

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 9, NO. 17 (#370) THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

GP ISD Food Distribution April 30

Galena Park ISD will host a Super Site Food Distribution Event on Friday, April 30 starting at 9:00 am. "WHILE SUPPLIES LAST" so come early. At North Shore Senior High School, 353 N. Castlegary, enter on Evanston west of the stadium. Remain in your vehicle. No Walk-ups please. Sponsored by the Houston Food Bank and Galena Park ISD.

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.

COVID-19 Cases as of April 27, 2021

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

642,837 POSITIVE
7,018 DEATHS
595,910 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,882,423 POSITIVE
50,027 DEATHS
22,776,539 TESTS

UNITED STATES

32,175,049 POSITIVE
573,378 DEATHS
428,582,253 TESTS

WORLDWIDE

148,353,905 POSITIVE
3,131,636 DEATHS
85,984,055 RECOVERED

Channelview's Successful FFA Parade & Auction

By Allan Jamail



1st place chili & showmanship Channelette Kicking Cookers. Suzanne Hutchins Channelette's Director (center) holding their award. Channelette parents Gilda and Ernie Noyola were the Chili cooks



Leading in the 2021 Channelview FFA Parade in the backseat is Grand Marshalls Superintendent Greg & Cinci Ollis, both lifelong educators & Barry & Debbie Gibson (in front). Photo by Allan Jamail



2020 & 2021 Channelette Seniors FFA parade float. Photo by Allan Jamail

CHANNELVIEW – Saturday, April 17, 2021 the Channelview High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) brought out a host of the schools various student classes and groups to participate in the FFA parade and day's events. FFA teachers Wesley Hutchins, Brooke McCauley and Channelette Director Suzanne Hutchins had their students enter cooking contests, parade and float contests, vehicle and marching group contests and contests for showing their cows, pigs, goats, rabbits, chickens and horticulture exhibits. Judges graded each category and presented awards to the students, many of those shown were auctioned off to the highest bidder. The event raised \$135,000.00 which will go towards helping students further their ambition in farming and ranching.

This year's 1st place Grand Champion Steer exhibitor was Hagen Noble and the buyer was Stewart

continued on page 5



Grand Champion Steer, Exhibitor Hagen Noble, Buyer Stewart Builders, \$10,000



Grand Champion Swine, Exhibitor Kaylae Woods

LIVESTOCK PHOTOS COURTESY OF T.J. JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY AND CHANNELVIEW ISD FFA.

Lynchburg Ferry back in Service

The Lynchburg Ferry reopened on Monday, April 26. Drivers may now cross the Houston Ship Channel using the updated facility.

The Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) will resume operations of the Lynchburg Ferry beginning Monday, April 26 at 4:30 a.m. Use of the facility remains free of charge.

The Lynchburg Ferry closed in February of 2020 for necessary improvements to preserve the longevity of its operations. The project was a joint venture between Harris County and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The ferry, which crosses the Houston Ship Channel, connects North and



South Independence Parkway and the San Jacinto Battleground Monument. Since 1888, Harris County has provided the ferry service free of charge.

During the closure, crews reconstructed the north and south approaches,

as well as the transfer ramps that allow for loading and unloading of the boats. The work also includes rehabbing berthing facilities and new ramp hoist systems, which raise and lower the ramps.

The newly elevated ap-

proaches and ramps will reduce service outages related to the impact of local flooding, therefore providing better service and reliability to drivers.

Both ferryboats also received much needed refurbishing, including engine

work, new decks and repainting.

While the Ferry will reopen on April 26, ongoing work will continue with the remaining construction and is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2021.

The Lynchburg Ferry hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 4:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Both ferryboats are scheduled to operate Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

For frequently asked questions drivers may visit hctra.org/FAQ. For general updates follow the Lynchburg Ferry Facebook page, the Lynchburg Ferry webpage.

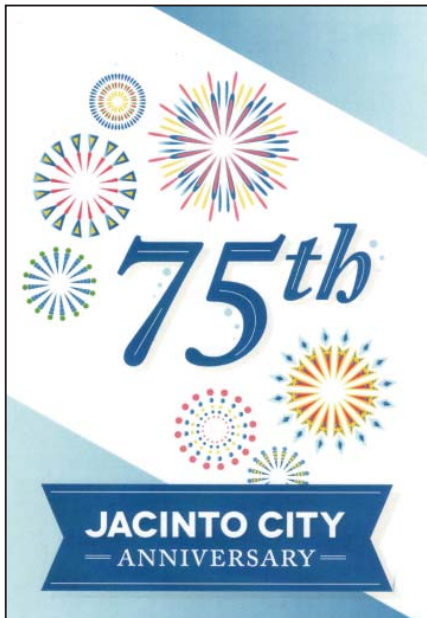
Jacinto City to celebrate 75th Anniversary May 8

Jacinto City is planning a big party, to celebrate their founding 75 years ago. The festivities will center around the Town Center, on Saturday May 8.

At 1:30 there will be a series of Bus Tours of landmarks in the city. Then at 3:00 there will be an Official Ceremony of speakers and refreshments inside the Town Center. Later, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm the Market by Night will be held on the plaza, with music, vendors, exhibits, and food trucks.

Everyone is invited to join in the fun, but please RSVP so that the city can plan on how many will attend. Contact Mrs. Joyce Raines at 713-674-8424 or by email at Joyce.Raines@JacintoCity-TX.gov.

The North Channel Star newspaper will publish congratulations ads. Contact the paper at 713-266-3444 with your message.



Pres. Biden nominates Sheriff to head ICE

HARRIS COUNTY – Guessing the Statue of Liberty play is all over and Kamala Harris didn't solve the boarder crisis because President Joe Biden is intent on nominating Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales to lead Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Under the Department of Homeland Security.

Considering the history, it is a sudden change of direction in that Gonzales took the Harris County Sheriff's office out of a voluntary ICE program that would have had deputies fulfill the role of federal agents in jails.

Gonzales is an outspoken critic of families being separated at the border. He has never addressed the side issues of finding over 100,000 children alone without any parents



SHERIFF ED GONZALES

abandoned on the border area.

He has stated, "True! We need common sense immigration reform, but taking children from their parents is wrong under any circumstances."

Gonzalez started his career as a civilian employee in Houston Police Department, later he was a cop, then he rose to ser-

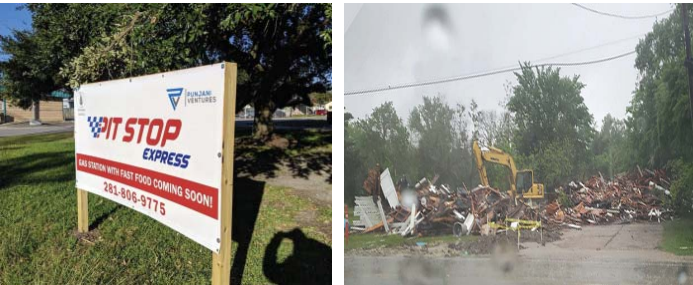
geant. He would rise to become a negotiator and later a homicide detective.

Gonzales became sheriff in 2017, prior to that he was on Houston City Council and once, in 2012, was pro-temp mayor of Houston. He began his career with Houston Police Dept.

Continued. See President, page 5

Signs of Progress?

Community enraged at loss of landmark house



Highlands community laments on Facebook:



519 N. Main St. - Home of the J.R. Prince family. Built in 1946 and demolished April 14, 2021. Highlands residents were deeply shocked and saddened to see this landmark destroyed so that another gas station could be built in town! If you have any additional photos of the house, including the demo, please add them to this album. (Not in the comments).



State Representative Dan Huberty arrested for DUI after accident

PORTER – State Rep. Dan Huberty, R-127, was arrested in Montgomery County after crashing his Corvette into a SUV occupied by three people about 9:00 p.m. and failing a field walking sobriety test April 23, according to the Montgomery County Police Reporter, that posted the video of the arrest to YouTube. He had refused a chemical test.

Montgomery County Precinct 4 Constable's Deputies were dispatched to an accident on FM 1314 at Valley Ranch Parkway and arrived to find a Corvette "parked under an SUV" according to one deputy.

The three people in the SUV suffered minor injuries, according to the report, and the driver of the Corvette, identified as Huberty, was unharmed. The three in the S.U.V. refused to be taken to the hospital. The Corvette was impounded.

Porter, where the crash occurred, is about a three-hour drive away from Austin. According to the report, Huberty told officers he was driving back from the legislative session in Austin.



DAN HUBERTY

Huberty, who has been a member of the Texas House since 2011, posted Saturday on Facebook. "Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. I regret my actions and apologize to my constituents and my family. I am seeking treatment options to begin today."

Huberty has authored no less than 13 House bills related to improving education this session, he is the former chairman of the House Committee on Public Education and the Texas Commission on Public School Finance for the 2019 session.

Huberty has served District 127 since 2011. Last election he routed challenger Ryan Woods 44,550 to 10,964. Huberty won a seat to Humble ISD, became board president in 2009. Huberty won a three way race to replace Joe Crabbe. House Bill 3, authored by Huberty, stands as the only comprehensive school reform bill ever passed by the Texas Legislature.

A Texas law seems to protect legislators and senators from arrest while in transit to and from legislative sessions, a privilege from arrest during session in travel but Montgomery County District Attorney Brett Ligon told the Constable's Deputies to proceed with the arrest.

Huberty later admitted driving under the influence of alcohol. He is accused of failing to stop for a red light before crashing into the SUV. He bonded out of jail early Saturday morning.

"Last night I was driving under the influence of alcohol and involved in a minor automobile accident in Montgomery County," Huberty said.

Rotary Club of North Shore

46th Annual Fundraising Event

Only \$100.00 per ticket

MEGA RAFFLE

25 MEGA Raffle Drawing Prizes with the GRAND PRIZE of a choice of Chevrolet COLORADO or CAMARO

You may purchase tickets from your Favorite Rotarian or message us here on Facebook

Drawing will be held via Facebook Live on May 15th 2021

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Jacinto City leaders honor Fallen Heroes

JACINTO CITY – Forty-three years ago in 1973 Allan Jamail when serving as President of the Jacinto City's Police Officers Association had a monument made honoring the fallen police officers, firemen and arm forces members killed in the line-of-duty. For years the city had a ceremony every 2nd Saturday in May honoring those heroes killed in the line of duty. Then the monument was located at the city's entrance at Mercury Dr. and IH-10 Service Road.

The monument was removed and put away when an intersection widening project took place. Jamail said it's time to give it a new home and again begin honoring those heroes it was made for. Jamail says he and Chief Ayala will be planning a new era of honoring fallen heroes annually. A tentative memorial event is set for the upcoming National Police Week and Armed Forces Day both falling on Saturday, May 15th. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service Day is on October 3, 2021. For more information visit these websites: www.nationalpoliceweek.com, www.nationaltoday.com/armed-forces-day and www.firehero.org/memorial-service.



Former Jacinto City Police Chief and Mayor Allan Jamail (left), Chief of Police Joe Ayala and Public Works Director Kyle Reed at a dedication ceremony re-set the granite monument at the front of the new Jacinto City Police Station (10429 Market St. Rd.). Public Works employees Bernardo Perez, Candeler Aleman and Javier Duran fastened the stone in place. Photo by Linda Jamail

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

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Keep Houston COVID Safe

0 6

Galena Park I.S.D. will host a

SUPER SITE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FRIDAY, April 30, 2021
9:00 A.M.
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

North Shore Senior High School
353 N. Castlegory, Houston, TX 77049

Enter on Evanston, west of the stadium and remain in your vehicle.
This distribution will not have a walk up option.

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AGES 6-18

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Rotary Club of North Shore

Rotary Club of North Shore 46th Annual Fundraising Event

MEGA RAFFLE

Only \$100.00 per ticket

25 MEGA Raffle Drawing Prizes with the GRAND PRIZE of a choice of Chevrolet COLORADO or CAMARO

You may purchase tickets from your Favorite Rotarian or message us here on Facebook

Drawing will be held via Facebook Live on May 15th 2021

GRAND PRIZE

Photo may not represent exact vehicle or selected equipment

Choice of
2021 CHEVROLET COLORADO OR CAMARO

*Camaro based on availability. Inventory is currently limited.

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* Restaurant Gift Package

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★ OPINION PAGE ★

★
OPINION

By Gabby Giffords organization

Texas Lawmakers put communities at Risk with Permitless Carry

Texas Lawmakers Put Communities at Risk By Pushing a Bill to Authorize Permitless Carry

Washington, DC — Despite the continued surge in gun violence across the United States, Republicans in the Texas House of Representatives are moving ahead with a bill to authorize permitless carry. The legislation they passed, HB 1927, would allow people without any training or a background check to carry handguns in public. Giffords, the gun violence prevention group led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, denounced the dangerous policy.

“The Texas House of Representatives is further endangering Texas communities with the advancement of this reckless bill,” said Nico Bocour, Government Affairs Director. “Texans are already grappling with a gun violence crisis every single day, and instead of passing effective laws, Texas Republicans are eliminating protections that help prevent people who can’t pass a background check from being able to carry loaded weapons in public spaces. Texas families deserve better. It’s past time for the Texas Legislature to stop listening to the corporate gun lobby and instead focus on the policies that can truly make a difference in saving lives.”

HB 1927 would allow citizens to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public without any background check or training whatsoever, and significantly weaken other protections and safeguards that are currently in place. Other dangerous provisions in the bill includes allowing more people with demonstrated histories of violence to carry hidden loaded guns outside the home. Lawmakers today advanced HB 1927 despite strong law enforcement opposition to the bill. The Texas chapter of Giffords Gun Owners for Safety also sent a letter to lawmakers ahead of the vote today to voice their opposition to the legislation.

According to Giffords Law Center’s Annual Gun Law Scorecard, Texas received an F due to its extremely weak gun laws. The state’s existing gun laws are filled with gaps and loopholes that endanger community safety and make the state a leading source of guns trafficked to other states and nations across its borders. Nonetheless, existing state law at least requires people to pass a background check and complete a basic safety training course to be licensed to carry loaded concealed handguns in public places. HB 1927 would do away with these basic protections.

###

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Giffords shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel —* On May 10, 1869, the presidents of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads meet in Promontory, Utah, and drive a ceremonial last spike into a rail line that connects their railroads. This made transcontinental railroad travel possible for the first time in U.S. history.

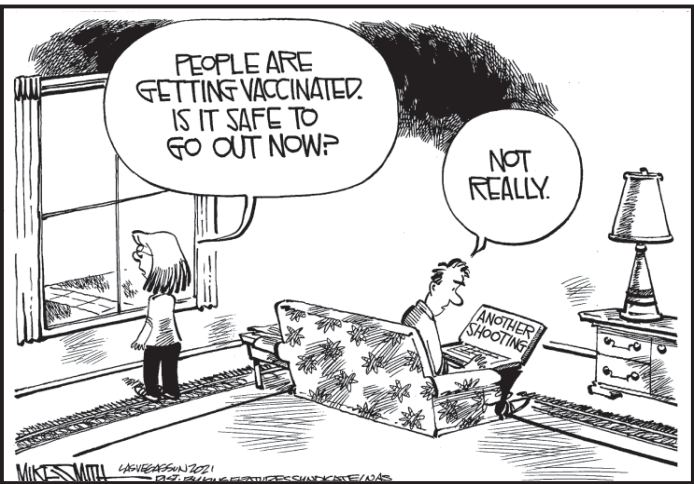
* On May 16, 1929, the first-ever Academy Awards ceremony is held, with some 270 people in attendance. Movies were just making the transition from silent films to “talkies,” but all the nominated films were without sound.

* On May 11, 1934, a massive dust storm sends millions of tons of topsoil flying across the parched Great Plains to the East Coast and as far away as ships 300 miles offshore. Farmers had pushed their fields to the limit, plowing under more and more grassland.

* On May 15, 1942, Lt. Ronald Reagan, a cavalry officer, applies for reassignment to the Army Air Force. As a public relations officer, the actor and future president produced military training, morale and propaganda films.

* On May 12, 1975, the American freighter Mayaguez is captured by communist government forces gunboats in Cambodia. Two days later President Ford ordered the bombing of the Cambodian port where the gunboats had come from. Forty-one Americans died, many in an accidental explosion during the attack.

* On May 13, 1985, in Philadelphia, police begin evacuating people from their homes in order to prepare for an operation against MOVE, a radical cult group. MOVE had begun assembling a large arsenal and building bunkers in their row house. The government gave \$1.5 million to three survivors of the raid.



★
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Health-care Expansion defeated in Texas House

A bid to expand health coverage for low-income Texans failed in the Texas House last week, 80-68.

State leaders have long opposed expanding the Medicaid program, which is largely funded by the federal government. The measure that failed last week would have allowed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to negotiate a funding agreement with the feds, called a 1115 demonstration waiver, that would cover more uninsured Texans without technically expanding Medicaid, according to various media sources, including the Texas Tribune.

Just over a week ago, the Biden administration rescinded a federal 1115 waiver approved in the final days of the Trump administration, which would have provided the state billions of dollars over the next decade to cover emergency care for uninsured Texans. The state was exempted from the normal public notice process, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Gov. Greg Abbott blasted that decision, saying it “obstructed health-care access for vulnerable Texans.”

Backers of health-care expansion are pinning their waning hopes on House Bill 3871, sponsored by Rep. Julie Johnson, D-Carrollton. Her bill also uses an 1115 waiver to attract federal funding to expand Medicaid eligibility as well as increased in Medicaid reimbursements to doctors, according to the Tribune. But time is running out with the bill still stuck in committee.

If that bill fails to pass, Texas officials will have to begin renegotiating with the Biden administration to restore the funding. More than 650,000 Texans lost their employer-sponsored insurance during the pandemic. Texas has the highest number and highest percentage of uninsured residents in the



nation, according to the Texas Comptroller’s Office.

MASS TRANSIT LOSES EVEN MORE RIDERSHIP DURING PANDEMIC

Mass transit in Texas has been experiencing a decline in ridership the last few years, according to a Fiscal Notes report by the comptroller’s office. The outlook has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with steep drops in ridership, revenue and service.

According to census data, “in terms of population share, Blacks and Hispanics are overrepresented among public transit riders, as are those with relatively low incomes. Comparatively large shares of those with jobs in education, health care, recreation and food services — the workers most affected by the pandemic — use public transit to get to work,” the report noted.

However, the pandemic has taken its toll on mass service, particularly in urban areas. Houston Metro reported its total ridership in December 2020 was 53.6 percent lower than in December 2019. Research scientists, such as Michael Walk with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, say the use of multiple modes of transportation can make mass transit more appealing to riders.

With the state experiencing explosive population growth, transportation officials

hope to keep public transit a viable option both in urban and rural areas, according to the comptroller’s report.

MEDIA AD CAMPAIGN TO BOOST VACCINES BEGINS

A \$1.5 million television and radio ad campaign was launched last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services to encourage Texans to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The ads, in both English and Spanish, feature several doctors urging folks to get the vaccine, as the pace of shot administered has slowed.

“Our research shows that individual health care professionals are the most trusted voices for people deciding whether to get vaccinated,” said DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt. “Over the coming weeks we will continue to share messages encouraging various communities to get vaccinated. We are also relying on trusted voices within those communities to speak up and let their neighbors know that the available COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to end the pandemic and restore normalcy.”

VACCINE DOSES NOW OVER 10 MILLION MARK; COVID-19 CASES STEADY

The number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reached 10.56 million as of Sunday, according to DSHS. The number of folks who are fully vaccinated hit 7.11 million, which is about 24% of the state’s population.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose slightly last week compared to the previous week, to 23,684, with new deaths dropping slightly at 359, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Similarly, lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals was at 2,793 for the same period, down slightly from the previous week, according to DSHS.

TEXAS LIFTS PAUSE ON J&J VACCINE

Vaccine providers in Texas can resume using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, DSHS announced.

The Centers for Disease Control paused use of the one-dose vaccine in mid-April after 15 cases of blood clots were identified, primarily in women between 18 and 49. That’s out of more than 7 million shots administered nationally.

Boosters of the vaccine point to the simplicity of a single-dose vaccine and the ease of storage, according to Hellerstedt, the DSHS commissioner.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

★
THE POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

New Systems

I finished my bath and saw that the rust-orange towel had molted all over my body.

I was covered with tufts of orange fur. It was not a good look, and it felt worse than it looked. Worse yet, it gave me a taste of what the next two months would be like.

My husband, Peter, is a man of many systems, and I have learned to appreciate this over the six years we have been married. He has a particular way to do nearly everything, from making coffee, to washing the dishes, to ordering food stuffs. I have found, by and large, it is best just to stay out of the way and things operate very well.

This brings us to moving.

Peter’s idea is that it makes sense to get our possessions out of the house before we begin the painting, minor repairs and deep cleaning. As we have already purchased our new place, Peter says we should ship all our belongings, visit my parents (finally!), and then return to a clutter-free house and do the work needed before putting it on the market.

I’m guessing you have already figured out the weakness in this plan.

“It will be like camping!” I reassured myself. But one bath with the orange towel has me reconsidering. The fluffy white towel I have grown accustomed to has already been packed and the orange “camping towel,” which will be pitched when we leave, has taken its place.

“Peter, I’m covered with fuzz,” I reported mournfully. “That’s a very old towel,” he agreed.

“I don’t think I can use this towel for two months,” I clarified.

Peter gave me a look that indicated he thought I might be a bit of a whiner.

“Then don’t,” he said. “You use the blue towel.”

I knew the blue towel he meant. It was navy blue with a huge bleach stain on it. This was a generous gesture on Peter’s part. The blue towel is an absolute gem compared to the orange towel.

“What will you use?” I asked.

“I’ll use a small towel.”

“How small?”

“Just... small!” Peter said, as if I was getting a little too nosy. “I’ll use a hand towel!”

I couldn’t think of any decent hand towels roaming around at this point in the packing.

“You mean like a tea towel?”

“I’ll be fine!” Peter said.

Now I have images of Peter getting out of the shower and drying himself with some tiny relic, with tulips in the corners embroidered long ago by an elderly aunt. And I fear the worst is yet to come.

Strategic lamps have disappeared, leaving corners of the house in utter darkness. I did not point this out to Peter. He would only reassure me that the days are getting longer.

My biggest concern is that my desk, where I spend nearly all day, will be traveling without me. Peter is leaving behind his awful-looking desk and says I can use that. I am not excited. His desk has some sort of tower on top of it, and a slide-out drawer where my keyboard is supposed to sit. I have no idea what will stop the drawer from sliding back in as I type, and I have tried not to consider this too deeply.

But, of course, we will get by. And I comfort myself by imagining how overwhelmed by luxuries I will be in our new place—once we finally get there.

Full-sized towels! Light in every room! My desk!

And Peter will get to work, implementing new systems for our new life together.

Till next time, Carrie
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

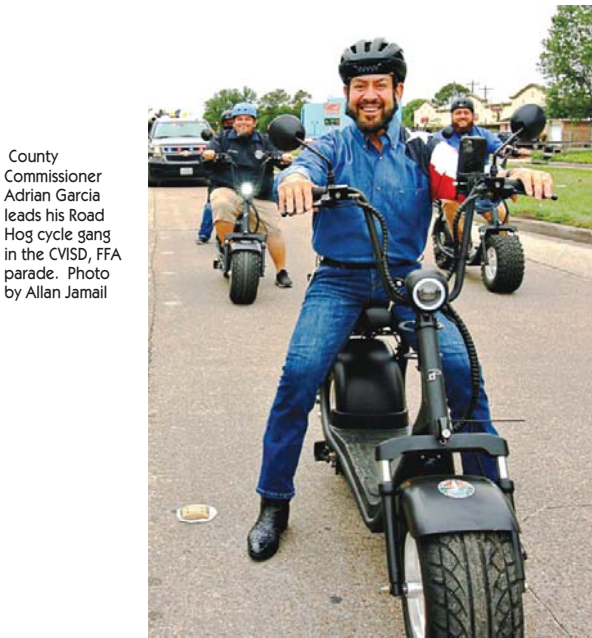
Channelview's Successful FFA Parade & Auction



2020 & 2021 Channelettes FFA parade marching team. Photo by Linda Jamail



FFA Parade Marching Group, Channelview High School Steady Soulz Boys Dance Team.



County Commissioner Adrian Garcia leads his Road Hog cycle gang in the CVISD, FFA parade. Photo by Allan Jamail



The Channelview Fire Department's Mascot "SPARKY" (backseat) waving and exciting the kids along the parade route. Photo by Linda Jamail



FFA Ag. Advisors Brittny Morrison, FFA Teacher Brooke McCauley & FFA Teacher Wesley Hutchins.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Builders for \$10,000. 2nd Place Reserve Champion Steer exhibitor was Jayce Sumner and the buyer was Channelview Glass for \$8,000 and 3rd Place Steer the exhibitor was Kolby Yellott and the buyer was North Shore Rotary Club for \$6,250.

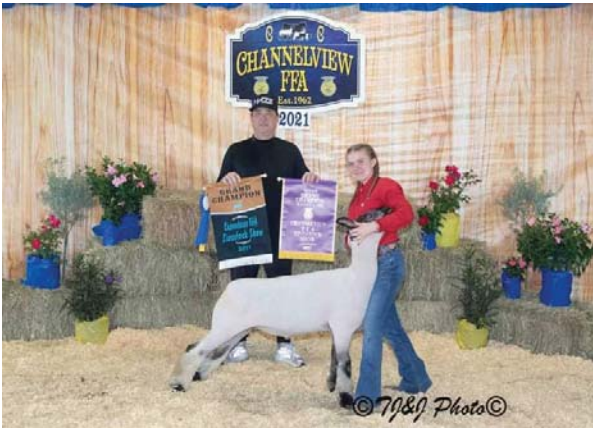
Other exhibitors with their winning categories were: Grand Champion Swine: Kaylae Woods, Reserve Champion Swine: Cori McCloskey, Grand Champion Goat: Jayel Patterson, Reserve Champion Goat: Cori McCloskey, Grand Champion Lamb: Cori McCloskey, Reserve Champion Lamb: Madalyn Marquez, Grand Champion Meat Pen Rabbits: Macie Stepp, Reserve Champion Meat Pen Rabbits: Savannah Stepp, Grand Champion Broilers: Kirsten Sowell, Reserve Champion Broilers: Alexis Brown, Grand Champion Horticulture: Jonathan Acuna and Reserve Champion Horticulture: Giselle Marroquin.

Float, Vehicle Marching Group awards went to 1st place, StuCo, Nascar float, 2nd place, Channelettes & Channelview Senior float, 1st place Breedlove Clan~Falcon Derby - Race to the Finish vehicle, 2nd place Harris County Pct.2 Neighborhood Services-Adrian Garcia Scooters, 1st place Channelview Falcon Marching Band and 2nd place Channelview High Steady Soulz Dancer.

Suzanne Hutchins, Director for the Channelettes and Assistant Director Heather Keith will supervise the Channelette's Spring Show coming soon:

The 2021 Channelview Spring Show....Kaleidoscope, will be May 6-8, 2021 at the CHS Auditorium at 7pm. Due to district guidelines concerning COVID-19, this will be a 75 minute dance program with no intermission. Masks will be required during the show. Admission is \$10 and every spectator will be required to purchase a ticket. For ticket information, please email Suzanne Hutchins at: suzanne.hutchins@cvisd.org (office - 281-860-1470).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF T.J. JOHNSON, ALLAN JAMAIL, LINDA JAMAIL, AND CHANNELVIEW FFA



Grand Champion Lamb, Exhibitor Cari McCloskey



Grand Champion Goat, Exhibitor Jayel Patterson



Grand Champion Broilers, Exhibitor Kirsten Sowell



Grand Champion Rabbits, Exhibitor Macie Stepp



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President picks Sheriff,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Originally elected in 2016 as a reform candidate, Gonzales started reforming soon after taking office. He advanced programs to medicate mentally ill detainees. Reelected in 2020 as Sheriff, Gonzales has maintained the most com-

municative HCSO in its history. Incidents are reported by the Sheriff's Office as soon as they can be assessed. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki announced Gonzalez's nomination Well, certainly we want, we encourage

the Senate to not only consider but confirm qualified nominees. We certainly consider him one of them. But, the president looks forward to having someone in place in this position, and it certainly indicates a priority that we've put it out today."



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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Talk About It

It happened once again. I awoke to the horrible feeling that something was wrong. As has become a habit, I checked my phone to be sure none of my children or loved ones had called or texted. Next move is always to check in on social media. Instantly, my heart dropped.

One of the ladies who previously volunteered with community events posted that her son had been shot in the head. Sadly, it was a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Her post went on to say that she had been asking for help for her son but now it was too late. I instantly texted her and let her know I was praying and asked what could I do. She asked for me to reach out to her Pastor. My mind was racing. Did she have a phone charger with her? Did she need any money? Was anyone with her?

As the day progressed, the hope continued to fade.

Tears flowed and so many emotions filled my heart. As a mother of a son who has a dual diagnosis of severe bipolar disorder as well as paranoid schizophrenia, I know all too well the pain of mental illness. And the only thing worse, is the frustration of not being able to find affordable health care for your loved one.

God has allowed me to not only be a mother to someone who needs help, but has given me the strength to reach out to others in the same situations. I can no longer count how many parents of children who live with Autism that are now in my life. There are so many adults who are living with depression as well as anxiety that it does not take long for the subject to come up in conversation as to how to find resources as well as support groups.

Unfortunately, we have no hospital facility on our side of town to help with those who live with mental illness. We have a limited number of licensed counselors who practice in our area. Those who have no insurance are especially troubled.

I have one friend with a son who acts out almost daily as his medication wears off before school is out. He rarely can ride the bus home without an issue coming up. I cannot count the number of times that she has taken him to the medical center only to be turned away for lack of a bed.

There are sadly those who do not want to talk about their own health. Recently someone I know was referred to a psychiatrist and when the day came for her to go to the appointment, she referred to it as her “psycho day”. I was dumbfounded. I do not think she had a clue as to whom she was hurting with that statement.

One thing I have learned is that until we erase the stigma of mental illness, we cannot begin to heal. May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month. I hope as May 1 arrives, you will be ready to talk about it and help others to find resources they need.

GP HS senior wins KPRC scholarship



JACOB QUINTANILLA

Houston’s KPRC 2 made a surprise visit to Galena Park High School (GPHS) to award student, Jacob Quintanilla with a \$2,500 KPRC 2 Senior Scholarship.

The KPRC and Texas Mattress Makers’ Senior Scholarship Award program surprises 20 graduating high school seniors with a \$2,500 scholarship over the course of the Spring semester. Each week, a scholarship recipient is featured on KPRC 2’s morning newscast.

When KPRC Anchor, Christine Noël, surprised Quintanilla in the GPHS library, Principal Kim Martin, Mrs. Brandi Couch, GPHS academic advisor and Mr. Sean LaBua, GPHS counselor, were cheering him on as he walked into the room.

Galena Park High School Academic Advisor,

Brandi Couch, nominated Quintanilla for the scholarship and said he is very deserving of this award.

“Each year, we are tasked with choosing two students for the KPRC Channel 2 Scholarship who demonstrate service, excellence in academics, and perseverance. As Jacob’s student council sponsor, I have witnessed first-hand his willingness to serve and to grow as a leader,” Couch said. “Jacob has known a lot of hardship in his life, but his kindness, generosity, and academic achievement prove that he has the determination to overcome any obstacles in his way.”

Quintanilla will graduate in June and plans to attend the University of Houston to study computer science.

Congratulations, Jacob!

Galena Park man sentenced to 45 years for stabbing wife

GALENA PARK – A Galena Park man has been sentenced to 45 years in prison for fatally stabbing his wife in front of their young daughter on the night after they discussed separating, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Thursday.

“This is a horrific case, and our hearts go out to the children who lost their mother and had to witness this terrible crime,” Ogg said. “Domestic violence has become an epidemic in our community, and we’ve all learned the most dangerous time is when victims leave their abuser.”

Jose Antonio Medellin, 42, was sentenced Wednesday after he pleaded guilty to stabbing 38-year-old Mayra Falcon-Medellin as she slept in a bed with her 8-year-old daughter at their home in the 1700 block of Dunaway on January 24, 2020.

In court, prosecutors explained that the couple had been growing apart and were in the process of

splitting up. On the night of the murder, Jose Medellin hired a mariachi band to serenade his wife at home in a bid to win her back. After the band left, Mayra apparently told Jose that she wanted to separate and went to bed.

Later that night, Jose came into the bedroom where Mayra was sleeping with their 8-year-old daughter and brutally stabbed her in front of their child.

Galena Park Police Department officers and deputies with the Harris County Sheriff’s Office responded to the scene about 4 a.m. to find the young girl cowering in another room.

“She was a good mom, she loved her four children and was working multiple jobs to take care of them,” said Assistant District Attorney Michael Hanover, the prosecutor who handled the case with Assistant District Attorney Mateo Gonzalez.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

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

MAY BIRTHSTONE IS EMERALD

May birthdays fall right in the heart of spring, and the emerald is the perfect gem to symbolize and celebrate this month. Prized for its brilliant and beautiful green color, the emerald is often favored by the rich and famous to wear as statement pieces for big events.

But this beautiful gem is just at home in an unassuming pendant as it is in an ornate tiara.

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word “smaragdus,” means, quite literally, “green” in Greek.

Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color is presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist.

The deeper or more green an emerald, the more valuable it is. The rarest emeralds will appear to be an intense green-blue. Emeralds are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

The emerald was mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old. Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emeralds. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign. The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry, and in their elaborate burials, often burying emeralds with monarchs as symbols of protection.

Like other gemstones, the emerald was believed to have many mystical powers that accompanied its beauty. There were those who thought the emerald could cure stomach problems, control epilepsy and stop bleeding. Maybe due to its soothing green color, it was also thought to be able to ward off panic and keep the wearer relaxed and serene.

Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth Taylor’s famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.

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

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

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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