

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

MASK REQUIREMENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Are masks required at my kid's school? Here's what Houston-area school districts say:

Kids are heading back to school and we know there is a lot of confusion on which school districts are requiring masks now that some Houston-area counties are enforcing mask mandates for certain businesses and buildings.

Harris County announced a mask mandate Thursday for all schools and childcare facilities but, so far, only a few districts are complying.

Most are following Gov. Greg Abbott's order that bans mandates but there are a few exceptions. Here's the list.

**MASKS REQUIRED
ALDINE ISD**
Aldine ISD is mandating that all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask on all of the district's buses and when visiting campuses and administrative buildings. This is effective, Monday, August 16. Read more .

CHANNELVIEW ISD
Channelview ISD has revised its mask policy in response to the mask mandate issued by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. Everyone is now required to wear a mask while at all Channelview ISD campuses and district facilities. Effective immediately. Read more.

GALENA PARK ISD
Galena Park ISD says masks must be worn by all students, staff and visitors while indoors on school property and school buses, effective immediately.

Continued on Page 3

Jacinto City receives \$1.95 million federal grant

Congresswoman Lee announces grant to improve Water Distribution System

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY, TX. August 11 – Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee announced to Mayor Ana Diaz, Councilman Allen Lee and city officials along with a group of citizens and community leaders the news of \$1,950,000 of funds will be given to the city for water line infrastructure improvements.

Lee said, "When I heard Congress' House Appropriations Committee would be adding Community Funding Projects as an opportunity for Members of the House to address specific local needs with direct funding to solve problems that helps people and communities I immediately thought of Jacinto City."

She continued saying, "I reached out to Mayor Ana Diaz and City Manager



Mayor Ana Diaz (left) and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee holding a replica of the \$1.95 million check Jacinto City obtained through a U.S. Community Funding matching funds grant.

L to R: Lt. M. Longrigg, Elizabeth Flores, Ivan Rojas, Mayor Ana Diaz, Maria Espinoza, Allen Lee, Joyce Raines, Gabe Perez, Kathy Greiner, Mike Bodak, Lon Squyres and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Lon Squyres to learn what Jacinto City's needs were and to suggest that they apply for funding for a Community Funding

Project. This project will improve the health and safety of all residents of the City by furnishing clean, safe drinking water

and the ability to protect homes and businesses from fires." The City will only pay the 20 percent of the funding project.

City Manager Squyres wasted no time with the grant application process. He said, "two million will not fix all of our water infrastructure needs but it's a significant step in the right direction which the city must make if we're going to continue to see growth with businesses."

The City's proposed project is for a Northeast water main and fire hydrant program to replace aging water delivery infrastructure to a large portion of the City's residential and business district. The current water distribution lines are at least 75 years old and cannot provide adequate volume or pressure needed to serve the residents and for fire fighting.

The community project

Continued. See Jacinto City Grant, page 6

DOLCEFINO SUES CITY OF GALENA PARK

Wants access to records, meetings

By Gilbert Hoffman

GALENA PARK – An ongoing dispute between the City of Galena Park government and various citizens in the community, has moved to the courts for resolution or at least the next round.

The dispute centers on whether the public, and Commissioner Maricela Serna have been excluded from knowledge of business conducted by the city, and whether their attempts to discuss this matter in Commissioner meetings have been obstructed or muted. Serna has sought the help of Wayne Dolcefino of Dol-

cefino Consulting to gain access to the information and the meetings.

Wayne Dolcefino, founder of Houston-based investigative media firm Dolcefino Consulting, filed a Harris County state district court lawsuit August 17th, 2021, against Mayor Esmeralda Moya, City Secretary Mayra Gonzales, City Attorney Robert Collins for wholesale violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act.

Following is his statement in regard to the court filing, and the ongoing dispute with the city:

"The Galena Park City Council has conducted its



WAYNE DOLCEFINO
DOLCEFINO CONSULTING

meetings entirely remotely since the pandemic first broke out in the spring 2020, nearly a year and a half ago. The lawsuit, filed by Houston Attorney Jeff



ESMERALDA MOYA
MAYOR
CITY OF GALENA PARK

Diamant, alleges that both council member Maricela Serna and Dolcefino were illegally muted when speaking out against the mayor in city council meet-

ings."

"Breaking transparency laws is bad enough but using the pandemic to stifle public scrutiny is the ultimate insult to the taxpayers in Galena Park," Dolcefino said. "What's sad is taxpayers will ultimately pay the price for Mayor Moya's corrupt conduct."

"The lawsuit also claims the city has ignored repeated open records requests for financial records from Dolcefino Consulting documenting how the mayor has spent public funds."

"This conduct is so brazen that it's truly unbelievable."

Continued. See Galena Park sued, page 6

County offers \$100 for new vaccine shots

HARRIS COUNTY – Harris County Public Health Announced New Vaccine Incentive Initiative for All First Dose Recipients on Tuesday of this week.

Residents who receive their First dose of the COVID-19 vaccine through HCPH will receive a \$100 cash card.

In an effort to improve vaccination rates and better protect the residents of Harris County from COVID-19, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) will provide \$100 cash cards to residents receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at an HCPH vaccination site.

In order to receive the \$100 cash card, residents will have to sign a waiver prior to the vaccination and remain in the post-vaccination waiting area at an HCPH vaccination site for the 15-to-30 minutes recommended.

Vaccinations at HCPH sites are free and no appointment is required. To find one near you go to vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787. Face coverings will be required for individuals seeking a vaccination and we urge residents to take additional COVID-19 prevention measures such as maintain social distancing, staying at home as much as possible and continue regularly washing their hands.

Parents must accompany their children, ages 12-17, to be vaccinated or children must bring a consent form signed by their parent or guardian. Consent forms can be found via vacstrac.hctx.net and 12 to 17-year-olds are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Adults over the age of 17 can choose from 3 vaccines: the one-dose Johnson & Johnson and the multi-dose Pfizer or Moderna

vaccines.

Fully vaccinated people have the greatest protection against the Delta Variant. So far, 63% percent of Harris County residents have had one vaccine dose, however the current positivity rate for HCPH is more than 20% and hospitals across Harris County are overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases. The vaccine is the best tool we have in mitigating both the spread and impact of COVID-19 and we urge residents to do their part by getting vaccinated and encouraging others to do the same.

Residents in need of their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine can also receive one at an HCPH vaccination site. Proof of their 1st dose to verify the type of vaccine will be required. For resi-

Continued. See \$100 per VACCINATION, p. 6

State Senator Alvarado filibusters to block Voter Restriction bill

Texas Senate outlasts 15-hour filibuster by Senator Carol Alvarado to pass GOP voting restrictions bill

AUSTIN, Texas — Since before sunset Wednesday, state Sen. Carol Alvarado had been on her feet speaking, not allowed to sit or lean against her desk, on the

Senate floor.

Unable to take bathroom breaks or drink water, she had worn a back brace, eyeglasses and running shoes and talked slowly behind a

desk stacked with papers and with a microphone in her hand as she mounted a 15-hour filibuster. The target

Continued. See Alvarado Filibusters, Page 4



Senator Carol Alvarado speaking at the Texas Legislature during her 15-hour filibuster to call attention to the Voter Restriction bill.

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OPINION

By State Senator
Carol Alvarado



Alvarado filibusters against voter bill

Dear Friends,

Yesterday I stood for democracy, literally stood for 15 hours to filibuster the voter suppression bill #SB1 and give a voice to the constituents who this bill aims to silence. Trust me, standing and talking for 15 hours is beyond uncomfortable. Take peek at the transcript of my final speech to understand why I was willing to tough it out.

Senator Carol Alvarado Closing Speech August 12, 2021

“My friends, voter suppression anywhere is a threat to democracy everywhere. And as we draw this discussion to an end, it is my sincere hope that simple acts by everyday Texans from the senate floor to the ballot box can help to shed light on this all important issue. What do we want our democracy to look like? Do we want our state to be more or less inclusive? Do we want to make it harder or easier to vote for seniors who cherish their right to make their voice heard? Do we want access to our electoral process to be more difficult for people with disabilities or do we want to remove barriers for them? For our communities of color do we want to defend the tremendous progress they have made in civil rights and equality or chip away at their voting rights one SB 1 at a time?

Let’s be clear, instead of making it easier to vote, SB 1 makes it easier to intimidate. Instead of making it harder to cheat, it makes it harder to vote. After all the rhetoric by practiced politicians, consultants and partisan operators this truly comes down to the people that entrusted us with their vote and sent us to Austin to empower their voices, not silence them.

I stand today for my constituents who are not only targeted by the GOP under this bill, but will be disproportionately harmed. I think about the



Senator Alvarado near the end of her 15 hour filibuster, with supporting House members standing with her in support.

multi-generational family in the East End whose abuela has never missed an election but still needs a little help filling out her ballot by mail.

I stand and speak for the single mother from the Near-Northside of Houston, who out of concern for Covid exposure and the inability of her little children to stand in long lines, took advantage of the drive-thru option. Does her vote not count? Does that sound like fraud to you?

I stand and speak for the persons with disabilities from Pasadena who rely on assistance from loved ones and others for access to their polling locations and ballot boxes.

I rise to speak for the shift worker from Galena Park who day in and day out works long and hard hours on the docks of the Houston Ship Channel and who took advantage of the 24 hour voting option in Harris County.

I rise to speak for the poll worker from Aldine who loves the electoral process so much that they signed up to be a poll worker and sacrifice their time, energy and talents to help administer our elections in a fair, safe and secure way. Under this bill, this poll worker will now have to contend with untrained partisan poll watchers bullying and profiling voters and exposing them to retaliatory partisan lawsuits and excessive criminal penalties for honest clerical mistakes.

I am proud member of this body and as every other member of this distinguished body understands, my duty is first to my constituents. So I do thank the members of this body for listening and allowing me to represent my constituents today and speak on their behalf. I am confident that any other member of this body does and would do the same for their people.

To my local colleagues and friends in Houston and Harris County, I felt like I needed speak up

for you. As the third largest county in America, I am so incredibly proud of the way my county conducted our elections during the general election in way that was as safe as possible, as secure as possible and as accessible as possible. Harris County proved to the rest of the country that you don’t have to sacrifice election integrity in order increase access to our electoral process. You can make it easier to vote in a safe and secure way. Despite the overwhelming success that elected many of my colleagues into office, my county was targeted with partisan attacks. In fact many of the provisions of this bill are shamelessly aimed at stopping Harris County from making our elections safe and effective. What’s wrong with drive-thru voting during a pandemic? What about voting in a car is so offensive or fraudulent? What’s wrong with 24 hour voting? Why can’t we have expanded voting hours for the people who have to work late? Where is all the “so called fraud?” The people are still waiting for someone to actually demonstrate real evidence of fraud in these measures.

Where does it end? Today it’s SB 1, tomorrow it will be some other manufactured crisis to justify the systematic chipping away of our voting rights. And little by little every session we just keep chipping away until one day we will wake up and realize our democracy is unrecognizable.

As I gaze at the portrait of Texan and President Lyndon Baines Johnson I am reminded of his words on that day in 1965 when he signed the Voting Rights Act when he said “the vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.” It is on his legacy that Texas Democrats in both chambers draw a line in the sand and say unapologetically and in one accord for the world to hear that VOTER SUPPRESSION ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY EVERYWHERE.


Thank you.”

WHAT’S YOUR OPINION?

Your opinion on this subject or any other is welcome. Send us a letter or email. We may publish an edited version of your letter.

MAIL: 5906 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057

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Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 213-B will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 12:00 PM via teleconference at 1 (877) 746-4263, access code: 2687404#. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Mark Prause, Stacy Lord, Jimmy Flowers
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Juanita Orsak

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.80000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.80000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$234,005.00	\$249,370.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$234,005.00	\$249,370.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,872.04	\$1,994.96
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$122.92 6.57%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

The Property Tax Assistance Division at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts provides property tax information and resources for taxpayers, local taxing entities, appraisal districts and appraisal review boards.

For more information, visit our website:
comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Abbott sued over mask mandate ban

A growing number of school districts, counties and cities have defied Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order banning mask mandates, as COVID-19 cases continue to spike due to the delta variant and a low rate of vaccination among Texans.

As KUT.org reported, officials in Dallas and Bexar counties won a first round in court in requiring masks in public schools and most government buildings. School districts in Austin, Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, among others, are requiring students, teachers and staff to wear masks.

Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton are appealing the initial district court decisions and have vowed to sue any government official who defies the governor's order.

HOSPITALIZATIONS, COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

Meanwhile, the number of new cases of COVID-19, overwhelmingly among unvaccinated Texans, continues to rise with 98,383 reported in the past week along with 628 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations are approaching the peak levels of mid-January, with 11,381 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, up 27% from the week before.

As students return to classrooms across the state, the number of children in Texas hospitalized with COVID-19 is at one of



its highest levels since the pandemic began. In the 19-county region around Dallas and Fort Worth, there were no staffed pediatric beds available late last week, according to KUT.org.

DSHS reports 13.055 million Texans are fully vaccinated, about 44.7% of the total population.

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS STILL ABSENT; ARRESTS ORDERED

The Texas Senate last week passed Senate Bill 1, which would establish new restrictions on voting, despite a 15-hour filibuster by state Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston. Meanwhile, Democratic lawmakers in the House continued to break quorum to stave off a House vote on the measure, despite arrest warrants issued by House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont.

The Texas Supreme Court on Thursday temporarily blocked district court orders that would have allowed more than 40 House Democrats to avoid

civil arrest warrants. The Democrats were expected to issue a response to the high court's ruling this week, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Texas Democrats have denied Republicans a quorum since the closing days of the regular legislative session. The Legislature is now in its second special session, with Democrats decamping to Washington, D.C. to push for a federal voting rights bill. Some lawmakers have since returned to Texas but continue to stay away from the state Capitol.

PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLIST DEATHS CONTINUE TO CLIMB

While traffic casualties declined in 2020, Texas saw a steep rise in the number of people killed while walking or biking on the state's roadways. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 731 people died in pedestrian-related crashes last year, up 9% from 2019. Bicyclists killed in crashes totaled 82, up from 68 deaths the previous year. Overall, the number of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths has been steadily increasing the past five years, according to TxDOT.

The agency's "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign features safety reminders on television, billboards, gas pumps, buses and social media. They are components of #EndTheStreakTX, which encourages driver safety. The last death-free day on Texas roadways was Nov. 7, 2000.

North Shore Rotary supports the Cody Stephens GBOGH Foundation



At their August 5th luncheon this month the North Shore Rotary Club donated \$7,600 to the Cody Stephens Go Big or Home Foundation. They acknowledged that the program does wonderful "LIFE SAVING" heart screenings for young athletes and students as they participate in High School activities. Pictured are club president Shawn Silman, with Scott Stephens of the foundation on the right.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon provides back to school supplies to more than 1,500 students

Thanks to support from local partners in education, Sheldon ISD supplied more than 1,500 students with a backpack and supplies for the first week of school. On Aug 7, the district held its first Back to School Fair at Panther Stadium as an opportunity to collect supplies for those families who pre-registered. Additionally, families could walk the fair to find tables represented by various community organizations such as Harris County Public Health, who offered COVID vaccines, Precinct 3, Inspire Church, San Jacinto College, Baylor College of Medicine, as well as students from Sheldon ISD's career and technical education departments. A special thank you to Lake Houston YMCA, East Harris Empowerment Council, Amerigroup and Precinct 3 for providing supplies to Sheldon ISD students.



Families attend the district's first Back to School Fair to collect backpacks, supplies and resources at no cost.

Sheldon welcomes students back to class

On Wednesday, Aug 11, students kicked off the 2021-22 school year. Sheldon ISD is a fast-growth district and attracts more than 200 new students each school year. The district serves approximately 10,200 students and operates 12 schools: one high school, one credit recovery program, two middle schools, six elementary schools, and two early childhood academies. Sheldon ISD's mission is to provide personalized learning opportunities to ensure all students graduate college and career ready. The district's calendar can be found at www.sheldonisd.com/calendar/.



First Day at Monahan School

Previous middle school building receives new name - Sheldon Education and Community Center

At the Aug 3 school board workshop, administration recommended the previous building for King Middle School be named the Sheldon Education and Community Center (SECC). This multipurpose facility will be used for employees as an educational facility for training and offices, and thanks to a partnership with Harris County Public Health Department, it will also be home to a Public Mobile Health Clinic.

Portions of the SECC will be used as a reception area for community members being served by a Public Health Mobile Clinic stationed on the southwest parking area of the building. In August 2020, King Middle School students moved to the building formerly used as King High School (off of C.E. King Parkway) when the new King High School facility opened off the Beltway 8 earlier that year. Renovation expenses are covered in the partnership agreement with Harris County and are expected to be completed this fall.

"The Sheldon Education and Community Center is designed with a purpose of inclusion," said Superintendent Dr. King Davis. "We want our community to be able to take advantage of the space it provides by having access to a local health facility without having to travel outside of our Sheldon community."

In addition to a local health facility, Sheldon ISD is planning stages to use the SECC for adult education courses and community sports. These opportunities would open up the building for the entire community to take advantage of programs within Sheldon ISD.

KHS senior athlete selected to 2021 All Greater Houston Preseason High School Football Team

King High School varsity football player Van Wells has been selected to the 2021 All Greater Houston Preseason High School Football Team. He was honored at the Touchdown Club's annual Touchdowner of the Year Dinner on Aug 11. Wells was selected among input from the Greater Houston Football Coaches Association, media and college recruiting experts and is one of 38 on this year's team. Wells is a senior at King High School.



King High School varsity athlete Van Wells is pictured with Sheldon ISD Athletic Director and head football coach for the Panthers at the Touchdowner of the year Dinner on Aug 11.

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.

MASK REQUIREMENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

HOUSTON ISD
HISD plans to release its updated COVID plan on Friday that will outline all of its new protocols.

SPRING ISD
Spring ISD is requiring masks starting August 16 because of the spike in COVID-19 cases.

Spring ISD will also provide contact tracing itself instead of referring the cases to Harris County Public Health . The district will also send out a survey to see how parents feel about a potential remote learning option for students. Read More.

BARBERS HILL ISD
Masks are optional in Barbers Hill ISD .

CROSBY ISD
As of June 5, no student, teacher, staff member, parent or visitor is required to wear a mask while on Crosby ISD property.

DAYTON ISD
Face coverings will not be required for Dayton ISD staff, students or visitors, although they are highly encouraged. An individual may choose to wear a mask if desired.

DEER PARK ISD
Deer Park ISD is strongly encouraging masks for unvaccinated individuals but masks are not required.

GALENA PARK ISD
Galena Park ISD is strongly encouraging staff and students to wear masks.

GOOSE CREEK CISD
Masks are optional at Goose Creek ISD , although the district encourages everyone who wishes to wear a face-covering to do so, especially anyone who is not vaccinated.

HUFFMAN ISD
Face masks remain optional in Huffman ISD . Hull-Daisetta

LIBERTY ISD
Face masks are completely optional for all students and staff of Liberty ISD . Anyone who wishes to wear a mask will be allowed to do so, but no student or staff member will be required.

SHELDON ISD
Masks are now optional in Sheldon ISD schools. The district initially said they would be required but changed the policy after consulting with their attorneys.

Listings courtesy of KHOU

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Brand new calendar for families to use for 2021-22 school year in SHELDON

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.



Suspect Arrested, Charged in 2019 Fatal Stabbing at 660 Maxey Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal stabbing of a man that occurred at 660 Maxey Road about 2 a.m. on Aug. 3, 2019.

The suspect, Jeremias Murillo-Morales (H/m, 36) is charged with murder in the 177th state District Court. A photo of Murillo-Morales is attached to this news release.

He is accused in the death of Mark Anthony Garcia, 25.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives W. Huff and J. Nguyen reported:

Officers responded to a stabbing call at a trailer park at the above address and observed Mr. Garcia suffering from at least one stab wound. Paramedics transported Garcia to Ben Taub General Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Detectives learned Garcia was involved in a disturbance outside one of the trailers that escalated when he was stabbed. At that time, there was no known suspect(s) or motive in the incident.

Further investigation identified Murillo-Morales as the suspect in this case and he was subsequently arrested and charged for his role in the incident.



Shooting at 10155 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a male at 10155 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) service road that occurred about 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday (August 10).

The identity of the victim is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeants K. Daignault and M. Burrow reported:

Motel housekeeping staff at the above address entered a room just after 11 a.m. to clean and saw the victim unresponsive and lying on the floor.. The employee immediately left the room, called 9-1-1, and then saw officers investigating an unrelated call at the same address. The employee then flagged the officers down.

The officers saw a bullet hole in the door and entered the room. The victim was found deceased with multiple gunshot wounds.

At this time, there is no known motive or suspect(s).

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

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Crosby American Legion David H. McNerney Post 658

is Hosting a

50+ SENIOR'S DANCE

on Sunday, August 29th at 2 - 5 pm
(Doors open at 1:30 pm)

\$5 at the door (Casual Attire)

Music by Rob Austin and friends
(playing Old Country and Rock 'n Roll)

The Legion will be selling refreshments as a fundraiser.
(No outside food or drinks, please.)

14890 FM 2100, Crosby TX 77532
(Next to the Crosby Fair Grouonds)

For future events follow [David H. McNerney Post 658](#) on Facebook.

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Ask The Expert

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Speak Up and Stop the Hurting

Recently a child was telling her parents how another relative was wanting them to keep a secret from the parents. She was crying as she was afraid that by telling her parents, the other relative would be upset with her. She then went on share that the same relative constantly questions her about the actions of other members. Can you imagine the frustration that child must feel? Every child wants to be loved and thankfully this child understands that her parents want to always have an open line of communication.

What about when a mother walks into her best friend's home only to discover her young teenage daughter is being molested by the friend's husband. Instead of calling the police, the wife or ever her own husband, the mother tells the young girl "Put your clothes on and never tell anyone about this." The young teen kept it to herself and unfortunately, the grooming from this older man continued for years. Their relationship was a secret to most. There were many nights that the mother would drop her daughter and friend off at a local go-kart track or at the movies and never ask how they were going to get home. The two girls would somehow end up at the now divorced man's apartment. There were never ending nights that the daughter was overindulging in alcohol as well as sex. The friend, sat in the living room with her own pitcher of margaritas and a stash of marijuana. Imagine if only the mother had not told the daughter to keep a secret. Or perhaps if the mother had just one time asked how the girls would get home from a late night out.

This behavior continued until the night before the daughter's 18th birthday when he met the two teenage girls at a local restaurant. He was so excited to share that he had great news. He set a small box from the jewelry store on the table and excused himself to go to the restroom. Both girls were giggly and waiting for his return. Knowing the next day would be the girl's 18th birthday seemed to have never crossed the predator's mind. The girls were thinking he was about to propose to the one he had been sexually involved with for years.

He was happily telling the girls that he had found an old girlfriend who now was divorced with three young children. Two of the children were girls. He started talking about how much they girls loved him and how he was excited to be able to marry their mom and step in and be there for the children. If only the teenagers had the courage to speak up to anyone about what he had been doing for the past four years.

Perhaps because of things that happened in this person's childhood she chose to ignore the issues that she should have paid attention to. If only she had not told her daughter to remain quick, life could have been much different for the mother, daughter, friend and other young girls.

Jacinto City Grant,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for this area includes the city's only library and only major grocery store. Also included are several hundred residents and dozens of restaurants and other small businesses. The inability to provide reliable water pressure posed a significant life and safety concern because this area is also home to two kidney dialysis centers that are entirely dependent on a constant source of water at an adequate pressure.

Congresswoman Lee said, "The project will allow the City to attract new businesses to the area, in particular, there is a vacant pad in the Tinseltown Shopping Center that was designed for a multi-story hotel. Today the City is unable to approve plans for that development due to the inability of the city to supply adequate water pressure to the site. There's also about 20 acres on the North side of Market Street that remain undeveloped for the same reason."

Squyres said, "once we get this project completed we'll be able approve building plans for businesses, this would add to the local tax base and an added bonus for residents will be lower property insurance rates, which have been historically high due to the lack of reliable water pressure throughout the city."

Mayor Ana Diaz, Councilman Lee, City Manager Squyres, city officials and the crowd of citizens on hand applauded and thanked Lee for her continued help to the city.

\$100 per Vaccination,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents who feel they need to be tested for COVID-19, we encourage residents to sign up for a COVID-19 test by calling 832-927-7575.

Galena Park sued,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able. It's clear the Mayor is using the COVID pandemic to silence critics and actively interfere with the investigation into the remarkably problematic way that taxpayer money is being used. I can't think of many good reasons for that to occur, or for that matter, any" said Diamant.

Dolcefino and Diamant were joined by Galena Park citizens, including Serna, on the steps of the Harris County Civil Courthouse Wednesday morning to announce the lawsuit filing.

"I have been warning the mayor for weeks" Dolcefino said." She should be removed from office immediately for putting her city in financial jeopardy," Dolcefino said. "No elected official should be allowed to brazenly disregard the law and then brazenly use the pandemic to cover her tracks."

Earlier this year, Dolcefino Consulting revealed the City of Galena Park had fallen behind on water bills to the City of Houston by more than 700,000 dollars.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What exactly is 'White Gold' and how is it made?"

White gold is inherently warm in color, and not dead white like platinum. White gold is not found in nature, since the element from the earth is pure yellow gold (referred to as 24k). In order to achieve a whiter hue, other metals are added to the pure yellow gold. This combination of metals is called an "alloy." By definition, 14k gold means that 14 parts of the alloy out of the total 24 parts are gold. The remaining 10 parts in the alloy are other metals. The other metals depend upon the final color you're trying to achieve. For example, 14k yellow gold may have copper, silver, and zinc added so that the yellow color is lightened, but still maintained. Rose gold will have more copper so that the coppery hue is achieved. And white gold will have a white metal, such as nickel or palladium added so that the resulting alloy is whiter.

Although the final color of 14k white gold is whiter than pure yellow gold, 14 parts out of its total 24 parts are still yellow gold. I like to compare it to a bucket paint: It's like adding as much white paint to a bucket of yellow paint as you can. The resulting color will look much whiter, but that yellow paint in the bucket still remains. The same is true of white gold; It will appear whiter but its undertone is still yellow gold.

Why is it that sometimes a white gold ring will turn warmer in color over time?

Sometimes that original warmer color is harder to see since our eyes are distracted by shiny things! Rings often start out polished, and the reflective surface makes subtleties in color hard to see. But as it's worn, the ring's surface becomes scuffed up, and that reflective surface dulls. White gold's inherent color is easier for us to see due to the duller, less distracting surface.

Additionally, although most of the metals in the white gold alloy do not tarnish (turn colors due to exposure to oxygen), there are tiny amounts of metals which can oxidize. This means white gold can "turn" a slightly warmer color with time. Having the ring professionally polished can make it shiny again. But something to keep in mind is that professional polishing removes a layer of metal each time. You wouldn't want to get your ring polished too frequently since it would wear away the gold too quickly. If you prefer a whiter appearance I'd recommend going with rhodium plating rather than frequent professional polishing. That way the ring isn't thinned too early in its life, and the fine texture isn't polished away prematurely.

Rhodium is a metal in the platinum family, so it has that same grey/white color. Many commercially made jewelry will be rhodium plated to look like platinum. One downside to plating is that it requires upkeep by re-plating every so often. Some people prefer not to plate their white gold for a few reasons. The main reason is that they like the warmer color of white gold, and don't find it to be inferior to platinum's color.

Many people prefer a whiter color in their white gold jewelry and would like to rhodium plate their rings. Rhodium plating can be done at Pineforest Jewelry in our repair shop and, unlike most jewelers who plate to a 1 micron of thickness, we prefer to plate to about 2 microns thick. This usually offers a longer lasting plating of your beautiful jewelry. So, if you love that bright white hue, rhodium plating is a great option for you. Come see us at Pineforest Jewelry and ask Gary about Rhodium plating

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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