# NORTH CHANNEL & STAR

## Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City www.northchannelstar.com **VOLUME 8, NO. 32 (#336)** THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

## **CHANNEL CURRENTS**

## **East Houston United wins National Basketball** League-United States Championship

## COVID-19

Cases as of August 11, 2020

## **HOUSTON AREA**

**134.187 POSITIVE** 1.519 **DEATHS** 76,412 RECOVERED

#### **TEXAS**

**517,109 POSITIVE** 9,196 **DEATHS 358,312 RECOVERED** 

#### **UNITED STATES**

5.139.920 POSITIVE 164.502 DEATHS 1,714,960 RECOVERED

#### **WORLDWIDE**

20.196.850 POSITIVE 738,910 DEATHS 12,452,222 RECOVERED By Allan Jamail

San Antonio, TX. Saturday, August 8, 2020 - The East Houston United (EHU) Professional Basketball Team made history by capping off an undefeated season with a Championship win. East Houston United's Head Coach Kevin Williams Sr. Coach Kevin Williams Sr.
was named NBL-US
Coach of the year.
Williams played
basketball for the North
Shore High School
Mustangs in 2000.
Heading into 2020

Heading into 2020 season East Houston United didn't want to repeat its heartbreaking 2018 season by losing another championship as they did in 2018. After going undefeated 20-0 into the playoffs they lost the 2018 championship game to Louisiana in the UBA

United took the 2019 season off to evaluate other professional league



The East Houston United (EHU) 2020 champion professional basketball team. Head Coach Kevin Williams Sr. (photo center with trophy) was named NBL-US Coach of the year.

National Basketball League- United States (NBL-US). It's the official feeder league to the NBL-Pilipinas and the NBL-Jamaica. By joining the new league the

options. They were competition would be impressed with the new much better so the team had to improve in order win the championship and

a chance to make history. The NBL-US kicked off its season February 2020 and through 5 weeks East Houston United was a perfect 5-0 and was on its way to a 2nd undefeated

Due to Covid 19 East Houston United did not have a chance to finish the regular season, but held out hope the playoffs would still be played. Five

months later the NBL-US league last weekend opened back up to complete their playoffs. East Houston United was the #1 seed heading into

See FAST HOUSTON UNITED.

#### COVID-19 **RESOURCES**

#### **CITY OF HOUSTON**

832-393-4220

## HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110 **ASK A NURSE MOBILE TESTS** 

## 713-439-6000 **PRE-SCREENING**

HARRIS COUNTY readyharris.org

**METHODIST** HOSPITAL BAYTOWN

MD MEDICAL 1-888-776-5252

# Limited visits to nursing homes now okay

HHSC TO ALLOW VIS-ITATION TO NURSING HOMES AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announced yesterday that they will begin to allow limited pub-lic visitations to nursing homes and long-term care facilities under new, strict safety measures.

The new allowance comes with enhanced safety measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

This is great news for those that haven't seen their loved ones in nursing homes or long-term care facilities in months.

You can find more on this new action and associated guidelines here.

**HHSC** to Allow Limited Visitation at Nursing **Facilities and Long-Term Care** Facilities **State Enhances Certain Emergency Safety Rules** 

AUSTIN -The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) today announced limited visitation rules for nursing facilities and long-term care facilities. HHSC is also issuing enhanced emergency rules requiring additional actions by nurs-ing facilities to mitigate

the spread of COVID-19. "This is a rapidly evolving situation and we are constantly assessing what actions are necessary to keep residents and staff safe in these facilities,' saie in these recurry, said Phil Wilson, Executive Commissioner, Texas HHSC. "By following these procedures and rules, facilities can more effectively prevent the spread of COV-ID-19 and help us achieve our shared goal of reuniting residents with their families and friends."

"Access to family and loved ones is an important part of every resident's health and well-being, which is why this policy shift is a move in the right direction for some of our most fragile Texans," said Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (SD-18), Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

"Today's announcement is a critical first step for every person in a longterm care facility and their loved ones," said Rep. James Frank (HD-69), Chair, Texas House Committee on Human Services. "This decision underscores that state decision leaders recognize the need

to balance the emotional and physical health impacts of isolation against the serious dangers that COVID poses to these vul-

## **NURSING FACILITIES**

For the health and safety of facility residents and staff, public visitation is limited to outdoor visits only. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted. Additional conditions a facility must meet to conduct limited outdoor visitation include:

No confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in staff in the last 14 days.

No active positive cases in residents.

Any facility previously experiencing an outbreak that has fully recovered must be adequately staffed and following adequate infection control procedures. Facility staff are being tested for COVID-19 week-

Further guidance on limited nursing facility visitation rules, which include window visits and vehicle parades, will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.

## **LONG-TERM CARE** FACILITIES (EXCEPT NURSING FACILITIES)

Limited indoor and outdoor visitation procedures are allowed. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted.

Additional conditions a facility must meet to con-

See NURSING HOMES,

## Pct. 2 sidewalk project set to begin in Galena Park

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia is proud to announce that construction on the Port Houston Sidewalk project is scheduled to begin this month.

"It is our duty as elected officials and local leaders to take care of and serve our residents to the best of our abilities," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "This project is the perfect example of what can happen when we work together, and I'm thankful for our partners and their collaboration in making this much-needed improvement possible."

This project is in partnership with Harris County Precinct 2, Port Houston, and the City of Galena Park.

Improvements include the construction of a 6foot-wide, approximately 1.9-mile-long concrete sidewalk on Mercury Drive from the Galena



Park Sports Complex to Holland Avenue.

"We at Port Houston are excited to partner with Harris County and the City of Galena Park in making a safe environment for children and adults to walk to their destinations," said Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther. "The sidewalk project will create a solution for many residents near our facilities and provide an opportunity for us to continue the dialogue with local officials to support the com-



munities near our proper-

Construction, which was awarded to Greenscapes Six, LLC for \$328.800, is expected to be complete by December 2020 with limited impacts to traffic.

"Another project delivered to the great people of Galena Park," said Galena Park Mayor Esmeralda Moya. "My gratitude and appreciation to Commissioner Adrian Garcia for his leadership and commitment to our community."

## THEA continues virtual **Environmental meetings**

HIGHLANDS - The monthly meeting of the San Jacinto River Coalition, and THEA, continue to be held as a virtual meeting on the internet, due to the Pandemic closing all of the available community centers.

Jackie Young Medcalf held the August meeting last Tuesday, and reviewed the significant material that had recently been released by the EPA. This is a series of reports, known as the 30% Remedial Design, numbering about 12 books and 30,000

or more pages. Her review was from the viewpoint of how the toxic waste will be remediated. how it is characterized for disposal in a landfill, and how it will be safely disposed of and stored for per-

Jackie also reported that Gary Baumgarten of the Dallas EPA had made a presentation to the CAC, or Community Advisory Council via Zoom to explain the details of the 30% Remedial Design.



JACKIE YOUNG MEDCALF

One of the important revelations of the study, is that due to the toxic waste being deeper than originally assumed, much more material will have to be removed, and the project is now projected to take 7 years, instead of the original 2 to 3 years. The new

be 210,000 cubic yards, 30% more than the original figure of 162,000 c.y.

Jackie reported that at the CAC meeting, they discussed various types of cofferdams that will be required to hold back the river and allow excavatiion of the toxic material. The also discussed that these will have to be very long, 70 to 100 feet, and most of that will be buried in the river bank. Installation of the cofferdam is expected to generate noise in the neighborhoods, and questions arise about whether the slopes will be destabilized, and will traffic an

See THEA, page 8

"Looking for General American Transportation/GATX employees who worked in Galena Park, TX from 1965-1983.

Please call (618) 973-2090

#### NEWS COMMUNITY

## Pct 1 renames Robert E. Lee Street as "Unison" Street

the Final Step in Renaming Street that had a Confederate Name

EAST HARRIS COUN-TY - Commissioner Rodney Ellis, and Community Leaders witnessed the reenaming of Road from "Robert E. Lee" to "Unison"

Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis had the fol-

lowing remarks:
"If our county is going to address systemic racism in our past and present, we cannot let symbols of rac-ism and hatred continue to fill our public spaces. That is why on Wednesday, August 5, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis and community leaders observed workers as they installed Unison street signs on a road formerly named after Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Precinct One requested



Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis helps change the Street Sign in East Harris County, from Robert

Harris County Engineering Department change the name because who and what we choose to honor publicly should reflect our shared values. Symbols of the Confederacy and its goal of maintaining the in-stitution of slavery have no place on Harris County roads."

Last month, Commissioners Court renamed the road to Unison following Precinct One's community outreach and a public hearing.

Precinct One workers installing street signs at five intersections on Unison Road between John Ralston and Van Hut.

## **Precinct 2 Food** Distribution continues at **Crosby Comm. Center**

Our food distributions are back! On Friday, August 14, starting at 10 AM, we will be at Crosby Community Center. This will be done in a Drive-thru style and MUST REGISTER for this event. To register, please visit https:// crosbycc.eventbrite.com.

Nuestras distribuciones de alimentos estan de regreso! El viernes 14 de agosto, a partir de las 10 AM, estaremos en el Centro Comunitario de Crosby. Esto se hará en un estilo drive-thru y DEBE REGISTRARSE para este evento. Para registrarse, por favor https:// visite

crosbycc.eventbrite.com.

Back Issues are available in PDF format on our websites: www.starcouriernews.com and www.northchannelstar.com

## Pct. 2 Commissioner Garcia brings Covid-19 Testing with rapid results

EAST HARRIS COUN-TY – Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia issued the following statement regarding Covid-19 Testing:

"I understand there are many individuals who want and need to get tested for Covid-19, but lack access or ability to travel to a designated site. To  $meet\ this\ critical\ need,\ I've$ partner with UHPHealth to offer income based FREE testing with rapid results at two of our community centers

North East Community and East Harris County Activity Center are now offering blood and nasal swab testing from 8 AM to  $4\ PM$  Monday to Saturday. The test is offered for free for those who qualify and self pay is also available. Antibodies tests are being offered and results are available within ten minutes. Antibody testing determines whether you had COVID-19 in the past and now have antibodies against the virus.'

PLEASE covid.uhphealth.org

Accessibility to testing is essential to ensure the health and safety of the community. If you are not feeling well, please get tested. I will continue to do everything I can to ensure Precinct 2 residents have access to testing resources





Griggs EC/PK/K School (Drive thru).

1. UMMC Tidwell (Crise-thru) 510 W Tidwell Rd., 77091 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

4. San Sine Comm. Clinic (Drive-thru) 5032 N Shepherd Dr. 77018 Until September 30 Appt required intil 832-426-3760.

Forest Brook Middle (Drive thru) 7525 Tidwell 8d., 77016 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Delmar Stadium (Drive-Thru) 2000 Mangum Rd, 77092 Monday – Saturday - B.a.m. - 3 p.m. Cell 832-393-4230 for occess code.

Iglesia Pentecostal Unida Hispan ories thrul, 6518 Fulton St, 77022 ug. 11-15 - 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

8. HCC - Northeast |Drive-thru| SC community College Dr., 77013 August 00:15 - B.a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointment required via facousting or 844-778-3455.

HDC - Fella Fraga (Drive-thru)
 S01. N Dremnen St. 77003
 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
We appointment required.

10. Minute Maid Park, Lot C (Crive thru or Walk-up), 2208 Preston St, 77002 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Appt not required but ovaliable wit (press, pare) heart, corn.

11. HCC - Southeast (Drive-thru) 6815 Rustic, St., 77067 August 10-14 - 6 a.m. – 3 p.m. No appointment required.

12. Culten Middle (Orivo-thru)

13. HCC - South (Drive thru)

via tscavidnest org or 844-778-2455. 16. Merfish Teen Center (Walk-up) 9000 5 Nice Ave., 77096 - August 10-14-8 a.m. - 3 p.m. - No oppt required. 15. PlacAmericae | Drive-thru 7500 Bellaire Blvd, 77036 August 10-14 · B a.m. – 3 p.m No appointment required.

10. Butler Stadjum (Drive-thru) 13755 5 Main 5t, 77035 Monday – Setunday - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment required.

17. Ibn Sine Comm. Clinic | Drive-Shru| 11226 5 Wikinest Dr, 77099 Until September 30 Appt inquired via 281–495-7462.

LeRoy Crump Stadium (Drive-thru) 12321 High Star (v. 77072 August 10-14 - 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Appointment required into <u>transportant.ps</u> or 844-778-2455.

15. Eldridge Urgent Care & Family Medi-cine - 1306 N Eldridge Plwy, 77077 - M-F 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Set: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

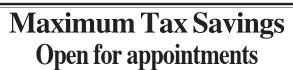
 Darrell Tully Stadium (Drive-thru 1050 Dairy Ashford, 77079, Mon-Sat through Aug. 22 · 10 a.m. · 7 p.m. Appointment not required out pvolitable vi













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

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> **CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

## Sheldon ISD Trustees Selected as a Finalist for Outstanding School Board



Sheldon ISD Trustees. The 2019-20 board members are: President Latricia Archie, Vice-President Eileen Palmer, Secretary Angela Cormier, Member Ken Coleman, Member Erika Martinez, Member Devora Myles and Member Fred Rivas. Superintendent King Davis is at

Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees has been named one of five Honor School Boards by the Texas Association of School Adminis-trators (TASA). The annual School Board Awards Program has recognized board members for their commitment to students and their communities for nearly 50 years.

"This is such an amazing achievement, and I could not be more proud," said Superintendent King Davis, Ed.D. "They have raised our district's expectations and challenged Sheldon ISD for continuous improvement, while always focused on what is best for children."

In July, the board was named ESC Region 4 School Board of the Year. Region 4 serves the great-er Houston area and is the largest of the 20 education service center regions in Texas. The 2019-20 board members are: President Latricia Archie Vice-President Eileen Palmer, Secretary Angela Cormier, Member Ken Coleman, Member Erika Martinez, Member Devora Myles and Member Fred Rivas. During the past five years, Sheldon trustees have faced tropical storms, hurricanes and a pandemic. Under their governance, they have:

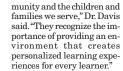
Helped increase Shel-don ISD's fund balance, while lowering the overall tax rate by two cents

Supported the district's focus on accountability improvement measures raising the district's over-all rating from a "C" to a

Assisted with efforts to introduce new programs such as Compass Schools (consisting of Performing and Visual Arts, STEM and High Technology) STEM programs at both middle schools and six academies at the high school (business and industry, human services, public service, agriculture, manufacturing and con-struction, STEAM and early college high school)
"Each one of our mem-

bers is invested in this com-

Story continues above



As one of five Texas Honor Boards, Sheldon school board members will be interviewed at the annual TASA/

Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Convention September 30-October 2 where one school board will be selected as the 2020 Outstanding School Board. Sheldon trustees will be recognized as an Honor Board Finalist during a general session at the TASA/TASB Convention this fall.

In the North Shore, Everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL **STAR** 

Call News: 713-266-3444 Ads: 713-977-2555



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

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

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park ISD will hold a public meeting at 4:45 pm, August 25, 2020 in Galena Park ISD Administration Board Room 14705 Woodforest Blvd. Houston Texas 77015. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice

Maintenance Tax \$1.12810/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations) School Debt Service Tax \$0.33250/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness) Approved by Local Voters

#### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories. c amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins

Maintenance and operations -0.11% decrease Debt Service 2.12% increase Total expenditures

#### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

Preceding Tax Year Current Tax Year Total appraised value\* of all property \$11,845,962,736 \$12,565,228,011 Total appraised value\* of new property\*\* \$131,702,384 \$116,476,653 Total taxable value\*\*\* of all property \$9,449,872,862 \$10,141,552,169 Total taxable value\*\*\* of new property\*\*

"Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.94(8), Tax Code.

\*\*"New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

\*\*\*"Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

\*Outstanding principal.

## Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$368,848,148

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates						
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student	
Last Year's Rate	\$1.14165	\$0.33000*	\$1.47165	\$6,672	\$5,213	
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.08561	\$0.34150*	\$1.42711	\$6,273	\$5,750	
Proposed Rate	\$1.12810	\$0.33250*	\$1.46060	\$7,013	\$5,233	
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to						

pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district

## Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$114,010	\$125,778
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$71,710	\$69,790
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.47165	\$1.46060
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,055.32	\$1,019.35
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		-\$35.97

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person ned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or pa

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.46060. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.46060.

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds

necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)

\$168,656,215 Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

## East Houston United,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the playoffs and before their semi final game against the Baytown Bobcats. United defeated the Baytown Bobcats 111-102. United's Myron McGowan was the leading the scorer with 24 points in the win.

East Houston United season's standout players were former Channelview High School star Maurice (Moe) Redmond III who was named Defensive player of the year. And former Yates High School standout Xavier Howard was named NBL-US All First Team along with former Channelview High School star Corey Alpough Jr was named All NBL-US First team and League MVP

Championship game featured United verse the Marietta, Georgia Rockets. United's Corey Alpough dominated the glass finishing the game with 21 points and 14 rebounds to lead United to its first professional championship in East Houston History.

United's Coach Kevin Williams said, "We set the goal in January to be the 2020 champions and to make history. Our guys bought into the team and played as a team the whole season. This is the best team I have coached. I'm happy for the players, the organization, and our fans; this championship win is for you.

Owners of East Houston United, Cedric Washington, AJ Bocard, Chris Butler, Jason King, Chris Jones and Coach Kevin Williams

## UNITED'S ROSTER AND FORMER HIGH SCHOOL:

Xavier Howard Yates High School

Dontae Johnson North Shore High School

Maurice Redmond. III Channelview High School Corey Alpough Jr Channelview High School Taylor Brimmer North

Shore High School Jerry Dancer Waco Lance Perique New

Myron McGowan New

Orleans Jubril Osagie Dobie High School Josh Anderson CE

King High School Cedric Henderson Furr HighSchool

Brandon Galena Park High School CJ Calhoun Furr High  ${\bf School}$ 

Shawn Toran Atasocita High School Jesse De La Torre

Galena Park High School Paul Ard II North shore High School
Jaylen Wise Oklahoma

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Southwest Shipyard, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to and renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 43774, which would authorize modification to and continued operation of the Ship Building and Repair Facility located at 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. Additional information concerning these applications is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.



## OPINION

## **LETTERS** To The Editor

BAYTOWN - Opinions vary widely on whether the Robert E. Lee High School name should be changed. Below is one person's opinion, and you are invited to send us yours for possible publication. The Goose Creek school board will consider this at their next meeting in September, and may make a decision at that time.



Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Texas

## We need to change the name to reflect our values and culture

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter regarding the name change of Robert E. Lee. I was born and raised in Baytown, as was my father and grandparents. I went to Lee and graduated in 1994. I am in support of changing the school's name to something that better embodies who we are as Baytownians. I have a Master's Degree in United States History and teach at Austin Community College. I say that because I feel I have the education and expertise to speak on the issue of who Robert E. Lee was, what he stood for, and why the school's name is hurtful to African Americans in our community. Please understand that this is not a "new" issue. People have been pushing to change the name for decades, and we have failed to hear them for decades. We are better than that.

In high school I remember watching students parade the Confederate flag around every football season. I engaged in debates then trying to explain how hurtful and cruel that was to our African American friends, and I was met with backlash. It was cruel then. It is cruel now. African Americans in Baytown are our friends, family, classmates, and colleagues. They deserve to attend a school with a name that instills pride, strength, unity, and honor, all of the things Baytownians hold dear. Robert E. Lee does not do that. Lee was a traitor. He betrayed our nation when he participated in secession and led the war to keep African Americans in bondage. General Lee writ in 1856 that "the blacks are immeasurably better off here than in Africa, morally, socially, and physically. The painful discipline they are undergoing, is necessary for their instruction as a race, and I hope will prepare and lead them to better things. How long their subjugation may be necessary is Known and ordered by a wise and merciful Providence. Their emancipation will sooner result from the mild and melting influence of Christianity, than the storms and tempests of fiery Controversy." There is a debate amongst historians regarding the strength of his support of slavery. But whether he strongly or mildly supported slavery should not be the metric with which we use in determining whether a school should be named after him. He led a war that cost the lives of more than 600,000 Americans in order to keep millions of African Americans in slavery. We are better than

I know many of those opposed to the name change argue that we are wanting to erase history and our traditions. There is a difference in preserving history in order to learn from it and celebrating We seek to celebrate the people embody the greatest  $\,$ virtues of our country. Naming any institution are a slave-owning traitor is not "preserving" history, but exalting those Americans who betrayed our country, our Constitution, as well as those who have died for this nation. It is cruel and abusive to expect generations of African Americans children to walk the halls of a school named after someone who fought to keep them in bondage. It does not instill pride in them. It is hurtful. They deserve more than that. We are better than that.

There are countless Americans to choose from who epitomized all the characteristics we want for our children and our community. Barbara Jordan was a warrior for education and was the first African American to be elected to the Texas Senate John Lewis, Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, and Cesar Chavez were all giants who spent their lives serving this nation and fighting for the equality of all Americans. I could go on and on and on. We have no shortage of brilliant, courageous, and valiant Americans who represent the spirit of what it is to be a Gander and a Baytownian. It is times for us to do better and better. It is time to ensure that all Baytownians feel welcome, loved, safe, and proud as they walk through the halls of our schools. It is time for us to live up to who we say we are as a community. It is time to prove we are better than that.

Respectfully, Jennifer Lyons-Hunt





## Instead of No. 2 pencils, PPEs top back-to-school list

Back-to-school lists aren't the same this year Gov. Greg Abbott talked last week about why the state is stockpiling personal protective equipment.

"As local school boards make determinations on how and when they choose to open schools, the state is working to help ensure that there will be a strong supply of PPE waiting for them to keep students, teachers and staff safe," he

Texas already has distributed to Texas schools: 59,410,640 masks 567,948 gallons of hand sanitizer

24.017 thermometers 511,294 face shields

#### SENDING UP A FLARE

The Railroad Commission of Texas is proposing rule changes to reduce the amount of flaring in the oil and gas industry.

The proposed regulatory changes include:

Reducing the time for operators to obtain an administrative exception to flare gas. For certain exceptions, the duration might be reduced by 50%

Providing incentives for operators to use technologies to reduce the amount of gas flared.

Requiring operators to provide more specific information to justify the need to flare or vent gas in ac-cordance with state rules.

The draft changes are open for a 30-day comment period and may be found on the Railroad Commission's website, https:// rrc.texas. gov/about-us/resource-center/ forms/proposed-form-changes/.

Flares, which can burn for weeks at a time, release harmful chemicals such as benzene as well as fine particle pollution, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides heavy metals and black carbon. Several of these combustion-related pollutants are linked to a higher risk of preterm birth and reduced birth weight in other contexts, according to a recent study by the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern

"Our study finds that living near flaring is harmful to pregnant women and babies," said Jill Johnston, an environmental health scientist at Keck. "We have seen a sharp increase in flaring in Texas' Eagle Ford Shale, and this is the first study to explore the potential health impacts."

#### **GET A HOSPITAL ROOM** WITH A VIEW

Being able to see trees while recovering from surgery decreases patients' need for pain medication and shortens their recovery time, according to a study shared by the Texas A&M Forest Service on Twitter.



conducted and becoming available, findings reinforce what much of the ur-ban forestry community already knows - that trees have a positive impact on human health," said the Southern Group of State Foresters, a nonprofit organization promoting the importance of healthy forests to a stable economy in the South.

#### DOCS EMPHASIZE PRIMARY CONCERNS TO **ABBOTT**

Primary care doctors are urging the governor to expand on reforms begun because of COVID-19. The Texas Primary Care

Coalition sent an open letter to the governor asking him to take a variety of steps to increase residents' access to health care. Texas ranks 47th out of the 50 states in the ratio of primary care physicians available, the coalition wrote.

Because of the pandemic, the group noted, Abbott took an important step by directing the Texas Department of Insurance to issue an emergency ruling to allow medical visits conducted via telemedicine to be paid at the same rate as

in-person visits.
"With three months of erience to document the viability and cost-effectiveness of telemedicine. Texas should eliminate the

Production Manager....

barriers that could keep primary care physicians from maintaining this service beyond the pandemic, including requiring state regulated insurers to continue payment parity be-tween in-person versus virtual visits," the consortium wrote.

#### PUT FIBER IN YOUR **COMMUNITY'S DIET**

Libraries and the rural communities they serve need to make fiber a top priority, according to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Libraries should make every opportunity to acquire fiber optic connectivity, wrote Henry Stokes, a technology consultant for the commission, in a recent blog post. He said they need to jump on Facebook's news that it has been working to develop a robot that can deploy fiber optic cables quickly over power lines. This would dramatically reduce the cost of fiber construction.

"Harnessing it will ensure that both the library and the community it serves will continue to thrive in the future," Stokes said.

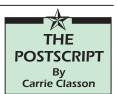
#### THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS

Happy American Wind Week. When you drive through West and Central Texas, as we did recently visiting family in Colorado, you readily see why Texas is the country's top produc-

er of wind energy.
PoweringTexas.com is observing the fourth anniversary of American Wind Week Aug. 9-15. No word on whether blowing out

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

Luis Hernandez



## "Summer Storm"

I was headed out for my daily hike. There was thunder in the distance.

"It's getting lighter," my husband, Peter, said. "I don't think we're going to get any rain."

The air smelled like a storm to me, but what do I know? If my dog, Milo, were still alive I would have asked him Milo would huddle in the corner of the kitchen when a thunderstorm approached.

"There's no storm on the radar," Peter would tell him. Milo didn't care what the radar said. We called him, "Doppler Dog," because if Milo was in the corner, bad weather was never far behind. But Milo is no longer with us and I was headed out on a hike.

"Do you think I need a hat?" I asked. If the sun came out, I'd want a hat.
"I don't think you'll

need it," Peter assured me.
It might be worth

noting that both Peter and I grew up on the plains of the Midwest where you can see a storm coming from miles away and the weather is predicted accurately to within the quarter of an hour. We live in the mountains now and

things are different.
I left the house without a hat and it started to rain before I'd even made it to the trail. That might have been a good time to turn around. I didn't.

I go on my hike almost every day. I hike in the snow and the drizzle and the cold.

"There is no bad weather," a naturalist in Alaska once told me, "only inappropriate clothing choices." I like that.

So, when it started to rain, I wished I had my hat. But the weather was warm and, as Peter pointed out, it was getting lighter up ahead. Unfortunately, that's not where the weather was coming from.

By the time I got to the

trail, the rain was steady but it wasn't cold. I started walking faster.

It was just as the trail goes into a ravine that the sky opened up. A sheet of rain fell and, in moments, I was as wet as it was possible to get. I was now going at a brisk trot.

It couldn't have been more than five minutes later that the sky crackled with lightning. I have never had thunder crash so close overhead in my life. My hair would have stood on end if it hadn't been plastered to my head. The lightning and thunder were simultaneous so I figured I had walked smack-dab into the middle of a summer storm.

The rain was now coming down in buckets and the entire trail had become a swiftly flowing stream. I needed my hiking poles to hop along the newly formed riverbank—jumping from one rock to another, my boots filled with water, my eyes stinging from the rain-and all I could think was, "Oh my gosh, it's good to be alive!

By the time I was headed home, the rain started to slow. It came to a stop about a half-mile from home. I noticed the puddles getting smaller until the ground was nearly dry.

Peter was surprised

when I got home. "You sure hiked fast today!" He had no idea what had been happening just a couple of miles away. At our house, it had hardly rained.

I got in a hot bath and. as I washed the mud off my legs. I knew I would never have gone on that hike if I'd known how bad it would

And I was so glad I hadn't missed it.

Till next time, Carrie

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



....Gerardo Hernandez Asst. Production Manager.... 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 Grafifipress Corp., 5906 Sart Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the au-thors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appeal will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Lability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected vession. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mall, by Fax, or by email, to grafficarePaol.com.

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## ★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

#### STEVEN MITCHELL DOBBS

September 12, 1960 ~



Obituary

Faith, Family. and Friends......that was always my focus and passion....and in that order, and with those priorities in line, all other struggles along my life seemed to fall in place according to God's plan for me until that moment on Thursday, July 23, 2020, when, in an instant, he called me home to be with him. Wow, what a glorious moment it was to experience Jesus, face-to-face, and begin my new and eternal life in Heaven.

was born Steven Mitchell Dobbs on September 12 1960 in Elmhurst Illinois. My dad, Charles Pittman Dobbs, was a great man of God; he loved his family, his country, and his community. He served our county proudly and owned his own business with strong conviction and principle. My mom, Dorothy Norene Smith-Dobbs, worked just as hard as my dad, raising and nurturing me and my three siblings, David, Cynthia, and Andrew. Together, they molded us into achieving a strong Christian Faith, and a sense of service and obligation to our families, community and country.

Growing up, I really enjoyed the outdoors, especially playing in the Illinois cornfields in the warm months and the snow in the winter. I later found peace with the time I spent in the woods and fishing in Mississippi, and then camping and playing on the sandy beaches of Florida. I embraced the joys of all of the places we moved to and each place helped to mold me.

helped to mold me.

After grade school, I started playing the French horn and became involved in the church youth group. I enjoyed singing in the choir, choral groups, and quartets. I had a knack for performing and being on stage in front of an audience – something I proudly passed onto my daughter Taylor.

After graduating from Dunedin High School in Florida, I ventured to Tennessee for Bible College at Tennessee Temple. I worked as a missionary, in the oil field and in the IT world, but in 1984, I enlisted in the United States Army. I served our great country for six years as a Russian Linguist, and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant. The values my dad instilled in me were strengthened through the values and discipline taught to me by military service.

Before enlisting in the Army, I met the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. We were part of a singles group at a church in Pampa, Texas. Her name was Kerrie Sue Knox. On July 31 1982 she became my wife and lifelong best friend. This was one of the greatest days of my life and my love for her was one of the deepest loves I have ever felt, and that love helped us build a faithful life and family through the next 38 years.

through the next 38 years.
Over our life together,
Kerrie and I welcomed
three daughters into our
family. The births of Mieah,
Morgan, and Taylor were
three of the greatest days
of our lives together and
my life was forever
changed. I felt a strong responsibility to guide my
daughters in a faithful



#### **CHERYL SUE ZARSKY**

Cheryl Sue Zarsky age 73 went to be with the Lord Tuesday August 4, 2020. Cheryl was born in Houston, Texas March 30, 1947 the daughter of the late Melvin White and Ora Johnson-White.

She enjoyed fishing, hunting, riding horses, dancing, cook offs, or just, "Shootin' the Bull" with her friends.

She worked as a legal secretary over thirty years. Her career highlights included involvement in the Watergate Scandal and working for Attorney: Leon Jaworski.

Cheryl, graduated from C.E. King High School class of 1965 and participated as Majorette. She was past member of the Eagles Lodge on Market St. since 1975, lifetime member of Saltgrass Trail Riders Association, and member of the Honment Park Baptist Church since the age of ten.

Cheryl, raised her children in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and has been associated with the Catholic parish for over forty-five years. Also her late husband Albert F. Zarsky made their home in Crosby, TX for thirty five years.



Where they made dear friends, loved life, and made every day count. Cheryl, was a generous lady with an open heart full of love and passion for her family and dear friends, she was always willing to help others. She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents as well as her husband Albert F. Zarsky, and her aunt and uncle W.G. and Annie Mae Key. She leaves behind to cherish her memory her son Wesley Gene "W.G." Zarsky (Michelle), daughter Cherié Suzanne Zarsky, and her grandchildren Weston and Gavin Zarsky.

Gavin Zarsky.
Funeral Services will
be held 2PM Saturday
August 15, 2020 at
Sterling White Funeral,
11011 Crosby Lynchburg
Rd Highlands, Texas.
Visitation will be held
from 12-2PM Saturday at
the funeral home with
internment to follow in
Sterling White Cemetery.

Happy Trails Party for her life to celebrate among Family and Friend to follow. "Don't worry about the Mules, just load the Wagon." Condolences and

Condolences and memories can be shared online at www.sterlingwhite.com.

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#### FRANKIE DOYLE TAYLOR

Frankie Doyle Taylor, 68, of Old River-Winfree, Texas, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, August 8, 2020, at his home. He was born on May 29, 1952, in Bentonville, Arkansas, to the late Marvin and Ineva Taylor. Frankie graduated from North Shore High School, class of 1970. A couple of years later, he joined the United States Army, where he proudly served his country until 1974.

Frankie worked as an operations supervisor with Oxy Vinyls, LP in Deer Park for thirty years before his retirement in 2018. In 2007, Frankie and his wife Barbara relocated from the North Shore area, making Old River-Winfree their new home.

Frankie pursued many interests, some of which included his passion for freshwater fishing and spending quality time with his many grand-children who affectionately called him "fa daddy". He also enjoyed eating, watching television and catching a great deal on the clearance racks.

Frankie was a simple and dedicated man who did not need much to make him hap-



py. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to many and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Frankie was preceded in death by his parents; and his son Shawn Patrick Taylor. He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory, his wife Barbara Sue Taylor; and wife Jen, Brian Michael Taylor and wife Danyale, Michael Leath

erwood and wife Jamie, Brian Chad Leatherwood and significant other Theresa and Brittany Wiser and husband Justin; his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his sister Judy Patin and husband Dale; and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

Friends are invited to visit with the family beginning at 10am, on Thursday, August 13, 2020, at Fellowship of the Nations, 13305 Woodforest Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77015. A celebration of Frankie's life will follow at 11am at the church, with Rev Johnny Brady officiating.

Condolences can be shared online with the family by visiting www.SterlingFuneralHome.com

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# THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH By Dr. Mark Trice

## Clean Your Boots

Whether you're working a horse, gardening, or doing messy jobs around the house, one thing remains constant – dirt. If your boots hit the ground, they'll likely end up with a good coating of dust, dirt, or mud. It comes with the territory and you deal with it. When you're done working, you simply take time to clean your boots.

It's the same way in life, especially with the unique challenges we're facing today. We are not of this world, but we are certainly in it, and we're not called to just hang out here. In a sense, we Christians are living in a foreign country and we are Heaven's "boots on the ground" – combat troops that have been sent to wage war with the enemy.

I'm not talking human enemies, of course, but spiritual. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) reminds us that "we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. It's a pretty constant battle, and sometimes it leaves us feeling like we're trudging through mud-filled trenches

Yes, having read the end of the book, we know what's coming down the road. We can almost see ourselves riding a host of white horses behind our King. In the meantime, however, we must not only be alert and actively engaging the enemy, but we must also be mindful of the necessity of recovery time, setting aside time to "clean our boots" so we don't get weighed

down.

It's almost impossible to wage spiritual warfare without also dealing with some spiritual dirt. Battle fatigue is common, and it can open us up to all sorts of things from fear to unforgiveness to utter hopelessness When we walk off the battle field in victory, the devil sometimes comes running in with one last shot that can catch us off guard. Many times we leave the field feeling dirty from all we've encountered.

We can avoid battle fatigue and being shot down, but it takes conscious effort and an investment of time. Between battles, we clean our boots through worship, through delving into the Word, through actively opening our hearts to Him, and through letting Him fill us with His Spirit all over again. It is these times of intimacy with God that restore us, strengthen us, and give us what we need to get back up and back out there in the fight. We must also remem-

ber that soldiers don't fight alone. This is one of the reasons church attendance is so very important. Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) tells us "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." The day of His return is definitely drawing near; never doubt it. The closer we get to the end, the greater the battles get, but we need not fight alone: Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow believers, we are a powerful armv!

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path and teach them the values that I learned from the experiences and lessons from my earlier life. I felt that they should also have my unwavering support, guidance, and love.

Our family enjoyed many road trips together and we loved staying in various state and national parks and experiencing Disney World at Christmas time. The "Happiest Place on Earth" is truly magical at Christmas Time. I also enjoyed a game of golf, softball or cards. The competition intrigued me and, win or lose, completing a game, or any challenge in life, always left me with a feeling of being a winner.

After experiencing many years of various careers, I felt the calling to attend Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service and serve my community as a funeral director. Serving families in their time of deep grief became a passion for me. I believe that everything I learned and experienced in my life led me to this calling to complete the life on Earth that God gave me to serve him best.

Throughout my Earthly life, I tried to hold strong to my convictions. My deep faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has guided me in a passionate life of service to Him, and also to my family, friends, community, and country.

Munity, and country.

Although I now enjoy the Glory of being with Jesus now, my family is experiencing the deep grief

that I have helped many families with I have left behind a strong and faithful wife, Kerrie and three dynamic daughters, Micah Lee Dobbs, Morgan Lynee Gutierrez and her husband Bryan, and Taylor Ruth Dobbs. I also leave three amazing grandchildren, Emma Leigh Constance, Olivia Madeline Gutierrez, and Everett Henry Gutierrez. My siblings also remain to continue our parent's teachings, David Dobbs and his wife Gay, husband Steve (what a great name), and Andrew Dobbs and his Meagan along with their children and families.

My family will be gath ering at Farmer Funeral Home in Silsbee, Texas from 5-7 PM on Tuesday July 28, 2020 to meet with friends and share stories and celebrate my wonderful and full life. A second time of visitation will be held again on Wednesday from 10-11 AM before my funeral service which will begin at 11 AM on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at First Baptist Church of Highlands, Texas, My Earthly shell will be laid to rest with Final Military Honors at 9:30 AM on Thursday July 30, 2020, at Houston

National Cemetery.
"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" -Acts 20:35

## **ASK THE EXPERT**

## **ASK DIAMOND JIM**

# Diamond Jim:□"What's New in the Jewelry World?"

—Reprinted from National Jeweler.com—

New York—The Gemological Institute of America is boldly going where it has never gone before—into the realm of automated clarity grading for diamonds.

GIA announced last week that it is partnering with IBM to develop an artificial intelligence system for diamond clarity grading.

The lab is currently testing the system internally at its New York and Carlsbad, California facilities on stones that are 4 carats and under, with plans to expand it and start sending out stones that were clarity-graded using AI in 2021.

Pritesh Patel, GIA's senior vice president and chief operating officer, said AI clarity grading works by feeding data sets—GIA has thousands of stones in its reference collection that are used as standards for the 4Cs—into the program, which then is used to train algorithms on how to grade diamonds for clarity.

It, essentially, learns how to look for certain types of inclusions, feathers, crystals, needles, etc., and what clarity grade those inclusions, or combinations of inclusions, equate to in a diamond.

Once the training is complete, the AI program will continue to follow that training, and GIA can feed it more data over a period of time so the system's intelligence will continue to grow.

grow.
GIA Executive Vice President and Chief Laboratory and Research Officer Tom Moses said at this point, the AI clarity grading is still in the development stage, so the lab has its human graders checking its work.

ers checking its work.

In the future, though, the system will function on its own most of the time, with a goal of making grading faster, accurate and consistent, and expanding the technology to more diamond shapes, sizes and qualities.

"Ultimately, we believe in the vast majority of cases [human involvement] will not be necessary," Moses said, though he notes there still will be "a set of eyes" on larger, more important diamonds.

#### Automated grading is not new for GIA. Moses said it's been part

Moses said it's been part of GIA since the beginning, as lab founder Robert Shipley Sr.'s son, Robert Jr., helped the lab develop an instrument to support visual color grading in the 1940s

Clarity grading, in fact, is the final one of the four Cs for which GIA is introducing an automated process; in an interview with JCKonline.com, Moses described it as "the last frontier" of automated diamond grading because of its complexities.

While grading clean stones, like VVS or VS diamonds, is fairly simple, clarity grading gets more complicated when stones are more included, Moses explained.

explained.

The system has to be able to identify multiple different inclusions and determine how much of an impact they have on the diamond's grade.

He said so far, GIA is testing AI clarity grading on natural diamonds only but likely will use it for lab-grown diamonds as well.

As with any technology designed to do a job once performed by a human being, AI clarity grading brings with it the question of job cuts.

Moses said while the

lab did have to lay off "some staff" due to COV-ID-19—GIA declined to release specific figures—overall, it's not looking to use AI to reduce the number of trained people it has.

Instead, GIA wants to

handle and process more diamonds, he said, and use technology to free up human capital to work on projects that are more intricate and involved, like treatment identification and lab-grown diamond research.

"How can we use some of this talent that's unique to GIA to be more creative, to add more value?" Moses said. "What can we do to help increase consumer confidence?"

Patel called the lab's trained staff a "critical part of the assets GIA has," and said staff worldwide see the AI clarity grading system as a valuable tool.

He also noted the lab could start using IBM's AI technology for future projects, including the connecting of physical assets to digital informa-

tion.
"Innovation is going to continue to happen, and it's going to accelerate at a much faster pace," Patel said. "GIA is going to play a significant role in that innovation, in the grading space and around it"

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

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at:

www.pineforestjewelry.com.
If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches,
diamonds, precious stones,
precious metals, and other
questions related to the jewelry industry, email
jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

# Sheldon ISD releases "Safe Start Plan"

Sheldon ISD has released our Safe Start Plan for the 2020-21 school year that contains guidelines for school day operations, instructional plans, safety protocol and more. Please help us spread the word so our families are informed.

Our first day of school is 100% virtual on September 8. We will be virtual the first four weeks of school.

The plan can be found at sheldonisd.com/start9090/

## THEA meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the I-10 highway be distracted by the noise and activity.

Baumgarten told the

group that the material would be removed in trucks, not river barges, and over 10,000 truckloads would be required. Then the material would be transported to a licensed toxic waste landfill 100 miles away, perhaps near the Texas Louisiana border. Jackie questioned whether the material could be safely stored in perpetuity, and said that she disn't want to move our problem to someone else.

Jackie also questioned not only the remediation details in the report, but the testing procedures and locations, and the acceptable levels of toxicity that will be left behind.

The RD said that the Sand Separation Area, adjacent to the North Impoundment, could be left unremediated to return to safe levels by "natural recovery, with monitoring." Jackie said that tests of this area were not made in the right areas, and retests showed levels of toxicity at 3000 parts per trillion (ppt), 10 times the accept-

able 300 ppt

In the Northern Impoundment, the remediation level will be 30 ppt, but she said that some retests have shown a Dioxin known as TCDD to be as high as 96,000 ppt, and Furian as high as 200,000. She said these are not acceptable levels to be left behind.

The data is hard to analyze, she said, because there is so much. The Appendix C with lab reports is 21,000+ pages, and perhaps not complete at that. She pointed out a notation made by the consultant, GHD, that said some of the samples had been removed from the report, at the request of the PRP (Respon-

sible Parties).

Jackie called for more transparency in the remediation reports and the process they represent, and perhaps the need for resampling and new criteria for allowable toxicity levels.

An example of less transparency is a "hot spot" in the Southern Impoundment that EPA does not plan to remediate, because it is outside their arbitrary site boundaries.

# Nursing Home Visits okay,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

duct limited visitation include:

No confirmed COVID-19 positive staff in last 14 days.

No active positive cases in residents.

Adequate staffing to fa-

Adequate staffing to facilitate visitation in compliance with infection control requirements. Use of plexiglass as a

safety barrier for indoor visitation to prevent spread of COVID-19. Further guidance on

limited indoor and outdoor visitation rules will be posted on the HHSC COV-ID-19 provider web page.

## EMERGENCY RULE ENHANCEMENTS

Enhanced emergency rules for nursing facilities include:

Each facility must have a COVID-19 response plan that includes designated staff to work with cohorts of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and staff should not change designation from one day to another, unless

required to maintain adequate staffing for a cohort.

All nursing facilities must screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility in accordance with specified criteria, and each resident must be screened at least three times a day for signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

symptoms of COVID-19.

Each facility must have plans for obtaining and maintaining a two-week supply of personal protective equipment and resident recovery plans for continuing care when a resident recovers from COVID-19.

The full emergency rules will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.

The latest guidance for nursing facilities is posted here. Texas HHSC continues to investigate all long-term care facilities in the state that report one or more positive case of COV-ID-19, as well as coordinate closely with local, state, and federal health authorities.

## NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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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:

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# CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## Challenging Times

A friend of mine who had a stroke in late June was telling me how challenging it has been not being able to drive, much less work for the first time in over 45 years. His only family members are in North Carolina, so he has had to depend on the few friends to get him to and from doctor appointments. He was debating on canceling the physical therapy appointment as he was also beginning to feel the financial strain of having four appoints weekly with \$40 copayments and then having to depend on others to get him to the pharmacy as well as grocery store. To say he was feeling down is an understatement.

No sooner was he telling me about how difficult it was to load up the laundry, find a ride to the washeteria and then do laundry and find a ride home, another friend called. The caller is someone he has known for the past 12 years and was on his way to an appointment but called to just share an encouraging word.

I was left to laugh as when he started to tell me about that phone call, I stopped him to share a text message that I had just received from a friend. If ever two people were feeling challenged, it was us and then in the perfect timing, we each had others to stand in the gap and encourage us.

Perhaps the one activity I miss now more than ever is attending church in person. I am very thankful for the options of live streaming, Facebook, YouTube, and all of the others, but there is something so special about worshipping with others in person. Anyone who knows me, knows I am a social butterfly.

There have been countless other meetings that I have missed out on hugging people. I think the delivery drivers have tagged me in the system to just drop off packages and run before I the door and hug them.

Even more challenging is for those who typically volunteer with different ministries where they bring hope to others. People like Neal Valk, who at the age of 90 still volunteers with North Channel Assistance Ministries, are missing out talking to the clients. Those who are involved in prison ministries are no longer allowed inside of the prisons or jails to minister to inmates. I am not saying that those incarcerated should have an easy stay, but imagine if you looked at the same people 24 hours a day? Many of the senior adults I know are afraid they will never see their incarcerated loved ones again. These are certainly challenging times and as we move forward, we need to throw kindness around as if it were confetti. Call someone today. Be kind. And certainly say an extra prayer for someone.

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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

#### **CEMETERY PLOTS**

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**LEGAL NOTICE** 

TWO LAWN 9 PLOTS **CRYPTS** available @ Sterling @ Sterling White White Cemetery Prime Location. Cemetery, \$1,000 each, 2 for Highlands, Garden \$1,500 + transfer. of Whispering Pines, Lot 45, spaces 11 & 281-380-6735.

**CEMETERY** 

PLOTS

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**Bud's Mini Storage Auction** 

Auction of 1 unit as a whole with household

goods and furniture.\Highest bidder takes all and must remove day of purchase.\Unit is a

12' x 35'. ☐ You will not be admitted in until

11:00 a.m.\Saturday, August 22 at

11:30a.m.\promptly)

Address: ☐ 303 Kernohan ☐ Crosby, Texas

31-2

#### **HELP WANTED**

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

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

#### **SERVICES**

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#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

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## **SERVICES** PRINTING &

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**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

## **SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE**

The Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 will hold a meeting at 1:30 P.M., on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 5915 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532, to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2020. The proposed tax rate is \$0.025 per \$100.00 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 by 41.51%

The City of Jacinto City is accepting proposals for miscellaneous street and drainage repairs within the city.□ The majority of this work involves the tear out and replacement of concrete paving. ☐ The specifications for this RFP are available by contacting Mr. Kyle Reed (kyle.reed@jacintocity-tx.gov)

There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 20, 2020 at the Jacinto City Police Station, 10429 Market Street.□ Bids are due by 5:00 p.m. on August 27, □2020 □ to the City Secretary's Office located at 1301 Mercury Dr., Jacinto City, Texas ☐7702 ��

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

#### AMENDED NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT AMENDMENT AND RENEWAL

#### AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 43774

APPLICATION Southwest Shipyard, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to and renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 43774, which would authorize modifications to and continued operation of the Ship Building and Repair Facility located at 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. 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 application. http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index. html?lat=29.789722&Ing=-95.065277&zoom=13&type=r. The existing facility and/or related facilities will emit the following air contaminants: exempt solvents, hazardous air pollutants, organic compounds and particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns

The applications were submitted to the TCEQ on July 15, 2020. The permit renewal will be issued in conjunction with the amendment. This permitting action also includes the incorporation of permits by rule related to this permit. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. The applications will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at http://www.swslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ Permit\_43774\_Public\_Notice.pdf beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's com pliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the applications are administratively complete and will conduct a

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING You may submit public comments, a request for a public meeting, or request a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the applications The deadline to submit public comments is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the applications. A public meeting about the applications will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the applications or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing

If only comments are received on the applications, the response to comments, along with notice of the executive director's action on the applications, will be mailed to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for these applications.

The executive director will complete the technical review, issue a preliminary decision on the applica-

tions, and a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the mailing list for these applications. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments. If a hearing request is timely filed in Response to this Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Air Permit, the time period for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to thirty days after the mailing of the executive director's response to comme

After the final deadline for public comments following the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the applications, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for these application

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. A con-Acomesia deserving in a large processing shall be a vividad in state distinct control to the commission's decisions on the applications. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues submitted by you or others during the public comment period and not withdrawn

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the follo your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[l/we] request a contested case hearing"; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or an association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific applications mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/decisions/cc/comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. 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 public record. For more on about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Edu gram toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Southwest Shipyard, L.P., 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530-3858 or by calling Ms. Elizabeth Stanko, TRC Environmental Corporation, at

Amended Notice Issuance Date: July 30, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE**  **LEGAL NOTICE** 

#### **Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in** Career and Technical Education Programs

The Galena Park Independent School District offers Career and Technical Education Programs in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, AV Technology & Communications; Business Management & Administration; Education & Training; Finance; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; Manufacturing; Marketing; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Admission to these programs is based on interest, aptitude, age propriateness and class space availability

Galena Park Independent School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its career and technical education programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: and Section



It is the policy of the Galena Park Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or age in admission, treatment in its employ-ment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The Galena Park Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Senior Director of Human Resource Services at (832) 386-1207, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator at (832) 386-1069. More information can also be obtained at the G.P.I.S.D. Administration Building located at 14705 Wood

#### Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en los Programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Galena Park ofrece programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica como Agricultura, Alimentos y Recursos Naturales; Arquitectura y Construcción; Arte, Tecnología en Audio y Video y Comunicaciones; Manejo y Administración Empresarial; Educación y Entrenamiento; Finanzas; Ciencias de la Salud; Hospitalidad y Turismo; Servicios Humanos; Tecnica de la Caludia de nología de Información; Leyes, Seguridad Pública, Correcciones y Seguridad; Manufacturación. Mercadeo; Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas; y Transportación, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas está basada en el interés, aptitud, edad apropiada y un lugar

Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Galena Park el no discriminar basado en la raza color, nacionalidad, origen, incapacidad, orientación sexual o edad, trato o participación en sus programas de educación profesional y técnica, servicios o actividades como lo establecido por el Titulo IV de la Ley de los Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda: Titulo IV de la Enmiendas de Educación de 1972; y en la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Galena Park el no discriminar basado en la raza ticas de trabajo como lo establecido por el Título VI de la Ley de los Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972; la Ley de Discriminación de Edad de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Galena Park tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de destreza en el uso del idioma inglés no sea una barrera para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, contacte al Director Ejecutivo de Servicios de Recursos Humanos en el teléfono 832-386-1207, y/o a la Coordinadora de la Sección 504 en teléfono, 832-386-1069. También puede obtener más información en el Edificio Adminstrativo de G.P.I.S.D. ubicado en el 14705 Woodforest Boulevard, Houston, TX 77015.

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Dear Friend,

The impact of COVID-19 is very real and it's up to all of us to take this seriously. I know that the opening of restaurants and other businesses can give you a false sense of normalcy but our state continues to face imminent risks from COVID-19 and we continue to see cases increase. This virus has already taken the lives of too many Texans and every day we are seeing more people hospitalized because of complications from COVID-19.

Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by following simple daily precautions. Wear face coverings correctly when you leave your home, wash your hands constantly, stay home as much as possible and avoid gathering in groups, even with family members. If you must go out, always stay oft, away from other people. If you have felt sick, do not wait for your condition to worsen and get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Below you will find some important COVID-19 updates, information and resources on a wide range of issues. We remain ready to assist Texans with unemployment, SNAP benefits, connecting them with social services and answering any questions they may have in these uncertain times. As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out

If we all do our part, together, we can overcome this health crisis!

Ana Hernandez

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Texas Department of Public Safety announced that it is continuing the phased reopening of driver's license offices by offering appointments for renewals and replacements in offices across the state. Some select DPS offices around the state will also offer Saturday appointments for renewal and replacement services

Remember that DPS has moved to appointments only as part of their efforts to provide additional convenience, reducing the time Texans spend waiting in line at DL offices. To book appointments and get more information about the reopening, visit the DPS website at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/.

As a reminder, the extension of the expiration of Texas DL/CDL/ID/Election Identification Certificate (EIC) cards remains in effect. This means that all Texas DL/CDL/ID/ElC cards that expired on or after March 13, 2020, will remain valid for 60 days after which time DPS issues public notice that the extension period has been lifted and all normal operations have resumed. The 60-day notice has not been issued by DPS, and Texans will still have time to conduct their renewal transactions.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Visit the Texas Workforce Commission website or call their Tele-Center at 800-939-6631 to apply for benefits, monitor your claim, request payment, or to get more information. Remember that in order to reduce call volume, TWC has implemented a call schedule for those seeking benefits. Applicants are asked to contact the TWC on certain days and times based on the first digit of their phone number.

IMPORTANT UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Please be aware that the extra \$600/ week unemployment funds established by the federal CARES Act is set to expire on July 25th. State unemployment benefits will continue to be distributed for the approved weeks after July 25th without the \$600.

The Texas Workforce Commission does not have the ability to extend this program; only Congress can extend this program. For more information on this and other questions about unemployment, visit bit.ly/TWCFAQ2020.

If you have questions or need assistance with the Texas Workforce Commission, please call our office, Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at (713)



Tests will be provided while supplies last.



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## San Jac **MY WAY**

**FALL 2020** 



## **ONLINE** Anytime

Take your classes online at any time. No need to travel to campus.



## **ONLINE** On A Schedule

Complete coursework online, but virtual lectures and instruction will take place at specific times on certain days.



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