

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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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.

### Galena Park Farmers Market Apr 23

EARTH DAY FARMERS MARKET on Saturday, April 23 from 9am - 1pm in the Galena Park High School Parking Lot, 1000 Keene Street.

Free \$10 Vouchers available to buy market items. (Vendors Needed, Contact Cruz Hinojosa 832-434-1591).

Sponsored by Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park.

## Sales Tax Holiday April 23-25 for Emergency Supplies

(AUSTIN) — As we enter severe weather season, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 25.

"Whether it's fires, freezing temperatures or tornadoes, severe weather conditions can strike at any time, so it is important that families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stocking up for emergency situations."

The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save more than \$1.5 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced at less than \$75;
- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced at less than \$300;
- portable generators priced at less

*Continued. See Sales Tax Holiday, Page 5*

## Local communities receive federal funding

Rep. Sylvia Garcia present checks of \$3 mil to Galena Park, \$1 mil to Jacinto City for Infrastructure

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park/Jacinto City, TX. - On Tuesday April 12, 2022 Christmas came early for the communities of Galena Park and Jacinto City. Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia of the 29th Texas Congressional District presented \$4 million to be used for community improvement projects. The funds are part of a larger \$10 million nine Community Projects Funding request led and secured by Garcia, and will also include projects for Houston and South Houston.

The funding came from the historic \$1.5 trillion Bipartisan Omnibus Appropriations Bill that President Joe Biden promoted and Rep. Garcia



Congresswoman Garcia (center) presents \$3 million water line and fire protection improvement check to GP Mayor Esmeralda Moya and Fire Chief Tom Ehlers. L-R: GP Fire Dept. Assist. Chief Kathy Kirkpatrick, Mayor Esmeralda Moya, Fire Chief Tom Ehlers, Paramedic Dimitirius Dollarhide, FF/EMT Micheal Richardson & Capt. Marcus Tunchez (Photo by Allan Jamail)



AT LEFT: Rep. Sylvia Garcia (left) of the 29th Congressional District presents JC Mayor Ana Diaz and City Manager Lon Squyres a \$1 million dollar check for the city's south side water main and fire hydrant replacement project. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

supported. It provides a substantial increase in spending for domestic and national security but also sends \$13.6 billion in emergency aid to Ukraine in its defense against the Russian invasion. Both parties scored political victories in the spending bill.

Garcia said in Galena Park, "You've heard of The Million Dollar Man, well I'm the Million Dollar Woman. I was proud to champion \$3,000,000 for the City of Galena Park to replace and upgrade their aging water line and fire protection systems. The residents of Galena Park deserve premier public service, and these funds will aid the delivery of safe

*Continued. See Federal Funding, Page 6*

## GP/JC ROTARY AUCTIONS CAKES FOR CHARITY

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – April 14, 2022 at the Jacinto City Town Center the Galena Park / Jacinto City Rotary Club held their annual cake auction to benefit high school students with scholarships and their international projects.

According to Rotary President Brian Shepard the cake auction, donations and stuffed baked potato lunch tickets sales brought in over \$10,000 for scholarships and \$4,000 for their international rotary projects. He said the highest auctioned cake went to Ken Wimberly for \$600. According to Jennifer Ledwith some of the funds will go to help pay for medical supplies for the Ukraine war victims from the Russian invasion this past month.

Rotary Club Executives and Directors are, President Brian Shepard, Pres-

*Continued. See GP/JC Rotary Cake Auction, Page 7*



Rotarians Dr. Don Nino and wife Danna at left were among the bidders at the luncheon. ABOVE CENTER, Rotarian and Past District Governor Bill Palko manages to get the highest prices for each of the cakes or other deserts. For instance, this cake sold for \$400. Rotarian Bryan Clements, in the background, was emcee.



Rotary Officers & Elected Officials  
L – R: Pres. Elect. Julien Guillory, 21-22 President Brian Shepard, Rotary District 5890 Governor Michelle Bohrer, State Rep. Ana Hernandez, JP Judge Lucia Bates & State Senator Carol Alvarado (Photo By Allan Jamail)



Six of the 35 cakes at the GP-JC Rotary Cake Auction. See more photos on Page 7, and read in the story about the students from Galena Park High School that helped make the event a success. Thanks to all, bidders, sponsors, Rotarians.



ROTARIANS and guests packed the Town Center in Jacinto City, for the Baked Potato Lunch and the Cake Auction. Standing upper left, NC Star Publisher Gilbert Hoffman handing out a newspaper to North Shore Rotary President Ken Wimberly. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

## ANOTHER DELAY REQUESTED FOR WASTE PITS, BUT EPA SAYS NO

### Consultant deems Remediation Plan "unworkable"

By Gilbert Hoffman

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – The Responsible Parties who are supposed to be working on the plan to remove toxic dioxin from the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River, have instead sent a letter to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) asking for a delay in the schedule, because they state that the current removal methods they had agreed to are unworkable, or "not implementable."

Citing new information they are asking for a revised ROD (Record of Decision) which tells them how to clean up the site.

At a press conference last week, on the banks of the San Jacinto River near the Waste Pits, activist



At a press conference last week, on the banks of the San Jacinto River, Activist Jackie Medcalf calls for no delays requested by the Responsible parties. (THEA photo)

Jackie Medcalf called for no delay, saying the process has taken too long, and the objections now are simply "smoke and mirrors" in an attempt by the Responsible Parties to

avoid or minimize the remediation work.

In their letter of March 24, the Responsible Parties state that their engineering consultants have determined that there is more



A current map of the Waste Pits shows the conflict between the I-10 right-of-way for a new bridge, and the need for access for Waste Pits remediation.

material to be removed than originally known, by a 50% increase, and that the excavation depth will need to be deeper, by a 62% increase to as much as 28 feet in some places. Other

factors they say make the work too complex and unsafe are the proposed construction of a new I-10 bridge, and the possible

*Continued. See SJR Waste Pits delay, P. 7*



# SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of April 15, 2022

### District recognizes Principals of the Year

Congratulations to Dr. Denise Mustin, former principal of Cravens Early Childhood Academy, now Director of Early Childhood and Principal of King Middle School Mrs. Ashley Sampson for being named the district's Principals of the Year. Mustin and Sampson were recognized yesterday at Region IV's ceremony. They are pictured with the district's Superintendent Dr. King Davis.



### Foundation grant opens doors to engagement opportunities for families

Thanks to a grant from Sheldon ISD's Education Foundation, families at Null Middle School had a chance to collaborate for a night of learning and painting together on April 7. The Education Foundation exists to raise funds to award to teachers who submit an application for an innovative idea or project to bring to the classroom. This grant for example was awarded to Ms. Destiny Barr, art teacher at Null Middle School. Barr had the idea to request supplies for art projects and coordinated a family engagement event for the entire school. After two-years of separation from the pandemic, Ms. Barr explained in her grant she was hopeful to be able to receive supplies to put toward an event where families can come together and learn with their child at the school. She received approximately \$2,500 from the Sheldon ISD Education Foundation through a grant in September

ber and was able to use those funds for the first time at the school's spring painting event A World Beyond Words.



### Join in the fun April 23 for C-STEM Challenge Day Contest

The annual Sheldon ISD C-STEM Challenge Day Competition will be held at the King Middle School competition gym on Saturday, April 23. This event will highlight our district-wide after school STEM program with 150+ students from grades 4-12 as they compete in several STEM events including robotics. Awards will take place at 1:15 pm. Come out and see what this STEM-palooza is all about!

### Registration open for NEW pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students

Registration for the 2022-23 school year is now open for all new pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. The pre-kindergarten program is a full-day service, and students must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2022. To register, go to [www.sheldonisd.com/register/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/register/)

### Education Foundation presents annual Sheldon Summer Scramble

To help raise funds for innovative teaching grants for Sheldon ISD teachers, the SISD Education Foundation is hosting the annual Sheldon Summer Scramble. The golf tournament will be held at 8 a.m. Thursday, June 2 at the Golf Club of Houston. Teams are on sale now for \$900. To play and support our educators and students, call 281-727-1331.

## Carroll Elementary Wins TXLA's Branding Iron Award for Book Breakfast

Carroll Elementary Wins TXLA's Branding Iron Award for Book Breakfast

Carroll Elementary wins the Branding Iron Award from the Texas Library Association for their School Book Breakfast program. This award honors creative marketing and public relations activities and programs.

Carroll Elementary's Book Breakfast was submitted for and recently won a Texas Library Association Branding Iron award for the "Special Events - School" category.

The Branding Iron award honors creative marketing and public relations activities and programs. Carroll Elementary was the only winner in this category and will receive a certificate signifying their award and have its program details published in the June 2022 issue of Texas Library Journal.

The Book Breakfast concept originated with former Royalwood Elementary principal Ms. Carrasco. Then it was brought to Carroll Elementary by current principal Ms. Benavides. Ms. Chacon, librarian at Carroll Elementary, expanded the idea to create a bookstore-like experience and ambiance for the students.



"Ms. Benavides brought the Book Breakfast idea to me, and I realized we could get more engagement and turn-out if it was an experience rather than just a lecture," said Ms. Chacon.

One grade level at a time, parents are invited to accompany their children to a light breakfast while Ms. Chacon shares literacy tips, tricks, and resources with all. "I curate the books based on students' interests so that they are always very excited and have a hard time choosing just one! Further, I change out my table decorations to create an ambiance and front-facing bookstore atmosphere" said Ms. Chacon.

North Channel Public Library also partners with Carroll Elementary for these events, and have community resources available. Parents can also sign up for an HCPL card on the spot.

"Recently, we had over 70 parents show up and 65 signed up for a HCPL library card! It's a great event to connect with the community and promote literacy at the same time," said Ms. Chacon.

More innovative programs are coming across the district. Sheldon Lake Elementary will have Coffee & Crafts starting April 4th - 8th. Parents of Sheldon Lake Elementary can [register here to RSVP](#).



# GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Autism Awareness Month

did you know?

Every autistic person has a unique combination of strengths and challenges

¿Sabía usted que?

Toda persona autista posee una combinación única de fortalezas y debilidades

## Congratulations to Osvaldo Garcia, North Shore Senior High School student, for signing a scholarship to play ESports at the University of Saint Thomas!



# CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

## Alice Johnson LOTC celebrated the life of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Felicia Berguin

Alice Johnson LOTC celebrated the life of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Felicia Berguin with her family and the Channelview Community. SFC Berguin served with distinction for 20 years in the United States Army, serving in the Gulf War before retiring and coming to Channelview ISD. In 2001, she became AJJH's Leadership Officer Training Corps' instructor and spent 16 years training LOTC cadets towards improving their minds and strengthening their bodies to the best of their abilities. As a Non-Commissioned Officer, no one was more professional than her. During her tenure as AJJH LOTC Instructor, she accomplished her missions with excellence and placed the needs of her corps of cadets above her own.

On what would have been her 59th birthday, a memorial was dedicated in her honor at Alice Johnson Junior High so that future generations of Channelview ISD students may learn about and respect Sergeant First Class Berguin as a leader, encourager, and motivator.

Thank you for your service, SFC Berguin. This We'll Defend!





CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



When Tragedy Strikes

It has happened too often. Noise from the neighbors wakes me up and I find myself scrolling through social media. Are there any notices for lost children or adults? Which law enforcement agencies have he posted updates about local crime?

Over the past few years, it seems like there have been too many mentions of our community when death or crime is mentioned. One thing comforting is that when it is a tragedy, there are multiple posts that show up. There are always the ones informing us of what has happened. Then there are the ones helping to connect the news with others. Within minutes, we put a human face on the event. And then, there are the so many posts where shock spreads through the community.

If there has been a death, we all want to know if there are loved ones and what do they need? If it was a murder, we want to be sure to share information with the loved ones about resources, including information about how to secure Crime Victim Assistance funding. If there are children involved, the school district is notified and services such as grief counseling and contacting other relatives.

The news spreads and if by chance the victim has been in the community any length of time, there will be multiple groups contacted and beginning to network. Was the person a graduate of one of our local high schools? Did they work in our community? Do they have parents or siblings still in our area? If they have young children, how can we help? Do we need to pick them up? Do we need to get them anywhere to have some sense of normality? How do we start talking to other children about what is happening?

It will be a whirlwind of activities in the next few days.

And the healing will begin because of the amazing people in our lives. We will stay by the sides of those who have lost someone. We will reach out and send a card. We will make phone calls and offer condolences not just to the immediate family, but to friends and coworkers.

But there is so much more to do. We need to pray for the individuals who suffered a loss. We need to pray for the First Responders who were on the scene as the others will be involved in the aftermath. Pray for the judge that will eventually try the case as well as the jurors who have to a decision. Pray for the loved ones who will patiently await justice being served. Likewise, those that are charged with a crime, will have family, and loved ones who are going through their own pain and frustration. And if you know anything about mental illness, you will know that many of those charged with crimes have made poor choices as they were not taking medication for their diagnosis. The stigma of mental illness keeps many of the ill from obtaining help, just as much as the prohibitive cost of medication.

Life is not easy and again, I just want to remind you that we are all in this together, and together we can have influence. Hug someone today. Share a smile.

LETTERS

To The Editor

Vote for Change- Vote for Transparency

Rosemary Reed Coreathers for Galena Park Commissioner Position 4 – Streets and Bridges

To the Editor:

Who is Rosemary Reed Coreathers?

Rosemary “Rose” is the mother of 3 and the wife of the late community activist, Elisiah Coreathers Jr. She had been a resident of Galena Park since the 1950’s and is a graduate of Fidelity Manor High School.

Rose received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Women’s University and was devoted to ensuring quality healthcare was available to all regardless of socio-economic status. It was her pleasure to serve the community at Ben Taub, Harris County Psychiatric Center and North Shore Middle School. She has held positions as head nurse, supervisor and Coordinator of Health Services.

Rose’s love for her community was displayed again when she partnered with other community members and the Houston Food Bank to fund food distribution in our city. She has volunteered at Galena Park Middle School, worked as a Volunteer Voter Register and is a member of the Galena Manor Civic Club. She is a member of the Galena Manor Civic Club and worked as a Volunteered Voter Resistor. A strong faith based foundation supports he active membership in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and as charter member of the Drexel Society, a Catholic women’s organization.

When elected, I will connect with our community to listen and better understand our needs. As the Commissioner my plan is to:

- 1.Meet with the Department Head of Streets and Bridges to know exactly the city needs
- 2.Team-up with Harris County Commissioner Garcia and Harris County Flood Control to develop a functional plan for our flooding problems
- 3.Work with the Mayor and the Commissioners to improve the Police and Fire departments
- 4.Work with the community, Mayor and Commissioners to improve the city charter and implement term limits for leadership positions

Change will only happen if we work together. I need your vote! Thank You!

Early Voting: April 25th-May 3<sup>rd</sup> Election Day: May 7<sup>th</sup>

Vote by mail application deadline: April 26, 2022 for May 7<sup>th</sup> election- call 713-755-6965

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to [NORTHCHANNELSTAR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NORTHCHANNELSTAR@GMAIL.COM). Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. We will not publish letter of criticism of other parties. Thank you.*

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: What’s required to become a “Jeweler”?



Over the past 40 years, I’ve been asked this question countless times. Thank you for asking and allowing me to respond in writing. Most people equate being a “jeweler” with nearly any position in a jewelry store or jewelry manufacturing business. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word “jeweler” as “a person or company that makes or sells jewels or jewelry”. Technically, the term or title of *jeweler* requires a little more definition. Someone who sells jewelry is a Sales Associate for a jewelry company and is not necessarily a jeweler. Personally, I find that it takes either the completion of formal education from an accredited institute, or many, many years of experience, or both, to *earn* the title of ‘Jeweler’.

The GIA (Gemological Institute of America) is one of the most respected teaching institutions in the world in the arena of gems including diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, semi-precious gems and pearls. A formal education from the GIA will give you the educational acumen (basis) to begin what can be a very lucrative and rewarding career as a jeweler. Some of the career options available, once you have your schooling behind you, are; Gemologist, Bench Jeweler, Jewelry Appraiser, Jewelry Auction Specialist, Gem Buyer, Jewelry Designer / Manufacturer, and more.

An inexperienced jewelry sales associate tends to learn at the expense of a jewelry store owner and staff who must teach that person the basics of jewelry including how it’s designed and created, how it’s displayed, the content of the gold, platinum or silver metals in the jewelry, and some knowledge of the gems or stones that are set in the jewelry.

The GIA offers a learning environment that employs some of the best jewelry educators and lab equipment in the world. The cost of a formal GIA jewelry education is surprisingly low compared to a four year Bachelor’s Degree at a university. For example, check out the beginners course entitled “*Applied Jewelry Professional™*”. Obtaining the Applied Jewelry Professional™ credential is one of the fastest and most effective ways to improve your understanding of gems and jewelry, and covers essential knowledge related to diamonds and popular colored gems. You can earn your credential via eLearning by taking three online courses.

**Course Listing:** Jewelry Essentials, Diamond Essentials, and Colored Stones Essentials

The Graduate Gemologist credential is the most prestigious credential in the industry. The GIA Graduate Gemologist program gives you the comprehensive knowledge of diamonds and colored stones you need to succeed anywhere in the jewelry business. You’ll gain both technical expertise and practical skills to evaluate gemstones by the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut, and carat weight), the International Diamond Grading System™, and the Colored Stone Grading System.

For more information, please logon to [www.GIA.edu](http://www.GIA.edu). If I can be of any assistance to you as you begin your amazing path towards a knowledgeable and rewarding career in the jewelry industry, please let me know.

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

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization and the Retail Jewelers Organization for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

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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# STARLITE

By Gil Hoffman, Publisher

## Flying the Friendly Skies

This Easter week was especially pleasant around our house, because we had a visit from our grandkids. Since they live in Ohio, we don't see them as often as we would like. Iris is 5 years old now, and Reed is 2. Like the plants they are named for (maybe), they grow up fast and we need to keep track of them on a regular basis.



GRANDKIDS IRIS AND REED, AT IAH AIRPORT

Although our daughter and their mother, Kristan, grew up in Houston, when they visit they explore wonders that seem very special to this city and different from their snowy climate in Ohio. And they keep us busy with their activities. Almost every day we spent time at an outdoor swimming pool, visited Hermann Park and Zoo, splash pad and train, played at Levi Park near Greenway Plaza, ate their favorite Chinese food in Bellaire Chinatown, visited the Childrens Museum, and more.

The trip to Houston is very special to the grandkids, and they look forward to the flight as well as the fun they have while they are here. But this trip, they had a unique experience that most of us, kids or adults, would be thrilled with. When they boarded the United Express jet for their return trip to Ohio, the flight crew asked them if they would like to sit in the cockpit. Wow, how special is that! As you can see from the photos, they had a very unique experience, and who knows, maybe it will lead to a career path, or at least a great story to tell their classmates when they return.




PILOT REED IN THE COCKPIT WITH HIS TEDDY BEAR



CO-PILOT IRIS IN THE COCKPIT


United Airlines has an expression, "Fly the Friendly Skies" and this time they certainly made a memorable time for the grandkids and their family. Thank you, United Airlines.





# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Traffic deaths spike in highway work zones

### TRAFFIC DEATHS SPIKE IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONES

The Texas Department of Transportation wants motorists to be aware of dangerous conditions in road construction zones after crashes in those zones killed 244 people last year.

The death toll is an increase of 33% over 2020 and is the highest in 40 years. The majority of those who died were drivers or their passengers, according to TxDOT.

"It's important for drivers to remember that driving conditions in work zones can be especially challenging because of extra congestion, slow-moving heavy equipment, temporary barriers and vehicles that make sudden stops," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. "That's why it's crucial for everyone to give driving their full attention and drive a safe speed in areas where construction and maintenance are underway."

Among the tips offered by the agency to cut accidents:

- Slow down and follow the posted speed limit.
- Pay attention, put down the phone and keep your mind on the road.
- Watch out for road crews and follow flaggers' instructions.
- Don't tailgate. Allow enough room to stop safely.
- Plan for extra time to reach your destination, since road construction can slow traffic.

Traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present.

### WILDFIRE RISK CONTINUES WITH DRY, WINDY CONDITIONS

The risk of more wildfires continues this week with much of the state under drought conditions.

"Critical fire weather includes above-normal temperatures, increased wind speeds and low relative humidity levels," according to a Texas A&M Forest Service news release. Wildfires that start under these conditions may be

### TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

difficult to control, the agency said. The risk is nearly statewide, as virtually all of the state remains under drought conditions.

During the first week of April, the forest service and local fire departments responded to 117 wildfires that burned 23,560 acres.

### TEXAS HISTORY INSTRUCTION EXPANDED

The State Board of Education decided last week to expand instruction in Texas history to six grade levels, meaning students in those grades will have their knowledge of the state's history tested on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills exam.

For decades, Texas history has been taught in fourth and seventh grades. Now it will also be taught in kindergarten through second grade, and sixth and eighth grades.

"With this significant increase, students will study Texas and the people and events that define it in most grade levels prior to high school," according to an SBOE news release.

The board will consider proposed revisions to the social studies aspect of TEKS at the June meeting to include Texas history content. Final revisions are scheduled for November.

### PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THE WILDLIFE

With the balmy weather of a Texas spring, more folks are enjoying the outdoors. Experts at the Tex-

as Parks and Wildlife Department urge people who encounter wildlife to avoid lending a helping hand.

Often, the young offspring of wild animals can be mistaken as having been abandoned. Many of these human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can be detrimental to wildlife.

Newborn fawns, for example, are often left for hours at a time by the doe as she forages for food. "During that time, people may spot a fawn lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Many people interfere with the fawn, thinking it has been abandoned by its mother and needs help. This is rarely the case," according to TPWD.

TPWD experts advise folks to leave all young animals alone unless obviously injured. Spend some time observing from a distance to determine if the animal truly is injured, since the mother may not return if humans are close by.

The same principle applies to young birds. "If the bird's eyes are open, it has feathers and is hopping around, mom and dad are likely nearby. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days," according to TPWD.

If a wild animal is sick or injured, people are encouraged to contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator, which can be found on the TPWD Wildlife Division website: [tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/).

### COVID-19 cases rise while deaths, hospitalizations decline

The number of new Texas cases of COVID-19 reported by the [Coronavirus Resource Center](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/resource-center/index.html) at Johns Hopkins University jumped by more than 100% in the past week to 46,375, though deaths dropped to 252 during the same time period.

Lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas have dropped to 875 patients, the lowest level in months. The highly contagious subvariant of Omicron, dubbed BA.2, has become the dominant version worldwide and is accounting for the majority of new cases.

Like the original omicron variant, this strain is more transmissible but generally has less-severe symptoms, according to health experts. The best protection continues to be getting vaccinated and getting a booster if already vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

DSHS says unvaccinated Texans are eight times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and 42 times more likely to die of a COVID-19 associated illness.

As of Sunday, 17.479 million Texans — or nearly 60% of the state's population — were fully vaccinated, with 6.6 million getting a booster dose.



# THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## A Lot of Cake

The plan was to buy everyone cake.

My husband, Peter, and I are finally getting ready to leave Mexico, and we can't say we are too happy about it.

The last two months in San Miguel de Allende have convinced us that it is a place we want to return to, and now leaving it feels very hard—especially when my sister tells me about the freezing rain hitting her home right now.

"We had to cancel our trip to visit Uncle Andy and Bea!" she tells me. "The roads were terrible!"

As I sit in the evening sunshine, in a city where people usually don't need to heat their homes and never need air conditioning, the idea of freezing rain does not exactly make me homesick.

"Why are we leaving, again?" Peter asks.

But I'm anxious to see family again. My dad is going in for a bunch of tests. My sister is getting her knee operated on. Peter's sister, Shelley, will be having a procedure done on her back. All of these things are important—if not particularly fun. So the plan yesterday was to do something festive, and I couldn't think of anything more festive than cake.

The idea for the party was Peter's.

We were so grateful to find this little hotel when we did. Our lodging on the coast turned out to be a disaster, and our choices were to either return home early or find something back in San Miguel de Allende—in the high season, without reservations. When we found this little one-bedroom apartment overlooking the courtyard filled with more than 2,000 smiling sun faces, we felt as if we had been saved.

"I am calling you Salvador," Peter told Jorge, the owner of the small hotel. "You saved us!" Jorge smiled.

The hotel used to be Jorge's family home. He was born and raised within its walls, along with his 12 siblings. In the mid-1980s, he began the process of converting it into a hotel. Now it is his pride and joy, and he spends his days putting more artwork on the walls and more plants into pots.

We ordered a chocolate layer cake with buttercream frosting. It had fresh fruit between the layers and a smiling sun face on the top. A woman at the market squeezed about 50 lemons for me, and we made fresh lemonade. Then Jorge and his employees and the three artists he keeps busy every day all gathered together in the courtyard with the 2000+ suns to eat cake.

Once we were all gathered, I found myself completely without Spanish words to thank them properly. This is what happens to me when I have something important to say in Spanish—I forget every word I ever knew. So, instead, we cut the cake and poured lemonade and smiled a lot. I think they all got the message.

"That was a good party!" Peter announced when we finally returned to our little apartment upstairs. "Jorge ate a lot of cake!"

We don't know what they really think of us, the kind people running this family hotel. We wouldn't blame them if they thought we were a little awkward or odd.

But we wanted to try to let them know how much we appreciated finding such a clean, cheerful place to live. We appreciated all the beautiful art being made, the plants being grown, the countless small kindnesses shown to us every day.

"Gracias!" we say again and again. "Thank you."

"De nada," they always reply. "It's nothing."

But, of course, it is everything.

Till next time, Carrie

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

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ELECTION  
May 7, 2022

The Board of Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District has called a maintenance tax election for May 7, 2022 at the District office located at 103 W Wahl St., Crosby, TX 77532 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The purpose of the election is to obtain authorization for a maintenance tax of up to \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value. Over 95% of the utility districts in Harris County have authorized maintenance taxes. These districts use the maintenance tax collections to supplement water and sewer revenues to reduce increases in water and sewer rates. Crosby MUD tax rate has decreased from \$0.57 in 2013 to \$0.47 today, and some of the decrease could have been replaced with a maintenance tax. If approved the Board of Directors of the District does not anticipate levying the full \$0.25 at this time, but something in the range of \$0.05 cents. The maintenance tax is needed because the District is currently operating at a deficit in its operating account. The District has not raised water and sewer rates in a number of years; however the rate charged by the San Jacinto River Authority for water increases annually. The maintenance tax will supplement payment for purchased water from the San Jacinto River Authority, as well as assist in payment for maintenance and repair for certain facilities within the District. The Crosby MUD Board, all of whom are residents in Crosby MUD who pay the water and sewer rates and the taxes that the residents do, are very mindful of managing the District's operations in a conservative manner. Early voting is at 103 W Wahl St., Crosby, TX 77532 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, beginning April 25, 2022 through May 3, 2022, on each day which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or an official State holiday. For more information, please see the District's website at [www.crosbymud.org](http://www.crosbymud.org) or call 281-328-4242. We strongly encourage you to vote at the election.

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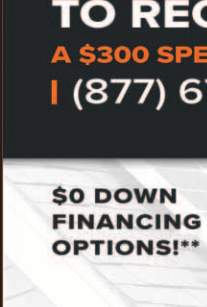
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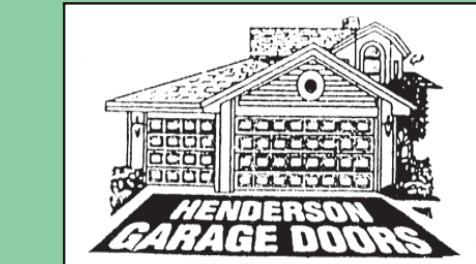
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## ***Waste Pits delay ,***

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jacinto City's Mayor Ana Diaz said, "In behalf of the citizens I want to thank Congresswoman Garcia for helping secure the funds we need to make improvements to improve the quality of life we need and deserve. It's good to see our citizens federal tax dollars come back from Washington to be used in their city."

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Purchases that do not qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves and camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

In reply to the letter from the Responsible parties, the EPA's Region 6 Regional Administrator Earthea Nance, sent a letter in response, stating that EPA would not grant a schedule extension, and that 90% Remedial Designs were still due on June 26. However, she did say that after submission, the parties could work on any modifications that might be required.



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# Two die in another train/car collision

Vehicle drove around crossing gates

HARRIS COUNTY – Two people died after a train reportedly slammed into a car in northeast Harris County Saturday evening.

According to officials from the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the crash occurred in the 12900 block of Beaumont Highway and Van Hut Lane around 8 p.m.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in a news conference that a Chrysler 300 attempted to cut around the railroad crossing arms, when an Amtrak passenger train collided with the vehicle.

The vehicle was then engulfed in flames, according to Gonzalez.

Deputies said two people were ejected from the vehicle. Both died at the scene.

Witnesses told deputies that the arms were down at the time of the crash, and the vehicle tried to beat the train.



Amtrak passenger train stopped on tracks near Old Beaumont Highway and Van Hut Lane, Saturday night after hitting a car attempting to cross the tracks. Despite damage to the engine, the train later continued westbound to Los Angeles.

The Amtrak train had three cars and 81 passengers. The train had minor damage in the front, according to Sheriff Gonzalez.

No injuries were reported to any of the passengers or crew members onboard.

Amtrak issued the following statement:

“On April 16, Amtrak train 1 was traveling from New Orleans to Los Angeles when an occupied vehicle obstructing the track came into contact with the train about 12 miles from Houston Station. There have been no reported injuries to the 81 passengers or crew onboard. Amtrak is working with local law enforcement to investigate the incident.”

## GP/JC ROTARY AUCTIONS CAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ident Elect Julien Guillor, Secretary Zachary Fade, Treasurer Jennifer Ledwith, International Service Maria Cortez-Ochoa, The Rotary Foundation & Public Relations Eileen Brightwell, Membership Juan Flores and Immediate Past President Juan Flores.

Baking cakes to be auctioned were GPISD Trustees, Superintendent Dr. John Moore, elected state officials, judges, teachers, administrative staffs of GPISD schools, Rotary Officers and members all pitched in and contributed to the auction's success.

Galena Park High School's Culinary Arts Class students under the direction of Chef Lester Charles and Chef Marie Martinez helped bake and show the cakes, they are: Adriana Garibay, Brennan Martin, Jacqueline Piedra, Ayana Oviedo, Samantha



Upper extreme left Chef Lester Charles & extreme upper right Chef Marie Martinez with GPISD Culinary Arts Class students. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

Roberts, Gabriella Munoz, Priscilla Guevara, Abigail Fajardo, Jacqueline Hernandez, Alexis Pena Lujano, Maria Barajas, Joselyn Maldonado Cedillo, Yulinana Trevino, Zaira Villegas Vierya, Andrea Rodriguez, Jasmine Faulkner, Adriana Ramirez, Estefani Moreno Hernandez, Giselle Flores, Lizbeth Rojo and Jacob Johnson. Allanj211@aol.com



CAPITAL BANK cake buyers include Doris Medrano, Al Gutierrez, Rotarian Maria Cortez-Ochoa, Melissa Mohr, and Robert Lunde.



GPISD students with auction winner Principal Ramirez & Special GP cake. L - R: Adriana Ramirez, GP Middle School Principal Lee Ramirez & Jacob Johnson (Photo By Allan Jamail)



\$300 high bidder GP Middle School Principal Lee Ramirez & Gladys Gutierrez cake baker & assistant principal secretary. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

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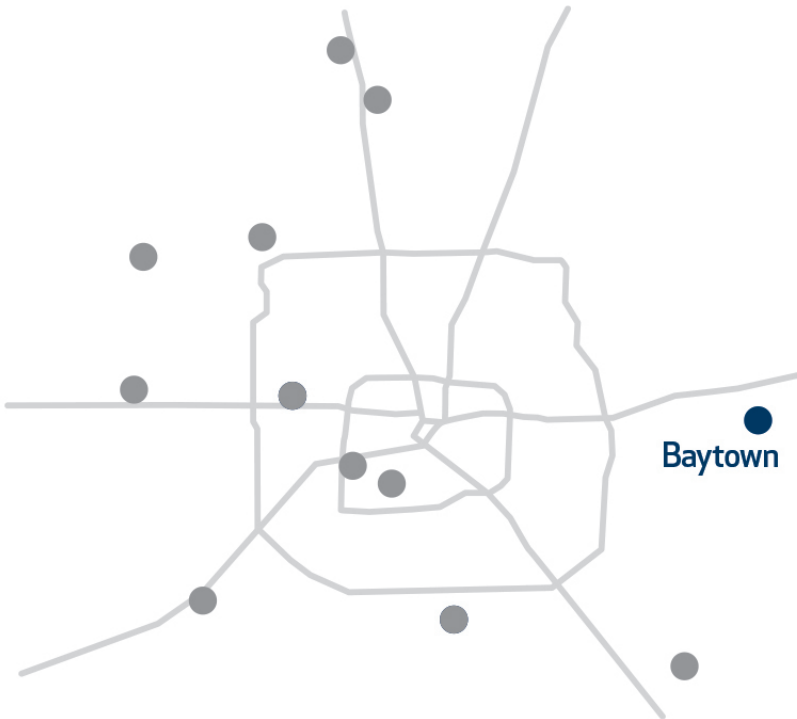
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