

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 8, NO. 28 (#332) THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 Cases as of July 14, 2020

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

74,668 POSITIVE
774 DEATHS
26,598 RECOVERED

TEXAS

277,712 POSITIVE
3,330 DEATHS
142,398 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

3,424,304 POSITIVE
136,432 DEATHS
1,049,098 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

13,271,756 POSITIVE
576,980 DEATHS
7,367,106 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

- City of Houston Pre-Screening 832-393-4220
- Harris County Ask a Nurse 713-634-1110
- Harris County Pre-Screening 832-927-7575 or readyharris.org
- Methodist Hospital Download mymethodist app.

Buckshot Jamboree now closed

The popular country music venue Buckshot Jamboree, featuring Buck Sloan and his band is shutting down once more until further notice beginning July 4, 2020.

Run-off election holds surprise results

Eagleton in a landslide; Garcia wins tight race

HARRIS COUNTY – Tuesday, the Democratic and Republican Parties held their Run-Off Primary elections and the results in several races were different than had been predicted.

Jacinto City and vicinity had a showdown between Precinct 2 Constable incumbent Chris Diaz against challenger Lt. Jerry Garcia. This was a close race, with Garcia winning by only 229 votes of 9,505 cast. This race had been marked with negative charges of unethical practices and favoritism on both sides.

Winners in Constable Races



Incumbent Constable Sherman Eagleton won the race in Precinct 3, defeating Ken Jones with 77.5% of the votes cast. Jones had held the office prior to his retirement.



Jerry Garcia ran against incumbent Constable Chris Diaz in Precinct 2, and defeated him in a close race, with 51.2% of the votes cast. Garcia was able to declare victory just before midnight.

Substantially more people voted in the Democratic Party in early voting at several Precinct 3 locations. Early voting counts in Crosby were 744 Democratic and 434 Republican most probably due to the hotly contentious local Precinct 3 Constable race between incumbent Sherman Eagleton, and previous constable Ken Jones, and the fact that there were more contests at issue for the Democrats. Over 150,000 votes were cast county wide on the Democratic ticket. The Republicans drew about 60,000 on their ballot.

Voters are no longer designated to specific voting precincts but habitually tend to vote at locations near where they live and with which they are familiar.

The Martin Flukinger Community Center had 1458 to 145 Republican early voters. Alvin D. Baggett Community Center saw 1051 Democrats early voting and only 122 Republicans. Nearby, at the Kashmere MultiService Center, 1348 Democrats voted early and 48 Repub-

See Election Results, Page 8

COVID-19 outbreak reported in nursing home facility in Jacinto City

4 deaths may be Covid-19 related

By Elizabeth Perez
HCPH

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) are investigating a COVID-19 outbreak at Jacinto Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. HCPH's initial investigation of this facility began on June 10 after the facility reported 12 individuals tested positive for COVID-19 and one resident died. As the regulatory agency for healthcare facilities, HHSC has also began



Jacinto Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is located at 1405 Holland St., Jacinto City. (PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL)

working with the facility.

To date, there have been four deaths, medical records are pending review to determine if COVID-19 related. Based on

our current records, 57 residents and staff members are actively being monitored by HCPH for COVID-19. HCPH issued public health control or-

ders to the facility on July 3 to ensure compliance with infection control & prevention, to track viral transmission of the virus and COVID-19 related

deaths. HCPH is continuing to work with HHSC and other state entities in

See Covid Outbreak, Page 8

ENVIRONMENT:

Precinct 2 ready for Hurricanes, flooding

Environment: Precinct 2 ready for Hurricanes, Flooding

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has been planning for a busy hurricane season, and possible street flooding, he recently reported in an interview on a local news blog. Garcia told Michael Palmer of NNB that his precinct prepares every day of the year, not just hurricane season, for responses to natural disasters, man-made accidents, and even a pandemic. He noted that last year the county saw a series of natural disasters that they responded to. These included the ITC fire, the KMCO explosion, a lightning strike at a refinery, a barge accident under I-10 and another in the ship channel, and the flooding from Tropical Storm Imelda.

Garcia noted his own experience with disasters includes hurricanes such as Alycia, Katrina, and Ike. And so I understand these events, he said. We have good coordination with our area mayors, and



work closely with all of the entities necessary when it comes to a disaster of any sort.

Garcia also spoke about flooding from storms, and areas in his Precinct that have been inundated.

Precinct 2 is a Downstream Side of many surrounding counties, and we get 70% of everyone else's water. I supported the \$2.5 Billion flood bond election, but I want to make sure that we're using the money wisely.

The commissioner said that he works closely with the Harris County Flood Control District, to insure that new projects don't add to the flood problem. He said an important step

the county took was to adopt the Atlas 14, an environmental regulation to control development and retention.

Garcia said one of the most important projects he has undertaken is ditch maintenance. He said his office has increased the linear feet of ditch maintenance and outfall grading almost 3 times what it has been in the past. Ineffective local drainage is by far the single most significant way to protect our neighborhoods from flooding.

Garcia said that during the lockdown mandated by the county, his public works staff has continued to work when possible, to send a message that the community will survive the pandemic and come out better in the future.

He said that his precinct has bought new excavators for ditch work with the latest technology, to replace the older machines, so that he can continue the high pace of maintenance and preparation for all disasters in the county.

BUSINESS GRANTS:

Application period opens for Harris County small business recovery fund



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo at a news conference Monday, explaining the new Small Business Recovery Fund. She also strongly advised everyone in Harris County to wear a face mask and practice safe distancing.

Grants of up to \$25,000 Available; Recipients Will be Selected at End of 10 Day Application Window

Harris County, Texas - July 13, 2020, Eligible businesses can apply for financial assistance through the Harris County Small Business Recovery Fund today through Friday, July 24. The \$30 million grant

program, which was unanimously approved by the Harris County Commissioners Court on June 30, prioritizes struggling small businesses that have not yet received funds from other COVID-19 relief programs.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Harris County's economy, and the pandemic has hit them es-

pecially hard," said County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "While county government alone cannot make up for all of the loss, we must do all we can to help as many as we can."

To be eligible for grants of up to \$25,000, applicants

See Recovery Fund, Page 6

GCCISD students honor teachers through students choice awards

By Susan Passmore

Despite the abrupt end to their senior year due to the COVID-19 crisis, 15 Goose Creek CISD seniors honored their teachers by nominating them for the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's 2019-2020 Students Choice Awards. Each year, seniors are asked to write a letter nominating a teacher who has had a positive impact on their life.

Sponsors for the annual event, in its 11th year, were Awards & Engraving, which provided the plaques for teachers, and Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co., which provided the gift cards presented to students and teachers. Although the dinner was not held due to safety protocols, a program with highlights of the nomination letters written by the students and a video, created by the Goose Creek CISD Communications Department, were presented to the students and teachers.

Honorees were Samuel Laird from Goose Creek Memorial High School and his student Trenton Brown, also from GCM; Mariela Chen-Barboza and her student Claudia Rosas, both from GCM; Rosie Adolphin and her student Angelique Vazquez, both from GCM; Peter Cushman from Ross S. Sterling High School (RSS), previously at Baytown Junior School, and his student Kera Adamson from RSS; Misty Dolgner from Goose Creek Memorial High School, previously at Baytown Junior, and her student Johanna McK-



Michelle Bitterly (right) of Awards & Engraving shows Erika Foster, director of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, the awards donated for the Students Choice Awards.



Peter Cushman from Ross S. Sterling High School, previously at Baytown Junior School, was nominated for the Students Choice Awards by his former student Kera Adamson.

ay from Robert E. Lee High School; Michele George from Cedar Bayou Junior School, previously at Gentry Junior School, and her student Caleb Echols from GCM and Roman Huizar from GCM and his student Tania Rodriguez from GCM.

Also honored were Kimberly Kelley from Horace

Mann Junior School and her student Stephanie Perez from IMPACT Early College High School; Amy Maddie and her student Alexandria Lee, both from RSS; Shonna Prentice and her student Gabriella Lopez, both from GCM; Jonathan Richards and his student Christina Rodriguez, both from REL;

Education Foundation Presents Grant Check to Goose Creek CISD



Photo by Mima Trujillo

Ronnie Hotchkiss (right), president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, presents a check for \$141,430.69 to Dr. Randal O'Brien (left), Goose Creek CISD superintendent, and Jessica Woods, president of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees, for innovative teaching grants awarded to district teachers to enhance the curriculum.

Kathrine Robinson-Hull from Travis Elementary and her student Victoria Gomez from RSS; Jackie Scales and her student Taylor Richardson, both from GCM; Sheila Southall from San Jacinto Elementary and her student Shelby Torres from RSS; and Clemencia Vigil and her student Sam Balandran from REL.

"It is always heartwarming to hear the stories these students write in their letters and to see how much difference teachers make in the lives of their students," said Erika Foster, director of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

Trenton Brown from GCM wrote about the way Samuel Laird, his law enforcement teacher at GCM, helped mold him into the young man he is today.

"I chose Mr. Laird because of how he shaped my character, attitude and education," said Trenton. "My outlook on life has been greatly enhanced through his teaching. To me, Mr. Laird is more than a teacher; he's a mentor and a lifelong friend who will always have my back and give advice to help navigate through challenges I have and will face."

Christina Rodriguez nominated her teacher engineering teacher Jonathan Richards at REL for the award. With an incredible number of homework assignments in her Advanced Placement classes, she felt overwhelmed.

"When I finally fell into the process of retrieving work and finishing it timely, my grandmother was diagnosed with metastat-

ic kidney cancer, and while I know many have felt the pain of having a loved one struggle through cancer, Mr. Richards' own journey from cancer was the hope I needed to get through the toughest days," Christina said.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation has recognized 165 teachers as Students Choice Award Winners over the past 11 years in keeping with its goal of recognizing staff for exemplary teaching.

"I so look forward to the Students Choice Awards every year. It is a reminder of the wonderful teachers I had as a student here in the Goose Creek schools who helped set me on my path to success," said Ronnie Hotchkiss, president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

Maximum Tax Savings
Open for appointments

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

CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

A DIVISION OF CORPORATE RECOVERY, INC.

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

281-328-5869

Home Health Care
Hospice Care

Home Health Care

Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker, Home Health Aide, Hospice Services

*Physical Therapy Position Available

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR MEDICARE FUNDED HOME HEALTH CARE

Physical Therapy Position Available

Locally owned and Operated by Tabatha and Jonathan Brady

Non-Discrimination Policy

No client shall be, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or status with regard to public assistance or veteran status, excluded from admission to services through Omnix Health Care Services, Inc.

CROSBY'S HOME
TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

COVID-19 TESTING SITES IN OUR AREA

Mobile Testing Site

Galena Park I.S.D., in collaboration with the City of Galena Park, Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Precinct 2, Harris County Public Health and the Texas Department of Emergency Management will be hosting a mobile COVID-19 testing site.

The testing site will be located in the Galena Park High School parking lot (1000 Keene St.) on Monday, July 13th through Friday, July 17th. The hours of operation each day will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Testing is available by appointment only, please visit www.txcovidtest.org or call (512)-883-2400 to pre-register.

We would like to thank our partners for organizing the COVID-19 testing site and helping to keep our community safe. If you have any questions, please visit the Harris County Public Health webpage: <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/>.

COVID testing locations in/near Senate District 6:

In partnership with United Memorial Medical Center, the City of Houston opened a new drive-thru testing site in Senate District 6 this week (July 13-July 17) at Houston Community College - Felix Fraga Academic Campus, 301 N Drennan St., Houston, Texas. This site is open weekdays from 9am-4pm or until they run out of tests. No appointment or symptoms are needed.

DPS reminds Texans to take extra safety precautions as summer heat continues to blaze across the state

AUSTIN – As the dog days of summer continue and temperatures across the state top triple digits, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) wants to remind all Texans to take extra safety precautions, as the heat can pose an increased danger for at-risk populations — including children and the elderly — particularly in vehicles.

“We know extreme temperatures place children at a greater risk for injury, and even death, when they are left unattended in a vehicle, and that’s why we want to remind Texans to take every precaution possible and do their part to help ensure no children are left unattended in vehicles this summer,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “Extreme heat brings many dangers, and those dangers should not be taken lightly. Heat-related injuries and deaths are often preventable, and we must all be vigilant in taking the necessary steps to protect ourselves and others.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), vehicular heatstroke is one of the leading causes of fatalities — that is not crash-related — among children. In 2019, 52 children died in the U.S. due to heatstroke from being left in vehicles.

Temperatures inside of

a vehicle can rise by more than 20 degrees in 10 minutes. If it is a comfortable 60 degrees outside, it can be a sweltering 110 degrees inside a vehicle. Leaving windows partially rolled down doesn’t help. Additionally, the younger the child, the more severe the effects of heat on their body because of their inability to regulate internal temperature.

DPS offers the following tips to prevent vehicular heatstroke, and for staying safe and managing the heat:

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, and always check the back seats or cargo areas of a vehicle before walking away.
- Establish reminders that help ensure you remove children from the vehicle. This can include leaving your bag, lunch or cell phone in the back seat with the child’s car seat.
- If you see a child alone in a car, call 9-1-1, and emergency personnel will provide guidance.
- Teach children not to play in vehicles, and make sure to place keys out-of-reach when not in use.
- Drink plenty of water throughout the day even if you do not feel thirsty; you may not realize you’re dehydrated until it’s too late. Also avoid alcohol and beverages high in caffeine or

sugar during periods of prolonged outdoor exposure.

- Pay attention to your body. Heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke can develop quickly. Know the warning signs and seek medical attention if necessary.
- Check on others, especially the elderly, sick, very young and those without air conditioning.
- Don’t forget pet safety. Animals are also susceptible to heat-related injury or death — don’t put your pets in these dangerous conditions.
- Monitor local weather updates and stay aware of any upcoming changes in the weather.
- Limit exposure to the sun and stay indoors as much as possible. If possible, avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.
- Light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a hat are recommended while spending time outdoors.
- Wear sunscreen. Sunburns can affect your body’s ability to cool down.
- Be extra careful when cooking outdoors, building campfires or driving off-road to avoid igniting dry vegetation. Also, stay aware of burn bans in your area and always abide by restrictions on outside burning.

LyondellBasell surprises San Jacinto College Students with \$25,000 in Scholarships

Donation will support the education of 10 students in the technical programs at the college

Houston, June 26, 2020 – LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB) teamed up with San Jacinto College to surprise 10 students each with a \$2,500 scholarship, equating to a total of \$25,000 in scholarship support. The funding will help the students to advance in their Process Technology or Instrumentation Technology Associate Degree Program while they attend San Jacinto College’s LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology (CPET).

LyondellBasell is dedicated to educating, training and preparing tomorrow’s workforce to be leaders in multiple industries, including petrochemicals. Over the course of the 10-year partnership, LyondellBasell will invest \$5 million dollars into the College’s new LyondellBasell CPET facility. CPET is well-positioned to be the training hub for our industry in the U.S., after opening in fall 2019, and will provide not only classroom training, but hands-on learning throughout the

two-year associate degree program.

“At LyondellBasell, we believe in Advancing Possible, and a key component of that is advancing our future workforce. Investing in the training and education of these students will set them apart when they enter the petrochemical, energy and technology workforce,” said Mike VanDerSnick, Senior Vice President of Americas Manufacturing at LyondellBasell. “For us, it’s important that we have the right people for the right jobs, and that starts with ensuring individuals who are interested in joining the petrochemical industry have the proper training and skills.”

While it’s well known that the petrochemical industry needs more workers, what it really needs is a more skilled workforce. San Jacinto College has served as the training leader for the petrochemical, energy and technology workforce in the greater Houston area for more than 40 years. The College values industry partner involvement across

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests



Axl and Izzy are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

CARTER • CONLEY
FUNERAL HOME

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 25 YEARS

13701 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015 • (713) 455-5100
www.carterfuneral-houston.com

JULY 16, 2020

NORTH CHANNEL STAR
PICK-UP LOCATIONS

NORTH SHORE
North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg
Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd
Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St.
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
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

CLOVERLEAF
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 @ Freeport
Chevron, I-10 West

JACINTO CITY
City Hall, Main Street
Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd
Capital Bank, I-10 E
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 Ctr, 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



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

NEWSPAPERS
By Texas Press Association

Help journalism.
Help yourself. Buy
a weekly newspaper

By Helen Sosniecki

You work for GateHouse or Gannett or one of the many groups that have been merging or closing papers right and left across the country.

You've been bought out at one location, gone through a layoff at another and you just aren't sure you want to continue on that treadmill any longer as you anticipate the possibility of another.

If you have an entrepreneurial spirit, maybe now is the time to consider buying a weekly newspaper or starting one in a "news desert," a community that no longer has a newspaper.

It won't be all fun and games. The hours are long. The financial payback may be less than your corporate salary. But the rewards in your accomplishments as a community newspaper owner can overshadow those drawbacks.

Groups buy, sell and trade publications with nothing more than a check of the financials. No one from corporate ever sets foot in most of the communities involved.

You need to approach a potential purchase in much broader terms, because you aren't just buying a weekly newspaper; you are buying into a community and a lifestyle.

You won't be off the clock just because you are out for dinner. At the next table might be the guy who you photographed earlier in the day being taken away in handcuffs in a drug raid. Or an old farmer may ask if you could put a classified ad in the paper to sell his gun, which later turns out to be the murder weapon in the death of his neighbor. Or you might leave the office late at night and have your car stopped and surrounded by deputies on a dark country road by a cemetery after you've written a story about the sheriff's alleged misdeeds. (All true stories.)

But the rewards can be great. So, how do you start if you're an individual or couple ready to make the plunge – or at least explore the option of newspaper ownership?

First, find a newspaper broker who has experience selling weeklies and, better yet, one who has worked at or owned a newspaper. And, contact the state press association(s) in areas where you want to consider buying. Some of the smallest papers may not be listed with a broker but may provide opportunities for seller financing or training with a sweat-equity option.

If you aren't comfortable with financial reports, find someone you trust who can walk you through the process and analyze the P&Ls with you. Look for oddities that could benefit a new buyer. For instance, is the owner paying non-business expenses from the company account? Is the circulation income too low based on the circulation numbers you were provided?

My business partner and husband, Gary, and I always looked at the financials from the standpoint of growth potential. We did not want to buy a paper that was at its peak potential. Financials were only a small part of the decision for us.

Take an objective look at the content of the newspaper. Strong? Weak? Coming from the news side, we always knew we could improve the news product. And, we always operated on the belief that content drives weekly-newspaper revenue. We were local, local, local.

We wanted content that had readers buying at the newsstand rather than by subscription, because they didn't want to wait to get their paper in the mail. We wanted them waiting outside the office on "newspaper day" for the papers to get back from the printer. And, they did. At one location, we even put a bench outside for them.

Does the newspaper have a web presence? If so, is the current owner generating revenue from it?

You've seen the financials. You've checked out sample copies. Now what? For us, with the three times we bought, the next step involved scouting the community both as a potential business location and as our new home. Living there is why individual owners have a chance of succeeding in a community where corporate may claim ownership isn't worth their effort. You'll have more at stake than just the dollars.

So what did Gary and I look for when we scouted out a community?

One of our first stops was the post-office lobby, where we would check the wastebasket. It helped identify the newspaper's direct-mail competition – shopping guides and store flyers – and whether they were popular enough that recipients took them home.

Take a hard look at the storefronts. Are most of them filled? Are they businesses that are – or should be – advertising with the newspaper? Are they well-kept or run down? Are the streets in good shape or crumbling? In other words, is there pride in the business district?

And, a big one: Is there a Walmart in town? A Walmart means the town is a trade center. But if the town doesn't have a Walmart, it's best if one isn't closer than a 30-minute drive.

Do some research on the business owners. Are the majority nearing retirement? (That could mean future sales or closures.) A mix of young, older and middle-age owners is good, because you have both experience and new enthusiasm in the district.

Does the community have an annual festival that brings its citizens – young and old – together to volunteer and celebrate something that connects them?

Are K-12 schools within the city limits? A consolidated district with the school out in the middle of a field miles from town diminishes the community spirit. Look for evidence of school pride around town. If you're in town on a ballgame night, check the parking lot. If it isn't almost full, either the team is having a horrible season or the town doesn't feel connected to the school.

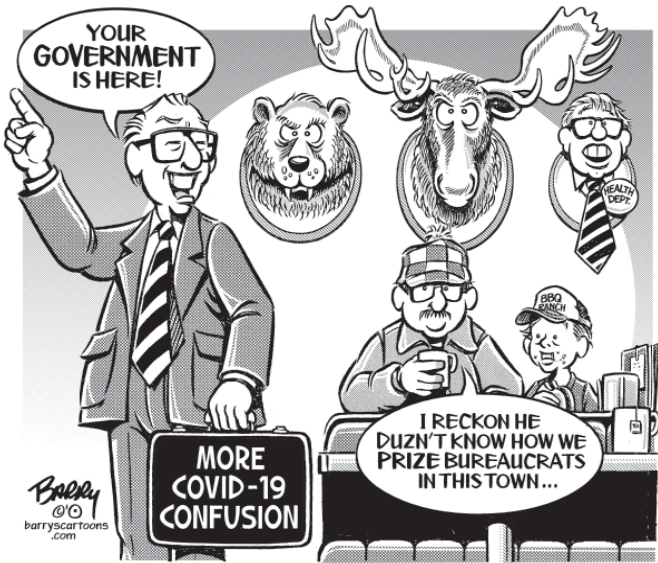
Do the school administrators live in the community? Do the majority of teachers live in the school district?

What's the bank situation? A locally owned bank is the ideal both for a newspaper and the community, but fewer of those now exist.

Find the coffee shop where the locals hang out. Eavesdrop. If it's the day the paper hit the streets, are they talking about "did you see — in the paper?" Better yet, are they calling it "our paper," showing they feel close enough to it share a sense of ownership.

Are people talking from table to table, or is it like a room full of strangers who just happen to be having coffee at the same location? The latter isn't a good sign.

And, when scouting the town, check for news racks – both inside and outside. Do the inside racks look like the papers are selling that week?



Governor: Hospitals must expand capacity as COVID-19 cases escalate

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has again suspended elective surgeries in hospitals in 104 counties located within 11 of the state's 22 trauma service areas.

Each of the trauma service areas has a regional advisory council and a trauma system plan to respond to health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the proclamation, Abbott directed all hospitals in designated counties to postpone surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a patient, as determined by the patient's physician.

GA-27, a similar proclamation issued by Abbott on June 25, remains in effect and applies to the counties of Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo, Nueces, Travis and Webb.

"We are freeing up more resources to address upticks in COVID-19 related cases," Abbott said in a news release explaining the July 9 proclamation. "The State of Texas will continue to do everything we can to mitigate the spread of this virus and support our hospitals and health care professionals as they care for their fellow Texans. We must all come together and continue to practice social distancing, wear a face covering in public, and stay home when possible," added Abbott.

On July 10, Abbott extended his March 13 COVID-19 disaster proclamation for all counties in Texas. Cumulative figures posted July 12 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 258,658 people in Texas diagnosed with COVID-19 and 3,192 confirmed deaths resulting from the disease.

City cancels GOP event

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner on July 8 announced that he had instructed the city's event

When you are to the point of visiting the newspaper itself, check the equipment. It may be "working," but is it up-to-date? Or will new equipment be necessary fairly soon?

Check the circulation numbers through ownership statements for at least the last three to five years. (And, if they are rounded off on all the forms, odds are pretty good they are not accurate.)

When you buy that first weekly newspaper, go into it knowing that one week you'll be loved for what's in the paper and the next week you'll be despised by the same or other readers. You'll have immediate market feedback – both good and bad. You'll have people curse you and threaten you in the morning. Then another reader will drop by with some tomatoes from their garden for you that afternoon.

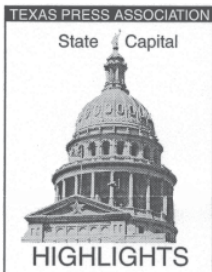
You live there. You chronicle the town's history. But you're also one of them. It's your town, too. It will fill you with pride when the school basketball team wins that first state championship. It will bring you to tears when you and your neighbors bury that young volunteer fireman with the pregnant wife who died along with another volunteer on the way to a brush fire.

It will be your job, your business and your life – and you'll likely love it more than anything you've ever done.

Helen and Gary Sosniecki of Lebanon, Missouri, are retired from 43-year careers that included owning three weeklies, publishing a small-town daily and serving as vendors to the newspaper industry. They may be reached at sozsez@aol.com.

This article is one of a series distributed by the Texas Press Association for its members. If you wish more information, call 713-266-3444 or email grafikstar@aol.com

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



licensor to exercise its contractual rights to cancel the Texas Republican Party's in-person state convention.

Turner made the decision to proceed with the cancellation after Dr. David Perse of the Houston Health Department said the city "is confronting an unparalleled and frightening escalation in the spread of the COVID-19 virus" and called the planned convention "a clear and present danger."

The convention, expected to attract 6,000 delegates, was scheduled to start on July 16 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The Republican Party of Texas sued Houston First Corporation, the City of Houston and Mayor Turner to allow the convention but Harris County District Court Judge Larry Weiman sided with the defendants. The Republican Party of Texas said it would file its appeal with the Texas Supreme Court.

State Fair is canceled

The Texas State Fair board of directors on July 7 voted to cancel the 2020 State Fair of Texas.

Only in rare circumstances has the fair been canceled. The last cancellations occurred in war years: 1942 to 1945.

"While we cannot pre-

dict what the COVID-19 pandemic will look like in September, the recent surge in positive cases is troubling for all of North Texas. The safest and most responsible decision we could make for all involved at this point in our 134-year history is to take a hiatus for the 2020 season," said State Fair of Texas Board Chair Gina Norris.

Hospitals get Remdesivir

Gov. Abbott on July 4 announced that the Texas Department of State Health Services is distributing 448 cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 157 hospitals across Texas.

The drug is being distributed to the states from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This is the sixth round of distribution from the federal government. The supply is part of a donation from Canada-headquartered drug maker Gilead.

Abbott said Remdesivir "has shown promise in early trials in speeding up the recovery time among hospitalized COVID-19 patients."

Hegar distributed revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on July 8 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$744.2 million in local sales tax allocations for July, an amount 2.6% less than the amount distributed in July 2019.

Allocations are based on sales made in May by businesses that report tax monthly.

Widespread social distancing requirements were relaxed across much of the state in May, thus year-over-year declines were not as steep as they were last month, Hegar said.

LETTERS
To The Editor

Restoration Church explains

I am Pastor Phillip Morris of Restoration Church in Highlands. Last week, the Constables came to our church to follow up on a call they received. I wish to explain to the communities of McNair and Highlands why. As Christians we went to raise a spiritual wall of protection so our neighbors will not suffer the hatred and lawlessness.

In Ezekiel 22:30 it states: "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, ..."

And in James 5:16 it says: "... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

And in Isaiah 59:19 "... When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him."

We went to every entrance praying a wall of protection while pouring vegetable oil across the roads. The oil represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God. We were building a spiritual wall of protection against hatred and lawlessness. As born-again believers, we are not concerned about the skin color of people because Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind and His love is for all.

We did not mean to alarm or cause anxiety for anyone. If we did, I apologize from my heart and ask all to please forgive us. We love y'all and will continue to pray for Love, Joy, Peace, and Protection for all.

Pastor Phillip Morris
Restoration Church
Highlands

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star★Courier
USPS 244-500
and the
Barbers Hill★Dayton PRESS

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman
Associate Publisher.....Mei-ling Liu Hoffman
Assoc. Editor/Advertising Manager.....Lewis Spearman
Assistant Editor.....Julietta Paita
Production Manager.....Luis Hernandez
Asst. Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. 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 grafikstar@aol.com.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: 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

★

OBITUARIES

★

Wilma Jean Keyes



Wilma Jean Keyes, 80, passed peacefully into eternal rest on Monday, July 6, 2020. She was born October 24, 1939 in Highlands, Texas to John A. Casey and Bernice (Browder) Casey. She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Class of 1958.

Wilma married Emanuel Keyes of Highlands on January 30th 1960 at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Highlands. They enjoyed 60 wonderful years together and were deeply in love throughout. Wilma loved being with family and friends, especially her children and grandchildren. She was dearly loved and honored by her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all children. She was like a Mom to all. She was a PTA member when her children were in elementary school and was always the room Mom. She was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Jude's, where she also taught CCE classes. Wilma enjoyed gardening and the outdoors. She was a fantastic cook and knew how to cook any type of wild game, seafood, or even bullfrogs. She canned many types of vegetables as well as jams and jellies. She was perfectly comfortable walking barefoot, playing with the kids in the grass, or playing baseball with the boys. She was a country girl at heart. She was somewhat shy, but enjoyed socializing, listening to country music, and dancing. She also loved playing card games of all kinds and dominos as well. Her favorite domino game was the game of 42. She and Emanuel often attended 42 parties with friends, and it was the game of choice at family vacations. Her favorite vacation spots were Concan Texas on the Frio river, a family camp house on the Trinity River near Kenefick, and week long vacation trips camping on

the beach in tents and pop-up campers on Matagorda Bay at Port O' Conner in the early 70s. She and Emanuel also enjoyed an occasional trip to Las Vegas with friends. Wilma also was a baseball fan. She was often the Team Mom during her sons' little league years and attended virtually all events of her children, including Baytown Sterling football games where her daughter participated as a Sterling Star. She was a huge fan of the Houston Astros. She loved Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell. Her favorite singer was George Jones, who sang her favorite song, "A Picture of Me Without You", which references church bells, heaven, and singing angels.

Wilma was a well-known member of the Highlands community, having owned and managed the primary local café called the Cedar Inn in the 80s and also having managed and worked at the town's favorite burger spot, the Snak Shak. She was an enormously hard worker, rising at 3:30am to open the restaurant and closing after 8pm. She knew everyone in town and they all loved her, as did her employees. She was a genuinely kind soul, and was respected by all for her honesty and integrity.

Wilma touched the hearts and souls of everyone she met. She will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Bernice Casey, brother Larry, and sister Peggy.

She is survived by her husband Emanuel Keyes, her two sons Doug (Amber) Keyes and John (Maggie) Keyes, and her daughter Cathy (John) Corley, and her son-in-law Chip (Karen) Morton. Also surviving are two grandsons Joe and John Morton, five granddaughters Elizabeth, Olivia, Mary, Anna, and Catherine Keyes, and one great grandson Jude. Also, step grandchildren Veronica, Gabriel, Adrian, Chanel, Dawson, and Chloe.

Serving as pallbearers are Jimmy, Mickey, Tony, and David Keyes, Randy Casey, and Joe Morton.

The family wishes to thank the staff of St. James House for the genuinely loving care given to Wilma during her time there.

Visitation and Rosary will be held at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Highlands, TX at 9am on Mon-

day, July 13, 2020, with funeral mass immediately following at 10am. Graveside service will follow the mass at Sterling White Cemetery, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd, Highlands TX 77562. Online condolences may be made at www.sterlingwhite.com

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, masks will be required at all events, including the graveside service. Additionally, the capacity at St. Jude's is limited to approximately 75 people, but the following graveside service at approximately 11:00am has no limit. The family fully understands the attendance issues this presents, but chose to keep all services public to provide opportunity and flexibility for any prospective attendees, and asks that attendees understand any necessary restrictive actions made by the church.

STERLING ~ WHITE
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

281-426-3555

11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd.
Highlands, TX 77562

Melvin Dennis Jasek



Melvin Dennis Jasek joined the heavenly chorus on Sunday, July 5th, 2020.

Service: 2 p.m. Friday at Moore Funeral Home, 1219 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, 76012. Interment: Moore Memorial Gardens. Visitation: 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Moore Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to send donations in tribute to Melvin to Mission Arlington, 210 West South St., Arlington, TX 76010, or First Baptist Church Music Ministry, 301 S. Center, Arlington TX 76010.

Melvin was born on June 8, 1934 to Ignatz Adolph Jasek and Bertha Anna Sirocka on their family farm in Crosby, Texas. He attended Crosby schools, where he was active in Future Farmers of America, band, choir, football, basketball, softball, tennis, and track and field. He also worked as a butcher at the local grocery after school and on weekends.

Upon graduation from high school, Melvin attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas on a four-year music scholarship. He sang in the University Choir under the direction of Dr. Euell Porter. He especially enjoyed being a member of the University Men's quartet, an activity that he was extremely proud of and continued to enjoy participating in throughout his life. He also was involved in ROTC, which prepared him for his future military service. While at H-SU,

he met and married Sharon "Dianne" Mays on December 20, 1953. They remained loving partners for over 66 years.

Upon college graduation, Melvin enlisted in the US Army and served in the Army Security Agency. He was stationed at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts from 1956 through 1958 and served in Korea after the war was over. He was in the Army Reserves from 1958 through 1961. He was recalled to active duty in 1961 for the Berlin crisis and was stationed in Columbia, South Carolina. Captain Jasek was honorably discharged in 1963.

Mr Jasek was a lifelong learner and eventually continued his education. He received two more degrees from Southern Methodist University — a BBA in Accounting and a Masters of Liberal Arts degree.

During the last part of his military service, the Jaseks moved to Mesquite, Texas. In 1964, Melvin and Dianne moved to Arlington, Texas and became very involved in working, raising their two children, and participating in their community. Melvin took a job as an accountant in the Hourly Payroll department at General Motors. He retired from the company after working there for more than 30 years.

Melvin and Dianne were very active members of the First Baptist Church of Arlington. He was a deacon and a long-time mem-

ber of the adult church choir, and , in his senior years, enjoyed singing in and traveling with the TMS senior choir. He also participated in the ETC Sunday School class, which allowed him to spend time with many close friends each week.

One of Melvin's most outstanding commitments was to Kiwanis. He was extremely devoted to the Sundown Kiwanis Club, it's activities, it's missions and projects, and it's members. He served the club in many capacities — as chairman of numerous committees and as officer in every leadership area (many more than once). He also served in leadership capacities on the district level as well as the Texas-Oklahoma district level. He became a lifetime member and received much recognition and many awards throughout the years for his outstanding dedication and hard work in furthering the goals of the service organization.

Mr. Jasek had a multitude of hobbies. He loved hunting with his dad and his son, as well as fishing and golfing with GM and Kiwanis buddies. He was a part of many social groups that enjoyed camping, dining out, playing bridge or dominoes, and watching theater productions. He loved to travel and had visited all fifty states and many foreign destinations. He also dabbled in photography and captured many wonderful pictures of animals, scenic beauty from his worldly travels, and breathtaking sunsets.

Melvin Jasek is survived by his wife Dianne Jasek; his daughter, Kristy Jasek Hayes and husband, Van, of Abilene, Texas; and his son, Kelly Jasek and wife, Christina Hoag-Jasek, of Arlington, Texas.

Frances Leazar Butler

Frances Leazar Butler, born June 13, 1922, in Jewett (Leon County), TX., to Charles M. and Robbie Cameron Leazar. She passed away June 30, 2020. Frances married Thomas Robert Butler, Sr. in 1943 and was married 63 years until his death. Preceded in death by parents, husband, son (Charles William), two sis-



ters and three brothers, two nephews, and one niece.

Survived by son, Thomas R. Butler, Jr., daughter-in-law, Carolyn, (Charles' wife), five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, three nieces and two nephews.

Frances worked at Galena Park High School as a secretary 24 years.

She was a resident of Galena Park and founding member of Galena Park Methodist Church since 1950 where she taught Sunday School for many years. She was also a member of UMW, TEL Sunday School Class, Hilltoppers, Fun Club, Eighty Eight Club, AARP, City Seniors, and Heritage Hall.

"If I had a problem needing help of any kind, several special friends were always there: John Tisdale, Joy Butler, Frances Dean, Jack Brown, Paul and Gayle Henry and Robin, Steve and Mary Yee, Robert Pruitt, and Bob Clowers. They were amazing, may God bless them. I can't forget all my precious friends at the Church and the Centers, you know who you are! Thank you for your friendship and helping me get through rough times."

In celebration of her life, the family will honor her wishes to have a private service.

The family would like to thank Home Care Assistance, Theracare Home Health, Traditions Health Hospice, and her devoted caregivers Joyce McCafferty, Adell Scott, Shirley Scott, and Melissa Vaughan. We would also like to thank the First Baptist Church of Jacinto City and the Believers Class for their love and support. Instead of customary remembrances, please consider donations to the American Cancer Society.



The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step
-LaoTzu

STERLING ~ WHITE

FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562
(281) 426-3555
WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

"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

In order to be the best, you have to be willing to give the best.

CRESPO & JIRRELS
Funeral and Cremation Services
Where there's a definite difference.



Call Us Today For More Information

281-839-0700

6123 Garth Road, Baytown | www.crespoandjirrels.com

www.starcouriernews.com

www.northchannelstar.com

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY
HIGHLANDS
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

SIGNATURE Select SERVICES
www.SigSelect.com

Select Services:
Personal Care In-Hospital Sitting
Social Outings Post-Surgical Assistance
Respite Care Pet & Plant Care
24 hr. Care Light Housework
Meal Preparation
Transportation

MONICA NELSON
COMMUNITY LIASON
346-216-8872
mnelson@sigselect.com
606 Rollingbrook Dr. #2G
Baytown, TX 77521
832-695-2328

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
-- 1 JOHN 4:18

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
--2 Timothy 1:7

ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Time Marches On

If someone had told us in January that we needed to prepare to be home and have limited contact with those who live outside of our homes, we most likely would have laughed. When mid-March arrived, there were still some of us who did not heed the advice of others. By Easter, we were beginning to understand that there would be nothing “normal” about the next few months.

The month of May was spent in much of a bubble or time warp. Activities that our community is accustomed to such as the North Channel Relay for Life or the Rotary Club of North Shore's Annual Crawfish Boil and Catfish Fry, as well as college graduations had many changes. As we celebrated Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day, we noticed that some of our neighbors and loved ones were hospitalized.

End of the year school celebrations, proms, graduations and many celebrations took some extra planning. By the time Memorial Day arrived, the beach was calling as well as golf courses and other places to gather with family and friends. Yet many in our community had not been able to be by the side of loved ones who were hospitalized or even attend funerals due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As circumstances in other cities began to get the attention of many, protests and demonstrations started happening and there were increases in the differences of opinions. Unfortunately, we saw

tragic events throughout the nation as a result. Even within some families, there was a new found tension rising. Many people I know have mentioned that their social media “friends list” has changed. There were friends who had known each other 45 years and suddenly the difference of values showed up. Neighbors who have had unity for years found there was a move underway to change the name of their streets and to remove statues from public places.

Each generation had something to say as did many people in the public spotlight. At the end of the day, we must all live together. As time is marching on and we are adjusting to the changes, we must learn to respect others and recognize that they are entitled to their opinions---even if they greatly differ from our opinions. When we see someone different from us, cannot get upset with their opinions or actions. We must realize that they are unique, just as we are.

Last weekend was a great example. Many people spent money on fireworks. It was their money. Even if we felt they should use their money for essentials, it was never OUR money or our place to tell them how to spend it. I often hear people upset as to how much a neighbor spends on going out to eat or other things. We must remember, life is too short to expect others to live up to our expectations. Time is marching on and we need to live our own lives and learn to accept people for who they are.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for July?"



JULY'S BIRTHSTONE IS RUBY

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium-dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from ruber, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with sapphire, emerald and diamond.

Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called blood-red or "pigeon blood", commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Cut and carat (weight) are also an important factor in determining the price. The world's most expensive ruby is

the Sunrise Ruby. Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. Among the natural gems only moissanite and diamond are harder, with diamond having a Mohs hardness of 10.0 and moissanite falling somewhere in between corundum (ruby) and diamond in hardness.

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk". Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually the rough stone is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.

Some rubies show a three-point or six-point asterism or "star". These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source, and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the "silk" (the structurally oriented rutile needle inclusions) in a certain way.

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.

Recovery Fund,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

must meet the following requirements:

- Must conduct business in Harris County, within Precincts 1-4. Businesses located in the City of Houston are not eligible unless located within Precinct 1
- Must employ fewer than 30 employees (including owner(s))
- Must have been in business for the entire calendar year 2019
- Must in good standing with local, state, and federal governments with no outstanding tax obligations or liabilities
- Must be able to verify negative impact on operations due to the pandemic

After the application process closes on Friday, July 24, at 3:30 p.m., eligible businesses will be entered into a weighted lottery based on the size of their operation. Program funds are limited and only a subset of qualified applicants will receive grants. Those selected will receive 75 percent of the funds upon approval, and 25 percent of the funds in November 2020.

“As the overwhelming demand for the forgivable loan program that I championed shows, far too many of our small businesses are struggling in a big way right now. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and have historically lifted up our community,” said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. “As we face some of the most difficult challenges in a generation, it's time for county government to continue our support of local small businesses. I thank my fellow commissioners for voting in favor of the \$30 million fund, and I have confidence that HBID will do an excellent job with the expedient and efficient administration of these funds. Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, and this program shows that we have their backs!”

The Small Business Recovery Fund will allocate 60 percent of its total funds to businesses with five or fewer employees. The grants do not need to be repaid, and can be used for a variety of operational costs such as payroll, payments to suppliers, rent/lease/mortgage expenses, and PPE.

“The effects of COVID-19 on our friends and neighbors throughout Har-

ris County are immense and widespread – on our health, our families, our medical community and our economy,” said Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle. “Harris County's response to this pandemic must recognize the need to address all these issues. With federal funding from the CARES Act, the Small Business Relief Fund is designed to help alleviate some of the stresses on small businesses throughout Harris County. I encourage those eligible to take advantage of this program.”

In early April, more than 7,000 businesses applied for assistance through the Harris County COVID-19 Forgivable Loan Program. Salon owner Naketha Ross was among the first businesses to receive funds, which will be applied to her lease and electricity bills. “It's good to know I have the funds I need for my business to help pay the rent and the largest expenses,” Ross said. “This will help to hold me over until things gradually go back to normal.”

All business types may apply to the SBRF grant program, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, self-employed individuals, nonprofits, and independent contractors.

“Helping small businesses survive the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic directly helps the working men and women employed by those small businesses,” said Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. “The need in our region is immense, but we will support as many of our vulnerable businesses as possible, fairly and transparently, so that the thousands of families who rely on small businesses continue to have the ability to pay their rent, feed their families, and make ends meet.”

During the application window, grant applications can be submitted online 24/7 at www.harriscountysbrf.org. Applicants will need business tax returns for 2018 or 2019; income and expenses for three months; articles of incorporation, business license, or DBA certificate; and W-2 statement, pay stubs, or personal tax return. Call 713-845-2476 for additional information.

NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



EILEEN BRIGHTWELL, DDS
www.brightwelldental.com

1820 Holland St. • Jacinto City, TX 77029
(713) 455-7923

Free Estimates Financing Available




MR. ROOFER
Siding & Contracting LLC
281-452-0000

New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding
• Mobile Home Skirting


P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530
Mrrroofer@mail.com
= Major credit cards accepted =

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

Your better half



... makes you a better man.



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.com
website: www.northchannelstar.com

Gilbert Hoffman.....Editor & Publisher
Mei-Ing Hoffman.....Associate Publisher
Julietta Paita.....Assistant Editor
Willie Glasgow.....Marketing Director
Lewis Spearman.....Advertising Director
Luis Hernandez.....Production Director
Gerardo Hernandez.....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: northchannelstar@gmail.com

Member North Channel Chamber of Commerce
Member Texas Press Association

American Standard
Walk-In Tubs

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE!
SAVE \$1,500



Lifetime Warranty! Finance Options Available

✓EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!
Only American Standard has OVER 140 years of experience and offers the Liberation Walk-In Bathtub.

✓SUPERIOR DESIGN!
Ultra low easy entry and exit design, wide door, built-in safety bar and textured floor provides a safer bathing experience.

✓PATENTED QUICK-DRAIN™ TECHNOLOGY

✓LIFETIME WARRANTY!
The ONLY Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard.

✓44 HYDROTHERAPY JETS!
More than any other tub we've seen.

FREE!
An In-Home Evaluation Will Be Scheduled at Your Earliest Convenience

FREE!
Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet (FREE) (\$500 Value)

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!
855-898-5730
Or visit: www.walkintubinfo.com/nenews



Discount applied at time of purchase. Terms and Conditions Apply. *Subject to 3rd party credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. Receive a free American Standard® Quick-Drain™ Walk-In Bathtub with full installation of a Liberation Walk-In Bath, Liberation Shower or Deluxe Shower. Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit one per household. Must be first time purchase. All offers subject to change prior to purchase. See www.AmericanStandardInfo.com for other restrictions and for financing, warranty, and company information. **CSLB 0882795, Suffolk NY2554391, NYC42022748-00A, Safety Tubs Co. LLC does not sell in Kansas MO, Westchester NY, Putnam NY, Rockland NY.

CLASSIFIED
ADS

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!

A/C & APPLIANCE REPAIR

All Major Brands. In-Home Service, 20 yrs. experience. Reparo electro-domesticos, todo tipo de modelos. Call Mario, 713-291-8286.

1-tfn

CEMETERY PLOTS

9 PLOTS available @ Sterling White Cemetery Prime Location. \$1,000 each, 2 for \$1,500 + transfer. Call 281-380-6735.

28-2

HELP WANTED

ELECTRICIAN LOOKING FOR AP- PRENTICE ELEC- TRICIAN SEEKING CAREER. CONTACT ACE ELECTRIC AT (281) 328-1066.

27-2

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER MANAGING EDITOR/PUBLISHER Position available for journalist or manager with local newspaper. Experienced in writing, interviewing, sourcing, computer layout, ad sales, record keeping, promotions. Salary plus benefits. Send letter of interest to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

J.D. FENCE We install & repair fences. All types of chain link, wood or- namental and iron. Free estimate. Small jobs welcome. Call Jose 281-221-0637.

tfh

SERVICES

PART SERVIC- ES R.F. Hull Water Well - Pump Service. 281-442-5630.

22-tfn

SERVICES

PRINTING & MAILING Full Service Marketing Services. 713-977-2555

tfh

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamenta- ry for Docket No. 478874; Estate of LUCILLE LA VALLEE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, De- ceased, were is- sued on June 29, 2020.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #21-02

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

2020 AUTO LIABILITY/SCHOOL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Proposal forms will be available July 20, 2020 on the Barbers Hill ISD website or may be picked up Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the BHISD Administration Building at 9600 Eagle Drive. Requests for additional information should be emailed to: kkunk@bhisd.net no later than July 27, 2020 at 11:00 am.

Sealed proposals are to be returned to the BHISD Administration Building on or before 1:30 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2020.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with proposers as deemed advisable or necessary.

PLAN YOUR 2021 DREAM VACATION NOW!



FROM \$1,749* \$1,499*



FROM \$1,249* \$999*

CRIMSON CANYONS & MESAS NATIONAL PARKS TOUR

Grand Canyon • Bryce Canyon • Zion • Capitol Reef • and more

10 days, departs Jun - Sep 2021

Experience the stunningly red rocks of these 6 iconic southwestern national parks. These natural treasures are still grand enough to make our jaws drop. Experience several of the most popular national parks in the United States, traveling through deserts, forests, mountains, and to the very edge of the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, one of the natural wonders of the world.

HAWAIIAN ESCAPE

Oahu • Maui

7 days, departs Feb - Nov 2021

Take a 7-day trip to paradise and unwind on 2 of Hawaii's most popular islands. Pay your respects at Pearl Harbor and explore Honolulu on Oahu, then hop on the short flight to Maui to stay beachside and visit the Iao Valley, Lahaina, and the Courthouse Square. Experience the islands at your own pace, with tours and activities escorted throughout by our friendly local Tour Directors. Price includes inter-island flight to Maui.

GUIDED TOUR EXPERTS – CALL FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE

 Promo code N7017 CALL 1-844-684-4305

*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus up to \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 9/30/20. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

JAMES KNIGHT

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 July 8, 2020


by WESTON
COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate



Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!



DISH is ranked #1 in Customer Satisfaction by JD Power and our customers for a second year in a row!

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$59.99 MO. for 12 mos.

America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

*All offers require credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and auto-pay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper +3 or Hopper 3 \$55/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

FREE VOICE REMOTE

FREE SMART HD DVR INCLUDED

FREE STREAMING ON ALL YOUR DEVICES

CALL TODAY! Plus ... Switch to DISH and GET A FREE \$100 GIFT CARD

1-877-756-0437

Se Habla Español

Call 7 days a week 8am - 11pm EST



Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/15/20. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee: \$59.99 advertised price. America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD receiver, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$14.99 for AT120, \$84.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200), monthly fees for upgraded additional receivers (\$5.99 per additional TV receiver with additional functionality must be \$19.99), Regional Sports (RSH) surcharges up to \$1/mo. apply to AT120 and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels, DISH Protect, and Internet On Demand), Premium Channels, 3-Mos. Free After 3 mos., you will be billed \$35/mo. for OnDemand, Start, and Edit Menu Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant SmartHome feature requires Google account and compatible device. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if valued, you will be billed \$55/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then current everyday price for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free stand and professional installation only. *DISH Network received the highest score in the Nation in the U.S. Power 2019-2020 U.S. Residential Provider Satisfaction Study of customers satisfaction with their current television provider. Visit jdpower.com/towards. All new customers are subject to a one-time processing fee. Gift Card terms and conditions apply. Call for full details.

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

inogen

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-333-1888





© 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. MKT-P0108

easyMedicare

MEDICARE BENEFITS REPORT

You could be missing out on benefits like:

\$0 Copays, \$0 Deductibles, \$0 Premiums

Plus Dental, Vision, Hearing and more.

Call now to see if you qualify for these amazing benefits!

866.707.2763

TTY 711 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern, Monday to Friday

Call now to speak with a licensed agent!

easyMedicare is an affiliate of e-TeleQuote Insurance, Inc., a private licensed representative of Medicare insurance organizations with a Medicare contract. easyMedicare is not affiliated with or acting on behalf of any government agency or program. Prescription, dental, hearing and vision benefits are not guaranteed, are only available in select plans and are not available in every state or city code. The products described in this advertisement are a Medicare Advantage Plan with Part D prescription drug coverage and may not be available in your area. Your eligibility is not guaranteed. This is not a complete listing of plans available in your service area. For a complete listing, please contact 1-800-Medicare (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048). 24 hours a day/7 days a week or consult www.Medicare.gov. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments and restrictions may apply. Benefits, premiums and/or member cost-sharing may change on January 1 of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part D premium.

An Important update on Medicare

Find out how it can affect you.

- Know **critical dates** for Medicare eligibility
- Get **options** that can help limit your out-of-pocket expenses
- Learn about **Medicare benefits** many retirees may not be aware of

For **FREE** Medicare Supplement insurance information from Physicians Life Insurance Company:

1-833-971-0705

or visit MedSupBenefit.com/nenews

We are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program. Requests for additional information regarding this solicitation of insurance, including costs, exclusions, and limitations require contact with an insurance agent or insurance company. L030 series 6249_B

COMMUNITY NEWS

Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

licans. Ripley House Campus had 954 Democrats and 87 Republicans. The John Philips Courthouse had 346 Democrats vote early with 197 Republicans.

This election had two early news breaks for the Democrats, Diane Trautman resigned due to health issues as Harris County Clerk, her term would lapse in 2022. Andrea Duhon withdrew as Harris County Department of Education (at Large) School Trustee. The Harris County Democratic Precinct Chairs vote at County Executive Committee to be held on computer on August 15 to officially replace these two before the November 3 General Election.

In the U.S. Senate race. M.J. Hegar against Royce West to face incumbent Republican John Cornyn. This was a close race, with West winning 50.5% of the vote in Harris County. But statewide Hegar won 52% of the votes, and will face Cornyn in November.

For State Representative in District 142, popular incumbent Harold Dutton jr. was opposed by another local favorite, Jerry Davis. Dutton won with 52.32% of the vote.

Statewide, for Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo opposed Chrysta Castaneda, who won with 61% of the votes.

Justice Texas High Court of Appeals for Place 7, Tamika "Tami" Craft won with 59% against incumbent Cheri Thomas.

An important race was for Harris County Pct. 3 Commissioner, with Michael Moore winning

with 56% of the vote, versus Diana Martinez Alexander.

A District Judge 339th Judicial District incumbent Te'lva Bell opposed Candace White. Bell won with 62% of the ballots.

The contest for District Judge 164 pitted Cheryl Thornton against Alexa Smoots-Thomas. Thornton won with 70% of the votes.

For the State board of Education District 6 Michelle Palmer had 64%, opposed by Kimberly McLeod.

The Republican Primary Runoff will determine who challenges Ed Gonzalez for Harris County Sheriff. Paul Day and Joe Danna were the showdown most discussed for Republicans. Danna received 51.46% of the vote, and will face Gonzalez in November.

Another closely watched race, with much money spent on campaigning, was for U.S. Representative in District 22. Kathaleen Wall lost to Troy Nehls who had 70% of the votes statewide.

James Lombardino and Terry Adams were contestants for the First Court of Appeals. Adams won with 69% of the votes.

US District 18 was a match of Robert Cadena against Wendall Champion. Champion had a strong showing with 71%.

The Justice of the Peace for Precinct 5 Place one saw Russ Ridgeway and Mike Wolfe.

For Chief Justice, 9th Court of Appeals, Scott Golemon had 50% and Jay Wright 49%. Golemon won by only 322 votes.

Port Houston awarded nearly \$80 million INFRA grant

Funding for restoration and improvements to Barbours Cut Container Terminal



Dockside activity at Port Houston's Bayport Container Terminal

Houston, Texas – Port Houston receives nearly \$80 million toward its efforts to restore and improve wharf and yard space at its Barbours Cut Container Terminal. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded \$79,472,000 from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program to Port Houston, which was the full amount requested for Port Houston's total \$198 million project with a local cost share of 60 percent and the INFRA grant of 40 percent of the future construction

costs.

"This funding support will help bring significant economic benefits to the region and nation while maintaining an efficient and safe movement of commerce to the U.S." said Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther. The restoration and upgrades are needed to handle the current and future demand of cargo calling at Barbours Cut. The project also provides environmental benefits and emissions reduction. Barbours Cut Terminal, constructed in

1975, comprises 6,000 linear feet of wharf, and about 390 acres including container yards and support areas. The project will restore and strengthen 2,667 linear feet of wharf and 83.5 acres of yard space. This project will strengthen facilities, allowing for larger ships and densification of container space, enabling continued growth in cargo volumes and international trade. In 2019, Port Houston was the fastest growing container port of the U.S. top 10 container ports.

Covid Outbreak,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this investigation.

The elderly and people with underlying health conditions or weakened immune systems are at much higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19, including hospitalizations and death. To keep loved ones in nursing homes and or long-term facilities safe and to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19, it is important that community members continue to take active prevention measures including limiting visits to these types of facilities. We can all contribute to stopping the spread of COVID-19 by wearing face-coverings, practicing social distancing (6ft/2m or greater), washing hands often and following everyday COVID-19 prevention measures.

To date, there are 39,311 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Houston/Harris County and 407 deaths. Please practice social distancing and follow everyday precautionary measures.

For updates on COVID-19, including case counts, health tips, fact sheets, and other community resources, visit www.ReadyHarris.org and the www.hcphctx.org.

www.facebook.com/NorthChannelStar

www.NorthChannelStar.com

YOUR HEALTH IS STILL IMPORTANT

Seeing your Houston Methodist doctor and staying healthy is smart — and safe.

No matter what's going on in the world, your health matters. And while you may have delayed getting the care you need, maintaining your well-being is vital. We are open and safely seeing patients, and you can be confident we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe during your visit, including:



Screening all patients when scheduling appointments and upon arrival.



Implementing enhanced cleaning and sanitizing processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces.



Wearing masks and other personal protective equipment while providing patient care.



Redesigning waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing.

HOUSTON
Methodist
BAYTOWN HOSPITAL

Schedule an appointment today.
houstonmethodist.org/prioritize-health