

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 9, NO. 22 (#374) THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### THURS. JUNE 10 EPA holds Virtual Meeting for Waste Pits

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) will hold a Microsoft TEAMS Video and Call Conference on Thursday, June 10 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Topics for discussion include: Changes to Remedial Design Schedule, Upcoming Design Investigation Sampling, and Overall Remedial Design Update.

The public is invited to join, at the Web Address <https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjirwp>. Or you may join by calling in by telephone. SEE MORE DETAILS on Page 2.

**PUBLIC may use the group VIEWING SITES: San Jacinto Community Center Highlands, and Channelview Fire Department, Dell Dale.**

### FRI. JUNE 4 Chamber Luncheon

In person meeting returns to the North Channel Chamber luncheons! Friday, June 4 at 11:30am in the Monument Room at San Jacinto College North. Program: SJC Small Business Development Center.

### JUNE 4 THRU 12 Crosby Fair & Rodeo

Crosby Fairgrounds Cook-Off June 4 - 6. Rodeo June 11 & 12. Livestock Auction June 10th

### SAT. JUNE 5 Bluegrass Concert in the Park

Highlands Park Pavilion, from 2pm - 4pm, listen to the Highlands Bluegrass Group. Bring your chair, sunglasses, and snacks to help you enjoy your time in the Park. Sponsored by Pct. 2 Harris County.

## Sterling-White hosts Memorial Day services

HIGHLANDS - Near perfect weather was a great omen for a day of remembrance at Sterling-White Cemetery on Monday.

Welcome from Daisy Bordeau, Managing Partner, followed the pledge of allegiance from Boy Scout Troop #264 Den Webelos directed by Walter Mosley preferred the mood of reverence.

Pastor Jerry Hovater brought the mood in focus.

"I will be reaching not preaching when I get up there today," said Pastor Jerry Hovater before service began "reaching for those who need solice."

Once engaged, the pastor



Solumn ceremony as the Memorial Wreath is laid at the Wall of Honor by Crosby JROTC at Sterling-White Cemetery in a day to remember those that served their country and those that made the sacrifice that others might have freedom.

of Little Country Church with campuses in New Caney and Crosby reminded all of the beauty of our country and the faith of David, who would become King from shepherd, his

battle with the giant Goliath. Guest Speaker Col. Mark McClelland, retired from Air Force retold the poem of "I saw the Flag pass by" reminding us that freedom isn't free from many perspectives.

The names of those that have served their country and are entered into the cemetery were respectfully recalled by Daisy Bordeau. Sampson Lodge performed the evergreen ceremony. Laying a sprig of evergreen on military apparatus to signify that sacrifice for one's country will always be remembered.

Officially the host company stated, "The staff of Ster-

ling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery gratefully acknowledges your presence and thanks you for your continued trust and confidence. We would like to extend a Special Thank You to the National United States Armed Forces Museum of Texas for bringing out their displays and all volunteers who are participating in our program."

A sausage snack followed ceremonies with fellowship and mingling among participants and attendees.

See Memorial Day Continued on Page 6

## 87th Legislature ends, as Democrats walk out to kill Voter Restrictions bill

AUSTIN - A bill to overhaul voting rules in the state failed to pass in the Texas House on Sunday night in a victory for Democrats and voting rights advocates. Sunday was the last day of the legislative session that the bill, Senate Bill 7, could have been passed, but it may be brought up again in the future.

SB7 failed to pass in the Texas House because a group of House Democrats



walked out of the legislature, causing the House to lose quorum - in order for certain procedures to take place, such as passing legislation, a certain number of House members must be present - blocking Republicans from passing the bill despite their majority. Birnel said that was all made possible by the work of organizers.

The bill would place limits on early voting hours, drive-thru voting, and

tighten restrictions on who can vote by mail. It would also expand the role that poll watchers can play, including allowing them to be closer to the polls and to record certain voters.

Republicans have called it a measure to ensure election integrity, despite the lack of evidence for widespread election fraud - the outgoing Texas Secre-

Continued on Page 8

## GLO responds to criticism, sends \$750m in flood funds to Harris County

HARRIS COUNTY - After last week's announcement from the state GLO, local leaders in Harris County and the City of Houston were vocal in their unhappiness about the fact that almost no flood mitigation funds had been allocated for these two areas, in spite of the fact that Hurricane Harvey had devastated more homes and businesses than anywhere else in the state. Judge Hidalgo petitioned HUD, the federal department providing the flood funds to the state, to reconsider the criteria and

allocate money to the local needs.

As a result, George P. Bush director of the GLO, changed his original statement and promised the county that they would receive a block grant of \$750 million without waiting for the second round of allocations. However, as told to this newspaper by a representative of the GLO, this money will come from the \$2.144 billion sent to Texas for flood mitigation from Hurricane Harvey, rather than additional funding.

Here is the statement as issued by the Texas GLO office:  
**BUSH REQUESTS DIRECT FUNDING ALLOCATION TO HARRIS COUNTY FOR MITIGATION**

AUSTIN - Today, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced his request to the U.S. Department of Hous-



JUDGE LINA HIDALGO  
HARRIS COUNTY

### Hidalgo says "Not Enough"

Statement from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Flood Control Funds

Continued on 5. See HIDALGO

ing and Urban Development (HUD) for Harris County to receive a direct allocation of \$750 million for mitigation efforts.

"I have heard the overwhelming concerns of Harris County regarding the mitigation funding competition," said Commissioner Bush. "The federal government's red tape requirements and complex regulations are a hallmark of President Biden's administration. I am no

Continued. See ADDITION FLOOD FUNDS, Page 5

## Local Buffet presents a World of Choices

NORTH CHANNEL - Many folks in the Jacinto City and surrounding areas have discovered a new treasure in the restaurant field. The Flaming Grill and Supreme Buffet is offering a very broad selection of delicious dishes every day of the week, and on weekends you can find even more specialties.

The buffet is very large, able to seat 750 people, and can accommodate special parties in their private dining room. The size means there is no waiting to be seated, and a large variety of food will be freshly served.

The menu includes Chinese, American, Mexican, and Japanese dishes. Signature Dishes include cajun crawfish, fried blue crab, BBQ ribs, and coconut shrimp. On Saturday and Sunday you can also get Frogs Legs and Fresh Raw Oysters. "The customer can get whatever they want," say the owner and chef, Qi, and General Manager Jennifer Xie and Manager John Lee, referring to the large selection.

Prices range from \$11.99 for adults at lunch, and \$13.50 at dinner, to \$14.50 for the weekend specials. Children start at \$5.99 for lunch and \$6.99 for dinner. Senior discounts are available too.



Flaming Grill & Supreme Buffet is located at 11420 E. Freeway Service Road, unit 150. Exit at Holland Road and proceed to the shopping center beside Tinseltown Theater. There is plenty of convenient parking.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the buffet practices special health procedures. Besides cleaning and disinfecting all tables and seats between patrons, they require face masks to enter, have sneeze guards on all serving islands, and provide hand sanitizers and



A large selection of various dishes are available on these islands, and a custom cooking section also has sushi and will cook your selection of meats to your taste. The buffet serves fresh seafood, and Chinese, American, Mexican and Japanese dishes all day long.

plastic gloves to use when touching food.

Diners will also find a full selection of their favorite drinks, including tea and coffee, soft drinks, Agua Fescar (4 flavors), and a selection of beers.

# Crosby High School's stormy Graduation Ceremony ended with fireworks

By Allan Jamail

Crosby, TX. – Friday, May 28, 2021 at the Crosby ISD football stadium better known as “The Jungle” for the home of the school’s Cougar mascot approximately 8,000 family members and friends poured into the stands for the 2020-2021 commencement ceremony.

The weather forecast for the 7 PM event had the possibility of thunder

Continued on Page 6



Crosby's 2021 senior class top 5 (1.3%) graduates out of 381. L-R: Valedictorian Hannah Trisha Restauro, Salutatorian Anouk Ochoa, #3. Isaiah David-Albert Jamail, #4. Rayli Eilers & #5. Jessi Martinez. Hannah's majoring in chemical engineering & Jessi's majoring in engineering, both heading to Texas A & M. Anouk & Rayli is majoring in psychology & Isaiah is majoring in Finance & Management Information Systems they're heading to University of Texas. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

# Highlands Rotary bestows Paul Harris Award on Dr. Larry White



The highest honor in Rotary is the Paul Harris award, named for the founder of the Rotary movement. In the photo above, Dr. Larry White, left, is receiving the Paul Harris Award for the fifth time, from Highlands Rotary Club president Andy Scott. The award is granted for service to the club, to Rotary International, and the community.

# GALENA PARK ISD HONOR GRADUATES



- Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Valedictorians and Salutatorians
- CTE Early College High School:  
 Valedictorian- Cindy Rivas Alfaro  
 Salutatorian- Jae'lee Ann-Marie Jackson
- Galena Park High School:  
 Valedictorian- Ashley Zujei Maldonado  
 Salutatorian- Daniel Ivan Rivera
- North Shore Senior High School:  
 Valedictorian- Michelle Chan  
 Salutatorian- Cecilia Mai
- Felicidades a los valedictorians y saluatorians de 2020-2021
- Preparatoria y Colegio Temprano CTE:  
 Valedictorian- Cindy Rivas Alfaro  
 Salutatorian- Jae'lee Ann-Marie Jackson
- Preparatoria Galena Park:  
 Valedictorian- Ashley Zujei Maldonado  
 Salutatorian- Daniel Ivan Rivera
- Preparatoria North Shore Senior:  
 Valedictorian- Michelle Chan  
 Salutatorian- Cecilia Mai

## NCAF CASINO NIGHT AUGUST 13

NORTH CHANNEL AREA FOUNDATION ROARING TWENTIES CASINO NIGHT

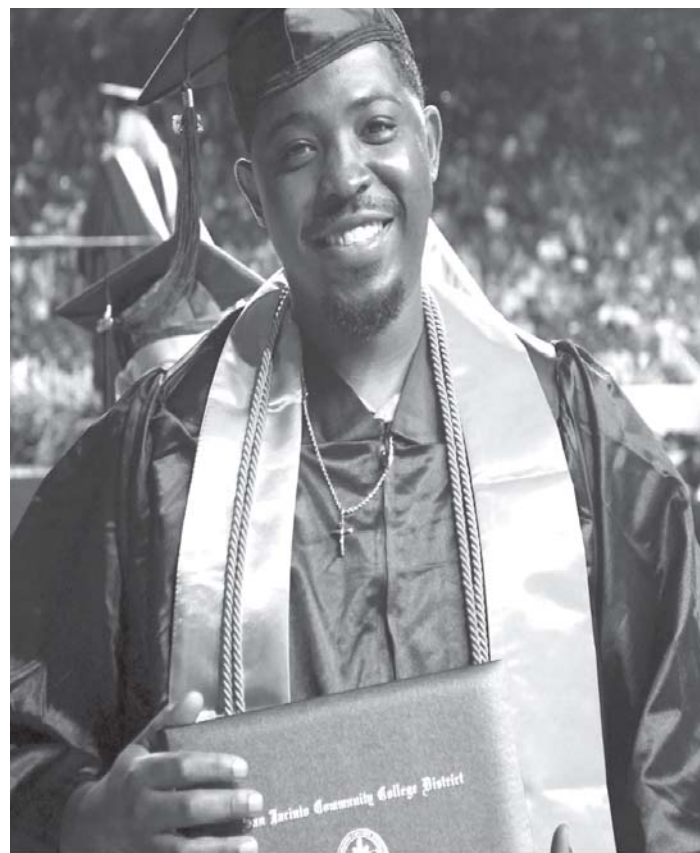
Friday, August 13, 2021  
 7:00 - 11:00 pm, Jacinto City Town Center

COME DRESSED IN YOUR ROARING 20'S BEST!

Our NCA Foundation Casino Night Fundraiser will be here in the blink of an eye! Join us as we ring in the twenties by coming together and funding the education of a bright and promising North Channel Area student through our Casino Night Fundraiser. We encourage you to consider participating or donating to our event. Break the stigma around Friday the Thirteenth.

TOGETHER AGAIN, OVERCOMING THE PANDEMIC TO RING IN THE TWENTIES!

Help support a local area student's education by raising funds for the Bill Palko Scholarship!



# San Jacinto Your Success

## SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 7

APPLY, REGISTER, AND PAY ONLINE AT

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The San Jacinto College District is committed to equal opportunity for all students, employees, and applicants without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The following College official has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College's non-discrimination policies: Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, 4124 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX 77504. 281-991-2656. Sandra.Ramirez@sjcd.edu.

**You are invited to participate in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site Virtual Community Meeting June 10, 2021**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a virtual community meeting to provide an update for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (Site). As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority. As a result, EPA and its Superfund Site teams are conducting virtual meetings in lieu of in-person public meeting events to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal, and local officials discouraging gatherings of more than ten people at a time.

During the virtual meeting, EPA staff and stakeholders will provide information and answer questions about the status of the Site. The virtual meeting will be held online and/or over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conferencing on:

Please test your computer or mobile app prior to attending the meeting using the link below. Technical support is limited and subject to significant delays. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA will host the Site Update Meeting over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conference.

<b>Meeting Format</b>	Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conference
<b>Community Meeting</b>	Topics for discussion include: Changes to Remedial Design Schedule, Upcoming Design Investigation Sampling and Overall Remedial Design Update
<b>Meeting Web Address (URL)</b>	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp">https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp</a>
<b>Date and Time</b>	June 10th, 2021 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
<b>Toll-free Audio for Meeting</b>	(469) 607-1035 or toll free (844) 608-7693 Conference ID: 187 538 612#

There are **Two** ways to attend the virtual meeting:

- Visit EPA's San Jacinto River Waste Pits website: <https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp> to access virtual meeting information and web link.  
 Click on this link that says "Click here to join the meeting". When the Teams page launches, select "Use Teams" on current browser or "Go to Teams App" and follow the instructions. Browsers may vary by computer. Microsoft Teams currently supports the following browsers: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Ensure you're running the latest browser version on your device to avoid any limitations in terms of features. Alternatively, you can download the Microsoft Teams app to your desktop computer or mobile device prior to the meeting.
- Call in using this phone number and Conference ID (Audio only):
  - Phone number: (469) 607-1035 or toll free (844) 608-7693
  - Conference ID: 187 538 612#

If you have any problems joining by phone or online on the day of the meeting, please contact Jeff Criner at (713) 985-6627 for immediate assistance.

Copies of fact sheets, information bulletins, the administrative record, and other information are available online at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site: <https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp> or on the National Superfund Program website: [www.epa.gov/superfund](https://www.epa.gov/superfund).

Or at the following Site information repositories:

<b>Stratford Branch Library</b> P.O. Box 260 Highland, Texas 77562 (832) 927-5400	<b>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</b> Building E, Records Management 12100 Park 35 Circle Austin, TX 78753 (800) 633-9363
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Should you have any specific needs or questions about the online virtual meeting, please contact: Janetta Coats, Senior Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308 or [coats.janetta@epa.gov](mailto:coats.janetta@epa.gov). Any request for accommodation should be made to Janetta 1 week or more in advance so that EPA will have sufficient time to process the request such as closed captioning.

All news media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at (214) 665-2200 or (214) 665-2261.

# Growing with the needs of OUR COMMUNITY



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is seeing patients, both in person and virtually, because your health is still important. That's why you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you safe.

At Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, we continue to improve the quality of our health care and expand our services.

We are proud to offer these recent additions:

- A new leading-edge **emergency department** featuring 42 private treatment rooms
- A new and expanded **cancer center** offering infusion and radiation therapy, 12 private chemotherapy suites and support services from patient navigators
- A new neonatal intensive care unit
- Two new patient care units with 46 spacious private patient rooms
- New state-of-the-art operating rooms for cancer treatment, orthopedics, cardiovascular treatment, gynecology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, and bariatric and robotic-assisted surgery
- A new outpatient center featuring ambulatory surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, physical and occupational therapy, imaging, laboratory services, breast care center, primary care services and an occupational health clinic



**Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital**  
4401 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX 77521

Visit [houstonmethodist.org/baytown](https://houstonmethodist.org/baytown) to make an appointment with our primary or specialty care physicians or call **281.428.2273** for a physician referral.

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BAYTOWN HOSPITAL



★ OPINION PAGE ★

**OPINION**  
Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo



*We need to celebrate Anti-Voter Legislation stalling in the House*

AUSTIN— Time ran out on the Texas House floor last night due to a lack of quorum! At the end of the session, we need to celebrate and give credit to the many voting rights heroes who fought against this anti-voter legislation. The League of Women Voters of Texas partnered with local, state, and national organizations to provide support to legislators who understood the negative impact of this bill.

Heroic legislators, voting rights organizations, and individual Texans spoke up and shed light on how SB 7 would restrict voting in Texas. Almost 18,000 League members and supporters sent close to 139,000 emails to their Texas legislators.

The demise of SB7 was also precipitated by the bill authors' manipulation of the democratic process; waiting to make changes to the bill behind closed doors with just a few legislators. The bill went from 27 pages to 61 pages without ANY public hearing or legislative debate regarding the impact on Texas voters.

Grace Chimene, President of LWVTX, noted "This is a victory for all Texas voters! Texans want elections to be free, fair, and accessible. They want a transparent process they can trust, where Americans have equal freedom to vote, no matter what they look like or where they live, whether in a small Texas town or one of Texas' major metropolitan areas. SB 7 is not what Texas voters want."

SB 7 provisions added requirements and civil penalties to make it much more difficult and complicated to register to vote, vote by mail, and assist a voter. It also eliminated extended voting hours, prohibiting polling places from opening before 6 a.m. or staying open after 9 p.m. On Sundays, polling places could not open before 1 p.m. impacting "Souls to the Polls."

Governor Abbott has already indicated that voting and election will be added to the special session when one is called. We will persist.

LWVTX is committed to continuing its work in collaboration with others to ensure that every eligible Texan has the opportunity to cast a safe and secure ballot. "Texans all over the state during the last election benefited from more voting opportunities, such as the expansion of early voting, extended hours at the polling places, and more options to return vote-by-mail ballots. These are the kinds of measures that Texans want" Chimene stated. "We hope that legislators will respond to their constituents' needs when they address this legislation again."

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older.

*Governor's threat to defund is unethical and anti-democratic*

"Governor Abbott's threat to defund the legislature is unethical and anti-democratic. By threatening to defund Texas's legislative branch, Governor Abbott undermines the constitutional set of checks and balances upon which our government is built. Furthermore, his threats distract from the real issue: SB7 is a deeply undemocratic bill rammed through without due process.

"SB7 impacts how Texans will vote for years to come, and this bill was set to be passed without sufficient input from the public or elected officials before House legislators blocked it. Some elected officials took advantage of the pandemic, employing undemocratic shenanigans to undermine our legislative processes that would normally allow for public and legislative input on important bills such as SB7. Sunday, House legislators exercised their constitutional authority to block the backdoor passage of this anti-voter bill.

"House legislators and their staff were doing their job, patriotically representing their constituents. Governor Abbott must respect our governmental system of checks and balances, and legislators must respect the public's right to floor debate and public input."



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



*\$248b Budget headed to Governor's Desk*

The Texas Legislature sent a \$248 billion two-year state budget to Gov. Greg Abbott after the House approved the measure last Thursday.

The 140-day legislative session ended at midnight May 31. Senate Bill 1 is \$13.5 billion less than the previous biennial budget, with the difference to be made up from COVID-19 relief funds from the federal government. As previously reported, Abbott plans to allow legislators to decide how to allocate those funds during a special session this fall.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has suggested a special session for this summer to address some of his pet bills, such as limiting the participation of transgender athletes in school sports, banning lobbyists paid with public funds and putting limits on social media's power to restrict users. The Austin American-Statesman reported that Abbott called Patrick's proposal "pretty goofy," however. Only the governor can call a special session and dictate the topics to be addressed.

**EXPANDED HEALTH COVERAGE OK'D FOR MEDICAID MOMS**

The Texas Legislature on Friday approved a bill that provides mothers receiving Medicaid assistance at least six months of health coverage after birth. The measure expands postpartum coverage from the current two months provided under Medicaid.

The bill, sponsored by state Rep. Toni Rose, D-Dallas, is intended to reduce the maternal mortality rate in Texas and provide added assistance to mothers dealing with postpartum depression.

Medicaid covers almost half of the births in the United States, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. A provision in the American Rescue Plan of 2021 gave states the option of expanding Medicaid



postpartum coverage.

**MORE THAN A THIRD OF TEXANS VACCINATED**

With shots opened up to anyone 12 and older, more than a third of all Texans — more than 10.2 million — are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That is 35% of the state's population.

Abbott and the Texas Department of Emergency Management announced last week the expansion of the State Mobile Vaccine Program to include groups of five or more eligible Texans who voluntarily choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19. In addition, homebound residents can request a unit come to their home. Previously, a minimum of 10 people were required before requesting a mobile vaccination unit.

Anyone interested can call 844-90-TEXAS and select Option 13 to schedule a mobile vaccine clinic for groups of friends, families, employees and others. The call center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday.

**CASES UP SLIGHTLY, HOSPITALIZATIONS DOWN**

The number of COVID-19 cases in the past week dropped slightly, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. As of

last Friday, 282 deaths were reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients continues to drop, with 1,828 hospitalized as of Sunday, according to DSHS.

**NUMBER OF MISSING CHILDREN REPORTED**

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has issued its annual report on children and youth missing from that agency's conservatorship or who are considered victims of human trafficking.

During fiscal year 2020, which ended Aug. 31 of last year, a total of 2,229 children and youth were missing at some point. On Aug. 31, 255 were still missing. During last year, a total of 47,913 were in DFPS conservatorship, meaning 4.6% went missing at some point.

Of the 1,972 children recovered during that time frame, 136 of them — 7% — reported being victimized while missing. Sixty-eight children — 3.4% — reported being a victim of sex trafficking.

**TEXAS FILM COMMISSION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS**

The Texas Film Commission, created in 1971 to expand the film industry in Texas, turned a half-century old this year. The commission has attracted \$1.66 billion in local spending and created more than 157,000 production jobs in Texas from 2007 to 2020. More than 150 Texas communities are now officially designated as "Texas Film Friendly."

"Texas has developed into such a vibrant destination for production across all media that the promise and potential recognized 50 years ago has been more than realized," Abbott said.

**HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS ON JUNE 1**

The 2021 hurricane season kicks off June 1, and it's expected to be another busy one.

Last year's Atlantic hurricane season included a record-breaking 30 storms, including a dozen that made landfall in the United States.

Three storms — Hurricanes Hanna and Laura and Tropical Storm Marco — resulted in disaster declarations for several Texas counties, according to the Texas Association of Counties.

Hurricane researchers at Colorado State University warn that warmer Atlantic surface temperatures and the absence of El Niño conditions in the Pacific could result in a busy 2021 hurricane season.

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

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By  
Carrie Classon

*Best Wishes*

I just learned that my ex-husband has remarried. I learned this as we learn about all important life milestones these days: on Facebook.

There were photos taken in the Caribbean. My ex-husband and his new bride were walking barefoot on the beach. She was carrying her shoes and their feet were wet and probably the most surprising thing to me was how sincerely I wished them well.

It is common practice to offer our best wishes when we are actually wishing nothing of the kind.

"Well!" we might say, in an exasperated tone of voice, "I wish them well!" Or even, "I wish them well with that!" Which tips one's hand even more and makes it clear the speaker has no realistic expectation of anything going well, or any particular wish that it should.

I'm not going to deny that I have harbored all these feelings.

But I won the second marriage Powerball when I met my husband, Peter, a man of steadfast emotions and good habits and a brand of kindness that makes my heart hurt. I feel beyond fortunate to have found, at this relatively late stage in life, a partner who is so well-suited to me, who tolerates my quirks and shortcomings and takes such very good care of me. It is hard to wish anyone anything but the best when I have everything I could ever want.

This is my ex-husband's third marriage, if you count his marriage to me, and they say the third time is the charm. I'm not sure if this applies to marriages as much as other things, but it sounds hopeful. Remarriage is also described as "the triumph of hope over experience," which sounds a little snarky, even if it was said by Samuel Johnson in 1791. Clearly, the current century has no monopoly on the snark department.

But I am a big believer in hope and also in change and although I've not seen my ex-husband in quite some time, even looking at the photos, I can tell he has changed and I would imagine that he is hopeful. He does not look like the person I used to know, and I can't imagine why I would wish this virtual stranger anything but the best in his marriage to the woman with sandy feet and a huge smile standing beside him.

My ex-husband's smile is a bit more restrained. Perhaps he was thinking of Samuel Johnson at the time, or perhaps he didn't like getting his pant cuffs wet in the surf. It is impossible for me to know. And I guess that's the point.

None of us will ever know what goes on in the head of another person. I generally tend to believe what people tell me. Being a person who loves words, I stubbornly insist that what someone says must be the truth, actions to the contrary.

Late in life, I have come to the realization that people say all sorts of things that are not strictly true, and it doesn't mean they are bad people or they are lying. It just means their actions don't live up to their word, for one reason or another. Small deceptions grow larger until there is really no containing them. Unexpected developments intervene. Unruly emotions overturn the most fervent intentions. This is what happened to me, but it was a long time ago now.

It involved a virtual stranger who was recently spotted on a beach in the Caribbean with wet pant cuffs and, honestly, I wish him well.

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

**HIGHLANDS CROSBY**

**Star *Courier***

USPS 244-500  
and the  
Barbers Hill *Dayton PRESS*

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★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

★  
**OBITUARIES**

**AIDA CORDERO DYER**

Aida Cordero Dyer, 93, of Crosby, passed away Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at her residence.

Aida was born August 29, 1927 in Heredia, Costa Rica, to parents Juan de Dios Cordero and Maria Josefa Cartin. She came to the United States in 1950, was a former resident of Kansas City and Warrensburg, Missouri; Houston, Texas, and has resided in Crosby since 1975. She was an elementary school teacher in her native country and a graduate of both the University of Costa Rica and Central Missouri State College, where she received her bachelor's degree in education. She taught in Missouri, Kansas and with Spring Branch ISD in Texas. In 1975 Aida transferred to Goose Creek ISD and was employed as its first foreign language secondary educator. She retired in 1990 after 35 years teaching. Aida held memberships in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters of America (50 plus years), the SERRA Club, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (50 plus years), Epsilon Sigma Alpha International Society Beta Sigma Chapter, and Friends of the Crosby Library (founding member). She spoke three languages fluently and loved international travel, the arts, musicals, playing golf at the Newport Country Club, and social gatherings. Aida will be remembered as a caring educator, a lifelong learner, and a treasured matriarch with



a vivacious dynamic personality.

Mrs. Dyer was preceded in death by her husband Alec Ross Dyer, and all but one of her siblings. She is survived by her children Mary Catherine Johnston and husband Rick Michael; James Steven Dyer, Ph.D. and wife Shelley; Caroline Sue Dyer and wife Claudia Glaser; Richard Alec Dyer and wife Grettel Granados; and sister Lelia Zamora Cordero of Costa Rica. She is survived by grandchildren Reuben Johnston, Ph.D., Justin Johnston, Judith Peterson, Michael Johnston, Nicholas Dyer, Dr. Julie Ansbaugh, Holly Dyer, Jamie Dyer, Alec Dyer, Sofia Dyer, Carmen Dyer-Glaser, and Diego Dyer-Glaser. She is survived by great-grandchildren Oscar Johnston, Evelyn Johnston, Clara Johnston, Vivien Johnston, Jessica Peterson, Elizabeth Peterson, Eleanor Ansbaugh, and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby will hold

a Rosary service at 10:30 a.m., and Mass of Christian Burial following at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021. A reception will immediately follow at the United Methodist Church of Crosby.

Throughout her life, Aida enjoyed the love and support of her extended families in Missouri and Costa Rica. Aida's children also express their special gratitude for the unwavering support of her close friends including Pearl Campbell and Becky Keck, as well as caregiver Jessica Torres.

Mrs. Dyer was an active member (36 years) of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, a philanthropic organization devoted to public service works and the professional and personal growth of women and excellence in education. Locally, ESA Beta Sigma Chapter awards an annual college scholarship to a Crosby High School girl that has demonstrated strong community services work in the local area, an activity that Mrs. Dyer was passionate about.

For those who desire, donations may be made to the Epsilon Sigma Alpha; Beta Sigma Chapter, 20111 Flying Dove Tr, Crosby TX 77532, in Aida's name.

Crespo & Jirrels Funeral and Cremation Services  
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281-839-0700

www.crespoandjirrels.com

**JANET LYNNE PARKS**

Janet was born to Roland and Ethyl Meyers in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 1, 1934 and died May 30, 2021. Her family, including Jack, Jeanne, Rita, Marilyn, Janet and Sue, made Riviera, Texas their home in 1936 until 1943, having moved to Houston and onward to Channelview.

Janet graduated as valedictorian from Robert E. Lee High School in 1951 and degreed at Sam Houston State University. She then returned to Channelview as an elementary school teacher. She loved teaching children.

On August 23, 1960, she became the wife of Robert Parks and resided in North



Shore where they raised three children: David, Richard and Janese. She was a substitute teacher for the Galena Park and Pearland School Districts before retiring. She was active in San Jacinto Girl Scout leadership.

Having moved to Pearl-

and in 1991, the couple became members of the Knapp Activity Center in 2000. Janet loved to dance. Both Robert and Janet were Two-Left-Feet dance club members. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Pearland.

There will be a visitation from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. with a service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 5, 2021 in the chapel of Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland, TX.

Crowder Funeral Home  
281-412-3000 Work/Office  
281-412-0045 Fax  
AMora@crowderfuneralhome.com

**Crosby Rodeo signs new Acts**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CROSBY The local rodeo is on track to deliver a banner year coming out of a time of very little in the way of entertainment with the Cook-Off, Livestock Auction and Rodeo and rodeo concerts.

Some board members show increases in early gate sales this year.

This is the 75th year for the Crosby Fair & Rodeo on June 11 and 12 HI-LO PRO RODEO will bring some of the greatest cowboys in the nation inside the Rockin' C Arena. Both nights will feature mutton bustin' with local kids riding hard for eight when they pull the gate.

June 10, the Livestock Auction is the time to invest in the local kids. The

auction has every year offered some surprises, many want to know who's livestock will be judged the best.

The Cook-Off begins this Friday at the Fairgrounds. Bag of Donuts is the featured act and has grown considerably in local acclaim. This eclectic band from New Orleans seem to be able to play any band's music.

Saturday night after the judging is completed and awards are bestowed the Philip Griffin Band opens the stage. Muscadine Bloodline is featured later that night.

The Readsouthall Band is in concert June 11.

Phineas Reb, featuring Kody Kouba opens Satur-

day, June 12 and LANC0 will play finally for the 75th Crosby Fair & Rodeo this year.

Sponsors this year are Crosby Ace Hardware, Community Bank of Texas, Arkema, Commercial Fence, Cox Radio 93Q, Cox Radio 97.1, Turner Chevrolet, Doc Resources, Hotchkiss Disposal, Kilt 100.3, Los Compadres, Miner Material Handling, Murf Truf, Orn Plumbing, Ranger Construction, Shoppas Farm, Skero's Furniture, Spaw Glass Construction, Sterling White Funeral Home, Sunbelt Rentals, Climate Control, Dana Industrial, Bayshore Chrysler Jeep Dodge, RL Dorskocil, and Sunbelt Rentals.

**BETTY RUTH DOSIER BROWN**

Betty Ruth Dosier Brown, age 84 of Channelview, Texas, passed away on May 28, 2021. She was born to Calvin and Carrie Dosier on April 15, 1937 in Kaufman County. She married J. L. Brown in 1955 and would have celebrated their 66th anniversary on September 1st. After their marriage they moved to Houston, and in 1966 moved to Channelview. Betty dedicated her life to God, family and friends. She was an active member of the Channelview Church of Christ for 55 years, teaching Bible school and being an active member of Ladies Bible Study until the last months of her life. Her home was open to all to share a delicious homemade meal, coffee, and a visit with a loving family.

Betty is preceded in death by her father, Calvin Dosier; mother, Carrie Dosier; and brothers, Kenneth, Joe, and Micky Dosier. She is lovingly survived by her husband, J.L.



Brown; daughters, Cathy Kelley of Channelview, Karen Lyerly of Humble; son, Michael and wife Ann Brown of Montgomery County; brother, Charles Dosier; grandchildren, Nathan and wife Jamie Kelley, Justin and wife Becky Kelley, Casy Lyerly, Hayley and husband Kyle Finley, Dustin and Jennifer Ragsdale; great-grandchildren, Cora Kelley, Lillian Kelley, Logan Kelley, Dylan Ritter and Davis Finley; as well as other extended family members, church family, and many friends.

Family and friends are invited to attend the visitation for Betty on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at Carter-Conley Funeral Home from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. A celebration of her life will be held the following day, Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. in the chapel of Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon, Channelview, Texas 77530. Grave-side services will follow at Rock Church Cemetery in Montalba, Texas under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Arms of Hope (armsofhope.org) in memory of Betty.

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**Hidalgo on Flood Funds,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Statement from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Flood Control Funds

"This week, our community stood united in outrage over the loss of vital Harvey mitigation funds intended to protect us from future storms. Republicans, Democrats, business leaders, and residents from every corner of our county came together to call for these desperately needed resources.

I'm encouraged state officials have recognized the flaws in their process and Harris County's desperate need for certainty in receiving Harvey mitigation funds. I support and continue to call for certainty in funding, but \$750 million for Harris County is still a mere fraction of the \$4.3 billion that the state received for flood mitigation after Hurricane Harvey and not enough to meet our needs.

Harris County is the epicenter of our nation's energy infrastructure, home to nearly 5 million people, suffered over half of the damages and deaths from Hurricane Harvey, and continues to be too vulnerable to future flooding. That's why we need more funding and why we will continue working with leaders from around our county, GLO, and HUD to secure a fair allocation."

**Additional \$750m Flood Funds,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stranger to standing with the people of Texas as we fight against the federal government. As such, I have directed the GLO to work around the federal government's regulations and allocate \$750 million for mitigation efforts in Harris County."

An amendment to the state action plan regarding the administration of Community Development Block Grants for Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) in the

State of Texas will be submitted to HUD by the General Land Office to implement these changes. A final mitigation competition will be held for the other 48 eligible counties at a later date.

Although Hurricane Harvey made landfall in August 2017 and Congress appropriated these mitigation funds several months thereafter, the GLO's hands were tied waiting

for HUD to publish the rules regulating the use of these funds until they were published in a Federal Register notice, which did not happen until August 30, 2019 – two years after the storm and 19 months after the appropriation. The scoring criterion required by HUD to be included in the state action plan for distribution of the funds was approved by HUD on March 27, 2020.

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# Crosby High School's stormy Graduation Ceremony

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

storms and as predicted the rains came. Thousands of umbrellas were quickly put to use while the graduates were kept indoors out of the storm. I could hear prayers offered to stop the rain, well it stopped and the rest of the ceremony was without a drop.

As the school band played the 381 high school students marched onto the field and took their seats using a safe distance between them due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony began with the school band playing the school song, followed by the invocation given by Jagger Newton, Senior Class President. The JROTC posted the colors, Lauren Budd; Student Treasurer gave both the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag followed by the Texas Pledge and the National Anthem by the band.

Superintendent Paula Patterson was introduced by Joseph Blanchard, Student Director, she welcomed the school's officials and attendees, and she then read nine quotes from Dr. Seuss.

Rayli Eilers, Cougars Stars President made the presentation of the Salutatorian, Anouk Ochoa who gave her address. Natalie Vargas-Chavez, President / Founder Environmental Club made the Presentation of Valedictorian Hannah Trisha Restauero who gave her address.

Superintendent Patterson made the official certification of the Senior Class. Alice Hoy, College Career Counselor gave the dual credit graduates names.

Kellie Hall, Assistant Principal presented the top 10 percent of the graduating class their diplomas and the Crosby Crossroads Academy diplomas. She and Brenda

Romero presented the senior class their diplomas after their names were called and they made their way to the stage. Principal Dustin Bromley greeted and congratulated each of the 381 graduates.

The band played the school's Alma Mater followed by the Benediction by Joshua John-Louis, Choir President.

Valedictorian Restauero is a mere 4' 11" tall, but don't let the small size fool you. As the saying goes, dynamite can be in small packages, which describe Hannah's explosive communication skills. She was born in Cebu, Philippines and raised in Looc Locatha for 12 years and went to the Stephanie Montessori Educational Center. At the age of 12 she and her family moved to the United States and Crosby where she began in the 7th grade until graduation.

A portion of Valedictorian Restauero's acceptance speech; "It has been said that education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. This can be seen in how American educational opportunities are extended to many countries throughout the world; I am aware of this contribution through my home country - the Philippines. I am living proof of this educational gift, having studied in both the Philippines and in the United States. I am fortunate enough to have had a great start and solid background for the next learning adventure in college. Not only that, but I was able to foster lasting relationships that will follow me throughout my life. When you look at me, you not only see Hannah, but you see one of my best friends who taught me to use the word "thus," you see the church teaching that "pleasure is momentary, happiness is lasting," you see the broken heart from the boy from my



CROSBY 2021 PROM KING JAGGER NEWTON AND QUEEN JENA WOMACK

sophomore year, you see the contentedness in my smiling eyes, a gift of my mother's love."

"As an immigrant, I stand here in front of you today, not as a single Filipina, but rather as a hundred million Filipinos. I am here to represent and amplify the voices of my people. I hope that through this achievement, I am opening up conversations and paving the way for the inclusivity of my country and for those of you who have gone down the same path as I have" Restauero said.

A portion of Salutatorian, Anouk Ochoa's speech, "I want to start off by saying congratulations to all of you guys and thank you to all the district staff and teachers for helping us get here. I also want to thank God because without him, I would not be standing here giving you this speech. The class of 2021 has been through so much these past few years alone. From Covid-19, to crazy winter storms, to hurricanes, and much more, I am proud to say that Crosby has pushed through it.

self. I dedicated my life to school, every afternoon and every weekend was occupied with school work. A good amount of the material I was learning was hard for me to understand at times and it took great amounts of effort to get the grades that I did. I cannot stress enough the importance of hard work. My entire high school career I was aware and conscious of individuals that were smarter than me, but I knew that regardless of intelligence I would be able to make it to this podium. I would tell myself "They might be smarter than me, but they won't work as hard as me."

After the ceremony 182 of the graduates went to the school's Project Graduation Lockdown. Food, refreshments, entertainment of games and music kept them busy until the

5 AM end.

In an interview of the top 5 they each agreed the lockdown was a blast. Isaiah Jamaal said, "While I'm excited to get on with my next educational step of college, project graduation gave all of us the opportunity to put a closure on our high school education. Being with most all my classmates one last time will be a special memory for us to cherish. The other top 4 echoed that.

Rayli Eilers said, "I am extremely grateful for my time at Crosby ISD and for my family, especially with the hardships that the class of 2021 has faced. I know we are off to great things."

Graduates photos can be obtained from Sandra Prado at 832-618-9835 or sandrapradophoto@gmail.com

## Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei



Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841.

## Memorial Day Celebration at Sterling White Cemetery



Dana Reed of New Orleans sounds the bugle as Boy Scout Troup #264 raises the flag in tribute following the laying of the Memorial Wreath before the Wall of Honor.



At left Kyrah Schanbachler sang "The Star Spangled Banner," Col. Mark McClelland was guest speaker, and Daisy Bordeau saluted the crowd attending. Crisp enunciation hallmarked each in their part.



One catches a glimpse of the depth of intensity Jerry Hovater draws from speaking with him prior to his presentation and his understanding of the perpetual nature of war "going back over 5,000 years of known history." In the background a Marine Helicopter landed with momentous drama before ceremonies began.



Julia Martin of the Air Force won the raffle with multiple goodies done by Sterling-White Cemetery.



Col. Mark McClelland served in the Air Force since the Korean Conflict and was active duty when the War on Terror began. He is also retired from being Liberty County Tax Collector in 2011.



Piper Richard Kean played what many call America's Hymn, "Amazing Grace" written by a man that turned back (repented) a slave ship bound for the southern United States.

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<p>TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED A VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATION FOR 10230 EAST FREEWAY. BURKETT MEDIA MANAGEMENT LLC HAS APPLIED FOR A LED BILLBOARD SIGN AT THAT LOCATION.</p> <p>THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.</p>			
<b>LEGAL NOTICE</b>	<b>LEGAL NOTICE</b>	<b>LEGAL NOTICE</b>	<b>LEGAL NOTICE</b>
<p><b>Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Athletic – Apparel, Equipment &amp; Supplies</b></li> <li><b>Awards, Incentives, Printing Signs, Promotional Products, Specialty Clothing &amp; Trophies</b></li> <li><b>Fine Arts – Apparel, Equipment &amp; Supplies</b></li> <li><b>Fundraiser Services</b></li> <li><b>General Merchandise – In-Store, Local Retailers &amp; Grocery Stores</b></li> <li><b>Instructional Materials, Equipment, Furniture &amp; Supplies</b></li> <li><b>Library Books, Equipment &amp; Supplies</b></li> <li><b>Maintenance/Nutrition/Transportation – Equipment, Parts, Repairs &amp; Supplies</b></li> <li><b>Office Furniture &amp; Supplies</b></li> <li><b>Technology Equipment, Services, Software &amp; Supplies</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2021, through the Electronic Bidding Website at <a href="https://cvisd.ionwave.net">https://cvisd.ionwave.net</a>. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website <a href="http://www.cvisd.org">www.cvisd.org</a>, under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.</b></p>			
<p><b>ATTENTION PRIVATE NON-PROFIT SCHOOLS, HOME SCHOOLERS, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE SHELDON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT</b></p> <p>Private, non-profit schools, who legally qualify as a non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate), home schoolers, parents, and community members are invited to participate in a virtual meeting with representatives from the Sheldon Independent School District to learn more about federally funded programs and services available for the 2021-2022 school year. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom, Tuesday, May 25, 2021, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Sheldon ISD at (281) 727-2096. Details on how to access the Zoom meeting are posted at <a href="https://www.sheldonisd.com/apps/events/2021/5/25/9133861/?REC_ID=9133861&amp;id=0">https://www.sheldonisd.com/apps/events/2021/5/25/9133861/?REC_ID=9133861&amp;id=0</a></p> <p>Atención escuelas privadas, Escuelas sin fines de lucro, Educadores en el hogar, Padres y Miembros de la comunidad en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon Las escuelas privadas, escuelas sin fines de lucro, que califican legalmente como una organización sin fines de lucro (actualmente tienen un certificado 501-C3), los educadores en el hogar, los padres y los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a participar en una reunión virtual con representantes del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon. Para obtener más información sobre los programas y servicios financiados con fondos federales disponibles para el año escolar 2021-2022. La reunión se llevará a cabo de manera virtual a través de Zoom, el Martes 25 de Mayo de 2021, de 1:00 p.m. a 2:00 p.m. Si está interesado en participar o tiene preguntas, comuníquese con Sheldon ISD al (281) 727-2096. Los detalles sobre cómo acceder a la reunión de zoom se publican en <a href="https://www.sheldonisd.com/apps/events/2021/5/25/9133861/?REC_ID=9133861&amp;id=0">https://www.sheldonisd.com/apps/events/2021/5/25/9133861/?REC_ID=9133861&amp;id=0</a></p>			
<p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b> Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 493966; Estate of MAURICE ROBBINS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 26, 2021. <b>KATHRYN LORENE DUNLOP</b> The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is: c/o Weston Cotten 1500 Wallisville Rd 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 JUNE 1, 2021. <i>Weston Cotten</i> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate</p>			

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

# ASK THE EXPERT

## SHELDON ISD SCHOOL NEWS

### Sheldon ISD names district teachers of the year

This week, Sheldon ISD recognized its two district teachers of the year represented at the elementary and secondary level. This year's elementary teacher of the year is Tiffany Ivey from Garrett Elementary School and the secondary teacher of the year is Cynthia McFayden from King High School. Ivey and McFayden will be recognized at an end of year celebration along with this year's retirees on June 7.



TIFFANY IVEY



CYNTHIA MCFAYDEN

### 2 Sheldon employees receive customer service award

The CARE award stands for Caught Acting and Responding with Excellence and recognizes Sheldon ISD employees for demonstrating outstanding customer service. This award is in partnership with Woodforest Bank and will be presented to employees quarterly. This month's winners are:

Sheldon Elementary STEM teacher Joanna Jorgenson - She was nominated for her ability to take care of all the students, as well as coordinating technology in the building and the school garden. She goes above and beyond to make sure all the teachers have what they need each day.

Sheldon Lake Elementary dual language teacher Juan Franco - He was nominated for the smile on his face and his helpful and cheerful attitude. He prioritizes tasks, asks for help and helps boost morale by playing his guitar around the school.

The CARE award will resume with the 2021-22 school year. Individuals may nominate a Sheldon ISD employee by going to [www.sheldonisd.com/care/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/care/)

### Sheldon partners with Texas Children for COVID-19 vaccine safety meeting

Listen to a panel of experts from Texas Children's explain the latest information on vaccines. As more COVID vaccine choices become available, we want to bring you the latest information on this topic. This meeting will only address questions regarding vaccinations and is provided by Texas Children's.

A virtual meeting in Spanish will be held at 6 p.m., on Thursday, June 3 and a virtual meeting in English will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8. Zoom links can be found on the district calendar at [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com).



(SheldonElementary\_CARE): Superintendent Dr. King Davis presented Sheldon Elementary STEM teacher Joanna Jorgenson with the CARE Award for outstanding customer service. Pictured left to right is Principal Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo, CARE award winner Joanna Jorgenson and Superintendent Dr. King Davis.



(LakeElementary\_CARE): Sheldon Lake Elementary dual language teacher Juan Franco is the recipient of the CARE Award for his outstanding customer service. Pictured left to right is Superintendent Dr. King Davis, Principal Chris Dickson, Juan Franco, Woodforest Bank representative Marie Cano and Assistant Principal Maria Lavios.

### Register for Pre-kindergarten in Sheldon ISD

Pre-kindergarten registration is now open for new students to Sheldon ISD entering pre-kindergarten. To learn more and to register, go to [www.sheldonisd.com/register/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/register/).

## Democrats walk out, kill bill,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tary of State Ruth Hughs told lawmakers earlier in the year that Texas' election in 2020 was "smooth and secure." Democrats and voting rights organizations have derided the bill as an attempt at voter suppression that would disproportionately harm racial and ethnic minorities.

Gov. Greg Abbott has already said he will convene a special session of the Texas legislature in the coming months to reconsider SB7, among other pieces of legislation, so the bill could still be passed.

"Ensuring the integrity of our elections and reforming a broken bail system remain emergencies in Texas," Abbott's statement

said. "They will be added to the special session agenda. Legislators will be expected to have worked out the details when they arrive at the Capitol for the special session."

Abbott went further on Monday, saying he intends to withhold paychecks to state lawmakers after House Democrats staged the walkout to block voting restrictions proposed by their Republican counterparts.

"This is a reckoning over two strategies," Alex Birnel said. "One strategy is to suppress the vote to sustain power, and the other strategy is for millions of people to participate in our democracy and for that participation to transform the entire country for the better."



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## ASK DIAMOND JIM

### Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for the month of June?"

#### JUNE BIRTHSTONES

June counts three gems as birthstones: Pearl, Alexandrite, and Moonstone.

#### PEARL

Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

The qualities that determine the overall value of a natural or cultured pearl or a piece of pearl jewelry are size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality, and—for jewelry with two or more pearls—matching.

When other value factors are equal, larger pearls are rarer and more valuable than smaller pearls of the same type. Round is the most difficult shape to culture, making it the rarest cultured pearl shape and—if all other factors are equal—also generally the most valuable. There are exceptions, though. Well-formed pear, oval, or baroque (irregularly shaped) cultured pearls are also prized by pearl lovers.

Natural and cultured pearls occur in a broad range of hues. There are warm hues like yellow, orange, and pink, and cool hues like blue, green, and violet. Pearls have a wide range of tone from light to dark. Pearl colors tend to be muted, with a soft, subtle quality.

#### ALEXANDRITE

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.) Alexandrite is also the gem for the 55th wedding anniversary.

#### MOONSTONE

The third birthstone for June is the moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon—a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye.

Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

*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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