

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 9, NO. 15 (#368) THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Channelview FFA Parade & Sale April 17

58th Annual Parade & Livestock Show on Saturday. Parade starts at 10am, from Schochler Primary on Deer Pass through Woodforest, then Sheldon to the Memorial Stadium. Parade Marshalls are Greg and Cindi Ollis. Also at 8am a Chili Cook-off starts with 12pm judging, and 1:30pm the Auction Sale of animals at the Ag Center on Wood Drive.

### Chamber Business after Hours April 21

Business After Hours Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 - 5:30PM - 7:30PM  
Sponsored By: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Houston East - Beltway 8  
6175 E Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston, TX 77049

Join us for a fun evening of networking in a relaxed, casual come and go setting. Light snacks and adult beverages will be provided. Bring a friend! RSVP: (<https://cs.northchannelarea.com/event/business-after-hours/157495>) or [yesenia@ncachamber.com](mailto:yesenia@ncachamber.com) 713.450.3600 northchannelarea.com

### 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](mailto:yesenia@ncachamber.com) or call 713-450-3600.

## Relief assistance after the Deep Freeze



Area elected officials and volunteers provide food assistance and health information to the North Channel community residents. Sponsors and supporters included State Representatives Harold Dutton Jr., Ana Hernandez, Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Pct. 3 JP Judges Joe Stephens, staffer Darnela Wilkerson & Lucy Bates, Houston Food Bank, North Channel Branch Harris County Library, State Representatives Ana Hernandez & Harold Dutton Jr. were in Legislative Session and were represented by District Liaisons Linda Jamail & Dutton's Abner Lyons respectively, Harris County Public Health Officials & staff provided virus & health related materials. March 27, 2021. The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy donated books. (Photo & information by Allan Jamail)

## San Jacinto Battle Celebration set for April 17

ANAHUAC-- The San Jacinto Volunteers and the Texas Army will reenact the Battle of San Jacinto not at the location of the battle but at Fort Anahuac Park, 1704 S. Main Anahuac in Chambers County on April 17.

Admission is free, donations are welcome and no alcohol is allowed.

An unveiling of the "First Stand" will occur from 10:30 until 11:00 a.m. A monument commemorating the role of Anahuac, the first battle of the Texas Revolution, featuring art never seen in public before then.



Cannon fire comes to Anahuac.

Re-enacting the moments leading up to the Battle of San Jacinto goes on between 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Those in attendance can meet Sam Houston, Santa Anna and

the brave soldiers that would make history. This educational feature enables questioning reenactors dedicated to understanding the ways of the early 19th Century,

watch the ladies demonstrate camp cooking and survival of the Run-Away Scrape in 1836.

The Battle begins at 3 p.m. featuring cannon volleys, pyrotechnics, musket fire, and re-enactment up to the capture of Santa Anna.

Those who attend should park by the baseball field. They are free to bring water, chairs, and blankets. On-hand will be sanitizing stations. Social distancing and compliance with updated CDC guidelines is encouraged.

A fried fish and shrimp dinner is to be sold as a fundraiser for the Chambers County Museum at Wallisville beginning at Noon but tickets bought presale get served first at 11:00. Call Marie (409) 389-2252 to reserve \$15 plates.

Reenactors will be at the location beginning Friday and packing up Sunday morning.

DEER PARK -- San Jacinto Celebration - Under the Star Celebration marks the 185th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto April 17, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Continued, see San Jacinto Day, Page 5

## JC Mother fatally shot, boyfriend charged

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY -- Sunday, April 11, 2021 in the early morning, about 2:30 AM Johnny Zermeno and Dalisha Blate after a night out together arrived back to their 1213 Oates Road Jacinto City apartment, when the shooting happened that killed Dalisha. According to Jacinto City Police Chief Joe Ayala his officers arrived on the

scene and began the preliminary investigation. Later the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division arrived and took over the case.

An unnamed witness who is a mutual friend of the couple and who was on the phone with both Johnny and Dalisha at the actual time of the shooting reported hearing the following conversation:

"Johnny, Dalisha and I were talking on our phones; I had them on my car's speaker phone so I could easily hear them. They were in their car at their apartment when Johnny said he wanted to leave and come to visit me. But I could tell by how



JOHNNY ZERMENO  
Charged



DALISHA BLATE  
Victim

they were talking neither of them were in any condition to be driving. I knew they used drugs, I assumed they were heavily

intoxicated on something so I kept suggesting for them to not leave in their condition but stay there and go to sleep. Johnny said, you're right I need to go inside and go to bed, and Dalisha agreed too. Then I heard a single gunshot. I remained on the phone and listened. I wasn't sure who got shot, but I began hear-

Continued, see Jacinto City Murder, page 6

## Leaders oppose SB7 as voter suppression

HOUSTON - Amid a national outcry against proposed restrictive voting bills in many Republican controlled states, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo hosted a press conference Monday to voice their opposition to Texas House Bill 6 and Texas Senate Bill 7.

"These bills are going through on our watch," said Turner. "What's happening in the state of Texas, in the legislature, is wrong."

"Soon enough, we will have taken the largest step back since Jim Crow," said Hidalgo. "The dominoes of basic voting rights are



Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo

starting to fall."

Lt Governor Dan Patrick also held a news conference in Austin this week, angrily defending the bills and accusing opponents of lying about whether they restricted or limited vot-



Houston Mayor  
Sylvester Turner

ing, and especially minority voters.

Among other items, Texas HB 6 would prohibit government officials

Continued. See SB7  
OPPOSITION, page 2

## Chamber networking breakfast boosts local businesses

By Jada Mier

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce held its March Coffee Networking event at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites with coffee, doughnuts, door prizes, and connections.

Representatives from different organizations and businesses gathered together in the hotel lobby for a conversation "Meet and Greet style." Bryon Jubert was the first to introduce himself, explaining that he was there from East Houston Hospital. He discussed the vaccine ex-

Continued. See  
NETWORKING, page 3



Chamber president Margie Buentello helps with the Door prizes.



# FM 1942 crash closes highway

CROSBY Sometime nearly 5 p.m. an apparent accident in the 3100 block of FM 1942 occurred that looked like a head on collision.

The passenger vehicles were more than 20 yards apart after the vehicles came to rest and that tends to indicate speeds at near those that road signs indicate.

Life Flight helicopters were called for both occupants of the vehicles by HCESD#5, the ambulance service for Crosby. Harris County Sheriff's Deputies shut down the highway from Holy Road west and Krampota east.

Traffic at those locations was backed up for miles and a lengthy wait



Tis automobile ravelled fartherest past the point of impact across the highway and into a ditch. the left front of the vehicle is crushed in completely. This car seems to have been eastbound.



This SUV seems to have stopped abruptly after impact and have less damage to the cockpit than the car. This vehicle was westbound

before the extractions and investigations could be concluded.

For some time, traffic on that highway had been heavy beginning when schools let out and going until the end of the daylight.

An industrial parking lot, new residences and commercial venues have populated the once Shell Road to capacity and TX-DoT has made some emergency adaptations but growth in the vicinity has surpassed the adaptations. The venue remanis the principle venue between Crosby and Mont Belvieu with few cut off roadways.

The relative conditions of both drivers isn't told at this time.

## Two now accused of murder of 17 year old Highlands lad

HIGHLANDS – April 5, around 5:00 p.m., investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit received information of a possible body dumped in a field behind a church on Wallisville Road in east Harris County.

Now two local youths nearly the same age as the victim are charged with murder of Abraham Mata, 17-years-old, of Highlands.

Multiple stab wounds were found on the body and the body had either been killed there or dragged not far to the location upon which it was located.

Investigators along with uniformed deputies conducted a search of the area and discovered the remains of Mata about 200 yards behind The Second Baptist Church on the 400 block Wallisville Road. The remains had been partially buried under brush and tree branches to conceal it.

The last vehicle to leave the area was Harris County Institute of Forensic Science at about 11:00p.m. that day.

Detectives began asking about the last known associates and location of Mata and



CHRIS PAZ OF HIGHLANDS



LEROY LOPEZ OF BAYTOWN

leaned that he was last seen with Leroy Lopez and Christopher Paz both 17-years-old.

Paz lives on Wallisville Road, Lopez is from Baytown frequently a visitor to Highlands. Both are now charged with murder in the death of Mata but what motive caused the killing has yet to be made clear.

This is not Paz first brush with the law over a violent incident. Precinct 3 Constables Deputies picked up this youth for an incident in which he allegedly hurled a brick at a family member.

Both Paz and Lopez are still in Harris County jail on unrelated charges.

HIGHLANDS – At about midday on Monday, April 12, a homeowner called 911 saying an erractly acting man had entered his home and refused to leave; before deputies arrived that same man had shot the other man.

Deputies were notified of a home invasion call at 12:15 p.m. in the 900 block of Jones Road. The homeowner indicated that a man entered his home without invitation, "acting all crazy" and refused to leave when asked to do so. Harris County Sheriff's District 3 Deputies were travelling to the scene when a man was gunned

down inside the home.

A call went out for EMS and when they arrived the man that had been shot was determined to be deceased.

The homeowner said that the man that entered his home was acting as if disturbed. Later the man began to act more aggressive, he said the home invader threatened to kill the homeowner and was advancing upon him. The homeowner said he was in fear for his life and shot the man.

Pending conclusion of an investigation the case will go to the Harris County Grand Jury to determine if a crime was committed.

## Man shot dead in Highlands home

### Maximum Tax Savings



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

### CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

A DIVISION OF CORPORATE RECOVERY, INC.

### TAX PREPARATION & CONSULTATION

All Federal, State, Foreign & Individual, Partnerships, Trusts, Estates, Corporations (C,Sub S & Limited Liability) & Payroll Tax Returns,Intuit Pro-Advisors, Service All Businesses & Individual Taxes Specialists in getting late filers into I.R.S. Compliance Business Solutions for New Tax Rules, Regulations and Tax Audits Debt Consultation and Bankruptcy Protection as a Solution to your Debts Other Services Rendered

Bookkeeping, Computer Systems, Financial Management, Investments, Payroll, Property Rendition, Real Estate & Business Brokerage

Normal Business Hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon – 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday By Appointment

ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR INCOME TAX ORGANIZER JACK NOONAN, B.B.A., TREB, E.A. & STAFF IRS Enrolled License # 2018 – 65282 6400 FM 2100 North Main, P.O. Box 1428, Crosby, TX 77532-1428 Telephone (281) 328-1755 Fax (281) 328-5280 E-mail: [cri.tax.jhinson@gmail.com](mailto:cri.tax.jhinson@gmail.com)



281-328-5869



## Home Health Care

Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker, Home Health Aide, Hospice Services  
\*Physical Therapy Position Available

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

Physical Therapy Position Available

Locally owned and Operated by Tabatha and Jonathan Brady

#### Non-Discrimination Policy

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

CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE



# ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## Pursue Your Dream

When you have a dream, please do not let anyone or anything stop you from pursuing it.

One thing I have learned over the decades is if something is worth having, it is worth the struggle to obtain it. The struggle can be financial, emotional and even difficult, but do what you need to in order to reach it.

Back in 1981, I went to work at a credit union where I began the journey of really getting to know myself and to spread my wings to learn as much about life as I could. It was a credit union for a large thriving oil company. There were several branches of the credit union located within the various office buildings around the city. Even though I had graduated and gone off to the University of Texas, this was really where I began to understand that family is not defined by blood or marriage yet instead by those that love and accept you for who you are.

I found myself working in an environment with hundreds of people from all sorts of backgrounds. While I was just 19, many of the employees in the building had been employed with the company for more than 20 years. It was so interesting to get to know people from so many different backgrounds and educational levels. There were always new employees coming into the office only for me to realize they might have been new to Houston but had been with the company for years.

One of those individuals that I met opened an entirely different world up for me. He had just relocated from California. He was a professional who was originally from Oklahoma City and had graduated from Fisk University before joining the Navy and traveling the world. He was someone quite different from the men I had met in my lifetime. He and I would often meet for dinner just to discuss our differences. We found a bond in what was an ever-evolving point in our lives. I left the credit union in 1983, he left Houston in 1984. We kept in touch for a while and then life got busy. We lost contact. Yet he was always in the back of my mind. He was the one person who I longed to reconnect with for no other reason than to say thank you. He had listened, laughed and encouraged me to enjoy life.

Long story short, but in December 2018 I was sitting at a funeral and the lady next to me started talking about how the man we were preparing to memorialize had a very eclectic group of friends. She went on to say that my circle was much like his. She asked how I became that way. How did I have friends from every shade of the rainbow, every educational and economical level as well as around the world.

I explained to her about this friend from back in the early 1980's and just like that, she opened her phone and gave me his phone number. I had no idea they knew each other.

Last year, in the early part of the pandemic, I wrote about our reunion and last week, the dream of reconnecting happened. I followed the dream and spent last weekend with he and his sister. Never give up on a dream.

## Networking Breakfast,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plaining that it doesn't matter if it's Moderna or Pfizer; you need to get vaccinated. Everyone had a good 30-45 minutes to mingle and introduce each other in casual conversation.

Margie Buentello, President and CEO of North Channel Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself and gave everyone 60 seconds to "say something about their business cause or purpose." Director of sales Blane Lacoste who represented the sponsor/host Holiday Inn was the first of twenty-six people to give their introduction.

There were representatives and employees from Peter Piper Pizza, Buzz Fencing, Alliance safety, Shell Federal Credit Union, Shafaiistudios, and more. The door prizes were given out raffle ticket style through using business cards. There was a 2-night stay at the Holiday Inn, a twenty-dollar gift card, and a yard service.

After the door prizes, then the real networking started. Now that everyone was aware of who represented what business and organization, people started making connections. Brenda George partnered with Monica Alanis, a local photographer, to work at a Stop Inc. Event. The event successfully brought local businesses and organizations together to partner and serve the community.

## Pct. 2 honors Galena Park Student Churchill Couch for his Information Website

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia offered a Resolution in Commissioner's Court this week honoring a Galena Park ISD student named Churchill Couch for creating a really cool resources website for people in the area, both students and parents. Here's the link to the website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/gpjchelpcenter/home>

## Fatal Crash at 12500 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run crash at 12500 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) about 7:30 a.m. on Saturday (April 10).

The identity of the male victim, 40, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant D. Rodriguez and Officer E. Rubio reported:

The victim was changing a trailer tire on the right shoulder of the eastbound lanes at the above address. While changing the tire, he was struck by a dark-colored GMC with a possible license plate including 788. The driver of the GMC fled the scene without rendering aid.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4072 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

## About Diamond Jim

*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).*



Luis F. Garcia, CPA  
Attorney at Law  
13364 Woodforest Blvd  
Houston, TX 77015  
713-999-8006  
  
E.luis@luisgarcialaw.com  
[www.luisgarcialaw.com](http://www.luisgarcialaw.com)

\*PERSONAL INJURY \*SLIP/TRIP AND FALL  
\*AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS \*TRUCK ACCIDENTS  
Se Habla Espanol

Elliot's #2 Barber Shop  
13030 Woodforest Blvd. Ste G  
Houston, Texas 77015  
Phone: 832-649-4480/Cell 713-397-6998



Hours of Operation  
Tuesday-Friday  
9am-7pm  
Saturday  
8am-6pm

ELLIOTT SR., Owner

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “What is the Gemological Institute of America (GIA)?”

The Gemological Institute of America, or GIA, is a nonprofit institute dedicated to research and education in the field of gemology and the jewelry arts. Founded in 1931, GIA's mission is to protect all buyers and sellers of gemstones by setting and maintaining the standards used to evaluate gemstone quality. In 1953 the GIA developed its International Diamond Grading System and the Four Cs (cut, clarity, color, and carat weight) as a standard to compare and evaluate the quality of diamonds.

Today, the institute is headquartered in Carlsbad, California and operates out of 13 countries, with 11 campuses, 9 laboratories and 4 research centers worldwide.



GIA is actively engaged in research to advance the science of gemology. Historically, research has focused on developing methods and technologies to accurately identify and characterize gems. This research has produced significant advances in the ability to differentiate gems and identify simulants (particularly diamond simulants). GIA was also responsible for the first modern diamond grading reports, where it introduced grading methodologies for diamond color and diamond clarity.

The GIA Laboratory provides a variety of gem grading and identification reports. Diamond grading reports for unmounted natural and synthetic diamonds determine their key characteristics: color, clarity, cut and carat weight. GIA issues two types of reports, the more complete being the Diamond Grading Report (a briefer and less expensive version is called a Diamond Dossier). The reports contain a number of measurements, including of carat weight as well as a diagram of where and what types of inclusions are located in the diamond. Diamond grading reports are now demanded by most consumers purchasing diamonds over a certain size, typically for over 0.5 carat (100 mg), and almost always for over 1.0 carat (200 mg), and are considered an important tool in guaranteeing that a diamond is accurately represented to a potential buyer.

GIA offers several programs and courses online through an interactive eLearning format, and through its 12 campus locations around the world. The institute also offers corporate training programs and works with trade organizations worldwide to provide technical training in gemstones and jewelry.

The Graduate Gemologist (G.G.) diploma offers a comprehensive education in gemology. Graduates of the program receive the Graduate Gemologist diploma as well as Graduate Diamonds and Graduate Colored Stones diplomas. Students can also earn an Accredited Jewelry Professional diploma with the addition of one more course, which can also be taken independently. The Graduate Pearls diploma program provides a comprehensive foundation in pearl identification and grading.

Additionally, GIA's Carlsbad campus offers several programs in jewelry arts. The Applied Jewelry Arts Program (AJA) diploma covers jewelry design, wax carving, mold making, casting and CAD/CAM. The Graduate Jeweler diploma program teaches the fabrication, repair and stone setting skills to become a professional bench jeweler. Other jewelry arts classes are held on campus in Carlsbad and New York.

Full-service custom design jewelry

- Your designs or ours
- Your gems & gold, or ours
- Shockingly affordable!
- One only of your original
- High end fabrication
- Computer aided design
- Award-winning goldsmith
- Satisfaction guaranteed

Custom jewelry  
It's as different as you!



PineforestJewelry.com  
1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77015  
713.451.1321

NORTHSHORE VACUUM JANITORIAL SUPPLIES & FLOOR CARE

729 Uvalde Road  
Houston, TX 77015  
Phone: 713-451-3247  
[northshorevacuum729@gmail.com](mailto:northshorevacuum729@gmail.com)

Hours: Mon.-Fri  
9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Saturday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm



RODRIGO "RODNEY" SANCHEZ  
Repair Work 100% Guaranteed  
Bags & Belts for all vacuum including Kirby  
Sales & Service - New & Used - Trade Ins  
Do It Yourself - Professional Pest Control Supplies  
Equipment Rental

NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Lunch \$11.99 Dinner \$13.50  
SUN-THU: 11am - 9:30pm  
FRI-SAT: 11am-10pm  
**FLAMING GRILL & SUPREME BUFFET**  
[WWW.FLAMINGGRILL.NET](http://WWW.FLAMINGGRILL.NET) 713-451-8880  
11420 E. FREEWAY SVC RD. UNIT 150. HOUSTON TX 77029



EILEEN BRIGHTWELL, DDS  
[www.brightwelldental.com](http://www.brightwelldental.com)  
  
1820 Holland St. • Jacinto City, TX 77029  
(713) 455-7923

Free Estimates Financing Available



MR. ROOFER  
Siding & Contracting LLC  
281-452-0000  
  
New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding  
• Mobile Home Skirting  
  
P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530  
[Mrroofer@mail.com](mailto:Mrroofer@mail.com)  
= Major credit cards accepted =

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



COUNTY  
CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



# Have You Signed Up for a Vaccine Yet?

Last week, I followed my own advice and got vaccinated! I want to thank every frontline health worker and Harris County Public Health employee who has been working to save lives for the past year. Now more than ever we have reason to be hopeful and proud of the work we're doing together to beat the coronavirus. More than 1 million people have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Harris County. Over 750,000 people have signed up for our waitlist and our call center has fielded more than half a million calls and registered over 27,000 people by phone. Our Health Department is vaccinating a larger proportion of vulnerable groups compared to others. This is what progress looks like.



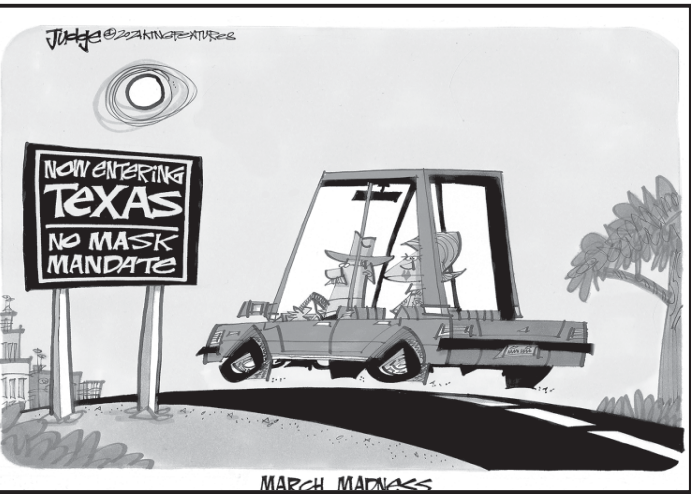
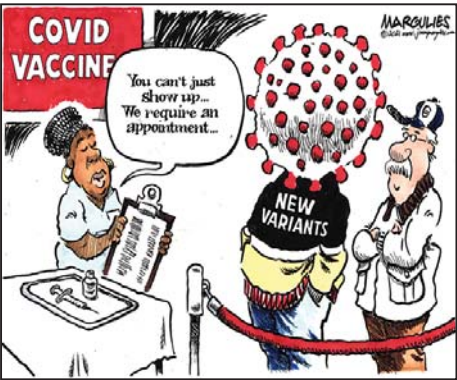
But as County Judge it's my job to look beyond the immediate challenges of limited supply of vaccines and toward our next obstacle. If you look around the corner you'll see evidence that there is a very large proportion of our community that remains wary of getting vaccinated. One national survey shows that up to 40% of Texans say they will either not get a COVID-19 vaccine or are undecided on whether or not to do so. So here's the bottom line — Harris County will never reach herd immunity if up to 40% of our residents refuse to get vaccinated. Vaccine hesitancy is a clear and present danger to our collective health and our ability to pull through this crisis. We need to do more than just offer vaccines and hope folks will show up to receive it.

That's why we launched the Stay Smart, Do Your Part media campaign to reach folks where they are through ads and by going door-to-door in the hardest-hit neighborhoods. It's why we've built a registration process that builds equity by prioritizing vulnerable communities and targeting high risk zip codes. We've provided vaccines at over 77 locations across our County, including communities of faith, homeless shelters, and assisted living facilities. We are providing transportation support for those who need it. But we need everyone to do more. Clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies must make sure they're doing outreach in underserved communities. Vaccine providers must make registration easier for elderly folks and working families and drop any ID requirements that may discourage undocumented or uninsured residents from getting a vaccine. As for our residents, the gates are now open for everyone 16 and over. If you can drive a car, you can and should get a vaccine. Please visit ReadyHarris.org or call 832-927-8787 to sign up for our waitlist now. If you already received your vaccine, help us spread the word to your network and community!

This is on all of us — the sooner we are vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to doing the things we love. We've waited so long for this pandemic to end so that we can return to normal. The remedy is here, we just have to take it.

Go get vaccinated!

Sincerely,  
Lina Hidalgo



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



# Governor rules “No government mandated vaccine passports”

Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order last week banning state agencies, cities or counties from creating a “vaccine passport” requirement.

In addition, organizations that receive public funds are prohibited from requiring consumers to prove they have received the COVID-19 vaccine. That includes businesses that receive money from the state in return for providing goods and services.

However, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities can still require that their residents are vaccinated under his order.

“Every day, Texans are returning to normal life as more people get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. But, as I've said all along, these vaccines are always voluntary and never forced,” Abbott said.

## VACCINES CONTINUE STEADY RISE ACROSS STATE

As of Sunday, just more than 9 million Texans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 5.46 million are fully vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. DSHS urges those who have not been vaccinated to go to the state's Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler, which can be found at [getthetvaccine.dshs.texas.gov](https://getthetvaccine.dshs.texas.gov).

Meanwhile, the state's weekly shipment of COVID-19 vaccines dropped this week after a manufacturing error in a Baltimore plant ruined a 15-million batch of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Last week, the state received 2.5 million doses from the three manufacturers, an amount that dropped to 1.9 million this week, as J&J plays catchup. The company has pledged to deliver 100 million doses nationwide by the end of May, according to an NPR report. J&J reduced its Texas allocation this week by about 350,000.

## COVID-19 CASES RISE, BUT DEATHS DROP



The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose to 24,333 last week, up more than 2,500 from the previous week, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

The number of deaths decreased to 512, down nearly 20 percent from the previous week.

At its peak in January, the state recorded more than four-fold the number of deaths with 2,311 recorded in a single week. At this point, nearly 50,000 Texans have died from COVID-19.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized stayed steady at 2,804, according to DSHS.

## CONTEMPT ORDER AGAINST SALON OWNER TOSSED OUT

The Texas State Supreme Court on Friday threw out a contempt order against a Dallas salon owner who refused to close last year when all non-essential businesses were ordered.

Shelley Luther tore up a cease-and-desist order from Dallas County and was fined \$7,000 and sentenced to a week in jail. The high court ruled unanimously that the restraining order was too vague, and that the contempt of court decree issued by a district judge should be voided as well.

Luther's defiance sparked national coverage, prompting Abbott to reverse part of his order that called for jail time for business owners who did not shut down last year after the

pandemic outbreak.

Luther ran as a Republican for state Senate last year, losing in a December runoff to Drew Springer, R-Muenster.

## PAXTON DRAWING POTENTIAL HIGH-PROFILE OPPONENTS

Two candidates with famous surnames are planning to run against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in 2022, according to several media outlets.

Paxton, under indictment since 2015 on securities fraud charges, is also battling a whistleblower lawsuit filed by former employees accusing him of bribery and improper dealings with an Austin investor. He denies wrongdoing in both cases.

Democrat Joe Jaworski, a former Galveston mayor and a grandson of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, announced his plans to run last summer. And last week, George P. Bush, state land commissioner and grandson of President George H.W. Bush, told a talk-radio host that he is considering challenging Paxton next year in the Republican primary.

Paxton has indicated he will run for a third term.

## ABBOTT DEMANDS SHUTDOWN OF SAN ANTONIO MINOR FACILITY

The governor's latest salvo against the federally run unaccompanied minor facilities included a letter to Vice President Kamala Harris, who has been tapped to head the effort dealing with a large influx of unaccompanied minors seeking entrance into the United States.

Abbott's letter demanded the Biden administration shut down a facility in San Antonio under investigation by the state for allegations of child abuse and neglect.

“The Biden administration opened the borders and failed to plan for the influx of unaccompanied children crossing the border, and now we are faced with our worst fears—allegations of child abuse and neglect,” Abbott said.

To date, there has been no direct response from Harris.

## SOON, MORE TEXANS WILL HAVE TO DIAL 10 DIGITS TO MAKE LOCAL CALLS

Folks living in the Panhandle, El Paso area, South Texas, and Deep East Texas will soon have to join the majority of Texans and use all 10 digits when making local calls.

Last summer, the Federal Communications Commission approved “988” as the abbreviated dialing number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In Texas, the 254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940 area codes all contain the 988 prefix.

A “permissive dialing period” begins April 24, during which seven-digit calls will still go through. But after Oct. 24, in those area codes, only calls dialed with 10 digits will be connected.

★

THE  
POSTSCRIPT

By  
Carrie Classon

# Stable Footing

The tree was lying on its side when I got to it.

It was a nice-looking pine tree, fluffy and full and as tall as me. The strong winds coupled with some unstable footing had caused it to fall over. This seemed too sad to simply walk by. I went over to the tree and, with a little effort, got it standing upright again. It looked much happier. I finished my walk, feeling I had done my part.

The next day, it was lying on its side again.

I examined it more closely. It had been relying on the rotting remains of another fallen pine to stand upright and the old log had finally given way, taking the young pine with it. I set my hiking poles down and hauled a couple of large rocks lying nearby over to the base of the pine, propping it back up.

The next day, it had fallen over again. This was going to be a bigger project than I expected. I hauled a lot of rocks over and piled them at the base of the young tree. “There! That should hold you.” That night, as I sat on the patio, I noticed how the wind was picking up. “I bet my tree has fallen again,” I thought.

I was right.

So, on the fourth day, I found another downed log, similar to the one my tree had been relying on, but not as rotten, and hauled it over. I jammed one end into the soil and propped the other end against the narrow tree trunk. A family of bikers nearby watched me curiously, as I piled rocks on top of the log to further secure it.

“Just helping this little tree!” I explained. They smiled, assuming I was crazy, I'm sure.

Yesterday, I returned to the tree. It was standing upright. “Hurray!” I said aloud. At that moment, I remembered my husband, Peter, and I had decided to move.

So far, this decision has resulted in little action on our part. But yesterday Peter ordered a moving van, so presumably things will become very real very soon.

We have lots of good reasons to move.

My parents and my sister and most of my relatives live in the Midwest, as does most of Peter's family. Particularly during the pandemic, we realized how much we missed family, how many occasions we had missed, and how quickly time passes.

And so, we have decided to make the move and we are both filled with mixed feelings because it is hard to leave a place, no matter how many reasons there are to be somewhere else.

Standing in front of this little tree, hoping it would now become a huge, towering pine, I felt a small pang because I would never know. That is the hardest thing about moving. I will never know what I will miss, not living here.

But I was never going to know.

This tree may outlive me by hundreds of years, or it may perish by the end of the summer. I will never know this, nor will I know what any path I have not taken might hold.

Instead, I imagine, because that is all I can do to keep myself upright. I imagine spending my mother's next birthday with her and I imagine going to the theater with my oldest friend and I imagine seeing my nephew graduate.

And, in the back of my mind, I imagine this tree standing tall for hundreds of years after I am dead, on stable footing because of me.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](https://CarrieClasson.com)

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

USPS 244-500  
and the  
Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

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

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

**News and Ad Phones...713-266-3444**  
**FAX Line...713-977-1188**  
**email: [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)**  
**Member Texas Press Association**



★

MILESTONES PAGE

★

★

OBITUARIES

LOANDA INEZ BROOKS LOCKRIDGE

Loanda Inez Brooks Lockridge was born January 23, 1936 in Morgan City, AL and passed away on Tuesday, the 6th of April 2021, joining her beloved Bill. She is preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Myrtle Brooks; her older brother, Harold Brooks; and her husband, Dr William E Lockridge.

Loanda grew up in the mountains of Alabama with her parents and two older brothers. Working and attending College in Huntsville, AL she met the love of her life, Sgt. Lockridge, while he was stationed at Redstone Arsenal. After he graduated from Officer Candidates' School their adventures and travels began. They finally settled in El Paso, TX where they raised their family; Bill and Loanda were married for 59 years until his death in 2015. In El Paso, Loanda became Avis Rent-a-Car's District Manager for 25+ years. Loanda joined the Soroptimist Club of El Paso becoming a mentor for other young business women and served as President for two years. Her



second and final career was Real Estate. She loved the wheeling and dealing of Real Estate and was Licensed in both Texas and New Mexico. Upon Bill's retirement, they built their dream home in Ruidoso, NM, where they spent their summers and spent their winters in their home next door to their daughter in Crosby, TX. Loanda loved adventure, and with her big heart and sweet disposition she was always up for a challenge. She received her Pilots License in 1974; she parascended with her granddaughters; skydived with her grandsons; zip-lined; white-water rafted; paraglided; went to four

Super Bowls and even snowmobiled thru Montana. Loanda loved to travel but her most favorite thing in the world was to dance; she is now dancing in Heaven!

Loanda is survived by her brother, Herman Brooks (Zelma); sister-in-law Nellie Brooks; her two children, Stephen Lockridge (Roseanna); and Wendy Reed (Chris); and her five grandchildren, Rodney Reed (Helen), Justin Reed (Lindsey), Joshua Lockridge, Sarah Long (David) and Kelly Rogers (Jacob); and seven great grandchildren.

A Visitation and Funeral Service will be held at Sterling White Funeral Home in Highlands, TX on Wednesday, the 14th of April, Visitation 1:00 p.m. with Service at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of customary remembrances, the family request you consider a donation to Alzheimer's Foundation of America at alzfdn.org.

STERLING ~ WHITE  
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY  
11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. | Highlands, TX 77962 | (281) 426-3555  
www.sterlingwhite.com

Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

Can I Still Suspend My Social Security Benefits?

Dear Rusty: Is it still possible to suspend Social Security benefits for a time? And, if so, how often? Signed: Curious Senior

Dear Curious Senior: If you have already reached your full retirement age and are receiving Social Security benefits which you claimed earlier, you can voluntarily suspend your benefits to earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) and get a higher benefit amount when your payments are resumed. While your benefit payments are suspended, you will earn an additional .67% for each full month of suspension (8% per full year of suspension). If you wish to do so, you can sus-

pend until you are 70 years old, after which you will no longer receive Delayed Retirement Credits, and your benefit will have reached maximum.

At age 70, Social Security will automatically restart your benefit at the higher amount, as appropriate for the number of DRCs you earned while suspended. If you prefer or need the money sooner, you can request that your benefit be restarted earlier than age 70.

You can voluntarily suspend and restart benefits more than once if that is necessary, but the process requires some lead time to stop/restart benefits and there are other important factors to consider. If you suspend your personal SS retirement benefit now to

gain a higher payment amount later, while you are suspended no other benefits based on your record (such as a spousal or other dependent benefits) will be paid. And, if you currently have your Medicare premium deducted from your Social Security benefit, suspending your SS benefits will require you to make alternate arrangements for direct payment of your Medicare premium(s). You would need to pay your Medicare premium via mail or by direct withdrawal from your bank account, or by charging a credit/debit card. If you decide to suspend your Social Security payments, you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS office) to do so. When requesting your benefit suspension, you can also make arrangements through Social Security to pay your Medicare premium separately.

COVID 19 Testing Sites in NE Harris County

CROSBY  
David H. McNerney  
Crosby American Legion  
Make Appointment  
(936) 333-3333 ; walk  
ups welcome  
8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mobile  
or On-Site Testing  
Texas Mobile Medical  
Labs

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

Urgent Care MDs  
No appointment needed  
9 until 9  
14405 FM 2100, Crosby  
(832) 821-9780

Neighbors Emergency  
Center  
No appointment needed  
14120 FM 2100, Crosby,  
TX  
(281) 328-7770

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

Nova Medical Ctr.  
Apt Req. (713) 453-7788  
13469 East Freeway,  
Houston, TX 77015  
Open 8:30 a.m.

HIGHLANDS (Go to either  
Baytown or Channelview)

CVS Channelview  
(281) 452-7184  
Appointment Req.

Urgent Care MDs  
Appointment Req.  
(281) 428-0000  
Located in the DOW  
Medical Park

HUFFMAN  
Care Now Urgent Care  
No Appt. Necessary  
Humble (281) 397-5258

Urgent Care M.D.s  
No Appt. Necessary  
Atascocita  
(281) 570-6856

Church Page Sponsors

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

Siding &  
Roof Repairs  
Mobile Home Skirting  
Call Mr. Roofer  
281-452-0000

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

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

Call 713-266-3444 to join to  
join sponsorship of this  
page. Thank you.

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

GET VACCINATED!

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

ADRIAN GARCIA  
COMMISSIONER

UMMC

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST

9 AM - 4 PM

Christian Center World Outreach  
1100 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX

TO REGISTER VISIT  
WWW.UMMCSCREENING.COM/PCCO

Limited capacity

18 years or older.

Registration preferred

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

¡VACÚNESE!

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

ADRIAN GARCIA  
COMMISSIONER

UMMC

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

MIÉRCOLES, 21 DE ABRIL

9 AM - 4 PM

Christian Center World Outreach  
1100 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX

PARA REGISTRARSE VISITE  
WWW.UMMCSCREENING.COM/PCCO

18 años de edad o mayor.

Se prefiere registro previo

FREE DATE CHANGES ON 2021 TOURS\*

FROM \$1,449  
\$1,199

ALASKA  
NORTHERN LIGHTS  
7 days, departs Feb - Mar 2022  
Anchorage • Talkeetna • Healy (Denali) • Fairbanks — Travel deep into the rugged Alaskan wilderness in pursuit of nature's most spectacular nighttime display. Chase after the vibrant lights of the aurora borealis while you enjoy Alaska's culture, nature, and wildlife.

FROM \$2,599  
\$2,349

BEST OF HAWAII  
FOUR-ISLAND TOUR  
12 days, departs year-round  
Oahu • Hawaii Island • Kauai • Maui — Enjoy a fully guided 4-island Hawaiian vacation with centrally located lodging in Waikiki on Oahu, and beachfront lodging on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Guided throughout by our friendly Tour Directors—your local experts. Includes 3 inter-island flights.

CALL 1-844-684-4305

VMT  
vacations

promo code  
N7017

\* Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 95 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.



# SB7 Opposition,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from sending mail-in ballot applications to voters. In addition, it would require anyone providing help to a disabled voter at the polls to show an ID and share why they're helping the disabled individual.

Texas SB 7 would require people to have legitimate reasons to vote by mail, get rid of drive-thru voting, and allow poll watchers to record video.

"Texas is on the list to potentially become a state known for Jim Crow tactics in 2021," said Bishop James Dixon from the NAACP Houston.

"A poll watcher will be going around video recording," said Turner. "Do you know how intimidating that is?"

Texas State Senator Bryan Hughes drafted Senate Bill 7.

"We've had situations where a poll worker says 'x' happened, and the election worker says that didn't happen, and there's no evidence," said Hughes. "That's the reason for allowing videos."

"To those who say there's no evidence of widespread voter fraud, my question to them is how much fraud is acceptable?" said Hughes. "How much is enough? Shouldn't elections be fair? Shouldn't they be accurate? That's what the bill is about."

Hughes, and Republican members of the Texas legislature, believe these proposed bills aren't about preventing votes. SB 7 would also involve a tracking system for mail-in ballots and a type of voting "receipt".

Judge Hidalgo strongly

criticized the proposed legislation, issuing this statement:

"During the historic 2020 presidential election, Harris County instituted various innovative and groundbreaking methods to ensure that every eligible resident had the ability to exercise their constitutional rights to vote, such as tripling the number of Early Vote locations, establishing drive-thru voting, and expanding polling hours, including a one day 24-hour voting location. We had the highest turnout in a generation - almost 70% of registered voters voted. Now these advances in equity and access are under direct attack by proposed state legislation SB7 and related bills.

"The proposed voting restrictions in SB7 are political theater that sadly harms voters of both parties," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Policies grounded in the Big Lie - the falsehood that mass voter fraud exists - are wrong and only harm our democracy. I'm saddened to see any legislative proposal designed to limit voting hours or access to the ballot box. Increasing access to voting shouldn't be a partisan issue."

SB7 would restrict information on how to vote by mail, preventing the County from sending voters mail-in ballot applications. SB7 would also limit voting hours and would completely stop 24-hour voting, shutting out thousands of voters such as first responders and medical workers who work non-traditional hours. It would

eliminate drive-through voting, encourage harassment of voters inside polling locations by allowing individuals to approach and record voters inside the polling location, and would lead to long lines by dictating Harris County's distribution of voting machines.

We call on leaders, companies, and individuals to make their voice heard against bills that create obstacles to voting, under the guise of voter fraud, of which there is no substantial evidence.

A handful of large companies have voiced their opposition to these proposed bills. American Airlines said in a statement, "...As a Texas-based business, we must stand up for the rights of our team members and customers who call Texas home, and honor the sacrifices made by generations of Americans to protect and expand the right to vote..."

"Read the bill," said Texas State Senator Paul Bettencourt. "There's a lot of good things in it and not what's being said. [We're going to] fight for what is right, which is voter integrity. As Senator Hughes says, he's trying to make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat. That's what SB 7 is all about."

"If by chance these bills get through, there is a price for voter suppression," said Turner.

Neither of these proposed bills have been approved. They can still be changed or rejected.

-- Article modified from a story by Matthew Seedorff, FOX26.

# San Jacinto Day April 17,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Adults \$12 – Children (11 and under) \$6 – Parking is Free. Tickets include admission to all museum offerings and children's activities. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or through Eventbrite.

The celebration will take place rain or shine – no refunds.

The San Jacinto Celebration "Under the Star" will be held on April 17, 2021, on the grounds surrounding the San Jacinto Memorial Monument. This is a family-friendly event highlighting the events that led up to Texas winning its independence from Mexico at the decisive Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

Enjoy a living "Timeline of the Texas Revolution," showcasing the chronology of the San Jacinto story, with living history demonstrations featuring major events that occurred in Gonzales, the Alamo, San Felipe de Austin, Goliad, and Washington-on-the-Brazos, all of which led to the Battle of San Jacinto and the capture of General Santa Anna. Participatory activities allow visitors to interact with historians as they cook food, check weapons, and engage in the daily routines of Texans from almost 200 years ago.

Attendees are encouraged to visit the San Jacinto Museum inside the Monument. It will be open all day. The fee for this event includes entrance to all museum venues including the elevator ride to the top of the monument, a



Reenactors will be in Anahuac, April 17. Actors and exhibits will be at the San Jacinto Museum in Deer Park for a Texas Historical Commission celebration.

special exhibit, and the Texas history film.

The celebration will be a full day of entertainment, food trucks, vendors, Beer Garden, petting zoo, picnic on the grounds, family activities, and cultural exhibits amidst living history. A list of activities will be updated at [www.sanjacinto-museum.org](http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org).

Public parking lots are located along Vista Road and other marked areas near the monument. Disabled parking is available near the main ticketing area nearest the monument for vehicles, with a disabled placard or license plate required. A map of parking lots will be posted as the event gets closer.

The San Jacinto Museum of History is the organizer of the event. Our partners in coordinating this event include Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Historical Commission, Alamo Trust, volunteers from San Jacinto College, and Houston Food Truck Association.

Entertainment:

- Penny-farthing rider

(1870s bicycle) and juggler will entertain all day.

- Texas Flyer Trackless Train will be on hand to thrill and transport our little celebrators.

- Bluegrass musicians to entertain.

- Historical Storyteller will be on hand telling accounts of bravery and triumph while highlighting general leadership qualities. All children who participate will get a balloon.

- Representatives from the Texas Independence Trail will be on-site to tell their site's part in Texas history.

- Local cities will share their information as part of the Tourism Trail.

- Run-In-Late Band from Brazoria will be performing all day long. They play traditional Texas Country, Pop and Soft Rock, and even some Island Music.

Vendor booths offer a large selection of hand-crafted items.

Representatives from area chapters of The Sons of the Republic of Texas will be on hand.

# Jacinto City Murder,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing Johnny crying and saying, NO! NO! NO! I also could hear a woman's voice saying; apply pressure to stop the bleeding. I remained on the phone hearing all the commotion for the longest time. I believe it was an accident, people get on drugs and they don't know what they're doing. Johnny probably mishandled the gun because of his condition and it accidentally fired hitting Dalisha. They were not arguing, Johnny wasn't upset or mad at Dalisha, he had no reason to want to shoot her."

Shortly after the shooting an ambulance and medical crew arrived, it was determined the victim was already deceased upon its arrival and therefore they left the scene. The law requires for the Medical Examiner's Office to take control of a deceased victim whenever anyone dies of an unnatural death.

According to records Zermeno had been arrested several times over the past two years for domestic violence cases where Dalisha was the victim. He's been out on bond since August of 2020 for allegedly assaulting Blate, charging him with Continuous Violence against a Family Member in January 2020. He was out on bond at that time for a misdemeanor charge for allegedly assaulting Dalisha. A Protective Order was issued in December of 2019 to Zermeno prohibiting him from contacting her or going near her Galena Park home. On that charge while he remained in county jail Dalisha signed a sworn affidavit of fact that she wanted the charges dropped because she stated it was a misunderstanding and that she had acted out of anger. He posted a \$30,000 surety bond and was released.

Johnny's mother Janet Navarro said her son and Dalisha have 2 kids, a 20 month old son and 6 month old daughter. The grand-



Prayer candles and flowers placed at the shooting site by family members, friends and neighbors in memory of shooting victim Dalisha Blate. (Allan Jamail photo)

mother stated at the time of the shooting she was taking care of their son and the baby daughter was in the car when the shooting happened. Both kids are presently in Harris County Child Protective Custody until the courts decides a permanent guardian.

Ms. Navarro said her son Johnny and Dalisha knew each other most of their lives, as kids they were together often since my son's grandmother and Dalisha's grandmother lived down the street from each other in Galena Park and still do. "They lost contact with each other until about 2018 and then they began their relationship and had their two kids together, both have my son's last name of Zermeno. They've lived together here in the apartments for about 6 months," she said.

Zermeno is in jail charged with manslaughter and felon in possession of a weapon, possible other charges could be the violation of a protective custody order. Violations of Protective Order or Restraining Order cases vary widely, some report as low as 7 percent are violated and some as high as 81 percent.

Ms. Navarro spoke with Johnny since he's been in jail, she says he keeps crying that he can't believe his best friend (Dalisha) is no longer here and he feels like this is a bad dream that he is having and he's wanting to wake up from it and see she's still alive. She acknowledges both have been using drugs against all their family members' warnings and pleadings and the drug scene has played a major role in their troubles including the shooting. When asked how Johnny being a felon got a firearm she said, "I think Dalisha got it in her name."

National Domestic Violence Hotline # 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), Harris County's 24 hour domestic violence hotline # 713-528-2121.

The National Drug Helpline for those struggling with any addictive substance, including alcohol call, # 1-844-289-0879. The National Institute of Mental Health Services are available in English and Spanish at 1-866-615-6464 or 1-866-415-8051. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline day or night at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), Spanish 1-888-628-9454.

Posting Date April 12, 2021

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Repast

5 "Ben- —"

8 Lawman Wyatt

12 "Frozen" snow queen

13 "Right you —!"

14 Computer brand

15 Slightly

16 Actress Long

17 Hindu royal

18 Tidy up

20 Toto, to Dorothy

22 Peyton's brother

23 Commonest English word

24 Easter entrees

27 Vinegar variety

32 X-ray's cousin

33 Chopper

34 Hostel

35 "Becoming" author Obama

38 Read quickly

39 Knock

40 Wildebeest

42 "Yippee!"

45 Held up

49 "Mamma Mia" group

50 Gardner of Hollywood

52 Actress Kate

6 Swiss canton

7 Harvest

8 Sultry singer

9 Campus figure

10 Gambling mecca

11 Bluenose

19 Chicago transport

21 UFO crew

24 "Let me think ..."

25 "Exodus" hero

26 Germs

28 Rocker Rose

29 "Shampoo" Oscar winner

30 — pickle

31 Blitz's channel

36 Badger

37 Clean-air org.

38 Hand in

41 "Forget it!"

42 Corridor

43 Theater award

44 Tug

46 Innocent one

47 Ms. Brockovich

48 June honorees

51 Half of XIV

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the deepest point in Earth's oceans?

2. COMICS: What is the name of the newspaper in the "Shoe" comic strip?

3. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century novel features the characters Catherine and Heathcliff?

4. MOVIES: What was the name of Yoda's home planet in the "Star Wars" movie series?

5. BUSINESS: When did the social media service Facebook launch?

6. MUSIC: How many strings does a cello have?

7. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of alcohol is distilled from juniper berries?

8. HISTORY: In what year did the first human heart transplant take place?

9. SCIENCE: Which plant can be processed to make linseed oil?

10. LANGUAGE: What is the scientific study of diseases and their effects on population called?

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

Weekly SUBOKU

Answer



# CLASSIFIED ADS

**Call 713-266-3444**

Your AD will reach up to 50,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 25,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$16 for 20 words. A bargain!

**FORE RENT**

**DUPLEX FOR RENT**  
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, in Galena Park. Call 281-389-6567  
14-21

**FOR RENT**

**RENTAL PROPERTY**  
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Fenced Yard. Located in Nelson Addition, Crosby. \$1400/month. Call 281-705-9640  
14-31

**LEGAL NOTICE**
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 476638; Estate of PAULA J. WEBER Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 6, 2021.

**CHRISTOPHER LEE WEBER**

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 9, 2021.

*Weston Cotten*  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED TWO VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**10921 INVIERNO - ASUNCIO PEREZ & YERI PEREZ IS WANTING TO HAVE AN APARTMENT IN THE BACK.**

**1013 MERCURY STE A - CHRISTIAN LYNCH WITH CPL TECHNICAL SERVICES LLC IS WANTING TO HAVE A STORAGE UNIT AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDING.**

**THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.**

**A/C & APPLIANCE REPAIR**

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

**SERVICES**
**J.D. FENCE**

We install & repair fences. All types of chain link, wood ornamental and iron. Free estimate. Small jobs welcome. Call Jose 281-221-0637.  
tfn

**SERVICES**

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

**WELL SERVICES**

**PARTS SERVICES**  
R.F. Hull Water Well - Pump Service. 281-442-5630.  
22-tfn



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

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

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

**Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!**

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

**1-855-333-1888**

**inogen**

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

**A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.**

**GENERAC PWRCELL**  
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

Power your home, save money and be prepared for utility power outages with the PWRcell, a solar + battery storage system.

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**

**ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!\***  
| (877) 671-1823

**\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!\***

\*Offer value when purchased at retail.  
\*\*Financing available through authorized Generac partners. Solar panels sold separately.

**TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY**

**CALL NOW!**  
FOR  
**\$500 OFF**  
OR  
**NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST FOR 18 MONTHS**  
OFFER EXPIRES 6.30.2021

**833-401-2015**

- Over 850 Authorized Dealers in North America
- Factory-Trained & Certified Installers
- Lifetime Warranty
- Made in the U.S.A.

**BCI BATH & SHOWER**  
"We make bathing safer"

Military & Senior Discounts Available

\*Includes product and labor. Bathing, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires June 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic Inc.

**SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money**

## Business Directory

**SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money**

**HENDERSON GARAGE DOORS**

281-428-1187  
1-800-345-8471  
Sales & Repair Service  
Baytown, Texas  
John Henderson  
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

**CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS**  
FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS  
713-702-3200  
JOHNNY GAENE OWNER/INSPECTOR  
911 S. MAIN  
HIGHLANDS TX, 77562

Free Estimates Financing Available  
**MR. ROOFER**  
Siding & Contracting LLC  
281-452-0000  
CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR  
New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding • Mobile Home Skirting  
P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530  
Mrroofer@mail.com  
= Major credit cards accepted =

**Graphics Unlimited, Inc.**  
CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST  
Signs & Banners  
281-462-1200  
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net  
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

**REYNALDO REMODELING**  
25 Yrs. Experience  
Tel: 832-767-7701  
Fax: 832-376-4520  
FREE ESTIMATES REYNALDOREMODELING@YAHOO.COM

**HILL MATERIALS**  
119 Listi Ln, Highlands  
hillmaterials.com  
WE DELIVER TO YOU  
(281) 843-5000  
residential • commercial • industrial

**Glorious Designs Unlimited**  
Custom Design & Beaded Jewelry Repair  
Yolanda Peters  
Owner & Designer  
gdulp351@yahoo.com  
Designed With You In Mind  
Exodus 31:1-6 Jesus Is Lord  
713-261-9457

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



# Highlands Speedboat races,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



It seemed that most of Highlands came out for the races or the food sold in the refreshment area. There was hardly a parking space to be found inside or at the adjacent parking lot.



All the racing does have its wear and tear on the engines as this once prideful leader limps back to the bay for some mechanical work. Highlanders watched from the comfort of lawn chair sipping America's favorite beverage.



Making a real race of it after making the turn two races at right battle for third place breaking out of the wake inclination to avoid resistance. Ahead the darker boat pushes the throttle down in the straight away. Most races Sunday were about skill in driving rather than most powerful engine.



Rounding the turn demonstrates much of the strategic play of the races, some gained on their competitors in the turn while others lost ground.

## DPS Reminder: DL Expiration Waiver Ends in April

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding the public the waiver on expiration dates for driver licenses (DLs) and identification cards (IDs) ends on April 14, 2021. Customers who need to renew are urged to make an appointment or renew online today.

The waiver, granted by Governor Greg Abbott in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applied to DLs, commercial DLs, commercial learner permits, ID cards and election identification certificates that expired on or after March 13, 2020.

"Driver License employees have worked diligently to help Texans during challenging times and should be commended for their dedication," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "The Driver License Division has innovated to better serve constituents by implementing a new appointment solution to improve services and by providing extended hours at several locations across the state."

### Online renewals still a convenient option

Many Texans are eligible to skip the trip to the office entirely by renewing their DL/ID card or changing their address online at Texas.gov. Customers can also renew by phone at 1-866-DL-RENEW (1-866-357-3639). The requirements and cost for online and phone renewal are the same as in-person transactions.

### Expanded office hours

To assist customers needing in-office DL services, designated high-volume offices are offering expanded hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday.

### Scheduling an appointment

Services at driver license offices are now conducted by appointment only. To schedule an appointment or check availability, visit the online appointment scheduler. If you are unable to find an appointment at the office of your choice, check back for availability at that office or other locations nearby. Please check often as availability does change.

If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please reschedule or cancel it ahead of time. While the department is working to serve as many customers as possible, people with appointments not showing up continues to be a major obstacle. In December 2020, for example, approximately 31% of people were no-shows for their appointments.

The appointment system, which debuted in May 2020, is designed to provide additional convenience, reducing the time Texans wait in line. Customers can book appointments for a specific day and time, up to six months in advance, and show up 30 minutes or less before their scheduled time. Customers can check-in using the kiosk inside the office or from their mobile device.

All offices offer a limited number of same-day appointments. These appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers who book these appointments can leave the DL office until their designated time.

Additionally, most offices also offer customers without an appointment a spot on a "standby" list. These customers are required to wait in the office and are assisted in the event of a cancellation or no-show. The number of standby appointments available is limited to ensure all customers who are placed on the list will be served by the end of the day.


To ensure a safe environment, COVID-19 protocols have been implemented at DL offices.

REWARD

\*\*\*\*\*LOST\*\*\*\*\*

KATY KAT

936-553-4626



SAN JACINTO RV


#222

Highlands, TX.

ONE white whisker

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

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



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

CARTER ★ CONLEY

FUNERAL HOME

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 25 YEARS

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

www.carterfuneral-houston.com

SAVE UP TO \$3,500 WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR DEPOSIT BY APRIL 30TH.\*

CALL 832-572-5592 TODAY!



Now Leasing

Baytown's new favorite option in senior living



WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW DEPOSITS AND EXCEEDING ALL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL COVID-19 PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

A perfect blend of senior living options to fit your lifestyle in a one-of-a-kind retirement community. Offering Independent Living cottages and apartments, single-story Assisted Living homes, specialty Memory Care, and a host of amenities and services, our resort-style community is surprisingly affordable.

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

 THE LODGE AT  
PINE CREEK  
BY ABBY SENIOR LIVING

825 Hunt Road  
Baytown, TX  
832-572-5592  
LodgeAtPineCreek.com

©2021 Abby Senior Living. \*Valid for qualifying new deposits placed between 04/01/21 and 04/30/21. Cannot be combined with other offers. Terms and restrictions apply. Talk with our Community Liaison for details.