

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 8, NO. 09 (#313)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL

CURRENTS

PORT BRIEFS

Growth spurs Houston Port to Fast-Track Channel Widening

The Port of Houston is working to accelerate the widening of its ship channel after reporting its third straight year of double-digit volume growth, much of it from a 51 percent jump in resin ex-ports.

In an interview Roger Guenther, executive director of Port of Houston Authority, said completing the \$1 billion project is critical to the port's future, enabling it to simultaneously handle two 14,000-TEU vessels, the largest that can pass through the Panama Canal. In order to complete the project in four to five years instead of the decade it would typically take, the port is executing the government approval process, design work, and financing simultaneously, rather than sequentially, he said.

"Our number one priority is the expansion of the Houston ship channel, to make it wider and deeper," said Guenther, a day after he laid out the authority's 2020 plan for the port to authority board members in Houston. The urgency, he said, stems from a need to ensure that ship size is not limited and the "frequency of vessels isn't disrupted, so that we can keep commerce flowing through our channel, so that we can continue to grow."

That effort in 2020 will focus on marshaling stakeholder support and lobbying elected officials to get the project federal authorization through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill this year and making sure the bill passes before the current legislative session ends in December.

New leadership installed at the 43rd North Channel Area Chamber Gala

By Margie Buentello, President & CEO

Christie Gates was sworn in as Chairman of the board for the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the 43rd Annual Awards and Installation Gala. Harris County Justice of the Peace, Lucia Bates, performed the ceremony at Sylvan Beach Pavilion.

Additionally, other officers and directors took the oath that evening pledging to "promote business growth and quality of life in the North Channel Area."

Gates is the Chief Administrative Officer in Sheldon ISD. In her current position, she leads the Administrative side of the district, which includes su-



2020 North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Board.

pervising campus principals, as well as overseeing the Advanced Academics, Personnel Services, Student Services, Transportation, Maintenance, Technology, Emergency Operations, and Communications departments for the district. Over the past year, she has worked with

See New Chamber Board, Page 6

Sheldon FFA students hold successful Livestock Show

SHELDON – The C. E. King High School FFA held their Annual Livestock Show and Sale Saturday, Jan. 18th. Students exhibited a total of 41 animals, and bidding from Buyers was lively. The event was held at the Agriculture barn on Old US90, the Beaumont Highway.

According to FFA adviser Robyn Jones, the bids totalled \$32,650 and after add-ons the show raised a total of \$44,120 for the students, who use the money for scholarships and costs of raising the animals. Jones said the high volume bidders were Shy Girls Saloon and Alfonso Trevino, tied for the top spot among the buyers.

The Grand Champion Steer was exhibited by Samantha Doerr, and it was purchased by Rotating Equipment for \$2600. Other Grand Champions were GC Swine, exhibited

by Kaitlyn Staten and purchased by Turner Chevrolet for \$1000; GC Lamb, exhibited by Samantha Doerr and purchased by Rotating Equipment for \$500; GC Goat, exhibited by Haley Jones and purchased by Courtesy Roofing for \$525; GC Rabbits, exhibited by Jenna Semien and purchased by Robert & Sandra Fletcher for \$350; GC Broilers, exhibited by Roger Davis and purchased by Terrox Construction for \$725.

Photos and a listing of exhibitors of the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions are in this edition of the North Channel Star.



Samantha Doerr exhibited the Grand Champion Steer, purchased by Rotating Equipment.



FFA STUDENT EXHIBITORS and Faculty Advisors pose for a group picture after the successful Annual Livestock Show.

Channelview ISD February students of the month



Channelview ISD recently honored February Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon at Ray Maddy Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left: Jocelynn Jacquez (Alice Johnson Junior High), Kaitlyn Lemons (Anthony Aguirre Junior High), Yasmin Sanchez (Channelview High School), Luis Melendez (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Xiana Ramirez (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Yasmin Sanchez (Channelview High School).

Front Row: Allen Villarreal (Viola Cobb Elementary), Alejandro Lopez (Crenshaw Elementary), Hector Vasquez (McMullan Elementary), Sophia Morales (Schochler Elementary), Gustavo Galvan (Harvey Brown Elementary), Victoria Ortegón (Hamblen Elementary), Jasmine Branch (Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center), Jimena Gonzalez (DeZavala Elementary).

Rotary supports the North Shore Little League



RYAN DAGLEY, president of the North Shore Rotary Club, presents a check for \$7500 to representatives of the North Shore Little League at their meeting last week. The Little League season is set to open March 21 at the North Shore Rotary Little League park.



SHELDON FFA Livestock Show 2020

63TH ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SHOW

SHELDON ISD AG CENTER JAN. 16-18, 2020

GRAND CHAMPIONS

PHOTOS NORTH CHANNEL STAR



GRAND CHAMPION STEER
Exhibitor: **SAMANTHA DOERR**
Buyer: **ROTATING EQUIPMENT, \$2600**



GRAND CHAMPION SWINE
Exhibitor: **KAITLYN STATEN**
Buyer: **TURNER CHEVROLET, \$1000**



GRAND CHAMPION LAMB
Exhibitor: **SAMANTHA DOERR**
Buyer: **ROTATING EQUIPMENT, \$500**



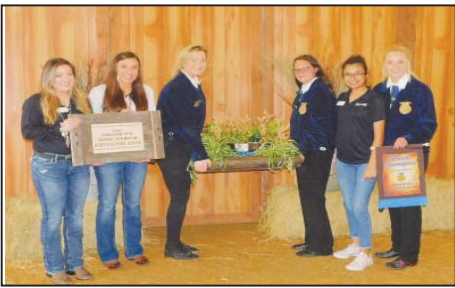
GRAND CHAMPION GOAT
Exhibitor: **HALEY JONES**
Buyer: **COURTESY ROOFING, \$525**



GRAND CHAMPION RABBITS
Exhibitor: **JENNA SEMIEN**
Buyer: **ROBERT & SANDRA FLETCHER, \$350**



GRAND CHAMPION BROILERS
Exhibitor: **ROGER DAVIS**
Buyer: **TERROX CONSTRUCTION, \$725**



GRAND CHAMPION HORTICULTURE
Exhibitor: **SAMANTHA DOERR**
Buyer: **UNITED COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, \$375**



GRAND CHAMPION AG MECHANICS
Exhibitor: **FRANCISCO SANCHEZ**
Buyer: **COURTESY ROOFING, \$675**



GRAND CHAMPION DECORATED CAKE
Exhibitor: **DORANELLY SANCHEZ**
Buyer: **SHELIA MCCRARY, \$175**



GRAND CHAMPION FOOD SHOW
Exhibitor: **RYLEE CLARK**
Buyer: **ROBERT & SANDRA FLETCHER, \$325**



GRAND CHAMPION PHOTOGRAPHY
Exhibitor: **JOHN ADAMS**
Buyer: **OLD CUSTY'S BBQ, \$175**

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Congratulations to all the FFA Exhibitors

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SHELDON FFA Livestock Show 2020

63TH ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SHOW

SHELDON ISD AG CENTER JAN. 16-18, 2020

RESERVE CHAMPIONS

PHOTOS NORTH CHANNEL STAR



RESERVE CHAMPION STEER
Exhibitor: JAMARI DAVIS
Buyer: SHY GIRLS SALOON, \$2500



RESERVE CHAMPION SWINE
Exhibitor: REAGAN MCGEHEE
Buyer: NORTH SHORE ROTARY, \$800



RESERVE CHAMPION LAMB
Exhibitor: REAGAN MCGEHEE
Buyer: ALFONSO TREVINO, \$400



RESERVE CHAMPION GOAT
Exhibitor: AJIAH ARCENEUX
Buyer: RODEO READY CUSTOM LEATHER, \$400



RESERVE CHAMPION RABBITS
Exhibitor: ZAKERIA LOUDD
Buyer: BOBBY THURNMAN, \$250



RESERVE CHAMPION BROILERS
Exhibitor: FRANCISCO SANCHEZ
Buyer: DR. DONALD NINO, \$325



RESERVE CHAMPION HORTICULTURE
Exhibitor: REAGAN MCGEHEE
Buyer: SMESNEY FAMILY, \$375



RESERVE CHAMPION DECORATED CAKE
Exhibitor: RAYLEE CLARK
Buyer: GRIMES RANCH, \$325



RESERVE CHAMPION AG MECHANICS
Exhibitor: SAMANTHA DOERR
Buyer: LEAGO FAMILY, \$3000



RESERVE CHAMPION FOOD SHOW
Exhibitor: DARIULLE PREVOST
Buyer: GRIMES RANCH, \$175

NOTE: There were a Total of 41 Sale slots Exhibits. Space does not allow us to show all, but we Congratulate all that competed.

CREDITS:
FFA ADVISORS: Chris Jones, Stephanie Jones, Justice Griffin & Heather Milam
FFA OFFICERS: Jonathan Dominguez, Pres; Emilee Denton, Meg Burgess, Raylee Clark, Samantha Doerr, Kaitlyn Dotarty
BOOSTER CLUB: Dale Denton Pres;
SHELDON SUPERINTENDENT: King Davis
CTE COORDINATOR: Bonita Taylor
Show Secretary: Cindy Langdon
Public Relations: Derik Moore

Congratulations to all the Exhibitors at the Sheldon FFA Livestock Show
We are pleased to support the Youth in their endeavors.



ROTARIANS WITH RESERVE CHAMPION SWINE EXHIBITOR REAGAN MCGEHEE



NORTH SHORE ROTARY CLUB Ryan Dagley, president

Tickets now available for our Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil & Raffle
Saturday, May 16, 2020 North Shore Rotary Pavilion
14350 Wallisville Road

Congratulations FFA Exhibitors

*** ELECT ***

JOE STEPHENS

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - PCT. 3 PLACE 1

- Galena Park ISD School Board President
- North Channel Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- Barrett Station Civic League President
- Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce Member
- Galena Park Rotary Member
- Former Woodforest Sec 26 HOA President
- Lifelong Member of the Community
- Masters Degree in Business Administration (11 of 1)
- Former HOUSTON ROCKET
- Small Business Owner (The Joe Stephens Insurance Agency)
- Served 3 years as TXDOT Commissioner on large condemnation cases (appointed by former Judge and current Harris County Commissioner Pat. A. Lock Cagle)
- Businessman, Husband, Father

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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Will Selling Large Asset Affect Wife's Social Security?

Dear Rusty: If I have reached full retirement age (FRA) and wish to sell a \$500,000 asset, will it affect my wife's Social Security if we file jointly? I have heard that it will affect my Medicare (the amount withheld each month) but she still has three more years before she can receive benefits. Is it better to liquidate assets before she reaches FRA if we will be penalized? Would her Medicare be affected as well as mine? Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Only earnings from working can affect Social Security (SS) benefits, so passive income from selling a large asset won't affect your wife's future Social Security benefits (nor yours). However, if your "combined income" from all sources (which is your Adjusted Gross Income plus any other non-taxable income you may have, plus 50% of your SS benefits) exceeds certain levels, your Medicare premium will be subject to the Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) rule, which will add a supplemental amount to your base Medicare Part B premium. If your combined income (including that sold asset) for the 2020 tax year is between \$326,000 and \$750,000 then your Medicare premium for 2022 will be at least \$462.70 (I say "at least" because the Medicare Part B premium can increase each year).

The IRMAA premium increases on a sliding scale starting at \$174,001 of combined income for a married couple filing jointly (\$87,001 for an individual). If you liquidate that large asset this year, it will be reported on your 2020 income tax return which will be filed in 2021. That will mean that your Medicare premium for 2022 will be affected by IRMAA, and so will your wife's if she has enrolled in Medicare at age 65 in 2021 (which she need not do if she has other "creditable" healthcare

coverage through an employer).

So, should you liquidate that large asset before your wife reaches her SS full retirement age? It doesn't matter for Social Security purposes because that passive income will not affect your wife's SS benefit. But, if your wife enrolls in Medicare at age 65, her Medicare Part B premium, as well as yours, will be subject to IRMAA and, thus be considerably higher than the standard premium of \$144.60 (the amount for 2020). Note that if your combined income for the following year is low enough to reduce your IRMAA premium, the Medicare premium will revert back to the lower level. Medicare typically uses income data from 2 years ago to determine current year premium, so they wouldn't normally change your IRMAA premium back until they receive your income data for the previous year from the IRS. But, it is possible for you to contact Social Security earlier and provide them with proof that your income is now lower than reported in a previous year (causing the higher IRMAA premium) and they will adjust your Medicare premium sooner than they otherwise might.

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Governor establishes clemency application for certain survivors

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 20 established a clemency application specifically for survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence.

The application, crafted in coordination with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, includes a section that affords the applicant an opportunity to provide a statement to the board regarding their human trafficking or domestic violence victimization.

Human trafficking and domestic violence, according to the governor's office, often lead victims down a path of offenses that entraps them in a vicious cycle of abuse and associated crime. Abbott's announcement coincides with the launch of a new public awareness campaign informing survivors that they can submit an application for Board of Pardons and Paroles to review and consider recommending that the governor grant a full pardon for crimes committed while under the grips of a trafficker or an abusive partner.

"Texas is committed to empowering the survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking, and one of the surest signals of that goal is laying out a true path to redemption and restoration," Abbott said.

"The gubernatorial pardon plays an important role in this redemption process, because it offers a second chance to survivors with criminal convictions resulting from their abuse or exploitation. I am grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles as we work together to develop a stronger justice system that promotes redemption, restoration and transformation," Abbott added.

In his recent announcement proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Abbott applauded state lawmakers for passing legislation to

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

provide survivors with "streamlined access to a clean criminal record and a fresh start."

Update: Coronavirus

The Texas Department of State Health Services on Feb. 21 announced the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed three cases of novel coronavirus 2019 in people under federal quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The first was a traveler who returned on a U.S. State Department-chartered flight from Wuhan City, China. The others returned on a State Department flight for passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama, Japan. The individuals are currently isolated and receiving appropriate care at medical facilities.

There were no other reported cases in Texas and officials said the risk of contracting the virus for all Texans remains low. The Department of State Health Services offers information on "COVID-19" for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

In other news, the DSHS on Feb. 21 reported there have been 15 pediatric flu-related deaths

reported this season in Texas.

The agency urged Texans who have not taken this season's influenza vaccine to get vaccinated without further delay. More information can be found online at www.texasflu.org.

AG sues over explosion

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Feb. 21 announced that Texas Attorney General Paxton had filed a lawsuit against TPC Group Inc. and TPC Group LLC for violations of the Texas Clean Air Act and the Texas Water Code pertaining to the Nov. 27, 2019 explosion at its Port Neches plant.

The lawsuit requests that the court grant injunctive relief, civil penalties, reasonable attorney fees, court costs and investigative costs to the state.

The lawsuit also includes claims that TPC Group caused numerous violations of TCEQ's air quality program from January 2018 through September 2019.

TCEQ Executive Director Toby Baker and House State Affairs Committee Chairman Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, applauded Paxton for taking legal action. "Through this suit, the state can learn what caused the incident, how to prevent such occurrences in the future and adequately penalize all violations," Phelan said.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"An Awful Lot of Cheese"

My husband, Peter, likes buying in bulk.

Peter hates paying shipping fees. He never wants to run out of anything and he loves a bargain. This is why we buy coffee in enormous bags, crackers by the case, nuts and raisins ten pounds at a time, rice in 20-pound bags, and beans in 50-pound bags. It is sometimes a little alarming when the boxes arrive.

I'm not quite sure how he got this way. Peter was the youngest child of six, but I don't think his family went through any extraordinary hardship. My mother is the ninth of eleven children raised during the depression and she buys in modest quantities that last for no more than a week or fit in a small canvas bag—whichever is less.

Most recently, Peter decided to start ordering cheese direct from his favorite cheesemaker, but when he learned what he was going to be charged for shipping he began to fume.

"Ha! If I buy \$100 at a time, I don't pay shipping!" Peter announced, looking over the fine print on the cheesemaker's website. He spoke with Ricky at the cheese shop and Ricky confirmed there would be no shipping charge if Peter just ordered enough cheese. Ricky recommended a nice gouda in addition to the lacy baby swiss Peter is fond of. Peter was delighted.

"Doesn't \$100 buy an awful lot of cheese?" I asked. Our house is small and our refrigerator generally filled to capacity. "Oh, it's not that much..." Peter did the calculations. "It's only about twenty pounds!" I couldn't deny that was a good price per pound, but twenty pounds still sounded like an awful lot of cheese.

Then things were further complicated. I had used this cheese company to buy birthday presents for my dad and they still had that address on file. Even though Peter made it quite clear this cheese was for us—not my father—we got a phone call from my dad about the time Peter was expecting his big cheese delivery.

"Hey, Peter!" my dad said, "Did you order us a big box of cheese?" "Oh no!" Peter said. My parents, who buy little tiny blocks of cheese which they cut into little tiny slices and serve on little tiny crackers at precisely five o'clock every evening with a small glass of white wine, were understandably taken aback by the arrival of twenty pounds of cheese.

"That's a heck of a lot of cheese! Should we mail it to you?" my dad asked. Peter said they should just eat it and my mother expressed doubt that they would ever eat so much cheese in their lifetime. "Oh! You'll eat it!" Peter insisted.

"That's an awful lot of cheese!" my mother protested. "We can pick up what you don't eat next time we see you!" Peter told her, and promptly ordered more cheese. Ricky at the cheese company was appropriately contrite and gave Peter a generous discount on his new order so now we have forty pounds of cheese—twenty here and twenty in storage with my parents. I suspect this situation gives Peter a further feeling of security.

And, while I do shake my head from time to time, I also note that I have never once run out of coffee since I married Peter. We always have plenty of beans and rice to eat and now, I am quite certain, we will never run short of cheese.

In a chaotic world filled with unknowns, uncertainties, and nearly constant change, it's good to know we've got the essentials covered.

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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OBITUARIES

W. B. Clark

W. B. Clark, 92, went to be with his Lord on February 20, 2020 at his home in Channelview, Texas. He was born on May 26, 1927 to parents John Taylor and Gladys May (Morris) Clark in Lufkin, Texas.

W. B. proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. He married the love of his life, Charlene, on July 15, 1951 and spent 65 years together before her passing in January of 2017. W. B. was a minister in the Church of Christ for many years and loved God, his church, and especially his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Charlene Clark; and daughter, Judy Gail Spinks. W. B. is lovingly survived by his children, Gaye Lynn Franks and husband Daren, and Gary Dean Clark; grandchildren,



Chris Campbell, Gennifer Gateley and husband John, David Spinks, and Shelby Franks; great-grandchildren, Jerob Campbell, Mia Duncan, Blane Campbell-Gateley, Jillian Campbell, Jalynn Gateley, Hayden Gateley, Maci Gateley, and Ryleigh Gateley.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM Wednesday, February 26, 2020, with visitation to begin at 10:00 AM, at Channelview

Church of Christ 1301 Sheldon, Channelview, Texas. Graveside services with military honors will follow at 1:00 PM at Houston National Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest with his wife, under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Mr. Clark's memory to the Channelview Church of Christ, in particular for the Philippines Missions.

✥

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HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS



This lunch menu will bug you.

This story is guaranteed to bug you.

The Highlands Rotary club was treated to an unusual lunch menu this week, when two representatives of the Museum of Natural History were the guest program.

And the subject? Around the world, different cultures eat bugs as part of their diet, and the Rotarians got an opportunity to try for themselves.

David Temple and Chuck Leah prepared a variety of bugs for the club members to try. Some found them quite tasty, others not so much, and a few (Sheila!) squirmed and refused to try them.

Temple prepared the various bugs, cooking them at the table, and Leah helped prepare and distribute them to everyone who wanted to try.

Varieties of bugs included grasshoppers, meal worms, and ants. Temple said he personally didn't care for fishing worms, so there weren't any of those. Roaches were not part of the menu, but Temple said that many people eat them, in spite of the fact that they don't have as good a taste as other types of bugs.

He prepared the bugs in a fry pan, and to help make them palatable, served them on a slice of apple in a chocolate sauce, or in a nacho shell with guacamole.

Some of these were quite tasty, due to the condiments, but the bugs themselves had a crunchy quality and not very much taste, the club members reported.



David Temple from the Museum of Natural Science cooks bugs in a fry pan, as Chuck Leah helps prepare nachos with the bugs and some guacamole as stuffing.



BUG ON A STICK. These are known as "meal worms" and here David Temple has prepared them in a ganache or chocolate sauce put on an apple slice. The meal worms are prepared with seasoning, and are precooked before being served here. Temple said that most all of these bugs are available at international grocery stores.

Ann "Annie" L. Wilson

It is with a peace that surpasses all understanding that the family of Ann "Annie" L. Wilson announces her entrance into heaven on February 17, 2020. Annie was born at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas to Fred and Rosemary Wilson. She attended school in Channelview until 1975 when the family moved overseas to Aberdeen, Scotland where she attended Bankhead Academy. From there the family moved to Bergen, Norway and then to Stavanger, Norway attending American schools.

In 1979 the family returned to Channelview where Annie graduated in 1980 from Channelview High School. Annie was a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo serving on numerous committees since the mid 80's including the Metro Go Texan Commit-



tee, serving Channelview, Sheldon, Crosby and Huffman. She spent countless hours volunteering and supporting numerous charities and benefits in her community. Annie was well known in the International Transportation/Oil & Gas industry as she is the former President and VP of ITMA. Traveling and making a name for herself in the industry. Making friends along the way. An advocate for battered wom-

en and the humane treatment of animals. Although she could dance to any country song, her favorite band was HEART whom she had seen numerous times in concert.

Annie is preceded in death by her father Fred W. Wilson. She is survived by her mother Rosemary Wilson and her sissey Mary Wilson. Annie has left countless friends whom she considered family behind. In lieu of flowers Ann would like for you to make a donation to the battered women's shelter of your choice. Celebration of life services are to follow at a later date.

✥

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Baked Vegetables
Hushpuppies
French Fries
Coleslaw
Iced Tea
Dessert

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ASK THE EXPERT

SHELDON ISD

KHS senior named 'Regional Finalist' for Coca-Cola scholarship

C. E. King High School senior Sofia Bucio-Garcia has been named a Regional Finalist for the Coca-Cola Scholarship. There were more than 93,000 applicants who applied for this scholarship - and Sofia's next step is to participate in an interview. Then, if selected to move on, approximately 150 students will be invited to the Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia to attend workshops and to receive their awards.



New Chamber Board,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her leader-ship teams to successfully open two new campuses in Sheldon ISD. In August of 2019, the district opened a new elementary campus, Sheldon Lake Elementary, and in January of 2020, the district opened the doors to a brand new high school facility by relocating over 2,400 students into a newly constructed C. E. King High School campus. Prior to becoming the Chief Administrative Officer in Sheldon ISD, Mrs. Gates has served in various positions throughout her 22 years with the district. She began her career as a third grade teacher at Sheldon Elementary and then advanced to an Assistant Principal position at Royalwood Elementary. In July of 2005, she was named as the Principal of Sheldon Elementary, where she served for six years until she was selected by her Superintendent to open the newest elementary at the time, which was Garrett Elementary. In 2012, she was promoted to central office, where she

worked as the Coordinator for Special Education; Director of Personnel Services; and Executive Director of Personnel Services. Gates grew up in the North Channel area and is a proud graduate of C. E. King High School in Sheldon ISD. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Sam Houston State University, and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from The University of Houston-Clear Lake. Mrs. Gates went on to enroll in the doctoral program at Lamar University, where she earned her Superintendent Certification and is pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Gates is passionate about leading an organization where all stakeholders are working collaboratively to provide a high-quality education to students of poverty. She believes it is essential to build relationships with students and teachers in order to motivate everyone to achieve their personal best.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is Alexandrite and where is it found?"



This 7.19-carat alexandrite was cut to feature its beautiful color change.

Often described by gem aficionados as "emerald by day, ruby by night," Alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia's Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it's now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable. Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities, is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Alexandrite's dramatic color change is sometimes described as "emerald by day, ruby by night." Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but this gem's transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called "the alexandrite effect."

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn't arise from the gem's pleochroism, but rather from the mineral's unusual light-absorbing properties. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chrysoberyl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.

History Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. Those first Alexandrite were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia. The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn't last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian Alexandrite. You'll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain Alexandrite. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone. More importantly, since 2015, you can find Alexandrite right here in Houston (believe it or not) at Pineforest Jewelry. Now isn't that something!

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.

Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees recognize parent volunteer



During the February Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park I.S.D. recognized Karina Valdez for being an exceptional parent volunteer. Ms. Valdez has volunteered at Woodland Acres Elementary School for three years and has logged more than 50 hours this school year. She was a tremendous help at the Annual Fall Festival where she assisted in the festival booths and sold snacks to the community. Ms. Valdez can always be found in the Volunteer Room lending a helping hand to teachers by cutting, sorting and laminating. She has been described as a great asset to the WAES volunteer group. Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank Ms. Valdez for giving their time and effort to Woodland Acres Elementary School.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Running from Pain

Last Saturday morning I received a text message from a friend which I knew was not going to be good news. It simply said "Charlotte I need you to call me right now PLEASE." As I dialed her number, I could hear the distress in her voice. She was trying to tell me that the Sheriff's Office had just been to her apartment to let her know her 34 year old niece was killed earlier that morning. I could not begin to find any words to share with her. As the day went on, I was hoping she would call me back and tell me it was a mistake. Yet by the time we met on Sunday, fingerprints had revealed that yes, it was her niece.

My friend had been much more than an aunt. She had not only raised her niece and nephew on a fairly consistent basis, but after her niece had given birth to her son in 2016, she became the primary caregiver. My friend already had a full plate being a single mom and returning to college to finish her degree after she escaped a very violent marriage. How violent? She was the first in Harris County to be granted a life-time restraining order against her husband. Yet she has remained steadfast over the years and I have seen her lose all of her possessions due to flooding and hurricanes. I have seen her and the boys endure much more than most people could handle. Yet suddenly, her world had crashed. Where would she get the money to pay for a funeral? How could she get custody of her great-nephew? How could she explain the death to her own sons?

There were so many unanswered questions. This young woman had grown up in a world filled with confusion and pain. There were poor choices made over and over, not only by her but by others in the family. Due to childhood molestation, her internal organs were damaged. Due to the pain, she turned to alcohol and drugs. Out of fear and out of shame, she made choices that nobody should have to make.

I remember when she was pregnant, her boyfriend had gone to jail. She was living on the streets as he had caused problems at her aunt's apartment and the complex refused to let her be on property. She was sleeping behind a business on Federal Road, when several men found her. Apparently her boyfriend owed them money. They beat her to a bloody pulp, smashed her facial bones with their steel toed work boots and left her for dead. Her only concern was that she did not want to miscarry. She, like many young women, felt that once she became a mother, she would have someone to love and to love her. Unfortunately, things did not work out like that. She lost her life on Saturday, on the east-bound lane of Interstate 10, running from the pain of life.

I ask you to stop and pray for the family, especially her young son and aunt. I also want to ask you to smile at people, look in their eyes and let them know they do not have to run. God is there, ready to take the burdens.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS


Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 481198; Estate of JANICE CAROLYN BAUMBACH Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on February 11, 2020.

CYNTHIA LEE BAUMBACH TROWBRIDGE

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:


c/o Weston Cotten 1500 Wallisville Rd Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this February 21, 2020



by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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R.F.D. by Mike Marland



The Spats by Jeff Pickering



Posting Date February 24, 2020

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tummy muscles, for short
- 4 Slapstick arsenal
- 8 Scallopini meat
- 12 Press for payment
- 13 Ireland
- 14 Not working
- 15 Classic Anne Murray song
- 17 Location
- 18 Charlotte's creation
- 19 Capitol VIP
- 21 Pamper
- 24 Gun the engine
- 25 Melody
- 26 Sprite
- 28 Thin smoky streaks
- 32 Messy sort
- 34 Cut the grass
- 36 Fit of peevishness
- 37 High-strung
- 39 Michael Jackson album
- 41 — budget
- 42 Affirmative action?
- 44 About to fall asleep
- 46 Old-style hairpiece
- 50 Curved line
- 51 Neighbor of Cambodia

DOWN

- 1 Billboards
- 2 Chignon
- 3 White-flowered amaryllis
- 4 Little rock
- 5 Square root of IX
- 6 Blunders
- 7 Passover feast
- 8 Compared to
- 9 Tend texts
- 10 Choir member
- 11 Ogle
- 16 Marry
- 20 Fresh
- 21 Money
- 22 Unctuous
- 23 Shade provider
- 27 Watch chain
- 29 Mountain peak covers, often
- 30 Bowlers' tar-

52 Increase rapidly

56 Scandinavian city

57 Sagan or Sandburg

58 Shooter ammo

59 Adolescent

60 Has bills

61 Dr. Ruth's subject

31 Remain

33 Blessing

35 Bankroll

38 Ply oars

40 Talks Dixie-style

43 Mirror-ball venue

45 Sphere

46 Basis for a whodunit

47 Relaxation

48 Portrayal

49 Chew like a chipmunk

53 Tramcar contents

54 Shelter

55 Remiss

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.


DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- Moderate
- Challenging
- HOO BOY!


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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bow is missing. 2. Plant is missing. 3. Freckles are added. 4. Girl's shoe has changed. 5. Tree is missing. 6. Flowers are different.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

X	S	E	S	W	O	N	E	T
L	R	O	T	S	O			
P	E	A						
C	A	R	A					
A	S	M	O	R	D	O	N	
N	O							
T	I	N	S					
T	I	M	O	M	B	E	R	
C	O	D	O					
T	O	R						
W	E	B						
S	O	N						
I	T							
D	O	N						
P	I	E						
A	B	S						

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: When was the United Nations organization formed?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to reside in the White House?
- ASTRONOMY: Which planet has the largest moon in our solar system?
- TELEVISION: Which TV series featured a character named Walter White?
- LITERATURE: Which character appears in three of William Shakespeare's plays?
- MUSIC: What was the original name of the rock group Red Hot Chili Peppers?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of giraffes called?
- SCIENCE: How many main body sections does an insect have?
- MOVIES: Which famous 1960s movie features the theme song "Everybody's Talkin'?"
- MYTHOLOGY: In Arthurian legend, what was Merlin's profession?

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Trivia Test Answers

- 1942
- John Adams
- Jupiter, and the moon is Ganymede
- "Breaking Bad"
- Falstaff
- Tony Flow and the Miraculously Majestic Masters of Mayhem
- A tower
- Three: the head, the thorax and the abdomen
- "Midnight Cowboy"
- A wizard



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