

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 7, NO. 46 (#302)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

THURSDAY, DEC 5

Rep. Ana Hdz. Holiday Open House

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019 from 11 am - 1 pm at District Office, 1233 Mercury Dr. 77029. Light refreshments will be served. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are accepted until Dec. 13.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

Jacinto City Christmas Parade

Line up, 2:00 p.m., at Wiggins Street by Jacinto City Elementary School. Award presentation and Christmas music after parade at Jacinto City Town Center. Questions? 713-674-8424.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

Community Toy Drive

10 am - 1 pm at Walmart Parking lot, 15450 Wallisville Rd., 77049. Donate a new unwrapped toy.

TUESDAY, DEC 10

NC Chamber Holiday Open House

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to their Holiday Open House, Noon to 3 pm at their offices, 13301 I-10 Suite 100 inside the Woodforest Bank Building. Expect Great Food and Good Networking, and start the Holiday season off right. Come and bring a friend. Info 713-450-3600.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Galena Park Christmas event

From 6-8 p.m., music, parade, tree lighting at Galena Park City Hall, 2000 Clinton Dr., 77547.

NORTH SHORE MUSTANGS ELIMINATE KATY TIGERS FROM PLAYOFFS 53- 35

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. NRG Stadium, Friday, November 29, 2019 the North Shore Mustangs spoiled the Katy Tigers state championship run two consecutive years, pounding them 56 - 35.

North Shore's defense deserves lots of credit for the win, it shut down Katy's running and passing game. The Tigers met a relentless and fierce attack from Coach Kay's defensive players. They gave up only 79 rushing yards and 138 passing yards, compared to 420 Mustang rushing yards and 134 passing yards for 8 touchdowns (TD's).

With the help of the offensive line Demetrius Davis the junior quarterback for the Mustangs had a career high 283 rushing

Regional finals next: Vs. Atascocita, Saturday Dec. 7, 2pm



#9 Demetrius Davis, Mustang junior quarterback goes airborne for a 40 yard TD. He rushed for a career record 283 yards for 3 TD's and passed for 134 yards for 3 TD's.

Photo by Allan Jamail

yards and 134 passing yards for 6 TD's. He completed 8 of 12 passes, hitting receivers Charles King for 2 TD's, 25 and 11 yard passes and Ismael Fuller on a 48 yard TD pass.

Nshore running back Zach Evans continues racking up yards with 115 yards and 2 TD's. Kicker John Villalobos was perfect, making all 8 extra point kicks.

Tiger coach Gary Joseph said, "Today we got hit by a buzzsaw." He complimented Coach Kay and said, "This time Kay's team had the better game." This was Katy and North Shore's 11th meeting since 2008 and fourth straight in the postseason.

In a preseason game

See Mustangs, Page 8

New Bus Service for East Harris County



See MAP of Bus Routes, page 8

Free Ridership for the first 60 Days

Nearly 200,000 residents now have new access to public transportation in eastern portions of Harris County, thanks to \$3.8 million Harvey Disaster Recovery money. Harris County Transit will expand its existing bus service to some of the communities hardest hit

by floodwaters from the hurricane.

A soft launch of the new service will occur on December 2, 2019. The first 60 days are free to riders; and after the first 60 days, rides will be \$1.00 per ride. There will be an inaugural ceremony to mark the launch on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at Joe V's Parking Lot, 5609 Uvalde, Houston, Texas.

The new service will add roughly 65 additional route miles to the infrastructure for a total of 185 route miles. Five proposed new routes will serve Channelview, Cloverleaf and Sheldon with service for a three-year period. If ridership levels are high enough, Harris County

See New Bus Service, Page 8

Run-Off Election December 14

Early Voting from Dec. 2 to Dec. 10

Harris County residents head back to the polls on December 14 to vote in runoff races for the Mayor of Houston, several city council seats, and multiple HISD Trustee positions.

The runoff elections are required for the November races in which neither candidate was successful in securing more than 50% of the vote.

Early voting runs from December 2 through December 10. Thanks to the new countywide polling system, residents can vote at any polling location during early voting and on election day.

For more information on the races and polling locations, visit HarrisVotes.com.

Races on the ballot include Houston Mayor, incumbent Sylvester Turner vs. Tony Buzbee;

Council Position 1 Mike Knox vs Raj Salhotra; Council Position 2 David Robinson vs Willie R.



SYLVESTER TURNER



TONY BUZBEE

Davis; Council Position 3 Michael Kubosh vs Jannaeya Carmouche; Council Position 4 An-

See Runoff Election, Page 3

GP/JC Rotary Club installs new members



Last Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019 Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club installed two new members. Seen above second from right is Mr. Julien Guillory, Director for warehouse operations at Galena Park ISD, with him in the photo, L to R: Bryan Clements, Pastor Ramos, the club president and Kenneth Bush.

See New Members, Page 3

Woodland Acres Elementary Receives Generous Donation



Ernie Farrand, Jennifer Severe, Principal Sandra Rodriguez, Alaide Zavala, Skipper Hastings.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - Friday, November 22, 2019 the Galena Park ISD Woodland Acres Elementary School received a \$22,800 donation from WATCO a local company located on Federal Road near the school.

According to Sandra

Rodriguez the school principal WATCO has been making a donation for the past five years. She said, "In the past, we have used the donated funds to build a second computer lab and to purchase additional technology equipment." The company raises funds to donate through an annual golf tournament and silent auction.

WATCO Companies got its start in 1983 when Charles R. "Dick" Webb purchased an industrial railroad switching operation in DeRidder, Louisiana. Two years after the start of switching operations, Webb opened a rail-car repair shop in

See Generous Donation, Page 8

☆ COMMUNITY NEWS ☆

Thanksgiving for the area



The David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658 in Crosby was the scene of a Thanksgiving day feast for all that wished to attend with restaurateur Charlie Dahu of Hungry Jacks not only chief but donator and server. 5

GCCISD teams up with Faith Family Church for Toys for Tots



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Goose Creek CISD recently teamed up with Family Faith Church for the Toys for Tots annual toy drive. Faith Family Church's goal is to collect \$50,000 in toys. Last year, Toys for Tots served more than \$3,000 children. Pictured are (front, from left) Stella Gonzalez, Eloy Chapa, Araceli Delacruz, (back left) Matt Bolinger, Susan Passmore, and Kim Barnes, all from Goose Creek CISD, and (back right) Pastor Tony Pena, Leah Ferguson and Becky VanWagnen from Faith Family Church.

CROSBY Man shot during altercation at wedding hall

CROSBY, Texas – A man was shot at a Crosby wedding venue during the first hours of last Monday, according to Sheriff's Office.

Precinct 3 Constable and Harris County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 21100 block of FM 2100, between Crosby and Huffman around 1:20 a.m. last Monday, Dec. 2.

According to investigators, the man attended an event earlier in the day at The Barn at Four Pines Ranch venue. He fell asleep in the restroom located outside the building. When he woke up, he tried to get back in and got into an altercation with the owner.

The owner then called the property caretaker and the



Deputies investigating shooting at The Barn at Four Pines wedding venue in Crosby.

three men continued fighting. At that moment, someone fire multiple shots injuring the man. The man was transported via helicopter to the hospi-

tal with multiple gunshot wounds. The events remain under investigation by the Sheriff's office..

Wrong way crash kills man, injures two

CROSBY – A man was killed, a woman and her infant were seriously injured but in stable condition when a wrong way accident occurred on a US 90 service road in the 2500 block, the same roadway as Crosby Volunteer Fire Dept. Station 1, last Wednesday.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office that service road held a 2013 Nissan driven eastbound by a man whose identity has yet to be released and a woman in a black Chevy Equinox driving westbound. Investigators determined that the man in the Nissan crossed over into the path of the westbound Chevrolet. The impact occurred Nissan front left to Chevrolet left front, both vehicles came to rest within the roadway.

The sole occupant of the Nissan, a man, showed no signs of life at the scene. The driver and an infant girl in



Above, rescue vehicles have completed their leg of the rescue for a woman and her daughter on November 27, 2019 as a helicopter lifts off to Hermann Hospital.

the back seat of the Chevrolet Equinox were transported by Life Flight helicopters to Hermann Hospital in serious condition.

This case is being inves-

tigated by the Vehicular Crimes Division of the Harris County Sheriff's Office additional information is invited to contact them at 713-274-7400.





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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Barbers Hill Independent School District			
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances			
Governmental Funds			
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019			
Data Control Codes	199		599
	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	
REVENUES			
5700	Local and intermediate revenues	\$ 76,520,973	\$ 27,261,428
5800	State program revenues	11,003,214	109,448
5900	Federal program revenues	1,075,453	-
5020	Total revenues	88,599,640	27,371,076
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011	Instruction	37,370,557	-
0012	Instructional resources and media services	481,156	-
0013	Curriculum and instructional staff development	1,509,188	-
0021	Instructional leadership	837,802	-
0023	School leadership	3,364,157	-
0031	Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services	2,340,075	-
0032	Social work services	83,598	-
0033	Health services	845,531	-
0034	Student transportation	1,978,063	-
0035	Food services	26,364	-
0036	Extracurricular activities	2,318,409	-
0041	General administration	3,492,813	-
0051	Plant maintenance and operations	7,271,924	-
0052	Security and monitoring services	536,589	-
0053	Data processing services	1,211,588	-
0061	Community services	10,256,017	-
Debt services:			
0071	Principal on long-term debt	3,269,499	13,145,000
0072	Interest on long-term debt	650,496	11,193,173
0073	Insurance costs and fees	-	2,802,474
Capital outlay:			
0081	Facilities acquisition and construction	-	-
Intergovernmental:			
0091	Contracted instructional services between schools	8,925,909	-
0099	Other intergovernmental charges	552,481	-
6030	Total expenditures	87,522,186	27,140,647
1100	Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	1,077,454	230,429
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
7901	Issuance of refunding bonds	-	26,075,000
7912	Sale of real and personal property	-	-
7915	Transfers in	-	-
7916	Premium or (discount) on issuance of bonds	-	2,211,997
7949	State revenue pursuant to tax refund	3,943,747	-
8911	Transfers out	(25,000)	-
8940	Payment to refunded bonds escrow agent	-	(27,990,783)
8948	Tax refund pursuant to Texas Tax Code 313	(3,943,747)	-
8949	Other uses	(280,557)	-
7080	Total other financing sources (uses)	(305,557)	296,214
1200	Net change in fund balances	771,897	526,643
0100	Fund balances - beginning	46,249,746	11,797,748
3000	FUND BALANCES - ENDING	\$ 47,021,643	\$ 12,324,391

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

699	98
Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds
\$ 1,695,657	\$ 108,106,030
16,651	11,547,797
-	2,788,927
1,712,308	122,442,754
1,320,132	40,048,388
74,733	755,889
22,177	1,655,253
-	837,802
25,349	3,389,506
1,338	2,341,413
-	83,598
12,992	858,523
645,367	2,623,430
-	3,361,711
220,200	2,541,933
14,568	3,507,381
312,949	7,584,873
42,937	579,526
62,880	1,274,438
-	10,256,017
-	16,414,499
-	11,843,669
-	2,802,474
38,507,614	38,507,614
-	8,925,909
-	552,481
41,263,236	160,746,327
(39,550,928)	(38,303,573)
-	26,075,000
781,936	781,936
25,000	25,000
-	2,211,997
-	3,943,747
-	(25,000)
-	(27,990,783)
-	(3,943,747)
-	(280,557)
806,936	797,593
(38,743,992)	(37,505,980)
74,171,227	132,990,882
\$ 35,427,235	\$ 95,484,902

COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park High School choir performs at Rotary Club



Last Tuesday during installation of new GP/JC Rotary Club members, the Galena Park High School Choir perform some Christmas songs.

New Members,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The second installed GP/JC Rotary Club member is Mrs. Norma Hernandez (middle), Board Member for GPISD, with her, are Bryan Clements, Maria D. Cortez and Pastor Ramos, the club president.

Annual Candlelight Memorial

Please join parents, families, and friends who have lost children too soon, this Friday evening, December 6th at 7:00pm for the 18th Annual Candlelight Memorial at San Jacinto College - North Campus, 5800 Uvalde, Houston. Everyone is welcome!

Over the years, many have come to this event as a way to find some comfort in the midst of all of the upcoming holiday celebrations. Anybody who has lost a loved one, last week, last year or at any time is invited to come out and

celebrate that person's life and their impact on you. This group was brought together by death of a loved one yet even deeper is that they are bonded by the love of God. It is a beautiful way to start the holiday season. Please share with others who have experienced the death of a loved one and may need this time to gain strength during the holidays.

For additional details, please contact Charles or Velma Chesnutt at 713-453-5266.

Houston Eastside Prayer Gathering set for Dec. 5

"Houston Eastside Prayer Gathering" taking place this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Skate Town USA, formerly the Skate Machine. Skate Town USA is located at 13831 Longview, Houston, 77015.

This business is under new ownership and the new owners have invited everybody to come and Pray over this business this Thursday because their Grand Opening with be the following day, Friday, December 6th. The

new owners have expressed their heart's desire for the new Roller Rink to be a place where families would be able to enjoy the fun and exercise of skating while being able to feel safe. Plans are in the making for hosting several themed nights including Contemporary Christian Music Night. Area Youth Pastors are especially encouraged to come out and get to know the unchurched people and build relationships with the families.

Helping Heroes support at Channelview Fire Department



Flint Hills Resources presents a check for \$4000 to the Channelview Fire Department/ESD#50 for the 2020 HELPING HEROES on Wednesday, November 13. In the photo, L to R: Steve Meek – FHR Safety Supervisor; John Hutcherson – FHR Site Manager; Asst. Fire Chief Charles Villegas – Channelview FD; District Chief Stephen Roane, - Channelview FD; Deanna Altenhoff – FHR Director, Public Affairs.

Galena Park ISD recognizes Lyondellbasell for Global Care Day project

CHANNELVIEW, Texas – Nov. 14, 2019 – Galena Park ISD officials recently paid tribute to LyondellBasell's Houston Engineering Center (HEC) for several improvements made at North Shore Senior High School as part of the company's 20th annual Global Care Day event.

During its Nov. 4 Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD board members and the superintendent presented LyondellBasell's Pat Ficarra and Roger Holtzclaw with a plaque of appreciation and words of thanks



Outdoor garden

high school, said the projects do more than just improve the aesthetics of the school. She pointed to multiple studies that show being outdoors even for a few minutes a day can improve attention, memory and concentration, and that fresh air is a natural mood booster that can combat depression and anxiety.

"We are excited to provide the opportunity for our students and staff to step out and reset every day if they choose to do so," said Sanchez. "Students love going out and water-



Global Care Day garden team

for the efforts of the volunteers.

"Galena Park ISD is very thankful to LyondellBasell for their partnership with North Shore Senior High School, and for all they have contributed to benefit the students and staff not only of NSSH, but across our district," said Angi Williams, Ed.D., Galena Park ISD superintendent of schools. "We look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership for years to come."

On Sept. 21, more than 100 LyondellBasell volunteers descended on the school to build an outdoor garden for its culinary arts program, spruce up an outdoor lunch area and create three tranquility rooms designed to provide students and teachers a place to relax and decompress.

"Global Care Day is one of the many ways our company makes a positive difference in the communities where we work," said Holtzclaw, operational excellence manager at HEC and its Global Care Day coordinator. "It's a great feel-

ing to be able to help others meet real needs and we really enjoyed working with the school leaders to plan and implement several meaningful projects."

With such a large scope of work ahead of them, the team from HEC split up into five groups to tackle the projects. The gardening team built raised metal container beds, filled them with soil and planted a variety of herbs and vegetables outside the culinary lab. The outdoor lunch area team pressure washed the patio and outdoor furniture and added touches of color by planting containers full of flowers. Meanwhile, the tranquility room teams cleaned out three rooms, painted them a soothing light blue and brought in new furniture and accent pieces and added subdued lighting and plants to finish the effect.

Dr. Joe Coleman, principal of North Shore Senior High stated, "It's good to have a neighbor like LyondellBasell in our community who is willing to give of

their people, time and resources to help us at North Shore Senior High achieve our goal of providing a positive, healthy learning environment for our students and staff."

Amelie Sanchez, associate principal for Student Support Services at the

ing the plants. It allows them time to slow down and focus on their work product. Plus, our kids are really excited to take these fresh herbs and cook with them, which they have already done multiple times."

Runoff Election,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thony Dolcefino vs Letitia Plummer;
Council Position 5 Eric Dick vs Sallie Alcorn;
Council Position A Amy Peck vs George Harry Zoes;
Council Position C Abbie Kamin vs Shelley Kennedy;
Council Position D Carolyn Evans-Shabazz vs Brad "Scarface" Jordan;
Council Position F Tiffany D. Thomas vs Van Huynh;
Council Position H Kar-

la Cisneros vs Isabel Longoria;
Council Position J Sandra Rodriguez vs Edward Pollard;
HCC Trustee District I Dave Wilson vs Monica Flores Richard;
HCC Trustee District II Kathy Lynch-Gunter vs Rhonda Skillern-Jones;
HISD Position 2 Kathy Blueford-Daniels vs John Curtis Gibbs;
HISD Position 4 Patricia K. Allen vs Matt Barnes.

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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Can I Increase My Benefit by Withdrawing from Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I'm 67 and have been collecting Social Security for a couple of years now but I want to increase my benefit. Will you please explain what Social Security's Form SSA-521 is for? Would it benefit me as a retiree to be able to gain more on my monthly benefits? Where and how could I request or access this form? Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking: Social Security's Form SSA-521, Request for Withdrawal of Application, is used when someone has applied for Social Security benefits and later decides they do not want to collect their benefits after all. The form can be submitted within 12 months of the start-date of your benefits, and if approved will require that all benefits which have been paid to you, or on your behalf by Social Security - including Medicare premiums, withheld taxes and any benefits (including those paid to your spouse or any other dependents on your record) - are fully reimbursed to the Social Security Administration. It might be used, for example, by those who claim prior to their full retirement age, perhaps because they become unemployed and need the money, and then later become employed again. Or it might be used by someone who applies for benefits early but later simply change their mind and now wants to delay claiming to increase their benefit amount. This form is how someone can initiate the "do over option" that you sometimes hear Social Security pundits speak of. It essentially "wipes the slate clean" with Social Security, but it cannot be used by someone who has been collecting benefits for more than one year and it cannot be used more than once in your lifetime.

From what you have told me, the Request for Withdrawal of Application Form SSA-521 will not work for you. However, there is another way you can increase your Social Security benefit. Since you have already reached your full retirement age you can now request that Social Security "suspend" your benefit payments so that you can earn "delayed retirement credits" (DRCs). If you

suspend your benefits, you'll earn DRCs at the rate of 2/3rds of 1% per month you delay (8% per year of delay), and when you eventually restart your benefits the amount will be higher (how much higher depends upon the number of months your benefits have been suspended). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, so you should not wait beyond age 70 to restart your benefits. But beware, because there's a catch to suspending your benefits - your spouse, or any other dependent, cannot collect benefits based upon your work record while your benefits are suspended. And if your Medicare Part B premium is deducted from your Social Security payment, you'll need to make special arrangements to pay that Part B premium directly to Medicare.

If you decide to suspend and allow your benefit to grow, you will need to contact Social Security directly, either via the general number (800.774.1213) or by contacting your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator). You may ask Social Security to suspend your benefits either verbally or in writing. So, if you have found that you don't need your Social Security benefit at this time and wish to allow it to grow, and you understand that anyone else collecting on your record cannot get benefits while you are not collecting, then suspending your benefits and restarting later would give you the higher benefit you are seeking. Your benefits will restart automatically the month you turn 70.

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Hegar transfers excess revenue into rainy day, highway funds

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Nov. 25 announced the transfer of \$3.33 billion into the State Highway Fund and into the Economic Stabilization Fund, commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund.

Each fund received more than \$1.66 billion, or 50% of the total transfer. The transfer amounts are based on crude oil and natural gas production tax revenues in excess of 1987 collections. If either tax generates more revenue than the 1987 threshold, an amount equal to 75% of the excess is transferred, according to an agency news release.

In November 2014, voters approved a constitutional amendment allocating at least half of these severance taxes to the Rainy Day Fund, with the remainder going to the State Highway Fund for use on non-toll highway construction, maintenance and right-of-way acquisition.

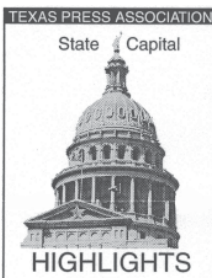
Patrick appoints committee

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick on Nov. 26 announced his appointment of a committee to review the history and procedures for the placement of art and other decor in the historic Texas Senate Chamber.

Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, will serve as chairman of the committee. Members appointed include Sens. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston; Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels; Borris Miles, D-Houston; Beverly Powell, D-Burleson; Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown; and Kirk Watson, D-Austin.

According to the State Preservation Board, the chamber's two brass chandeliers have been in place since 1890 and 15 historical Texas paintings were hung in the room before 1915. Also, a portrait of Stephen F. Austin by an unknown artist behind the lieutenant governor's desk

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



dates from circa 1836, making it one of the oldest pieces in the Capitol.

In the announcement, Patrick mentioned that in 2015, he resumed the annual practice of placing a Christmas tree in the historic chamber after many years with no tree.

Disaster funds: Plan set Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on Nov. 21 announced the release of the state's action plan detailing the distribution and eligible uses of some \$4.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds.

The funds, coming from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are to be used to assist Texas communities with mitigation projects, addressing risks within the areas impacted Hurricane Harvey and floods in 2015 and 2016.

"Hurricane Harvey was a storm of historic proportions with more than \$100 billion in property damage and immeasurable disruption to the lives of Texans," Bush said. "Many communities in Texas have faced repeated flooding...With this action plan, the General Land Office will prioritize large-scale projects to maximize available infrastructure funding to im-

prove the resiliency of Texas homes, businesses and infrastructure from future storms."

Grant to enhance Lifeline

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips, Texas Health and Human Services executive commissioner, on Nov. 26 announced the agency is receiving a two-year grant of more than \$3 million from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's State Capacity Building Initiative.

The goal is to increase the state's capacity to provide free, confidential emotional support and services to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Grant funds will be used to assist Texas call centers in answering more calls from residents, reducing wait times and connecting them to local treatment facilities, support and nearby crisis or emergency service centers, Phillips said.

Health and Human Services plans to contract with four local mental health authorities to implement the grant in March 2020: The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, Integral Care (Travis County), MHMR of Tarrant County and Emergency Health Network in El Paso County.

Antitrust claims resolved

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 25 announced that his office has reached a settlement with T-Mobile resolving the state's antitrust claims against the proposed merger of mobile wireless telecommunications service providers Sprint and T-Mobile.

According to an agency news release, the agreement is designed to prevent the New T-Mobile from increasing prices for wireless services on Texans for five years after the merger is complete.

Also, it commits the New T-Mobile to:

—Give all Texas customers access to T-Mobile limited data rate plans at a cost far below what is currently offered in the industry;

—Commit to provide 5G wireless broadband coverage to areas where most Texans live, including most portions of the state within the next three years and to expand that 5G coverage dramatically within the next six years; and

—Offer Texas residents that are currently employed by Sprint and T-Mobile substantially similar employment with the New T-Mobile.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Transatlantic Turnaround"

My husband, Peter, and I are returning from Spain by boat. The whole idea started when Peter read a book about the sinking of the Lusitania.

"That sounds like fun!" Peter told me, as he read.

"Death at sea?" I asked.

"No, the part before that!" Peter clarified.

Peter thought the idea of a cross-Atlantic ship sounded fun and romantic. He began investigating transatlantic trips and once Peter starts investigating a thing, it's as good as done.

Peter discovered that a number of cruise lines reposition their boats from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean in the fall and back again in the spring. Some of these trips are quite reasonably priced. As the boat has to be moved anyway, the cruise line would rather the boat was filled with paying customers. Besides, they figure they'll make it up during the long days at sea when passengers have nothing better to do than gamble and shop. In our case, they figured wrong.

Peter and I are generally opposed to organized activities. Peter falls asleep immediately at anything that seems intended to be educational. We both dislike gambling. We don't participate in raffles, shop on a whim, or willingly pile into vans with strangers. Our idea of a perfect day is spent doing a lot of reading, a little exercising, and eating too much. The best part is simply watching the vast ocean as it passes.

Peter is due for a little pampering after spending a month in our historic little house in Frigiliana. Peter has had his fill of "historic" and "little," particularly since he discovered the two so frequently go hand-in-hand. Peter spent a month getting his head banged on historically low ceilings and climbing up steep little antique stairs to get to the bathroom in the middle of the night. Peter is ready for a major dose of modern convenience after all that historic charm.

"Look!" Peter says, on our first night here, "a bathroom on the same floor as our bed!"

"Yes, dear," I reply.

"And doorways tall enough so I don't need to stoop!"

The boat is nothing if not easily accessible. It stands to reason, I guess, but folks who have nothing to do but cross the ocean by sea are not a young crowd. They settle into their rooms for two weeks and don't need to move their luggage for the duration. Some of them look as if they are staying for good. They decorate the outside of their doors with magnetic falling leaves or Christmas decorations or their name accompanied by cheerful greetings. It reminds me a bit of a retirement home—which, given the age of the clientele, is not far from the truth.

At some point—in the middle of the Atlantic, more than 1200 miles from land in all directions, the ship will do a full 360-degree turn. They do this, the captain informed us, to check and adjust the accuracy of the ship's compasses. This seems quaint to me in an era of computer navigation and GPS, but apparently it is still done, and I can see why it might be a good idea.

I know there are times when a slow, 360-degree turnaround is the very thing I need to check my own internal compass. To do this slowly, deliberately, when the conditions are ideal—this strikes me as an important bit of housekeeping for both transatlantic boats and lives.

It might not be strictly necessary. But it's always nice to know with some degree of certainty that I am headed in the right direction.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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Dec 10–Alecia Simmons
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Kacy Browning
Dec 11–Caydie Farmer
Wesley Sheffield

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 8–Ray & Melissa Denson
Dec 11–Kevin & Sandra Muldrow

Additions or Corrections are welcome,
713-266-3444

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Bethlehem in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who prophesied, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son"? John the Baptist, Zechariah, Isaiah, Andrew
3. Which "Caesar" ordered all the world to be taxed, causing Mary to travel to Bethlehem while expecting the baby Jesus? Julius, Tiberius, Claudius, Augustus
4. In which month of the Virgin Mary's pregnancy did the angel Gabriel visit to inform she would give birth? 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th
5. From Luke 2:34, who prophesied to Mary that this Christ child is set for the fall and rising again of many? Melchior, Simeon, Cyrenius, Felix
6. What is the city of David called? Nazareth, Dothan, Beersheba, Bethlehem

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Isaiah; 3) Augustus; 4) 6th; 5) Simeon; 6) Bethlehem

Northside Baptist Church Christmas Program

Northside Baptist Church of Highlands will have their annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 6pm. Led by Gene Littlejohn, music will include Ava Ariaga, Karen Bascom, Sarah Stanley, Patricia Brockinton, Ray Walker & Footprints. Afterward there will be food & snacks in the Fellowship Hall. Northside will also be singing Christmas Carols each Sunday at 11am & 6pm during the month of December. Northside is located at 317 Barbers Hill Road, Highlands, TX 77562; nsbchighlands.org. Pastor David R. Brumbelow invites everyone to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. "There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." -Luke 2:11

May Community Center December events

- Celebration of Trees Open House Friday, December 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entertainment by Calvin and Trish Gainey from the Liberty Opry, refreshments, children create holiday crafts, play in the snow, bring you camera for pictures with Santa, tour the decorated trees. We will have you vote on your favorite tree decorated by our May Center Classes!
- Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Come eat pancakes and sausage with Santa, play in the snow and make a Christmas craft. A \$3 per person suggested donation is requested. Please call the May Community Center for reservations, 713-274-2434.
- Blood Pressure/Sugar Check Tuesday, December 17 at 9 a.m. Keeping a healthy lifestyle means

keeping blood pressure and blood sugar in check. •December Christmas Luncheon Wednesday, December 18, 2019 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Come join us for pot roast, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. Our entertainment will be our very own Belles and Beaus Choir! Suggested \$5 donation. Call or come by to sign up for our luncheon.

May Community Center will be closed on December 24th and 25th for Christmas Holidays. May Community Center is a Precinct 2 Community Center located at 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman 77336. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs please call (713) 274-2434.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

ROMANS 1:22, 23

CHURCH LISTINGS

- Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown**
- ANGLICAN CHURCH**
- Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.
- APOSTOLIC CHURCH**
- First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
- Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516
 - First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170
 - Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168
- BAPTIST**
- Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409
 - Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470
 - Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723
 - Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223
 - Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"
- BAPTIST-Missionary**
- Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.
 - First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.
 - Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650
 - True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637
 - Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851
- BAPTIST-Southern**
- First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564
 - First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551
 - First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888
 - Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org
 - Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557
 - Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086
- BRETHREN**
- Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442
- CATHOLIC**
- Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448
 - Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871
- St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451
 - St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422
 - St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496
 - Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742
 - Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882
- CHURCH OF GOD**
- First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518
 - Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060
- CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**
- Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314
- EPISCOPAL**
- Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Churhc St., Crosby.
- INDEPENDENT**
- Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310
 - Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705
 - New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315
 - Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000
 - Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.
- LUTHERAN**
- Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422
- METHODIST**
- Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616
 - Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614
 - Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541
- NON DENOMINATION**
- Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. 281-576-5452.
- UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**
- Pentecostals of Crosby 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX 77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee
- Channelview, Jacinto City, Galena Park, Houston**
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
- Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.
- BAPTIST**
- New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082
 - Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.
 - Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.
 - St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.
 - First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.
 - Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.
- BAPTIST-Southern**
- Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.
 - South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.
 - First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.
 - Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houtson, TX. 77049.
 - First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.
- CATHOLIC**
- St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.
 - Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. 713-826-2884.
 - Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.
 - Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.
- EPISCOPAL**
- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.
- HOLINESS**
- Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.
- METHODIST**
- Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.
 - Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.
 - Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.
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ROMANS 8:18

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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Be Part of the Solution

It is beginning to feel like the holidays are quickly approaching. Everywhere you look, you see decorations, signs for sales and unfortunately more reports of crime. On Tuesday night, I went to bed earlier than usual and when I woke up several hours later, I had text messages, voicemails and emails of concern. Apparently there had been a robbery at the Walgreens located at the intersection of Uvalde and Woodforest.

Perhaps the worst part about the robbery was the number of people who were quick to be upset about the lack of security at local stores as well as the length of time that it takes for law enforcement to respond to 911 phone calls. Suddenly, the same community members who were there to support the deputies and officers at First Responder events in September were the ones who were complaining that there is a lack of coverage as well as response time when they have a crisis.

To begin to understand the issues, we all need to understand that there is a lack of qualified applicants to fill the vacant positions within the various agencies. Then, we need to think about the way many people in the community show no respect for a profession that for years was honored. We need to understand what a true emergency is and we need to do our part in keeping the community safe.

Walk through the average parking lot in our community. It can be at Walmart, the courthouse, an apartment complex or even the college. You will

be able to look into vehicles without trying and see items that should be out of sight. I remember just a year or so ago that a college official had her laptop stolen out of the front seat of her car in a parking lot. I hear reports all of the time about homeowners leaving their garage door open and then being upset that someone stole items from it. Too often people are walking through a parking lot, talking on the phone and making themselves an easy target for a crook.

When there is what is perceived as an emergency, people pick up the phone and call 911, yet they do not understand that the operator must determine first which agency the call should be routed to and the level of need. Often I hear people asking why Houston Police Department is not doing something or why the Mayor does not assign more money to help our area. Please take the time to understand that the majority of us live in the unincorporated area, which means HPD and the Mayor cannot do anything for our area. People need to take the time to know who represents them and which agencies serve their area. People need to do their part in being alert and perhaps one of the greatest things that we can all do, is pray.

You are invited to join others at the monthly Eastside Prayer Gathering on Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. to pray for our community. The event will be held at Skatetown USA located at 13831 Longview, just west of Freeport Street.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "What is the 'Rare Sun Diamond'?"

While manufacturers typically seek to minimize or remove inclusions in gem-quality diamonds, a few are specifically cut to highlight these features. Certain hydrogen-rich diamonds can yield fascinating inclusion forms when faceted. One such stone is the 5.24 ct Rare Sun diamond (see above), which GIA's New York laboratory recently had the opportunity to examine. Framed at the center of this Fancy Dark yellowish brown modified octahedron is an eye-visible cloud inclusion that scatters light to form the image of a star and its shining rays. The inclusion's orientation gives it an unusually distinct six-fold symmetry, which is very rare. The overall shape of the Rare Sun diamond has been precisely polished so that as light touches various parts of its surface, a different ray beams through. Achieving this effect required extremely precise fashioning—even the slightest error in cutting or polishing would have diminished the effect.

Very few diamonds have the potential to display this star-like pattern, and fewer still ever have this potential recognized and achieved. Diamonds with unusual inclusions, especially inclusions that suggest the shape of other objects, are also prized by gem collectors and seekers of the uncommon. The Rare Sun diamond is a large and noteworthy example and could be considered among those unique



The Rare Sun diamond, a 5.24ct Fancy Dark yellowish brown modified octahedron, has a centrally located, eye-visible inclusion resembling a star and its rays.

Photo by Jian Xin (Jae) Liao.

diamonds.

This diamond, with its particularly distinctive inclusion scene, also serves as a valuable research material. Gemologists welcome the opportunity to study gems with such unusual features.

Credit to the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) for much of the content in this article.

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 jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant, report suspicious activity

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding Texans to stay vigilant and report any suspicious behavior or activity they observe to law enforcement. With today's threat environment, advanced warning and information can mean the difference between life and death. Texans are urged to report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement or through the iWatchTexas program, a system that captures and connects potential criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats in Texas.

"We urge Texans to always pay attention to their surroundings and use the iWatchTexas program to report anything unusual they might see," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "This suspicious reporting system has already proven successful in leading to law enforcement action that very likely prevented criminal activity. We are committed to deterring and, when possible, preventing mass casualty attacks from taking place in our state. The public's vigilance and tips could very well be the key to helping law enforcement prevent the next attack."

Included in the governor's executive orders following the mass shootings in El Paso and Odessa is Order No. 4 — to increase the public's awareness of the value of suspicious activity reporting.

The iWatchTexas mobile app is designed to make it quick and easy for the public to report suspicious activity in Texas, including criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats. All reports are confidential, but there's the option to provide contact information so officials can follow up with any ad-

ditional questions. Reports should take less than five minutes to complete. The iWatchTexas app is free and available on iTunes and Google Play. The public can also submit a report at www.iwatchtx.org or by calling 1-844-643-2251. If there is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

Things that could be reported via iWatchTexas include:

- Written or verbal comments or implied threats of violence through words, images or other expressions;
- Praising past successful or attempted mass casualty, active shooter or school attacks;
- Statements or images indicating ideology connected to acts of violence;
- Preparing and/or sharing a martyrdom or last will video or statement;
- Strangers asking questions about building security and procedures or taking photos or video of these security features;
- A briefcase, package or other item that's been left behind where it shouldn't be;
- Vehicles left in no-parking zones;
- Chemical smells or fumes that are unusual for an area;
- People requesting sensitive information, such as security plans, blueprints or a person's travel schedule when they shouldn't have it;
- Purchasing supplies that could be used to make a bomb or weapons; or
- Purchasing uniforms without the proper credentials.

If you see something, say something. It's far better to report something and be wrong than to stay silent and wish you had spoken up when your instincts told you something was suspicious.

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Mustangs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this season Katy squeaked by North Shore with a 3 point margin 24 – 21. After that practice game was over the Tiger players could be heard leaving the field chanting “West Side Boys”.

However after this “do or die game”, in a game where the winner would move on to continue in the state championship contests sending the loser home for the season, it was thousands of victorious Mustang fans yelling “East Side Boys”.

North Shores next game is with the Atascocita Eagles of Humble ISD, on Saturday, December 7 at 2 PM. The teams will play in



#14 Charles King, Mustang junior wide receiver scores on a 25 yard Demetrius Davis pass. Photo by Allan Jamail



#3 Zach Evans, Mustang running back scores, he's one of the nation's top running backs, he compiled 115 yards and 2 TD's. #74 North Shore's Damieon George, offensive lineman blocks Katy Tiger allowing Evans to score. Photo by Allan Jamail

the Regional Finals at Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium, 11433 East Sam Houston Parkway North,

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Wallisville Rd, Houston, TX 77049. Call before going for times, (832) 386-4330.



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New Bus Service,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Transit Services will request more funding to continue the routes beyond the three years.

Harris County Transit bus routes have served the East Harris County Community since 2008 with the launching of routes in Baytown, a service that now includes La Porte, McNair Barrett Station, Crosby and the Highlands because they are outside the Metro service area. The proposed new routes will expand Harris County Transit by an estimated 50 percent.

Project Partners are Harris County Transit Services, Harris County Precinct 1, Harris County Precinct 2, Harris County Community Services Department, Metro Transit and METRO.



Harris County Transit and METRO have partnered together to provide Services in Channelview, Cloverleaf & Sheldon!


¡Harris County Transit y METRO se han asociado para proporcionar servicios en Channelview, Cloverleaf y Sheldon!


New service in your area will begin on December 2, 2019!

Complimentary rides will be provided until January 31, 2020!

¡El servicio nuevo en su área comenzará el 2 de diciembre de 2019!

¡Se proporcionarán viajes de cortesía hasta el 31 de enero de 2020!





HarrisCountyTransit.com [@HarrisCountyTra](https://twitter.com/HarrisCountyTra) transit@hctx.net facebook.com/harriscountyttransit

If you are hearing or visually impaired and need special accommodations, please contact Harris County Transit @ (832) 927-4950. Visit our website @ www.harriscountyttransit.com
Si usted es oyente o discapacitado visual y necesita adaptaciones especiales, por favor contacte a Harris County Transit al (832) 927-4950. Visita nuestro sitio web @ www.harriscountyttransit.com

Generous Donation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coffeyville, Kansas. He secured a contract to repair rail cars of the coal trains traveling from the Wyoming coal fields to the southern power plants. The company now has increased its assets in most all of the states in the nation, and in the southeast region of Saskatchewan, Canada and in Western Australia.

Their Texas terminals specializes in handling of steel (coils, plate, pipe, structural, semi-finished and finished steel products) and other bulk and break bulk products.

“We’re thankful for WATCO’s generous donation and their continuous commitment to Woodland Acres Elementary,” Principal Rodriguez said.

