

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

300 300th Issue Anniversary

The first issue of the North Channel Star was in December 2013, and six years later, and 300 issues behind us, we continue to serve the North Shore communities.

We thank all of those who have supported us, with words and advertising. Special encouragement to start this paper was received from Jim Mills at PineForest Jewelry, Margie Buentello at the North Channel Chamber, Greg Ollis at Channelview ISD, and the North shore Rotary club.

There were 21 advertisers in that Inaugural issue in 2013, and most all have continued to read and support us. We also thank the community for their readership, contributions, and opinions that have helped us provide a newspaper worthy of North Shore.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22 Judge Stephens Turkey Giveaway

Annual Turkey Giveaway, Friday, Nov. 22 starting at 11 am at the Courthouse Annex, 14350 Wallisville Road.

TUESDAY, NOV. 26 Constable Eagleton Turkey Giveaway

Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 10 am-Noon at the Wendell Ley YMCA, 15055 Wallisville Road, and 1 pm to 3 pm at Drew Intermediate, 2923 Red Oak, Barrett Station, Crosby

North Shore wins Bi-District Playoff

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park ISD Stadium – Friday November 15, 2019 the North Shore Mustangs before thousands of

fans watched their team corral Pasadena's Dobie Longhorns 54 to 0. Perennial power North Shore was absolutely dominant in all their district games again this year. Having won the State Title

See Playoff, page 2



#9 Demetrius Davis, scores a Mustang TD on a quarterback keeper play out maneuvering Longhorn defenders for a TD.
Photo by Allan Jamail



#3 Zach Evans, running back scores games first of 8 Mustangs TD's.
Photo by Allan Jamail

Steel Workers Union Local 283-M donates to Toys for Tots



United Steel Workers Union Local 283-M (USW) members give Jacinto City's Mayor Ana Diaz a donation for the city's Christmas Toys for Tots program. L – R: Sandra Netter, Recording Secretary, Raymond Izazaga, Treasurer, Mayor Ana Diaz, Barry Ross, Vice-President, Scott Rowe, President and Christopher Laird, Vice-President.
Photo by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail

November 8, 2019 – Members of the United Steel Workers Union Local 283-M at their union meet-

ing presented Jacinto City's Mayor Ana Diaz with their annual donation for the city's needy kids at Christmas time. USW Local 283-M Pres-

ident Scott Rowe said the union members have pay-

See Toys for Tots, Page 3

County Judge Hidalgo outlines key accomplishments at first State of the County

Announces New Focus on Early Childhood Development

Harris County, Texas - November 15, 2019 - Today, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo joined business leaders, residents, and community leaders from across the region to deliver the first State of the County address of her term. During her remarks to about 900 attendees, Judge Hidalgo outlined key areas of progress in fostering a safer, healthier, and more equitable Harris County and announced a new initiative that will focus on improving early childhood development. "The state of our county is strong," said Judge



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

Hidalgo. "But being strong is about much more than having a low unemployment rate or a strong bond

See State of the County, Page 6

Campaign to move Battleship to Baytown



BAYTOWN – A grass-roots citizen group is leading the effort to bring the Battleship Texas to a berth in Baytown, after it is repaired and restored.

The group is headed by businessman Jay Eshbach, with help from well-known historian Russell Hamman, Jake Daniel, Peter Piontkowski, and others.

The Battleship was originally built in 1912, and has seen service in both World Wars. Since 1948 it has been berthed at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park in LaPorte.



The State of Texas has spent \$85 million to preserve the ship and keep it afloat, but now wants to turn it over to a private foundation to maintain and operate. The new own-

er is the Texas Battleship Foundation, and wants a new site where it can attract 300,000 visitors in-

See Battleship, Page 3

LyondellBasell's new Channelview plant is 20 percent complete

The world's largest propylene oxide, tertiary butyl alcohol project shifts into new phase of construction

CHANNELVIEW, Texas – Nov. 14, 2019 – LyondellBasell (NYSE:LYB), today announced construction on its propylene oxide (PO) and tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) plant has surpassed 20 percent completion, with work shifting from foundation and infrastructure construction to vertical assembly. A key milestone of the project's progress was marked by the recent delivery of a 25-story-tall, 601-ton distillation tower, which will be the tallest piece of equipment to be installed.

"We've moved another step closer to delivering our PO/TBA project, with construction taking place simultaneously at two of our sites," said Dan Coombs, LyondellBasell executive vice president for Global Manufacturing, Projects and Refining. "This project creates a long-term value for our investors and we remain on

track to bring our largest PO/TBA facility in the world online in 2021."

The first pieces of structural steel are being safely installed at both construction sites, and installation of tanks, cooling towers and the flare will begin soon at the Channelview site. "As our infrastructure work wraps up, we'll soon begin to see the plants emerge from both construction sites as these large pieces of equipment are installed," said Joe Dorsch, PO/TBA project director. "We are one year into construction and our team has safely achieved several key milestones, which speaks to their talent and dedication."

Once in operation, the PO/TBA plant will produce 1 billion pounds (470,000 metric tons) of PO and 2.2 billion pounds (1 million metric tons) of TBA annually.

Based on an analysis by the Greater Houston Partnership, LyondellBasell's \$2.4 billion PO/TBA project is estimated to gen-

erate more than \$450 million in tax benefits for the county, school district, community college and other local taxing districts over a 10-year period. The total project will create more than 2,200 construction jobs at the peak of construction and 160 permanent positions.

For more information about LyondellBasell's PO/TBA project, visit www.lyb.com/potba.

BACKGROUND:

• LyondellBasell broke ground on the PO/TBA plant in August 2018.

• The 140-acre PO/TBA plant is being built at the LyondellBasell Channelview Complex located in Channelview, Texas.

• An associated 34-acre ethers unit, which will convert TBA to oxyfuels, is being built at the company's Bayport Complex in Pasadena, Texas.

• The project is projected to generate \$400-450 million in earnings each year.

Newspaper publisher celebrates milestone birthday, memorable life

This week, Gilbert celebrates his 80th birthday. Upon such a significant milestone, it is worth looking back on his remarkable life, family, adventures, and many careers.

In 1994, Gilbert Hoffman and his wife Mei-ing bought the *Highlands Star - Crosby Courier*, fulfilling one of Gilbert's lifelong dreams: to own a newspaper. This also marked the beginning of what would become a small publishing conglomerate, serving the greater Houston area with community papers such as the *Star-Courier*, *Northeast News*, and *North Channel Star*.

PENNSYLVANIA BOY

Born in Oklahoma, Gilbert moved to Pennsylvania at a young age and grew up in New Castle, a town just north of Pittsburgh. Even as a boy, he was interested in printing presses and newspapers. His sister, Cheryl Massie, recalls Gilbert putting her to work, along with their brother Richard. The two younger siblings had to collect news from around their neighborhood, which Gilbert would write up into stories that he typeset and printed on a small letterpress in their basement. Then he sent Cheryl and Richard back out to deliver these bulletins.

Their father was an architect, and both Gilbert and Richard followed in his footsteps. In his teens, Gilbert worked as a draftsman at the W.G. Eckles Company, which started as a small local practice but is now known as the Eckles Group and remains one of the 50 oldest architecture firms in the country.

Upon graduating high

school, Gilbert married his girlfriend Carol, and they had their first daughter, Susan. Thus began a new chapter in his life as husband, father, and college student.

ARCHITECT ABROAD

After graduating from Carnegie Tech with his Bachelor's degree in architecture, and the University of Pennsylvania with his Master's, Gilbert was employed at a series of firms in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. He gained experience and climbed the ladder, from draftsman to model builder to designer to project architect. Then he relocated to New Haven to work under esteemed architects such as Eero Saarinen, Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo, and Charles W. Moore. The projects he worked on ranged from hospital facilities to airport terminals, university buildings to pedestrian malls.

He also taught a few undergraduate courses at Yale University.

During these same years, Gilbert's young family grew. He and Carol welcomed another daughter, Trisha. They took the girls sailing — another of Gilbert's passions, though he was hardly an expert. Trisha can still remember the terror she felt as a girl when their boat would keel so strongly that water nearly came in over the side.

Sadly, the marriage didn't last, and after the divorce, Carol and the girls moved to Phoenix to be near her parents.

Gilbert returned to New Castle for a while, then was hired by 3D/International, a large architectur-



Gilbert Hoffman with printing press in Houston Texas



Gilbert with daughters Susan and Trisha



Gilbert and Mei Hoffman

al firm in Houston. There, he had the privilege of traveling all over the world for his work. Among the more dazzling of his assignments:

- A corporate headquarters in South Africa
- A conference and exhibition complex in Malaysia
- A five-story palace/office in Qatar
- An entire town in Saudi Arabia (i.e., schools, police station, mosques, housing, etc.)
- Houston VA Hospital

Whenever possible, Gilbert took advantage of these grand travels to do some sightseeing as well. He was able to dip his toes in the Red Sea, visit the Eiffel Tower and Moulin Rouge, see the Pope, tour Kruger Game Park, spend a day at Machu Picchu, and even enter King Tut's tomb.

Also working at 3D/I at this time was Mei-ing Liu, an architect from Taiwan who had graduated from Penn too. While everyone else thought that meant Penn State, Gilbert recognized his alma mater and introduced himself. They started dating, and once again, a new chapter unfolded.

ENTREPRENEUR

Despite a healthy career in architecture, Gilbert still itched to pursue his other passions.

In 1984, newly married, Gilbert and Mei-ing decided to purchase a one-man print shop from an owner-operator who was ready to retire. They named their new company Grafikshop

See Publisher's Birthday, Page 8

North Shore Playoff,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tle in 2018 they're attempting a BACK TO BACK title run this year too.

Coach Jon Kay had his Mustang offense and defense playing near perfect football, garnering 421 yards combined passing and rushing yards and with only 2 penalties. They rushed for 254 yards on 33 carries, passes completed, 10 of 16 attempts for 167 yards.

Kay's defense corralled the Longhorns offensive to a mere 102 rushing yards and only 6 yards passing.

North Shore takes their 10 – 1 record to the next playoff round to a neutral site against the 10 – 1 Dawson Eagles of Pearl and at Pasadena Memorial Stadium, 2906 Dabney 77502 on Friday, November 22 at 7 PM.

The winner of the North Shore and Dawson game will next play the winner of the Katy Tigers and the Cy Fair Bobcats both 11 – 0 undefeated.

See Colorful game pictures on Page 8

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park I.S.D. Host Annual Veterans Day Luncheon

Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) hosted its annual Veterans Day Luncheon on November 8. More than 175 veterans and their family members attended the event. North Shore Senior High School's Perfect Harmony Choir performed the theme song from each military branch and finished with the Star Spangled Banner. There were letters written to the veterans on the tables by elementary students with a special reading from the GPISD Veterans Day essay contest winner, Tyree Sparks, from Tice Elementary.

Tyree wrote, "You are a warrior with a great heart. Your sacrifice to our country has not been forgotten or overlooked."

Wanda Heath Johnson, GPISD Board Trustee; Noe Esparza, GPISD Board Trustee; and Norma Hernandez, GPISD Board Trustee; Lolita Guerrero from Congresswoman



Pictured is Dr. Williams, superintendent of schools, with Air Force veterans

Sylvia Garcia's office; Betty McGuinness from Senator Carol Alvarado's

office; Maria Delgado from Representative Ana Hernandez' office; Constable

Christopher Diaz; Constable Sherman Eagleton; attended the luncheon to

express their appreciation to our veterans. GPISD would like to

thank all of the veterans and family members who attended the Veterans Day Luncheon.

Career Week at DeZavala Elementary School



ABC13 Meteorologist Collin Myers introduced students at DeZavala Elementary to Storm Tracker.

DeZavala Elementary School celebrated Career Week by inviting a host of professionals to speak to students about the importance of performing well in school and having each professional to explain how a good education can lead students to a good career.

Firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians joined forces to create the local Community Careers on Wheels. This collaboration allowed students to visit with first responders and to learn how specialized equipment saves lives.

The Career and Technical Education students from Channelview High School led special presentations that introduced students to career choices, and San Jacinto College representatives spoke to students about college and career opportunities during the mid-week Career Exploration Day.

The final day of Career Week presented an opportunity for third grade through fifth-grade students to receive a special visit from ABC13 Storm Tracker and Meteorologist Collin Myers. The presentation offered opportunities for students to learn about a career in meteorology and to get an up-close look at the famous Storm Tracker.



Career and Technical Education students from Channelview High School hosted sessions for students to learn about career opportunities.

Principal Ruben Rodriguez stated: "Career Week is designed to introduce students to potential career options. Through the use of guest speakers, students can hear stories that will help them understand the path to potential."

Galena Park HS athletes sign letter of intent



Adrian Burciaga, left, Class of 2020 - Galena Park High School signed a letter of intent with Washburn University - Topeka Kansas. He's a Left Handed Pitcher and outfielder. Perfect Game All American past 3 years. Alexander Gomez, right, Class of 2020 - Galena Park High School signed with Stephen F. Austin- Nacagdoches Texas. He's a 1 baseman, 4 year letterman. Congratulations !!!

OBITUARIES

MARTIN "SAMBO" JAMES MOLINA, JR

Martin "Sambo" James Molina, Jr., 50, passed from this life on November 19, 2019 in Baytown, Texas.

He was born in Houston on November 9, 1969 to parents Barbara (Graves) and Martin Molina, Sr. Sambo owned and operated Sambo's Blackjacks Sports Bar in Cloverleaf for over 15 years. He was known by many for his giving nature and ability to make a friend out of anyone that he met. Sambo held many fundraisers and benefits throughout the years and enjoyed giving back to the community.

He loved his family dearly and cherished spending time with them and having everyone together. Sambo is preceded in death by his father, Martin J. Molina, Sr.; step-father, Ronald Whitten (Big Honey); sister, Sherry Whitten; and step-sister, Diane Livingston. He is lovingly survived by his mother, Barbara Whitten; wife, Kelly Molina; daugh-



ter, Jennifer Molina, Erika Molina and wife Kat, Madison Molina and fiancé Sean Guajardo; his bird, who was known more as another child, Kelbo; sisters, Tammy Brown and husband Wayne, Annette Railey and husband Louie; step-brothers, Don Taylor and wife Debbie; Bobby Taylor, Billy (Pedro) Moore and wife Melissa; step-brother-in-law, Ricky Livingston; granddaughter, Peyton Guajardo; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and many friends.

In honor of Sambo's love for his Houston teams, his family encourages those attending his services to wear their favorite Houston Astros and Texans gear.

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The family invites you to join them for a visitation

Toys for Tots,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

roll deductions taken from their pay in order to make the annual Toys for Tots donation.

Union member working at Longhorn Glass Manufacturing a divisions of Anheuser-Busch Compa-

nies, provides various storage and packaging products, including beverage containers, bottles and cans. The company also offers a variety of services, such as packaging, distribution, marketing and inventory management. Longhorn Glass Manufacturing has one of its manufacturing facilities located in Jacinto City at 4202 Fidelity Street.

In the mid- 1980's Jacinto

City began providing food and toys for the kids in a less fortunate condition each Christmas. Student volunteers gather and package food and toys to be delivered to needy families and kids.

Donations can be made by calling city hall at 713-674-8424 or going to City Hall to inquire about helping at 1301 Mercury Dr, Houston, TX 77029.

Meanwhile, Baytown citizens have started a pledge drive to raise money for continued maintenance. By pledging only 27¢ a day, or \$100 per year for 5 years, they think they can show enough support to attract the ship's caretakers to Baytown.

They also have a website and Russell Hamman has his history website, "Baytown History with a Twist" to promote the idea that the Texas belongs in Bayland Park in Baytown.

Some local politicians want it returned to the Houston Ship Channel where it currently sits. State Representative Briscoe Cain introduced a bill to keep it in LaPorte, only to see the provision stripped from the final bill. Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia got the county to pass a resolution to keep the ship where it is, but admits a lot of money would need to be spent to create a proper tourist attraction around the ship.

Battleship,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stead of the 80,000 in LaPorte. Admission fees must pay for the upkeep of the ship, which will cost \$2 million yearly.

Texas has voted to spend \$35 million more to remove, repair, and relocate the ship. Several locations have indicated interest, including Galveston, Corpus Christi, and Baytown.

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Channelview Community meeting recap -- PART I

The Channelview community had its second Community Meeting the evening of Oct. 24, 2019 at the Channelview Fire Dept. Sta. 3 located at 1210 Dell Dale. This meeting was held as a progress update to the Environmental Meeting held on 09/12/19 and in a continuing effort by residents to share information, to work together with governing and other agencies to address the issues impacting Channelview to bring awareness and to document, remove, prevent and/or improve the environmental issues affecting our residents.

As a result of last month's meeting Rebecca Smith of the Houston office of C.E.E.R. had taken a tour of Channelview for an "eyes on" understanding of Channelview's issues. This tour and Ms. Smith's attendance at September's meeting resulted in C.E.E.R. including Channelview as one of their communities to be addressed at C.E.E.R.'s Baytown/Channelview Town Hall on Disaster Recovery & Resilience public forum and resource fair held at Lee College in Baytown on Oct 30th. Along with provision of resources useful in addressing a variety of concerns, attendees of C.E.E.R.'s meeting were provided an opportunity to participate in a study being conducted by Texas State University to add and/or more accurately reflect Channelview's data and issues to be presented to governing agencies once TSU's study has been completed. Also relayed to attendees was interest and contact by other groups who had wanted to aid the Channelview Community, but had not had a source to contact. C.E.E.R. and the other groups' contact and interest were proof to Channelview Community organizers efforts relating to the goal of bringing awareness was being achieved. In addition to awareness being brought to the community, organizers had been made aware of Lyondell Basell's monthly C.A.P.L.E. meeting. Several community members had attended the Oct. 17th C.A.P.L.E. meeting to learn about Lyondell Basell's Community Advisory Panel and to initiate a relationship with Lyondell Basell. C.A.P.L.E.'s Associate Facilitator contact Anne Gowan, annelgowan@gmail.com, was shared for those wishing to attend C.A.P.L.E.'s upcoming meetings.

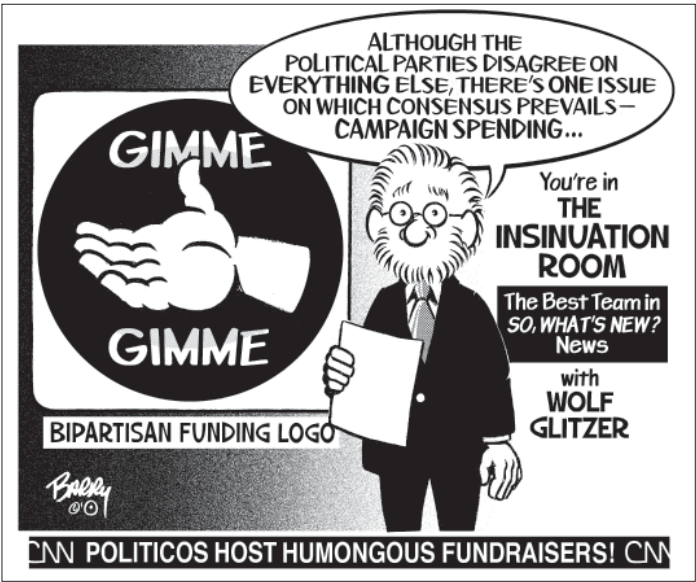
Organizers of this month's meeting provided attendees updates on the following environmental issues provided at the last meeting: Intra Services – Air Quality Permit #91606 was renewed and extended in September, but further investigation into the permitting was being conducted, C. W. Certified Wash – A new tank wash facility at 15653 N. Brentwood had

a TCEQ registration number, #97511, but according to TCEQ no Air Quality or Storm Water permits, although a Storm Water permit may be in the works. The facility at this time was not required to have a Hazardous Waste Registration due to company information saying they do not handle hazardous waste. Residents' reports are that tankers with hazardous placards are routinely coming, going and parked on the property.

Following the meeting organizer's updates, additional presentations and updates were presented by Lone Star Legal Aid's Environmental Justice Team. Rodrigo Cantu gave a very informative presentation on group structuring; Forming Your Community Based Advocacy Group. His presentation discussed the various ways the Channelview Community could become a legally recognized group to further promote their group goals and to solidify the group's recognition by governing agencies and other entities. Mr. Cantu covered the un-incorporated associations, incorporated non-profits which is a state law based concept, or incorporated tax exempt (501(c)(3) which is a federal law based concept discussing the requirements, the advantages and disadvantages of each and how each group formation compares to the other formation types. Also presented was how the group's capacities, goals, purpose and planned activities may play a role in which type of organization would be best suited for the group. Mr. Cantu informed the group that the initial structure could be changed as the group became more established. The information shared left the attendees with much to consider and a discussion followed with attendees clarifying various details and weighing in on their preferences.

Heejin Hwang provided an update on research LSLA had initiated in response to concerns over Texas Industrial Box Maintenance, Inc. (TIBM) a tank wash facility at 15331 Market St. which had exploded and caught fire on 09/10/19 two days prior to the Channelview Community's last meeting. TIBM established operations in 2002, a short 2 years later their recorded history of violations began – 2004 thru 2016 TIBM has multiple Texas Water Code, Texas Clean Air Act, Texas Health & Safety Code, and Harris County storm water regulations violations – 2010 TCEQ audit reflects TIBM did not have appropriate hazardous waste permits and did not maintain required records – 2012 TCEQ denied storm water permit – 2014 "an oil sheen with solvent-like odor pooled near a tank and then ran outside the fence and into a swale"

PART II will continue next week



Federal funds to assist county in buying out flood-prone properties

AUSTIN — Land Commissioner George P. Bush on Nov. 14 announced the Texas General Land Office's approval of \$21,155,575 in Hurricane Harvey funds for Fort Bend County to conduct a buyout program.

In the late summer of 2017, record-heavy rainfall brought by Hurricane Harvey catastrophically flooded streets and homes. Fort Bend County will use the funds to conduct a buyout program targeting approximately 100 homes most vulnerable to flooding.

The funds come from a much larger pool of federal assistance. Bush was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to lead Hurricane Harvey housing recovery efforts funded by \$5.7 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Hurricane Harvey devastated communities across the Texas Coast," said Bush. "These recovery funds are critical to protecting lives, homes and businesses from future storms. We continue to work with our partners in communities across the region to leverage these resources efficiently and effectively to benefit Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey."

Court stays execution

The execution of a Texas death row inmate incarcerated since May 1998 was stayed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Nov. 15.

The court order came five days before Rodney Reed, 51, was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection. A number of Republican and Democratic federal and state lawmakers and

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

celebrities called on Gov. Greg Abbott to prevent the execution as motions for the reexamination of DNA and other evidence and the introduction of new witness statements gained publicity. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles voted in favor of granting a 120-day reprieve of the execution.

In 1998, Reed was convicted in the 1996 murder of Stacey Stites, a 19-year-old grocery store clerk. Both Reed and Stites were residents of Bastrop when Stites's body was found. Reed, who had dated Stites, was arrested as a suspect and taken into custody.

Lawmaker is charged

State Rep. Poncho Nevarez, D-Eagle Pass, on Nov. 14 was charged with possession of a controlled substance and released on \$10,000 bond.

In September, Nevarez was observed on Austin airport security cameras dropping an envelope containing some 2 grams of cocaine. A conviction for possession of that amount of cocaine is a third-degree felony that could result in a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

Nevarez has announced he will not seek reelection to a fifth term as the state representative for District 74, an enormous district that includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves,

Terrell and Val Verde.

Nevarez serves as chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety; as vice chair of the House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety; and as a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

AG warns of scam calls

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 14 warned Texans about scam callers falsely claiming to be members of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division and attempting to obtain personal and financial information.

Fraudulent callers attempt to obtain personal identifying information from the call recipient and ask for money transfers or bank details after baselessly claiming the call recipient's Social Security number has been compromised. Fraudsters use local numbers and sometimes provide a false case number during the call.

Paxton is encouraging those who receive such calls to notify his office's Consumer Protection Hotline toll-free at 1-800-621-0508 or to file a complaint online.

Paxton also said his office's true Crime Victim Services phone number is toll-free 800-983-9933 and local number 512-936-1200.

Abbott declares drought Gov. Greg Abbott on Nov. 8 issued a declaration certifying that exceptional drought conditions pose a threat of imminent disaster in 53 of Texas' 254 counties.

As stated in the disaster declaration, "Significantly low rainfall and prolonged dry conditions continue to increase the threat of wildfire across these portions of the state."

The declaration authorizes the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Season's Edge"

"I like the edge season!" my husband, Peter, said, as we watched the moon rise over the mountains and felt a chill breeze rise with it. As far as I know, Peter invented this expression. He might have meant the "season's end," but I like the idea of the "season's edge" better.

Peter and I are staying in the south of Spain and, even here, the season is changing. Restaurants that have been open all summer and fall are finally giving their employees a few days off. Menus are changing, hours are shortening, outdoor tables are now used only during the day and only on days that are sunny. Clouds suddenly appear over the mountains and the diners scatter, looking for somewhere cozy indoors.

And I agree with Peter: I like it. Peter and I took a bus inland to Granada this week and it was cooler than on the coast. I brought along fancy boots and a skirt and ditched them both after I realized the cobblestones were murder on my feet. I was not willing to make a fashion statement at the expense of my feet. Would I have been willing to do that a few years ago, I wondered? Probably. Perhaps this is a change that has come in my own "edge season."

I still feel the familiar pull of, "I should really do that," or, "not everyone gets a chance to do this," and feel a sense of obligation to chase after some sight or activity and, while I do make an effort not to be a stick-in-the-mud, I can't help but notice how wonderful it feels to simply be where I want, doing what I please.

When I was younger, I was obsessed with the idea of missing out. I could barely stand to be in one place, thinking of all the other places I could be at the same time. The idea of taking a nap was preposterous. The idea of missing an opportunity, too painful to contemplate.

Things are different now. After Peter and I toured the Alhambra palace in Granada, we came home and took a nap. Instead of imagining all the sights I was not seeing, all the memories I would not have, I thought about the all amazing things I had seen that day. I replayed them in my head and drifted off to sleep.

Later, Peter and I headed out (in practical shoes) and had a kind of very strong Moroccan tea I had never tasted and a delicious crepe. We sat on ornate cushions covered with tassels and sequins, with glittering lanterns overhead, and watched two college girls busy with their phones and their hair.

"Would you take a photo of us?" I asked the students in badly fractured Spanish, "I'm terrible at selfies!"

The young woman with the larger volume of hair cheerfully agreed and took several photos of us—me grinning broadly (as I do) and Peter looking a tad on edge (as he does).

I wondered what these two young women would do in their lives—if they would stay in Granada or travel the world. I wondered if they ever worried they were missing out when they already lived in such an interesting place.

And then I thought how grateful I was to be exactly where I was in my life—dressed in practical shoes with nowhere I wanted to be other than exactly where I was.

I took Peter's hand. "I'm very happy to be here with you," I told him.

"This is great tea!" Peter said. It was.

Till next time,
Carrie



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OBITUARIES

Lila Faye Carter

Lila Faye Carter, 84, passed away on Friday, November 15, 2019. She was born on October 31, 1935 to Roswell Buford Hopkins and Ladeen Safrona Rayburn. She was a long time Highlands resident and Robert E. Lee graduate. She worked as a bookkeeper for Briggs Weaver, and retired in December 2005. An accomplished creative writer, she had articles and poems published. Lila was a voracious reader and an active member of her book club. She enjoyed playing Mahjong and tending to her flower garden. She was a beach lover, and had a beach house in Galveston, where she also volunteered at the Grand. She was a big Tiger Woods and Astros fan. Lila will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



She is preceded in death by her parents, Roswell and Ladeen Hopkins; sister, Brenda Scott; son, David Carter and partner of 17 years, George King. Lila is survived by her daughter, SueZan Moseley and husband Ronnie; son Joe Kenneth Carter Jr.; daughter, Melinda Cordova and husband George; granddaughter, Shana Moseley; granddaughter,

Brittany Ford and husband Jason; granddaughter, Tiffany Sandford and husband Todd; granddaughter, Mira Carter; grandson, Taylor Harrison; and sister, Barbara Smith and partner Neva Fitzgerald. She is also survived by eight great-grandchildren. A visitation for friends and family will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Arrangements are entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

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Willie Lee Haluska

Willie Lee Haluska, 94, went to be with the Lord on Monday, November 11, 2019. He was born in Fayetteville, Texas on July 12, 1925, to Willie John Haluska and Rosie Franta Haluska. As a young child, he moved to Crosby with his parents to begin a new farm. Willie graduated from Crosby High School and then proudly served in the United States Navy in the Pacific during World War II and was honorably discharged. He retired from Exxon Mobil after thirty-one years, and at the time of his death had been retired for 38 years. He loved hunting, fishing, managing his cattle and tending to his garden. He was a loving father and grandfather, hard worker, an interesting storyteller and quite a character. He was also a carpenter and he and his father built the house that he and his wife lived in. Most importantly, Willie was a Christian and an active member at Crosby United Methodist



Church where he served in various capacities. He loved his Sunday School Class and his group of "Angels". Willie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Rosie Haluska; wife of fifty-five years, Alice Mae Kosina Haluska; brother Ladd Haluska and wife Rosalie; and stepmother Amalia Syptak Haluska.

Willie is survived by his daughter, Connie Walding and husband Scott; grandson, Brian Remkes; great

granddaughter, Megan Alyse Remkes; sister-in-law, Frankie Kosina Brewer and numerous extended family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends was held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at 10:00 am on Friday, November 15, 2019 at Crosby United Methodist Church, 1334 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532. Interment was in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Crosby United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or charity of choice.

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Mikeinal Anthony "Butch" Gomez

October 17, 1945 -
November 12, 2019

Mikeinal Anthony "Butch" Gomez the son of Frederick Garcia Gomez and Dorothy Hardin Gomez was born on October 17, 1945 in Bryan, Texas. He entered eternal life on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 in Houston, Texas at the age of 74 years.

Butch was a graduate of Galena Park High School in Houston. He was a Vietnam War Veteran and a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps serving from August 1965 - April 1969. Butch was employed most of his life as a pressman. He married Becky Fee on June 11, 1983 in Houston, Texas. He will be remembered by his family as an outstanding husband, father and friend. He loved to hunt and fish but his most enjoyable times were spent with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frederick Garcia Gomez; his mother, Dorothy Catoe and the father that raised him, Eugene Catoe; sister, Doris Clark.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Becky Gomez of Houston; Sons and Daughters-in-law, Mikeinal Troy Gomez and wife Kellie of Galveston, Robert Anthony Gomez and wife Teresa of



Houston, Nathan Eugene Gomez and wife Dawn of Franklin, Gene Gomez of Houston and William Gomez of Houston; Sisters and Brothers-in-law, Juanita Fowler and husband Larry of Houston and Sammie Baker and husband Donald of Cleveland; Brother and Sister-in-law, Fred Gomez and wife Marea of Anchorage, Alaska; Grandchildren, Wesley Savell, Kaitlyn Gomez, Shelby Gomez, Brittany Gomez and Allison Gomez; Great Grandchildren, Bodhi Savell and Briar Savell

A visitation was held on Saturday from 1:00 P.M. until service time. Services were held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. at McCauley Funeral Home Chapel in Franklin, Texas. Burial followed the services and a processional to the Shiloh Cemetery in Robertson County.

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of
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--Jeremiah 17:14

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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Small Town Love

Long before there was social media, there was a portable marquee at the corner of Freeport and Muscatine. There was a feeling of small town love. Long before there was GoFundMe.com, there was a family reaching out and helping to raise money for friends and neighbors. When meeting any of the family, you sensed the feeling of small town love. Long before we had the psychologists and counselors in our community, we had someone who would listen.

I first met Martin "Sambo" Molina in the early 1990's thru his cousin Cyndi Burks. She had a vision to help families in the Cloverleaf community. Sambo was the first to offer to help. He started collecting donations for Christmas, Back to School and Vacation Bible School. As I got to know Cyndi, I immediately knew she was a part of a large extended family.

Cyndi introduced me to Sambo and his wife Kelly and then it seemed like everywhere I went, I met another family member. Their three daughters Jennifer, Erika and Madison seem to intertwine with my children and so many others at school and in the softball world. There was always someone with a need and Sambo and Kelly were the first to be raising funds to help those who needed money to help with the expenses.

He was also a sounding board to the hurting. Many a young person would stop in to visit and get some "fatherly" advice. Even though he and Kelly had daughters, he definitely drew in a large number of young men to be his sons. His nephew Dustin seemed to pick up on that same trait. More often than not, young people tell me

they met Sambo through Dustin when they needed to hear "real talk" and it did not matter if it was about starting a business, getting along with their spouse or getting involved in making a difference in the community.

As families had needs, maybe their home had burned, maybe had a sick family member or even after Hurricane Harvey when Houstonians were asked to help those east of us, Sambo opened up his business to serve as a collection point for supplies. His big heart and his smile never seemed to make you think he was dealing with an illness.

The past few years have been a roller coaster with his health and on Tuesday, he gained his wings and was reunited with so many loved ones who went before him including his father Martin Molina and sister Sherry Whitten. In addition to the love of his life and daughters, Sambo leaves behind his Mom, Barbara Whitten, his precious granddaughter Peyton Guajardo, son in law Sean Guajardo, daughter in law Kathleen Molina and sisters Annette Railey and Tammy Brown. In addition to Dustin, he leaves behind nephews Jason Molina, Raymond Whitten and Bobby Molina. Nieces include Dannette Molina, Rachelle Whitten and Kristina Molina.

In many ways our community has changed over the years, yet the Molina family has shared that small town love with many. This Saturday, as he is remembered with a Homegoing Celebration, love will be felt everywhere. If you were blessed to know Sambo, please reach out and show some of that small town love to the family in the days ahead.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "AND THEN IT IS WINTER..."

I've seen this before in an email or perhaps a posting, but each time it seems to have more meaning. I thought it would be a good time to share it:

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey... they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so... now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth... it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to

accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember: "It is Health that is real Wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!

~Going out is good... coming home is even better!

~You forget names.... but it's OK, because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything.... especially golf.

~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed it's called "pre-sleep."

~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..

~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?" ... "when?" ...???

~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless?!"

~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

~Everybody whispers.

~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

~But "Old" is good in some things:

Old Songs, Old movies ... and best of all, our dear ...OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"

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.

State of the County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rating. It's about making sure that all of our residents enjoy equal access to the great opportunities available to them in Harris County. Over the past year we've made county government more transparent, made strides to reform our criminal justice system, and have begun to make up for lost time when it comes to investing in our flood control infrastructure. But there is much more to do, and we look forward to another year of ambitious, meaningful initiatives, including a focus on what we can do to improve early childhood development and education."

Drawing from the "Talking Transition" initiative, Judge Hidalgo will kick off a community engagement series next year as the first step towards a larger goal of a meaningful early childhood development initiative in Harris County. Programs that focus on early childhood development have one of the strongest returns on investment for any type of public program. Children who benefit from initiatives like subsidized childcare and early education tend to have higher high school graduation rates, fewer arrests, lower rates of substance use, and higher rates of employment as adults.

During her remarks, Judge Hidalgo also provided updates on key priorities since her swearing in. Some key areas of progress include:

- Sped the delivery of flood bond projects by allocating local funds to jump-start construction instead of waiting for federal match dollars.
- Passed the most stringent flood detention requirements possible so that new development doesn't flood people downstream.
- Fixing our broken cash-bail system. By taking action to settle an expensive, three-year old lawsuit under which federal courts had deemed the County's bail system unconstitutional, the County eliminated practices that often made wealth the sole basis for how someone accused of a misdemeanor crime was treated.
- Reformed environmental protection, monitoring, and enforcement. The County has allocated over \$11 million to build a state-of-the-art air monitoring network, increased the size of the pollution control department by over 50%, and added resources for HazMat First Responders.
- Passed common-sense gun safety measures. The County has taken action to expand programs designed to keep weapons away from domestic violence abusers, expedite checks to keep gun dealers from unknowingly selling to people convicted of crimes, and encourage the use of gun locks to keep guns from the hands of children.
- Made voting easier by allowing residents to vote anywhere on election day. The County has also expanded early voting hours and locations, including increased access for students with early voting polls opened at the University of Houston and Texas Southern University.
- Directed the county to create a 3-1-1 system to make county information easier to receive.
- Launched Harris Thrives, an initiative to execute a faster, fairer, and smarter flood control policy. As part of this commitment, the County Judge's office is sharing real-time information on construction progress for flood bond projects, including how and where dollars are being spent

HarrisThrives.org.

- Stood up against the Trump administration's effort to instill fear in our immigrant communities. Judge Hidalgo has worked to fight against family separation policies, planned immigration raids in the County, and the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. Additionally, the County filed a successful amicus brief against the Federal Government's proposed "public charge rule" designed to threaten safety net services for immigrants and which would also overburden our county safety net systems.

For a more comprehensive list of county initiatives and accomplishments, and a full copy of Judge Hidalgo's speech as prepared is available on her county website at CountyJudgeHidalgo.com

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If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281 328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

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5 Personal question
8 Grouch
12 Liniment target
13 Chop
14 Firetruck need
15 Barbecue fuel
17 One side of the Urals
18 Glutton
19 Prune
20 Skill
21 Police officer
22 Has potential
23 Should, with "to"
26 Assail persistently
30 Entreaty
31 "Delish!"
32 Small wagon
33 Breastbone
35 "It's mine!"
36 Diving bird
37 Two, in Tijuana
38 Pamphlet
41 Raw rock
42 Pair of performers
45 Laugh-a-minute
46 Entrancing
48 Teen's woe
49 Ginormous
50 Eastern bigwig (Var.)
51 Equal

10 "Yeah, right"
11 Defeat
16 Coagulate
20 Rotating part
21 Role
22 Off-tattooed word
23 Chances, for short
24 Last (Abbr.)
25 "Gosh!"
26 Vagrant
27 Upper limb
28 Aries
29 Coloring agent
31 Opposite of 31-Across?
34 Eccentric

35 No stay-at-home
37 Hauls
38 Snare
39 Kind of pudding
40 Top-rated
41 Major U.S. river
42 FDR's on it
43 One
44 Shrek, for instance
46 Letterman's employer
47 Paper equivalent of a GPS?

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8 9 1 4 7 6 5 2 3
2 6 3 8 9 9 2 4 1
5 7 2 8 1 3 2 6 1 8
3 2 8 1 6 4 9 7 5
7 1 6 5 9 8 2 3 4

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

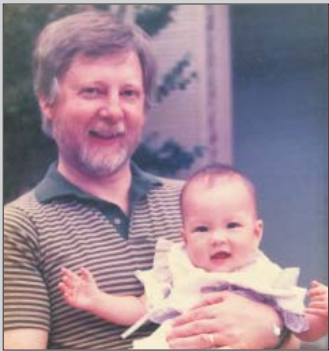
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MUSIC: Who composed the "1812 Overture"?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the sixth gift in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
3. SCIENCE: What is the softest mineral?
4. GOVERNMENT: Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery?
5. ENTERTAINMENT: Who are the only two people to receive an Oscar award and a Nobel Prize?
6. U.S. STATES: How many states border Oklahoma?
7. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a place called Shangri-La?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president's famous speech included the line, "Tear down this wall"?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Which country lies directly south of Venezuela?
10. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which filmmaker and author once wrote, "Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address"?

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Publisher’s Birthday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



Gilbert and daughter Kristan



Gilbert and Carol with their daughter Susan

and quickly set about expanding the business. Their daughter Kristan was born soon after, and her childhood was spent playing happily among the printing presses. She drew pictures on paper samples and made dollhouses out of empty shipping containers.

Meanwhile, Gilbert continued to practice architecture both as a consultant and independently. He and Mei-ing established their own firm, Hoffman-Liu Design Associates.

NEWSPAPER MAN

Through the printing operations, Gilbert learned of a community paper for sale, and somehow convinced his wife to let him buy it. Ever since then, he has devoted his days to covering the news in several Houston area communities, including Aldine, Channelview, Crosby, Highlands, Jacinto City, and many more.

You are likely to see him at neighborhood events with a camera around his neck and a notepad in hand. Along with his dedicated staff, Gilbert documents high school football games, attends chamber of commerce meetings, and interviews local politicians. To integrate with the communities he covers, he has become a Rotarian and served on various boards of directors. His work as a journalist has been more meaningful and rewarding than he imagined, and has connected him with some of the kindest and most interesting people he has ever known, many of whom he is proud to call his friends.

With so many passions pursued and dreams fulfilled, it's hard to imagine what more Gilbert may do in the future that he hasn't already done in these past 80 years...

This story was written in collaboration with his loving family.

Happy birthday!!!



Gilbert as a kid, Pauline and Nana



Gilbert and Mei Hoffman

"Happy Birthday, friend. A free press is essential to our freedom. Thank you for many years of service."

-Briscoe Cain, R.
Texas House of
Representatives District #128

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North Shore game photos



#14 Charles King, Mustang wide receiver scores TD on a 14 yard pass from quarterback Demetrius Davis.

#28 Zorhan Rideaux, glides in the air pass Longhorn defender on a 47 yard pass from quarterback Demetrius Davis.

Photos by Allan Jamail



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