NORTH CHANNEL & STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City VOLUME 8, NO. 11 (#315) THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

OFFICIALS CONFIRM 14TH CASE OF CORONAVIRUS IN HOUSTON AREA

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition meeting

Meetings will be held from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Channelview Fire Department Station #3 located at 12:10 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530.

-March 26, 2020 -April 23, 2020

-May 28, 2020 -June 25, 2020 -July 23, 2020

-August 27, 2020 -September 24, 2020 -October 29, 2020 -November 19, 2020

-December 17, 2020

Rodeo Cancelled, Stock Market down

UPDATED - March 11, 2020 - Health Officials confirmed the second case of coronavirus in the City of Houston, and another in Montgomery County, making a total of 14 in Houston and Fort Bend, Harris and Montgomery County areas. (NOTE: This number may change as days of by)

days go by.)
The female patient, in the 60 to 70 age range, is part of the same group of travelers to Egypt associated with recent cases announced in Fort Bend County and Harris County. She is currently hospitalized and stable. The patient in Montgomery County has officials concerned, because he is a man in his 40s



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Health officials and Rodeo officials, at press conference last Tuesday, announcing that the city and county were issuing Health State of Emergency notices for the month of March. The Rodeo closed immediately and most city events were cancelled.

that has no known travel. He is currently hospitalized.

Harris County has established several phone numbers that the public can use to gain up-to-date information, or help reaching a healthcare professional. If you are without access to healthcare, call 713-634-1110. If you want information, call the Harris County Health Department at

HOUSTON, Texas — Harris County Public Health (HCPH) confirmed last Thursday four more cases of Coronavirus, bringing the total confirmed or presumptive to 13 in areas surrounding Har-

See Coronavirus in Houston area, Page 6

Free Coffee Networking

Expand your network and gain opportunities, drop in to our Coffee Networking event, sponsored by La Quinta Houston East I-10, and pitch your business to others in the community!

This is a great way to get exposure in a casual setting to those you are interested in and you do not want to miss out!

Complimentary food, drinks, and lots of great networking!

Thursday, March 26th, 2020 @ 9AM

La Quinta Houston East I-10, 16211 East Fwy., Channelview, TX 77530

First female to command Houston's Northeast Division

By Allan Jamail

Houston Police Department made history when Lieutenant C. Hatcher a 27 year veteran of the police department was promoted to the rank of Commander. She became the first female Commander of the Northeast Division at 8301 Ley Road, Houston, TX 77028. Commander Hatcher has the responsibility for providing police service to three police districts with an estimate of 203,000 residents within an approximate 130 square miles.

Houston, TX. - The

Hatcher a mother of four children whose father wanted her to become a lawyer decided on a law enforcement career instead. In 1993 she went to work at the jail divison of the Houston Police Department. She graduated from the police academy in 2000 along with other cadets who were tagged the nickname, Y2K Babies.

name, Y2K Bables.
She's held the rank of
Sergeant, Lieutenant and
now Commander. In 2006
she passed the Sergeant's
test, six years later in 2012
she passed the Lieutenant's test and in 2018
passed the Commander's
test. In order to be promot-



Police Commander

ed for a rank increase a candidate is evaluated by test grade score, college education, years of service and assessment of your service record. Hatcher got a college education from the University of Houston and obtained a Masters Degree from Sam Houston State.

Commander Hatcher has a broad amount of experience having worked in the jail, patrol, juvenile divisons and in an Assistant Chief's office. She was on the 2017 Super Bowl Planning Committee which began three years in advance developing plans for security, traffic control, crowd

control and public safety. The Northeast Division includes Districts 7,8, and 9 where there's large common areas which include Herman Brown Park, Tidwell Park, Keith Wiess Park, Brock Park, Finnegan Park, Shady Lane Park, Veterans Memorial Park, Scenic Woods Park, Hobart Taylor Park, Barbara Jordan Park, and Rosewood Park. HISD high schools in the area include North Forest, Kashmere, Wheatley, Furr and Barbara Jordan. Business centers within the area are

See Commander, Page 8

LyondellBasell installs major pieces of process equipment in Channelview

The world-scale propylene oxide, tertiary butyl alcohol project goes vertical

CHANNELVIEW and PASADENA, Texas - Feb. 21, 2020 - The Channel-view and Pasadena skylines are changing Construction on Lyondell-Basell's (NYSE: LYB), world-scale propylene oxide (PO) and tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) plant has achieved another key milestone as key pieces of process equipment are set into place at construction sites in both areas. A gargantuan 601-ton distillation tower that soars 25 stories high was recently lifted and installed in Channelview, marking a shift from infrastructure work to ver-

The first part of the project focused on laying the foundation for the future plant, including pouring nearly 83,000 cubic yards of concrete and installing 160 miles of pipe at two construction sites. This next phase of construction will display visible changes to observers with large cranes dotting the skyline as they move enormous pieces of equipment into place. The sheer size of the project is hard to comprehend but the numbers tell the story better - over 16,000 tons of steel, 700 miles of cable, 26,000 valves and 92,000 instruments will be installed over the course of expertition.

construction.
"I am pleased to see our



Large red cranes loom over LyondellBasell's Channelview site as installation of the company's propylene oxide, tertiary butyl alcohol plant's largest pieces of equipment, such as this 25-story-tall, 601-ton distillation tower are being installed. Once in operation, the PO/TBA plant will be the largest of its kind in the world.

headway in safely driving the next phase of this project forward," said Michael VanDerSnick, LyondellBasell senior vice president for Americas Manufacturing. "Not only is the PO/TBA project a key part of our company's global growth strategy, but construction of the plant is also bringing good jobs to the area, supporting local businesses and creating tax revenue for the region. Once built, it will meet rising global demand for urethanes that people use every day and create cleaner-burning oxyfuels that help improve air quality." The PO/TBA project has

The PO/IBA project has a split-facility design to optimize synergies between two existing LyondellBasell sites. A 140-acre PO/TBA plant is being built at the company's Channelview, Texas facility and an associated 34-acre ethers unit is being built at the company's Bayport Complex in Pasadena, Texas. Construction on the overall project has now surpassed 30 percent completion. Over the next few months, manpower will continue to ramp up at both sites as more large pieces of equipment are delivered and installed.

"We are now a year and a half into construction with 4.75 million man hours on the job," said Joe Dorsch, PO/TBA project director. "Making sure each and every person on the job goes home safely is

our number one priority and maintaining this rigorous focus has helped us achieve several key safety

milestones for the project."
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 once in operation PO is used to make bedding, furniture, carpeting, coatings, building materials and adhesives, while TBA is converted to produce two ether-based oxy fuels methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE). Both MTBE and ETBE are high-octane gasoline components that help gasoline burn cleaner and reduce emissions from automobiles.

The PO/TBA project broke ground in August 2018 and is part of the company's multi-billion dollar series of investments along the U.S. Gulf Coast. Based on an analysis by the Greater Houston Partnership, Lyondell-Basell's \$2.4 billion PO/TBA project is estimated to generate 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 approximately 2,500 construction jobs at the peak of construction and 160 permanent positions.

See Channelview Plant, Page 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHANNELVIEW HEALTH & IMPROVEMENT COALITION Meeting Minutes by Carolyn Stone

Channelview community members had its third meeting, but their first meeting as the newly formed Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition the evening of Jan. 23, 2020, at the Channelview Fire Dept. Sta. 3 located at 1210 Dell Dale. This meeting was held 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 issues and conditions affecting our residents and as a progress update to the two meetings held last year in September and October and events which had occurred November thru January 2020.

November included information regarding the opening of the Harris County Clerk's office on November 20, 2019 located in the Jim Fonteno Annex, 14350 Wallisville, Houston, TX 77049 eliminating the need to drive to downtown Houston to pick up records. Also shared with the group was a November incident of an observance of what appeared to he a barge fire coming from a barge docked at property next to River Terrace Park. Viewed was a large plume of grey smoke blowing from the barge at the river bank north across Market St. towards I-10. Notifications were made to the Channelview Fire Department (CFD), Precinct 2 officials and Harris County Pollution Control. Later, follow up with Channelview Fire Dept. was made to learn what had occurred when the fire department had arrived on scene. Per Chief Ryan Thistle, CFD had responded with five fire trucks, upon arrival they did not see a smoke plume of any kind but spoke with the company representative who told the responders what was viewed was saw dust. Pictures that had been taken were shared with Chief Thistle with him agreeing the photos appeared to be of smoke, not sawdust, and determination additional follow up would need to be made. Harris County Pollution Control investigator called complainant to say he had

unable to find anything. Shared with Harris County Pollution Control Services (CPCS) was the meeting with Chief Thistle, responders being told it was sawdust, but upon viewing the photos CFD planned on further investigation. HCPCS investigator requested the photos and contact information for Chief Thistle. After receiving the photos the HCPCS investigator returned to the area for further investigation. Upon returning the investigator saw what appeared to be a smoke plume coming from a barge along the river bank with workers operating a crane at the barge. The investigator then spoke with a GSD Marine representative who informed him they were mixing fly ash with dredge material to dry the dredge material.

The investigator had questions as to

what authority HCPCS had to issue violations since the barge was in the water therefore made a call to his superiors for clarification. HCPCS superiors also were unclear as to who has authority in the area as to the barge even though it was docked on the banks/land, but HCPCS had clear authority to issue air quality violations. Later during the follow up conversation with the investigator, the investigator posed the question if the area residents knew who had authority in the area. During additional follow up conversations the HCPCS investigator was informed complainant had viewed additional plumes and two days later complainant observed what appeared to be GSD Marine workers removing material from the barge, spreading it on the GSD property above the banks. Additional photos were shared with the HCPCS investigator. Once received the investigator responded he was working with TCEQ on the issue. This incident served as a good example of the importance of the residents taking photos, videos or other documentation to support the validity of their claims. Had it not been for the photos the investiga tions by the fire department and the HCPCS investigator would have been closed once they arrived at the explanation supplied by the offender. Kristen Lee, Pct. 2 requested the photos and details to

be sent to her. Also in November an invitation extended to C.H.I.C members to attend the first "No Sacrifice Zones" meeting held by Lois Gibbs who brought about the first ever designation of a superfund site Love Canal, and superfund site legislation. Attendees at the meeting brainstormed to create the components of what their dream law to protect residents inside these zones would include Ms. Gibbs will be conducting a series of these meetings across the nation collecting input from impacted communities, but choose East Harris county as the location of her first meeting. Invitation to attend this meeting was another indication that Channelview was being recognized as an impacted area and their concerns should be heard and addressed. November ended with the news Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia was considering approval of a subsidized apartm near Wallisville Rd. called The

Cindy Miller, Pct. 2 Channelview Liaison, provided in December and through the early half of January Precinct 2 representatives had been researching and working towards ensuring the Channelview Improvement District would be a benefit to the community and not a detrement and had a meeting with Senator Carol Alvarado, but had yet to have a meeting with Representa-tive Ana Hernandez. Community members had been trying since prior to June 2019 to speak with Representative Hernandez and Senator Alvarado, sponsors of H.B. 1835 which created the district, without any luck, both had declined to speak on the subject, even though Rep. Hernandez touted the creation of the district as one of her major achievements during the 86th Texas legislative session. Precinct 2 representatives were expected to meet with Rep. Hernandez the week of Jan. 27th - Jan. 31st

Governor Abbott releases 2020 report to the people of Texas

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today released his "2020 Report to the People of Texas," looking back at all that was accom-plished by and for the people of Texas over the previous year and sharing his vision for the year ahead. This is his third Report to the People since taking office in 2015. It is released in interim years when the Legislature does not meet and no formal State of the State address is given.

"Though the boundaries of this great state are fixed by latitude and longitude, Texas is more than just a place on a map," said Governor Greg Abbott. "It is a state of boundless opportunity-where the con pass points north, south, east, west and up. We look to the possibilities, not for

ourselves but for our children and their children."

The Report includes a summary of the historic 86th Legislative Session, noted for its bold ideas and collaboration, and for the passage of landmark legislation that:

- Provides lasting property tax relief

Limits the ability of local governments to in-

crease property taxes - Directs more funding to the classroom
- Improves school safe-

- Enhances disaster pre-

paredness Combats human traf-

ficking and delivers justice for victims of sexual assault - Protects life and liber

ty and more

With economic indica-tors reflecting record job

growth across regions and industries thanks to the unrivaled and diverse Texas workforce, the Report also includes updates on the programs, grants and initiatives within the Office of the Governor dedicated to expanding economic freedom, elevating education, ensuring public safety and envisioning a stronger Texas.

In a recurring theme throughout the Report, Governor Abbott notes, Texas is exceptional because of you... Families are growing here, jobs are growing here and, best yet, opportunity is growing here. That is why we remain the envy of the nation... Yet even as we continue to grow, we will keep Texas, Texas. And make it even bigger for the generations yet to come

May Community Center's Special Events

• AARP Free Tax

Service

Every Tuesday, February 4th thru April 14th, 2020 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. A team of qualified

AARP tax counselors cer-tified by the IRS will be at the May Center to provide you with income tax assistance This free service provided to the public is offered on a first come-first served basis. Please have all necessary paper work for preparing taxes. To expedite this process have all paper work out of the envelopes and organized before seeing a counselor. Please call the center to see what forms you may need to bring. 713-274-

•Relapse Prevention

Every Friday at 9:00

This an open group led by a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor This process

Group help facilitate in-dividuals to recognize triggers, develop problem
–solving and coping skills, and avoid high-risk situations that could lead to substance use relapse.

•March Bingo Luncheon

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Sign up for this fun-filled luncheon as we play Bingo and win prizes. Our menu consists

Of Spaghetti, salad, gar-lic bread and dessert. Suggested \$5 donation. You can call the center at 713-274-2434 to register.

 Financial Literacy Credit 101 Seminar

Thursday, March 12, 2020 6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Learn more about how to establish credit, the dif-

ferent types of credit, its value and how to rebuild it. Please call or come by the center to register. 713-274-2434

• CERT class!

Every Monday night starting March 23rd thru May 11th from 6:30-9:30 No cost to attend! Preregistration required. To

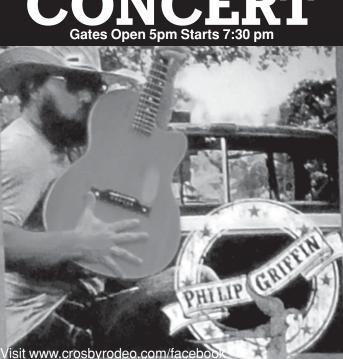
register call 713-274-2434. May Community Center is located at 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman 77336. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs please call (713) 274-2434.

Young Farmers

location and did not find what was

witnessed and had to rely on the

SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS 8:30 UNTIL 9



Maximum Tax Savings



Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Tax Preparation & Consultation All Federal, State, Foreign & Individual, Partnerships,

Trusts, Estates, Corporations (C,Sub S & Limited Liability) & Payroll Tax Returns, Intuit Pro-Advisors,

Service All Businesses & Individual Taxes

Specialists in getting late filers into I.R.S. Compliance Business Solutions for New Tax Rules, Regulations and Tax Audits Debt Consultation and Bankruptcy Protection as a Solution to your Debts Other Services Rendered

Bookkeeping, Computer Systems, Financial Management, Investments, Payroll, Property Rendition,

Real Estate & Business Brokerage

Normal Business Hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon – 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday By Appointment

ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR INCOME TAX ORGANIZER JACK NOONAN, B.B.A., TREB, E.A. & STAFF

IRS Enrolled License # 2018 – 65282 6400 FM 2100 North Main, P.O. Box 1428, Crosby, TX 77532-1428 Telephone (281) 328-1755 Fax (281) 328-5280

E-mail: cri.tax.jhinson@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

EPA holds meeting with **Community Group**

Update on Waste Pits

By Jackie Young

As promised, I want to provide you with updates from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting that took place on February 12, 2020. The meeting was comprised of various government agencies from our local government to our federal government. The EPA Remedial Project Manager for the Waste Pits Superfund Site provided a presentation that covered post-Imelda repairs, Phase 2 of the Pre-Design Investigation, the Remedial Design approach and schedule, as well as a discussion on vessel traffic north of Interstate 10.

Following Tropical Storm Imelda, surveyors found multiple areas of the temporary cap that needed to be repaired. The repairs were made to the cap but since then, additional needs were discovered along the river bed, just beyond the cap's edge. These repairs will stabilize the land around the Pit that was eroded during flooding. Repairs will being in March or April so vou can expect to see increased on-site activity.

During the Pre-Design Investigation (PDI), the responsible parties' contractors and the EPA have done their due diligence in gaining a better understanding of extent contamination in and around the Pits. During this time, they proved correct the theory many of our residents have - the

waste is deeper than the



material

waste JACKIE YOUNG

is greater than 24 ft deep.

This is double the depth originally understood for remediation and has mounted the complexity of full-removal. Once the 30% design package is final within the EPA, they will present the updates and path forward to the community. At the last community meeting, the EPA took away your oncerns about excavation during hurricane season and potential re-use of the crushed concrete from the temporary cap. Excavation is planned for non-peak flood seasons which they've determined from looking at the River's historical flood data. Work will take place year round at the Site but excavation at the Site but excavation specifically will only take place part of the year in efforts to mitigate potential impacts from Mother Nature. As for the crushed concrete, samples of the material were collected from three areas the northern impoundment and transported to a lab for analysis. After hearing the community concerns, the EPA required stronger testing measures and a three step testing approach. The results from this should be available

this summer.

One of the greatest challenges during remediation will be water entering the site from the water table. Consultants and the EPA are looking at this as part of the treatability study. Water samples were taken from site and filtration approaches are being assessed to treat the water on site. The frac tanks that remain on Site have low levels of water in them and aren't expected to impact the stability of the Site.

As for the dolphin structures north of Interstate 10 - they are not expected to be repaired for up to two years!

Lastly, barge traffic. Post-Imelda, the US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB 55-19) for the area that spans from the southern tip of Southwest Shipyard to just north of the northern Waste Pit. This area is now considered a "safety zone" for vessel traffic and places specific restrictions and requirements on the navigable waterway Vessels are only allowed to travel in this zone from sunrise to sunset and each vessel has to check in with the agency prior to entering the zone and upon leaving the zone.

In all, we had an extremely productive dialogue and meeting. We will discuss these topics further at our April Coalition meeting. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees Recognize TMEA All-State Members



TMEA All-State members

The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized students who were selected to be members of the TMEA All-State Bands, Orchestras or

Each fall, over 70,000 high school students from across the state audition for All-State. Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each in-

strument or voice part. The highest ranking musicians qualify to perform in one of Texas All-State Bands, Orchestras or Choirs.

The following students were named members of the Texas All-State Bands,

Orchestras or Choirs: From Galena Park High School- Ivonne Arguelles (choir); Ariadne Lopez (choir); Alexandra Saldana (choir); Jose Bizarro

(band); and Jullian Garza (band).

From North Shore Senior High- Ivan Moreno (choir); Osvaldo Castro (band); and Eduardo Gonzalez (band).

A special recognition went to Ivonne Arguelles for being the first four-year All-State Choir member in the history of Galena Park

Galena Park I.S.D.- JCPenney Recognized at February Board of Trustees Meeting

Board of Trustees recognized JCPenney, represented by Christopher Gordley, assistant manager, at the February Board Meeting.

During the 'Operation Giving Tree - Adopt-a-Student' project. Arlanda McGruder-Henderson, Career and Technical Education Business Teacher and Head/Varsity Cheer Coach, along with Nateasel Davis, Counselor at North Shore 10th Grade Center, partnered with JCPenney to spread holiday cheer. The North Shore 10th Grade Center staff adopted a student, and JCPenney made it possible for school staff to shop for what students needed. opportunity gave teachers the

chance to build a positive rapport and mentorship with students. Thank you, Mr. Gordley and JCPenney!



♦♦ North Channel Foundation Scholarship

The North Channel Area Chamber Foundation was proud to award Maria Teresa Toral to continue her studies in nutrition, pictured with her are Bill Palko, left, and Adam Lund, right.



FEBRUARY 20, 2020 NORTH CHANNEL STAR PICK-UP LOCATIONS

NORTH SHORE

North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd

Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi San Jacinto College North, Student Center &

Library Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd

YMCA, Wallisville Rd. Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8 Sen. Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg Capital Bank, I-10 E North Channel Library Wallisville Rd Water District # 21, Sheldon Rd

CHANNELVIEW

Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd Post Office, Sheldon Rd Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd Holiday Inn, I-10 E

Martin Luther King Community Ctr., Lorenzo St. Water District #47 Woodforest Blvd

Chevron, Woodforest & Uvalde Bonfire Wings, Woodforest Blvd Serena Donuts, Woodforest Blvd Pine Trails Community, Woodbend Dr

SHELDON

Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg. Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest Sheldon ISD Transportation HCA Houston 24/7, Beltway 8

CLOVERI.FAF

HC WCID #36, Hollywood St Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest

CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Chevron, I-10 West

JACINTO CITY

City Hall, Main Street Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St State Rep Ana Hernandez office, Mercury Drive Sellers Brothers Market, Market St Market Street Feed Store, Market St Mr. Mercury Gas Station, Mercury Dr Jacinto City Parks & Recreation, Mercury Dr Chevron, Market St

GALENA PARK

Baggett Community Center, Keene St Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive Galena Park Library, Keene St United Comm. Credit Union, 16th St Galena Park Community Crt, Keene St Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

If you would like to be a PICK-UP LOCATION, let us know. 713-266-3444 or northchannelstar@gmail.com

REV 01/2020



12620 Woodforest @ Normandy-Houston, Texas 77015

713-330-8111

We Are Open For Your Tax Questions Monday - Thursday 10:00a.m. to 4p.m.

Kathy Seydler, Office Manager



Luis F. Garcia, CPA Attorney at Law 13364 Woodforest Blvd Houston, TX 77015 713-999-8006

E.luis@luisgarcialaw.com www.luisgarcialaw.com

*PERSONAL INJURY *SLIP/TRIP AND FALL *AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS *TRUCK ACCIDENTS Se Habla Espanol

NORTHSHORE VACUUM **Janitorial Supplies & Floor Care**

729 Uvalde Road Houston, TX 77015 Phone: 713-451-3247 northshorevac@comcast.net

Hours: Mon. - Fri 9:00 am - 5:30 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Rodrigo "Rodney" Sanchez

Repair Work 100% Guaranteed Bags & Belts for all vacuums including Kirby Sales & Service-New & Used-Trade Ins Do It Yourself-Professional Pest Control Supplies Equipment Rental

www.northshorevacuum.net

OPINION PAGE



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Will Taking My Benefit Early Affect My Widow Benefit?

Dear Rusty: My husband is 70 and has been taking Social Security for several years. His benefit is \$2,100 per month. I am 60 and will turn 61 in March. I have very little built up and my expected SS benefit at my full retirement age is \$1163 and \$829 if I choose to take it at age 62. We are comfortable with our current income, but the benefit at 62 is enticing. I want to know how taking it at 62 would affect my situation if my husband predeceases me. Would I then be able to exchange my benefits for his? Please advise. Signed: Planning Ahead.

Dear Planning:

Taking your own SS benefit early (before your full retirement age) won't affect the amount of your survivor benefit should your husband predecease you. The only thing that would affect your survivor benefit is the age at which you claim it. So yes, you could claim your own benefit first and then switch to your survivor benefit later without hurting vour eventual survivor benefit. If you have reached your full retirement age (FRA) when your husband passes, your survivor benefit will be 100% of the amount your husband is receiving at his death, instead of vour own smaller benefit. But if you take before your FRA, it will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to FRA it is claimed. To be clear, if your husband were to pass before you reached FRA, you have the option to wait until your FRA to claim the survivor benefit (so you can get 100% of his benefit). In other words. you could continue to collect your own benefit until your survivor benefit reached 100% at vour FRA (a survivor benefit reaches maximum at FRA).

Be aware, though, that there is another consideration if you claim your own SS benefit before you reach your full retirement age. If you are still working and claim your

General Merchandise Auction

Every Sat. 6pm 2504 Fm1942

Crosby, TX 77532

Social Security's "earnings limit" which, if exceeded, will cause SS to take back future benefits equal to 50% of the amount you exceeded the limit by (the 2020 limit is \$18,240, but it changes annually). If you have substantial earnings from working, that could mean you will go some number of months without benefits (depending upon your earnings level). In the year you reach your FRA (but prior to your FRA) the earnings limit goes up by 2.6 times and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer an earnings limit. But, I want to make sure you're aware that collecting early and exceeding the earnings limit will affect your benefits. If you go months without benefits because you exceeded the earnings limit, SS will give you time credit for those months when you reach your FRA, which will result in a small increase in your own SS benefit at

FRA, you'll be subject to

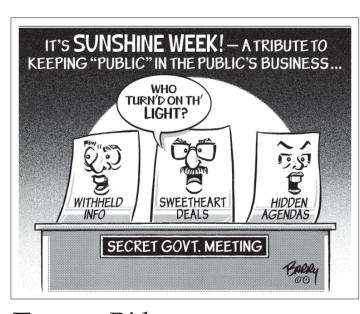
But the bottom line is that collecting your own Social Security benefit early will not affect your eventual survivor benefit. Only the age at which you claim it, if earlier than your FRA, will affect the amount of your survivor benefit. And, by the way, your FRA as a widow is 4 months less than your normal FRA because SS takes 2 years off of your birth year to determine your "widow's FRA."

This article is intend $ed\ for\ information$ purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It $presents \ the \ opinions$ and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's $staff,\ trained\ and$ accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/ programs/socialsecurity-advisory) or email us at

Col. Walter Boullion

713-817-9062 wbauctioncrosby.com





Trump, Biden emerge as winners in Texas primaries

 ${\bf AUSTIN-Incumbent}$ President Donald J. Trump, who received 94% of the vote in the Lone Star State's Republican primary election, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who received 34.5 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary, were their parties' top vote-getters on March 3, Super Tuesday.

Biden's closest rival was Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who received 30% of the Democratic vote. Sanders was followed by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, 14.4%, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 11.4%.

Overall voter turnout figures posted by the Texas Secretary of State's Elections Division show 4,084,431 of the state's 16,211,198 registered voters cast a ballot — slightly more than 25% of total registered voters. That's a higher participation rate than in the 2016 Super Tuesday vote. Then, 3,289,218 Texans cast a ballot, or 23% of the 14,238,436 voters who were registered at the time.

In a major down-ballot race, state Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, and former Air Force helicopter pilot M.J. Hegar, will face each other in a May 26 Democratic primary runoff. The winner will run against long-term incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, a Republican, in the Nov. 3 general elec-

Complete election results are available at the Texas Secretary of State's website, sos.texas.gov.

City cancels festival

The city of Austin and Travis County on March 6 declared a "local state of disaster" in response to what officials called an incoronavirus COVID-19 — the deadly flu-like contagion that has developed into a worldwide health threat.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Austin Mayor Steve Adler issued a related order canceling the South by Southwest festival, an event that has been hosted annually by the capital city since 1987. To illustrate the rapidity of the local decision-making process, only two days earlier, Austin's public health department stated that "there's no evidence that closing SXSW or any other gatherings will make the community saf-

Dr. Mark Escott, commenting on behalf of the department on March 6, said, "While there is no clear guidance on what local jurisdictions should do under these circumstances, our local expert advisory panel took a look at the risk factors and identified a number of con-

The SXSW festival, a global magnet for music lovers, the film and media industries and educators usually attracts more than 150,000 attendees over a 10-day period.

Abbott: Texas $\mathbf{can}\;\mathbf{test}$

Texas now has the capacity to test for COVID-19, Gov. Greg Abbott announced on March 5 in a joint press conference with Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt and Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd.

Six public health labs within the Texas Laboratory Response Network are now equipped to perform COVID-19 testing, with the remaining four being fully equipped in the coming days, Abbott said. The network pro-



vides laboratory diagnostics and maintains the capacity to respond to biological and chemical threats and other public health emergencies. The six public health labs within the network that are equipped to perform COV-ID-19 tests include Austin, Houston, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth and Lubbock The remaining four labs in the network will be equipped with testing capabilities in the coming days: Tyler, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Harlingen. The state public health lab network will be able to test over 125 patients per day once the en-tire network is equipped, Abbott added.

Gov, AG warn gougers

Gov. Abbott and Attornev General Ken Paxton on March 6 issued a warning to anyone participating in price-gouging of medical supplies as Texas continues to combat the potential threat of the coronavirus

Abbott said he would invoke a state law that gives Paxton "broader powers" to prosecute price gougers. Texans who suspect a case of price-gouging related to the potential coronavirus threat should file a consumer complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Abbott said. Consumer Protection Hotline: (800) 621-0508.

Revenue total

reported as Comptroller Texas Glenn Hegar on March 3 said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.89 billion in February, an amount 3.5 percent more than the amount reported in February 2019.

Growth in state sales tax revenue was led by receipts from the retail trade and information services sectors, while receipts from the construction sector were down from a year ago and growth in tax receipts from retail trade was slightly boosted by collections from online marketplace providers and remote sellers, Hegar said.



Sun starting to shine again on

Texas government By Kelley Shannon Freedom of Information

Foundation Texans have something to celebrate during Sunshine Week this year. But we also have more work to do to protect the public's right to know about our govern-

Sunshine Week, March 15-21, proclaiming the importance of access to public information. First, the bright spot for Texas:

between governments and private companies – including pricing and promises – are public again under a law that took effect Jan. 1.
It seems like those basics of

how taxpayer dollars are spent should be easily accessible, doesn't it? They were, for years, under our Texas Public Information Act. But the Texas Supreme Court in 2015 blocked the sunshine and in many cases banished that tax-dollar information into the darkness

The court's action resulted in the Texas Attorney General's Office issuing more than 4,000 rulings from mid-2015 through 2019 allowing governments and private entities to withhold contract details, sometimes even hiding the final price.
Gone from public view were

records on school construction contracts; prison supply purchases; Uber, Lyft and Yellow Cab licensing; naming rights agreements at public buildings and stadiums; marketing deals between governments and private firms; and many more tax-dollar expenditures.

After working on it two legislative sessions, Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, and Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, passed Senate Bill 943 in 2019, reopening key contracting

records.
"If Texans are to hold thei public officials accountable. access to public information is essential," Watson said in a joint

statement with Capriglione.

Among the law's early success stories is disclosure of the city of McAllen's contract with entertainer Enrique Iglesias to perform at a holiday festival. For four years, the city refused to reveal what it paid and promised Iglesias, but the newly released contract reveals it paid \$485,000. It agreed to charter a flight for the performer from Mexico and supply his backstage with steak, sushi, sashimi and aloe juice with pulp.
Other previously concealed

contracts are now coming to light across the state. Open government advocates and everyday sure the new law works as

Meanwhile, still on the to-do list in the Texas Legislature are other important bills to open

Accuracy is crucial, whether in news reporting, vetting political candidates or checking someone's background for employment, credit scores or lending. Birthdates in public records allow for getting it right. Yet, another court ruling has been closing off this vital information. Legislation is needed in 2021 to respond to the court and

enhance accuracy.
When it comes to police records surrounding an in-custody death, families and the public need to know what transpired to hold law enforcement accountable.

Many law enforcement agencies use part of the Public Information Act that was intended to protect the living who were arrested but never convicted to instead hide records when an arrested person dies in custody It's beyond time to close that

It's also time for a law to codify what the attorney general's office has long stated: Electronic information shall be provided in the format a requestor prefers if it is stored that way and can be provided at no greater expense or time. For example, if government data is stored in a searchable and sortable electronic spreadsheet and it's requested that way, it should be provided as a spreadsheet - not in some other less useful format.

Stay tuned for additional public information initiatives in the months to come. If there's one thing certain about the guest for open government in Texas, it's that the effort never ends.

We must remain vigilant and protect the public's right to know.



Luis Hernande

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Ac of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpres Corp., 5906 Sart Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the act thors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appea will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Lability for errors iminted to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in persor by mall, by Fax, or by email, to graficitat@abl.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosb COURIER; Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS; Northeast NEWS, North Forest NEWS, North Char nel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 50,000, Readership exceeds nel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 50,000, Readership exceed 110,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, an government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATEs: Incounty, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per Year. POST-MATER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562 News and Ad Phones....713-266-3444 FAX Line....713-977-1188 email: grafikstar@aol.com

Member Texas Press Association

LIFESTYLE PAGE

Project Blue supports injured and sick law enforcement officers The Houston Symphony brings the music of White Houston to Jones Hall Ma



Charity Run Organizer Mark Sanders with announcer and entertainer Eddie

BAYTOWN - February 29, the 10th Annual Jail Break Run, a 1/2 marathon designed by runners, was hosted by Project Blue at Lee College beginning sharply at 7:00 a.m. The race goes to the top of the Fred Hartman Bridge and back to Lee College in the most scenic far has contributed

Project Blue is a law enforcement support charity that enables funding of non-service related sick or injured law enforcement officers during recovery.

The race is traced back to Mary Pinney, begun in memory of her brother Marcus Lee Zaruba and thus

about \$1/2 Million supporting patrolmen. The race now draws from throughout the USA for runners and is supported by varied agencies.

Runners get a Chick-fil-A sandwich, awards and medals in the 5-K. Check out all the details on facebook or the website www.jailbreakrun.org.

brings the music of Whitney Houston to Jones Hall May 9th

phony announced a onenight-only special performance, The Music of Whitney Houston, May 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available at houstonsymphony.org.

The program celebrates the music of the iconic superstar, remarkable per-former, and soon-to-be Rock & Roll Hall of Famer. The evening's program includes the greatest hits from Whitney Houston like "Saving All My Love,"
"How Will I Know?," and the instantly recognizable "I Will Always Love You."

Returning guest conductor Brent Havens leads the evening of hits with guest vocalist Amanda Cole, who makes her Houston Symphony debut in the program. Cole, who was formerly a member of the R&B vocal group En Vogue, interprets Hous-

ton's extraordinary songs.
The Music of Whitney Houston takes place at Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana Street, in Houston's Theater District. For tickets and information, please call 713.224.7575 or visit houstonsymphony.org.

HOUSTON (Jan. 23, Tickets may also be pur-2020) – The Houston Sym-chased at the Houston Symphony Patron Services Center in Jones Hall (Monday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m.). All programs and artists are subject to

 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm MUSIC~OF~WHITNEY} \\ {\rm HOUSTON} \end{array}$ Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. Brent Havens, conductor Amanda Cole, vocalist

During the 2019-20 season, the Houston Symphony celebrates its sixth season with Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada and continues its second century as one of America's leading orchestras with a full complement of concert, community, education, touring, and recording activities. The Houston Symphony, one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas, held its inaugural performance at The Majestic Theater in downtown Houston June 21, 1913. Today, with an annual operating budget of \$35.2 million, the full-time ensemble of 88 profession-

al musicians presents

nearly 170 concerts annually, making it the largest performing arts organiza-tion in Houston. Additionally, musicians of the orchestra and the Symphony's four Community-Embedded Musicians offer over 1,000 communitybased performances each year at various schools. community centers, hospitals, and churches reaching more than 200,000 people in Greater Houston annually.
The Grammy Award-

winning Houston Symphony has recorded under various prestigious labels, including Koch Interna-tional Classics, Naxos, RCA Red Seal, Telarc, Virgin Classics, and, most recently, Dutch recording label Pentatone. In 2017, the Houston Symphony was awarded an ECHO Klassik award for the live recording of Alban Berg's Wozzeck under the direction of former Music Direc tor Hans Graf. The orchestra earned its first Grammy nomination and Grammy Award at the 60th annual ceremony for the same recording in the Best Opera Recording cat-

Graduation Planning



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Goose Creek CISD high school principals (from left) Nathan Chaddick, Ross S. Sterling; Dr. Joseph Farnsworth, Robert E. Lee and (at right) Susan Jackson, Goose Creek Memorial, traveled to Beaumont with Christi Leath, director of advanced academics, and other graduation organizers to work on the plan for graduation organizers to work on the plan for graduation ceremonies to be held Saturday, May 23, at Ford Park Arena in Beaumont. Graduation times are: Sterling, 10 a.m.; GCM, 2:15 p.m. and Lee, 6:30 p.m. IMPACT Early College High School will hold graduation Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. at Lee College Sports Arena.



The finish line stacks up with suppporters and cheering new found friends as togeher they sweat for those who protect and serve



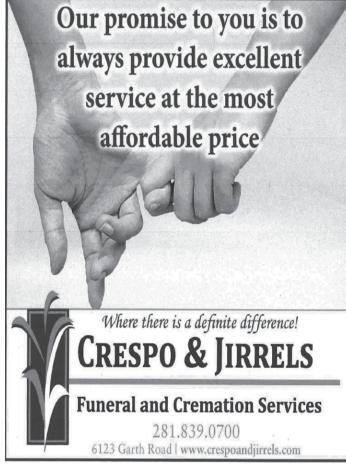
COMMUNITY LIASON 346-216-8872 nnelson@sigselect.com 06 Rollingbrook Dr. #2G Baytown, TX 77521 832-695-2328

through Christ who strengthens me. PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I can do all things

Call GRAFIKSHOP for printing quotes 713-977-2555

> LOVE NEVER FAILS I Corinthians 13:8



www.starcouriernews.com www.northchannelstar.com The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step



"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824

Siding & **Roof Repairs** Mobile Home Skirting

Call Mr. Roofer 281-452-0000

What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later **ROMANS 8:18**

ENVELOPES Printed with your Address 1 or 2 colors

Special Rates 250 to 25,000 Please call for a Quote

Grafikshop at Star-Courier 713-977-2555

ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Springing Forward

You would think that if a person were born during "Daylight Savings Time", they would adjust to the yearly moving the clocks ahead, vet I am living proof that not all of us born after the springing forward adjust easily. This week has been physically draining on

On one hand, I am traffic lights and a few turns from my home to my office. In addition, this being Spring Break for my community means there are fewer cars on the streets. Yet somehow, I feel like I have been run over by a couple of trucks and left for the apart. When I stopped in to pick up some photo enlargements that I had made, the young sales clerk told me he had caught himself falling asleep while waiting on people.

Many people in my circle of friends were busy with the Primary Elec-tions which were held last week and this past weekend was the opportunity for them to catch up on some well-deserved rest. Yet, for many others, it is a time when they prepare for a vacation or at least a staycation in the city. So as they have prepared, suddenly everyone is talking about the coro-navirus and plans have shifted. To be prepared many of our neighbors have wiped out the local stores of cleaning supplies, disinfectant and toilet paper. I have even talked to those who have been ordering supplies online and are on the verge of being hoarders

millennials in my circle who are scared to death of making plans and they are staying connected to media more than ever. There are some of my contacts who are busy working on ways to prepare everyone for the possible outbreak. And then there are elders who I speak with who tell me if they have lived this long, they are prepared for anything.

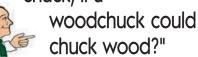
The one suggestion

that I heard which makes the most sense is to save money by staying home and to lower your risk of coming in contact with someone who may have been exposed by simply staying inside your home and doing some Spring Cleaning. Toss out the things that you know you do not need. Gather the clothes that no longer fit and donate them to one of the many donation boxes in our community. Many of the homeless would welcome gently worn shoes and boots. If you have children's toys, clean them, box them and donate them as well. Look in your pantry, perhaps there are canned goods as well as packaged products that you have not used. Again, consider donating them to a local food bank. Take the time to look at your calendar and start planning for

With all of the precautions being taken, many of the airfares as well as hotel fares have dropped Maybe plan a trip for late May or early August. By the time you are ready to leave, chances are good you will have forgotten about the craziness of the week of Springing

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck, if a



We are finally going to tackle the famous question, "how much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" And we'll do it using science!

The woodchuck (Marmota monax), more commonly known as "the groundhog," is a tiny rodent. A typical woodchuck is about 14 pounds (5.8kg) and 32 inches long (81cm). Considering their small size, woodchucks eat an exorbitant amount of food: a single woodchuck can eat a 100-foot Redwood tree in about 35 seconds.

Kidding. Woodchucks don't actually eat wood. Instead, they eat grasses, clovers, black cherry, honeysuckle, snails, insects, baby birds, eggs pretty much everything else they can get their hands on. But not wood.

Of course, they can "chew" wood, but that's not really saying much, as anything with teeth can chew wood. If a woodchuck were brought to the brink of starvation, it may attempt to eat wood as a last resort. But a woodchuck can't digest wood, so things probably wouldn't end too well...and since this poor rodent would be half starved, I'm guessing the woodchuck wouldn't chew very much wood.

Likewise, if a woodchuck could chuck wood (as in, "throw wood"), the wood wouldn't be chucked very far, as they have tiny ineffectual fists.

But let's get to the real matter at hand: How much

wood can a woodchuck chuck (aka mash apart into tiny bits)?

First, woodchucks aren't very good at moving or breaking apart timber. Certainly, they are not nearly as good as beavers. Still, woodchucks will frequently gnaw their wooden nest boxes. And as Cornell University reports, a wildlife biologist once measured the inside volume of a typical wood-chuck burrow. From this, they estimated that, if wood filled the hole instead of dirt "the industrious animal would have chucked about 700 pounds' worth.

Another study found that woodchucks can get 361.9237001 cubic centimeters of wood per day (though that may not be the most reliable re-

In the final analysis it appears the world may never really know the true answer to this question. I guess some things are better left unexplained.

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

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and cious 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

Coronavirus Virus cases,

CANCELLATIONS

As a result of the health concerns, and to avoid spreading the virus, many schools and groups can-celled events. Officials announced on Wednesday that the Houston Rodeo and all other city events had been cancelled for the month of March. The Rodeo closed immediately.

The Stock Market dropped 15% in a week, but slowly regained some, and then fell again.

CHANNELVIEW ISD EXPOSURE An employee with the Channelview ISD notified the District that a member of her family was under quarantine. The School District issued a statement saying they had been in contact with state and local health officials, and indicate there is little to no risk in the

Channelview schools. The new cases involved four people in their $60\mathrm{s}$ who were exposed to the virus during a trip to Egypt last month. The 70-year-old from Fort Bend took the same trip and this case was confirmed last Wednesday

by a Houston laboratory.

Three of the patients with coronavirus are hospitalized in stable condition and one is self-quarentined at home with mild symptoms, health officials stated The others cases have been resolved.

"All the cases in the Houston area have international travel in common and we've been actively monitoring these individuals since they were identified as being at-risk," Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said However, the Montgomery County patient had no his tory of travel, triggering an alarm among health officials.

"I encourage Houstonians to limit international travel for the time being and heed the advice of public health officials about healthy hygiene habits. If you are feeling sick, stay at nome. But do not be paralyzed by fear.' The health department

has launched an investigation to identify any potential contacts exposed to the virus. The department will provide close contacts guidance about the virus and monitor them for the development of symptoms. "We expect to see more

cases in coming days as we eceive test results," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

People who recently returned to the United States from a coronavirus outbreak area need to monitor for fever, cough and difficulty breathing for at least 14 days and seek medical care right away if they develop symptoms. Before going to a doctor's office or emergency room, symptomatic peo ple with a travel history to a coronavirus outbreak area must call ahead to tell the healthcare professionals about their recent travel and symptoms.

If they recommend testto protect yourself and those around you. Testing is confidential. HCPH does not release information about suspected cases to encourage people to get tested and

many people test negative.

If a person has not been around anyone with coronovirus or has not visited an ongoing coronavirus outbreak area, they are not at

Human coronaviruses

most commonly spread from an infected person to others

- Respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing;

- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands:

Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE DO?

Residents should go about their daily lives, but practice every day preventative measures to avoid the spread of respiratory virus-

• Avoid close contact with

people who are sick. · Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with

unwashed hands.

• Stay home when you are sick

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use the elbow of your

· Clean and disinfect fre quently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning product.

• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

 If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol

CDC FACEMASK RECOMMENDATIONS:

CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019, to protect others from the risk of getting infected. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in a close setting (at home or in a health care

Call your healthcare professional if you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or if you live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COV-

There is no need to go the emergency room unless you have a medical emergency. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.

Stay informed by visiting Ready Harris website www.readyharris.org, Har-ris County Public Health website www.hcphtx.org/ nCov and social media channels@readyharris@hcphtx.

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that first emerged in China and has now spread to many countries, including the U.S. While HCPH understand our residents will be concerned, we also know that more than 80% of people who have become infected only experience mild to moderate symptoms and fully recover. Symptoms include fever, cough and short-ness of breath. People at higher risk for serious complications are the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

AVID students in Sheldon ISD outperform peers nationally in completion of advanced placement exams

Sheldon Independent leased new data for its class of 2019 seniors enrolled in the district's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

program - a nationallyrecognized program that prepares students to successfully pursue college and career opportunities

after high school.

Last year, 82 percent of C. E. King High School seniors participating in AVID sat for at least one Advanced Placement exam, compared to the national rate of 39 percent (source:

reports.collegeboard.org/ ap-program-results/class-2019-data)

Studies have shown that participation in AP coursework and exams have a positive impact on a student's high school GPA, college acceptance and retention, and eligibility to receive scholarships.

"We congratulate Sheldon Independent School District and their students for their outstanding achievement," Dr. Sandy Husk, CEO of AVID and former school

superintendent, said. "C. E. King High School shares our deep commitment to preparing students for a successful future, by building high expectations among teachers and students, and fostering the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in postsecondary education.

"We are proud to watch KHS students achieve their college and career

Sheldon Independent School District joins the over 7,000 K-12 schools and districts across 47 states that impact over percent of which are lowincome or first-generation college students. To learn more, please visit the AVID website at website www.AVID.org.

NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

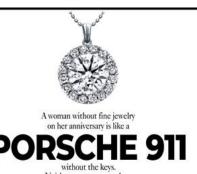




New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding • Mobile Home Skirting P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530

Mrroofer@mail.com = Major credit cards accepted =

Call 713-266-3444 to Advertise YOUR Business in this Directory. 5,000 readers Weekly



PineforestJewelry.com

1141 Uvalde * Houston, Texas 77015 713.451.1321

NORTH CHANNEL * STAR

5906 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057 713-266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188 email: northchannelstar@gmail.co website: www.northchannelstar.com

..Editor & Publisher Gilbert Hoffman.. Mei-Ing Hoffman. ...Associate Publisher ...Assistant Editor Julieta Paita...... Willie Glasgow. ...Marketing Director Advertising Director Lewis Spearman Luis Hernandez.. ...Production Director ...Circulation/Mail Director

Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to: Member North Channel Chamber of Commrce

Member Texas Press Association

CLASSIFIED

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 120,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 40,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$16 for 20 words. A bargain!

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit

Draft Permit No.: O1441

Application and Draft Permit. KMCO, LLC, 16503 Ramsey Rd, Crosby, TX 77532-5916, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal and revision of Federal Operating Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O1441, Application No. 21181, to authorize operation of the KMCO Crosby Plant, an All Other Basic Organic Chemical Manufacturing facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 16503 Ramsey Rd in Crosby, Harris County, Texas 77532-5916. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.921666&Ing=-95.053055&zoom=13&type=r. This application was received by the TCEQ on March 19,

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas 77023-1452; and the Crosby Public Library, 135 Hare Rd, Crosby, Texas 77532-5273, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website:

www.tceg.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512)

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completenes appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or

electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this **notice.** Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name. phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's

A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

Mailing List. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application

Information. For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or toll free at 1-

Further information may also be obtained for KMCO, LLC by calling Mr. Bill Glushco at

Notice Issuance Date: February 14, 2020

King Crossword

16

19

ACROSS

- 1 Symbol of intrigue
- 4 Jet forth 8 Faucet prob-
- lem 12 Shade
- 13 Part of the
- foot 14 Solemn prom-
- ise 15 Geological
- period 16 Silver salmon
- 17 Wrinkly fruit
- 18 Informal
- game "Absolutely"
- 22 Deposit
- 23 Brilliance 26 Cotillion hon-
- Blond shade 30 Proper sub-
- ject? Stop running
- 32 Toll road
- 33 Pooch
- 34 Cover
- 35 Bizarre "A mouse!" 36
- 37 Donkey 38 Uncanny ability to make
- money 45 Memory unit
- 46 Tittle
- 47 Aye canceler 48 Practice pugilism

45 48

25

51

15

18

30

33

23 24

- 49 Heal, as a fracture 50 Little demon
- 51 Bouquet 52 Withered
- 53 Ball prop

DOWN

- 1 Sharpen 2 Continental
- coin 3 Bridges or
- Brummell 4 Potpourri bag 26 Accomplished 41 Top-notch
- 5 College lecturers, often
- 6 Reverberate "Yahoo!"

8 Uncertainty 9 Sitarist's music

46

49

52

- "- have to 10 do"
- 11 Collins or Donahue
- 20 Bathroom fix- 37 Moving about ture
- 23 Conclusion 24 Bill's partner
- 25 Drag along
- 27 Football fill
- 28 Go downhill rapidly?
- 29 Haw preceder

- 50 53 31 Long-snouted
- antelopes 32 Mexican moola
- 34 Mainlander's memento 35 Will subject
- 19 Greenish-blue 36 Nail smoother
 - 38 Recipe meas.
 - 39 Syringe, for short
 - 40 Greek vowels
 - 42 Troop group
 - 43 Arrived
 - 44 Advertise

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

TexSCAN Week of March 8, 2020

ACREAGE

Hunting/investment/recreational property. We have some of the best in Texas! From the Hill Country (Edwards, Menard, Coke, Val Verde County, free ranging exotics) to South Texas (Kinney, Duval, Live Oak County, whitetail, hogs). Large or small acreage 30-year fixed rate owner financing, only 5% down. Call toll-free or email for individual prices and terms, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com, 800-876-9720.

CHARITY

Donate a boat or car today to Boat Angel. 2-Night Free Vacation. Sponsored by Boat Angel Outreach Centers to stop crimes against children. 800-700-BOAT, www.boatangel.com.

EVENTS

Ingleside Round-Up Days and Music Festival, March 20 & 21, N.O. Simmons Park, Ingleside, TX. Music, Food & Fun. Admission \$5. Presented by the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce, www.inglesidetxchamber.com.

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show, April 24-26, 2020, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common Street, New Braunfels, www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com. No Dogs Please

WANTED 10 HOMES needing Roofs, Siding/

OIL AND GAS RIGHTS

We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. 806-620-1422, LoboMineralsLLC@ gmail.com. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale by Owner - Ready to build plots in Runaway Bay, TX next to Golf Course, neighboring fast growing Denton county. Information: www.rockwall-group.com. Phone: 214-436-2153

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983

SATELLITE TV

Get NFL Sunday Ticket FREE w/ DIRECTV Choice All-Included Package. \$59.99/month for 12 months. 185 Channels PLUS Thousands of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Call 1-855-710-4824 or satellitedealnow.com/tex.

ENJOY 100% guaranteed, delivered to-the-door Omaha Steaks! SAVE 68% PLUS get 4 FREE Windows. We're opening a branch office and using these homes for our brochure. SAVE HUNDREDS!

Omaha Steaks! SAVE 68% PLUS get 4 FREE Burgers. Order The Favorite Gift - ONLY \$69.99. Payments \$89/Mo*. Starcraft Industries, 888-878-6443 1-866-879-0154 mention code:59104KRJ or visit www.omahasteaks.com/love48.

> **Texas Press Statewide Classified Network** 273 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.



Solution time: 24 mins. Answers King Crossword —



Dental Insurance



Millions Of Dollars Saved In Back Taxes

Anthem Tax Services provides world class personalized tax debt relief and tax preparation services. We offer the tailored experience that you expect from yo preparation professionals, and we operate remotely so you never need to lea

■ Opportunity ■ Investigation ■ Agreement ■ TAX DEBT FREE!



ways we can tackle IRS or State tax relief together:

✓Tax Levies &

✓Stop Penalties and Interest

✓Tax Debt Negotiation & Settlement ✓Resolve Back Taxes

✓Payroll Tax Negotiation ✓Tax Preparation

& Bookkeeping Services

ACCRETATED A+

"They stopped my garnishments in less than 2 days after hiring them. This saved me \$84,276 with the IRS and \$13,500 with the state of California. They saved my emotional and financial well-being." - Wage Garnishment Client

The Credit Review

Best Co

877-370-2127

Commander,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mainly concentrated along the I-10 Corridor in the 13000 to 14000 blocks of the East Freeway.

Neighborhoods include Fifth Ward, Pine Crest, Kashmere Gardens, Camden Woods, Lakewood Park, Houston Gardens, Homestead, Parkhurst, Glenwood Forest, Edgeworth, the Port of Houston Denver Harbor, Songwood, City Park East, Northshore Trinity Gardens, Rosewood, Clinton Park, Pleasantville, and Shady Tidwell Timbers.

To review the crime statistics of the Northeast Division go to:

www.houstontx.gov/police/ c s / b e a t p a g e s / northeast.htm

North Channel Area Chamber recognizes students and educators









The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce honored three Galena Park ISD students and two educators as their February Students and Educators of the month. Pictured above are the honoree Students and Educators from left to right: Educator Kashekia Smith of Cunningham Middle School, Educator Lilian Jasso of Havard Elementary School, Student Tyronesha Fultz of Galena Park ISD CTE Early College High School, and Student Ricardo Robles of North Shore Senior High School. Not pictured: Student Ivonne Arguelles of Galena Park High School.

North Channel Foundation awards scholarship



Jesus Meraz, a San Jacinto College business student, was awarded with the William C. Palko Scholarship at the 43th North Channel Area Chamber annual gala. Bill Palko is to the left and Adam Lund to the right.

Channleview Plant,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The PO/TBA project is just one way Lyondell-Basell is capturing new opportunities that position the company for the future. Other ways include:

o building additional fa-

o building additional facilities like the Hyperzone polyethylene plant in La Porte, Texas;

o creating sustainable solutions in support of the circular economy like MoReTec which advances chemical recycling of plas-

o establishing strategic business enterprises like a Memoranda of Understanding to form two joint ventures in China which will produce chemicals used in a variety of applications including construction materials, packaging and furnishings; and

o increasing focus on sustainability by creating and launching the first global, cross-value chain Alliance to End Plastic Waste, and with construction of a small-scale pilot plant in Ferrara, Italy to convert post-consumer plastic waste into feedstock.

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

STERLING ~ WHITE

11011 CROSSY-LYNCHBURG RD., HIGHLANDS, TX 77562 (281) 426-3555 WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

SPRING SPECIAL

BUY 2 PLOTS FOR THE PRICE OF1

SELECT CEMETERY PLOTS ONLY 10% DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$54.00/MONTH

OR

PURCHASE ANY
MAUSOLEUM CRYPT, CREMATION
NICHE, OR
LAWN CRYPT
AND GET THE OPENING/CLOSING
ABSOLUTELY FREE!

SAVE UP TO \$1550.00!

10% DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED

HURRY! LIMITED TIME ONLY! FOR DETAILS CALL

281-426-3555

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PREPAID FUNERALS VISIT WWW.PREPAIDFUNERLAS.TEXAS.GOV.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING PERPETUAL CARE CEMETERIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF BANKING 1-877-276-5554;

