

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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



## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Galena Park Library open only on Wednesdays

The Harris County branch library in Galena Park has been closed for months due to water damage from broken pipes, during the big freeze last February. Renovation work is almost complete, and new furnishings have been ordered. However, due to the pandemic delivery of these has been delayed.

However, branch librarian Sisi Medina reports that the library is open on Wednesdays from 11am to 4pm for curbside service.

For other services and books and materials, readers should use the Jacinto City library or the Northeast library on Wallisville, she said.

You can call 832-927-5470 for additional information.

THURSDAY



### Free Entrance to Texas State Parks Nov. 14 in Honor of Veterans Day

AUSTIN—In honor of both active and retired military, daily entrance fees at Texas State Parks will be waived for all day-use visitors Sunday, Nov. 14.

"The dedication, sacrifice and service displayed by the women and men that serve in our country's military is unparalleled and is a source of pride throughout the country," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "Their commitment to service undoubtedly inspires us at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. To celebrate their service, Texas State Parks would like to once again invite everyone to spend the day at any one of our beautiful State Parks for free. I am glad that we are able to encourage families to get outside in honor of our veterans."

Anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park is encouraged to reserve their day passes in advance since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Day passes can be reserved online through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.



CHANNELVIEW ISD UNWRAPS NEW TECHNICAL AND FINE ARTS BLDG.  
L-R: Jennifer Carnathan—Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Mike Niemeyer—Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Board members (BM) Shumona Collins, Hector Martinez, Dr. Don Beck—Interim Superintendent, Patrick Lacy—BM (President), Robert Laird—CHS Principal, Raquel Dobbins—BM, Frank Bryant—BM, Mia

Young—CTE Director, Jennifer Tunink—Fine Arts Director, LaKeisha LeBlanc—Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum. Not pictured but in attendance, Linda Jamail, Community Liaison for State Rep. Ana Hernandez, Christina Farrish, Commissioner Adrian Garcia's staff & Yesenia Doyal, North Channel Chamber. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

## Channelview High opens new Technical & Fine Arts Bldg.

By Allan Jamail

Channelview, TX. October 21, 2021 - A crowd of business and community leaders, citizens, elected representatives and their staff gathered to witness the formal opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the CVISD's CTE (Career and Technical Education) and Fine Arts wing of

Channelview High School located on Sheldon Road. After the ribbon cutting guests were given an inside tour of the new facilities.

Back in the 60's when I was in high school after graduation very few students could attend college, there wasn't any college loan help and so they were turned out into an uncer-

tain future, mostly without any formal technical education. Channelview voters and the Trustees have made a sizeable investment for their student's future that'll return positive results for their community.

State Representative Ana Hernandez said, "With the addition of the Career and Technical Ed-

ucation wing, new library, and new auditorium, Channelview ISD is giving our students state-of-the-art facilities where they can grow, learn, and thrive. These improvements open new possibilities for our students and prepare them for success." Ana has the good fortune of having a Channelview grad on the staff, Adriana

Aguirre Hernandez is her District Director, she lives and grew up there, later graduated from University of Texas.

The event was well communicated to the communities by Lila Hollin, Director of Communications, Teresa Gomez, Com-

*Continued. See  
CHANNELVIEW, p. 3*

## MUSTANGS WIN 17-0, DEFENSE KEEPS CE KING SCORELESS

By Allan Jamail

SHELDON – October 22, 2021 at the Sheldon ISD Panthers stadium the North Shore Mustangs won 17-0 in a penalty-ridden game against the C. E. King Panthers, together there were 16 penalties. Coach Jon Kay's Eastside Boys made 11 of them including two 15-yard Personal Foul penalties totaling a give-away of 100 yards. This makes 5 Personal Foul penalties in two consecutive games for the Mustangs. Each Personal Foul penalty gives your opponent if they're on offense an unearned first down.

The Mustangs offense only scored two touchdowns (TD's) in the game, both in the first quarter on two TD's passes from quarterback Wyndell Mitchell to receiver Jhalyn Bailey. After that the Panthers defense and the Mustangs self-inflicted penalties ended their TD's for the rest of the contest. Carlos Dominguez kicked the extra points and made a 20



Mustang's defensive lineman Jacob Brass tackles Panther running back for a loss. (Allan Jamail photo)

yd. field goal in the third quarter.

North Shore's running game produced most of the offense's yards with 201 yds; they made 124 yds. passing. Leading rushers with yds made, Xavier Owens 14-87, Damon Ford 3-35, Rashaad Johnson 5-34,

*Continued. See MUSTANGS, page 6*

## Yellowjackets extend win streak to 5 over Apollos 21-0

Eye on a Playoff position

HOUSTON –. October 21, 2021 HISD's Sharpstown Apollos hosted their district rival the Galena Park Yellowjackets at Butler Stadium who bested them 21-0.

In the first quarter the game was scoreless but then Coach Spiro Amarantos's Jackets scored TD's in each of the following three quarters. The three TD's were made by junior quarterback Ivan Reyes-1 and running back Jordan Balderas-2.

GP's defense has shutout their past three opponents keeping them scoreless for 12 quarters. Player of the Game honors went to senior defensive lineman Leo Garcia.

The Yellowjackets with a 5 game win streak and a 6-2 record will host Houston's Austin Mustangs in a 5A-2 Region III District 11 game on Thursday, October 28. Linda Jamail was the article's statistician. Allanj211@aol.com



ABOVE: Jordan Balderas Yellowjacket's running back scores one of his 2 TD's. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



LEFT: North Channel Star Photojournalist Allan Jamail and Yellowjacket Head Coach Spiro Amarantos discuss his team's playoff chances. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

## LyondellBasell Agrees to Reduce Harmful Air Pollution Channelview plant cited for excessive flaring

HARRIS COUNTY - Three U.S. subsidiaries of Dutch chemical giant LyondellBasell Industries N.V. (Lyondell) have agreed to make upgrades and perform compliance measures estimated to cost \$50 million to resolve allegations they violated the Clean Air Act and state air pollution control laws at six petrochemical manufacturing facilities located in Channelview, Corpus Christi, and LaPorte, Texas, and Clinton, Iowa. Lyondell will also pay a \$3.4 million civil penalty. The settlement, announced today by the Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will eliminate thousands of tons of air pollution from flares.



LyondellBasell Plant in Channelview, with the San Jacinto River and Highlands in the distance.

According to the complaint, the companies failed to properly operate and monitor their industrial flares, which resulted in excess emissions of harmful air pollution at five facilities in Texas and one in Iowa. Lyondell's subsidiaries regularly "over-

steamed" the flares at their facilities and failed to comply with other key operating constraints to ensure the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hazardous air pollutants contained in the gases routed to the flares are effectively combusted.

The EPA identified potential environmental justice concerns at the two Channelview facilities for exposure to particulate matter (2.5 micron), ozone, toxic cancer risk, and respiratory hazard. The significant emissions reductions of VOCs, HAPs, and greenhouse gases that today's settlement secures at the Channelview facilities serve to reduce exposure in the community to some of the same air pollutants that they are disproportionately exposed to.

"The Justice Department and EPA will continue to enforce the law against petrochemical plants that violate the Clean Air Act," said Assistant Attorney General

Todd Kim of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "In particular, we are committed to reducing harmful air pollution from unnecessary and improper flaring, especially near overburdened communities with environmental justice concerns."

"This settlement will require LyondellBasell to install pollution control and emissions monitoring equipment at six facilities in Texas and Iowa, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other harmful gases by thousands of tons per

*Continued. See  
LyondellBasell, page 2*



## County Now Offers Vaccine Boosters

Houston - Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is now administering the COVID-19 vaccine booster for people in certain groups. Eligible residents include those who completed their two-dose mRNA vaccine series (Pfizer or Moderna) at least six months ago and anyone who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago. Eligible fully vaccinated residents can get a booster dose of the vaccine of their choice.

All COVID-19 vaccines provide strong protection for most people. A booster vaccine in an additional dose given after the protection provided by the original series has begun to decrease over time. The Pfizer booster helps certain groups of people maintain their level of immunity longer.

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their primary series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

Note: The Moderna COVID-19 booster dose is half of the dose that is administered for the primary series dose.

For individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

### Additional Doses

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive an additional dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the initial two doses. This includes recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, people taking medications that weaken the immune system, and others. A full list of conditions can be found on the CDC's website.

Fully vaccinated people with weakened immune systems do not get as much protection as people with healthy immune systems. The additional dose helps boosts their immunity to the level of fully vaccinated people who are not immunocompromised. Please contact your healthcare provider to find out if an additional dose or booster is recommended for you.

Additional doses and vaccine boosters are free at HCPH designated sites and vaccine appointments are not required, although they are recommended. Go to [vacstrac.hctx.net](https://vacstrac.hctx.net) or call 832-927-8787. To find a location near you click here. Please remember to bring your COVID-19 vaccination card with you to receive a booster shot.

## LyondellBasell to reduce Pollution,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year," said Acting Assistant Administrator Larry Starfield for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Those controls, plus a requirement for fence line monitoring of benzene emissions, will result in significant benefits for the local communities in Texas and Iowa."

The settlement requires the companies to install and operate air pollution control and monitoring technology to reduce flaring and the resulting harmful air pollution from 21 flares at the six facilities. Once fully implemented, the pollution controls are estimated to reduce emissions of climate-change-causing greenhouse gases, including CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and ethane, by almost 92,000 tons per year. The settlement is also expected to reduce emissions of ozone-forming VOCs by almost 2,700 tons per year and of toxic air pollutants, including benzene, by nearly 400 tons per year.

The pollutants addressed by the settlement can cause significant harm to public health. VOCs are a key component in the formation of smog or ground-level ozone, a pollutant that irritates the lungs, exacerbates diseases such as asthma, and can increase susceptibility to respiratory illnesses, such as pneumonia and bronchitis. Chronic exposure to benzene, which EPA classifies as a carcinogen, can cause numerous health impacts, including leukemia and adverse reproductive effects in women. Flares are also often large sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Flares are devices used to combust waste gases that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere during certain industrial operations. Well-operated flares should have high "combustion efficiency," meaning they combust nearly all harmful waste gas constituents, like VOCs and hazardous air pollutants, and turn them into water and carbon dioxide. The agreement is designed to improve Lyondell's flaring practices. First, it requires Lyondell to minimize the amount of waste gas that is sent to the flares, which reduces the amount of flaring. Second, Lyondell must improve the combustion efficiency of its flares when flaring is necessary.

Lyondell will take several steps to minimize the waste gas sent to its flares at each facility. At certain facilities, Lyondell will operate flare gas recovery systems that recover and "recycle" the gases instead of sending them to be combusted in a flare. The flare gas recovery systems will allow Lyondell to reuse these gases as a fuel at its facilities or a product for sale. Lyondell will also create waste minimization plans for each facility to further reduce flaring. For flaring that must occur, the agreement requires that Lyondell install and operate instruments and monitoring systems to ensure that the gases sent to its flares are efficiently combusted.

Lyondell will also perform air quality monitoring that is designed to detect the presence of benzene at the fence lines of the six covered plants. Monitoring results must be publicly posted, providing the neighboring communities with more information about their air quality. The monitoring requirements also include triggers for root cause analysis and corrective actions if fence line emissions exceed certain thresholds. Flare compliance is an ongoing priority for EPA under its National Air Toxics Initiative.

The consent decree, lodged in the Southern District Court of Texas, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. The consent decree will be available for viewing at <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees>.

For more information about this settlement please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/equistar-chemicals-lp-lyondellbasell-acetyls-llc-and-lyondell-chemical-company-clean>.



## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## COVID-19 vaccines for kids coming to state

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years. In Texas that could mean nearly 3 million children are now eligible for the vaccine.

The FDA reported immune responses in children in that age range were comparable to those of persons 16 to 25 years old. The vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing the virus in children 5 through 11. The ongoing study of approximately 3,100 children found no serious side effects.

More than a million doses targeting children in that age group are being sent to providers in nearly half of the state's counties, according to DSHS. As of Sunday, 15.44 million Texans have been fully vaccinated, which is right at 53% of the state's population.

### COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS CONTINUE TO DROP

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week dropped to 28,840, and new deaths dipped to 937—the first time below 1,000 since summer, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The total number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations continues to decrease, with 3,571 reported throughout the state, down nearly 19% from the previous week, according to DSHS.

### RARE HUMAN CASE OF RABIES UNDER INVESTIGATION

A Medina County child is being treated for rabies in a Texas hospital, the Department of State Health Services reported last week. It is the first case of rabies in a human reported in the state since 2009.

### TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



The child was bitten by a bat, according to DSHS.

Public health officials have identified all the places where someone could have come into contact with either the bat or the child. Experts are assessing the risk to those people and whether they should receive post-exposure vaccinations to prevent them from contracting rabies.

The department noted that rabies is almost always fatal once contracted, but is preventable if the vaccine and immune globulin are administered before symptoms begin. In Texas, according to DSHS, skunks and bats account for most animal rabies cases. Nearly 600 animals in Texas tested positive for rabies last year, about half of them bats.

### 10-DIGIT DIALING MANDATORY IN SEVERAL NEW AREAS

The days of being able to just dial seven digits in seven Texas area codes are behind us. In July 2020 the Federal Communications Commission approved 988 as the abbreviated dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Several Texas area codes (254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940) have numbers with a 988 prefix, and had to transition to 10-digit local dialing after the FCC order.

The Texas Public Utility Commission announced effective Oct. 25 that all local calls dialed in those area codes with just seven digits will reach a recording that prompts the caller to redial using all 10 digits. The change does not affect price, coverage area or other rates and services, according to the PUC.

### ANOTHER LOOK AT IMPACT OF WINTER STORM URI

More than eight months after an unprecedented snow and ice storm led to widespread power blackouts in Texas, the Texas Comptroller's office took an in-depth look at the state's response and the legislative actions that followed.

Texas is the only state in the continental United States with its own electric power grid, which serves 90% of its population. Parts of East Texas, the Panhandle and El Paso are outside the area managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and didn't experience widespread outages.

Winter Storm Uri knocked out power and disrupted water utilities for nearly 70% of the state's residents for extended periods. Financial loss estimates range from \$80 billion to \$130 billion, according to Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

The comptroller's report explains the economic toll of the storm and the legislative changes to the electric market structure passed in the 87th Legislature. Critics have said the changes do not go far enough to make power companies weatherize their plants to insure against further outages due to extreme weather.

### DROUGHT EXPANDS THROUGHOUT STATE

Texas is drying up. Warmer and drier conditions are being reported throughout much of the state, reports the Texas Water Development Board. Approximately one-fifth of the state is now experiencing drought conditions, mainly in Northeast Texas, the Panhandle, Far West Texas and South Texas.

The National Weather Service expects drought to expand across the state through the end of January due to La Niña conditions that are expected to bring Texas a warmer and drier winter than normal.

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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).



## Old Friends

I spent yesterday with old friends.

It used to be that I would follow the use of "old friends" with the disclaimer that they were "not really old!" This no longer feels necessary. If they are old friends of mine, I now have to say, objectively, they are pretty old.

The "occasion" (if you want to call it that) was finally driving my oldest friend, Andrew, to his colonoscopy—which certainly sounds like an old person's activity.

I had been badgering him for months. After he finally capitulated, it took him months to get an appointment. Then he asked if I would drive him, and I could hardly say "no" after all of that. Of course, I wouldn't have said "no" under any circumstances. Andrew is my oldest friend, after all.

Since I would have to wait for him, I contacted another old friend, Clay, who I hadn't seen in ages, for a pizza and a chat.

Clay is very funny, and he came up with a number of catchy names for a get-together organized around Andrew's colonoscopy—none of which would be polite to repeat in a family newspaper, so I will let you imagine. We met at a nearby pizza place at a time when no one else was remotely interested in eating. It was far too late for lunch and much too early for dinner. I discovered that the time it takes to have a colonoscopy and recover from it is just about ideal for two old friends to reconnect and share a pizza. I highly recommend it.

Clay told me about his father, who is not doing well, and I told him about my parents, who are. It seemed surprisingly effortless, talking to this person who I really have not been in touch with for more than half my life. The years between our adolescence and yesterday afternoon seemed to melt away, leaving me with this curious feeling of stepping back in time.

Clay is in touch with people I haven't seen since high school, and it was fun to hear about them. He has always had a good memory and a sharp eye for detail. Some of our mutual friends, he told me, seemed exactly the same. Only their hair color appeared to have significantly changed. Other friends had aged more noticeably. Clay described seeing someone he'd not seen in years.

"It was like I could see the person I knew, looking out from this old person's face," he told me. I knew what he meant, and I wondered where I fell on the spectrum. (I didn't ask.)

My memory is not anywhere near as good as Clay's and that's probably because I don't spend a lot of time reminiscing. But visiting with Clay was a good reminder of how quickly the years are swallowed up, how much time has passed. New friends only know the person I am today. Old friends know all the previous versions of me, and sometimes that is a comfort. At other times, it's a little scary. Sometimes I like to think that I have always been exactly as I am—right down to my hair color.

Andrew's colonoscopy turned out well, although he has to go back in three years. I know he will forget, and it will be my responsibility to both remind him and get him there again.

"We'll have to get together again soon," I told Clay. "Even before Andrew's next colonoscopy!"

Clay agreed, and I know we will. But it's nice to think we'll have that to look forward to.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).



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CHARLOTTE'S  
WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## It is Beginning to Feel Like...

As I looked around the community, I have seen more smiles than I have in the past 18 months. During the month of October, I was getting emails, text messages and fliers about Fall Festivals and many Trunk of Treat opportunities. And at each event there were smiles and hugs. It felt so good to see people and to hear laughter again.

And unless you have lived under a rock, you have noticed that football season is winding down for some schools and if you have been on Wallisville Road on a Saturday, you have seen many school buses and heard some awesome high school bands as they have been in UIL Competitions. If you have gone into stores you have seen holiday decorations and the crowds starting to gather.

Starting this week if you are in the Channelview community, you will begin to see decorated boxes in stores and offices. These are being used to collect new, unwrapped toys and gift items for families in Channelview who may not be as fortunate as you. These items are being collected and will be sorted and given to families who have been selected by a committee of caring individuals who know the struggles are real and want to bless the families at Christmas. Some of the families will be called to pick up the gifts, some will be surprised to have that jolly guy in the red suit show up with gifts the week before Christmas.

One of the most exciting days leading up to the distribution will be Saturday, December 4th when the Annual Channelview Fire Department and Channelview Ministry Team will be set up at Panera Bread on Wallisville Road and the Beltway to collect gifts as well as get into the holiday spirit as school choirs are performing in the parking lot and volunteers and donors are present to support the choirs. It is a day that you will see smiles, get the hugs you have been missing and begin to feel the magic of the holiday season. If you would like a box to be dropped off at your location, please contact Pastor Kent Wilson at 832-588-0330. If you would like to gather a group of friends and family members to donate gift cards, or perhaps wish to donate food for a family for the holidays, these are certainly welcome as well.

Take some time to make your list of what you want to purchase for your loved ones and then, just imagine you have a couple of extra children in the groups who need gifts, stop by Panera Bread on December 4, and drop off the gifts, feel the spirit of community.

Maybe you are missing your parents or grandparents this year? If you would like to donate towards the gifts that are given to seniors in the area, there are opportunities to do that as well. Reach out and I can help you connect to a way to give back to the community.

## NS Rotary International Project in Torreon Mexico



ABOVE, North Shore Rotarians Dr. Donald Nino, Bill Palko, Ramon Garza, Lowell Everitt and several others visit the Health Clinic in Torreon Mexico that receives partnership help from the local Rotary club. Motto: "Service Above Self" is seen at work in this project.

## Channelview High ribbon cutting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

munications Administrative Assistant and Anthony Mireles, Family & Community Partnership Coordinator. They should be commended for the excellent planning to get it started and completed on time and with perfect execution.

The expansion was made possible thanks to the 2019 Bond. The Channelview ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call a \$195.4 million bond election, the District's first in 10 years, on May 4, 2019. Voters approved the measure and the major renovations to Channelview High School are complete. The projects for CHS address new growth, student program expansions, and aging or deficient items to extend the life of the campus.

"On behalf of the CISD School Board, I want to thank the community for voting in favor of the 2019 Bond," said CISD Board President Patrick Lacy. "Our objective is to make decisions that will help our students be successful, and this expansion does just that."

The CTE additions include new CTE shops, labs

and classrooms. This allows for an increase in program offering and student participation. The new multi-purpose auditorium includes 1,000 seats and can be used for district performances, concerts, events, assemblies and meetings. It includes new lighting, sound booth, dressing rooms, a box office, lobby and concessions.

"There is no greater feeling than watching our students' faces light up when they walk into the new addition of the high school," said CHS Principal Robert Laird. "Thank you to those who are helping our students have a bright future."

Other renovations include improvements to the life skills room, and an enclosed connection with the CHS Kolarik Ninth Grade Center.

"The CHS expansion would not have been made possible without the community's support," said CISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Beck. "I want to thank our community for their unwavering commitment to the students of Channelview."

AllanJ211@aol.com

ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: "What is an 'inclusion' found in gemstones?"



Inclusions or imperfections occur in nearly every type of gemstone. Natural diamonds, for example, are the result of carbon exposed to tremendous heat and pressure deep in the earth. This process can result in a variety of internal characteristics called 'inclusions' and external characteristics called 'blemishes.' Evaluating diamond clarity involves determining the number, size, relief, nature, and position of these characteristics, as well as how these affect the overall appearance of the stone. While no diamond is perfectly pure, the closer it comes, the higher its value.

The same principals hold true for all gemstones including ruby, emerald, sapphire, and more. But, does a gem with an internal inclusion always diminish its value? No, not always. In rare instances, the inclusion might be so unique that it could add to the gem's value if a prospective buyer agrees. I remember reading an article that contained a picture of a diamond with a small heart-shaped internal inclusion which, interestingly enough, was red in color. Once this was seen by a couple looking for an engagement ring, they wanted no other diamond, period.

Alexandrite is long considered a "good luck" stone by the people of Russia. This gemstone changes color from violet, to blue, to green, and to red, depending on the type and intensity of the light the stone is viewed under.

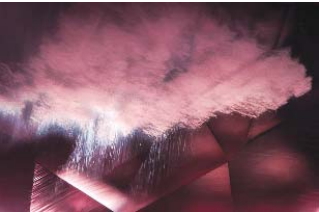


Photo courtesy of the Gemological Institute of America

An example of nature imitating nature was seen in a 0.73 carat faceted alexandrite showcasing an inclusion reminiscent of a rain cloud (see above). The "cloud" was composed of white particles oriented as parallel bands that displayed a cloud-like silhouette when viewed at an angle. The "rain" was composed of fine oriented reflective needles commonly referred to as silk. Fiber-optic lighting allowed for a concentration of white light to be seen under the cloud, creating an appearance of lightning. The inclusion scene observed in this gem is an interesting novelty that any gemologist can appreciate and perhaps even a willing buyer. This group of inclusions are truly unique but, do they add to or lessen the stone's price? Remember, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder", and so too is the value.

*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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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Motorcyclist Fatally Shot at 12008 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of one man and the wounding of two others at 12008 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) service road about 11:10 p.m. on Tuesday (Nov. 2).

The identity of the deceased victim, 26, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. The two other victims, 27 and 30 years of age, were transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives C. Flora and J. Flores reported:

The three victims, each operating a motorcycle, left the parking lot of a business at the above address and traveled eastbound on the service road when a black SUV pulled up next to them. One or more persons inside the vehicle fired multiple shots at the victims, striking all three of them. One victim crashed his motorcycle and was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The two other victims were also transported to a hospital in stable condition.

The suspects are described only as four Hispanic males in a black SUV.

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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NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 497966; Estate of DONALD KEITH PARKEY Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on OCTOBER 20, 2021.  
  
JOE SCOTT PARKEY  
  
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:  
  
402 Pineview  
Highlands, TX 77562  
  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
Dated this OCTOBER 28, 2021.  
  
  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED A VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATION. MS. LEGLORIA SEPHUS WITH JACINTO CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LOCATED AT 10730 WIGGINS HAS REQUESTED A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO HAVE A DAY CARE/CHILD CENTER AT THAT ADDRESS. THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON NOVEMBER 9TH, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
TO DISCUSS CROSBY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
State Financial Accountability Rating  
  
Crosby ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 15, 2021, at the Crosby ISD Operations Center, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532.  
  
The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Crosby ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## Sheldon CTE programs receive \$900+ in grant funding

Sheldon ISD is the proud recipient of the 2021-2022 CTE Perkins Reserve Grant in the amount of \$925,000. Funding will be used to support the health science, culinary arts, and automotive technology programs. The award is intended to foster innovation and expand opportunities for students to complete education and career pathways that lead to postsecondary credentials and high-skill, high-wage careers. This includes earning college credit and/or certifications with value in the labor market. The grant establishes a regional network, including San Jacinto College, workforce boards, business and industry partners.

This is the fifth consecutive Perkins Reserve award Sheldon ISD has received for a total of \$2,725,000. Previous awards supported the King Nurses in Training, welding, pipefitting, electrical, health science, and CTE summer bridge programs.

## Panther Band division one

Congratulations to the King High School marching band for earning a division 1 superior rating. The team competed in the UIL marching contest at Galena Park ISD Stadium on Saturday, October 16. Great job, Panthers!



## Sheldon recognizes 3 employees for outstanding customer service

On October 21, Superintendent Dr. King Davis and administrators surprised and presented three employees with the CARE Award. CARE stands for Caught Acting and Responding with Excellence and is presented to employees quarterly in partnership with Woodforest Bank. Winners receive \$100 each from Woodforest Bank. Recipients are nominated by their peers and/or community members. October's winners include:

Maria Guerra - Sheldon Early Childhood Academy - teacher

Ms. Guerra has been nominated for her fun and motivating teaching to pre-kindergarten students.



Laura Belden - Sheldon Lake Elementary School - receptionist

Those who nominated Mrs. Belden say she is the warm smile that greets families at the campus each day. She always goes above and beyond to be helpful.



Yesika Rios - C.E. King High School - child nutrition

Nominations said Ms. Rios cares for students, treats them with respect and truly listens well.



The next CARE Award presentation will be in December. Nominations will open again in November.

## KHS students advance in All-State Choir auditions

Nine C.E King High School students have earned a place in the Texas Music Educators Association All-Region honor choir after two of four rounds of auditions in the All-State Honor Choir audition process.

This year's All Region Honor Choir members are:

Krysta Lambeth, senior  
Danna Gonzalez, junior  
Yvonne Orozco, sophomore  
Briseida Quezada-Estrada, junior  
Sara Saeed, sophomore  
Aleyda Martinez, senior  
Zach Stevens, senior  
Karmello Dumas, senior  
Terry Lastrappe, senior

These students will rehearse and perform at Dekaney High School on November 12 and 13 at the Region 33 All- Region Honor Choir Clinic and Concert. The concert will be held on Saturday, November 13 in the Dekaney High School Performing Arts Center.

Four students, senior Aleyda Martinez, senior Zach Stevens, senior Karmello Dumas, and senior Terry Lastrappe have been selected to continue to the third round, the Pre-Area audition, held in December.

Lastrappe earned the honor of being ranked the number one tenor 1 in the Region out of close to 100 tenors who started the audition process in September.

The All-State process begins with a four-day, three-night All State Choir Camp at Stephen F. Austin State University in July. Choir students from all over the state attend the camp to begin learning music in preparation for the highly competitive process, in hopes of earning a place in the All-State Choir. Four rounds of auditions and cuts from September to January culminate in the All-State Choir rehearsals and performances led by world-renowned choral conductors in San Antonio every February. The C.E. King High School Choir is under the direction of Anthony Allen and Jenny Stone.

PHOTO (choir\_advanced)

Top left: Krysta Lambeth, Zach Stevens Karmello Dumas; Bottom Left: Sara Saeed, Briseida Quezada-Estrada, Yvonne Orozoco, Aleyda Martinez (not pictured Dana Gonzalez and Terry Lastrappe).



# MUSTANGS WIN 17-0, DEFENSE KEEPS CE KING SCORELESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kaleb Bailey 4-18 and Javin Logan 1-15. Leading receivers with yds made, David Amador 3- 73, Jhalyn Bailey 2-22, 2 TDs, Nessimiah Dunham 2-14 and Joseph Richard 1-11.

Remaining in District 21-6A undefeated is the NS Mustangs (5-0) and the Humble Atascocita Eagles (4-0). They'll play in what's possibly the showdown for the district championship

at the Mustangs GPISD Stadium Friday, October 29, 2021 at 7pm. Linda Jamail was the article's statistician. Allanj211@aol.com



Mustang's defensive linebacker PJ Douglas sacks Panther's quarterback Nehemiah Broussard for a loss. Allan Jamail photo



Mustang's defensive linebacker Jaylon Joseph pulls a Panther down for a loss. Allan Jamail photo



SEE YELLOW ARROW - #8 David Amador Mustang's receiver leaps high into the air to haul in quarterback Wyndell Mitchell's pass. Allan Jamail photo



Mustang receiver Jhalyn Bailey scores on quarterback Wyndell Mitchell's pass. Allan Jamail photo

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

PHOTO (Lastrappe): Senior Terry Lastrappe earned a first-place ranking from more than 100 tenors which snagged him a place in the Pre-Area TMEA All-State Choir auditions.



## SISD recognizes 3 new Partners in Education

At last night's school board meeting, Sheldon ISD recognized the following NEW Partners in Education: Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, Woodforest Bank



and GPD Group.

The mission of the Sheldon ISD Partners in Education program is to build relationships that benefit both schools and community businesses while enhancing the educational experience for Sheldon ISD students. To learn how to become a Partner in Education, go to [www.sheldonisd.com/pie/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/pie/)

## Sheldon ISD closed for Thanksgiving Break

Sheldon ISD will be closed for Thanksgiving Break on Monday, November 22 through Monday, November 29. Classes will resume on Tuesday, November 30.

## Join in the fun and show your Sheldon Spirit

With illegal and destructive challenges circulating around social networking sites nationwide, Sheldon ISD has a year-long challenge for the community. Let's partner together to show school pride, unity and foster good relationships by taking over our social media channels using #SheldonSpirit

Each month, schools will focus on a positive character trait and share on social media by using #SheldonSpirit and tagging @SheldonISD in all social media posts. The district uses Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. However, our community has the power to influence in a positive manner wherever on whatever channel you use.

Earlier in the fall, Sheldon ISD shared with families news of a viral challenge being spread around TikTok that encourages destructive behavior. This is something the district is treating very seriously as this is a crime. Students who participate in this could face criminal charges in addition to school discipline. Please talk with your child about making appropriate choices in and outside of school as these choices affect their journey in Sheldon ISD and beyond.