

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 10, NO. 17 (#417) THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022 www.northchannelstar.com

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.

Jacinto City Nite Market May 14

Monthly Market by Night at the Jacinto City Town Center. Saturday, May 14th, 5pm - 9pm.

Vendors should Contact City Hall for information and an application for a booth.

NS Mustang's Championship Dynasty Banquet

By Allan Jamail

April 7, 2022 – Houston, Texas at the Bayou City Center some 20 miles away from the Eastside Boys home turf the GPISD's Championship Mustang football team was given an awesome celebration banquet. Over a thousand family members and fans attended to witness a recap video titled, The Eastside Dynasty of the teams 3rd state championship title in 4 years.

On December 18, 2021 the North Shore Mustangs beat the Duncanville Panthers 17 -10 in a thriller to capture UIL, 6A Div. 1 Texas high school football state championship in front of 43,000 plus spectators. The game was a

brutal defensive struggle; Head Coach Kay called it a "slugfest", rightly so. Only 3 touchdowns were made and a pair of field goals.

At the banquet Superintendent Dr. John Moore welcomed everyone followed by graduating senior Kris Ross' invocation. North Shore's Senior High School AF JROTC presented the colors prior to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Terri Moore, Associate Superintendent kept the program's agenda moving orderly, she introduced the Special Guests and gave the following points of information about the team's season. She said, "Now, you all may know the season officially started on January 11, 2021. That's a

total of 337 days devoted to making this championship dream come true.

During that time our champions have had:

- 71 offseason workouts
- 18 spring practices
- 30 summer speed & strength workouts

- 112 days of practice
- And played 16 varsity games (and 42 sub-varsity games)

During the season, the varsity team also

- Traveled 1,372 miles by bus

- Logged 2,274 total snaps (897 offense, 917 on defense, 460 special teams)

In their four years, this senior class (the class of 2022)- the varsity football

Continued. See Dynasty Banquet, Page 7



The display on the giant screen at the Bayou City Center where the North Shore Mustangs celebrated their State Football Championship title banquet. Photo by Allan Jamail



North Shore Head Coach Jon Kay delivers his remarks to the thousand plus attendees at the Mustangs championship banquet. Photo by Allan Jamail

EARLY VOTING STARTS APRIL 25; ELECTION DAY IS MAY 7

Ballot Issues: Two Constitutional Amendments;
Galena Park Mayor; Sheldon Bond Issue

HARRIS COUNTY – The Municipal and Local primary election will take place on Saturday, May 7 with a low voter turnout expected by authorities. No major candidates are on the ballot, only two state constitutional amendments and a number of bond issues for local districts, and local candidates.

In the North Channel area, voters will decide on a new mayor for Galena Park, and a major bond issue for Sheldon ISD.

In the Sheldon area, due to explosive population growth, the school district is asking voters to approve 3 bond issues, totalling \$736 million, for new schools, buses, a multi-purpose arena, and a natatorium.

Early voting will start on Monday, April 25 and continue through May 3. Hours in general are M-S 7am - 7pm, Sun 12pm - 7pm. Hours on Election Day are 7am - 7pm.

Since the main issues on the ballot have to do with two Constitutional Amendments that may lower your taxes, State Senator Paul Bettencourt has issue the following analysis (edited) to aid all voters:

Continued. See EARLY VOTING, Page 3

GALENA PARK MAYORAL CANDIDATES



ESMERALDA MOYA Incumbent MARICELA SERNA Not Pictured: Mark Groba

GALENA PARK MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATES:

MAYOR

- Esmeralda Moya
- Mark Groba

- Maricela Serna

POSITION #1 - WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONER

- Zenaida Granados

- Maria Barraza

POSITION #2 - POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONER

- Cecilio Almazan

- Jorge Rodriguez

POSITION #3 - PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER

- Veronica Garcia

- Martha Cantu Perez

POSITION #4 - STREETS AND BRIDGES COMMISSIONER

- Hilda Barrientos

- Rosemary Reed Coreathers

POLLING LOCATIONS:

EARLY VOTING, 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park (City Hall)

ELECTION DAY:

Precinct 208, 857, 860: 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park

Precinct 81: 1302 Keene Street, Galena Park

VOTING TIMES, GENERAL ELECTION May 7: 7am to 7pm

VOTING TIMES, EARLY VOTING:

April 25-26 (Mon-Tues) 7am to 7pm

April 27-29 (Wed-Fri) 8am to 5pm

May 2-3 (Mon-Tues) 8am to 5pm

Rotary
Club of North Shore

Rotary
Club of North Shore

47th Annual
Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil
Saturday May 14th 11:00am-3:00pm

Only \$100.00 per ticket includes 2 meals

Food Tickets \$15.00 per ticket

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE
2022 TOYOTA TACOMA SR OR TOYOTA CAMRY SE
NOTE: Photo may not represent exact vehicle or selected equipment

ADDITIONAL PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN

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SouthTrust Bank
TruMed Pharmacy
United Community Credit Union
Wendel D Ley YMCA
Woodforest National Bank

14350 Wallisville Rd
(Behind the Courthouse)
Serving from 11:00 am-3:00pm

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Galena Park ISD LOTC hosted a district-wide competition for all middle school campuses

The Galena Park ISD LOTC program, under the leadership of Darrow Adams, coordinator for military science, hosted a district-wide competition for all middle school campuses. The cadets competed in several events to showcase the talents and skills they have been working on this school year. The categories of each inspection consisted of command voice, uniform cleanliness, bearing, appearance and knowledge of state and federal leaders. The regulations consisted of drill movements, ruffle movements and flag etiquette while marching. During the exhibitions, campuses had the autonomy to craft their own performances, and during the cadet challenge, cadets ran a 200-yard relay that totaled a mile in distance.

Armed Inspection- 1st place: North Shore Middle School; 2nd place: Cunningham Middle School; 3rd place: Galena Park Middle School

Unarmed Inspection- 1st place: Cunningham Middle School; 2nd place: North Shore Middle School; 3rd place: Woodland Acres Middle School

Color Guard Inspection- 1st place: North Shore Middle School; 2nd place: Cobb Sixth Grade Campus; 3rd place: Galena Park Middle School

Armed Drill Regulation- 1st place: North Shore Middle School; 2nd place: Galena Park Middle School; 3rd place: Cunningham Middle School.

Unarmed Drill Regulation- 1st place: Cunningham Middle School; 2nd place: North Shore Middle School; 3rd place: Galena Park Middle School.

Color Guard Drill Regulation- 1st place: Cunningham Middle School; 2nd place: Galena Park Middle School; 3rd place: North Shore Middle School.

Armed Exhibition- 1st place: North Shore Middle School; 2nd place: Galena Park Middle School; 3rd place: Cunningham Middle School.

Unarmed Exhibition- 1st place: Galena Park Middle School; 2nd place: North Shore Middle School; 3rd place: Cunningham Middle School.

Tug-of-War- 1st place: North Shore Middle School; 2nd place: Cunningham Middle School; 3rd place: Woodland Acres Middle School.

Cadet Challenge- 1st place: North Shore Middle School; 2nd place: Cobb Sixth Grade Campus; 3rd place: - Galena Park Middle School.

Overall District Champions: North Shore Middle School and Runner-up: Galena Park Middle School.

All campus' leaders and cadets showed dignity and hard work in their outstanding performances for a job well done. A special congratulations to the North Shore Middle School cadets, under the leadership of Ssg. Valerie Williams, for a stellar performance. The entire competition was truly a highlight of the esteemed pride and spirit of GPISD.

On March 9, eight King High School seniors passed the Unmanned Pilot's License test. This test is an official TEA Recognized CTE Certification for Drones Pilots. With this license, students become official FAA pilots and have the ability to fly drones commercially and increase their income producing capacity tremendously.

Enrique Alvarez Jr.
Emily Ordonez
Julieanna Cantu
Jaden Cormier
Devin Barrow
Jeremy Solorzano
Christian Martinez
Eduardo Aquirre II

Nine more students will test on Saturday, April 30.



Sheldon ISD held its annual AVID Reader Contest on March 11. The contest is designed to foster the love of literacy, while challenging students to think critically to answer the question about the book. Students are responsible for reading 30 award winning books. This year's contest featured students in kindergarten through third grade, with more than 160 students participating. Congratulations to Sheldon Early Childhood Academy, the district Kindergarten Champion and two-time defending Elementary Champion Garrett Elementary.

C.E. King High School Senior STEM Academy student Belynn Sosa is the surprise recipient of the WorldStride Scholarship totalling approximately \$14,500. A group of administrators, teachers and advisors gave her the news on Thursday, April 14. The WorldStride Scholarship offers the opportunity for graduates who have a strong desire to make a change in the world to take a gap year to be immersed in new cultures by traveling overseas and visiting numerous countries.

Belynn has devoted hours of hard work and showed determination inside the classroom both at C.E. King High School and San Jacinto College. She will begin her journey with a week-long orientation in Rome, Italy and then choose a personal path to travel to three more countries in 13 weeks. These students will be immersed in the other cultures and help create sustainable solutions to real-world problems. While on this journey she will experience the perfect mix of classes, community engagement, and hands-on experiences.



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/



Channelview ISD Welcomes New Assistant Superintendent of School Leadership

April 19, 2022—Channelview ISD district leaders have selected Mr. Michael Houston as the new Assistant Superintendent of School Leadership.

Mr. Houston has been in education for 16 years. He received his bachelors' degree in mathematics education from Tuskegee University in 2004 graduating Magna Cum Laude. After graduating, he immediately moved to the Houston area to begin pursuing a masters' degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of Houston Clear Lake, where he would later earn two Master of Science degrees. Houston comes to Channelview from Clear Creek ISD where he has served as a principal for 10 years, most recently as a principal at Clear Springs High School.

He currently serves as a Principal Advocacy Fellow, Charles Butt Scholar Mentor, and an Alumni Regional Director for Raise Your Hand Texas. Along with his passion to support the education of others, he is also currently pursuing an Educational Leadership Doctorate degree at Baylor University and wants to continue to positively impact lives through education.

"I have a relentless passion for helping all students, teachers, and families be successful; especially those who have had less than desirable previous educational experiences," said Mr. Houston.

[illegible]

Early Voting starts April 25; Election Day May 7

Ballot Issues: Two Amendments; Galena Park Mayor; Sheldon Bond Issue

On Propositions 1 & 2:

The public is to vote on Senator Bettencourt's Constitutional Amendments Proposition 1 and 2 on May 7, 2022.

Many voters have been finding the ballot language confusing, and I want to clarify what these amendments actually do. Homeowners over the age of 65 will see their freeze values for school taxes actually decline, aka, ISD property tax bills if Proposition 1 passes! Also if passed, Proposition 2 will lower independent school district property tax bills by increasing the homestead

exemption that will save money for the 5.67 million homesteads in the State of Texas.

Below are some plain language talking points to answer many of the frequently asked questions.**Proposition 1 will benefit individuals with an over 65 or disabled exemption on their homestead.**

- If an individual has an over 65/disabled exemption on their home and this proposition passes, they will receive a reduction on school district property taxes.
- HB 3 from the 86th Legislature compressed

school maintenance and operation tax rates across the board except for over 65/disabled because their rate was already lower than the new compressed rate for everyone else.

- This amendment will provide for the same percentage reduction in an individual's school district tax rate that everyone else received in 2019.
- There are 1.8 million over 65 exemptions and 180,000 disabled exemptions, on average these households will see a \$110 reduction the first year and \$125 reduction in the second year; the reduction will continue to grow each

year.

- If there is additional school M&O tax rate compression provided by HB 3 in the future, individuals with an over 65/disabled exemption will receive the same percentage tax rate deduction automatically if this amendment passes.
- This amendment will become effective as of January 1, 2023, if it passes.

Proposition 2 will increase the homestead exemption by \$15,000.

- If this amendment passes the state homestead exemption for school district taxable value purposes will increase from

\$25,000 to \$40,000.

- On average, the 5.67 million homesteads in Texas will see a \$175 savings in their school district tax bill at the current average statewide school property tax rate.
- This amendment will be effective as of January 1, 2022, if it passes, so homeowners will see the savings when they receive their property tax bill this fall.
- This exemption increase is a permanent and ongoing benefit to homeowners.

If one or both of these amendments passes, no

school district will lose any revenue they are entitled to receive from the school funding formulas. State dollars will replace any local dollars that a school district would otherwise lose from the passage of these amendments.

The following is a link to our original press release with more information:

<https://paulbettencourt.com/2022/04/07/public-to-vote-on-senator-bettencourts-constitutional-amendments-from-sjr-2-on-may-7-2022/>

-Senator Paul Bettencourt-SD7

Sheldon ISD trustees call for May 2022 bond election to provide for student enrollment growth

At the January 18 school board meeting, Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to call a May bond election to provide for buildings, renovations, technology and security upgrades and more.

"We have closely monitored the growth over the past two years and continue to experience an influx in student enrollment that totals 300-500 students annually," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. King Davis. "Since the last election in 2016, we have added an additional 2,100 students which is a 20% increase to enrollment."

The total amount of the bond referendum is \$736,570,000 with the majority of the funds allocated toward the construction of new campuses, expansions and renovations to existing

campuses as well as security and technology enhancements. Other portions of the bond include a new multi-purpose community center and a natatorium to be used by the community and district.

Sheldon ISD trustees called for a bond election in 2020 but that bond election was canceled due to school closures from the pandemic. While many Texas school districts experienced a decline in student enrollment, that was not the case for Sheldon ISD who continues to increase by roughly 4%.

"I am very appreciative of our board's thoughtful, proactive approach to address our increasing enrollment," Dr. Davis said. "The board has used feedback the district has received through surveys as well as town hall meetings."

The bond focuses on three propositions. In 2019, the Texas legislature passed a new law that requires certain projects like building construction and athletic facilities like a natatorium to be separated into different propositions on the ballot. Because of this, Sheldon ISD voters will see three propositions to vote on individually on the ballot. Residents may vote on all three propositions.

Proposition A, \$430,670,000 - educational facilities such as a new ninth and tenth grade center adjacent to the current King High School, classroom expansions at both Cravens Early Childhood Academy and Michael R. Null Middle School, security upgrades, technology enhancements as well as

additional interior and exterior renovations throughout the district. Eventually, the bond would allow for a third middle school as well as a third early childhood academy and seventh elementary school.

Proposition B, \$272,000,000 - multipurpose community center to be used for large-scale events district wide as well as for the community's purpose (examples include emergency response or facility rentals with potential to earn the district revenue)

Proposition C, \$33,900,000 - natatorium, featuring an eight-lane competition swimming pool to provide for a competitive swim team at district schools as well as opportunities for students to take swimming lessons and

adults to use recreationally or for adult education.

If voters were to approve the 2022 bond, the maximum increase for the district's Interest and Sinking (I&S) rate would be 4 cents per \$100 assessed value for the entire life of the bond. For example, a homeowner's residence valued at \$150,000 (taxable value) would see a \$4.17 per month increase. Sheldon ISD residents age 65 or over will not see an increase in their tax rate if they have applied for an Over 65 tax exemption.

Please follow information about the bond election on the district's website at www.sheldonisd.com/bond2022/. A calendar of informational meetings will be available soon as well as information about polling locations for the May election.

Pilot Club Scholarships Available

San Jacinto Pilot Club

Scholarship applications are now being accepted. Graduating seniors from Channelview High School, Crosby High School, C. E. King High School, Galena Park High School and North Shore Senior High School are eligible to apply.

Applications are due by May 1, 2022. Check out our website at www.SanJacintoPilot.com or contact Julie Fallin directly for an application. email: jujuofjjjf@aol.com.

Former recipients are eligible to apply for a returning scholarship.

22-23
Registration

Barrett-Lee
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
HOME OF THE BLUE JAYS

Tuesday, May 3

9 AM - 11 AM & 1 PM - 3 PM

Wednesday, May 4

9 AM - 11 AM & 1 PM - 3 PM

Thursday, May 5

1 PM - 5 PM

Start Collecting your
Required Documents!

• Birth Certificate

• Parent ID

• Social Security Card

• Proof of Address (Utility Bill {Water, Electricity or Gas} or Lease Contract)

• Updated Shot Record

• Proof of Income (1 Month Paycheck Stubs or SNAP/Medicaid Eligibility Letter {Showing Benefits & Dates})

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Please go to the registration table when you arrive. Register, get your bidder card & be placed in the drawing for a FREE lot at the end of the auction. See you there!

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Happy Mother's Day

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OPINION

By Chris Hollins

Candidate for Houston Mayor

The question whether to legalize Marijuana

Thousands of people in Houston, disproportionately from Black and Brown communities, have had their lives upended due to the criminalization of marijuana. The criminalization of marijuana has led to arrests, convictions, and jail time. All of these make it harder for people to find housing, secure employment, or receive financial assistance for education and trade programs.

Put simply, these prohibitions are not making our city safer and are only serving to prevent many across our community from earning a good and honest living. 39 states have taken steps to decriminalize marijuana. It's time that Texas takes that same step so that we end this ongoing injustice and prioritize law enforcement resources in the fight against violent crime.

I need you to join me in telling the State of Texas to completely decriminalize marijuana, like so many other states have.

That's why I'm asking you to sign and share our petition calling on the Texas legislature to pass a statewide legalization measure in their next legislative session.

Add Your Name

Thank you for being a part of this fight.

Always Forward,

Chris Hollins

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 GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



The new fishing rod

It was just one of those things. It didn't really mean Marvin Pincus had lost his mind. Consider this yourself for a minute. Marvin had opened the mail that morning and in it was the Fenwick glass fly rod he'd ordered. Oh, it was used, of course. But there's a feel to a Fenwick that only a man dedicated to a life of using dry flies can appreciate.

Marvin had broken his ankle the previous week and was temporarily in a wheelchair. It was his right ankle, so he couldn't drive down to the creek. And there, in his hands, was the Fenwick. He put it together, attached a reel and some four-weight line and set it on the couch and looked at it.

Marjorie was off visiting her sister, so she couldn't help him. But there's a pull, an irresistible draw to a fly rod. He had to cast it. Now.

It took Marvin about 20 minutes to negotiate the front steps with that wheelchair and the Fenwick. Finally, he negotiated the sidewalk and then the edge of the street itself.

Up came the Fenwick. A few swishes in the air told Marvin he'd done the right thing in ordering the rod. So he ran out some line and began casting. About halfway across the street was a large mulberry leaf. He did a double haul on the line and sent the fly toward the leaf. It took several tries before he hit it, but when he made that cast, you could've sold tickets to it. His fly came to rest about three feet above the leaf and then fluttered gently down onto its target. Marvin's smile said it all.

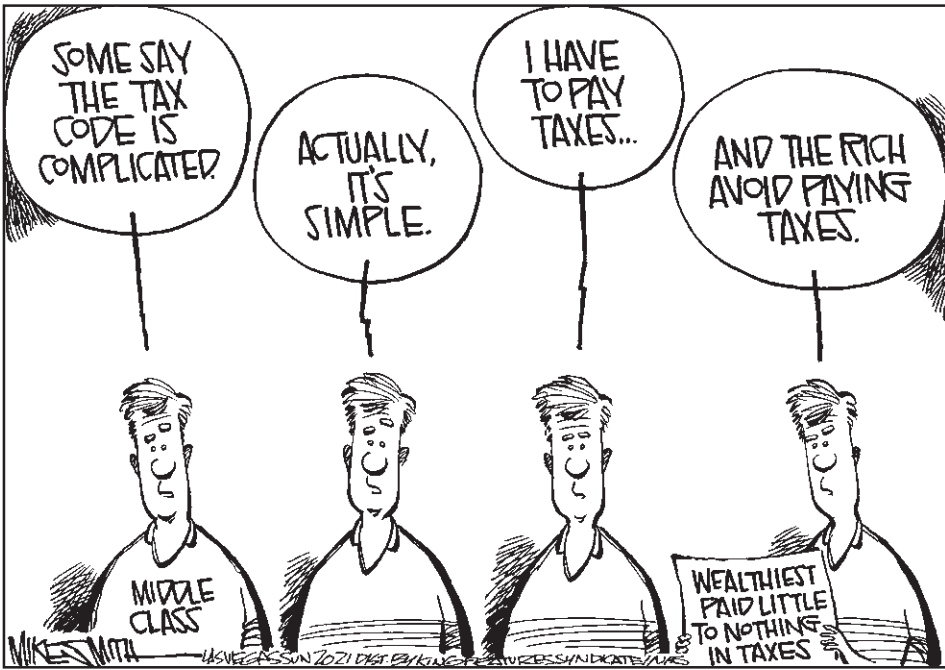
Then the school bus came around the corner full of kids heading home, and Marvin realized he was casting a fly rod from a wheelchair onto dry pavement.

"Hi Mr. Pincus!" yelled one of the kids. "Catch anything?"

"A little slow today, Billy," he yelled back. "Isn't it hard to catch fish without water?" Billy yelled.

"It's okay, son," Marvin said with a grin. "I'm using a dry fly!"

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Abbott Halts Border Truck Inspections

Gov. Greg Abbott halted the state's aggressive truck inspection at all Texas border crossings after days of bipartisan criticism over the extended delays of goods entering the United States.

According to the San Antonio Express-News and other media outlets, for more than a week Abbott had troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety stop all commercial trucks passing through Texas ports for safety inspections, leading to waits of up to eight hours. Normally it takes less than 30 minutes for trucks to cross the border.

Abbott announced on Friday the inspections would end after he signed deals with the governors of the four Mexican states that border Texas to provide better security in an attempt to slow illegal immigration into Texas. He was criticized by the Texas Trucking Association and fellow Republicans, including Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller.

"I understand the concern that businesses have about trying to move products across the bridge, but I also know the anger Texans face and have that's caused by Joe Biden not securing the border," Abbott said Friday.

Democrat Beto O'Rourke, who faces the governor in November, slammed Abbott, calling the inspections a "publicity stunt."

"This was completely unnecessary and did absolutely nothing to improve the security and safety of El Paso, of Laredo, of Pharr, or anyone of our border communities of the state of Texas or of the United States of America," O'Rourke said.

Meanwhile, at least five busloads of migrants were sent to Washington, D.C. at Abbott's behest. Those migrants had already been processed and released by the Department of Homeland Security and volunteered to make the trip to the nation's capital.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS COVER MOST OF STATE

A drier and cooler March for much of the state has expanded drought conditions, which now cover 88% of the



state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. The drought is most severe in the Panhandle, High Plains and South Texas. Few counties have escaped the dry conditions.

The drought is expected to expand and intensify over the next few months, according to the latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service. Thanks to a Pacific Ocean weather cycle called La Niña, drought is predicted for almost the entire state by the end of June, according to Wentzel.

AGENCY WARNS AGAINST FRAUDULENT ONLINE BANK

Consumers are urged to be aware of a fraudulent website claiming to offer online banking services. The website claims to belong to Palm Springs Bank or PalmSpring Bank, according to the Texas Department of Banking. The fake bank's website does not indicate a physical address but does list a post office box in Fort Worth as a mailing address.

"The website is not associated with any known bank. No bank doing business under the name Palm Springs Bank or PalmSpring Bank has been authorized to provide banking services in Texas, nor is any bank by either name supervised by the Department, the FDIC, or the Federal Reserve," the news release said.

Anyone with information about the purported bank or its website should contact the Department's Consumer Assistance Activities at consumer.complaints@dab.texas.gov or call 877-276-5554.

NORTHEAST☆NEWS

5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057
(713) 266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188
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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

A Very Bad Smell

Of course, we should have known something was wrong.

The nice thing about living in our new condo is that we don't have the responsibilities of a stand-alone home. There is no yard to rake, no snow to shovel. There is someone at the front desk who will take in our mail and even water our plants. We were so pleased that we could leave for an extended trip to Mexico without these worries. But then, we got a notice from our electric company that indicated our electric bill was very low. In fact, it was almost non-existent.

"Well, we're not using any electricity!" I said to my husband, Peter, as he read the notice.

"The refrigerator would still use some," Peter said.

"There must be something wrong with the meter." I try not to invite unnecessary worries. Sometimes this leads to problems. This time, it did.

We were gone a total of 10 weeks. We don't know exactly when the power went out to the refrigerator, but our best guess is that is happened shortly after we left.

We arrived home late at night. "Something smells funny," I told Peter.

"I don't smell anything." I did. There was a very bad smell. That's when Peter opened the fridge.

"Oh, NO!"

A giant, noxious wave of smell rolled out of the refrigerator. It was strong enough to make me ill, strong enough to make my eyes water, strong enough to make me run out of the kitchen in a panic.

We had frozen salmon and chicken and shrimp in that freezer. We had bags of corn and squash from the farmers' market, boxes of butter now covered in furry mold, bags of leaking liquid that had exploded from fermentation and poured from the freezer into the refrigerator. Sitting forlornly in the middle of this wasteland were several dozen ginger cookies that Peter had spent hours baking.

Peter closed the refrigerator door.

I don't think either of us slept much that night. All night, I dreamed I was being chased by a malevolent refrigerator filled with unidentified horrors. Everywhere I went, the refrigerator was waiting for me.

In the morning, my dreams came true.

Peter told the building engineer, Jacob, what had happened, and he gave us a trash barrel on wheels and several heavy-duty trash bags. I put cotton up my nose and a mask over my face, donned gloves, and set to work. We filled the bags, tied them tightly, and Peter brought them downstairs to poor Jacob, who caught a whiff and wheeled the barrel out of the building as fast as he could run.

"He was like a halfback running to the end zone!" Peter said and I got my first good laugh since leaving Mexico.

Four hours later, after detergent and bleach and what felt like endless scrubbing, the fridge looked spotless. I took off my mask and removed the cotton from my nose.

The stench was terrible.

We ran a fan all night. We bought some spray that smelled like lime and sprayed it everywhere. We kept the windows open. That evening, Peter put some beans in water to soak, and we went to bed—thankfully, at the far end of the apartment.

In the morning, Peter got up and started cooking beans and, when I rounded the corner to the kitchen, finally, I smelled something that wasn't terrible.

"It smells like beans!" I told Peter.

I wasn't even sure I liked the smell of beans cooking. But this morning, they smelled terrific. In fact, I think beans are my new favorite smell.

Till next time,
Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: CarrieClasson.com.

WORDS OF WISDOM

from the Editor:

"I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one."

--Mark Twain

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Good Neighbors

Good neighbors notice when a yard is no longer perfectly manicured. They notice when the car has not moved in a few days. They even open the curbside mailbox and notice stacks of mail. Last summer, there were some good neighbors in our community that contacted me and asked me to stop by one Sunday afternoon.

Within a few minutes of seeing the burglar bars surrounding the front porch, I realized that we needed a broom handle or something to be able to reach through the bars and tap the door. The neighbors who called started telling me the history of the home. There had been an older couple who lived here and kept the yard perfectly manicured. The father passed away in 2014. As we continued to knock on the door, we eventually heard a dog barking.

One of the ladies shared that she thought the dog was a Pit Bull. The dog served as an emotional support animal. After the father died, the mother struggled with a broken heart but fortunately she had her children and grandchildren. In July of 2019 she passed away and her daughter moved into the house. The daughter was single, had some medical issues and was primarily a loner. She was grieving the loss of her parents. Storm was her constant companion.

After what had been 30 minutes or so, Ms. Lisa opened the door. She apologized for it taking so long to get to the door. She explained that due to her health, it was hard to get up and get to the door. She was in tears. These tears were not of shame or sadness. She was overcome with happiness in just knowing that the neighbors were concerned about her. Once I explained the program that I oversee makes phone calls to senior adults as well as disabled individual, she had more tears. She asked “So, you will call me weekly just to see if I am, okay?”

From that Sunday on, Ms. Lisa became a friend. She confided in me when she had a need. She shared about how depressed she was without her parents. She shared that she had a brother who was a Veteran. He was a father. He was able to work and provide for his family. She was sad that she was not physically able to work anymore. I encouraged her to reach out and call her brother. She was a private person and did not want him knowing too much about her present situation.

She ended up in the hospital several weeks ago. She called me to ask who could help by going into her home and feeding Storm. After several phone calls, the best solution was to have a Deputy meet Harris County Animal Control and have them pick up the dog until she is out of the hospital. Sadly, they would only keep the dog for 6 days. Ms. Lisa was devastated. She was determined to get out of the hospital. She told me that one of the neighbors knew how to get in the house and she would just have to pray they would do it. I found the neighbor who shared that she had the brother's phone number. She reached out and he came to house to take care of the dog. He was also determined to take care of his sister.

Flash forward to last Saturday. Two of those good neighbors called me when they saw an ambulance and several Sheriff cars in the driveway. They had walked over, and the brother was there with his family. He had cam over to check on his sister and found her dead. After introductions, we waited for the Medical Examiner and talked about my journey of getting to know Ms. Lisa. As hard as it was on all of us, we agreed that she was in a better place now. And we were too. We may have never before that night, but we will now be good neighbors.

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LETTERS To The Editor

M&M-Moments and Memories

To Whom it May Concern:

Invitation to honor widows living in the East Harris County region to provide a place for fellowship and to recognize that they are not alone. Also, to encourage, empower and enrich Widows that we are still here for purpose. Get on just doing that! Whether it's young or old. The theme of the luncheon was “Taco ‘bout you”. The mood remain upbeat. The group of a few ladies from all walks of life attended.

A welcome, prayer, photo booth, icebreaker games, break out groups, sharing their stories, giveaways, sweet treats and a choice of a Crispy Taco Dinner, Enchilada Dinner or Taco Salad for lunch. Plus an unforgettable Tres Leche Cake from El Bollilo Bakery in Houston. Each individual guest received a swag bag of love. Along with random door prizes and extra love from the M&M team.

M&M- Moments and Memories is a community project that was birth after losing my Mom in March and Young Husband in April of 2018. I decided to not go through the grieving journey hopelessly but with the love and peace of mind. As well as doing random acts of kindness for individuals or families to aid me into thriving in my grief. I gave from flowers, gift cards, sympathy packages, scholarship funds to homeless food to whatever God tells me from inside. Funding comes from individual donations, Leadership Square and Personal funds.

In 2021, I then was randomly chosen to participate in East Harris County Empowerment Council Leadership Square to study community leadership and be in a pilot program virtually for 6 weeks. I graduated using the tools and resources that was given to me during the courses. Learning to give back right in your community using the bad, good and ugly to help someone else. From a community project to now a small business (Apea Studio-M&M).

We serve online FB, Instagram & Tweet followers as a support system for those grieving. We post encouraging quotes, scriptures, pictures or events. As well as give sympathy cards and encouraging cards with small love tokens after or before a loved ones death or hard time issue. The request comes in from DM's or word of mouth. In the future, we hope to do yearly luncheons, day retreats or events to encourage individuals or families to move forth in their life journey.

M&M-Moments and Memories is so, excited to be serving the East Harris County residents that really need in the time of grief. By allowing us to be a blessing by doing random acts of kindness. To promote love, peace, community & thrive regardless of life giving you lemons you learn to squeeze.

Founder/Owner: Apryl Malveaux Erwin & Family, Email apeastudio@gmail.com or momentandsmemories2019@gmail.com follow us: FB, Instagram & Tweet

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. 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.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: Is the precious metal silver a good investment?



Yes! And here's why:

Silver, like other precious metals, may be used as an investment. For more than four thousand years, silver has been regarded as a form of money and store of value. However, since the end of the silver standard, silver has lost its role as a legal tender in all developed countries, although some countries mint bullion and collector coins like the American Silver Eagle with nominal face values.

Millions of Canadian Silver Maple Leaf coins and American Silver Eagle are purchased as investments each year. The Silver Maple Leaf is legal tender at \$5 per ounce and there are many other silver coins with higher legal tender values, including \$20 Canadian silver coins. Silver is legal tender in the U.S. state of Utah, and can be used to pay all debts.

Like most commodities, the price of silver is driven by speculation and supply and demand. Compared to gold, the silver price is notoriously volatile. This is because of lower market liquidity, and demand fluctuations between industrial and store of value uses. At times this can cause wide ranging valuations in the market, creating volatility.

Silver often tracks the gold price due to store of value demands, although the ratio can vary. The crustal ratio of silver to gold is 17.5:1. The gold/silver price ratio is often analyzed by traders, investors and buyers. In Roman times, the price ratio was set at 12 or 12.5 to 1. In 1792, the gold/silver price ratio was fixed by law in the United States at 15:1, which meant that one troy ounce of gold was worth 15 troy ounces of silver; a ratio of 15.5:1 was enacted in France in 1803. The average gold/silver price ratio during the 20th century, however, was 47:1.



American Silver Eagle bullion proof coin

Silver coins include the one ounce 99.99% pure Canadian Silver Maple Leaf and the one ounce 9&9.93% pure American Silver Eagle. Coins may be minted as either fine silver or junk silver, the latter being older coins made of 90% silver. U.S. coins 1964 and older (half dollars, dimes, and quarters) are generally accepted to weigh 24.71 grams of silver per dollar of face value, which at their nominal silver content of 90%, translates to 22.239 g of silver per dollar. All U.S. dimes, quarters, halves and 1 dollar pieces contained 90% silver since their introduction up until 1964 when they were discontinued. The combined mintage of these coins by weight exceeds by far the mintages of all other silver investment coins.

All 1965-1970 and one half of the 1975-1976 Bicentennial San Francisco proof and mint set Kennedy half dollars are “clad” in a silver alloy and contain just under one half of the silver in the pre-1965 issues.

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

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RWL Group will assign markets to agents beginning on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.

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NS Mustang's Championship Dynasty Banquet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

team played in 63 games with an overall record of 60-3 with 4 district championships, 4 regional championships and 3 state championships -this is equivalent to more than 6 regular seasons in 4 years. And finally, to fuel this powerhouse of players, they devoured more than 1,980 pregame meals!!”

The banquet meal was delicious, it consisted of a mixed salad with choice of dressings, a variety of fresh baked bread rolls, superb seasoned baked chicken, grilled brussel sprouts, roasted potatoes and finished with a dessert of either strawberry shortcake with a whip cream topping or chocolate cake with a chocolate syrup topping. To wash it all down the tables had pitchers of ice lemonade or water.

NFL Pro Football player Earl Mitchell from the Mustang's Class of 2006 was the Keynote Speaker. Remarks were made by Vivian Dancy, GPISD Athletic Director and Jon Kay, Mustang's Head Football Coach.

Dancy said that it takes an entire village within the school district to create the type of team to be able to win state championships. She said it's a tremendous sacrifice made by lots of people including parents getting their kids to and from practice, coaches being away from their homes 6 to 7 days a week, bus drivers, stadium cleaners and lots of others.

She mentioned parents, fans, teachers, coaches, grounds keepers, trainers, cheerleaders, band members, dance team members, ball boys, custodians, trustee's, administration staff, ticket takers, law enforcement, doctors, ambulance medical staff, video crew, game announcers, athletic office staff and administration, campus police and security department members to name part of her recognition.

Coach Kay echoed much of what Ms. Dancy said, and he also said he was thankful and honored to be able to coach a team in which everyone in the district was on the same page

of winning a state title. He said the district has given him and his teams their unwavering support in so many different areas of the football program that its allowed them to accomplish the winning seasons they've enjoyed. He said even a team in the NFL couldn't of had better planning for our trips to the games this season.

Kay said to the players that he didn't want this championship title to be their most important and greatest accomplishment of success in their life. "Simply let this be a mere step or carrot to make you grow". He said to the parents and family of the players, "help me make sure these athletes do not stop here, don't let them settle for this title as their highest achievement but to reach for bigger and better goals to make more successes in their lives".

Those involved in the winning season were given several memento gifts, a photo album of this season's games played, an engraved award plaque and other mementos of the title run.

Closing remarks were made by Principal Joe Coleman, Ed. D. followed by Mustang's varsity center junior Zach Chavanne giving the Benediction.

Elected officials have made the following statements about the banquet or the team's winning season.

State Representative Ana Hernandez said, "Congratulations North Shore football team for another remarkable year in which all of your work, sacrifice, and effort was rewarded with another State Championship! Go Mustangs!"

"Thank you to all of the Eastside Dynasty stakeholders for putting on such a beautiful banquet honoring not only our amazing student athletes, but all of the support staff, teachers, administrators, coaches, and trainers that helped accomplish the goal of State Champion for our Mustangs!"

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia said, "Congratulations

tions to the North Shore Mustangs on a FIFTH state championship. Your dedication and ferocity on the field is so impressive. Thanks for all the hard work you put in to making Galena Park and the North Channel Community so proud. Special thanks to all your coaches, teachers, parents and guardians for making this success possible. We are all so proud of you! On to number six!"

State Senator Carol Alvarado said, "Congratulations to North Shore High School for winning the Texas 6A High School Football Championship-again! Winning one state title is no small feat but three championships in four years is simply extraordinary! You've made the whole city of Houston proud. Go Mustangs!"

County Commissioner Adrian Garcia said, "North Shore should consider renaming itself to Title Town High School! The Mustangs 4th championship under Head Coach Jon Kay shows how consistently dominant the team has become under his leadership. North Shore's program does an amazing job representing the excellence of Harris County, and we're so lucky to have such a fantastic institution in the Precinct 2 community, that not only is fun to watch but more importantly is helping to build young men to be future leaders. Great job Mustangs!"

Photojournalist Allan Jamail and wife Linda photographer and statistician haven't missed a Mustang game since the early 1990's. They've seen every state championship victory and in more recent past years following the Mustangs they've donated and logged thousands of miles and hours to the district and the NC Star newspaper so fans can keep up with GPISD activities. The Jamail's said it's all been worth it, especially when after the banquet so many players and their parents thanked them for their coverage of the team. Allanj211@aol.com

HEAVY TRAFFIC AROUND LYONDELLBASELL PLANT ON SHELDON ROAD, THRU JUNE

FROM LYONDELLBASELL:

Information about increased workers and traffic at the LyondellBasell Channelview Complex

Courtesy message from Lyondell-Basell Channelview Complex, 2502 Sheldon Road, Channelview, Texas.

The LyondellBasell Channelview Complex has a planned maintenance turnaround and PO/TBA project activities taking place this month through early June, which is increasing the number of workers on site. The Complex turnaround will have an increase of 1,500 workers on site per shift during peak activity. This planned maintenance work includes normal turnaround inspection, cleaning and repairs.

Additionally, there are approximately 1,700 workers on site during the day for the PO/TBA project. The additional manpower for the combined projects will lead to an increase in traffic on Sheldon and Wallisville Roads beginning now until early June.

At the beginning of the turnaround, you may notice flaring activity at the site including a visible flame or a rumbling noise. A flare is a safety device that uses combustion to safely treat and remove excess hydrocarbons. Directing materials to the flare for burn-

ing enables us to safely handle these materials as we prepare the unit to return to normal operations.

We strive to be a good corporate neighbor and wanted to make sure you are informed about the activities taking place at the Channelview Complex and are aware of potential traffic impacts in the area around the site. Please know the safety of our workers and those who live and work near our facilities is our first priority. We apologize for any inconveniences these activities may have on you, our neighbors.

Thank you on behalf of the Lyondell-Basell Channelview Complex.

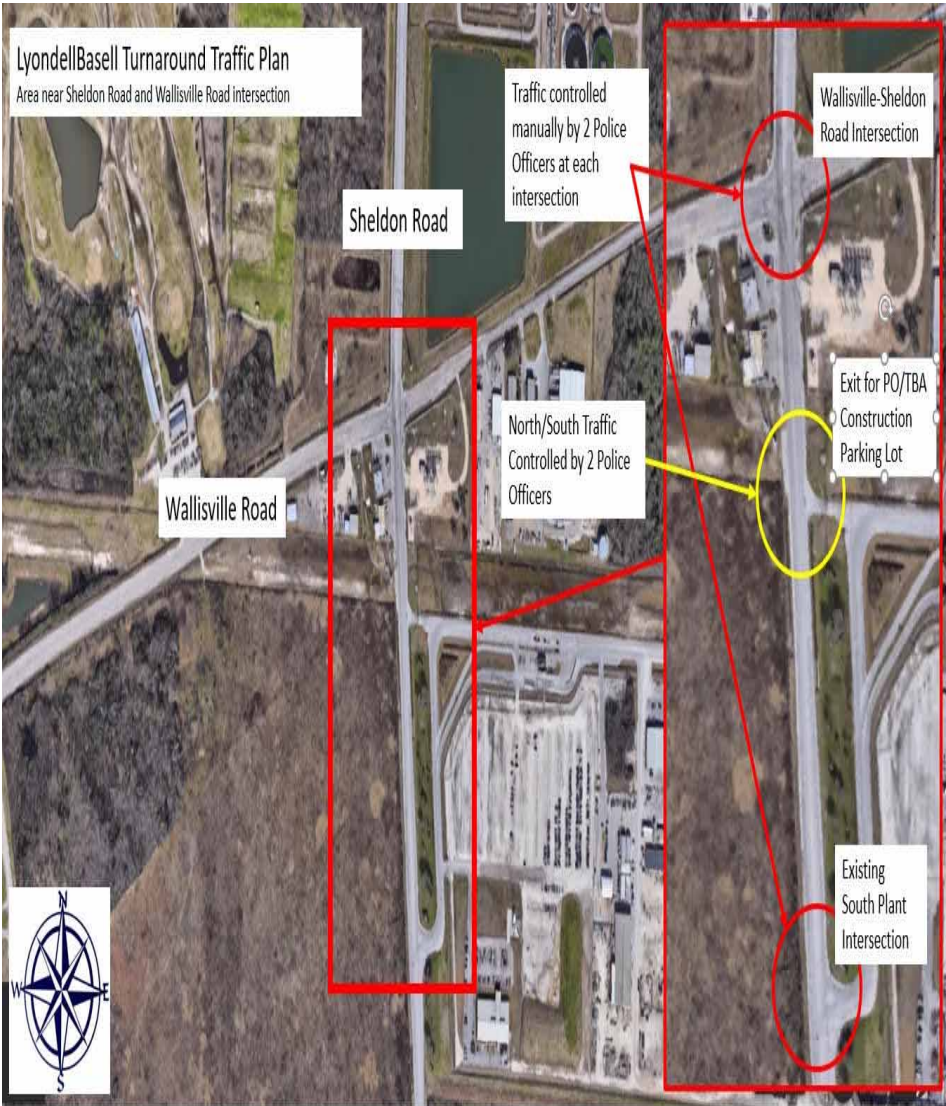
Meredith Matthews
LyondellBasell External Affairs

Expect Traffic Delays:

April – June 2022
4:30 a.m. – 6 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Law enforcement officials will manage traffic during the two shift changes at multiple locations along Sheldon and Wallisville Roads to ease traffic congestion. The officers will be directing traffic every day during the turnaround since the work will be 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Map of Traffic Pattern:



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