

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 9, NO. 14 (#367) THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

## 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.

### COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES

**CITY OF HOUSTON**  
Registration  
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, Randal's  
**HOSPITALS**  
houstonmethodist.org  
memorialhermann.org  
ehhc.care (east houston  
hospital)

### COVID-19 Cases as of April 6, 2021

#### HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

622,067 POSITIVE  
6,510 DEATHS  
573,978 RECOVERED

#### TEXAS

2,810,317 POSITIVE  
48,812 DEATHS  
21,682,763 TESTS

#### UNITED STATES

30,835,220 POSITIVE  
556,391 DEATHS  
399,706,574 TESTS

#### WORLDWIDE

132,135,010 POSITIVE  
2,866,016 DEATHS  
75,075,069 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

## ELECTION CANCELLED

# Jacinto City's Mayor & Council Unopposed

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – March 11, 2021 at the city council meeting the council approved the second and final reading of the ordinance declaring that the May 1, 2021 city election is cancelled. The position of mayor held by Mayor Ana Diaz in her 9th year and council position #4 held by Carmela Garcia (Water, Sewer & Sanitation) in her 9th year and position #5 held by Mario Gonzales (Streets & Drainage) in his 11th year went unopposed with no one filing against them, they'll retain their positions for another two years.



MAYOR ANA DIAZ



COUNCILWOMAN CARMELA GARCIA



COUNCILMAN MARIO GONZALES

The next city election will be May 7, 2022 for three council seats, Position #1 currently held by Jimmy (JJ) Rivas (Parks & Recreation), Position #2 Gregg Robinson (City Fi-

nances & City Hall) and Position #3 Allen Lee (Police & Fire).

Jacinto City has a full time City Manager (Lon Squyres) form of government. The City Manager

oversees the entire operation of the city. The mayor and the five council members are not full time, they get paid a monthly salary plus an additional gas allowance. The gas allow-

ance is paid to them for driving their personal vehicle while taking care of city related business. Their meetings are open to the public, they meet at 6:00 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the City Hall Annex at 10301 Market Street or unless otherwise posted on the city's website.

To learn about Jacinto City's government, upcoming meeting agendas, past meeting minutes, services provided, city budget, ordinances, fees, taxes, when

CONTINUED. SEE JACINTO CITY, PAGE 8

## GP Yellowjackets Soccer Team wins Bi-District State Championship contest 2 – 1 over Lamar Mustangs

By Allan Jamail

Pearland, TX – Pearl and Stadium, Tuesday, March 30th, 2021 the Galena Park Varsity Soccer Yellowjackets won the 2021 Boys Soccer 5A Regions 3 & 4 Bi-District State Championship, 2-1 over Fort Bend Lamar Consolidated Mustangs.

The Jackets bowed out of the playoffs against the Friendswood Mustangs 2-0 on Thursday, April 1st at the neutral site LaPorte, Tx. stadium. Friendswood scored 2 points in the 1st half, the Jackets were shut out by the awesome Mustang's defense. Friendswood advances to the State Championship against the Henderson Hawks from Pflugerville, TX., April 6th.

The Jackets under head coach Shannon Summers ended their season with an impressive 86 percent win record of 19 – 3. They had 12 consecutive wins with their bi-district win.



2021 GALENA PARK YELLOWJACKETS BI-DISTRICT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SOCCER TEAM

#1. Front row L-R:

Ernesto Villareal, Devin Stockton, Luis Guerrero, Alex Grimaldo.

#2. Middle row L-R:

Ricardo Hernandez, Leo Flores, Ricardo Ferral, Martin Lopez, Tony Zamora, Nathan Vasquez, Orlando Flores, Nathan Macias, Jesus Valdez, Fernando Mendoza, Leo Castro, Esteban Gomora, Jorge Cortez, Deziree Propes.

#3. Back row L-R:

Anthony Mata, Mikayla Sanchez, Galilea Flores, Head Coach Shannon W. Summers, Aidan Garcia, Bernardo Vazquez, Damian Rodriguez, Steven Botello, Paul Stockton, Isaias Quiroz, Juan Flores, Abdiel Lopez, Dalton Strouse.

Photo by Allan Jamail

## Garcia's motion will bring \$3 million to fight violent crime

HARRIS COUNTY – By a vote of 5-0, Harris County Commissioners Court approved an item presented by Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia which adds \$3 million to the Sheriff Department's budget to fight specific aspects of violent crime. Remaining Federal CARES Act money is being used to fund this initiative. The funds will be used to protect victims and reduce violent crime, stemming from the pandemic.

The additional \$3 million will be restricted to the following areas of investigation:

Murder  
Sexual Assault  
Aggravated Robbery  
Child Abuse  
Domestic Violence  
Warrants

"While others' rhetoric on crime usually focuses on making political statements solely to sell fear, I'd rather my office concentrate on action. All too often, the loudest voices you hear on TV would prefer to



grams that will actually keep people safe and hold evil-doers accountable. This is a smart use of these funds and even though the full extent of this plan can't be captured with three words on a posterboard, I'm glad to have sponsored the item."

"Fallout from the pandemic has driven a surge in violent crime across America, and Harris County has not been immune," said Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "As residents struggle with job loss, evictions, and the everyday stress of pandemic life, we have documented a significant rise in domestic violence, child abuse, murder, and other violent crimes. So far, our proactive anti-crime efforts have helped us avoid the major outbreaks of violence that other jurisdictions have reported. I'm grate

see themselves acting tough on the 10 o'clock news, rather than do the hard work that actually might make a difference" said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "I choose to invest in protect

## Senator Alvarado sponsors Texas Casino legislation

AUSTIN – New, bipartisan legislation was introduced in the House HJR 133 by Rep. John Kuempel, R-Seguin. In the Senate SJR 49 was introduced by Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston. Both bills seek to legalize casino gambling and sports betting in the Lone Star State through a constitutional amendment. The bills by state Rep. John Kuempel, R-Seguin, and Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston, would allow four casino resorts to be built in Austin, the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Houston and San Antonio and would also legalize sports wagering. The state's three federally-recognized Indian tribes would also be able to expand full-fledged gambling, including slot machines, on their land, a right the state has long denied them.

"Now is the time to let voters decide on legalizing casino gaming across Texas," Alvarado said in a statement. "Texas loses billions of dollars a year to our neighboring states that allow gaming and this measure would bring that revenue back to Texas, create tens of thousands of jobs and cut down on illegal gambling."

The number of casinos would be capped at four, not counting those built by tribes on Indian land. Three tribes currently operates casinos here, with limited gaming, slot machines, and Vegas-style table games. These are the Kickapoo tribe in Eagle Pass, the Tigua tribe in El Paso, and the Alabama-Coushatta tribe in Livingston. The state filed a lawsuit in 2017



STATE SENATOR CAROL ALVARADO

to close these because they violated the Texas constitution ban on gambling, but federal Indian Gaming law allowed them, and the matter remains unresolved in the courts. Limited gambling would also be allowed at certain race tracks.

Senator Alvarado introduced the bill saying "Bill SJR 49 is not to approve gambling but it's to give the voters the opportunity to vote on gaming. So, if it

CONTINUED SEE CASINO LEGISLATION, PAGE 8

Continued, see \$3 Million, Page 5



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commander@legionpost658.org**

## Chamber’s Tees n’ Tails tees off April 15

Eddie Foster announces the opening of the auction portion of the Tees N’ Tails as Ricky Loggins awaits his turn at the action.

CROSBY – The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce hosts their annual golf tournament and crawfish and shrimp dinner on April 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Stonebridge of Newport, 16401 Country Club Drive. Featured are a 8:30 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. breakfast, and a shotgun start at 10. Then there are the hole games including longest drive, closest to the pin and Bubba Drive. The dinner is expected to begin for some about 2:00 p.m. as the Silent Auction begins and is tallied at about 5:00p.m.

This 29th Annual Event features a live auction that may begin about 3:00 p.m. and awards at about 4:00. Raffles are held. The meal opens to the general public of crawfish or shrimp prepared by Crawfish Shack. The meals are \$15.

## Highlands SpeedBoat races set for April 11

Each year the Baytown Boat Club hosts the annual Highlands Races on Saturday afternoon. There is to be meals served for a price. No further details are available due to excellent communication.

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Family Medicine



Pooja Kulkarni, MD  
Family Medicine



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OPINION

By State Senator  
Carol Alvarado



## Texas Senate Democrats Condemn Passage of Senate Bill 7

AUSTIN, TX — The Texas Senate Democratic Caucus issued the following statement on the passage today of Senate Bill 7:

“Today, the Texas Senate passed Senate Bill 7, the most significant voter suppression legislation our state has seen in decades. We aggressively fought this bill because we know it will disenfranchise racial and ethnic minority voters and voters with disabilities, including veterans.

“Every eligible Texan deserves to have their voice heard at the ballot box — regardless of their race, ethnicity, disability, gender, age, income, or party. SB 7 makes it harder for every Texan to vote.

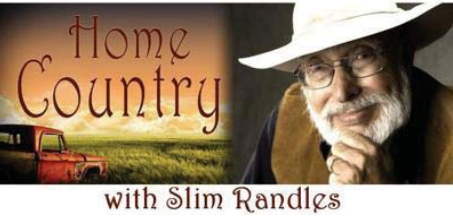
“If this bill becomes law, we would see more polling places close in historically disenfranchised neighborhoods and reduced voting hours — both of which would have a disparate impact on Black and Latino Texans. Poll watchers would be allowed to video record voters who are receiving assistance in voting, which the TX NAACP, MALDEF, LULAC and other civil rights organizations have warned will be used to intimidate people of color. It is unacceptable that in a state with a history of Jim Crow voter suppression laws, communities of color are once again facing disproportionate barriers to exercising their constitutional right to vote.

“The Senate Democratic Caucus stands united against this voter suppression bill that reads like the Jim Crow laws of the South. In our questions, we echoed the concerns that numerous civil and disability rights groups raised in the committee hearing last week. In addition, we offered over 20 amendments to both diminish the negative impacts of the bill and expand access to the ballot box — the vast majority of which were rejected on a party line vote.

“Texas elected officials have one primary duty: to represent the needs and voices of our constituents. Right now, Texans face serious issues — lost jobs and healthcare a year into the COVID-19 pandemic to the damage and ongoing fallout from Winter Storm Uri. These issues affect the lives of millions of Texans and demand immediate action. Yet instead of taking action to protect Texans from these crises, our Republican colleagues have spent precious legislative time trying to silence the voices of Texas voters.

“This is not what representation looks like. This is not what leadership looks like. We call on our colleagues to put Texans over politics and prioritize tackling the challenges facing our state.”

(signed)  
Sushma Jasti Smith Senior Counsel  
Senator Carol Alvarado (SD 6) Executive Director  
Texas Senate Democratic Caucus



## Fling into Spring

“Fling into Spring!” said our high school art teacher, Janice Thomas to herself as she headed out to pick up some groceries. “That’s what I’ll call it. Fling into Spring!”

She ear rumpled Woof, her deer pointer (he being half pointer and half cowdog and the herd instinct didn’t work well on deer, so he points them now. His tail didn’t work for a week.)

She took off down to the Soup ‘R’ Market and waved to Annette, who masked up and brought her groceries out to Janice’s car. Yes, even here.

“What do you think of Fling into Spring, Annette?”  
“Love it, Janice,” she said. “That’s why I picked it.”  
Janice tried to look puzzled through her mask. “You picked it?”

“You know ... for the high school picnic theme this year. I’m helping with the planning. But you must’ve heard about it.”

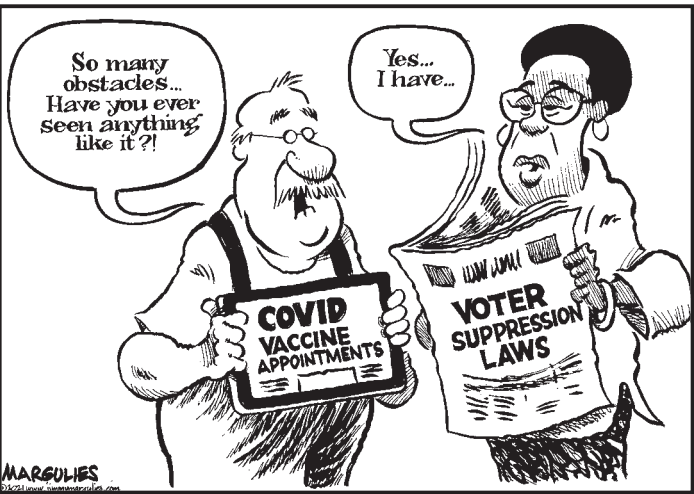
“No ... I thought it would be a good name for my spring art show ...”

Both women stared at each other’s masks, six feet away. “In that case,” Janice said, “I could change it, I guess. If the locals made jewelry we could call it Spring Bling, but that just doesn’t work too well for paintings, does it?”

Annette nodded. “I know. How about ‘A Sprint to Tint.’?”  
Janice started the car. “I guess it deserves a bit more thought.”

“I know!” said Annette. “Brush Strokes for Folks!”  
Janice nodded, sadly. Sure will be glad when they get a handle on this pandemic.

Brought to you by the 24,000 helpful folks at Hobby Lobby. Buy little tubes of paint online at hobbylobby.com.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The latest report on child maltreatment fatalities and near fatalities, compiled by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, indicates 251 children in Texas died in fiscal year 2020 due to abuse and neglect. That figure includes 28 children who died after being left unattended in hot vehicles.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, DFPS is encouraging communities to increase awareness of resources available to help prevent child abuse in Texas. Resources are available at [getparentingtips.com](http://getparentingtips.com).

### DSHS LAUNCHES TEXAS VACCINE SCHEDULER

With anyone 16 and older now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, the Texas Department of State Health Services has launched the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler. It establishes a single place to sign up for a vaccine through multiple public health agencies. Texans can visit [getthetvaccine.dshs.texas.gov](http://getthetvaccine.dshs.texas.gov) to create a profile and pick a preferred day and time for an appointment. In most cases, people will be matched with the next available appointment in their home counties.

People without internet service or who have difficulty using the online registration tools can call 1-833-832-7067 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week for assistance.

As of Sunday, 7.92 million Texans had been vaccinated, meaning 41 percent of the state’s residents have received at least one shot. Some 4.46 million are fully vaccinated. DSHS announced Friday that more than 2.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines are shipping out this week — more than double the previous high.

Meanwhile, new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped again compared to the previous week, with 21,754 reported, down



about 20% week to week. The number of deaths dropped to 637 last week, down about 14% from the previous week. Hospitalizations of confirmed COVID-19 patients again dropped, to 2,840 statewide.

### MCADAMS APPOINTED TO PUC

Gov. Greg Abbott has nominated Will McAdams to the Public Utility Commission, subject to state senate confirmation. McAdams will join the sole remaining member of the three-person commission, Chairman Arthur D’Andrea, who previously announced his resignation but agreed to stay on until Abbott could appoint new members. McAdams is president of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas and worked for legislators for more than a decade in various senior staff positions.

The PUC came under fire after the disastrous electrical blackouts during the mid-February winter storm, since it has supervisory power over the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which controls the power grid for most of the state. Nearly half of ERCOT’s 15-member board has since resigned.

An investigation by the Houston Chronicle indicates nearly 200 people died in the winter storm, primarily from hypothermia or carbon monoxide poisoning. More than 4 million homes in Texas were without power at the

peak of the crisis. As State Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, noted in the article, the winter storm death toll was almost double that from Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, HOMELESSNESS EXACERBATED AFTER STORM, PANDEMIC

A Fiscal Notes report from the state comptroller’s office indicates median-priced housing in all 10 of the state’s largest metro areas is unaffordable to Texans with median incomes. Median income is the point where half the people earn more and half earn less. For example, the median income in Austin in 2019 was \$39,418, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Brownsville, it was \$19,432, or less than half of Austin’s median. But in both metro areas, a home at the median price — \$491,000 in Austin and \$167,800 in Brownsville — is unaffordable to families whose annual income is at or below the median. (All figures are from 2019, the latest year available.)

The report notes a strong correlation between homelessness and housing affordability. Red-hot real estate markets in those metro areas have driven up home prices and rents. After a dozen years of decreases in the number of homeless people in the state, the number has risen since 2018. The latest count of individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night accounted for nearly 26,000 in Texas.

### DROUGHT CONDITIONS BLANKET TWO THIRDS OF THE STATE

While drought conditions have improved in the northern Panhandle, they have gotten more severe in South and East Texas, with 68% of the state’s land now under drought conditions ranging from abnormally dry to exceptional. According to the Texas Water Development Board, for the first time in five weeks the total area of the state affected by drought didn’t increase.

### NEW FILM SERIES REENACTS KEY MOMENTS OF BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

To mark the 185th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, in which Gen. Sam Houston and the Texian forces defeated Mexican Gen. Santa Anna to secure Texas’ independence in 1836, the Texas Historical Commission is releasing San Jacinto: A Lone Star Shines video series. Every day between April 19-22, the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site will release a short digital film depicting key scenes from the battle. Each day’s video will premiere at 11 a.m. with encore showings at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site’s Facebook page, and on the Texas Historical Commission YouTube channel. The films are free to view.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By  
Carrie Classon

## Nocturnal Negotiations

It’s amazing that anyone shares a bed.

I know there are plenty of married and cohabiting couples who have separate beds, or even separate bedrooms, and I can see the logic in avoiding the snoring, the thrashing, the different sleep schedules, and the need to negotiate the complicated issue of bedding.

But since marrying and moving into Peter’s house, we have shared a bed, and it is not a large one. So far, we have negotiated a peaceful settlement. This is because Peter has let me have my way.

There were a lot of improvements needed to the bed when I moved in with Peter.

First of all, he had sheets he described as “microfiber.” I don’t know what these tiny fibers were, but the only fiber I was interested in having in my sheets was cotton.

I don’t think (as Peter implies) this makes me a snob. I am not one of those who requires an absurdly high thread count. It was my wise mother who pointed out that a lower thread count makes for a cozier feeling sheet—provided, of course, that it is washed in unscented laundry soap and dried outside on the line.

I once read a story where a woman was ironing her pillowcases. This activity was proof that she was mentally unstable. I did not find the story convincing. I know my mother is of sound mind, and she’ll tell you that a pillowcase is a lot nicer after it’s been touched up by a hot iron.

Then there was the matter of blankets. Fortunately, we both like a cooler room at night, thus avoiding most of the disputes that happen between couples in the winter months. But Peter’s solution was to toss something on top of the bed that was the size, weight and color of a dead seal. That was obviously not going to work.

Once under the fleshy green leviathan, I could hardly breathe, and any kind of temperature adjustment was impossible.

“What if I get too hot?” I asked Peter.

“You stick a foot out.”

“I stick a foot out of the bed?”

“Yeah.”

“How does that help anything?”

“It cools you down.”

“It cools down one foot! Now I’m still hot but have a cold foot!”

We replaced the dead sea mammal with several blankets that could be used as needed, and I thought we had reached a nice resolution to the whole bedding issue until we visited Europe. There I saw they had one pillow that stretched across the bed that both sleepers could share.

“Ooh! I want one of those,” I thought.

But then Peter decided he wanted a peculiar pillow that supported his neck but not his head and looked exactly like a giant upholstered hotdog. I did not. So the lovely European style pillow idea was scrapped.

And still the nocturnal negotiations continue. Peter (unbeknownst to him, he claims) will migrate over onto my side, forcing me to cling to the edge of the bed to keep from falling out. This wakes me up just enough so I can nudge him. He will, with considerable grumbling, roll back over to his side, at which time I hastily grab whatever territory he has relinquished. It’s a nightly challenge in a small bed.

But it’s worth it. Because, as I move into the warmth that he has left behind, I’m reminded every night that he is there beside me, disturbing my sleep and stealing my covers. It’s a nightly reassurance that he is near.

Till next time, Carrie  
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).



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MILESTONES PAGE

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OBITUARIES

NORMA JEAN SASSER, 82

Norma Jean Sasser, 82, passed on from this life on March 24, 2021 at her home in Houston, Texas. Norma was born on January 6, 1939 to parents Ralph Marion and Willie Mae (Magaha) Moore in Jay, Florida. Norma married the love of her life, Clarence, in November of 1961 in Brewton, Alabama, and they enjoyed 59 years of love and marriage together. When she worked, Norma could be found in the cafeteria of Cimarron Elementary School, where she happily worked for 21 years before her retirement. Norma loved being outdoors, whether it was tending to her garden, her flowers, or spending time with her family while camping and fishing. She will be deeply missed by all who were in her life. Norma is preceded in death by her parents; and siblings, Laverne Boutwell, Lillian Simmons, and Earl Moore.



She is lovingly survived by her husband, Clarence Sasser, Jr.; daughter, Martha Taylor and husband Dutch; siblings, Frank Moore and wife Clara, Jeanette Leach and husband Robert, Rick Moore and wife Poy, Nancy Smith and husband Gary, Gerald Moore and wife Betty; grandchildren, Stacy Whitfield and husband Bo, Rachel Holcombe and husband Michael; great-grandchildren, Kaigan Jean Whitfield, Taylor

Anne Whitfield; as well as numerous extended family members and friends. Visitation was held on Monday, March 29, 2021 at Carter-Conley Funeral Home from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Funeral services for Norma, officiated by Uncle Buddy Leach, were held the following day, Tuesday, March 30, 2021 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home at 11:30 A.M. Graveside services followed at 1:00 P.M. at San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

  
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THOUGHTS FROM  
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

The King

After the most absurd year in our generation's history, many churches were open recently and we got to gather (to one extent or another) and celebrate what most call Easter. When you think about that holy week two thousand years ago, and then look at today...



On Palm Sunday, many of the Jews were welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. He rode into town with his donkey walking on cloaks and palm branches. Jesus was being hailed as a hero. The streets rang with shouts of, "Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." (Matthew 21:9) Their words were significant. It was understood that "the Son of David" would be the Messiah, the great king they had been waiting for, begging God for. But...

What king were they really looking for? On that day Jesus fulfilled the prophecy, "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass." (Matthew 21:4-5, Zechariah 9:9-10) Yes, they were shouting and praising, but think of the picture. Was this the warrior king who would deliver them from the rule of Rome? Because such deliverance was surely what they sought.

They were hailing Jesus as the king they wanted, the king tradition had them expecting. When they realized He had no intention of conforming to their plans, most turned their backs on Him. They wanted a king who would overthrow the rule of Rome and set them free to live the lives they thought they deserved. Their vision was so small.

Jesus' intent, His destiny, was far greater. He did not come to meet the need of the moment, to set them free from their current oppressors. He had come for something vastly more important, something eternal; He was on the scene to set them free from the rule of sin so they could live the lives that His shed blood would make them worthy of. They wanted a conquering king, but Jesus was far more than a conqueror: He was—is—THE KING.

It's easy to look back and judge that generation, but what about ours? How often do Christians (or would-be Christians) do the same today? Are we willing to accept Him as king only if He chooses to be the king we want, only if He behaves like the king we think we need, only if He's is willing to fit into our boxes?

The holy day we've so recently celebrated is special. It is a time of awakening, a season in which men's hearts are open perhaps more than any other except Christmas. Let us take advantage of it. As our hearts open more to Him, let us truly accept the King that He is. Let us set aside our boxes and presuppositions about who and what He is supposed to be and settle once and for all that in our lives He truly is THE KING.

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SHELDON ISD

Karen Gallow promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Academics

Sheldon ISD's Karen Gallow has been promoted to the role of Deputy Superintendent of Academics. She replaces Paula Patterson who was recently named the lone finalist for Superintendent of Schools in Crosby ISD. Mrs. Gallow has more than 20 years in education and has spent 11 of those years serving families and staff in Sheldon ISD. In her most recent position, Executive Director of Advanced Academics, she led and developed initiatives and programs related to Gifted and Talented, AVID, Career and Technical Education, Dual Credit, College Advising, GEAR UP, Advanced Placement, and college/career readiness.

"Mrs. Gallow's credentials exemplify our mission in Sheldon ISD which is to prepare our students for college and/or career," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. King Davis. "She has a vast knowledge of academics at all levels and has been responsible for many new initiatives in Sheldon that support our beliefs."

Gallow was the first Sheldon employee hired to develop and lead the district's Advanced Academics program. She played a significant role in the design and support for the Early College High School and its recognition as a Texas Education Agency college and career readiness model. She has presented instructional strategies at local, regional and national conferences. Her experience includes teaching and instructional leadership positions prior to working in Sheldon (English teacher, instructional coach, district curriculum and assessment design) in Beaumont ISD,



DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT KAREN GALLOW

Hampton, New Hampshire; Aldine ISD, Lone Star College, and Humble ISD, where she was recognized as Secondary Teacher of the Year.

"Over the past 11 years, the Sheldon community has become by extended family," said Mrs. Karen Gallow. "I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead for our students."

Gallow will transition into her role immediately where she will oversee the areas of Curriculum and Instruction, Elementary & Secondary Principals, Special Education Services, Grant Development and Compliance, Innovative Programs, Advanced Academics, PEIMS and Accountability and Multilingual Programs.

San Jacinto College launches "Finish Line" to help with tuition

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College has launched its new Finish Line program, utilizing grant funding to help cover tuition costs for students in participating programs who are close to earning their credential.

"We understand these are challenging times, and students may be struggling to make the financial commitment to their educational goals due to the pandemic's impact on their job, home life, or college plans," says Dr. Sarah Janes, San Jacinto College Associate Vice Chancellor of Continuing & Professional Development. "This new program allows the College to provide tangible, financial support to ease the burden for our students and to help them cross the finish line toward earning their degree or certificate."

Funded by the College's allocation from The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, the Finish Line program will provide last-dollar financial support covering tuition costs for up to three semesters—with a \$2,500 max distribution per student—for students in the following credit and non-credit programs:

Credit: Nursing (LVN), mental health, pharmacy tech, medical billing and coding, air conditioning, computer information technology, diesel technology, electrical technology, engineering design graphics, pipefitting, and welding

Non-credit: Phlebotomy and truck driving

Students enrolled in the qualifying programs must meet additional requirements to be eligible for the Finish Line program's financial assistance:

Texas resident eligible for in-state tuition

Have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA)

Have a financial need and are eligible for federal Title IV aid

Have affirmed they were affected by COVID-19

Enrolled in one of the approved Finish Line programs full time or part time

Have not been enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution in the previous semester or previous six months

Are within 12 months or 50-75 percent of completing their credential program

"Access to this program will be a lifeline for many of our stop-out students and displaced industry workers who have been hit hard by COVID-19 and who need a helping hand to get back on track toward their goals," says Janes. "We're glad to be able to provide a financial boost for these students to get them realigned with a clear path forward."

To learn more about the program and enrollment steps, visit [sanjac.edu/finish-line](http://sanjac.edu/finish-line).



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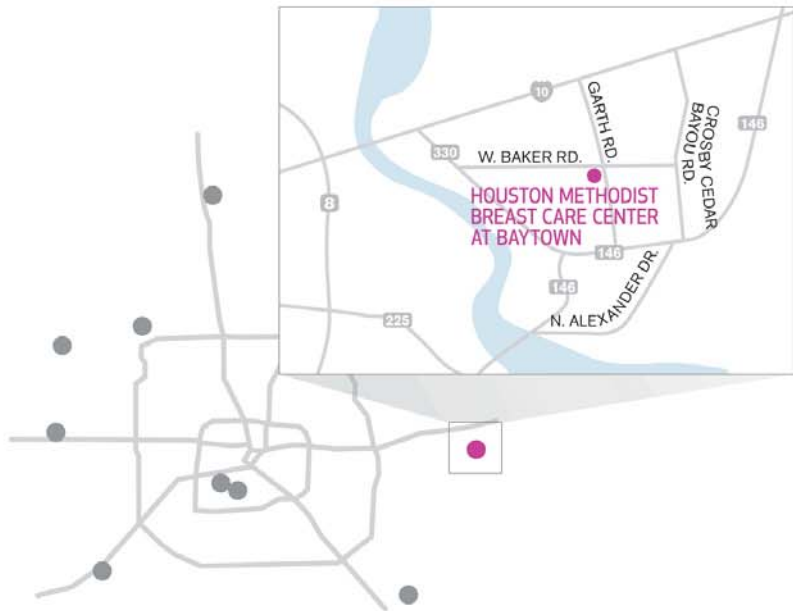


## Early Detection Saves Lives

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#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 491783; Estate of RICHARD E. CONTRERAS, SR. Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 30, 2021.

**RONALD E. CONTRERAS**

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 APRIL 5, 2021.

*Weston Cotten*

by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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17-4140 Notice of Election (2/92)  
Prescribed by Secretary of State  
Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, V.T.C.A., Election Code

#### NOTICE OF GENERAL TRUSTEE ELECTION

To the Registered Voters of Barbers Hill ISD, Chambers County, Texas:

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 1, 2021, for voting in a general election, to elect three trustees for a full three-year term, electing one trustee each for positions designated as Places 5, 6, and 7.

#### LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE:

Precincts 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 15

C. T. Joseph Conference Center  
Barbers Hill ISD  
9600 Eagle Drive  
Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:

Barbers Hill ISD C. T. Joseph Conference Center  
9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., beginning on April 19, 2021 and ending on April 27, 2021. On April 20 and April 27, 2021 early voting hours will be extended from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Barbers Hill ISD, c/o Lesa Hall  
P. O. Box 1108  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77580  
lhall@bhisd.net

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 20, 2021.

Issued this the 18th day of January, 2021.

*Fred Skinner*  
Fred Skinner, Vice-President, Board of Trustees

#### AVISO DE ELECCION DE ADMINISTRADOR

A los votantes registrados del Barbers Hill ISD, Chambers County, Texas:

El aviso se da por este medio que los lugares de la interrogación enumerados abajo estarán abiertos de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el 1 de mayo de 2021 para votar en una elección general para elegir a tres administradores para un término de tres años completo, eligiendo a un administrador cada uno para las posiciones señaladas como lugares cinco (5) seis (6) y siete (7).

Precintos Electorales del Condado de Chambers

Lugar de votación

Precintos 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 y 15

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Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580

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entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 4:00 de la tarde empezando el 19 de Abril de 2021 y terminando el 27 de Abril de 2021. El 20 de Abril y 27 de Abril 2021 horas de votación temprana se ampliará de 7:00 am a 7:00 pm.

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán enviarse a:

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lhall@bhisd.net

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el 20 de Abril de 2021.

Emitada este día 18 de Enero, 2021.

*Fred Skinner*  
Fred Skinner, Vicepresidente de la Junta de Síndicos

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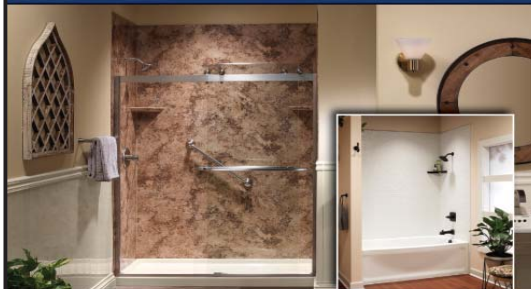
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# ASK THE EXPERT

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## Adapting to Change

If we like it or not, there are times that we must all adapt to change. Yet, when you have lived in one community for close to 50 years and suddenly you find 90% of the homes near you have sold to people who do not have the same values and traditions as yourself, how do you handle it?

In talking to several older community members this week, they expressed concerns that what has been a quiet peaceful street for years suddenly has more than it's fair share of concerns. Even worse, they cannot communicate with their new neighbors, often out of a language barrier, yet sometimes because the neighbor is not willing to even discuss the concerns.

There is one street that runs east to west which the City of Houston has added speed bumps to try to reduce the increasing amount of street racers from using their street at speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour. So, now that traffic has started using a street that runs north and south and has no speed bumps. One of the residents shared that she lives with a fear that those young people racing down her street are going to hit something and the vehicle with end up in a yard doing much damage.

And on her own street, there are several neighbors raising chickens and roosters. Not only do they have to listen to the noise but there is a foul smell in the air by mid-morning. Being a retired educator, she is aware that there are often some health concerns about having animals in the yards. Another neighbor has a pot-bellied pig in their yard.

A gentleman told me he never knows what day of the week it is, much less the time of day. His young neighbor sits in his truck blasting music almost continually. This older Veteran's bedroom window is less than 10 feet from the noise. And the neighbors frequently have visitors who are outside, in the front yard with live music, bounce-houses for the children, tables set up for family and friends to congregate and the streets are filled with parked vehicles which add to the congested street. He also noted that he has rarely seen a mask on anyone during the pandemic.

When one of the neighbors suffered a stroke, the City of Houston ambulance could not make it down the street from all of the vehicles parked along both sides of the street as well as a large number of people standing out there, alcoholic refreshments in their hands and the noise was so loud, they did not even hear the siren from the ambulance. The wife of the stroke victim had to drag her husband to the car and drive it to the end of the street for medical attention.

And speaking of the end of the street, that is where the mentally unstable neighbor frequently walks or dances in the street, often nude. Neighbors have called the Houston Police to come out but with the shortage of law enforcement officers, the lady is often gone by the time they arrive.

So, what is the solution? How do we adjust to change without giving up so many of our own comforts? It is more important than ever to research your elected leaders and become familiar with which agencies can help you and your neighbors meet in the middle somehow. Kindness goes a long way and will help make the adjustments easier on us all.

## Alvarado sponsors Casino Legislation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

passed there would be an election in November and Texans would go to the polls and vote on it. We would then come back in the next session which is in 2023 and pass the enabling legislation which would get into the specifics of gaming." Alvarado wanted to really emphasize that this is really just to let the voters decide. She explained that plan is not just gaming but a 4-5-star hotel, restaurants, shops, an entertainment complex as well as conference and convention center space. "This is about gaming but its about so much more, it's about creating jobs, 185,000 jobs created through construction and development, 70,000 jobs that would be direct and ongoing."

Weighing in on the probability of the bill being passed Alvarado says "I am prepared for a tough

uphill climb I've been filing the gaming casino bill since 2009. This is the first time I have some republican support. John Kuempel the author of the bill is a republican, so we have a democrat in the senate and a republican in the house which is encouraging." There are only regions where these destination resorts would be but no specific locations. She encourages people to call their Texas legislators to support the bill. She says she hopes that people focus on the attraction of boosting our economy and creating jobs. "Coming off the heels of the pandemic a lot of people lost their jobs, we have to continue to find ways to grow our economy. Although this would be six years out we have to start someplace and I think this is one way to generate jobs."

## Jacinto City Election cancelled,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city permits are required and to see if a sex offender is in your neighborhood go to: [www.jacintocity-tx.gov](http://www.jacintocity-tx.gov).

Citizens interested in running for office can contact the City Secretary at city hall 1301 Mercury Drive or phone: 713-674-8424. The first day to file for a place on the May 7, 2022 election ballot at city hall is January 19, 2022 and the last day to file is February 18, 2022 at 5 PM. Important election information can be found at the Texas Secretary of State's website at:

[www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

To make an appointment with one of the elected officials call 713-674-8424 or email:

Mayor Ana Diaz ([Ana.diaz@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:Ana.diaz@jacintocity-tx.gov)), Jimmy (JJ) Rivas ([JJ@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:JJ@jacintocity-tx.gov)), Gregg Robinson ([Gregg.robinson@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:Gregg.robinson@jacintocity-tx.gov)), Allen Lee ([Allen.lee@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:Allen.lee@jacintocity-tx.gov)), Carmela Garcia ([Carmela.garcia@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:Carmela.garcia@jacintocity-tx.gov)), Mario Gonzales ([Mario.gonzales@jacintocity-tx.gov](mailto:Mario.gonzales@jacintocity-tx.gov))

## \$3 million to fight crime,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ful to Commissioner Adrian Garcia and the entire Commissioners Court for giving our deputies the support they need to prevent violence and thoroughly investigate these cases to keep our county safe."

The plan of action to utilize these funds will be to use recent crime data to identify dangerous hotspots where caseloads are high and staff shortages are most pronounced.

Violent Crimes Units will prioritize investigations of repeat offenders and organized criminal activity. In addition, the Adult Special Crimes Unit will identify domestic abuse suspects who have not been captured as well as Adult Sex Crimes investigations. The Sheriff's Office will produce reports documenting investigations, charges filed, number of closed cases, and warrants executed during the life of this initiative.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: "Are Inclusions in Gemstones always a bad thing?"

When shopping for a diamond or other clear stone, we usually prefer stones that do not show any inclusions to the naked eye. People like a stone that is clear, well cut, and polished. The absence of inclusions is further defined within the 4c as "Clarity". However, the presence of inclusions is not always a bad thing.

A diamond or other stone that has an internal characteristic or inclusion can give us insight into how it was created. And, in a few rare cases, inclusions may even add value to the stone because of how unique they are depending upon the shape, size, or color of the inclusion(s).



This is a picture of a cube shaped clear quartz stone that has been polished on all six sides. Inside the stone crystal is a collection of connected light blue needles. From a distance it seems to resemble the floating seed canopy of a dandelion. These needle-like inclusions were created within the stone under great pressure, heat, and time. Stones that contain such beautiful features are truly unique from all other stones. This quartz was shaped and polished specifically to show off the incredible display of blue needles as being this stone's greatest asset.

The really amazing thing that an inclusion or two offers is verification that no two diamonds, or any other stone, are exactly the same. Just like people, all gemstones are different and unique from one another. So, the next time you shop for a diamond or other stone, ask the jeweler if they could magnify the stone so that you can see its internal characteristics or inclusions. I think you will be surprised at just how amazing inclusions can be.

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](http://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

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