

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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

Chamber Gala set for April 29

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Invites you to their 44th Annual Gala.

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at the Sylvan Beach Pavilion,
1 Sylvan Beach Dr., La Porte, TX 77571. Social Hour starts at 6:30 PM, and Dinner at 7:00 PM.

Sponsored by United Community Credit Union, other sponsors available from \$200 to \$1500.

For information and reservations, yesenia@ncachamber.com or call 713-450-3600.

GP-JC CIP meeting Apr. 1

Galena Park-Jacinto City Community-Industry Partnership

The Big Freeze: Plant Experiences, Lessons Learned, What Plants Will Do Differently

Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:45 Sign in and get settled. 6:00 Call to order. Adjourn by 7:30 p.m. RSVPs due to Diane Sheridan by Wed. night, Mar. 31. DBSfacilitator@gmail.com or 281-326-5253

Zoom Meeting hosted by Kinder Morgan Galena Park Splitter

COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

Registration
[HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](https://houstonemergency.org/covid19)

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

Registration at
readyharris.org OR
<https://vacstrac.hctx.net>

832-927-8787

RETAIL PHARMACIES

Registration at Websites
CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Sams Club, HEB, Kroger, Randalls

HOSPITALS

houstonmethodist.org
memorialhermann.org
ehhc.care (east houston hospital)

COVID-19

Cases as of
March 29, 2021

HOUSTON AREA

19 COUNTIES

616,767 POSITIVE

6,419 DEATHS

566,780 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,789,638 POSITIVE

48,231 DEATHS

21,199,010 TESTS

UNITED STATES

30,391,747 POSITIVE

550,952 DEATHS

390,026,186 TESTS

WORLDWIDE

128,125,926 POSITIVE

2,801,858 DEATHS

72,656,781 RECOVERED

Jacinto City's children get Easter Bunny treats



Jacinto City's Easter Bunny giving Easter bag goodies to Jacinto City's Alcala family. John, wife Erica and son Ivan. Saturday, March 27, 2021.

L - R: Bunny Helpers; Mayor Ana Diaz, Councilman Mario Gonzales, Bunny & Councilman Gregg Robinson Photo by Allan Jamail

NS Rotary holds "No-Fish" Fish Fry Benefit on May 15

The North Shore Rotary Club is planning their 46th Annual Rotary Fundraising Event, a Fish Fry without the fish this year, due to the Pandemic. Instead of the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville, it will be held on May 15, 2021 at Turner Chevrolet.

During the past 46 years, the North Shore Rotary has raised millions of dollars that this great organization has then invested back into our communities. Each year the North Shore Rotary "Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil" remains one of the most exciting events of the year. Rotary identifies many people and causes needing assistance during the year. 'Service Above Self' is a way of life for all Rotarians and it is that commitment that drives each of us to help those in need.

This year (like last year) COVID has

not made it possible for us to have the fish fry part of the event and, while we will miss that part this year, safety is the most important aspect of any event. However, the Rotary MEGA Raffle will absolutely be held on May 15, 2021 at Turner Chevrolet and here are some of the great prizes You could Win:

- * Choice of 2021 Chevrolet Camaro or Colorado
- * 1/2 Side of Beef with Freezer

Continued. See NS ROTARY, page 8

NS Mustangs Soccer Team wins Bi-District 6 - 4 over Deer Park

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX - Friday, March 26, 2021 at the GPISD stadium the North Shore Mustangs Varsity Soccer team advanced in the Boys Soccer 6A Regions 3 & 4 playoffs by defeating the Deer Park Deer 6 - 4 in overtime in the Bi-District round.

The Mustangs under head coach Richard Hurtado with Assistant Coaches Marlon Trent and Ezequiel Calleros leads the district with an impressive record of 10 wins, 2 loses and 2 ties.

The Mustangs fell behind the Deer 2 to 0 and had to play vigorously hard

Continued. See NS SOCCER, page 8



Allan Jamail Group Photo

Back Row: L - R: Principal Dr. Joe Coleman, Head Coach Richard Hurtado, AT Tim Chavanne, AT Mariana Guillen, #14 Emiliano Lopez, #4 Julian Roque, #0 Carlos Dominguez, #9 Gerardo Roma, #2 Leonardo Lopez, #23 Alejandro Huerta, # 99 Andres Montes, #21 Oscar Rodriguez, #3 Christopher Jaimes, AT Martha Perez, Asst. Coach Marlon Trent & JV Coach Ezequiel Calleros.

Middle Row: L - R: #11 Sandro Valdez, #16 Jose Soto, #7 Ronaldo Rubio, #17 Gilberto Reyna, #8 Hamilton Estrada, #10 Ivan Sanchez, #1 Erick Rubio, #13 Andrew Magaña, #19 David Figueroa Herrera, #24 Edson Martinez, #6 Angel Yañez, *BB German Lopez.

Front Row: L - R: *BB Jose Basave, *BB Fredy Chavez, #18 Diego Loya, #15 Carlos Castillo, #5 Allan Chavez, #20 Hector Contreras, #12 Miguel Becerra, #22 Alan Huerta, *BB Carlos Delgadillo, *BB Alexander Martinez. Not present Video Antonio Ortiz (* BB = Ball Boy)

Ribbon Cutting opens new JC Elementary



Photo by Allan Jamail

CUTLINE: Attendees at Jacinto City's Elementary School ribbon cutting, Monday, March 29, 2021. Cutting the ribbon with scissors is Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Gardea, Principal (left center) and Norma Hernandez, GPISD Trustee.

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. - Monday, March 29, 2021 will go down in history as one of the most important days in the City's history. In 1944 its first school a tiny wooden building originally named the Industrial Elementary School which contained one office, a small kitchen, cafeteria, and several classrooms with 200 students now has been transformed to the latest state of the art school. In 1947, the city of Jacinto City was incorporated and the name of the school was changed to Jacinto City Elementary.

Two years after the

May, 29, 2019 ground breaking ceremony the new two story \$26 million plus school, home of the Tigers (mascot) has the most latest technological advances available. It will accommodate grades Pre-K through fifth grade.

The indoor ceremony began with an invocation from Rick Blount, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, Pledges to the flags by fifth graders Angelica Gonzalez and Allen Cardenas, GPISD Superintendent Dr. John Moore Jr. welcomed attendees, Introductions made by Executive Director Sherrhonda Johnson, Trustee and

former Tiger student Noe Esparza gave a greeting from the Board of Trustees and the entertainment was provided by the Honor Choir under the direction of music teacher Jueretta Berry. They sang "Jacinto City is the Best School in the World" written by Jueretta Berry.

A partial list of those attending the ceremony were the GPISD Superintendent Dr. John Moore Jr., Trustees Noe Esparza, Norma Hernandez, Associate Superintendent Terri Moore, Senior Director for Facilities Planning Sonny Fletcher, Executive Director for Community Relations

Sherrhonda Johnson, Coordinator of Web Services Chris Gause, Principal Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Gardea, Assistant Principal Cecilia Meza, Administrative Aide Dina Gonzales, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia, Jacinto City's Mayor Ana Diaz, Council members Carmela Garcia, Mario Gonzales, Allen Lee, Gregg Robinson, City Manager Lon Squyres, Police Chief Joe Ayala, Fire Chief Rebecca Mier, State Senator Carol Alvarado and State Representative Ana Hernandez were in Legislative Session and were represented by Sara Montelogo-Oyervide and Linda Jamail re-

spectively, President & CEO North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Margie Buentello and representatives of VLK Architect and Comex Corporation Contractor.

North Channel Star writer Allan Jamail whose daughter Yvette and son Allan Jr. still go by the school's motto, "Once a Tiger always a Tiger". He and his wife Linda Jamail were taken on a excellent educational tour by Classroom Interactional Competence Teacher Claudia Trevino.

GPISD's Senior Director for Facilities Planning Sonny Fletcher said the school has a functional capacity of 750.

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Street Racing Arrests top 200,
some cars confiscated



Deputies confiscated and towed 12 cars.

HARRIS COUNTY – More than 200 people were arrested on charges ranging from DWI to reckless driving during a county-wide crackdown on illegal street racing this past weekend, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Thursday.

The arrests were the result of a joint initiative including the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Houston Police Department and other law-enforcement agencies.

Twelve vehicles were also seized.

"Flybys are being prosecuted. Street takeovers are being prosecuted. Street racing is being prosecuted. All of these crimes can land you behind bars because these actions can turn deadly," Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said. "It's wrong to put innocent people's lives at risk just for an adrenaline rush. This initiative saved lives."

The initiative focuses on arresting dangerous drivers to save lives on Houston's roads and highways.

"Hundreds of peace officers, prosecutors and support staff spent all of Spring Break protecting our community from dangerous street racers," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "Thanks to them, not one motorist lost their life because of a street racer. I personally thank each of them for keeping our streets safe and saving lives."

In addition to the Harris County District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and HPD, the initiative also included the Chambers County Sheriff's Office and Texas DPS.

The partnership also involved the Houston Raceway Park. Owner Seth Angel has urged car race fans to practice their hobby on legal race tracks, not on public roads.

This is the fourth year of the annual anti-illegal street racing program, which took place from March 17-21, 2021.

Prosecutors with the DA's vehicular crimes division worked over 115 combined hours over the five-night event to assist law enforcement with charges, search warrants and evidence collection. There were 222 arrests.

Charges filed included:

- Racing on a Highway: 56
- Reckless Driving: 30
- Obstruction of a Highway: 14
- Deadly Conduct: 10
- Evading Arrest: 12
- Driving While Intoxicated: 53
- Intoxication Assault: 1
- Assault of a family member: 2
- Child Endangerment: 1
- Possession of a Controlled Substance: 14
- Weapons charges: 18
- Car Theft: 2
- Theft: 2
- Aggravated assault of Public Servant: 1
- Interfering with a police officer: 3
- Failure to Identify: 1

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Super Site Food Distribution at North Shore Senior High



On Friday, March 26, Galena Park I.S.D. partnered with the Houston Food Bank, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, Harris County Precinct 2 and Harris County Precinct 3 Community Outreach Division to host a Super Site Food Distribution at North Shore Senior High School for local families.

Every month, GPISD and Precinct 3 partner together to distribute non-perishable food items to local community members. This month, we were delighted to host a Super Site with food donations from the Houston Food Bank to provide meals for 3,000 families.

We would like to thank the numerous GPISD employees, Houston Food Bank, Congresswoman Garcia and Harris County Precinct 2 and 3 officers for assisting with the distribution.

Huffman ISD Houston Rodeo Art Show Winners

Huffman ISD announces the winners of the 2021 district Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program. Students of all ages have participated for many years ranging from Pre-K through 12th grade. The program is designed to encourage the education and appreciation of our Western heritage. Students create Western-themed art entries that include paintings, drawings and sculpture. The 2021 district Rodeo Art Show & Open House theme was "Roped In." The event was held at Huffman Elementary School on February 4. Family and friends were invited to come celebrate the winning works along with the student artists.

Hargrave High School winners were: Best of Show - Isabella McClelland, 11th grade, "Pick of the Litter," colored pencil; Gold Medal - Kaitlin Martin, 9th grade, "Sisterly Love," mixed media; Gold Medal - Reese McBurney, 11th grade, "More Food Please?," mixed media; Special Merit - Skylar McCrary, 11th grade, "The Chase," acrylic painting; Best of Show - Savannah Sullivan, 10th grade, "Rust," ceramic sculpture; Gold Medal - Jeremy Rangel, 10th grade, "Azbache," ceramic sculpture. High school students are instructed by Victoria Parker, HHS Art Teacher.

Huffman Middle School winners were: Best of Show - Amy Trevino, 7th grade, "Jolly, Molly, Coco"; Gold Medal - Cheyenne Cunningham, 8th grade, "Mamzy Moo Cow's Flower Crown". Middle school students are instructed by Andrea Avelar, HMS Art Teacher.

Elementary level winners were: Best of Show - Hannah Binnig, 5th grade, "A Lonely Day," Huffman Elementary School instructed by Cinamon Leslie, HES Art Teacher; Gold Medal - Keira Blankenship, Kindergarten, "Miss Bella," Falcon Ridge Elementary school instructed by Veronica



Hargrave HS Best of Show Art - Isabella McClelland, 11th grade, "Pick of the Litter," colored pencil.



Hargrave HS Best of Show Sculpture - Savannah Sullivan, 10th grade, "Rust," ceramic.



Huffman MS Best of Show - Amy Trevino, 7th grade, "Jolly, Molly, Coco."



Elementary Best of Show - Hannah Binnig, 5th grade, "A Lonely Day," Huffman Elementary School.

Hallum, FRE Art Teacher.

While the exhibit had a limited occupancy due to Covid 19, attendees had plenty of room and time to see the numerous district artwork. For those who could not attend in person, a "Roped In" Virtual Exhibit was set up by art

teachers as well. This allowed for many family and community members to see the creative artwork from both near and far.

Winning entries will be on display at Reliant Center.



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Sheriff Gonzalez: to better serve and protect

A Message from Sheriff Ed Gonzalez:

At the Sheriff's Office, we have been working hard to implement strategies and solutions to better serve and protect our residents and to keep building trust.

We recently formed the Community Problem-Oriented Policing Unit, also known as CPOP, to foster meaningful relationships with residents, gain insight into the unique needs of each community, and empower people with knowledge and resources through our partners.

Each patrol district will have two dedicated deputies who will spend their time getting to know the businesses, schools, houses of worship, and neighborhoods in their area. They will start to establish relationships with the neighbors that make up the community.

In all of these efforts, the goal is to get the community involved before a crime takes place; to create a bond before a crisis erupts. This way, residents feel more empowered to share what's on their mind and what public safety concerns or issues on their block keep them up at night. And that makes us all safer.



We're using community policing and data to drive down crime and enhance our quality of life. We want to ensure that the residents we serve are our partners; that we're all working together to tackle problems, especially the hard ones.

Last week, we announced the move toward a greater reliance on data analysis to identify the nexus of crashes and crime. The proven operational model called Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) improves deployment decisions, keeps deputies and residents informed, and demonstrates the power of data to address disproportionately affected areas.

As an agency, we're always exploring innovative approaches that align with our core values, promote transparency and accountability, and focus on engaging residents in a deeper way.

Our neighbors should bring concerns to the deputies patrolling their community. Our deputies should actively include their voices – even those critical of law enforcement – in conversations around strategies for resolving problems in their neighborhood.

CPOP deputies will be knocking on doors, reviewing calls for service, working collaboratively with district commanders and various units across our agency, and seeking community input through surveys and forums. They will be following up with residents to make sure their issues were properly resolved. They will connect people with critical resources through our partners, such as the United Way of Greater Houston and BakerRipley, to assist them with their needs.

Over the next several weeks, the CPOP Unit will attend training focused on the relational policing and community policing models and will work with patrol district leaders on an action plan to rollout in their areas.

As peace officers, our actions must be driven by our training and love for our community. Over the past year, civil unrest over racial justice has led to countless demonstrations across our country. For some, it meant an erosion of trust in law enforcement. Our deputies must be ready and determined to meet this moment. Their work must be an extension of our core values.

We want to help build a foundation so that we can trust each other and rely on each other. And that's what community is about – the idea that we're all in this together. That's the ultimate goal.

During the recent winter storm, you may have seen a social media post from District V Patrol Commander, Capt. Kinnard-Bing, that went viral. Our deputies responded to a call at a hotel in northwest Harris County where they learned a patron couldn't afford the room for the night. The deputies covered the overnight cost for the hotel room to keep the patron and his family safe and warm.

Their actions were met by a flood of supportive posts from our followers who thanked the deputies and offered to pay for more nights at the hotel if the family was still in need. And that's not just a testament to our deputies – because when the act of kindness went viral, folks across our county began asking how they could help, too.

That's Harris County at its best. That's good police work. That's what so many of you in our community represent. Let's keep pushing our world in the right direction – toward lending a helping hand to those in need; toward being a good neighbor; toward equity and fairness.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Bill tightening voting restrictions in Texas passes Senate committee

A Texas Senate committee on Friday passed an elections bill that would tighten the state's voting rules by limiting extended early voting hours, requiring proof of disability to qualify for mail-in voting and prohibiting drive-thru voting. Senate Bill 7, sponsored by Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, is one of Gov. Gregg Abbott's legislative priorities this session.

During testimony Friday, the committee received opposition testimony from AARP, the League of Women Voters, NAACP and other groups. Hughes described his bill as attempting to strike a balance between "maintaining fair and honest elections with the opportunity to exercise one's right to vote," according to the Texas Tribune.

ANY TEXAN OLD ENOUGH TO LEGALLY DRIVE CAN RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE

More than 10.2 million Texans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as of Sunday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The pace is expected to quicken now that anyone 16 years and older can receive one of the three versions available in the state. A total of 3.57 million Texans are fully vaccinated — about 12% of the state's population. DSHS has directed vaccine providers to give priority to people 80 years and older.

To that point, a new outreach partnership between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and several partners was announced last week by Gov. Gregg Abbott. Among those participating to expand the state's Save Our Seniors program launched in February are the Texas Employee Retirement System, Texas Teachers Retirement System, AARP and various Medicare health plans.

More than 1 million doses of the vaccine are being



shipped to Texas providers this week. Texans can call 2-1-1 or go to <https://tinyurl.com/9dvptm9> for more information about getting the vaccine.

COVID-19 CASES IN TEXAS DROP SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped to 27,185 last week, with 741 deaths reported. Both are down just slightly from the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations of confirmed COVID-19 cases also showed a slight decrease to 3,308, according to DSHS.

HEALTH CARE FRAUD CASE ENDS WITH PRISON TIME, \$82.9 MILLION RESTITUTION

The state's Department of Workers' Compensation announced last week that the remaining defendants in a health care fraud bribery scam were sentenced by a federal judge. The case involved surgeons, physicians and hospital administrators at Forest Park Medical Hospital in Dallas. It began in 2016 and involved 14 defendants, who were sentenced to a combined 74-plus years in prison and ordered to pay \$82.9 million in restitution. According to a news release from DWC, the department's fraud unit identified health care providers at Forest Park who billed the state's workers' compensation system. The

unit turned over the data to the FBI.

"Fraudulent billing within the health care system drives up the costs of health care for everyone," Debra Knight, DWC deputy commissioner, said. "These significant sentences demonstrate that health care fraud will not be tolerated."

FOREST SERVICE ACQUIRES ACREAGE THROUGH LEGACY GRANT

The Texas A&M Forest Service has acquired Fox Hunters Hill, a \$1.6 million conservation easement of sustainably managed forest adjacent to the Sabine National Forest in Deep East Texas. The acreage was acquired through the U.S. Forest Legacy Program, which acquired more than 23,000 acres throughout the South to protect forestlands at risk due to urban development or clear cutting.

TFS works with landowners on a "willing buyer/willing seller" basis to obtain the lands and enhance sustainable forest management. "A conservation easement is an interest in land acquired to protect certain conservation values," explained Gretchen Riley, the Forest Legacy Program Coordinator at Texas A&M Forest Service. "It is a good way to assure important, vulnerable landscapes – and the benefits they provide to Texans – are sustained for the future."

Fox Hunters Hill borders 213,000 acres of protected lands in the Angelina and Sabine National Forests, including one of the last undeveloped coves of Toledo Bend Reservoir.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SOCIAL MEDIA IDENTITY THEFT

The Texas Department of Insurance has some advice on taking simple steps to protect social media accounts and thus avoid most scams. Those tips include:

- Don't post ID cards, including a COVID-19 vaccination card.
- Watch out for online quizzes and surveys that ask for personal information, such as the model of your first car, name of your first pet, or your hometown. Those are often also security login questions.
- Don't overshare. The more a scammer finds out about you, the easier it is to create a fake account.
- Limit app sharing and close old accounts.
- Protect family members, especially teens, who are the most likely to overshare.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Out Like a Lion

March is winding down and my sister-in-law, Lori, is going with it.

There is too much food and too many flowers because that is what we do when someone is dying, when we don't know what else to do as, gradually, the unthinkable becomes accepted and even ordinary. We make more food and bring more flowers. But there is too little time. There is always too little time.

Lori is spending most of the time she has left sleeping, which means she is not in pain but also that no one can talk with her and we miss her already, while she is here among us.

There are circles of grief, as I've heard it explained. Her husband, Robert, is at the center, and one ring out are her children and my husband, her brother. I am a bit further out in orbit, in Lori's solar system of sorrow, missing her ready laugh and irreverent observations.

"Take a brownie, if you want one," her son, Bobby, tells me. I haven't had a brownie in ages, and so I do.

There are casseroles in the freezer and desserts on the counter. Lori's daughter has made a mix tape of Lori's favorite music that is playing. A group of women friends have made a collage with Lori's photo at the center, made to look as if she is a giant purple butterfly.

And, because it is March, there are vases of tulips and crocuses on every level surface. Pink and yellow blooms are everywhere, and everyone is waiting and watching and trying to be helpful. There is so much to do. There is so little to be done.

I remember when I first met Lori. We were not the best of friends. She was a strong woman with fierce opinions, some of which I did not share.

But after her illness, we grew close. The circumstances were unusual. We spent many hours talking about things that people may not get a chance to talk about—unless they happen to be alone together during a pandemic and dying. I learned to love her seemingly bottomless capacity for empathy and her adventurous spirit. I knew, almost from the beginning of the pandemic, that I was experiencing something special. I felt genuinely blessed.

The last time I spoke with Lori, she was so tired. I told her we had just come by to tell her how much we loved her. She said, very softly, "I'm going to haunt you, you know."

"I hope so," I told her. She smiled and closed her eyes. And it's true, I do.

Lori rode motorcycles and flew planes and even jumped out of one once. She talked to strangers at every opportunity. She was open to new ideas and changing her mind and always giving people the benefit of the doubt. I would be happy to be haunted by her curiosity and her caring and her ribald humor and her insatiable thirst for new experiences and new insights.

And, if such a thing were possible, I would love to have her looking over my shoulder, prodding me.

"Can't you be a little braver, a little more honest, a little less proper? What have you got to lose?"

What have I got to lose? Right now, losing Lori seems like a terrible loss.

I had the privilege to be with Lori as she died peacefully in her sleep on the first day of spring. And while, at this writing, I don't know how March will end, I know my sister-in-law, Lori, went out like a lion.

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

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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OBITUARIES

INA B. WELCH, 102

Ina B. Welch age 102 of Highlands, TX passed away on 2/24/2021. Ina was born on 11/30/1918 in Wallisville, TX the daughter of Robert and Winnie Munger. During her life, Ina was a hairdresser for many years; she also enjoyed painting and being with her family and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Highlands, TX

Ina is preceded by her husband, R.V. Welch, their son Reggie Welch, sisters; Alma Robinson and Valda



Carter, brothers; George and A. Munger.

Ina is survived by her son, Joseph Welch, and his wife Lois of Highlands, TX, grandson, Eric Welch and his wife Shara of Alpine, TX, granddaughter,

Toni Kuntz of Bandera, TX, grandson, Chad Owen of Mt. Pleasant, MI, daughter-in-law Mary Welch of Bandera, TX, and great-grandchildren; Austin and Olin Welch of Alpine, TX

Visitation for Ina is Monday, March 29, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM with services following at 12:00 PM at Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery.

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THOUGHTS FROM
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

At the Top of Your Lungs

It's not often that I bring a song to our music minister's attention, but when I discovered Crowder's "Good God Almighty" I had to. It's one of those songs that demands your attention. Think about these words.

Good God Almighty
I hope You'll find me
Praising Your name no matter what comes

'Cause I know where I'd be
Without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs

YES! I think we all have a pretty good idea of where we'd be without His mercy, and it's not something any of us really care to think about. Knowing this, how can we do anything less than praise Him at all times, in all situations, no matter what?

Dear Lord, if we had no guarantee of anything beyond the fact that our eternal destination lies with Him, it would be worth praising Him every day of our lives, but we have so much more! The Bible is filled with promise after promise; He loves us and wants the very best for us.

The song also exhorts us to...

Praise Him in the morning
Praise Him in the noon time
Praise Him when the sun goes down

You probably realize that worshipping God three times a day was common Hebraic practice. It's what God Daniel in trouble – the fact that he was all in with God to such an extent that he faithfully prayed three times a day regardless of the fact that it was against the law. How many Christians would do that today?

Do you have what it takes to stand up for Jesus even when the rest of the world is bowing to other gods? We may not be in a situation quite like Daniel's...yet...but the possibility is definitely there. We have seen the threat clearly in the shutting down of churches during COVID, and in many other parts of the country the attack on the church is absolutely mind blowing. So is the fact that churches across the nation are giving up without a fight.

Christians, we can't give up! He is a GOOD God, and He is ALMIGHTY, and our only option, as His faithful children, is to live praising Him. Praise Him at the top of your lungs.

www.myhillsidefamily.com @myhillsidefamily

Precinct 2 Vaccination Sites Open
April 1 - No appointment required

Starting today all adults (18 years and older) are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. This week, I'm bringing the vaccines directly to the Precinct 2 community. I invite you to take a look at the flyer below to find the location nearest to you. You may register for one of the three locations ahead of time OR walk in on a first-come, first-served basis, and our

staff will get you registered on-site.

Remember COVID-19 is still among us. Continue to wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, and practice social distancing. I encourage you to share the following information and help get the word out.

Working for you,
Adrian Garcia, Harris Co. Precinct 2 Commissioner

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PACITY.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
9am-4pm

North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church
444 Maxey Rd. Houston TX 77013

Northeast Community Center
10918 1/2 Bentley St. Houston, TX 77093

COVID shots open
to everyone,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

burden on themselves as possible.

Also next week, DSHS will launch a website to allow people to register for a shot through some public health providers. The public will be able to enroll in the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler to identify upcoming vaccine clinics hosted by DSHS or a participating local health department and be notified when new clinics and appointments become avail-

able. People can continue to find additional providers though the DSHS Vaccine Information page at dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine.

Online registration will be the best option for most people. For those for whom that is not an option, DSHS will launch a toll-free number to provide assistance making an appointment with a participating provider or locat-

ing another provider that has vaccine available.

To date, Texas has administered more than 9.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, equating to more than 6 million people with at least one dose and more than 3 million fully vaccinated. Most vaccines are authorized for people 18 years old and older; the FDA has authorized the Pfizer vaccine for use in people 16 and older.

COVID 19 Testing Sites in NE Harris County

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Texas Mobile Medical Labs

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(281) 328-7770

CVS Channelview (281) 452-7184
Appointment Req.

Crosby ISD
Apt. Necessary (281) 328-9200
14670 FM 2100 Crosby,

Crosby Community Center (when open)
409 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX
(281) 462-0543

Urgent Care MDs
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9 until 9
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About The Author
As one who has come from very humble beginnings and overcome many obstacles, I struggle daily to achieve the quest for happiness and inner peace.

Issac Bolston

On that journey toward happiness and inner peace, there are obstacles placed in one's path daily. Often times one has to go inside oneself to remove the obstacles. The answers are not always outside the person but on the inside.

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Channelview ISD Announces Principals Of The Year

March 25, 2021— Cobb Elementary Principal Lizette Castelline and Endeavor High School Principal Mark Sims have been announced as the 2020-2021 Elementary and Secondary Principals of the year.

Ms. Castelline became the Cobb Elementary principal in 2018. Before coming to Cobb, she was an assistant principal at Channelview High School. Ms. Castelline earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Texas Southern University and her Master of Science in Educational Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She began her teaching career in 2007 at Patrick Henry Middle School in Houston ISD, as a mathematics teacher.

“Ms. Castelline is an exceptional leader and her efforts have not gone unnoticed,” said Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis. “This year has been challenging, yet she has



LIZETTE CASTELLINE



MARK SIMS

led her campus with grace and understanding. She always encourages her staff and is the true definition of leading by example.”

The Secondary Principal of The Year title goes to Principal Mark Sims of Endeavor High School. Before coming to Endeavor in 2005, Sims was an assistant principal at Channelview High School. Sims has over 35 years of experience in education which began in the Galena Park Independent School District in 1985. Endeavor High School moved to the

Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center in the spring of 2012. Mr. Sims along with other Endeavor staff members assisted in the development of the new campus.

“Mr. Sims has helped nurture the Endeavor program and turn it into what it is today,” said Ollis. “This year he has helped those students who otherwise would have fallen behind or not been able to earn a high school diploma by providing them with the assistance they need to be successful either virtually or in the classroom.”

Galena Park ISD board election cancelled; trustees remain

At the Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees meeting on March 8, 2021, the GPISD Board approved an order to cancel the May 1, 2021 trustee election after receiving certification that candidates for trustee positions 1 and 2 were unopposed after filing deadlines expired.

Ms. Adrian Stephens will continue her service as a trustee in position 1, and Ms. Wanda Heath Johnson continues her long-standing tenure as trustee in position 2.

“Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Stephens have been loyal trustees dedicated to improving the lives of our stu-



ADRIAN STEPHENS



WANDA H. JOHNSON

dents and community,” said Dr. John Moore, Galena Park I.S.D. Superintendent of Schools. “It is a pleasure to continue work-

ing with them and the rest of our Board to provide the best possible educational experience for each of our students.”

Ronsonette is Galena Park ISD Spelling Bee Champion



Twenty students, consisting of the spelling bee winner from each GPISD elementary and middle schools, recently competed for the title of the Galena Park I.S.D Spelling Bee champion! The students participated in an online spelling test and the student who scored the highest was named the winner.

Congratulations to Ethan Ronsonette from MacArthur Elementary, who was crowned the GPISD Spelling Bee Champ and A'Myracle Green from Purple Sage Elementary was named the runner-up!

North Shore Mustang Gaming Club recognized by HSEL and Army National Guard

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to congratulate The Mustang Gaming Club at North Shore 10th Grade Center for being selected as one of the winners of the Build an Esports Lab Campaign presented by the High School Esports League (HSEL) and

Army National Guard.

North Shore 10th Grade Center was selected out of 25 schools across the country to receive an Esports lab. The lab includes six high-end specialty computers, worth over \$11,000. Over Spring

Break, HSEL traveled to North Shore 10th Grade Center to build the computers with students as part of a STEM lesson on how to build computers.

Congratulations to The Mustang Gaming Club!



CAPITOL UPDATE

Dear Friend,

The past two weeks at the Texas Capitol have been incredibly busy for Team Hernandez. On Tuesday, March 16, I presented House Bill 401 to the House Committee on Business and Industry, which would require large retail and food employers to notify their employees of their work schedule at least two weeks in advance, and mitigate the economic instability and difficulty in planning for family responsibilities often faced by hourly employees.

The House Committee on State Affairs convened for two hearings last week to consider legislation addressing the numerous issues identified following Winter Storm Uri and the failure of our electric grid. During one of these hearings on Thursday, March 18, I presented House Bill 16 which will prohibit companies like Griddy from offering predatory market-rate electric plans under the misleading guise of lower cost. House Bill 16 was voted out of committee and is scheduled to be heard on the House Floor on Tuesday, March 30 for consideration by the full Texas House of Representatives.

On Wednesday, March 17, I presented House Bill 917 to the House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services, which would make one of the ERS

Board's three elected seats eligible to be filled by either an active or retired member, as well as House Bill 914 to the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures, which would allow municipalities to authorize civil employees to request the removal of abandoned or illegally parked vehicles from the public right of way. Both of these bills have since been voted out of committee!

On Tuesday, March 23, I presented House Bill 402 to the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, which would allow the use of funds and assets seized in criminal cases to support assistance programs for survivors of human trafficking. Additionally, on Wednesday, March 24, Chairwoman Senfronia Thompson announced the formation of two new subcommittees in the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures. I am honored to be appointed to serve on the Subcommittee on Business and Occupational Regulation.

As always, my staff and I are here for you. If you have any questions about activities at the Capitol or would like assistance with an issue, please do not hesitate to call us at either (512) 463-0614 or (713) 675-8596.

Kind regards,
Ana Hernandez

1000 vaccine shots administered at Denver Harbor event



State Representative Ana Hernandez, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and others at the Denver Harbor Vaccine Distribution Event.

Today, slightly over 10% of Americans have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Unfortunately, a disproportionately small number of these individuals are Black and Hispanic. In Texas, the Hispanic population comprises only one quarter of those who have been vaccinated, although they make up roughly 41% of Texas' COVID-19 cases

and nearly half of Texas' COVID-19 deaths. Moving forward, we must work together to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccine is equally available in communities of color and easily accessible to our most vulnerable.

It is for this very reason that Rep. Hernandez partnered with Mayor Sylvester Turner, the Department of State Health Services,

and Councilwoman Karla Cisneros to host a free COVID-19 vaccine distribution event at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center on Saturday, March 20. Thanks to Mayor Turner, the City of Houston, numerous community partners, and all of the hardworking volunteers, we were able to provide vaccines to over 1,000 individuals.

COVID-19 Vaccine now Open to All. Here are instructions:

COVID-19 Vaccine Open to All!
Starting today, March 29, all Texans are eligible to register and receive the COVID-19 vaccine!

Harris County Registration Information

Visit the vaccine waitlist portal: <https://qoo.ly/3aisyc>. Fill out all of the requested information on the form. Eligible residents can also call (832) 927-8787 to be placed on the waitlist. This call line is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00am - 5:00pm. Wait for confirmation that you have been added to the system.

Harris County Appointment Information

Once selected, you will receive an email or phone call with information about your scheduled appointment. Be sure to arrive at your appointed date and time! Once you have received your first vaccine, you will receive a second email or phone call with information about your second scheduled appointment.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 491209; Estate of KEVIN MICHAEL BRINKMAN Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 11, 2021.

SHANNON BRINKMAN

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this MARCH 24, 2021.

Shannon Brinkman

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE

Proposals for RFP-MA 21-002 Fundraising Items will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM CST. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Administration Building, 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at purchasing@galenaparkisd.com or on our website: galenaparkisd.com/Page/1155

Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Finding Your Joy

Like many others, the pressures that we have all faced within the past year have sometimes zapped my energy. There are weeks that all is going well and then splat, you feel like you are a bug that was just hit by a windshield of a car moving 90 miles an hour.

Do you know that feel? One day my friend called to tell me that her young adult child had really messed up and was in jail. She did not know the first thing about posting bail or even finding out the charges. All she knew was that she was in traffic heading to the Houston Medical Center as her elderly father was being discharged from a six-week hospitalization with COVID. She was distraught to say the least. As I prayed with her, I could hear her over and over asking why she was experiencing so much at one time.

Later that same day, I heard from a young man who was upset that his father was not willing to cosign for him a vehicle. The frustration was real and many of the things which the young man pointed out seemed to justify that his dad should trust him enough to cosign for the loan, but I had to remind the son that we do not always know what is going on in someone else's life.

Many people look for their happiness or their joy in their status in the community or in the balance in their bank account. Many more look for that warm fuzzy feeling by accolades that they receive for completing a milestone such as longevity on a job or a recent promotion.

There are those who seem to find their happiness in making others look bad. I know, I hate to say it, but it is true. I recently listened to a friend who had spent months taking care of an ill relative. She was worn out from going above and beyond in helping the loved one. At the same time, it seemed as those she was seeking for someone to praise her. Maybe, if she had not sought praise, she would have been rewarded?

Life is busier and many people are “burning their candle at both ends” and yet there are more people dealing with mental illness and stress than before.

I pray that as many of the people in our lives will be celebrating Resurrection Sunday, we will all take time to slow down. Reevaluate our priorities and get back into a routine of taking care of ourselves, our loved ones and finding the happiness that money cannot buy. Make a list of those you have not talked to in months. Pick up the phone and call them. If there are people who without their friendship, this past year would have been even rougher, let them know. Life is too short not to be kind and find your passion.



Jalen Hurts surprises family with \$30k for new home

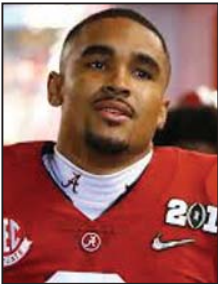
PHILADELPHIA — Channelview High School alum and Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts has been spreading a lot of love in and around the City of Brotherly Love.

He connected with the family of a 7-year-old boy named Erick, who is battling cancer, through Alex's Lemonade Stand to fulfill their Christmas wishes during this past holiday season. Hurts learned over that time that the family of seven from Nottingham, Pennsylvania, was living in a two-bedroom trailer, so when he went to visit them, he surprised them with a check for \$30,000 to put toward a new home.

“I know they've experienced a lot of adversity. They've had to deal with a lot of different things,” Hurts said. “But one thing I like to do is be encouraging at all times, uplift those around me, and I just wanted to make an impact in the city of Philadelphia, in this area.”

Alex's Lemonade Stand, founded in 2005 in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, is a pediatric cancer charity dedicated to changing children's lives and supporting their families.

Hurts, 22, also did a virtual meet-and-greet with



students from Boys Latin Charter School in West Philadelphia earlier this month along with NFL vice president of football operations Roman Oben. Hurts revealed during the session that he was donating \$10,000 to the school along with bucket hats for the entire football team.

Hurts, the Eagles' second-round pick out of Oklahoma, started four games his rookie season and threw for 1,061 yards with six touchdowns and four interceptions. He also rushed for 354 yards and three scores.

In August, he surprised a superstar named Alexander from Baton Rouge, Louisiana by sporting a custom blue backpack with Alexander's name on it, to match the one Alexander had in tribute to Hurts.

NS Rotary Benefit,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- * Deluxe Fireworks Package *
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Winners need not be present to win.

NS Mustangs Soccer,

Continued from page 1

to catch up. Soccer is a physical demanding sport on the legs with lots of running for 80 minutes in regulation play. Overtime is not unusual in the sport which puts even more stress on the legs. Trainer Tim Chavanne with student trainers Mariana Guillen and Martha Perez kept the players hydrated

as much as possible and worked throughout the game removing player's leg cramps.

The Mustangs next game is for the Area Round with the Shadow Creek Sharks with 5 wins, 7 losses and 6 ties at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster, Tx. on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6PM.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is the birthstone for April?”



HISTORY OF THE DIAMOND AS THE APRIL BIRTHSTONE

Natural diamonds are a rare and unique ultimate gift for a loved one. Thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe, diamonds date back billions of years. The diamond is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength.

Wearing diamonds is purported to bring other benefits such as balance, clarity, and abundance. It's also symbolic of eternal love, and those fortunate to call April the month of their birth will enjoy the following history behind this rare gem.

Diamond Gemstones

Adopted from the Greek word adamas, meaning “invincible,” diamonds come in a wide range of colors such as black, blue, green, pink, red, purple, orange and yellow. The color is dependent upon the type of impurities that are present in the stone. For instance, yellow stones have minuscule traces of nitrogen while blue ones contain boron.



During ancient times, theories touting the magical powers of diamonds were prevalent; some thought lightning bolts formed diamonds, while other theories asserted that diamonds were the tears of God.

The Healing Powers of Diamonds

During the Middle Ages, diamonds were thought to hold healing powers and to cure ailments stemming from the pituitary gland and brain. By heating the crystal and taking it to bed, it was thought to draw out the harmful toxins that were crippling the body. It was also believed that diamonds could have an effect on an individual's balance and clarity and could boost their energy when combined with other crystals like amethyst.

The diamond as the April gemstone has garnered the hearts of many and is the most coveted crystal to date. Deemed as the “King of all Birthstones,” diamonds make the ideal choice for an April birthday gift. (She'll love you for it!)

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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

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.

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