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Lock up Your Guns, Page 3

HMB Keeps You Moving, Page 6

NORTH CHANNEL ☆ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City

VOLUME 9, NO. 25 (#377) THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

THURS. JUNE 24

Channelview CHIC holds meeting

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition will be holding a community meeting this Thursday, June 24th, at 6:30 pm at the Channelview Fire Dept. Sta.3, 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX. There will be a social time from 5:30 - 6:20 pm to allow for attendees mingling, refreshments and getting settled after which the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Bethany Dwyer, Atty with the Harris County Attorney's Office Environmental Division will give a presentation and be available to answer your questions regarding the HC Attorney's Office's role, needs and limitations when alerted to an issue in our community.

Please feel free to share this invite and information with other community members by any means you may communicate i.e. person to person, phone, text, email, FaceBook, NextDoor, etc.

We hope to see you and welcome new attendees Thursday night.

SAT. JUNE 26

PURE CBD Grand Opening

Grand Opening at 12,750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston 77015. Saturday, 11am to 8:30pm. Complimentary healthy snacks and drinks. See AD in this paper for 15% discount on your CBD order. More information at www.purecbdhouston.com, instagram.com/purecbd-houston, and facebook.com/purecbdhouston.

ONGOING

Precinct2gether Pct. 2 Summer Day Camp

There is still time to take advantage of our SUMMER Day Camp over the next 6 weeks. Proof of income is the only thing required to attend for FREE!

9 different locations throughout Harris County Precinct 2!

Monday - Thursday 8am-3pm

Friday 8am- Noon

Sign up for 1 week or all 6 weeks you tell us

Just call 713-274-2222 to get registered.

ONGOING

Free food at Branch Libraries

Every Wednesday you can pick up Breakfast & Lunch for the week (7 boxed meals for each child under the age of 18)

Courtesy Harris County Branch Library and the Houston Food Bank. Walk-ins welcome, no registration.

SUN. JULY 4

Crosby Church 4th of July Celebration!

6pm-9pm on July 4th 2021 at the Crosby Campus on US90. Fireworks at 9:15pm. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for the evening. Entertainments and Concessions, Kids Games available. 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby. www.crosbychurch.com for more info.

Galena Park refutes charges in citizen protest

GALENA PARK – The city through its attorney Robert Collins, has refuted the claims made last week by a citizens protest group at the opening of the city swimming pool.

The protestors included city commissioner Maricela Serna, charging the city and the Mayor with secrecy in their method of running the city, stating that City Hall was not open to the public, that Commissioner meetings were closed and limiting what was discussed and told to the public, and in general the business of the city was hidden so that some persons would benefit from the secrecy.

It was also charged in a public information release by Wayne Dolcefino of Dolcefino Consulting, that the city had a back unpaid bill of $705,000 to the City of Houston for water supply.

Collins said that each of these charges were untrue, and some through a misunderstanding of circumstances.

For instance, he said that City Hall is open, people can come in to pay water bills, and if they use the speaker on the door they can be admitted for other business. The city has decided, he said, that for the protection of employees access would be limited, commissioners meetings would be by internet. The decision was driven by several deaths in Galena Park from COVID19. Masks and distancing are not effective enough, he said. He said this was due to the Governor declaring a Pandemic Emergency, which is still in effect. When the Emergency order is lifted, City Hall will reopen.

Continued.
See Galena Park Protest, Page 8

Welcome, CITY OF GALENA PARK - TREATED

ADDRESS: 2000 CLINTON DR GALENA PARK TX 77547-2837 ACCT: 709900021206

YOUR ACCOUNT SUMMARY

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

AMOUNT DUE

Past Amount Due	$0.00
Current Charges	$72,571.08
Total Amount Due	$72,571.08
Due Date	07/16/2021

LAST PAYMENT

Amount	$69,565.95
Date	06/14/2021

PENDING PAYMENTS

No Pending Payments

RECENT ACCOUNT ACTIVITIES

Amount	0.00

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT INFO

No Payment arrangement exists

ALERTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

There are no leak alerts or notifications being reported with in the last 30 days.

CURRENT BILL DELIVERY

Account has Bill Delivery method as : Paper Bill
Please use the below link to change the setting.
Change Bill Delivery Method

USAGE SUMMARY

USAGE ALERT SERVICE

The Usage Alert Service is currently unavailable for this account.
You can sign up for Eye On Water to set leak and usage alerts.

ACTIVE BILLING PERIOD

Usage ?	0
Usage Days	0
Usage Charge	N/A

PROJECTED NEXT BILL

Usage	0
Water/Sewer Charge	N/A

ACTIVE READINGS

Last Billed Reading	870930000
Active Reading	0
Active Reading Date	06/14/2021

USAGE HISTORY FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS PERIOD

	Usage (GALS)	Charge ($)
Highest	N/A	N/A
Average	N/A	N/A
Lowest	N/A	N/A
Neighborhood Average	N/A	N/A

This water bill from the City of Houston water department, shows the account of the City of Galena Park.
On the left, top line under AMOUNT DUE, Past Amount Due is $0.00. The line below that shows the monthly charge for water, $72,571.08 but it is not overdue.
The copy of the water bill was furnished to the NORTH CHANNEL STAR by the City of Galena Park. It does not show any unpaid balance on the account, as charged by Dolcefino Consulting.

K9 Fly, Jacinto City's new dope dog

By Allan Jamail

June 23, 2021 – Jacinto City, TX. – The Jacinto City Police Department (JCPD) has a narcotics sniffing K9 program smaller cities would love to have. Under the direction of Police Chief Joe Ayala, Sergeant A. Seydler, a 9 year veteran of JCPD is the K9 handler responsible for maintaining the care and training of their dog. Seydler keeps the dog at his home and they're subject to call out any day or time. JCPD provides the dogs food that comes from chewy.com a highly regarded top quality animal food company.

Fly is the K9's name and according to Sgt. Seydler the JCPD got him last November after he made a call to the Houston K9 Academy requesting a K9 after their previous dog Kyra passed away. Within hours Jaz Stanz the owner of the academy informed him K9s4COPS a non-profit foundation would purchase Fly from the academy and donate it to JCPD.

Fly is a 4 year old Malinois/shepherd from Europe. The breed is known for their high energy that loves to put their intelligence and intense focus to work. He's trained to sniff-out narcotics and can track human scent exceptionally well.

Seydler and Fly trained together for a few weeks at the Houston K9 Academy before putting him to work on duty. Fly's been instrumental in helping to make several narcotic arrests; he has to be continually trained and kept qualified for making criminal cases subject to convictions in criminal

CONTINUED. SEE K9 ON PAGE 5

Jacinto City's Sergeant A. Seydler with K9 Fly (Photo edited by Allan Jamail)

Local Democrats meet with VP Harris

Discuss Voter Restriction bills

WASHINGTON,DC – Last week a group of Democratic state legislators met with Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss the ongoing fight to protect voting rights in Texas and to urge the US Senate to pass S.1 to combat coordinated voter suppression efforts taking place across the country.

Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston), the chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, released the following statement after the meeting:

"Today the members of the Texas delegation had a productive conversation with Vice President Harris about the fight against voter suppression in the Texas Legislature and the importance of H.R. 1 and H.R. 4.

We are grateful for Vice President Harris' partnership and support in our nation's capitol as Democrats aim to preempt Jim Crow style laws from every level of government. As we look toward the next special session in Austin, the Texas Senate Democrats will continue to do our part in the fight to ensure that our sacred right to vote is not taken away by blatant Republican voter suppression tactics."

The Texas Senate Democratic Caucus represents

Continued on Page 5. See Democrats meet VP.

The Democratic Caucus of the Texas Legislature, chaired by Senator Carol Alvarado of Houston, (in the green dress top left) meets with Vice President Kamala Harris, (top center in front of flag) to discuss federal and state legislation that is attempting to restrict voters' rights. Also around the table, Houston State Representatives Armando Walle, Senfronia Thompson, and State Senator Boris Miles.

Beat the Heat! Free A/C units from Precinct 2

Commissioner Garcia is committed to keeping seniors 60+ safe during the hot summer months and will be offering 100 portable A/C units to seniors who need it the most. Units will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Contact the Precinct 2 Call Center at 713-274-2222 Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM to see if you qualify.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Disabled Persons
- 60 years and older
- Fixed/low income
- Must be a homeowner in Precinct 2

- Must Apply by June 30

The A/C Units will be offered to qualifying seniors or individuals with disabilities who have not received a unit from any other program.

Call 713-274-2222.

Harris County Pct. 2 Community Centers, Libraries Reopen

HARRIS COUNTY – As the number of COVID-19 vaccinations approaches the goal of 70% of the population, Harris County has eased their restrictions on using county facilities for public functions, with most locations limiting attendance to 50% or 75% capacity, and masks being requested but not required if you are vaccinated.

In Precinct 2, Commissioner Adrian Garcia has opened all the community centers with the exception of Northeast Community Center on Bentley, which is being remodeled as part of the new All-inclusive County Park being constructed.

Harris County Libraries are all open, too, including Stratford/Highlands Branch Libraary and Crosby Branch Library in this area. One exception is the Galena Park library, which is closed for reconstruction of storm damage. However, the Curiosity Cruiser visits every Wednesday. Curbside service is still available at all libraries, but meeting rooms cannot be used.

Harris County Branch Library in Jacinto City

Recognizing our Primary School Teachers' hard work

HIGHLANDS LYNCHBURG CHAMBER on Friday, June 11 awarded teachers at B.P. Hopper Primary recognition for perfect attendance and their hard work with our children. Chamber Director Jessica Woods said "These ladies make a difference every day in the lives of our children." Celebrating them for perfect attendance for the year! Jessica Amezcus Turpen, Sandy Bocox, Deborah Rorie, and counselor Nieketta Batiste! Also pictured are Jessica Woods from the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce with Maria Rosas and Soledad Harding of Hopper!

Area Pilot Club presidents meet recently

Highlands Rotary Club Community Projects

Chinquapin senior Francisco Trujillo receives the JE Bird Scholarship for $2500 from Rotary Chairman Larry White, and club president Andy Scott.

Highlands Rotary Club donates 8 bicycles to Highlands Elementary students for perfect attendance. Congratulations to the winners.

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

Hurricane Season is Here

Another hurricane season is upon us, and now is the time to make sure you are prepared for whatever storm the next six months may bring. Watch Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo outline the four essential steps to protecting your family and your property. For more information and resources for hurricane season, visit ReadyHarris.org.

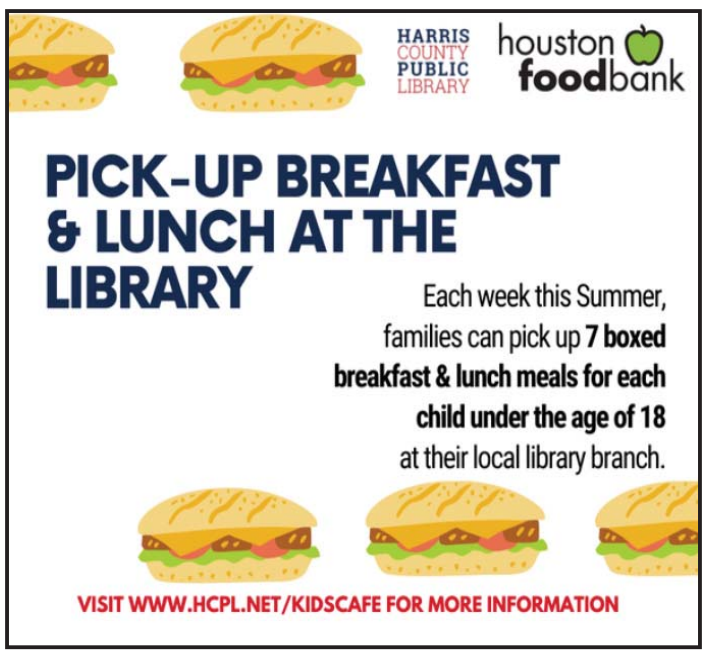
New Eviction Intervention Program helps families

Though employers are gradually rebuilding their ranks, many people remain unemployed and/or significantly behind on rent from the months their workplaces were closed due to the pandemic. The new $8 million Eviction Intervention Program, a division of the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), will work to divert eviction cases out of court, helping families avoid imminent homelessness and landlords recover overdue rent. The program will be run by The Alliance, a nonprofit agency helping refugees, immigrants, and underserved residents.

Tenants can apply for the Eviction Intervention Program by submitting an application for the Houston-Harris County Rental Relief Fund at HoustonHarrisHelp.org. The application will ask if they have received a notice to vacate or a court summons, and, if so, requests the docket number. Qualifying applications will be automatically referred to the Eviction Intervention Program. Tenants who do not qualify for eviction intervention but who are still struggling financially because of pandemic-related wage reductions are still encouraged to apply to the Houston-Harris County Rental Relief Fund. The application portal remains open, and tens of millions of dollars in relief are still available. As of May 26, the Rental Relief Fund has pledged and paid over $84 million to 23,146 tenants in need of assistance.

Eligible applicants to the Eviction Intervention Program must already have a docket number (or case number), cannot earn more than the income threshold (80% of area median income), and must prove pandemic-related financial impact. Both tenant and landlord must agree to participate. The Eviction Intervention Program offers up to six months of rent. You can view the eligibility requirements and FAQs, submit documents, and find other resources related to the Eviction Intervention Program and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program at HoustonHarrisHelp.org. In addi

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION



✯ OPINION PAGE ✯

STARLITE

By Gil Hoffman, Publisher

Not a weekend to remember

We usually play catch-up on the weekends, because around a newspaper there is always one more thing to do, getting ready for the next edition.

But this weekend was one I would like to forget. It started when we came into the office Saturday morning. A piece of our ironwork that secures our storefront was lying on the floor. Why we wondered. Then we saw it. A bullet hole in the front glass, and we discovered pieces of the bullet on the floor. I can tell you this is a disconcerting event. And although no one was hurt, nor any property other than the glass window, you begin to wonder why anyone would shoot at your building in the middle of the night. Our commercial street is usually quiet and safe. Was is random? Was it personal? The police came, but offered no more information than we had.

But things didn't get better. Later in the day, we learned that our right-hand man, our friend and colleague for over 25 years in the newspaper business, Lewis Spearman, had a heart attack, and was in the hospital recovering. Luckily with good care at Houston Methodist, and a stent in his heart, he will be fine.

Trying to get some work done, and not worry too much about these events, I sat at the computer. And then the power went off. Newspapers are highly dependent on computers, and with no lights and no computers, you are out of luck.

And this was a weekend that seems determined to prove we had no luck. Yes we fixed the power, but we could only wish that next weekend would be better, and we could forget this one in the past.

OPINION

By Grace Chimene, President
League of Women Voters of Texas

Defunding of the Legislature is Dangerous to Our Democracy

League of Women Voters of Texas President Grace Chimene issued the following statement in response to Governor Abbott's defunding the Texas legislature by vetoing Article X of the new state budget.

"Governor Abbott's defunding of the legislature is dangerous to our democracy and undermines the will of the people and the constitutional set of checks and balances upon which our government is built.

"House legislators were doing their job, patriotically representing their constituents. The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned about the undemocratic action taken by Governor Abbott in retribution for not getting his way on an anti-voter bill. The Governor's action is a dangerous step away from democracy, shows complete disrespect to the voters of Texas, to the staff who do the work of the government and for our system of checks and balances.

"Of particular concern is the upcoming redistricting cycle, which is mandated by the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. The Legislative Council provides technical and legal support to the Texas Legislature during redistricting; and by defunding this nonpartisan agency, the Governor has jeopardized the Legislature's ability to produce new district maps. This threatens our democracy. The census report comes out in August and a special session on redistricting is planned for early fall. Elected officials will now have to create maps without expert legal and technical assistance. The power of our votes is determined by how district maps are written.

Our government and the people of Texas rely on the staff of these and other legislative offices to do the necessary work of our democracy.

Legislative office staff - Each legislator's staff works hard meeting the needs of the public their legislators serve.

The Legislative Budget Board - This agency develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations, completes fiscal analyses for proposed legislation, and conducts evaluations and reviews to improve the efficiency and performance of state and local operations.

The Legislative Council - The Texas Legislative Council is a nonpartisan legislative agency that serves as a source of impartial research and information and provides technical and legal support to the Texas Legislature for redistricting. Its staff assists legislators in drafting and analyzing proposed legislation, and in obtaining information on specific legislative problems and on matters affecting the general welfare of the state. Council staff also handles the printing, processing, and distribution of legislative documents and provides computer support to the legislature and all of the other legislative agencies.

The Sunset Advisory Commission - Their mission is to enhance government accountability to the Legislature and people of Texas by objectively evaluating the need for and value of state programs and services.

The State Auditor - Their mission is to improve government accountability by investigating allegations of illegal acts and improprieties involving any entity that receives funds from the state.

"The League of Women Voters will continue to monitor this dangerous step away from democracy and seek effective remedies."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Heat wave across Texas prompts conservation call

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas urged Texans to cut back on power usage last week when an unusually large number of power plants shut down for unexpected repairs as temperatures soared. ERCOT officials announced Friday that Texans could resume normal levels of electricity use, however.

ERCOT came under fire after widespread outages during the winter storm in mid-February, resulting in the CEO being forced out and much of the board replaced.

Saturday marked the official first day of summer.

BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION PLAN UNVEILED

Gov. Gregg Abbott last week announced several key facets of his plan for the state to build a wall on its border with Mexico. Abbott and other state leaders signed a letter during a press conference, allowing the transfer of $250 million to begin construction and to hire a program manager and contractors. The program manager will hire contractors and subcontractors needed to build the wall and will identify available state land, as well as private land whose owners are willing to volunteer space for the wall.

Meanwhile, Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced approximately 591,595 acres of state-owned land will receive emergency authorization to be used to build part of the wall. Texas and Mexico share 1,254 miles of common border, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

The governor is also seeking donations for building a wall via www.borderwall.gov. State lawmakers allocated $1 billion for border security

in the recently passed budget, but Democratic officials have pointed out most of that money goes to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

ABBOTT APPOINTS COBOS TO PUC

Abbott last week appointed Lori Cobos to the PUC. She fills a term scheduled to expire on Sept. 1, although she could be reappointed. Senate confirmation is not required since the Legislature is not in session. The PUC will have a full complement of commissioners for the first time since February.

"I am proud to appoint Lori Cobos to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, and I know that she will draw upon her wealth of experience and knowledge to faithfully serve the people of Texas," Abbott said.

Cobos has served in several senior-level posts at the PUC and ERCOT, including as chief executive and public counsel for the Office of Public Utility Counsel. As a commissioner, she will draw a salary of $201,000 annually.

FOREST SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS SENT TO AID OTHER STATES

Texas A&M Forest Service has sent 25 firefighters, including two engine crews, to wildfires in Colorado, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico and Florida.

"Texas state resources are supporting wildfire suppression efforts in multiple roles, including firefighters, engine support, prevention team members, aviation operations and support roles," TFS said in a press release. The release said TFS remains dedicated to protecting the state's natural resources from wildfire while assisting other states, a common practice.

Across Texas, the potential for wildfires remains low due to the copious amounts of rain this spring. For current conditions, visit the Texas Potential Outlook site: https://tinyurl.com/ 3j84srd7

VACCINE RATE CONTINUES TO SLOW

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 has hit 11.4 million, about 39% of the state's population, according to Texas Department of State Health Services.

Across the United States, 45% of the population is fully vaccinated. Texas ranks in the lower tier of states in percentage of population that is fully vaccinated. However, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped considerably from the previous week, with 8,414 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, along with 186 deaths. Hospitalizations dropped slightly, with 1,564 lab confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, according to DSHS.

STAAR TESTS SHOW DROP IN MATH RESULTS

Results from the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, which measures students' knowledge of several subjects, shows a sharp drop in math scores, the Texas Standard reported last week. The new scores came after a school year unlike no other, with many students taking classes online at home because of the pandemic.

Only 42% of high school students who took the primary high school math test were considered to be "at grade level," down from 66% last year. This year's STAAR results don't include all students, since some did not return to school in-person to take the exam.

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 .

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

No News

Tanner wasn't waiting for me at the fence yesterday.

Dakota and Tanner, my two oldest dogs, are always waiting for me at the chain-link fence. Dakota can't hear and doesn't see well, so she stays close to the fence in the afternoon when I walk by in order to collect her treat. Tanner really can't see or hear at all, so he keeps close to Dakota. Yesterday he wasn't there.

The thing about giving out dog treats is that, even though I have a relationship with all these dogs, I don't know much about them.

"Where is your brother?" I once asked a long-legged hound that I always met with her sibling.

"We had to put him down yesterday," the hound dog's owner said, as his eyes filled with tears.

"Oh! I'm sorry. That was sudden," I said.

He nodded and wiped his eyes. The now-single hound looked up at me with big sad eyes, as if she knew what we were talking about. It was sudden for everyone.

Today I am worried about Tanner. He's 14, and it pulls at my heart the way he takes his treat so gently. He cannot see my hand. His teeth are old and worn. His muzzle is gray. He is so old and kind and careful. And yesterday, he was missing.

My heart was already tender.

My husband Peter's oldest sister, Shelley, has been in and out of the hospital for more than two months. She has made it out as far as rehab, and then had to go back to the hospital for more surgeries, more infections, more trouble.

Peter is still grieving the loss of his other sister, Lori, who died of cancer just this spring. He is worried—we are both so worried—about Shelley.

I try not to ask Peter, "Any news on Shelley?" because he would tell me if there was. And so I go for my walk and always in the back of my mind I'm wondering about Shelley. And then, yesterday, Tanner was missing.

"Where is Tanner?" I asked Dakota, as she ate her treat. She did not answer. I could tell she thought she should get a second treat, since I had another one in my hand, ready.

"This treat is for Tanner!" I told her. But she kept staring at me, giving me no clue where he might be.

I used to think bad news was the hardest thing to bear. Now I'm not sure if no news isn't a little worse. No news is a constant buzzing. It is hopeful one moment and doom-filled the next. It is pain and fear mixed together. It is the anticipation of loss, and it causes me to see ill omens and sadness everywhere.

There is still no news on Shelley. Her son and daughter-in-law can't know any more than the doctors, and the doctors don't know what is happening. She is tired. She is sad. I imagine she must be lonely. All we know is that she does not call and her voicemail is full and that is not like Shelley.

I brought a couple of extra-large treats with me on my walk today. When I got to Tanner's house, there was only one dog waiting outside. It was Tanner.

I hollered at him to no avail. I jumped up and down and waved my arms and finally caught his eye. He tottered over.

"Oh, Tanner. It's so good to see you," I told him.

"What's the big deal?" he seemed to say.

Sometimes no news is the best news of all.

Till next time,

Carrie

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

Democrats meet VP Harris,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas Democratic Caucus group at the White House, preparing to meet Vice President Kamala Harris regarding SB7 and HB1, bills that deal with voter restrictions in Texas and nationwide. Chairman Carol Alvarado, Texas State Senator, is at the center in a blue dress.

urban and rural communities across the state, serving nearly 12 million Texans. The current members are Chair Carol Alvarado (Houston), Vice Chair Nathan Johnson (Dallas), John Whitmire (Houston), Judith Zaffirini (Laredo), Eddie Lucio, Jr. (Brownsville), Royce West (Dallas), Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (McAllen), José Menéndez (San Antonio), Borris Miles (Houston), Beverly Powell (Burleson), Sarah Eckhardt (Austin), Roland Gutierrez (San Antonio), and César Blanco (El Paso).

For questions regarding the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, please contact Sushma Smith by email at jasti.smith@gmail.com or (281) 772-9618.

Key Legislation promoted by State Rep. Briscoe Cain

SHELDON ISD SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Hours in Sheldon ISD

Sheldon ISD is operating on summer hours. Buildings and offices will be closed on Fridays. Sheldon administration will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Normal operating hours will resume beginning the week of August 2.

Sheldon announces new campus leaders

There will be new principals at Null Middle School, Sheldon Elementary and Cravens Early Childhood for the 2021-22 school year.:

C.E. King High School's Roberto Gonzalez has been promoted to principal of Sheldon ISD's Null Middle School. Mr. Gonzalez is currently the Associate Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at C.E. King High School. He has additionally served in Sheldon ISD since 2017 as an academy principal at KHS. Prior to his working in Sheldon ISD, he has worked in Galena Park ISD as an administrator and a special education teacher, coach, and specialist. Mr. Gonzalez has a masters degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University and a bachelor of science in psychology from Union College. Mr. Gonzalez will begin his role as principal in July. He replaces Mrs. Katrina White who has accepted a position with another nearby school district.

Mrs. Maria Vives has been announced as the new principal of Cravens Early Childhood Academy. She comes to Sheldon ISD from Pasadena ISD where she has been the assistant principal of Laura Bush Elementary since 2012. She has worked in Pasadena ISD since 2002 as a first-grade bilingual teacher, dual language coordinator, instructional specialist and an assistant principal. Prior to her work in Houston, she worked as a first-grade teacher in Colombia. She has a master of science in educational management from the University of Clear Lake and a bachelor of arts in early childhood pedagogy from the Universidad del Norte in Colombia.

Dr. Denise Mustin has been named Sheldon ISD's Director of Early Childhood. The district surveyed families and stakeholders providing an opportunity for input in the development of its plan for the uses of American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III funds. School systems across Texas are receiving federal funding to use in response to the pandemic and as a result of learning loss resulting from COVID-19. Sheldon families indicated they would like to provide an enhanced focus on supporting early childhood education, and this is exactly what Dr. Mustin's role will accomplish in Sheldon.

Jana Rolliing has been named the new principal of Sheldon Elementary. Currently, Mrs. Rolling is serving as Sheldon ISD's elementary math curriculum coordinator. Mrs. Jana Rolling is no stranger to Sheldon Elementary as she has served as the campus' assistant principal since 2019. She has also served families and students at Sheldon Elementary as a math and science instructional coach. Her educational career began as a classroom teacher at Sheldon ISD's Carroll elementary school in 2011 where she taught fourth and fifth grade math and science and worked as a campus math interventionist. She has her masters in education teacher leadership and a bachelor of business administration-accounting from Lamar University.

Dr.Rachelle Ysquierdo has been announced as the district's new Director of Teaching and Learning. Dr. Ysquierdo has been with Sheldon ISD since 2014 as the principal of Sheldon Elementary School. Prior to Sheldon, she served as a principal, assistant principal and family involvement coordinator in Goose Creek CISD. She has a doctorate in administration and leadership for teaching and learning from Walden University as well as a master of science in education management and bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Most recently, Dr. Ysquierdo was named Sheldon ISD's Principal of the Year. Both Mrs. Rolling and Dr. Ysquierdo's new roles will begin on July 1.

"I am very confident in the new school leaders selected for these campuses," Dr. King Davis said. "I am looking forward to transitioning each person into their new roles. We are eager for them to meet their parent and school communities to continue to enhance the great things happening in each school."

New students can register for 2021-22 school year

Registration is now open for all new students in Sheldon ISD for the 2021-22 school year. To register, go to www.sheldonisd.com/register/ to begin the registration process by completing the online pre-enrollment forms and uploading the required documents. Campus staff will call to set up appointments to let families know once the application is complete. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 11.

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/.

K9 Fly, JC Dope Dog,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

court cases.

Seydler takes Fly on training exercises at various places like the Galena Park Middle and High School, shopping malls and food courts so the K9 is exposed to a wide array of odors so there's nothing foreign smelling to throw his narcotic tracking off.

Fly recently received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from a non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. . This saved the JCPD $1,200, the vest is custom tailored for him; Seydler provided the dogs lengths and chest measurements.

Northshore Animal Hospital Veterinarian Francis "Frank" Martin provides the medical needs to Fly. For routine treatments and vaccines JCPD pays for these, but should there be a serious medical injury or illness the city has a medical insurance policy for those expenses.

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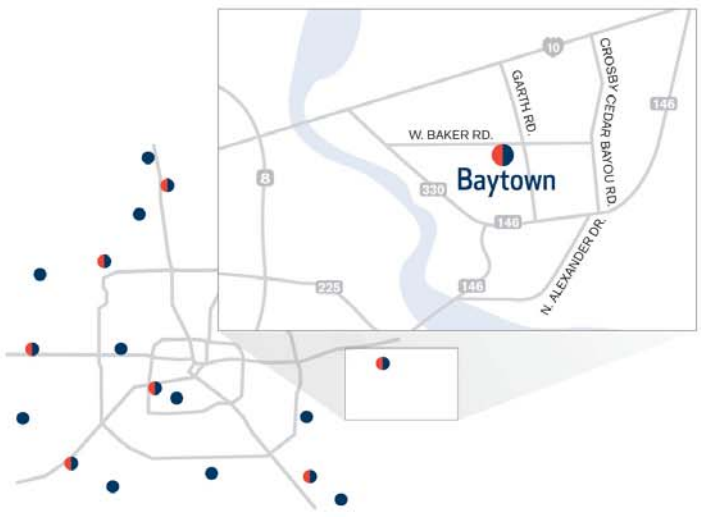

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16-12t

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV and Special Education programs) will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 2:00 pm or Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 9:00 am. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or acole@galenaparkisd.com.

24-2t

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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Our Choice

When we wake up each day, we have a choice. We can react to the world and be bitter, or we can react to the opportunities given us and become better. Early this week a friend called to share then his first grandson was born. John was happy but in the same breath, he said "I wish I was rich enough that I could fly up there today instead of next month." My next comments caught him off-guard. I told him that he needed to be thankful that not only did the baby arrive healthy but that his daughter had a quick and easy delivery. I reminded him that less than a year ago, he suffered a major stroke and that by the grace of God, he was able to return to work less than five months later with little damage to his body. And then I reminded him to stop and be thankful he already has a vacation planned and ticket paid for to go to North Carolina in July to see the new baby. Immediately he apologized and admitted I was right. He acknowledged that he has much to be thankful for.

Another friend was telling me how difficult it has been to adjust to putting her mother into a Senior Living Facility. Again, I reminded her to be thankful her mother had the money to move as well as the insurance to help pay for the new place. While my friend and her sibling had to go through the transition of selling her mom's home and let go of many items that had memories attached, at least they had choices as to what to keep and what to sell. Many people in the last year especially have lost jobs, been evicted, been ill and have no savings to help them survive. Many others have lost their parents. Still others have other commitments that have kept them from being with their aging parents as long as she has had her mother.

Cassie lost her dad the same week that Caroline lost her dad. Both young ladies were close to their fathers yet their outlooks have been different. One dad never talked to his children about how to handle things without becoming angry and bitter. The other dad told his children to make everyday count. While one has been posting on social media begging for financial help while the next post was about all the pain she has suffered; the other has posted memories of things that the dad did with his children. There were pictures of simple things, like washing cars or playing soccer. One of the most obvious things that jumped out to me was that one dad was intentional about making memories and being present in his children's lives. The other dad had always reminded his kids that life is not easy and he dure did not like the hand he had been dealt.

Each day, we need to make choices that bring out the best in ourselves as well as in others. We need to speak life into others. We have choices.

Sheldon ISD teacher charged with sexual assault, fired

HOUSTON – The Harris County Sheriff's Office reports that a former C.E. King High School teacher, Katrina Louisa Maxwell, has been charged with two counts of sexual assault of a child under 17 years of age.

According to court records, Maxwell began to have a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old male student during spring break in March and April. The district became aware of the relationship between Maxwell and the student when a district employee noticed Maxwell's behavior with the student. The employee also reported a second incident where Maxwell is accused of throwing a pair of scissors at a student's head for sitting next to his girlfriend, according to court records.

After an investigation, Maxwell admitted to having sex twice with the student in the backseat of her vehicle according to court documents. The student told investigators that he and Maxwell had sex a number of times between March and April, according to court records.

Sheldon Independent School District said Maxwell was fired for having an improper relationship with a student.

Sheldon ISD released the following statement:

Katrina Louisa Maxwell

Sheldon ISD district administration was recently made aware of an inappropriate relationship between former Sheldon ISD teacher Mrs. Katrina Maxwell and a Sheldon ISD high school student. Once district administration was notified, the teacher was immediately removed from the school campus, and the district notified law enforcement as well as Child Protective Services (CPS). The district has conducted a thorough investigation and upon completion, we find these reports to be substantiated. All findings have been turned over to law enforcement, and the district is expecting charges to be brought forth. We highly encourage the Harris County District Attorney's office to take the appropriate action by accepting the charges and making an arrest. Based on our investigative process, this teacher has been terminated and is no longer employed in Sheldon ISD.

Galena Park Protest,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said there was no past due water bill as claimed, and produced a current bill from the Houston water department, showing this newspaper and the public that the past due balance was $0. He noted that Dolcefino weekly requests information from the City Secretary, apparently on a hunt for malfeasance that doesn't exist. Collins insisted that the city responds appropriately and timely, in spite of Dolcefino's lawsuit claiming undue withholding of information. He also raised the question of who had hired Dolcefino to investigate, and why.

As to Commissioner Serna's complaint about a muted microphone, Collins said that she was attempting to discuss issues that were not on the official agenda for the meeting, which is not permitted.

Whether Moya is doing a good job for the city, Collins pointed out that the majority of residents seemed happy with the governing, as evidenced by results in the last election where Moya had strong support.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Is it important to get an appraisal on my jewelry?"

An official appraisal is necessary for insurance and estate planning. Fair market value appraisals indicate the amount a piece would be sold for between a willing buyer and seller. This appraisal can be used for estate tax determination and division of property in a divorce. A fair market value can be helpful to fair division of jewelry assets among loved ones.

Insurance replacement appraisals provide you protection for reimbursement in case of loss. This appraisal will give you a document that describes your item exactly (stone clarity, size, color, quality and value). By having a relatively recent appraisal, you will be better able to get the lost item replaced with a similar item or receive a settlement from your insurance company. Gems of the same size can have significantly different values so you need an appraisal to ensure your replacement is comparable to the original.

Listed below are the most common reasons to have your jewelry appraised by a professional.

• Insurance coverage is the most common reason for getting an appraisal. A full appraisal is a detailed document that will assure you of a comparable replacement in case of loss.

• With the popularity of purchasing jewelry over the internet, an appraisal from an independent appraiser can verify that diamonds and other jewelry match the certification or appraisal that accompany the item. Schedule an appointment to give you an idea of the value and peace of mind.

• A detailed appraisal is a valuable document to have whenever you choose to dispose of (sell, trade or bequeath) your jewelry.

• An appraisal is necessary in the event of Estate Settlement, forming a Trust, or Equitable Distribution.

• You will need an appraisal to claim a casualty loss for your insurance company or uninsured loss for the IRS.

• You should have an appraisal for division of property in a divorce.

• You will need an appraisal for tax deduction of a charitable contribution.

Is there a cost to have my jewelry appraised?

Yes. When asking any professional for their appraised value of an item, you should usually expect to pay a reasonable amount for their expert opinion. How much that amount is can vary from professional to professional. It's safe to say that the most important factor to consider when selecting someone to appraise your fine jewelry, is trust. Work with a professional that you trust to appraise your jewelry.

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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