no longer be available to new Medicare members or those born after January 1, 1955. Fortunately, Plan G, another Medigap policy, offers the same level of coverage provided by Plan F—minus the Part B deductible—and will continue to be available after January 2020. The Part B deductible was \$185 in 2019.

Even if you're happy your Medicare coverage, eHealth recommends that you review your current coverage during open enrollment because each year plans can and do make changes in costs, physician networks or drug benefits.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "How is natural yellow gold made into white or rose gold?"

Gold is a chemical element with the symbol Au (from Latin: aurum) and the atomic number 79. In its purest form, it is a bright, slightly reddish yellow, dense, soft, malleable and ductile metal. Gold is commonly formed into bars or coin for use in monetary exchange. Gold is the most malleable of all metals; a single gram can be beaten into a sheet of 1 square meter, and an ounce into 300 square feet. Gold leaf can be beaten thin enough to become transparent. The transmitted light appears greenish blue, because gold strongly reflects yellow and red. Such semi-transparent sheets also strongly reflect infrared light, making them useful as infrared (radiant heat) shields in visors of heat-resistant suits, and in sun-visors for space suits. Gold is a good conductor of heat and electricity and reflects infrared radiation strongly.

**White Gold**  
White gold is an alloy of gold and at least one white metal, usually nickel, manganese or palladium. Like yellow gold, the purity of white gold is given in karats. A common white gold formulation consists of 90 wt.% gold and 10 wt.% nickel. Copper can be added to increase malleability.

The alloys used in jewelry industry are gold-palladium-silver and gold-nickel-copper-zinc. Palladium and nickel act as primary bleaching agents for gold; zinc acts as a secondary bleaching agent to attenuate the color of copper. The nickel used in some white gold alloys can cause an allergic reaction when worn over long periods (also notably on some wrist-watch casings). This reaction, typically a minor skin rash, occurs in about one out of eight people and because of this, many countries do not use nickel in their white gold formulations.

Rose, red, and pink gold  
Rose gold is a gold and copper alloy widely used for specialized jewelry. Rose gold, also known as pink gold and red gold, was popular in Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and was also known as Russian gold although this term is now obsolete. Rose gold jewelry is becoming more popular in the 21st century and is commonly used for wedding rings, bracelets, and other jewelry.

Although the names are often used interchangeably, the difference between red, rose, and pink gold is the copper content: the higher the copper content, the stronger the red coloration. Pink gold uses the least copper, followed by rose gold, with red gold having the highest copper content.

**Rose gold**  
Also known as "Crown Gold".

The highest karat version of rose gold is also known as crown gold, which is 22 karat. Eighteen karat red gold may be made of 25% copper and 75% gold. For 18 karat rose gold, typically about 4% silver is added to 75% gold and 21% copper to give a rose color. 14 karat red gold is often found in the Middle East and contains 41.67% copper.

High-end musical flutes are very commonly made of solid rose gold, the most common being 14K.

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.*

*If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmillis@pineforestjewelry.com.*

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## Restored and Renewed

Working to restore an automobile that has been damaged and dented is not an easy job. Raising children as a single parent is not an easy job either. What do these two situations have in common? For the past 20 years, Bates Collision Owners Lee and Leila Bates have been touching lives by giving away refurbished cars to deserving parents who have children enrolled in the Harris County Department of Education Head Start Program.

Early in the calendar year, the Bates purchase two vehicles at a car auction and employees donate their talent and time outside of working hours to have the car returned to showroom condition. They work with their vendors to be able to do the repairs as cost effective as possible. After school resumes in the fall, they work in conjunction with Head Start Center Managers to find two deserving families to receive the vehicles. The parents are selected after a review of criteria that qualifies them for the Bates Collision Responsible Parenting Award. Then around early November, they begin to invite their community partners and friends to donate items for the family such as gasoline cards, gifts for the children, car insurance, gift cards for groceries and much more. And then in mid-December, the crowd gathers and the excitement fills the air. The smiles are priceless.

The Bates have a strong faith that extends not just to their family and their business, but to their employees and the community. They recognize the sacrifice that single parents often make in order to

provide for their children. Over the years, they have built a reputation of caring for the community. As active members of several Chambers of Commerce, they give back in many ways from door prizes at meetings to sponsoring many events. Ask any of their employees and they will tell you that the company feels more like family than a business.

Last year, just hours after the Vehicle Give Away, Lee Bates suffered some major health difficulties yet no sooner did the news spread, than the prayers started throughout the North Channel and Baytown communities. There were weeks of email updates and more prayers. Yet in the midst of the health struggles, the Bates family continued to do what they do best—they led by example. They operated both locations with integrity and love. If you were not aware of the health issues, you would have never known as they continued to be a leader in the community. During the journey of the past year, their bonds have become stronger as a family and they have remained committed to setting an example for others to follow.

As we move into the holidays, take time to look for those in our community who give back, not just monetarily but with leadership and love. If you would like to be a part of donating to make the holidays special for the two families being blessed this Christmas, reach out to Bates Collision and get the details of the needs. Be a part of restoring hope and bringing a renewed joy to the families. We are blessed to be in a community of love.

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals for Construction of the 2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project to serve the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 in Harris County, Texas will be received at the office of Harris County MUD 50, 12900 Crosby-Lynchburg, Crosby, TX 77532, until 1:00 P.M. local time, November 14, 2019 and then publicly opened. A NON-MANDATORY BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at the office of Harris County MUD 50 on November 6, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. Each bid must be submitted in a 9" x 12" envelope and accompanied by Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, duly executed, in the amount of not less than five (5%) percent of the bid.

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 is proposing to rehabilitate a portion of the existing sanitary sewer collection system within the District and the adjoining service area. Project work consists of point repairs of existing sanitary sewers, grease removal, root removal, pipe bursting, cured-in-place pipe lining, manhole inflow protection dish installation, manhole rehabilitation, and manhole cover replacement. The scope also includes the replacement of a force main under an existing Harris County roadway. The project pavement demolition and reconstruction, storm water pollution prevention plan and traffic control plan will be performed as necessary.

This project is eligible for CWSRF funding; therefore, the following requirements apply:  
 • This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).  
 • Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this IFB, RFQ, or any resulting contract.  
 • This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of P.L. 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. All iron and steel products for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repairs incorporated in these plans must be produced in the United States.  
 • Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.  
 • This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "fair share policy", which includes EPA-approved "fair share goals" for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA's policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to Minority Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms. Although EPA's policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate use of the six affirmative steps. The current fair share goals for the State of Texas are as follows:

CATEGORY	MBE	WBE
CONSTRUCTION	19.44%	9.17%
SUPPLIES	25.34%	8.82%
EQUIPMENT	16.28%	11.45%
SERVICES	20.41%	13.66%

• Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or handicap. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.  
 • Right to reject any and all bids.  
 • All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, **Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions**.  
 • Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the **Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions**.

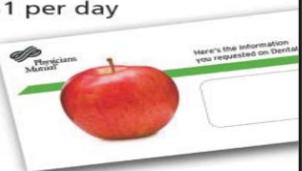
Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from [www.CivCastUSA.com](http://www.CivCastUSA.com); Search Harris County MUD No. 50 - 2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. **Questions deadline is November 8th at 5:00 P.M.** Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, and plans for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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**King Crossword**  
 Solution time: 27 mins.

ANSWERS

1. SISTER, 2. SODAS, 3. AHS, 4. LIVES, 5. DECEMBER, 6. TV, 7. VEST, 8. TONIGHT, 9. GINGER, 10. NINE, 11. NYN, 12. TIO, 13. BOWNH, 14. BRIDE, 15. VHS, 16. K, 17. INSIDE, 18. DOD, 19. KEESOO, 20. TAVI, 21. WED, 22. PAL, 23. SEC, 24. BAY, 25. TIT, 26. SEC, 27. GORV, 28. GO, 29. JI, 30. IN, 31. GLE, 32. BE, 33. BE, 34. IDE, 35. OR, 36. FAB, 37. FAB, 38. OR, 39. FAB, 40. FAB, 41. FAB, 42. FAB, 43. FAB, 44. FAB, 45. FAB, 46. FAB, 47. FAB, 48. FAB, 49. FAB, 50. FAB, 51. FAB, 52. FAB, 53. FAB, 54. FAB, 55. FAB, 56. FAB, 57. FAB.

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Birth-related  
 6 Sphere  
 9 "Great!"  
 12 React to rev-eille  
 13 Spelling contest  
 14 " - not choose to run"  
 15 Bottled spirit?  
 16 Madison Avenue music  
 18 Eden, for one  
 20 Agts.  
 21 Crony  
 23 Moment  
 24 Nuts  
 25 The same, in bibliographies  
 27 Primly self-restrained  
 29 Hide and -  
 31 Fails to  
 35 Buckwheat porridge  
 37 Catastrophic  
 38 Wit  
 41 Lubricant  
 43 Tandoor-baked bread  
 44 Hibernia  
 45 In the course of  
 47 Rubs elbows  
 49 Lightweight wood  
 52 Light touch  
 53 Lemieux milieu

**DOWN**

1 Rundown  
 2 Exist  
 3 Prickly sensations  
 4 One side of the Urals  
 5 Villainous looks  
 6 Thing  
 7 Check

8 Stein or Stiller  
 9 - mignon  
 10 Skilled buys  
 11 Domineering  
 17 Marked a report card  
 19 Classroom array  
 21 Glutton  
 22 Big bother  
 24 Life story, for short  
 26 Vietnam river  
 28 Legendary firefighter Red  
 30 Listener  
 32 \$1 bills  
 33 2nd Amdt. proponents

34 X rating?  
 36 "Monopoly" buys  
 38 Jute fibers  
 39 Dickens' Mr. Heep  
 40 Like some mouthwashes and tooth-pastes  
 42 Written slander  
 45 Art -  
 46 California wine valley  
 48 Cover  
 50 Prepared  
 51 Balaam's carrier

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## Galena Park,

Continued from page 1



Eli Quintero, #2 Galena Park running back keeps his knee off the turf while stretching the ball across the goal for a touchdown. Photo by Allan Jamail

attack. It appeared the Patriots were expecting either quarterback Amarion Kelly or running back Eli Quintero to run with the ball, the running game had 49 carries and only 5 passes were attempted.

The Yellowjackets travel to play the New Caney - Porter Spartans on Friday, November 1st at 7:00 PM at Randall Reed Stadium, 21360 Valley Ranch Pkwy -- New Caney, Texas 77357.



Amarion Kelly, #4 Galena Park quarterback scores a TD on a 58 yard keeper play. Photo by Allan Jamail



Julian Villalobos, #99 Yellowjackets kicker makes a 35 yard field goal. Photo by Allan Jamail

## North Shore Mustangs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

John Villalobos # 87 remained flawless kicking a 39 yard field goal plus 7 extra points for the Mustangs.

North Shore has a home district game with Beaumont United (Beaumont, TX) on Friday, November 1 @ 7pm.



Marcus Cockrell, #18 Mustangs Special Team player runs back a 64 yard blocked punt for a touchdown. Photo by Allan Jamail



Spectacular one-handed catch by Mustang #14, Charles King for a TD. Photo by Allan Jamail



Mustang #9, quarterback Dematrius Davis scores on a 46 yard keeper play. Photo by Allan Jamail



Wendell Demery, #35 Mustangs Special Team player runs back 80 yards on a blocked extra point for a 2 point score. Photo by Allan Jamail

## Global Day Care,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and they are very proud of their neighborhood, so it was important to us to help them recover from this storm event."

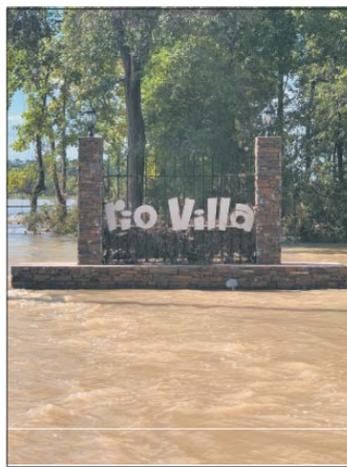
Employees from LyondellBasell's PO/TBA project team had made improvements to the signage earlier in September as part of the company's 20th annual Global Care Day event, but heavy rain from Imelda on Sept. 19 caused the San Jacinto River to flood its banks and inundate the neighborhood. The signs survived, but they and the entrance area were covered in mucky debris, undoing some of the previous work of the volunteers. That made them even more determined to restore the signs and the entrance.

"We were not about to let a little water get in the way of our original commitment to the neighborhood to make improvements to the front entrance. It just delayed our work a bit," said Gasper.

The PO/TBA team along with several neighborhood residents set to work to finish what Imelda almost destroyed. They cleaned up and reinforced the stonework on the signs, added new sod at the entrance, re-planted two large Queen Palms that were knocked down during the storm, added new landscaping,

and installed flag poles behind both signs. During the event, the volunteers had a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the occasion, symbolizing the perseverance and pride of the neighborhood.

"We can't thank LyondellBasell enough for the help they have provided our neighborhood over the years," said Quentin Klaus, president of the Rio Villa home owner's association. "Even though they have helped us during other flood events, this project was special because we all came together to make these improvements happen, despite the setback from the storm. Our entrance looks amazing and it's a point of pride every time we come home."



Rio Villa sign flooded during Imelda



Rio Villa sign after work completed.



Clearing area

**2019 North Channel Salutes...**

## BUSINESS EXPO & Health Fair

**Thursday - November 7, 2019**

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**Lunch: 11:30**  
Program: Noon  
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- CHANNELVIEW ISD FOUNDATION
- ESCAPE IT
- GALENA PARK I.S.D.
- HCA HOUSTON HEALTHCARE SOUTHEAST
- HOUSTON METHODIST BAYTOWN HOSPITAL
- LA QUINTA INN & SUITES - HOUSTON CHANNELVIEW
- LIBERTY TAX
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- PORT HOUSTON
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- SAN JACINTO PILOT CLUB
- SEAH STEEL U.S.A
- SHELDON I.S.D
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