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VOLUME 8, NO. 33 (#337) THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

COVID-19 Cases as of August 18, 2020

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

146,052 POSITIVE
1,721 DEATHS
95,916 RECOVERED

TEXAS

561,485 POSITIVE
10,452 DEATHS
405,817 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

5,454,333 POSITIVE
170,905 DEATHS
1,805,580 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

21,943,183 POSITIVE
775,439 DEATHS
13,924,472 RECOVERED

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
832-927-7575
readyharris.org

METHODIST
HOSPITAL BAYTOWN
Download mymethodist app.

MD MEDICAL
1-888-776-5252

County rent assistance available

Commissioners vote \$25 million; application info here

Harris County, Texas - Friday, August 14, 2020, The Harris County Commissioners and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo unanimously approved a \$15 million emergency rental assistance program to help individuals in Harris County suffering economic hardships due to the effects of COVID-19. Due to the overwhelming demand for rental assistance in Harris County, Judge Hidalgo and the Commissioners subsequently increased the amount of assistance to be provided through this program to \$25 million.

"Our community continues to suffer great economic damage resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with many people unable to cover basic necessities, including rent," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "This program will bring relief to those

across our region who so desperately need it, allowing families to stay in their homes while addressing the collateral impact on property owners."

The program will assist applicants with rent and associated expenses for payments and/or late fees occurring after April 1, 2020. Selected applicants will be eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$1,200 in assistance. Landlord enrollment will begin on August 17th, with tenant applications opening for a 7-day period beginning August 24th. Applications will be available online at www.harriscountyrenthelp.org, and assistance will be available by phone.

To be eligible for assistance through this pro-



APPLY AT:
bakerripleyrenthelp.org

gram, applicants must meet the following requirements:

Landlord must be registered as a program participant

Applicant must reside within Harris County. Applicants residing within the City of Houston within Precincts 1 & 2 are eligible. However, City of Houston residents within

Precincts 3 & 4 are not eligible for the Harris County program.

Total household income must be at or below 50% Average Median Income

Cannot have received other Harris County related COVID-19 assistance or rental assistance through City of Houston COVID-19 rental program

Applicant cannot be currently receiving other governmental housing subsidies

Landlords who are interested in participating in the program must agree to give the tenant credit for any partial payments they have made so far, waive all late fees and penalties, and rescind or cancel any prior notice to vacate, among other requirements detailed on the program website.

"Right now, many families are facing the impossible choice between

paying rent and putting food on the table. We cannot let them end up on the street if they can't keep up with their rent during an unprecedented economic crisis," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "This program will not only allow for working families to stay in their homes now, but will protect families in the future by providing eviction protections, waiving late fees, and ensuring families receive a 60 day notice to vacate if they fall behind on rent again prior to October 1, 2020."

After the application process closes on Friday, August 28th, eligible applicants will be entered into a lottery for randomized selection. Program funds are limited and only a sub-

See RENTAL ASSISTANCE, page 3

THEA protests for stronger EPA remediation

Group wants higher standards for San Jacinto River Waste Pits

Houston, TX – August 6, 2020 – As part of the ongoing fight to remediate the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Jackie Young Medcalf of THEA is calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to hold polluters to a higher standard of accountability through ensuring more integrity in the remediation process. On Thursday, August 6 at 10am a press conference was held at Waste Management Headquarters, and it highlighted the recent discovery of how omitted sample data and a skewed site analysis have slanted the outlook towards the site's remediation and ultimately the disposal of the toxic waste material.

The Waste Pits Superfund Site is the result of dioxin and PCB contaminated paper mill waste



Jackie Medcalf and protestors at the Waste Management Headquarters in Houston

that was disposed of along the San Jacinto River in the 1960s. The Waste Pits presented such a great danger to the environment and public health, they were listed for clean-up under the Federal Superfund program in 2008. Re-

cently, the EPA released documents from the responsible parties consultants and our review of the 30,000+ pages of technical reports found that the samples collected for analysis of dioxin disposal classification were almost all collected from areas known to contain no dioxins, and that the consultants requested data be omitted from the lab reports. Joint community, advocate and governmental efforts have made profound progress in protecting aquatic life and public health within the region. However, now there is an overwhelming need for sampling and analysis which address all contaminants of concern and the EPA's oversight to ensure this process is done with integrity.

What is at Stake?

The longer the waste remains the greater the potential for increased risks of cancer and autoimmune diseases among locals and further contamination to the environment. A location known as the sand separation

area of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits showed higher levels of dioxin than previous reports, and these will not degrade in toxicity for decades—possibly centuries. The extra five years added to the remediation timeline, is simply five years of open contamination that our communities and environment cannot endure. This is a call for EPA to recharacterize the site through sampling and analysis which addresses the known dioxin sites, AND an appeal to the moral character of the parties whose dishonesty means that pollutants have more time to poison our communities and environment. Enough people have needlessly passed

See WASTE PITS, page 6

Pilot Club honors 25 year member Cooper

NORTH CHANNEL – The San Jacinto Pilot Club honored Renee Cooper for her 25 years of membership. At their meeting August 11, 2020, Renee was presented with a letter from 2019-2020 Pilot International President Deb Hays, a certificate from Pilot International thanking her for 25 years of service and a 25 year pin. Renee joined the San Jacinto Pilot Club in June of 1995. With her husband, she owns and operates Safeway Signs.

San Jacinto Pilot Club is a part of Pilot International, a 501(c)3 organization which is a community-based volunteer service organization founded in 1921 in Macon, GA on the principles of "Friendship and Service." The name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day who represented leadership and guidance. Pilots Clubs are found across the U.S., the Bahamas, Japan, Liberia and South Africa. Pilots carry out their mission to



Renee Cooper with 25 year Award Certificate

"Do More, Care More and Be More" by providing financial and hands-on support for national and local initiatives in keeping with its causes of youth development & leadership; brain safety & fitness; and caring for families in times of need. In addition, there are over 7,000 school-level Anchor Club members worldwide—including the North Shore Anchor Club, through which Pilot

encourages and provides opportunities for youth development and leadership. Pilot International remains headquartered in Macon, where its staff serves its international constituency. For more information visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com and www.PilotInternational.org.

More on Page 8

Eileen Brightwell named GP/JC Rotarian of the Year

New officers installed

GALENA PARK – The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club held their Installation and Awards ceremony in June, with much of it a virtual style.

However, the club presented the Rotarian of the Year, the most prestigious club award, to Eileen Brightwell, a long-time member. Eileen is a local dentist in Jacinto City, and will be the club's Public Relations officer in the coming year. She has held many positions for the club over the years.

New officers and directors were also installed. These include Juan Flores, president; Brian Shepard, president elect; Jennifer Ledwith, treasurer; Maria Cortez-Ochoa, international service director; Ernesto Paredes, Jr., Rotary Foundation director; Eileen Brightwell, public relations; Bryan Clements, membership chair; and Marcos Ramos, past president.



Outgoing Rotary Club president Marcos Ramos presents the Rotarian of the Year Award to local dentist Eileen Brightwell. See Page 8 for more ROTARY news.

Jamail golf tees-off 22 years of scholarships

Although 2020 has been a very different year for all of us, we are looking forward to getting back to something we know. The Jared Jamail Golf Tournament will be held on September 26 this year. It may look a little different but nonetheless, we are excited to bring people together again for a helpful cause.

Since our first tournament in 1999, we have been able to give away over \$330,000 to 132 Crosby High School seniors. We began awarding 4 scholarships each year at \$1,500 each, and we are now able to award 4 scholarships at \$5,000 each! The family has truly enjoyed getting to know these recipients and following them through their next journey in life. 20% of our sponsors in 2019 were past recipients of our scholarship. Thank you to all those recipients that have given back to the tournament and foundation over the years.

With all the hardships 2020 has brought, we will not be asking for any donations for the raffle this year. This year will just be the golf tournament, lunch, and awards. With that being said, we still plan to have some fun! Turner Chevrolet will be sponsoring the Hole in One with a 2021 Chevy Trailblazer. Remember breakfast, coffee, and lunch are included in each golfer's entry fee. You will have to earn an award!

Registration is now open on our website for anyone who would like to golf, sponsor, or simply donate money. We are asking that all golfers pay ahead of time this year due to the current pandemic. You may register and pay on-



The 22nd Annual Jared Jamail Memorial Golf Tournament is to be held September 26 at Stonebridge at Newport, registration needs be accomplished by Sept. 24. One hundred thirty two scholarships have been provided to Crosby High School students thus far requiring \$330,000. Awarding 4 scholarships each year at \$1,500 each, and now able to award 4 scholarships at \$5,000 each. Last year there were 44 sponsors and sponsorships are still available with on course advertising. Best if registration were done before Sept. 21. Turner Chevrolet will be sponsoring the Hole in One with a chance to win a 2021 Chevy Trailblazer. Breakfast, coffee, and lunch are included in each golfer's entry fee. You will have to earn an award! www.JaredJamailScholarship.com is the location to begin registering.

line by going to www.JaredJamailScholarship.com and clicking on the tab, "Tournament Info", at the top. There is a 2.9% processing fee that is applied for paying through the website but if you wish not to pay it, you may send Pam Johnson a check. We ask that all golfers register and pay by September 21. If you have not paid by the 21st you will be asked to pay through the website. If you do not have Pam Johnson's contact information already, her email and phone is listed on the website.

Please visit our website for more information on the tournament, how we have given back to our Crosby High School seniors, and to learn more about who Jared was. We look forward to this event every year and are ever grateful for the support we have received over the past 22 years.

Crosby ISD sets up wi-fi in virtual back-to-school mode



On August 13 the first day of back to school was virtual for the students although teachers had to attend to put their classroom performances online. Students started virtual back to school and that process was aided by Crosby ISD offering "Park N' Learn" or constant, secure WiFi access in the parking lots of campuses throughout the district using their laptops and the same accounts they would use in actual class. Following a survey by the administration into online access, the district discovered that most area students were in good shape. A few students however have no or insufficient access to complete their school work. Normative alternatives like the county library isn't internally accessible. The district has ordered some 400 "hotspot" or MiFi devices are now on order and soon to arrive to grant access to those students without sufficient access. This hot-spot and computer initiative was made possible by a \$32 Million dollar initiative proposed by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to go along with a county road map to re-opening schools safely.

Deputy busts trafficker



Precinct 3 Constable Deputy E. Vasquez conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Indian Shores and interacted with the vehicle's occupants. The deputy discovered that passenger, Denzel Taylor was wanted for trafficking of a child, prohibited contact, which is considered a particularly heinous human trafficking rap. Taylor was then arrested and booked without incident into the Harris County Jail.

If you suspect human trafficking report it immediately to the local authorities. 24HR DISPATCH 713-274-2500, Tipline 832-927-8477

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rent Assistance program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

set of qualified applicants will receive assistance. The \$25M of assistance provided through this program is expected to help an estimated 21,000 County households struggling with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This pandemic knows no stranger, and it continues to devastate thousands of hardworking individuals in their ability to earn a living and provide for their families. Our neighbors are struggling to pay their bills, including rent. For that reason, I will not stand by and let the economic fallout from the virus put families on the street and potentially make them homeless,” said Precinct 2 Commissioner

Adrian Garcia. “I am proud that we are putting our CARES funding to work, and I wish the State of Texas would join us to keep families in their homes.”

The program will be administered by BakerRipley who will be responsible for application intake, review and approval of tenant applications, and payment processing. BakerRipley is also administering the City of Houston’s COVID rental assistance program.

“No one wants to see our neighbors evicted from their homes or property owners unable to collect their rents,” said Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. “Thanks to federal CARES Act funding, we

can help avoid that for hundreds of Harris County residents who have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own. I encourage those who need help to apply for it, and we in county government will continue to look for other responsible ways to help.”

During the application window, grant applications can be submitted online 24/7 at www.harriscountyrenthelp.org. Applicants will need valid photo identification, proof of residence within applicable service area (i.e., lease agreement), documentation of lost wages, and a copy of statements showing rental amounts due or a notice to vacate.

Sheldon ISD

Lt Col James Peace named Civil Air Patrol National Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year

SHELDON – Lt Col James D. Peace, teacher at Michael R. Null Middle School, has been selected from more than 38,000 members as the 2020 Civil Air Patrol National (CAP) Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year. Peace was recognized during CAP’s annual National Conference August 16.

The award recognizes the Civil Air Patrol member who is a certified K-12 teacher for outstanding accomplishments in aerospace/STEM education and for possessing those honorable attributes expected from American teachers who are inspiring the next generation of aerospace-related STEM citizenry.

When asked what drives him each day, Peace replied, “Parents want the best for their children. They want to know their children are safe and that they will learn the skills to help them develop into productive members of society. I have a multi-cultural and multi-gender classroom with an environment focused on commitment. I have the expectation that all students can learn and be successful.”

“Mr. Peace fully immerses the students in hands-on activities to encourage critical thinking and career exploration,” previous Null Middle School Principal Leroy Bradley shared. “He brings excitement to the classroom as students build hovercrafts, gliders, remote-controlled aircraft and model rockets to experience aviation. More importantly, students fully appreciate how they can contribute to the field of aviation.”

Lt Col Peace is a 17-year veteran teacher who has dedicated the last 12 years to



Lt Col James D. Peace, teacher at Michael R. Null Middle School, has been selected from more than 38,000 members as the 2020 Civil Air Patrol National (CAP) Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year. Peace was recognized during CAP’s annual National Conference August 16. Photo and release included.

Sheldon Independent School District and welcomes the opportunity to invite more students to this great program.

Waste Pits protest,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from environmental negligence, but we have a choice to ensure the safety of generations of Texans and our environment through reprioritizing the site based on accurate dioxin assessments and through restoring the immediacy to the site’s clean up timeline.

About Texas Health and Environment Alliance

The Texas Health and Environment Alliance’s mission is to protect water resources and public health by advocating and collaborating for the safe remediation of toxic contamination. We endeavor to establish an informed and engaged public movement to restore and protect environmental resources from toxic contamination.

About the San Jacinto Waste Pit/Coalition

For many years, the Waste Pits along the San Jacinto River were a hidden crisis posing great danger to nearby communities. The abandoned, dioxin-filled pits tainted local seafood and the river for decades. In 2015 the Texas Department of State Health Services confirmed elevated rates of cancer in children and people of all ages living near the Pits. THEA’s San Jacinto River Coalition, which is a community led group working to educate the public about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site was successful at urging the EPA to fully remediate the site.

About the EPA and their Decisions to Remediate the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Sites

On October 11, 2017, the

EPA approved a clean up plan to begin remediation of the San Jacinto Waste Pits. In addition to installing energizing controls like a cofferdam, the cleanup plan includes the removal of dioxin contained materials from the waste pits to be off-site for disposal. The approval of this plan and the preceding \$115 million agreement to remove the site’s toxic sludge successfully removed the San Jacinto Waste Pits from the “Emphasis List” of superfund sites. Unfortunately, the recent omissions found in the EPA’s reports impacted this progress. The recent adjustment of the remediation timeline to 7 years is a dangerous blow to project, which poses ramifications for local communities and the environment.

We are online at:
www.starcouriernews.com
www.northchannelstar.com



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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 Crt, Keene St
Middleton Super Market, Clinton Dr
Exxon King Fuel, Clinton Dr
Galena Park Medical Clinic, Clinton Dr

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LETTERS

To The Editor

Message from Jackey Lasater,
Mayor of Beach City

As you know, I am currently receiving radiation treatment for cancer that was discovered earlier this year on one of my vocal cords. I am very blessed to have found it early and should be clear of this disease when I complete my treatments in September.

I must confess, when my Dr. said the words “you have cancer”, It scared the heck out of me initially. After being reassured by the Dr. that we have caught it early and we should be able to beat this type of cancer and that it probably hasn’t spread, which scans later proved to be true, I was able to return to normal thinking.

After coming face to face with my mortality, priorities have began to change in my mind. One is the quality time that I spend with my wife Marilyn.

Because of these events, I have decided to not seek re-election as Mayor of Beach City in November. This was not an easy decision as I have loved representing you as an Alderman, Mayor Pro-Tem or Mayor since May of 2009. I was warned early on that it would be, usually a thankless job. I have not found that to be true at all. Many of you seem to go out of your way to make sure I know that I am appreciated. For that I will always be grateful.

I look forward to helping the new Mayor make the transition as seamless as we can. As with the former Mayors, I will only be a phone call away if help is needed. Beach City is in good hands. Our city council is one that most cities would be jealous of. It is amazing that a town as small as Beach City could produce such talented and dedicated citizens on one council.

Thank you all for your encouragement and prayers.

Jackey Lasater,
Mayor, Beach City**



Mrs. Forrest

Mrs. Forrest has always been a compulsive feeder. Before she retired, she was cooking for the Mule Barn truck stop’s customers, and is singularly responsible for about three flabby tons of avoirdupois on this nation’s truck drivers, and may have been marginally responsible, third-hand, for a cardiac event or two.

But now she’s retired, and a widow, and her kids all have kids and are scattered like a covey of quail. Local bachelors of a certain age know if they should just happen to be chatting with Mrs. Forrest on her front lawn along about supper time, there’s a dang-near dead certainty they’ll get a meal out of it.

And, through the magic of telepathic communication and the synchronistic wave lengths of humanity, the message about Mrs. Forrest’s unstoppable feeding compulsion had somehow reached the psyches of the homeless.

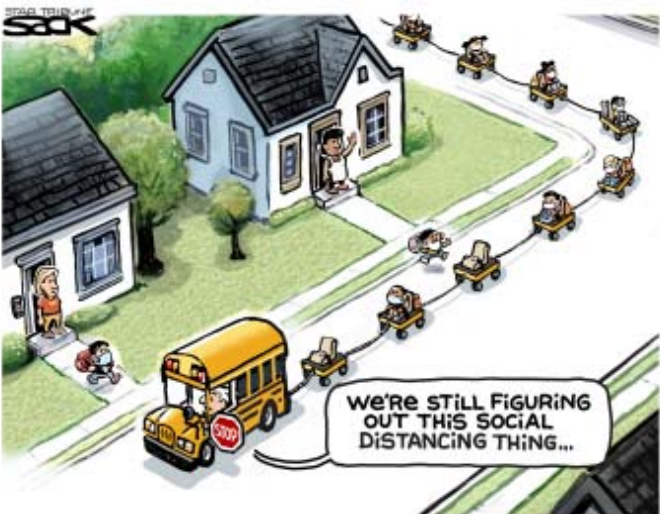
At any rate, two of the aforementioned drifters had knocked on Mrs. Forrest’s door and asked if there were any chores she needed done in exchange for some food. Well, you should’ve seen her eyes light up at that question. She said she had a bunch of firewood that needed to be split into kindling and if they didn’t mind doing that, she’d fix them a chicken dinner with cream gravy. Mrs. Forrest puts cream gravy on everything.

So she busied herself in the kitchen, and then went out to see how these fellows were doing. And there, leaning on an axe handle, was one of them, and the other was doing gymnastics in and around the woodpile. It was amazing. He’d come out of a round-off flip flop and then gracefully go into a full layout Sukuhara with a right-hand twist. She watched in awe for a few minutes before whispering to this gymnast’s partner.

“I had no idea your friend was an acrobat,” she whispered.

He looked at her and whispered back, “Neither did I ‘til I cracked him on the shin with this axe.”

Brought to you by Ol’ Max Evans: The First Thousand Years, by Slim Randles.
www.unmpress.com.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler



Texas tries nation’s first
virtual criminal trial

A Texan’s speeding ticket put her in the legal history books last week.

To combat the backlog in criminal cases created by the pandemic, a Travis County justice of the peace conducted the nation’s first virtual criminal trial. The case was livestreamed on YouTube, and the jurors deliberated in a private Zoom room.

Legal experts debated whether trial by Zoom properly balanced constitutional concerns such as the right to a speedy trial and the right to confront witnesses.

The test case? A nurse’s misdemeanor ticket for speeding in a construction zone. The jury found the nurse, Calli Kornblau, guilty of speeding but acquitted her of the construction zone violation. She received a deferred sentence and was ordered to pay a \$50 fine, plus court costs.

The jury is still out on whether Zoom is the courthouse of the future. The Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association had some fun on Twitter with the practice: “A JP is having a virtual jury trial this morning on a speeding ticket. Does that mean the JP will have to have virtual coffee with the police officer before the trial starts, too?”

Texas docs: Get your shots

Texas doctors are taking their best shot at encouraging people to get immunized.

August is National Immunization Month, and the Texas Medical Association is distributing a series of columns by physicians in support of vaccinations.

“Vaccines are among the safest and most effective tools available to and used by physicians. Yet vaccine hesitancy and even refusal are increasing,” Dr. Sue Bornstein, a Texas Medical Association board member, wrote in her column.

Doctors should make recommending vaccina-



tions a part of routine patient visits, she said. The pandemic makes this even more important as researchers race to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, she added.

This job will take you places

SpaceX aims to put people on Mars from its launch site near Brownsville. First, though, the spaceport needs an out-of-this-world resort.

The company placed an unusual help-wanted ad last week: for a resort manager in the tiny unincorporated Boca Chica Village near Brownsville on the mouth of the Rio Grande River. The right candidate will develop the resort from inception to completion, according to the ad.

The job requires a bachelor’s degree and five-plus years of experience in construction management. One additional requirement: Must be able to travel for short and extended trips as needed.

SpaceX, which made history recently as the first private company to send astronauts safely to space and back, also released footage of a successful 150-meter hop Aug. 4 by its Starship SN5 prototype.

Ports-to-Plains plan

The Ports-to-Plains corridor study of Interstate 27 will be navigated during a virtual public hearing at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, and Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Texas Department of Transportation officials will make the presentation

and allow time for public comment. People also may mail or email comments about the study until Sept. 10.

The Legislature approved last session a study of expanding I-27. The interstate runs from Amarillo to Lubbock. The plan calls for extending the road north of Amarillo and south about 500 miles from Lubbock to Laredo.

To join the WebEx public hearing, go to [TxDOT.gov](https://www.txdot.gov). For questions, call 512-486-5106.

How many hats can a Texas deputy wear?

People who live in Texas as small towns are used to wearing a multitude of hats.

But the Culberson County attorney isn’t sure a chief deputy also can serve as an elected alderman, or city council member. County Attorney Stephen Mitchell filed a request last week for an opinion from the Texas attorney general’s office. He attached a 1975 AG opinion that such wearing of multiple hats was not legal.

The deputy ran for and was elected as an alderman in Van Horn, the Culberson County seat in West Texas. He has since been promoted to chief deputy.

“Issues have been raised about ‘dual-office holding,’ inasmuch as both ‘offices’ pay sums of money to the deputy on a monthly basis,” the county attorney wrote. “Additionally, there appear to be issues regarding common law or constitutional ‘conflicts of interest.’”

The yin and yang of ranching

“The Future of the Wildlife Enterprise” will be at your fingertips through a free Zoom symposium offered by two departments at Texas A&M-Kingsville.

The Oct. 29-30 sessions will highlight the challenges and opportunities of balancing ranching and wildlife resources. Registration is required and free. Visit krirm.tamuk.edu/symposium to register and download the complete agenda.

Correction

The Texas Primary Care Consortium sent an open letter to Gov. Greg Abbotts to ask him to take a variety of steps to increase residents’ access to health care. Last week’s column incorrectly reported the organization’s name.

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“More Dog
Stories”

It seems I have acquired a reputation.

I have been handing out dog treats for three months. Every day, I take the same trail, and every day, I meet many of the same customers. Dogs have an amazing memory when it comes to getting a treat—particularly from a stranger.

One dog is not allowed treats. “No treats!” his owner says.

Before I knew her better, I suggested, “Maybe he’d like a treat?”

“Wouldn’t we all?!” she said. (That lady sounded like she could really use a treat.)

But she is the only one. There is a Bernese Mountain dog, appropriately named Bernie, who always gets a treat. He does not even stop to greet me. He does a drive-by, taking the treat from my hand, then hurrying on to his important dog appointments.

There are two runner dogs, Fergus and Luna, who I see twice a day because their owner runs roughly the same route I walk in the opposite direction. I decided two treats every day was a bit much, so I only give them a treat on the second leg. Then one day, they took a different route home. When I saw Fergus the next day he looked at me like I’d cheated him out of a treat.

Usually, the last dogs I see are two border collies, Ray and Cruiser. But yesterday, there was a big change. There were no longer two border collies—there were three. And the third was a puppy.

“A puppy!” I more or less squealed.

The border collies’ owner, Ruthanne, was out with them.

“She’s not ours!” Ruthanne told me. The puppy, another border collie, was their daughter’s. The daughter was training to be a physical therapist and had a six-week rotation where her accommodations would not permit dogs.

So, the puppy, whose name was Scout, was staying with Ruthanne. Scout was only nine weeks old, which means she was nothing more than a black and white puffball of cuteness. Scout had been through a lot in the last twenty-four hours. She was scared of the new surroundings, scared of the new dogs, scared of the new people. At the moment, she was scared of me, offering her a treat.

I waited.

“Come on, Scout,” Ruthanne coaxed. Scout got close to my hand and then scampered away. We spent five minutes this way: Ruthanne holding Ray and Cruiser while I sat on my haunches with the treat extended.

Finally, Scout took the treat. She looked surprised.

“Now, that was worth it, wasn’t it, Scout?”

I don’t see the border collies every day so I thought it would be a lot to hope for to see them again today. But when I came through the woods, there were Ray and Cruiser. They ran up to me and sat looking at me, with that intensity peculiar to border collies.

Then Scout saw me. She came running, on her little fluffy legs. She scrambled through the woods until she got to the two dogs, sitting at attention. She stood on her tiny back legs and squeezed herself between the two big dogs, who did not budge until she was wedged in the middle. I’m not sure when I have seen anything so adorable.

“Scout! You have to sit!” Ruthanne told her.

I gave a treat to Ray. I gave a treat to Scout, I gave a treat to Cruiser.

“Well, she’s only nine weeks old,” I reminded Ruthanne. “The rules don’t kick in until she’s ten weeks old.”

Somehow, I’m pretty sure Scout will have it down before then.

Till next time,
Carrie
[CarrieClasson.com](https://www.CarrieClasson.com).

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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.

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OBITUARIES

Howell Dean Coleman

Howell Dean Coleman, 85, of Crosby passed away Friday July 31, 2020 at his home in Crosby, Texas with his loving wife of sixty years, Martha, by his side. Howell was born in Temple, Texas on September 25, 1934 to Miladie and Earl Coleman. On July 17, 1960 he married Martha Ann Necas of Rogers, and together they raised two daughters, Sandra Kay and Shari Lynn.

Howell graduated from Huntsville High School in 1951. After attending Victoria Junior College, he proudly served in the U.S. Army from June 1954 – June 1956. After his military service, he attended Sam Houston State University and received both his Bachelor of Science degree in 1958 and Master of Science degree in 1963.

Education was important to Howell, and he spent thirty-two years as a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and principal in school districts in Rogers, George West, Weslaco, and Crosby.

Faith was an important component of Howell's life and he served as an usher and member of various committees with the Crosby and George West Unit-



ed Methodist Churches. He also served on various committees in the Lake Shad-ows Community.

Howell seemed to know a little bit about almost everything and could be counted on to help friends and family with home repair or construction projects. His favorite pastimes were vegetable gardening and barbecuing for family gatherings. He cooked a mean brisket and over the years family, friends, and neighbors all had occasion to enjoy How-ell's hospitality and cook-ing.

He was an avid fisherman who particular-

ly enjoyed weekends on Lake Mathis when he and his family lived in George West.

Howell was pre-ceded in death by his parents, Miladie and Earl Coleman and his brother Doyle Ray. He is survived by his wife Martha; daughter Sandra Benoit; daugh-ter Shari Coleman and wife Erin Enlow; grandchildren Holly Kay Benoit, Carlin, Ross, and Ben Enlow; and a great grandson Cyrus Swangle. He is also survived by brother Dal Coleman and wife Maureen; brother Kenneth Cole-man and wife Bernice, sister-in-law Velma Cole-man; aunt Dorothy Kuban; and several nieces, neph-ews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials in honor of Howell's life may be made to Crosby United Method-ist Church, American Can-cer Society, or American Heart Association.

Condolences and mem-ories can be shared online at www.sterlingwhite.com.

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Steve Edward Kotal

Steve Edward Kotal was born to Ruth and Stanley on a Tuesday in No- vember during the Great Depression.

He was born in Galveston, where his parents hap-pened to be visiting family.

He was the fourth of five, weighing only four pounds at birth, the smallest and young-est boy.

He grew up in Sheldon on 20 acres gifted to his Dad from Great Grand- ma Antonio Kotal.

Growing up dur- ing the Great De- pression, he was used to hard work but said, "boy, we had a lot of fun."



Hearing that they were hiring at the Warwick, he beat a path to the art dis- trict.

The Warwick was being renovated fol- lowing a fire and, af- ter waiting to talk with the foreman, Dad modestly offered his service.

Something about his demeanor struck the foreman, and he asked if Dad had brought his tools along.

They made a quick walk out to Dad's truck.

One good look, and he was hired.

Dad ended up working on the War- wick – and the Presi- dential Suite, to boot!

He, like many others, grew up during the Great Depression, with only the essentials.

He said the family bare- ly had a Christmas when he was small.

Other than a small hand-made toy and piece of fruit, there were few gifts, and, he said, they "were glad to get 'em!"

He never looked for praise or reward, but high- ly valued respect.

In turn, if he felt you earned it, he showed it.

He "wore many hats," as seen in his service and sup- port of the first South Lake Houston EMS.

From helping pour the foundation, to completing interior work – even build- ing the kitchen cabinets and installing them by himself.

As Harris County, Pre- cinct 3, Election Judge in Sheldon, Dad logged many a meeting leading up to elections and worked late into the night accompany- ing results downtown to ensure secure delivery.

He served the Second Baptist Church of Chan- nelview faithfully from 1956 through 1966, as an ordained Deacon, choir member and Sunday School Director – then, relocating to the First Baptist Church of Sheldon from 1966 through 2011, he faith- fully served as an ordained Deacon and choir member –

until, finally, settling in service at Bellville United Methodist in 2011, where he signed up as a volunteer community taxi driver and sang his heart out as a member of the Chancellor Choir.

He was a dedicated, willing and happy servant throughout his life in the service of God's work – praising Him in music and song.

Above all, he loved to laugh – good, clean jokes that were told – and retold...He kept that sense of humor until the end.

Dad was honest, sincere, dedicated to good work and hard as a tack.

"If a task is once begun Never leave it 'till it's done.

Be the labor great or small,

Do it well or not at all." That was Dad.

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ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What are ‘Ethics’ and why are they important?”

One dictionary definition of ‘ethics’ that I rather like is: “The basic concepts and fundamental principles of decent human conduct. It includes the study of universal values such as the essential equality of all men and women, human or natural rights, obedience to the law of land, concern for health and safety and, increasingly, also for the natural environment” “...principles of decent human conduct.”

Those five words speak volumes. To better understand ethics or ethical conduct, let’s talk about what unethical conduct is and how you’ll know it when you observe it.

Take a look around you every day and you’ll see countless examples of unethical conduct or behavior. A “man” abusing or striking a child or a woman, a punk wearing his pants below his butt cheeks showing what we don’t need to see, another vehicle cutting you off in traffic, someone tossing their garbage onto the ground, a thief breaking into your home and stealing what is not theirs, parents who fail to teach their children respect & manners, our “education system” indoctrinating our children rather than “teaching” our children, elected representatives violating local, state, and federal laws with no accountability, the complete failure of young people to take responsibility for anything, and finally the outright lack of respect for our elderly, our first responders and our military & veterans.

These are just a few examples of unethical conduct. For me, however, there is one act of unethical conduct that tops them all...For someone to witness an act or action of gross unethical conduct and to do nothing about it. This makes you as

unethical as the person or people who committed the original act. It is our core responsibility as parents, grandparents, citizens and human beings to immediately correct this behavior whenever and wherever we see or hear it occur.

You might ask, “Well, what can I do?” or “How can I stop unethical conduct?” or “Why is it up to me to do something?” If you don’t say or do something to stop it, then who will?

It’s about time that we get control of our children and their education again, control of our neighborhoods again, and control of our liberties again. You must either get involved or live with the consequences associated with unethical conduct. Is such behavior acceptable, or not?

I guess that’s for each of us to decide for ourselves or you could allow someone else to make that decision for you. It’s your personal ‘Freedom of Choice’. “If you chose not to decide, you still have made a choice”.

So again, “what are ethics and why are they important?”

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. J

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.

Free COVID-19 testing schedule for week of August 17

UPDATE (Aug. 17) - The Houston Health Department and Texas Division of Emergency Management announce an additional free COVID-19 testing site [this week](#). Drive-thru testing is available at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center, 4014 Market St, August 18-22 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., or until reaching daily capacity of 250 tests. The site is operated by the health department August 18-20 and does not require appointments. TDEM operates the site August 21-22 and requires appointments by calling 844-778-2455 or visiting txcovidtest.org.

UPDATED Flyer: Houston Testing Sites: Week of Aug. 17, 2020—HOUSTON

The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the [schedule for sites](#) offering free COVID-19 tests the week of Aug. 17, 2020.

Houston Health Department. The Houston Health Department, in partnership with the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and the State of Texas, will offer testing at two high-volume capacity test sites. The two Houston surge sites, each with a 1,250 daily test capacity, open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday at:

Darrell Tully Stadium, 1050 Dairy Ashford
Kingwood Park Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive

Appointments are available at www.doineedacovid19test.com. On-site registration is also available. The department also offers free drive-thru testing at two other mega sites in Houston, located at Delmar Stadium and Butler Stadium. Each site is open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching daily capacity of 650 tests. People wanting to get tested at Delmar Stadium, 2020 Mangum Rd., can call the department’s COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220 between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive an access code. Butler Stadium, 13755 S. Main St., no longer requires an access code, commonly referred to as an appointment.

Texas Division of Emergency Management. Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Houston Astros offer free COVID-19 tests daily at Minute Maid Park, Lot C. The testing site’s capacity is 2,000 tests per day. The site opens 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features eight drive-thru testing lanes and four walk-up testing lanes. Spanish-speaking staff is available on-site. Visit texas.curativeinc.com to set an appointment or obtain more information. TDEM and the department also operate drive-thru testing sites at:

Harris County Cultural Arts Center, 13334 Wallisville Rd.,
Crump Stadium, 12321 High Star Dr.,
HCC-Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Dr., and
HCC – South Campus, 1990 Airport Blvd.

TDEM sites require appointments, available by calling 844-778-2455 or visiting txcovidtest.org. TDEM will also operate a walk-up site that doesn’t require appointments at the Merfish Teen Center, 9000 S. Rice Ave, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

United Memorial Medical Center. United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) will offer weekday testing at drive-thru test sites at Plaza Americas Mall, 7500 Bellaire Blvd.; Houston Community College-Southeast, 6815 Rustic; and Houston Community College-Felix Fraga, 301 N. Drennan St. The sites don’t require appointments and offer testing from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching daily capacity of 250 tests. Other UMMC drive-thru sites opening weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. are:

UMMC Tidwell, 510 W. Tidwell Rd.,
Forest Brook Middle School, 7525 Tidwell Rd.,
Cullen Middle School, 6900 Scott St., and
Griggs School, 801 Regional Park Dr.

People needing information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit ummcscreeing.com.

Ibn Sina Foundation. The Iba Sina Foundation offers free tests with rapid results at two of its clinics, 5012 N. Shepherd Dr. and 11226 S. Wilcrest Dr. Appointments for the Shepherd location are available by calling 832-426-3760 and appointments for the Wilcrest location are available at 281-495-7462.

Federally Qualified Health Centers The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand their COVID-19 testing capacity. The centers and phone numbers people can call to set up testing appointments are:

HOPE Clinic: 713-773-0803
Spring Branch Community Health Center, 713-462-6565
El Centro de Corazon, 713-660-1880
Avenue 360 Health and Wellness, 713-426-0027
Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston, 346-348-1200, and
Scarsdale Family Health Center: 281-824-1480.

FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to pay or lack of insurance. The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 for current Houston test sites and information about stopping the spread of the virus. Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

CHARLOTTE’S WEB

Teach Them Young

Last Saturday was yet another chance to see multigenerational love in action. Retired NFL players Selvin Young and Cory Redding, organized an opportunity to be a blessing to the Cloverleaf Community. These two men made a couple of phone calls and secured the donations of meat, vegetables, fruits bread, eggs and more. They reached out to others to show up to volunteer and by the time the gates were opened at Cloverleaf Elementary, the group of 40 was organized, attempting to sing and ready to serve.

Cars were in line as early as 7 a.m. and wrapped around three sides of the school. The cars were filled with neighbors who had needs. In talking with many of the drivers, we realized the value of social media and well as connections in the community. The average age of the adults who were in line was close to 60 yet they had learned of it from their children and grandchildren who had seen it on social media. There were those in line who heard it by word of mouth as well as those who happened to drive by.

Donnie Onnen, a stranger to very few people in the Cloverleaf community was there with a large group of youth from The Juncture Church. These youth were noticeable in their fluorescent colored shirts and even brighter smiles. The love that these youth have for helping others is beyond words. This group of preteens and teenagers have so much energy. They unloaded the truck, organized the food categories on the tables and started bagging up the items while the cars lined up. Once Selvin and Cory prayed with the group, spoke encouraging words, and gave the signal, the process flowed smoothly. Over 300 families were blessed with food and perhaps even more blessed to see the teamwork.

Kristina Zatopek and Stephanie Ubersnosky were reflecting on days with North Shore athletics had taught them teamwork while others mentioned that they had been volunteering with Selvin and Cory for years.

Selvin recently founded Farm to Neighborhoods which works together with Brothers Produce to help distribute fresh food to families. Selvin and Cory became friends while attending The University of Texas. Over the years, as Cory held camps at the Glenna Park ISD Stadium, Selvin would help spread the word about the camp as well as show up to help Cory and other NFL retirees teach the campers about football and so much more. For 15 years, as youth attended the camps, they would tell you in a heartbeat how they knew that Cory and the guys cared about football, but they also heard about how the men cared about helping others. Through the Cory Redding Foundation, each year, college becomes a reality to high school students wishing to attend the University of Texas.

Being a part of the community is awesome, giving back and building relationships is even better.



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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: northchannelstar@gmail.com
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Foundation takes over control of Battleship Texas

Prepares move to shipyard for repairs

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Transfers Operational Control of the Battleship Texas to the Battleship Texas Foundation

HOUSTON – Effective August 1, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has transferred operations of the Battleship Texas to the Battleship Texas Foundation (BTF).

In 2019, the BTF and TPWD entered a memorandum of understanding/lease (MOU) with TPWD whereby the BTF would operate and maintain the Battleship TEXAS for TPWD and the State of Texas. Under terms of the MOU between these two long standing partners, the operational control is transferred via a 99-year lease to the Foundation.

The Texas has been closed to the public since August of 2019 to allow preparations for her transport to a shipyard for extensive restoration.

Currently, the BTF and TPWD are preparing the ship for transportation to a shipyard where her hull will be replaced from the waterline down and repainted, along with other necessary repairs and improvements. The ship is tentatively scheduled to depart her current berth between November-December 2020 and be in the shipyard for a period of approximately



Members of the BTF (Battleship Texas Foundation) celebrate taking control of the ship.

12 months. Once the battleship leaves the shipyard, we anticipate the ship arriving in the new berth around January-February 2022. Following a period to prepare the ship for reopening, the plan is to have it receiving visitors by 1st Quarter 2022.

Once the Battleship TEXAS is reopened to the public the BTF will operate the ship with the highest standards of preservation, maintenance, and will consistently offer new experiences and programs for the ship's visi-

tors to enjoy.

The BTF is a nonprofit foundation that was founded in 1999. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the Battleship TEXAS and develop this historic ship into a premier museum and visitor attraction. In 2019 the BTF and TPWD (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) entered a 99-year memorandum of understanding/lease (MOU) with TPWD whereby the BTF would operate and maintain the Battleship TEXAS for TPWD and the State of Texas.

Juan Flores new president of the GP/JC Rotary Club

GALENA PARK – The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club held their Installation and Awards ceremony last June, and installed Juan Flores as the new president.

Installing officer was Bryan Clements, and the ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church, F. Batiste Church, in Galena Park.

The club meets twice per month on Tuesday lunch hour, and invites new potential members if you are interested in the community projects and social network of the club. Contact Bryan Clements at 832-386-4255 or any Rotarian.



In a traditional ceremony, Outgoing club president Marcos Ramos passes the gavel of Authority to the new president of the GP/JC Rotary Club, Juan Flores.

San Jacinto Pilot Club hosts Texas District representative

At their August 11, 2020 meeting, the San Jacinto Pilot Club welcomed their District Administrative Council representative, Lt. Governor Joanne Patterson. Members gathered in the home of San Jacinto Pilot Club member Karla Green.

Joanne shared the goals of the Texas District, the focus for this year—autism awareness—and thanked everyone for continuing to serve our community during these difficult times. She shared how all clubs are doing things differently, including fundraisers.

She charged the club and members to continue to “stay the true course” of Pilot and continue to be creative in their approach to service.

San Jacinto Pilot Club is a part of Pilot International, a 501(c)3 organization which is a community-based volunteer service organization founded in 1921 in Macon, GA on the principles of “Friendship and Service.” The name “Pilot” was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day



San Jacinto Pilot Club members with state DAC Lt. Governor Joanne Patterson

who represented leadership and guidance. Pilots Clubs are found across the U.S., the Bahamas, Japan, Liberia and South Africa. Pilots carry out their mission to “Do More, Care More and Be More” by providing financial and hands-on support for national and local initiatives in keeping with its causes of youth development & leadership; brain safety & fitness; and caring for families in times of need. In addition, there are over 7,000 school-level Anchor Club members worldwide—including the North Shore Anchor Club, through which Pilot encourages and provides opportunities for youth development and leadership. Pilot International remains headquartered in Macon, where its staff serves its international constituency. For more information visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com and www.PilotInternational.org.

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