

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

NS Rotary FISH FRY May 14th

North Shore Rotary Club is holding their 47th Annual Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil, Raffle, and Live and Silent Auctions on Saturday, May 14 at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville..

Tickets are \$100 each, and include 2 meals and a chance in the Raffle. They are available now from all North Shore Rotarians, and many businesses.

Grand Prize in the Raffle is a new 2022 Toyota car or truck. There are also 20 additional prizes, plus a delicious Fish Fry platter.

Chamber luncheon April 1

North Channel Area Chamber will hold their monthly luncheon Friday, April 1 starting at 11:30am at San Jacinto College North/Monument Room. Speaker is Dr. Cecella Martin, of TEEM Leadership.

Program also features Channelview ISD and Sheldon ISD Students and Educators of the Month.

Member \$20, Non-member \$30. RSVP to 713-450-3600 or info@nca-chamber.com.

Rotary Cake & Bake Apr 14

GP/JC Rotary club will hold a Bake Potato Lunch and a Cake Auction in one combined event.

Thursday, April 14 from 10am to 12noon for lunch, and from 12noon to 1pm for the Cake Auction.

The public is invited, at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City. Potato lunch \$10. Info Maria at 713-539-8021.

GP/JC CIP MEETING

Progress Report on Ship Channel Bridge

NORTH CHANNEL – The GP/JC CIP group (Community-Industry-Partnership) met last Thursday evening by Zoom, to hear industry reports and an progress report from HCTRA (Harris County Toll Road Authority) on the construction of the new replacement bridge that carries Beltway 8 over the ship channel.

The presentation was made by John Tyler, HCTRA Deputy Director for Engineering. Using slides, he detailed the problems the bridge construction has faced, and the status of building the new design.

The original contract for the bridge was let in 2018 to a consortium of Traylor Brothers and Zachry Construction, two contractors with extensive experience in this type of highway bridge. The design engineer was FIGG Engineering. The original contract was for \$962 million dollars, for the bridge and



Artists renderings show details of the new Ship Channel Bridge design that will carry Sam Houston Highway 8 over the ship channel.

ABOVE: Cable stays support the bridge deck panels, allowing a clear span of 1350' width, and 185' height.

RIGHT: The new roadway will have 4 lanes in each direction, plus 10' wide shoulders and a shared-use path for bicycles, pedestrians and other vehicles. Parking lots at either end will facilitate that usage.



connecting roads from Highway 225 to Interstate 10. However, after one of FIGG's bridges collapsed in Florida, an analysis of this design was ordered, and determined that it was flawed and unstable. Work was halted in August 2019 to allow a redesign.

A new foundation design was engineered by COWI engineers, and the new plans added \$291 million dollars to the cost, including \$50 to demolish work already in place. This mainly involved the piers at the base of the pylons, which were redesigned with new reinforcing.

Tyler noted that construction of the new bridge is the largest single project in county history. He said that the cost of the bridge will be paid for by tolls, and no tax money or federal subsidy will be used to pay for it. The current toll

Continued. See SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE, P. 7

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Nation's First Self-made Woman Millionaire: Madam C.J.Walker

PART 2 OF A SERIES...

By Allan Jamail

Nation's First Self-made Woman Millionaire - Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919)

Entrepreneur, philanthropist, and activist, Madam C.J. Walker rose from poverty in the South to become one of the wealthiest African American women of her time. She used her position to advocate for the advancement of black Americans and for an end to lynching.

Born Sarah Breedlove on December 23, 1867, on a plantation in Delta, Louisiana,

she was one of six children of Owen and Minerva Anderson Breedlove, former slaves-turned sharecroppers after the Civil War. Orphaned at age seven, Walker lived with her older sister Louvenia, and the two worked in the cotton fields. Partly to escape her abusive brother-in-law, at age 14 Walker married Moses McWilliams. When her husband died in 1887, Walker became a single parent of two-year old daughter Lelia (later known as A'Lelia).

Seeking a way out of poverty, in 1889, Walker moved to St. Louis, Missouri,



Madam C. J. Walker, nation's first woman self-made millionaire. With a vision of having a haircare empire, Walker traveled throughout the South with her product, "Madam C.J. Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower," a scalp conditioning and healing formula, selling door-to-door to Black women and giving demos at churches.

where her four brothers were barbers. There, she worked as a laundress and cook. She joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she met leading black men and women, whose education and success likewise inspired her. In 1894, she married John Davis, but the marriage was troubled, and the couple later divorced.

Struggling financially, facing hair loss, and feeling the strain of years of physical labor, Walker's life took a dramatic turn in 1904. That year, she not only began using African American businesswoman

Annie Turbo Malone's "The Great Wonderful Hair Grower," but she also joined Malone's team of black women sales agents. A year later, Walker moved to Denver, Colorado, where she married ad-man Charles Joseph Walker, renamed herself "Madam C.J. Walker," and with \$1.25, launched her own line of hair products and straighteners for African American women, "Madam Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower."

Initially, Walker's husband helped with advertising.

CONTINUED. SEE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, PAGE 7

New Channelview Doctor has a familiar face

Dr. Melissa Silva has joined Channelview Family Medicine, the medical practice of Dr. Donald Nino at 15055 East Freeway in Channelview.

Dr. Silva may have a familiar face for many of her patients. She is a native of Channelview, having grown up in the area and attended local schools.

Dr. Silva is a Houstonian raised in Channelview, TX. She completed all of her education and training in Houston and it has always been her passion to learn how to best serve the community that raised and nurtured her.

Melissa Silva, M.D. is a board-certified Family Medicine physician at Channelview Family Medicine clinic. Dr. Silva received her BA in History and BS in Biology



DR. MELISSA SILVA

from the University of Houston. She then went on to earn her doctorate in medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center McGovern Medical School. Dr. Silva completed her medical training with a residency in Family Medicine from Memorial Family

Medicine Residency Program.

In her practice of medicine, Dr. Silva intends to offer medical services to all ages and hopes to create long-lasting relationships with patients based on trust and shared decision-making. She is on a mission to make healthcare accessible and approachable to patients who speak different languages and come from different cultural beliefs. Dr. Silva is bilingual in English and Spanish.

Dr. Silva decided on Family Medicine because it is a specialty like no other where you can see patients for a lifetime. It

CONTINUED. SEE NEW DOCTOR IN CHANNELVIEW, PAGE 5

GP/JC Rotary adds new members in 2 countries

The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club has been busy with new members, and preparing for their Cake Auction and Baked Potato Lunch on April 14th at JC Town Center.

AT RIGHT, New member Juan Carlos Ramirez, at center, Principal at Woodland Acres Middle School is welcomed by Rotarians Maria Cortez and President Bryan Shepard.

BELOW, the club has installed 20 new satellite members from Torreon Mexico, and converted to an E-Club.



SHELDON ISD NEWS

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

CISD collaboration in action



The bus drivers and support staff of the CISD Department of Transportation collaborated together to help one of their own! The Transportation Department held a district-wide fundraiser to support Mrs. Sherry Jones (Bus #204) and her family after Mrs. Jones’ husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Orders for pulled-pork sandwiches, came in from across Channelview’s 12 campuses and education support departments to assist Mrs. Jones and her family through difficult times. These lunches were handmade and delivered by CISD bus drivers who volunteered their time, efforts, and capital to support one of their own in a time of great need.



The thoughts and prayers of the Channelview Independent School District are with Mrs. Sherry Jones, her family and friends, and with her fellow bus drivers at the CISD Department of Transportation.

Channelview Independent School District Instructional Technology Specialist Selected to Serve on the State Board of Education (SBOE) Technology Applications TEKS Review Work Groups for grade K-8

The State Board of Education (SBOE) has the authority for the review and adoption of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each subject of the required curriculum. SBOE members nominate educators, parents, business and industry representatives, and employers to serve on the review work groups to review and make revisions of the TEKS for technology applications for kindergarten through grade 8.

“It is truly an honor to have been selected to serve in this capacity that will develop a curriculum that will benefit our students,” said Miles. “I have been working diligently on the SBOE Board Technology Applications TEKS Review Work Groups to recognize the opportunities and threats presented by the ever-increasing digital world.”

Miles creates and models the combination of technology resources and best practices using virtual, blended, and live opportunities to deliver professional development for teachers, administrators and staff that serve students across all grade levels.

“We are proud of Ms. Miles for being selected to this prestigious position,” said Director of Curriculum, Dr. Atina Young. “This type of accomplishment highlights the passionate educators in Channelview ISD.”



Channelview ISD CTE Director Wins Area 6, Region 4 Administrator of the Year

Channelview ISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director Mia Young is the proud recipient of the Area 6, Region 4 CTE Administrator of the Year award.

Young was named by the Gulf Coast CTE Association on December 3 during the Gulf Coast CTE monthly meeting. She was nominated by her peers and members of the organization and was among a list of five candidates.

CTE programs provide opportunities for exposure, experience and credentialing in different career fields that students may have never considered. The Gulf Coast Area CTE Association focuses on providing educators with the resources needed to have courses that earn high school and college credit while teaching cutting-edge classes.

Young has been the CISD CTE Director for 11 years and has been in education for 24 years. She oversees all the CTE programs and courses that are offered to our secondary campuses.

“Mia Young is passionate about our students and their education. She is always looking for new innovative ways to help them succeed beyond the classroom,” said Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum Dr. Don Beck. “She is very deserving of this award and we are proud of her accomplishments.”

Young was honored during the Winter Career & Technical Association of Texas Conference in February.

GP ISD Recognizes Congressional App Winner at Board Meeting

At the March 7th Galena Park ISD (GPISD) Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD recognized Galena Park Middle School students, Luis Guzman and Antorio Marius, for being selected by Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia as the winners of the 2021 Congressional App Challenge in Texas’s 29th District.

The Congressional App Challenge is an official initiative of the U.S. House of Representatives, where Members of Congress host contests in their districts for middle school and high school students, encouraging them to learn to code and inspiring students to pursue careers in computer science.

Luis and Antorio developed an app called *Political Problems* to help students learn about various forms of government and have been invited to attend #HouseOfCode – a national science fair held in the U.S. Capitol this spring to see their app displayed and connect with other winners from around the country.

The Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools presented a certificate and medal to Luis on behalf of the team.



Kids In Need Foundation Recognized at GP ISD Board Meeting

At the March 7th Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD recognized the Kids In Need Foundation, a national 501(c)(3) organization, for the generous donation of Lysol Disinfecting Wipes.

The Kids In Need Foundation serves the interests of teachers and students in under-resourced areas to provide supplies for student and teacher success.

The Galena Park ISD Custodial Services Department and Warehouse Department facilitated distribution of the wipes on campuses by receiving the shipments and overseeing the distribution of wipes to each campus staff member, including nurses and cafeteria managers.

A plaque of appreciation was presented to Mr. Levi Gaston, Director for Custodial Services, and Mr. Julien Guillory, Director for Warehouse Operations, on behalf of Kids In Need by the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools. The plaque will be mailed to the organization’s national office in Roseville, Minnesota.



Goforth Recognized at the GP ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

At the March 7th Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD recognized Mr. Shane Goforth, North Shore Senior High School Director of Bands, for his election to serve as the 2022 Band Division Vice President on the Executive Board of the Texas Music Educators’ Association.

This state-level platform will allow Mr. Goforth the opportunity to continue advocating for the importance of music and fine arts education in Texas schools.

A certificate was presented to Mr. Goforth on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.



GP ISD Communication Service Department Recognized By Board of Trustees

At the March 7th Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD recognized the Communication Services Department for receiving a *Best of Category* Award for the 2020-2021 “We’re All In This Together” State of the District publication by the Texas School Public Relations Association.

The State of the District publication was submitted in the ‘Print Magazine’ category for Texas school districts with a student enrollment of 15,000 – 40,000 students. Only one entry is distinguished as *Best of Category* for exceptional creativity and quality.

A certificate was presented to the Communications Department on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.



NS Senior High Choir Students Recognized at Board Meeting

At the March 7th Galena Park ISD (GPISD) Board of Trustees meeting, GPISD recognized North Shore Senior High School students Matthew Jasso, Devyn Santamaria, and Alexis Wright, for being named to represent Galena Park ISD as members of the Texas Music Educators’ Association All-State Choirs.

These North Shore Senior High School students participated in the All-State Choir Convention and Clinic and performed in the All-State Choir concerts in San Antonio, Texas on February 9 -12, 2022. The All-State Choirs included over 500 students from choir programs across the State of Texas.

A certificate and medal were presented to each student on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Involved

I frequently read posts on social media where community members are discussing what is wrong with the community. Ironically, it reminds me of how too often after an athletic event, everyone wants to share what the coaches or the athletes “should have done.”

A dear friend of mine has always shared that if an adult is not an active and involved registered voter, they have no business giving an opinion about election results or what is going on with elected leaders.

So many people have great ideas on how to make life better not for themselves but for others. What happens when you have a great idea but no clue on how to “make it happen”? How do you join forces with others with the same values and have influence without “reinventing the wheel”? What steps are necessary to follow to bring change?

About the time that COVID 19 sent everyone into the new mode of inactivity, there was a group of local individuals being introduced to a journey to change lives. The leadership program was a partnership of Baylor College of Medicine, East Houston Empowerment Council and Texas Children’s Hospital. Over the months that followed there was a bonding that began, and changes have started happening.

Several special bonds were formed and those who shared similar passions began to put plans into action. What resulted was a revitalization of a historical stretch of Uvalde Road, a campaign to have sidewalks added to improve the lives of those who too frequently stayed home or took the risk to walk along the east side of the Sam Houston Parkway and it opened the eyes on how you must have a plan to make things happen.

The group heard from elected leaders as well as learned to develop budgets. In the process, the individuals learned about grant writing as well as how to effectively disseminate information to those who may not live in the same way most of us are accustomed to.

Several months later, a second group of individuals began working together. The original group started hosting alumni groups meetings once a month. The second group completed the program and now both groups have monthly meetings to keep the connections flowing. (I should add that had it not been for virtual meetings, this amazing program may have never succeeded. And some of the original group might have given up hope that life would get better.)

There is now an opportunity for others to learn about the program, apply to register and join the journey. Please check out eastharriscounty.org/cba and should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

I encourage you to get involved and become a world changer.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of March 11, 2022

MDDT Texas State Competition
Our Pantherettes attended the MDDTTexas State Competition at Klein Cain High School on Saturday, March 5, 2022. They did an amazing job! The drill team got “best in class” runner up at the team Texas contest along with other awards! They have worked very hard and it shows! The drill team received the following awards:
*Super Sweepstakes Team & Super Sweepstakes Officers (90 or above on all 3 dances)
*Choreography awards for Team Modern, Novelty, & Pom
*Choreography awards for Officer Jazz, Novelty & Hip Hop
*Top 5 scoring teams of the day
*Most Entertaining dance of the day out of 399 dances for Team Novelty
They placed 1st place in Team Novelty and Officer Hip Hop. 2nd place in Team Modern and Small Team. 3rd place for Team Pom , Officer Novelty and Small Officers. Congratulations Pantherettes way to represent Sheldon!



Theater Arts advancing for first time in 10 years and first ever in 6A
Congratulations to our C.E. King High School Theater Arts department for advancing for the first time in 10 years and first ever in 6A! They will be one of three schools to advance for their play.
Three students received recognition for Best Tech Award, Josaphine Gonzalez and The All-Star Cast, Krysta Lambeth and Daniel Martinez Rivera. Congratulations!



FAA Licensed Drone Pilots
Let me introduce the first ever FAA Licensed Drone Pilots from C. E. King High School. These students studied for months to prepare for this and it paid off! They are enrolled in our T-STEM program.



FFA competes in the Houston Livestock Show
The Sheldon FFA had 5 members compete in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo calf scramble. FFA members, Joe Flores, Samuel Guevara, and Diego Mayberry caught a calf as well as Eric Jimenez who received a hard luck award and will be awarded \$2,400 for their efforts. Alaina Perez put forth a great effort to try to grab a calf. We are extremely proud of our students and look forward to seeing what they do with their projects this next year.



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is a Brilliant Cut Diamond?”



Diamonds are one of the world’s most prized treasures - but they don’t come out of the Earth looking like a million bucks! In fact, they look like... well, rocks. The appearance is dull, and it is in the hands of cutters that the true beauty is revealed.

Diamond cutting has been in practice since at least the 14th century. Before that, they were polished to enhance some of the shine. In the centuries since, techniques have evolved, as has the skill of expert cutters. A large, brilliant cut diamond is, in many ways, the culmination of this mastery.

Brilliant Cut Diamond Definition
Many of us regard diamonds as magical objects! They are simply stunning, and brilliant cuts are designed to maximize the appeal of the stone: the shine, the sparkle, and the elegance.

When talking about the brilliant cut diamond, it is also important to become familiar with these terms:

- Brilliance:** white light reflected from the facets
 - Fire:** reflected color created when white light is dispersed through the diamond
 - Scintillation:** the sparkle we see when the reflections interact as the stone is in motion
- A brilliant cut diamond has 58 facets (including the culet). The crown (i.e. the upper portion of the stone) has 33, while the pavilion (i.e. the lower portion of the stone) has 25. But it’s more involved than that: the crown has one table facet, eight bezel facets, eight star facets, and 16 upper girdle facets, while the pavilion has eight facets, as well as 16 lower girdle facets and a culet. Cutters must ensure that these facets are perfect in terms of symmetry and proportion.

Speaking of which: the table, crown, and pavilion all must be in proportion to each other. For instance, if the table is too large, then too much light can escape. This will give it a duller appearance than it should have. If the pavilion is too deep or too shallow, light is lost through the bottom, and we miss out on the brilliance we crave.

Why Invest in a Large Brilliant Cut Diamond?

As a professional in the jewelry industry, it is essential that we deliver the quality and aesthetic beauty that our customers want. Round brilliants are *the* most popular stones on the market, accounting for more than 70 percent of sales nation-wide.

The reason for this is obvious: They are iconic! When people picture the ideal engagement ring, for instance, it’s most likely that a brilliant cut diamond will pop into their mind. This cut also delivers unmatched brilliance, fire, and scintillation. The beauty and glamor of the brilliant are undeniable.

Large, brilliant cut diamonds may cost a bit more than other cuts. The cutting process is labor-intensive, and it must be meticulous and exacting. Even in the hands of a master, there is a good deal of waste involved in the cutting process. You may, for example, lose up to 60 percent of the carat weight as a rough diamond is transformed into a customer-ready brilliant cut stone.

However, many customers accept a higher price point in return for the quality and enduring beauty they receive.

The Diamond Experts
Our expert team will help you select the right stone(s) for your jewelry. We offer a host of services to streamline your purchase experience and your enjoyment of your brilliant cut diamonds. We offer financing and custom one-of-a-kind CAD design assistance. We can handle all of your diamond needs, delivering the quality you desire at an affordable price.

Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!



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OPINION

By U.S. Senator
JOHN CORNYN



This Ain't Our First Rodeo



Barrel racing, mutton bustin', and bull riding are just some of the many events you can catch at one of Texas' many rodeos. Recognized as the official sport of Texas, the history of rodeos in the Lone Star State dates much further back than its official proclamation by the Texas Legislature 25 years ago.

The Spanish conquistadors and Spanish-Mexican settlers that first arrived in Texas came with horses and cattle, kicking off our state's rich and deep roots in the livestock industry. This new livestock led to the rise of ranchers and *vaqueros*, or cowboys. After the Civil War, the Southwest became the hub for cattle drives, large ranches, and range cowboys which are now pillars of the celebrated culture we know today.

While overseeing their pastures and driving cattle, these cowboys earned their spurs learning how to rope, ride, and wrangle livestock. These tricks of the trade traveled throughout Texas, and cowboys showcased these skills at local rodeos. The word "rodeo" came from a Spanish word meaning "round up," an incredibly important activity where cattlemen gather their cattle to brand the new calves or move them to new pastures.

The first official rodeo took place in 1883 in Pecos, Texas. The Pecos Rodeo began as a competition for bragging rights between two cowboys duking it out to see who was the best in Texas. 140 years later, this renown rodeo continues to this day and attracts some serious competitors.

As more cowboys were crowned rodeo champions across the Lone Star State and the country, a unified effort to grab the reins and organize official competitions began. In 1936, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association established official rules to formalize the sport nationwide. By 1948, a determined group of women met in San Angelo, Texas with a mission to jump into the ring and create the Girls Rodeo Association, known now as the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. The Association became the United States' first women's sports organization and still remains as the oldest women's professional sports organization in the country. These visionaries branded themselves as trailblazers for women in the rodeo arena. Today, the Association is the only rodeo organization governed entirely by women and they work year-round to host competitive events across the nation.

No one deserves the grand champion belt buckle more than Mesquite, Texas. Since Mesquite hosts the most rodeos in our state, the Texas Legislature declared Mesquite the official rodeo capital of Texas in 1993. For over 60 years, the Mesquite Championship Rodeo has been quintessential to the rodeo experience with numerous events such as saddle bronc riding and team roping. To date this rodeo has been one of the most watched on television, with over 8 million households tuning into the events.

Following the trailheads south from Mesquite, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo always rounds up quite a crowd. Previously known as the Houston Fat Stock Show and Livestock Exposition, this rodeo began in 1931 at the Texas State Hotel as a way to grow the area's cattle industry. More than 90 years later, this event moved to the Astrodome, and it now takes place at the neighboring NRG Stadium which was specially built for rodeo and the NFL. Cowboys and rodeo enthusiasts of all ages can enjoy the annual kick-off rodeo parade, trail rides, and concerts from a variety of music genres. The King of Country, George Strait, even debuted at the Houston Rodeo as a newcomer to the country music scene way back in 1983.

This year, I had the honor to saddle up on a horse named Cinch and ride in the Houston Rodeo kick-off parade, as I have frequently done in the past. Apart from living out my John Wayne dreams, it is a great chance to visit with Texans who support this great tradition that marks the start of the three week-long event thanks to the help from over 35,000 volunteers. The Houston Rodeo also awards over \$14 million to the bright minds of student cowboys and cowgirls across our state, with \$1.4 million going towards Texas 4-H scholarships.


Regardless if you're competing in the stock show and rodeo events or just wanting to horse around, I hope you find a chance to wrangle up your friends and family and rope them into going to the local rodeo this year.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Several Statewide Races Headed to Runoffs May 24

A number of statewide races are headed for a May 24 runoff after the votes were tallied in the March 1 primary.

Topping the ballot in the Republican races is the contest for attorney general, where incumbent Ken Paxton led the field with 42.7% of votes cast, followed by George P. Bush, current land commissioner, who garnered 22.8%. The remainder of GOP ballots went to former Supreme Court justice Eva Guzman at 17.5% and U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert with 17%.

In the Democratic race for lieutenant governor, Houston businessman Mike Collier took 41.5%, with Carrollton state Rep. Michelle Beckley getting 30.2%. They will face each other in the runoff to determine who will face incumbent Dan Patrick in November. Patrick handily won the GOP primary with 76.6% of the vote.

In the race to succeed Bush as land commissioner, there will be runoffs in both parties, with State Sen. Dawn Buckingham, R-Lakeway, taking 41.8% and Tim Westley, the historian for the Texas Republican party, trailing with 14.8%. On the Democratic ballot, Sandrigrace Martinez, a San Antonio licensed professional counselor, took 32% while Jay Kleberg, a conservationist whose family owns the storied King Ranch, trailed with 25.8%.

Two Democrats are vying to face incumbent Glenn Hegar in the race for state comptroller. Janet T. Dudding, who retired from Texas A&M to run, led the field with 46.2%. She will face Angel Luis Vega, a business strategist, who received 34.7% of the vote.

GOP incumbent Wayne Christian, chair of the Texas Railroad Commission, fell short of gathering a majority in the primary with 47.2% of the vote. Sarah Stogner, a Midland attorney who gained attention



by posting a semi-nude video of herself on top of an oil pumpjack, finished second with 15.1%.

Voters may cast ballots in a party's runoff races if they originally voted in that party's primary or didn't vote at all. Voters who cast ballots in the Republican primary can't cross over and vote in the Democratic runoff, and vice versa. Early voting runs from May 16-20.

OPERATION LONE STAR MARKS ONE YEAR

Gov. Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas National Guard last week marked the one-year anniversary of Operation Lone Star, the state's effort to "secure the border." Since its launch, more than 208,000 migrants have been apprehended, with 11,800 criminal charges filed.

In the last legislative session, lawmakers approved an additional \$1.8 billion in state funding, bringing the total of funding for border security to \$3 billion.

EMERGENCY SNAP BENEFITS AGAIN EXTENDED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture again has extended emergency food benefits for eligible Texas families, with more than \$310 million going to more than 1.5 million Texas households for the month of March. The allotments are

distributed through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

"Putting food on the table is critical for the health and well-being of families, and we're proud to continue helping with these most basic needs," said Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

Since April 2020, more than \$6.13 billion in emergency food benefits have been provided through SNAP. All SNAP households will receive at least \$95 in emergency allotments by March 31.

NEW WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

A streamlined resource for Texas parents to get information about early childhood services is now up and running. The new website, earlychildhood.texas.gov, serves as a one-stop-shop to connect Texas parents with access to a variety of free or low-cost services and resources.

The website offers information and resources for health and development, parenting, child care and education.

FEDERAL COVID-19 FUNDING TOPS \$75.6 BILLION

The Legislative Budget Board reports that the state received an estimated \$75.6 billion in COVID-19 federal funding, not counting funds awarded directly to individuals and local entities. The funding came from a half dozen pandemic response packages passed by Congress since March 2020.

The funding provided assistance to Texas public schools, higher education, local governments and health care providers. More detailed information can be found at the budget board's website: lbb.texas.gov/Covid-19.

Meanwhile, the state's Division of Workers Compensation reported more than 78,000 workers' compensation claims with 422 fatalities. More than half of the fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO DROP

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to drop across the state, with 26,520 reported in the past week by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, along with 936 deaths. The omicron variant continues to wane, with lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations dropping to 2,838 statewide, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Room for More

My husband, Peter, and I were traveling in Mexico when we suddenly found ourselves without a place to stay.

Over the years, all our accommodations while traveling have been quirky in one way or another, but they have all been pretty much what we were expecting, and we've never had any insurmountable problems.

This week, we encountered insurmountable problems.

When we arrived at the airport, the caretaker stood us up. That was not a good sign. We found other transportation and, when we finally found the caretaker, we were glad he had not come, as he was in no condition to drive and the car he would have driven didn't look much better.

Things got worse from there.

We were going to have guests join us, and the guesthouse was supposed to have two bathrooms. There was just one and it was filthy, along with the rest of the house. There were junked vehicles piled around the property, windows were broken, and everything was covered with a thick coat of dust.

"We can't stay here a month!" I said to Peter.

"We can't stay here at all!" Peter answered. I was relieved we were obviously on the same page.

"I want to go back to San Miguel!" Peter said before I had a chance to.

We had just left San Miguel de Allende, which we loved. But finding a place to stay—anywhere—was not going to be easy with universities on break and people finally taking vacations. Then I remembered how helpful the residents of San Miguel had been. I asked for help on their Facebook page.

Literally within minutes, a man named Jorge said he had a one-bedroom apartment in a hotel with a fully equipped kitchen. "I am the owner," he said. He gave the address. It couldn't have been in a better location.

"This is going to be expensive," I thought. "How much for an extended stay?" I asked.

"\$30 dollars per day," he answered. "Housekeeping included."

"Well, that's not gonna be any good!" I said to Peter.

"It will give us a place to land and we can look for something better," Peter said.

We hustled out of town, sending a note to the absentee landlord in Europe, telling her we would be pursuing a refund. "And we'll get it!" Peter told me, in a tone that he reserves for the rare instances when he gets seriously angry.

Late that evening we showed up at "Casa de Los Soles," which means "House of the Suns," and Jorge was sitting at the front desk.

"You must be Carrie!" he said, and I got a very good feeling.

He showed us the immaculately clean apartment. There was a bedroom with a balcony, and a rooftop terrace, and a place for me to write, and a fully equipped kitchen, and sunshine pouring into every room.

Best of all, there were suns everywhere. Smiling ceramic depictions of the sun in every color and style imaginable covered the three-story-high walls of the courtyard and the lobby and the stairs leading to our apartment. Every brick and stucco wall was covered in smiling sunny faces.

"How many are there?" I asked Jorge after he had shown us the apartment and after I had almost burst into tears at how comfortable and clean and charming it was.

"2,504," Jorge answered.

"Really!" I said, in amazement.

"But next week, I will get more," he added.

I couldn't imagine how there could be room for one more smiling face. But I knew Jorge would somehow manage to find room for more.

Till next time, Carrie

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

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Melissa Silva, M.D.

Channelview Family Medicine Welcomes New Physician

Dr. Melissa Silva joined the CFM family on October 1, 2021.

Dr. Melissa Silva is a Family Medicine physician who has joined Channelview Family Medicine and the Pasadena community in October of 2021. Dr. Silva received a double degree from the University of Houston with a BS in Biology and a BA in History. Dr. Silva went on to obtain her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Dr. Silva's residency in Family Medicine was with the Memorial Family Medicine Program. Dr. Silva is bilingual in both English and Spanish. We look forward to welcoming her back to her hometown community and the Channelview family.

To book an appointment, call **281.452.4747**
To learn more, visit channelviewfamilymedicine.com

**Channelview
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New Doctor in Channelview,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is rare to have the privilege to be a long-lasting part of your patients' lives and to learn from them as you grow old with them. Dr. Silva loves that the field of Family Medicine allows her to treat a little bit of everything, which always keeps things interesting and keeps her in touch with a wide range of knowledge as a doctor. Dr. Silva's dream was always to be able to treat anyone that walked into her clinic, and Family Medicine allows her to do just that.

When not treating her patients, Dr. Silva loves spending time with her family and her curious puppy, Mickey. She is an avid Disney fan and loves all things Disney. She also enjoys shopping for bargains and traveling. Dr. Silva is attempting to learn how to cook all of the Mexican dishes she grew up eating and welcomes cooking tips from her patients.

Dr. Silva welcomes new patients and referrals. She is honored to be a part of your trusted healthcare team.

Dr. Silva can be reached at 281-452-4747, or channelviewfamilymedicine.com. Her office is at 15055 East Freeway, Suite A-10 take the Dell Dale exit for the frontage road.



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New Ship Channel Bridge,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to cross the existing bridge is \$1.50, and Tyler said that HCTRA does not anticipate any increase to pay for the bridge. Currently the toll road authority is financially very strong, with \$1.32 billion in uncommitted reserves.

The bridge will be built in two stages, with the southbound lanes now under construction. When complete, it will have four traffic lanes which will temporarily be converted to two-way traffic so that the older bridge next to it can be demolished. This is expected to happen by 2025. After the older bridge is gone, the new northbound lanes will be constructed in its place, and be complete by 2028 Tyler said.

The new Beltway 8 configuration will have flatter grades, only 3 to 4 percent, and smoother curves going into the bridge.

Currently 60,000 vehicles a day cross the bridge, and this is expected to increase to 2 or 3 times the volume.

A website shows live construction: shipchannelbridge.org.



Looking south, from Channelview toward Deer Park and Pasadena, this recent view shows the new southbound lanes of the Sam Houston Parkway Beltway 8 under construction in the foreground center, and the existing older bridge beyond, which will be torn down in 2025 to allow the new northbound lanes to be constructed in its place.



This view looking north from Deer Park shows the base of the pylons (with stripes) to be removed by "hydro-demolition" and replaced by a new configuration to provide a safe structure. The existing bridge is at right above, which will eventually be removed.



Free Flu Vaccines and Immunizations in March from Harris County Mobile

HOUSTON° — During March, Harris Health System's Troubleshooters Mobile Immunization Program is offering free immunizations for children two-months to 18-years of age and free flu vaccines to children six-months to 18-years of age.

To receive immunizations, a parent must be present with the child's shot record. All shots will be given based on availability.

Schedule
(All times are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. except when noted)

- Tuesday, March 15, Northeast Multi-Service Center WIC, 9720 Spaulding St., Houston, TX 77016
- Wednesday, March 16, Consulate General of Mexico, 3200 Rogerdale Rd., Houston, TX 77042
- Thursday, March 17, Alief WIC, 12660 Beechnut St., Houston, TX 77072

- Friday, March 18, Memorial Assistance Ministries, 1625 Blalock Rd., Houston, TX 77080, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, March 21, Major Elementary School, 16855 Sugar Pine Dr., Houston, TX 77090
- Tuesday, March 22, Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Rd., Houston, TX 77084, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 23, Drew Academy, 1910 W. Little York, Houston, TX 77091
- Thursday, March 24, Hoffman Middle School, 6101 Little York, Houston, TX 77091
- Friday, March 25, Woodson K-5, 10720 Southview St., Houston, TX 77047
- Monday, March 28, Hambrick Middle School, 4600 Aldine Mail Rd., Houston, TX 77039
- Tuesday, March 29, Hambrick Middle School, 4600 Aldine Mail Rd., Houston, TX 77039
- Wednesday, March 30, Hines-Caldwell Elementary, 5515 W. Orem Dr., Houston, TX 77085, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Women's History: Walker,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing and establishing a mail order business. After the pair divorced in 1910, she relocated to Indianapolis and built a factory for her Walker Manufacturing Company. An advocate of black women's economic independence, she opened training programs in the "Walker System" for her national network of licensed sales agents who earned healthy commissions. Ultimately, Walker employed 40,000 African American women and men in the US, Central Ameri-

ca, and the Caribbean. She also founded the National Negro Cosmetics Manufacturers Association in 1917.

Walker's business grew rapidly, with sales exceeding \$500,000 in the final year of her life. Her total worth topped \$1 million dollars, and included a mansion in Irvington, New York dubbed "Villa Lewaro;" and properties in Harlem, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

As her wealth increased, so did her philanthropic and political

outreach. Walker contributed to the YMCA, covered tuition for six African American students at Tuskegee Institute, and became active in the anti-lynching movement, donating \$5,000 to the NAACP's efforts. Just prior to dying of kidney failure, Walker revised her will, bequeathing two-thirds of future net profits to charity, as well as thousands of dollars to various individuals and schools. Allanj211@aol.com

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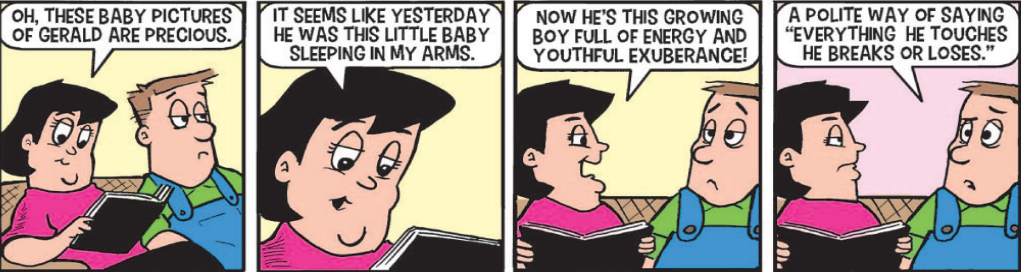
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