

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 9, NO. 16 (#369) THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

THURSDAY



## Rotary Raffle Benefit May 15

The North Shore Rotary Club will hold a MEGA RAFFLE on Saturday, in place of their annual Fish Fry. This 46th Annual Fundraising Event will feature a Grand Prize of the winner's choice of a 2021 Chevy Camaro, or a Chevrolet Colorado pickup.

There are also 25 additional prizes including a side of beef, golf cart, vacation package, iPad, fishing trip, and much more.

The drawing will be held at Turner Chevrolet, and broadcast live on Facebook. Tickets are \$100 and available from all NS Rotarians, or on Facebook.

## Vaccinations in Jacinto City on Friday April 23

Jacinto City is hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic this Friday, April 23 from 8am to 3:30pm. Anybody 18 or older can get a shot free.

Call 713-674-8424 or email [joyce.raines@jacinto-city.tx.gov](mailto:joyce.raines@jacinto-city.tx.gov) with name, address, date of birth, and phone.

## COVID-19

Cases as of  
April 21, 2021

### HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

637,315 POSITIVE  
6,879 DEATHS  
589,945 RECOVERED

### TEXAS

2,864,319 POSITIVE  
49,748 DEATHS  
22,494,107 TESTS

### UNITED STATES

31,861,202 POSITIVE  
569,385 DEATHS  
419,722,893 TESTS

### WORLDWIDE

143,488,236 POSITIVE  
3,055,587 DEATHS  
82,199,239 RECOVERED

## Parade, Auction mark return of Channelview FFA Show

CHANNELVIEW – After missing a year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Channelview FFA returned to their normal events last week, with a Parade and Livestock Show on Saturday, April 17.

The parade featured bands, floats, marching units, and the Channelview Fire Department. It started at Schochler Pri-

Continued. See FFA, p. 8



GRAND CHAMPION STEER was shown by Hagen Noble, and the RESERVE CHAMPION STEER was shown by Jayce Sumbara.



NORTH SHORE ROTARY continued their support of the FFA with the purchase of the 3rd place steer. Pictured are Rotarians Shawn Silman, Scott Stephens, Dan Mims, Derrill Painter, and Mike Bilnoski.

## San Jacinto Battle re-enacted in Anahuac



ANAHUAC – Re-enactors here played the scenes from the 1836 Texas Revolution last weekend after relations with the Texas Historical Commission frayed at the San Jacinto Memorial Battlegrounds. The re-enacting begins from above the disastrous retreat following the fall of the Alamo and Goliad known as the Runaway Scrape. Terror and panic as families tried to stay ahead of Santa Anna's troops swept eastward virtually unopposed. At right General Sam Houston lead his ragtag army eastward awaiting the "Napoleon of the West" to make a mistake.



ANAHUAC – From fretful retreat to galloping charge, the remembrance of the sacrifice and bravery of early Texans was remembered step by step augmented with displays and interaction with the actors playing historical roles. Below, Sam Houston lead a disgruntled army across from Washington on the Brazos to trap Santa Anna by securing Mr. Lynch's Ferry and having Def Smith burn the bridge to Pasadena cutting Santa Anna off from some 5,000 troops that were attempting to catch the Texian government before they could escape to Galveston by ship. It was a desperate plan that was made more desperate when 400 Mexican militia arrived to support Santa Anna on the day of battle April 21, 1836. Continued on Page 3.

## Waste Pits delayed another 270 days

Remediation work may not start until 2024

**NO TIME TO WASTE: A Call for Inclusivity and Transparency in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Process.**

HOUSTON – Jackie Young Medcalf, president of the Texas Health & Environment Alliance (THEA) recently learned that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorized a 270-day extension to the design phase of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund process at the request of the responsible parties (International Paper and Waste Management subsidiary, McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corporation). This extension is on the heels of a 160-day extension authorized by the EPA in September of 2020.

Medcalf feels that the EPA needs to be more transparent and inclusive in these types of decisions. She feels the first extension allowed time for more testing and sampling, but thinks the new extension will just be an unnecessary delay and have the potential problem of moving remediation work back several years and conflict with a new I-10 bridge that TxDOT plans to build over the San Jacinto River.



Jackie Medcalf, THEA president, protests at the Waste Management offices in downtown Houston on April 15.

The Waste Pits Superfund Site is the result of paper mill waste disposed of along the San Jacinto River in the 1960s. The Waste Pits presented such a threat to the environment and to public health that they were listed for clean-up under the

EPA Federal Superfund program in 2008. Currently, remediation of the Waste Pits is in the design phase which was initiated in April of 2018 by a settlement between the EPA and the Waste Pits' responsible parties.

When the 160-day extension was authorized in 2020, THEA did not object to this allowance for further sampling and water treatability studies. Unfortunately, the EPA did not effectively utilize this time and require the responsible parties move swiftly on sampling. This misuse of time is unacceptable to local community members and it is critical that the EPA stop allowing time to be wasted and require expedient and thorough work be completed. Delays or poorly executed work may pose public health and environmental consequences in surrounding communities for generations to come.

The EPA has ultimate authority and oversight to see that the Waste Pits are removed in a reasonable timeframe and with best management practices to ensure a safe and efficient clean-up. The local community has been left in the dark while time has been wasted.

Continued. See WASTE PITS DELAYED, p. 5

## North Channel Chamber Gala set for April 29

NORTH CHANNEL – The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to "Together Again," NCACC's 44th Annual Gala.

The event will be held Thursday, April 29, 2021 at Sylvan Beach Pavilion, 1 Sylvan Beach Dr., La Porte, TX 77571. Social Hour starts at 6:30 PM, and Dinner is at 7:00 PM.

Seating is limited this year, due to Pandemic protocols that will be observed. For information and reservations, [yesenia@ncachamber.com](mailto:yesenia@ncachamber.com) or call 713-450-3600. Seating availability is offered on a first come, first served basis.

In addition to dinner



TIM STROUD

and the speaker, there will be a silent auction. Silent Auction Sponsors can donate either \$200, or a prize of \$150+ value to the Chamber to support the Gala's Silent Auction.

The Gala Speaker is Tim Stroud. Timothy Stroud is a former combat

medic in the United States Army. He served his country for four and a half years of active service with deployments to Kosovo, Kuwait and Iraq (OIF). During these years, Tim learned volumes about team building, leadership, and camaraderie. He also sought out a mentor during his transition back into civilian life and began a seven-year relationship with Army veteran and entrepreneur Paul J. Meyer.

As a subject matter expert on transitional services for Veterans, he frequently speaks on topics such as employment,

Continued. See CHAMBER GALA, p. 8

## COVID vaccination now available without wait

### Get Vaccinated at NRG Park Without an Appointment

HOUSTON – Effective immediately, anyone in Harris County or the greater Houston area will be able to receive the COVID-19 two-dose Pfizer vaccine at the FEMA Community Vaccination Center (CVC) at NRG Park with or without an appointment. Additionally, starting Wednesday, April 21, the CVC hours of operations are changing from 8 am to 5 pm to 12pm – 9pm to make it easier and more

convenient for residents to get the vaccine.

Although it is preferred for residents to register as it guarantees a vaccine is available at a time and location of their choice, people can show up, driving or on foot, at the NRG Park CVC to get vaccinated. Residents walking in or driving up into NRG Park without an appointment should enter via Gate 16A off of Main Street. Staff working the site are ready to receive and assist residents when they arrive. Residents can visit [ReadyHarris.org](http://ReadyHarris.org), [vacstrac.hctx.net](http://vacstrac.hctx.net) or call the HCPH Vaccine hotline at 832-927-8787 for assis-

tance. With the recent registration changes, residents who sign up for a vaccine from Harris County Public Health (HCPH) are now given appointment at all HCPH vaccination sites immediately after registering for a vaccine, while supplies last.

Harris County reiterates its commitment to providing vaccines efficiently, fairly and equitably by eliminating barriers to registration and providing information in multiple languages online and via phone. The county also continues to prioritize vac-

Continued. See VACCINATION, page 5



# Legion hosts crowds at Gun & Knife Show



## Thank You Mr. President

Commander Dan Webb and Sarge greet those coming into the David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658 in Crosby Hall for the Gun and Knife Show last weekend that was packed with customers and vendors from opening Saturday morning until 4:00 p.m. Sunday, they also had on display an array of knives and sheaths. A wave of mass shootings, prior to the event throughout the nation, had prompted the President to comment, "No one needs a gun that holds more than 10 bullets." It might have been the biggest gun sales prompter since the statement, "Hell yeah, we are coming to take your guns." at the national Democratic Presidential Debate. Anticipation of a national referendum on firearms has prompted several situations including massive purchases of ammunition from retail stores beginning in late October at retail prices that lead to a shortage of ammunition at present and therefore higher prices in bullets.



Usual suspects work the snack bar including Commander Gary Alston. A raffle of 3 pistols was held Sunday \$10 a chance or 3 for \$25 at stake a Kimber Ultra Carry II 9m.m., a Smith & Wesson 40 Cal. 40 2.0 and a Ruger 380 ACP2. The local Legion promises another Gun & Knife show in July and special dinners on Friday nights.

# Crosby-Huffman Chamber succeeds with Tees & Tails



Crawfish Shack was double the winners with First Place in the Tees & Tails golf Tournament and preparing perfect half shrimp half mud bug dinners.Scott Lund, Mason Evers, and Brandon Womach turned in a 51 score to again win the Tees & Tails Tournament. Golf Commissioner Justin League at left.



C-HCC's Justin League hands second place winners Kelly Wilburn, Dillon Wilburn, Chase Davis and Dillon Gray trophies.They came in with a 52 stroke victory.



Third place was Doug Cox, Clay Fullick, Jay Mackey with Spencer Ashton with a swat of 53.



Closest to Pin #16 was Cameron Alford, "That was a day – a straight up shot," he mused to the reporter. Sarah Otis had the longest drive on hole number 7.

STONEBRIDGE ON NEWPORT – Storm clouds held back just enough to allow the Crosby –Huffman Chamber of Commerce to host their annual Tees & Tails tournament and public dinner plus Live and Silent Auction for continued community service from and for the local business community.

## Maximum Tax Savings



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

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE



# Scenes from San Jacinto Battle reenactment



Sam Houston leads his army in retreat eastward carrying the Twin Sisters a gift from Cincinnati, Ohio to the cause of human liberty, in an effort to stay active and await a mistake by Santa Anna.



At about 4:00 p.m. April 21, 1836, having cut off the Mexican Army from more reinforcements the Texian Army attacked Santa Anna's larger force by surprise sneaking up through 5 foot tall grass until they fell upon the garrison in two prongs.



In about 20 minutes the Mexican resistance was subdued but the killing continued throughout the afternoon. About 750 Mexican Army were killed, 4 Texians died during the battle with 3 more were to die soon thereafter of wounds. That number nearly included General Sam Houston hit in the ankle by a .78 caliber ball.



Santa Anna in a private's uniform was identified when he was brought before a wounded Houston but all of the Mexican troops saluted and called out "El Presidente." Houston dealt to secure what would become more than 1/4 of the continental U.S.A. and sent Santa Anna to meet President Andy Jackson. Jackson snubbed Santa Anna de Lopez. Patriots put Houston on a ship to New Orleans where he almost died reaching much needed medical attention.

Rotary

Club of North Shore

Rotary

Club of North Shore

46th Annual Fundraising Event

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GRAND PRIZE



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# Joining Forces for Our Children

Message from Sheriff Ed Gonzalez:

Earlier this week, we kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month at the steps of The Children's Assessment Center with our most dedicated partners in the fight against child abuse in Harris County.

As a close-knit community of child advocates, we work as a team to protect our most vulnerable. You are part of this team. We rely on our community to report abuse and keep our children safe when they see the signs of a child in need.



Blue and silver pinwheels outside The Children's Assessment Center building were spinning in the wind, one for each of the 175 children who are victims of abuse in Texas every day.

Signs of abuse aren't always obvious, but they are often there if you know where to look. We are asking every adult in our community to help. Take actionable steps to create safer environments for the children in your life:

If you see something, say something. Reporting suspicions of child abuse can save a life, prevent further victimization, or stop more children from being victimized.

Learn how to recognize and report child abuse. Education and training are our best defense against those who harm children.

Talk to your children. Start the conversation early and continue the discussion throughout their upbringing.

Spread the message. Tell your neighbors and loved ones how they, too, can do their part to keep our children safe in a real and virtual world.

Our partners at The CAC offer free training and resources on the signs and symptoms of child abuse and share stories of survivors throughout the year. In April, they're hosting additional training and virtual workshops on child abuse awareness and prevention. For more information on what's in store and how to get involved, click here.

As first responders, we work tirelessly to investigate allegations of child abuse. We also work hard to identify and combat human trafficking cases, especially those involving a juvenile.

There aren't many jobs in our agency that are tougher than being a child abuse investigator. These incidents are horrific, heartbreaking cases of abuse and neglect involving an innocent and defenseless child.

But it's an important calling that offers the chance to make a difference in the lives of our community's great asset: our children.

Our investigators' role in child abuse cases spans the entire case from the initial call, through the investigation, and to the court proceedings. Our Crimes Against Children Unit stays involved in the investigation as the victim and their family receive the proper treatment, services, and support from advocacy centers to start their healing process. It's a coordinated response from the start.

Sadly, in 2020, nearly 4,000 children received services at The CAC. These experts provide high-quality care so children can thrive. Their work embodies the sentiment: "No future should be out of reach."

And while the work of our specialized unit is always essential, it is especially critical during a crisis. The disruption brought on by the pandemic made our children even more vulnerable to abuse. Some of those traditional safety nets have been removed with children not regularly attending schools, daycares, and after-school programs.

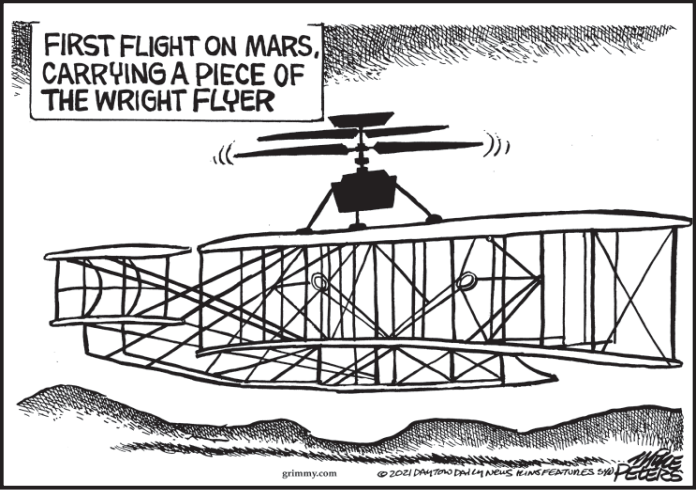
With violent crime on the rise over the past year, Harris County is investing in overtime pay meant to help our investigators target violent criminals in several key areas, including tackling child abuse investigations.

We have a shared responsibility and shared commitment to ensure every child lives a life free from abuse. Prevention through education is key.

If you're concerned about a child in your life, call us at 713-221-6000. If you want to remain anonymous, report tips to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS.

We are grateful for the opportunity to stand together with the many partners in our region who work to end child abuse for all.

Mounted Patrol Training  
HCSO Mounted Patrol Unit Training  
HCSO News



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

## Early Voting underway Across State

Early voting began Monday for May 1 elections in county, city and school district elections.

Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughes encourages all eligible voters to take advantage of the early voting period, which runs through Tuesday, April 27. Texas voters can contact their respective county elections office to view a sample ballot, locate their appropriate polling place, and plan their trip to the polls. Additional information is available at [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).

**NEW PUC COMMISSIONER CONFIRMED**

Will McAdams, nominated by Gov. Greg Abbott to a slot on the Public Utilities Commission, was unanimously confirmed by the Texas Senate last week.

McAdams formerly served as president of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas and worked for legislators for more than a decade in various senior staff positions.

Abbott has also nominated Peter Lake to be the new chair of the PUC, which regulates the state's power grid operations. Lake now serves as chair of the Texas Water Development Board.

All three previous PUC members resigned after February's winter storm led to massive power outages across the state.

**HOUSE PASSES BILL TO ALLOW HANDGUN CARRY WITHOUT A LICENSE**

The Texas House voted 87-58 last week to allow handguns to be carried without a permit. Under current law, a permit is required to carry handguns either concealed or openly. If the bill becomes law, any Texas resident not already prohibited by state or federal law from owning a gun could legally carry a handgun.

According to the Texas Tribune, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Texas Senate, previously expressed qualms about easing handgun laws. Numerous law enforcement officials and concealed handgun license instructors opposed the measure, citing concerns over safety. A number of El Paso-area lawmakers opposed the measure, recalling the mass shooting that left 23 dead at a Walmart there in August 2019.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## The Last Box

"Oh my gosh. I don't want to open that box."

Moving furniture and books and clothing is easy. It's moving memories that is hard.

I am going through the last of my boxes. I used to say I was not a packrat. I thought I was more like my mother than my dad. My dad might tuck a piece of wood away, thinking it would find a use someday. My mother would be of the opinion that it's easier to buy a board when (and if) it was needed. Generally, it wasn't.

This approach keeps my parents' house very tidy—with the possible exception of one small room in the basement where my dad keeps his wood collection.

It turns out, I am not at all like my mother.

I have filed things away that will never find any purpose whatsoever other than to remind me of things I did and used to care about that I no longer do. For the last few days, I've been emptying the box.

Photos from when we used to take real photos, letters from people who cared about me, certificates indicating I accomplished something or another, reviews that mentioned my name, currency from foreign countries I will never visit again, 100+-year-old spectacles (why?), a lovely handheld fan my former mother-in-law gave me, clever things I wrote when I was in the fifth grade (really?), recipes in my grandmother's handwriting, and even (I am embarrassed to admit) my old teddy bear.

My teddy bear feels crunchy. His exterior is badly corroded by time, I can't imagine what has happened to his insides.

All of it is in the last box, waiting to be emptied.

Some of it is easy to understand wanting to hang onto. I am scanning some of the photos and my grandmother's recipes, and they will move onto the great cloud in the sky. (That is where I imagine the cloud, not being savvy with computer matters.) They will likely get no more attention on the cloud than they did in the box, but they will gather less dust and—most importantly—they won't need to be moved.

But still I worry that some of this—some potshard from my past—will be needed. It will be necessary to remember something I did or someone I knew or something that was important to me and, if I lose it, I will lose some part of myself.

The fact that this is nonsense does not lessen the feeling.

I've heard the mantra that we should keep only what "sparks joy," and I cannot claim that anything in that box is sparking joy. In fact, the existence of that box is causing me a fair amount of angst.

Instead, I ask myself, "Would I experience great pain if I threw this away?"

Generally, the answer is, "No," and the item is tossed. But sometimes, for no logical reason, I hold something in my hand, and I feel I need it. I need the fan my mother-in-law gave me, I need those 100+-year-old spectacles and, yes, it is possible that I might still need my teddy bear—even though he has gone all crunchy on me. Heck, I've gotten a little crunchy myself.

It's not a perfect system. But the contents of the box are shrinking and the guilt for hanging onto so much stuff is dissolving, and I feel a sense of satisfaction, sending one after another of my grandmother's recipes through the scanner.

I just found her recipe for chocolate frosting. I'm going to make it sometime soon.

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

CHRISTOPHER DEE MORRIS

Christopher Dee Morris, 43 of Highlands, peacefully departed this life Wednesday, March 31, 2021 with his family and friends by his side. Chris was born on February 20, 1978 in Kirbyville, to the parents of Cherry Worry Morris and Curtis Dee Morris. He was a graduate of Anahuac High School, a member of the American Welding Society, The Houston Pipeliners Association, and the Serve Outdoors Matagorda Bay Chapter. Chris loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his boys along with his family and friends.

Chris is preceded in death by his father Curtis Morris, grandparents Addison Morris and Norma Clark, George and Edna Worry and nephew Matthew Morris. He is sur-



vived by his love Anita Barrientos, children, Cameron and Caden Morris and Alexander Eelbode; mother Cherry Morris, brother Clayton Morris and wife Olivia and sister Christina Hart and fiancé Donald Gray, nieces and nephews, Natalie and Hayes Hart, Joshua, Hannah, Grace, Christian, Ash-

er and Seth Morris, along with various family and friends.

Please join us in a family style Celebration of Life service on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 11:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Moose Lodge 3919 Pansy St, Pasadena, TX 77505. Crawfish will be served; but please feel free to bring a dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy. Chris always loved to get together with family and friends for a day of great stories, music, and laughter. This will be a day for celebration and great memories with the people dearest to him. Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar of the lodge.

The family has set up a GoFundMe page to help with future expenses for Anita and the boys. <https://gofund.me/a920f5e9>

Waste Pits Delayed Again,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Problems are best solved with open and transparent communication – which we are lacking for this Superfund Site. It is our impression that the EPA has allowed the focus to be on a singular concept created by the responsible parties. These are the same parties who made their agenda clear for this site – they wanted to leave the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River and were forced by federal order to cooperate in this process and to fully remove the Pits.

The EPA must hold polluters accountable and must provide transparent communication to the community. The tension is mounting for local residents and with every hurricane season that approaches, fears heighten of the Pits being further disrupted by Mother Nature. Considering the 270-day extension and procurement time for remedial equipment, this pushes the estimated clean-up start to 2024. The Waste Pits are nestled to the immediate north and south of Interstate 10, which Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) plans to replace starting in the Spring of 2025. Unfortunately, it was announced in 2020 that the remedial timeline adjusted from 2 years to 7 years. Local residents are extremely concerned about how these two major

projects will impact one another, and how barge traffic on the River will impact the safety of these efforts. We need to see interagency coordination on these sensitive efforts taking place in the same timeframe, adjacent to one another on the navigable waterway.

The community and our elected officials need to hear from the EPA. We need to be informed and included in the process taking place that not only affects the future of Interstate 10, but the health and safety of the community and Galveston Bay.

DIOXIN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We know that dioxin is extremely toxic and that it can hold its toxicity for hundreds of years. We know it is present in extremely large quantities in the Waste Pits and that the most recent testing of the river surface water showed high levels of dioxin in the water column. And we know that rates of cancer in children are elevated in the communities surrounding the Waste Pits. We must stop wasting time. Our children have rates of rare eye cancer over 16x the state average. Our seafood is contaminated. Another hurricane season is quickly approaching. As long as the Pits are in the river, far too much is at stake.

The Texas Health and

Environment Alliance's mission is to protect the environment and public health from the harmful effects of toxic waste. We endeavor to establish an informed and engaged public movement to restore and protect environmental resources from historical contamination.

ABOUT THE SAN JACINTO WASTE PITS/COLLUTION

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

On October 11, 2017, the EPA signed a Record of Decision for remediation of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. In addition to installing energizing controls like a cofferdam, the plan includes directives for the removal of dioxin-contaminated material down to a recreational standard of 30 parts per trillion.

Vaccinations available without appointment,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cines for vulnerable communities by offering vaccines at mobile sites in hard-hit zip codes, conducting targeted outreach, offering transportation for those who cannot drive to an appointment on their own, and collaborating with community organizations to support vaccine

distribution.

The Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is not being administered at any HCPH site at this time, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA)'s recommendation

to pause its use.

NRG Park  
Starting Wednesday, April 21  
Open daily 12pm – 9pm  
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Driver License waiver has now ended

AUSTIN – The COVID-related waiver on expiration dates for driver licenses (DLs) and identification cards (IDs) has now ended. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) continues to urge customers with an expired DL or ID to make an appointment or renew online today.

To assist customers with expired licenses who were unable to schedule an appointment prior to the waiver ending, DPS implemented a new procedure allowing them to request a temporary driving permit that will remain valid until their appointment date. For additional details on that process, please visit the DPS website.

The expiration waiver, originally granted by Governor Greg Abbott in March 2020 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.

Driving with an expired license

The department cannot determine what action a law enforcement officer or the court may take if someone is stopped while driving with an expired license as both have discretion in these matters. That is why the department continues to encourage anyone with an expired DL to make a renewal appointment now and apply for the temporary driving permit in order to stay in compliance.

Renewing online remains a convenient option

Many Texans are eligible to skip the trip to the office entirely by renewing their DL or ID card or changing their address online at [Texas.gov](https://www.texas.gov). As of April 1, 2021, there were approximately 858,000 expired driver licenses in the DPS system. Of those, roughly 130,700 are eligible to renew online. 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. (When you schedule an appointment, you will be notified if you are eligible to renew online.)

Expanded office hours

To assist customers needing in-office DL services, designated high-volume offices continue 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

A reminder that all 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 ahead of time. While the department is working to serve as many

customers as possible, people not showing up for their appointments continues to be a major obstacle. In March 2021, for example, approximately 28% of people (or more than 198,000 customers) 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 may be able to offer some 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.

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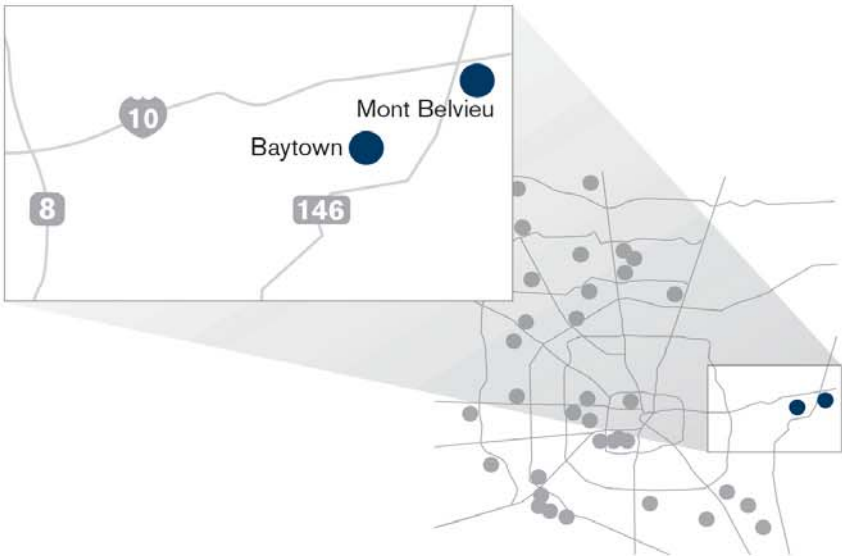
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# ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## Time to Grow

One of the greatest assets of the North Channel Area is the spirit to make the world a better place. A look around will show leaders who grew up here and have continued to live, work, worship and volunteer in the area.

Many years ago, I heard Rev. John Brady speaking to a junior high class about his trips to Kenya. He would go every few years and help spread the Gospel while building a life-long friendship with another pastor. He concluded his talk to these students with a statement that rings true still today. He said that those who make an impact around the world will also make a greater impact in their own neighborhood.

Last year, East Harris County Empowerment Council joined with Texas Children's Hospital Section of Public Health Pediatrics to develop and offer a free leadership program to adults in the area. Over the course of several months, the meetings transitioned from in-person to virtual due to COVID-19, yet attendance remained high. What began as a group of strangers developed into new friendships, great partnerships and a world of shared knowledge. Over the months, there were guest speakers who shared about how they became engaged in the community as well as politics. Participants learned that in order to tackle a big project, they would need to know what is already going on as to not reinvent the wheel and know people they could collaborate with to make the journey easier.

From this inaugural group, the Uvalde Revitalization Project was birthed and a team led by Kristina Zatopek developed a plan to join the City of Houston, Harris County Precinct 2 and over 40 community volunteers to clean Uvalde Road. While the clean-up was the beginning, recognition to a local business that has continued to keep their parking lot clean and attractive was selected by members of the community. Kristina has a schedule of other events to help revitalize Uvalde Road and get the attention of others who want to be a part of the economic boost that is coming to the area.

Others in the inaugural group are working on projects ranging from uniting those who are working with the homeless community, to encouraging those dealing with grief. A program to reach middle school and high school girls is being developed as well as a program to encourage health and wellness.

If this is something that you would be interested in learning more about, please make plans now to attend one of the upcoming virtual Program Information Sessions. They will be held on June 6 and 13 at 6 p.m. For more information on the Leadership Development Program, please contact Cassie A. Jones at 346.263.2570 or by emailing her at [cajones@texaschildrens.org](mailto:cajones@texaschildrens.org)

## Rotary receives small club award



Rotarians Tricia and Andy Scott display the Small Club of Year Award received at the District Conference last week. The club was cited for many projects, including flood relief to Louisiana, and a Mobile Book Van for the Highlands Library.

Chamber Gala,

Channelview FFA,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

education, entrepreneurship and support services. He lives in Houston and continues to champion several causes for Veterans and their families through Easter Seals of Greater Houston. Tim has two daughters, Amber and Jacqueline, aptly nicknamed The Hurricane and The Tornado. They keep him grounded and remind him of the value of life.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

marty on Deer Pass, proceeded down Woodforest, and ended on Sheldon at Memorial stadium. Throngs of people lined the streets and enjoyed the sights and sounds. Parade Marshalls were Channelview Superintendent Greg Ollis, and his wife Cindi Ollis, the retired principle of the high school. The Auction Sale and a Chili Cook-off took place after the parade, at the Ag Center on Wood Drive.

top ten

Easy-to-Grow Houseplants

1. Snake Plant
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3. Dumb Cane
4. Spider Plant
5. Golden Pothos
6. Dracaena
7. English Ivy
8. Peace Lily
9. Schefflera
10. Heart Leaf Philodendron

Source: [www.GardenMandy.com](http://www.GardenMandy.com)

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## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: □“How is natural yellow gold made into white or rose color gold?”

Gold is a chemical element with the symbol Au (from Latin: aurum) and the atomic number 79. In its purest form, it is a bright, slightly reddish yellow, dense, soft, malleable and ductile metal. Gold is commonly formed into bars or coin for use in monetary exchange. Gold is the most malleable of all metals; a single gram can be beaten into a sheet of 1 square meter, and an ounce into 300 square feet. Gold leaf can be beaten thin enough to become transparent. The transmitted light appears greenish blue, because gold strongly reflects yellow and red. Such semi-transparent sheets also strongly reflect infrared light, making them useful as infrared (radiant heat) shields in visors of heat-resistant suits, and in sun-visors for spacesuits. Gold is a good conductor of heat and electricity and reflects infrared radiation strongly.

**WHITE GOLD**

White gold is an alloy of gold and at least one white metal, usually nickel, manganese or palladium. Like yellow gold, the purity of white gold is given in karats. A common white gold formulation consists of 90 wt.% gold and 10 wt.% nickel. Copper can be added to increase malleability.

The strength of gold–nickel–copper alloys is caused by formation of two phases, a gold-rich Au–Cu, and a nickel-rich Ni–Cu, and the resulting hardening of the material. The alloys used in jewelry industry are gold–palladium–silver and gold–nickel–copper–zinc. Palladium and nickel act as primary bleaching agents for gold; zinc acts as a secondary bleaching agent to attenuate the color of copper.

The nickel used in some white gold alloys can cause an allergic reaction when worn over long periods (also notably on some wrist-watch casings). This reaction, typically a minor skin rash, occurs in about one out of eight people and because of this, many countries do not use nickel in their white gold formulations.

**ROSE, RED, AND PINK GOLD**

Rose gold is a gold and copper alloy widely used for specialized jewelry. Rose gold, also known as pink gold and red gold, was popular in Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and was also known as Russian gold although this term is now obsolete. Rose gold jewelry is becoming more popular in the 21st century and is commonly used for wedding rings, bracelets, and other jewelry.

Although the names are often used interchangeably, the difference between red, rose, and pink gold is the copper content: the higher the copper content, the stronger the red coloration. Pink gold uses the least copper, followed by rose gold, with red gold having the highest copper content.

Up to 15% zinc can be added to copper-rich alloys to change their color to reddish yellow or dark yellow.

During ancient times, due to impurities in the smelting process, gold frequently turned a reddish color. This is why many Greco-Roman texts, and even many texts from the Middle Ages, describe gold as “red”.

**ROSE GOLD Also known as “Crown Gold”.**

The highest karat version of rose gold is also known as crown gold, which is 22 karat. Eighteen karat red gold may be made of 25% copper and 75% gold. For 18 karat rose gold, typically about 4% silver is added to 75% gold and 21% copper to give a rose color. 14 karat red gold is often found in the Middle East and contains 41.67% copper.

High-end musical flutes are very commonly made of solid rose gold, the most common alloy being 14K.

*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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