

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

### FRI. AUGUST 13 Roaring Twenties Casino Night

NORTH CHANNEL AREA FOUNDATION ROARING TWENTIES CASINO NIGHT

Friday, August 13, 2021

7:00 - 11:00 pm, Jacinto City Town Center 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!

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, and bring your luck in support of our Chamber Foundation!

### Saxophonist Kyle Turner plays "Live Jazz" Aug. 15

One of Houston's musical treasures, Saxophonist Kyle Turner will be performing "live" at R&K Barbecue and Reception Hall, 911 Normandy St. 77015 on Sunday, August 15th, 2021 from 4pm to 7pm. Tickets are available at <http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>.

### New Xfinity store in North Channel area

The new Xfinity Store is conveniently located at 15375 Wallisville Rd. and features a modern retail environment that highlights the complete line of Xfinity Home and Comcast Business technology offerings, including Xfinity Mobile, Xfinity X1, Xfinity Home and Xfinity Internet.

At the recent event, Comcast celebrated with the local community through fun activities, raffles and live product demonstrations.

### PURE CBD Now Open

A New CBD store is now open, at 12,750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston 77015. 11am to 8:30pm. More information at [www.purecbdhou.com](http://www.purecbdhou.com), [instagram.com/purecbd-houston/](https://www.instagram.com/purecbd-houston/), and [facebook.com/purecbd-houston/](https://www.facebook.com/purecbd-houston/).

## County returns COVID threat level to RED

### Delta Variant fills Hospitals

HARRIS COUNTY – Harris County judge Lina Hidalgo raised the COVID-19 threat level to "red" on Thursday afternoon, as the COVID-19 delta variant has increased hospitalizations and strained the region's hospital resources over the past month.

It's the first time the county has hit its highest threat level since June 2020.

The new advisory indicates that severe and uncontrolled outbreaks



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo advises wearing masks and getting a vaccine shot. She has raised the COVID-19 Threat Level to #1 RED, responding to the high number of positive cases of the Delta variant that has resulted in Houston area hospitals filled to capacity or beyond. The county's LBJ Hospital is full, for instance, and has erected tents outside the building to take the overflow of patients of all illnesses.



are present in the community and worsening, and that the public health capacity in the region is strained or exceeded, Hidalgo said.

"It's straining our staff, it's straining our hospitals, and it's imposing heartbreak and anxiety in so many families in Harris County," Hidalgo said.

The county judge called the latest surge a "perfect storm" of strained staff, a more transmissible virus, and the limited ability for lo

Continued. See Threat Level RED, page 2

## Town Hall included Sheriff's safety talk, County service info, Back-to-School events

By Allan Jamail

August 5, 2021 – CLOVERLEAF – At the Leon Grayson/Baldree Community Center several hundreds of back-to-school students, their parents and residents of the area came out to hear about many topics of interest. The event was well planned and attended and the co-coordinators did a fantastic job in keeping the two plus hour long event interesting and informative.

Approximately fifty vendors were on hand along with a large number of governmental agencies and county departments. Gifts of backpacks, school supplies, and personal hygiene needs, free haircuts, dental and eye care providers were available.

A big hit with the students was the booth of the Harris County Public North Channel Library (HCPL) that gave away books and provided their free Library Card applications. Visit, [www.hcpl.net/homepage](http://www.hcpl.net/homepage) for a location nearest you, free library cards, free summertime activities, free virtual internet basic classes and more. There's 30 HCPL's in Harris County, free li-



Harris County Health Dept. Nurse Jude M. with vaccine recipient Jeanie Comeaux. Free COVID-19 vaccine shots, no ID needed, walk-ins accepted & no insurance needed or if you do not have transportation, call 832-927-8787 or visit: <https://vacstrac.hctx.net/landing> (Allan Jamail photo)



Cindy Miller, Community Liaison Pct. 2 & Chase of the Paw Patrol (Jonathan Juarez) sponsored by Aventura Dental (713-672-4646) (Allan Jamail photo)

brary cards can be obtained by visiting a location nearest you or on line at: [www.hcpl.net/homepage](http://www.hcpl.net/homepage)

Another helpful vendor's booth was the Office of County Transit Services. Paul Weisser, Assistant Director gave an informative presentation of the transportation services the county provides. He said, "the Transit Plus goal is to offer a great customer service experience for residents while allowing them to get where they need to be in a timely manner and at an affordable price."

To schedule a trip visit Harris County Transit's web page at: [www.harriscountyttransit.com](http://www.harriscountyttransit.com) and follow the "New Projects" dropdown menu to Harris County Transit Plus or call 832-927-4953. Operating times are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Transit Plus also allows for riders to transfer to existing Harris County



Sheriff's Deputies reviewed crime stats and gave Safety advice to the public.

routes servicing Sheldon, Channelview, Cloverleaf, Crosby, The Highlands, Baytown and La Porte, as well as the METRO East-ex Park and Ride where METRO fares apply. The fare to ride is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children, seniors and those with disabilities.

County Commissioner Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia and Sheriff Edward Gonzalez should be proud to know they have such exceptional deputies and staffers that could organize and present this community town hall with a good balanced mixture of informative vendors all related to the health and safety of the citizenry. Harris County

Continued. See Town Hall, Page 4

## Abbott calls Second Special Session of the Legislature Democrats remain away in DC

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation announcing that he will convene a second special legislative session at 12:00 p.m. on August 7, 2021. The proclamation identifies 17 agenda items for the second Special Session.

"The Texas Legislature achieved a great deal during the 87th Legislative Session, and they have a responsibility to finish the work that was started," said Governor Abbott. "I will continue to call special session after special session to reform our broken bail system, uphold election integrity, and pass other important

items that Texans demand and deserve. Passing these Special Session agenda items will chart a course towards a stronger and brighter future for the Lone Star State."

Agenda items for the second Special Session will include:

**BAIL REFORM:** Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.

**ELECTION INTEGRITY:** Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas.

**FEDERAL RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS:** Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues for COVID-19-related healthcare expenses, such as those listed below, taking into consideration the approximately \$10.5 billion in funds received by local governments intended to be used on COVID-19 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2:

--healthcare staffing needs, including physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals;

--establishing, staffing, and operating alternative care sites;

--supporting the operations of nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities;

--vaccine administration;

--testing sites;

--supplies and equipment, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators; and

--standing up and operating infusion centers.

**EDUCATION:** Legislation providing strategies for public-school educa-

tion in prekindergarten through twelfth grade during the COVID-19 pandemic, which ensures:

--students receive a high-quality education and progress in their learning;

--in-person learning is available for any student whose parent wants it; --the wearing of face coverings is not mandatory; and

--COVID-19 vaccinations are always voluntary.

Continued. See 2nd Special Session, page 2

## “Live Jazz” coming to Houston’s Eastside

Houston – One of Houston’s musical treasures, Saxophonist Kyle Turner will be performing “live” at R&K Barbecue and Reception Hall, 911 Normandy St. 77015 on Sunday, August 15th, 2021 from 4pm to 7pm. Tickets are available at <http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>. Since the 1990’s, Kyle Turner has been performing on a regular basis and draws enthusiastic audiences regionally and nationally. Kyle’s musical range is vast and he describes himself as a musician that loves playing all types of music. Kyle’s mu-

sical career has afforded him the opportunity to share the stage with musical greats: Luther Vandross, Regina Belle, Joe Sample, Bobby Lyle, Al Jarreau, Will Downing, Ronnie Laws, Marion Meadows, Bob Baldwin, Terence Blanchard, Eddie Levert and Kirk Whalum to name a few. Kyle released his first solo album in 1992 entitled “It’s Time”. In 2011, he released his fifth solo CD, “Wrapped Tight” on the Bayou City Music Label. His latest recording, “Kyle Turner Live” was released in 2019. Mr. Turner also

has his own radio show, “The Jazz Club” which airs four days a week on KTSU 90.9 FM. He attended Jackson State University and Texas Southern University. The “Kyle Turner Live” show is produced by PJ Enterprises, an Event Planning, Marketing and Public Relations firm established in 1999. Owner, Pamela Jones, has over 20 years in the entertainment industry. For more info on PJ Enterprises, please visit the website <http://www.pamjonesenterprises.com>. Purchase your tickets today at <http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>. Limited social distance seating and face masks required. Sunday, August 15th, 4p-7p, R&K Reception Hall, 77015.

## COVID Threat Level Raised to Level 1 RED,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cal leaders to implement public health policies after Gov. Greg Abbott issued orders preventing such measures. Hidalgo urged everyone eligible for a vaccine to get one, or else avoid “all but the most essential interactions.” She also recommended both the vaccinated and unvaccinated wear masks, and told the public to use ERs for life-threatening emergencies only. The judge added that the county’s vaccination rate has increased in the past month, but said it still wasn’t enough to keep the virus at bay. “If you’re in the minority who has not gotten the shot, you’re the reason we’re here today,” Hidalgo said.

The announcement comes exactly two weeks after the county raised the level to “orange,” and just two days after Fort Bend County raised its own threat level. The delta variant of the coronavirus has spread rapidly throughout the region and across Texas, leading to massive increases in cases and hospitalizations. In Harris County, 25% of ICU patients are being treated for COVID-19, up from 20% on Sunday. The positivity rate in the county is doubling every 1.8 weeks, Hidalgo said.

Houston’s Health Department reported that the amount of virus in the city’s wastewater is currently 320% percent more than the highest level seen last summer — an indication that COVID-19 is rapidly spreading. At close of business Wednesday, there were 89 positive cases throughout Houston’s municipal workforce, according to Mayor Sylvester Turner. The

Dr. Cedric Dark, an emergency room doctor at Harris Health System’s Ben Taub Hospital, said on Wednesday that LBJ Hospital — also within the system — declared themselves in an internal disaster. “They were overflowing with patients, Dark said. “And this is something that’s not isolated just to LBJ. It’s happening in other hospitals in the area and its going to continue to happen as we enter this fourth wave.”

A spokesperson for the Harris Health System said that at one point Wednesday 17 critical care patients in the emergency room needed intensive care, but no beds were available.

Texas Medical Center Hospitals continue to operate within phase two of their ICU surge capacity plans, and health experts are not predicting the surge to die down soon.

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number was at 40 last week.

There are currently 68 police officers and 40 firefighters positive for COVID-19, and three city employees are hospitalized, Turner said.

On Tuesday, Turner directed all city employees to wear masks inside city buildings, despite Abbott’s executive order.

At Thursday’s press conference, he called on the state to allow local control in COVID-19 response.

But he added that whether the governor changed the rules or not, he was prepared to do what he felt was best for the city.

“The numbers will dictate my response, and then we’ll deal with whatever happens after that,” Turner said. “I am not going to be constrained by some order.”

In an email to Houston Public Media, Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee said he appreciated the local leaders’ response to the recent wave of COVID-19.

“My office will continue to provide legal advice and guidance to the County Judge and Commissioners as they take steps necessary to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19,” the email read. “If that results in a legal conflict with Governor Abbott, then so be it.”


--Article courtesy of HPM

PJ Enterprises PRESENTS

# An Evening Of JAZZ


Featuring:

## Kyle Turner



Sunday, August 15th, 2021  
4pm - 7pm  
R&K Reception Hall  
911 Normandy St, Houston, TX 77015  
\$50 - Includes Great Food & Mimosas  
<http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>

## Maximum Tax Savings



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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park ISD will hold a public meeting at 4:30 PM, August 24, 2021 in 14705 Woodforest Administration Board Room, Houston, Texas 77015. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.12510/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.34500/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Votes	

#### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	-1.40 % decrease
Debt Service	-8.31 % decrease
Total expenditures	-2.29 % decrease

#### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$12,502,005,890	\$12,616,586,700
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$98,266,907	\$190,452,467
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$10,167,741,812	\$10,034,205,116
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$79,348,163	\$130,420,702

\*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(9), Tax Code.  
\*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(17), Tax Code.  
\*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

#### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$349,306,390

\*Outstanding principal.

#### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.12810	\$0.33000*	\$1.45810	\$6,957	\$5,431
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.15682	\$0.34323*	\$1.50005	\$7,240	\$5,213
Proposed Rate	\$1.12510	\$0.34500*	\$1.47010	\$6,986	\$5,266

\*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

#### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$124,660	\$140,872
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$81,614	\$92,887
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.45810	\$1.47010
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,190.01	\$1,365.68
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$175.67

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.47010. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.47010.

#### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the districts before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$175,986,034
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$6,673,474

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

# ★ OBITUARIES

## LUCINDA "CINDY" MARIE DREBERT SIMMONS

Lucinda "Cindy" Marie Drebert Simmons, 67, of Henderson, TX, passed away on August 2, 2021. Cindy was born June 30, 1954, at St. Josephs Hospital, in Houston, TX, to Glen and Donna Drebert. Cindy graduated from Channelview High School in May 1972. After raising her 2 children, Cindy chose to go to college at the University of Houston to pursue a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. So, almost 20 years after high school, in 1991, Cindy graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors. Upon graduation Cindy immediately began a career in education for Crosby ISD. She was very passionate about her job teaching young children and believed all children deserved the same opportunity for a great education. She was awarded Teacher of the Year numerous times throughout her 18-year career with the district.



garden. They retired to Henderson, TX where Cindy went back to teaching. This time, she worked for Timpson ISD for 9 years, and again was awarded Teacher of the Year!

Cindy was a beloved grandmother! She could always be found sharing pictures or stories with her friends and students. Her grandkids were blessed by her love and support at every milestone. She could often be found at their different events, beaming with pride.

Cindy is preceded in death by her father, Glen Drebert; mother, Donna Drebert; her sister-in-law, Jan Drebert, and niece Kim Ray.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Simmons; daughter, Amy Wisenbaker and

husband Darryl; son, Toby Potter and wife Kacy; grandchildren, Raegan Wisenbaker, Zane Potter, Grace Potter, Cannon Potter, Stark Valdes; brothers, Daniel Drebert, Frank Drebert and wife Linda; sister Paula Robitaille; nieces, Shawn Sexton and husband Jeff; Aubrey Salinas and husband Chris; Shannon Robitaille, Lisa Robitaille, Laura Robitaille; nephews Michael Drebert and wife Kelly, Kevin Drebert and wife April, and Joseph Drebert, Jason Robitaille, Jimmy Robitaille; Stepsons David Simmons, Steve Simmons and wife Audrea; Stepdaughter, Sherry Valdes and husband Rod. Multiple great nephews and nieces, including special great nephew, Justin Sexton; numerous friends and students.

Cindy's life will be celebrated on August 22, 2021, at 2:00 pm at United City Church in Humble, TX. In lieu of flowers, Cindy would be honored if you would make a donation to the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation.

## 2nd Special Session called,

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**BORDER SECURITY:** Legislation enhancing criminal laws or providing funding from unappropriated available revenues to support law-enforcement agencies, counties, and other strategies as part of Texas' comprehensive border security plan.

**SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP:** Legislation safeguarding the freedom of speech by protecting social-media and email users from being censored based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.

**ARTICLE X FUNDING:** Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION:** Legislation similar to Senate Bill 1109 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuse, but that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.

**YOUTH SPORTS:** Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed

by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

**ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS:** Legislation similar to Senate Bill 394 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.

**THIRTEENTH CHECK:** Legislation similar to House Bill 3507 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to a "thirteenth check" or one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

**CRITICAL RACE THEORY:** Legislation similar to House Bill 3979 concerning critical race theory as originally passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

**APPROPRIATIONS:** Legislation providing appropriations from unap-

propriated available revenues for the following purposes:

property-tax relief; enhanced protection for the safety of children in Texas' foster-care system by attracting and retaining private providers for the system; and to better safeguard the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS:** Legislation modifying the filing periods and related election dates, including any run-offs, for primary elections held in Texas in 2022.

**RADIOACTIVE WASTE:** Legislation reforming the laws governing radioactive waste to protect the safety of Texans, including by further limiting the ability to store and transport high-level radioactive materials in this state.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Legislation shielding private employers and employees from political subdivision rules, regulations, ordinances, and other actions that require any terms of employment that exceed or conflict with federal or state law relating to any form of employment leave, hiring practices, employment benefits, or scheduling practices.

**STATE LEGISLATURE:** Legislation relating to legislative quorum requirements.

## Women speakers at the NCA Chamber Luncheon



SPEAKING at this month's North Channel Chamber luncheon was Gilda Ramirez, at left, the Senior Director of Business Equity for Port Houston. Also present at the luncheon were U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Allatia Harris of San Jacinto College District and Board chair of the Chamber, and Margerie Buentello, CEO of the North Channel Chamber. (Willie Glasgow photo)

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

### Sheldon ISD welcomes new teachers to the school district

On Aug 2-3, approximately 100 new teachers joined the Sheldon ISD family. The teachers spent the two days in training, orientation and boarded a bus to tour the district's boundaries. Sheldon ISD spans 53.3 square miles and is home to 12 schools. As a fast-growth school district, Sheldon ISD welcomes an additional 200-300 new students annually. The school year resumes for in-person instruction on Wednesday, Aug. 11.



Sheldon ISD new teachers prepare to board the bus to tour the Sheldon ISD community as part of the new teacher kick off on August 2.

### District kicks off new school year with annual Convocation

It has been two years since Sheldon ISD staff could safely join together in one room to kick off the start of the school year at the district's annual assembly. On Aug. 5, the entire Sheldon team, comprised of nearly 1,400 employees, met to get the 2021-22 school year started right with motivational messages from Superintendent Dr. King Davis and a keynote speaker from Capturing Kids' Hearts. This year's theme is One Team, One Goal to remind staff the team is joined together to accomplish what is best for students.



Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr. King Davis addresses members of the Sheldon faculty at the district's annual Convocation assembly on August 5.

### Back to School website is available with updated information

The first day of school for the 2021-22 school year is Wednesday, August 11. The back to school website is located at [www.sheldonisd.com/start2021/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/start2021/) and contains information on registration for new students, verifying residency for returning students, pre-kindergarten registration, school supplies, school start times, and more. Current students should verify their residency information is up to date by logging in to Skyward Family Access located on the district's website.

### New online registration for bus services

New this year, Sheldon ISD families can register online for transportation services for the 2021-22 school year. Families should complete the form for each student that needs transportation. This online process should take no more than five-minutes to complete and will help simplify the registration process for the 2021-22 school year. To register, go to [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com).

### Brand new calendar for families for 2021-22 school year

In an effort to make finding activities easier for Sheldon families and community, we have launched a brand new activity calendar that will include all school and program activities in a one-stop-shop format. To find the calendar, click on any campus or the district home page and find the image that says 'District Calendar Events.' Next, you will find two calendars: the instructional 2021-22 calendar with all important academic dates and the activity calendar which includes all extracurricular activities. Families can filter by location to load all activities relevant to their children. To filter by location, click on the funnel icon in the search bar located on the top right corner of the page (see images below) and choose 'advanced filter.' Once a choice is selected, the appropriate calendar/calendars will appear. For screen shot instructions, visit [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com).

[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)  
[www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

# Ask The Expert

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB



### Thank You

Have you ever thought about those two words? When is the last time you said them? Every day there are countless opportunities to thank others for what they do for you. There is the person at the four-way stop who motions for you to turn first. There is the coworker who regularly brings fresh doughnuts to the office.

Perhaps you have a neighbor who brings in your trash cans while he is out picking up his own. Or maybe there is that one neighbor who waves every time they see you out walking the dog. Or maybe one who asks if you need anything while they are out shopping.

If you are like me, you have had more than enough spare time on your calendar during the past 17 months since we first heard the word COVID. I would like to suggest that you grab a tablet and pen. Each day for the next two weeks, write down 10 names of people who add value to your life. Those individuals could be neighbors, family members, former teachers, current church members, mentors or maybe the smiling face at the local fast-food drive thru window. Then take the next two weeks take a few minutes and write a thank you note to those individuals.

Please do not cheat by sending them an email or by typing a letter. Why? Well, go to your mailbox and pull out the mail. You will most likely see some sales ads, a bill or two and if you are fortunate—a handwritten envelope. And now, which is the first one you will open? Yes, the handwritten envelope. Imagine if when you open it, there is a note from someone telling you thank you for a gift. The gift could be a material item or better yet, a gift of your time.

When I think of the people who have touched my life since I moved here in 1971, I could be writing thank you notes for months. Among those, I would have to thank Dr. Gerald D. Cobb who was not only the GPISD Superintendent when I moved here but was one of the individuals who had the foresight to start Woodforest National Bank. There was an amazing home economics teacher who loved her children as well as all her students. Who would have ever known that the amount of encouragement that she gave to students would years later open doors for her son to follow in her footsteps and encourage real estate agents around the world? Yes, Keller Williams Real Estate has roots back to Mrs. Minnie Keller. Just as she encouraged students, her son Gary encourages agents all over the world.

Maybe it was one of the local pastors who touched your life or a Sunday School teacher. Take a few minutes and write them a note. Turn off the electronics and spend some time making that list. Take some time and tell them how they impacted your life.

## Summer Pet Care,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cool itself off without help; it will need lots of water to prevent dehydration (inadequate body fluids) and a heat stroke.

It's a serious crime to abandon an animal for an unreasonably long time and/or leaving it in a hot vehicle, transporting or confining it in a cruel manner, permitting unjustified or unwarranted pain or suffering or failing to provide fresh cool water, food and shelter for an animal to maintain a state of good health, are crimes.

Texas law provides filing animal cruelty charges either as a felony or misdemeanor, the severity of cruelty will determine which of the two types of charges will be filed against the pet owner or keeper of the pet. If convicted of felony animal cruelty punishment can be up to two years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine. Also any animals in your direct care may be removed by a local humane society or law enforcement. You may be

prohibited from owning animals in the future. Persons convicted under the age of 18 are also required to undergo counseling.

Phone numbers for reporting animal cruelty: Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 713-869-7722 (HSPCA), they also provide a 7/24 animal ambulance for injured animals at 713-880-HELP (4357) and Harris County Animal Cruelty Task Force 832-927-7297 (PAWS).

Texas criminal laws can be enforced by any law enforcement agency including animal cruelty laws. Phone numbers to keep in your cell phone for reporting any crime: Houston Police - 713-884-3131, Harris County Sheriff Office 713-221-6000, Jacinto City Police - 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police - 713-675-3471, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia - 713-477-4070, Constable Pct. 3 Sherman Eagleton - 713-274-2500.

## Sheriff's Town Hall and more,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sheriff's Office Division 3 - deputies from the Wallisville Road location were on hand to give one-on-one guidance for those needing personal assistance. Cindy Miller with Commissioner Garcia's office and Deputy Shirvonti Guidy of the Community Problem Oriented Policing unit (CPOP) with Sheriff Gonzalez' office were helpful in providing me with information for this article.



Cosmetologist/Barber Talia Acevedo donated back to school haircuts, student Hilary Martinez gets her hair cut. Appointments: phone: 936-402-8021, email: Taliastyle92@gmail.com, instagram: Taliastylee

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

### Diamond Jim: "Tell us more about 'Diamond History' in the beginning"



Did you know that diamonds were initially discovered in India nearly 2,400 years ago? The stone many find absolutely irresistible is actually billions of years old, and in a world where so many are questioning whether this stone matters, understanding diamond mining history and its future is critically important.

#### What is a Diamond?

The term "diamond" is derived from the Greek word "Adamas," meaning "unconquerable." But this beautiful stone has many other enduring, and endearing, features, such as romance, love, and durability. Perhaps the original term comes from the fact that chemically speaking, diamonds are just the solid form of carbon. They're the defining mineral on the Mohs hardness scale. That means that essentially, diamonds are the hardest substance on earth. The fact that they're often colorless, too, means they've been attractive from the moment they were discovered.

#### Where are Diamonds Found?

Diamonds were initially discovered in India, but when those early sources disappeared, miners started to look elsewhere. In the early 1700s, a very small deposit of diamonds was found in Brazil, but this source was soon depleted, too, leaving other miners searching for potential sources.

In 1866, while exploring the banks of the Orange River in South Africa, 15-year-old Erasmus Jacobs discovered a huge diamond, which he initially thought was a pebble. More digging started in that area and soon more diamonds were found.

This led to a rush of diamond prospectors who developed the first large-scale mining operation, which later became known as the Kimberley Mine. This mine greatly increased the world's supply of diamonds, but the mass production also led to a drop in the price of diamonds.

In the late 19th century, diamonds were no longer considered rare and even ranked behind rubies, emeralds, and sapphires in value. To control the supply of diamonds, Cecil Rhodes formed the De Beers Consolidated Mines but still, the demand for this stone was low. By the beginning of the 20th century, diamonds were again the most expensive stone in the world and the demand was at an all-time high.

Today, about 50% of diamonds come from South and Central Africa and the rest come from India, Canada, Australia, Russia, and Brazil. In the United States, diamonds are found in Colorado, Arkansas, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

#### A Look Toward the Future

Over the past ten years, the diamond industry has worked hard to create sustainable practices. In 2005, the United Nations took steps to establish the Responsible Jewelry Council, the first step towards ethical business practices and standards in the diamond mining industry. The Kimberley Process was created to encourage ethically sourced diamonds, and many companies are now looking toward environmentally friendlier processes to help ensure diamond mining in the future is safe and sustainable. Smaller mining operations are getting involved, and consumers are becoming activists to help the industry rejuvenate and create beautiful stones that can be purchased safely throughout the world.

#### Working With Sustainable Diamond Suppliers

At Pineforest Jewelry we pride ourselves on offering 100% natural diamonds from ethically sourced mining processes. By sourcing diamonds through miners and operations that follow the Kimberley process, our team can feel assured that we are providing the best quality stones in a sustainable fashion. As trends shift Pineforest Jewelry works as your in-house diamond expert while staying on top of the cuts, sizes, and shapes that remain universal favorites!

*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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<p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>PRINTING &amp; MAILING</b> Full Service Marketing Services. 713-977-2555</p> <p>tin</p>	<p><b>CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE</b></p> <p>7 PLOTS AVAILABLE PRIME LOCATION STERLING-WHITE CEMETERY GARDEN OF HOPE 1 Triple, 1 Double, 2 Single \$1500 Each plus transfer TEL. 281-380-6735</p> <p>30-21</p>	<p><b>CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>RESIDENTIAL LOT WANTED</b></p> <p><b>WANTED TO BUY RESIDENTIAL LOT IN CROSBY OR HIGHLANDS AREA</b> TEL. 832-423-9055</p> <p>30-21</p>	<p><b>RESIDENTIAL LOT WANTED</b></p>			

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# Comcast celebrates Grand Opening of new Xfinity Store in North Shore

Comcast recently unveiled its new Xfinity Store in Houston with a special community celebration at a brand new location.

The new Xfinity Store is conveniently located at 15375 Wallisville Rd. and features a modern retail environment that highlights the complete line of Xfinity Home and Comcast Business technology offerings, including Xfinity Mobile, Xfinity X1, Xfinity Home and Xfinity Internet.

At the recent event, Comcast celebrated with the local community through fun activities, raffles and live product demonstrations.



The new XFINITY store located at 15375 Wallisville Rd.



Customer playing the prize wheel at the grand opening of the new XFINITY store on Wallisville Rd.



Comcast Officials Pictured (L-R) Kate Inman, Director of Indirect Sales; Christopher Jones, Manager of Indirect Sales; Victor Menchaca, Wallisville Store Manager; and Demian Voiles, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Comcast Houston

# Torres' brother and sister promote summer pet care

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – August 12, 2021 – Brother Gerardo and Sister Vianey Torres said they take pet ownership serious and want to speak out during this time of the summer when heat conditions is reaching over triple digits.

Children naturally want a pet, but one of the worst things parents can do is to get a pet and then neglect it and let the pet suffer and not be cared for. It's a parent's responsibility to teach their child how to provide for their pet with water and food. In the first place people should never get a pet if they don't have the means for caring for it properly. But if they get one and then later re-

alize they can't properly care for it, they should give it to someone who will.

Pets should be vaccinated against the rabies and other diseases' and given heart worm prevention medication. Heart worms are easy for a pet to get by being bitten by a mosquito when taken outside or if they're an outside pet.

Dogs kept outdoors are the most common pets to be mistreated, 70 percent of animal cruelty cases is dogs. With daytime temperatures in the high 90's and 100's it doesn't take long before a pet can have a heat stroke.

Warning signs of a heat stroke in a dog can be recognized by the early warning sign of their mouth becoming partially open




Jacinto City's brother and sister pet owner's with their well cared for doggies. L-R: Gerardo Torres with Milo & Otis and Vianey Torres with Luna & Kasper (Allan Jamail Photo)

and panting or breathing with short quick breaths like it's out of breath. If their mouth becomes fully open with rapid pants it means the dog is on the verge of a heat stroke. It must immediately be cooled off by putting it in front of a fan or into air-conditioning and given fresh cool water. If the symptoms persist quickly get it to a veterinarian.


Dogs sweat and cool-off by drooling (dripping) from the mouth, small amounts of dripping from the mouth is normal but a constant large amount of drooling (sweating) is a sign of overheating and the dog cannot

Continued. See SUMMER PET CARE, Page 4

**Nuevo servicio de Harris County Transit : HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT PLUS ¡En Generation Park!**



**Encuesta**





**Mapa**

**Harris County Transit Plus sera un nuevo servicio de transporte a pedido dentro de zonas definidas dentro del Norte Este del Condado de Harris. Esto incluye proporcionar destinos preestablecidos como: supermercados, centros comerciales, hospitals, universidades y otros destinos laborales.**


**Harris County Transit le gustaria recibir sus comentarios sobre las necesidades de transporte en su comunidad.**

**Escanee los codigos QR para realizar nuestra encuesta y comentar sobre nuestra nueva area de servicio O visite nuestro sitio web en HarrisCountyTransit.com para acceder a las mismas encuestas.**







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**Harris County Transit's new service: HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT PLUS in Generation Park!**



**Survey**





**Map**

**Harris County Transit Plus will be a new on-demand transportation service within defined zones of North East Harris County. This includes providing pre-set destinations such as: grocery stores, shopping centers, hospitals, colleges and other job destinations.**


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