

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Memorial Hermanns Life Flight helicopter departs for its home base from Channelview's LyondellBasell plant after the crew gave an explanation of how they safely maintain the six units of blood it carries on board before giving to a patient.

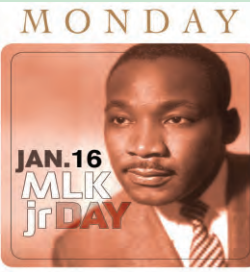
Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 11, NO. 1(#451) THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

IN PHOTO AT RIGHT: Kristen Lee, HC-Prct. 2, Lindsey Klingensmith, Hermann, Anthony Garcia, Life Flight, Destiny Young, Flight Nurse, Rudy Cabrera, Chief Flight Nurse & Manager, Deivi Vigil, CFD, Jason Foster, CFD, Kristopher Henson, CFD, Eric Darnauer, Life Flight, John Talley, Life Flight, LyondellBasell staff: Sam Pavlat, Howard McCarrick, Greg Cannon, Cathey Kelley, Joey Gonsalves & Monica Caudillo, Steve Adams, CFD Assist. Chief EMS, MaryJane Mudd, East Harris County Manufacturers Association, and LyondellBasell staff: Jarrod Burt & Kara Slaughter. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



L-R: LyondellBasell staff present their second \$10,000 donation to Channelview FD for their EMS Blood program. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

## CHANNEL CURRENTS



### NCA Chamber 46th GALA Thursday Jan. 26

North Channel Chamber invites you to their 46th Annual Awards and Installation Gala. Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6:30pm, Sylvan Beach Pavilion. Guest Speaker Gus Dwairy, Entrepreneur and Rancher. \$90 per person. RSVP 713-450-3600.

# Channelview Fire Dept. Launches Emergency Blood Availability

## LyondellBasell, Life Flight team for new program

By Allan Jamail

HOUSTON (December 9, 2022) – The Channelview Fire Department (CFD) at the helipad of the Channelview LyondellBasell complex had their representatives and those of LyondellBasell, and Memorial Hermann Life Flight gather to celebrate their launch of a new pre-hospital Whole Blood Program to address severe blood loss in emergency settings.

According to Jimmy Sumner, CFD's Adminis-

trator, this day was a dream come true for his department. Sumner had told me over a year ago the ability to administer blood in the field to a patient was in the works and how important it would be in saving lives.

According to CFD's EMS Assist. Chief Steve Adams. Before this new program it normally took his EMS crew five minutes to arrive on a scene in Channelview, if a person was bleeding and in need of blood it then took another twenty minutes to get them to a hospital to get blood. In this amount of time lives are lost.

He said then if they called Hermann's Life Flight who carries 6 units

of blood on board, this still is a delay of 20 minutes or more before the person begins getting blood. Again, in this amount of time lives are lost.

As a former Chief of Police I can remember the agony of watching bleeding victims, "bleed-out" and die because there wasn't enough time to get them a blood transfusion. There's nothing worse than watching helplessly as a child bleeds to death," Allan Jamail said.

Chief Adams said "Now with their new ability to arrive with blood on board we can immediately give blood to a patient, reducing the time to more than half." He said two patients lives have already been saved on two separate events with their new ability. The first unit of blood ever given by CFD was given by EMS Supervisor Deivi Vigil, and Paramedics Jason Foster and Kristopher Henson. "All the entities that helped us played a key role in the survival of this critically injured person," Adams said.

According to Lindsey Klingensmith, Memorial Hermann, (who provided article info.) "Fund-

CONTINUED. SEE BLOOD AVAILABILITY, PAGE 5



Steve Adams, CFD Assist. Chief of EMS shows the on-board refrigeration unit on their Blood Mobile. The blood is fresh low titer O+ whole blood. The temperature must be maintained at all times to 2-6 C (35.6 - 42.8 F). The vehicle has a blood warmer that raises the blood temperature to 38 C (100.4 F) in ten seconds before it's given to a patient. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Carolyn Stone

CHANNELVIEW-It is with great sadness that we share with you that a large portion of C.H.I.C.'s Merry Christmas Channelview display on the Sheldon Rd. medians were stolen Christmas morning. Most of the decorations on the median directly in front of Jack-In-The-Box in the 500 block of Sheldon Rd. were stolen, all that remains behind is the two Christmas trees and a couple of presents. Truly a Grinch crime! The Grinch(es) stole the decorations between 8:30 and 10:00 AM Christmas morning. At 8:30 Channelview resident, Greg Moss, who had assisted in decorating the medians, had

# C.H.I.C.'S STOLEN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



gone to check the displays for wind damage from the strong winds on Christmas Eve; all decorations were on the medians. Greg was once again driving down Sheldon Rd. at 10:00 when he discovered the decora-

tions on the median in front of Jack-In-Box had been stolen.

Greg (and we) were outraged to find that someone or ones had stolen a Texas sleigh's (pick up truck) worth of decorations and



on Christmas Day in broad daylight no less! The Grinch(es) stole a large, approximately 5 ft x 3 ft plastic crystal buck reindeer with gold antlers and a red bow, one whole family of reindeer, Daddy,

Momma and Bambi, made of brown vines and each having red bows, 5 large lollipops (yellow (2), green (1), blue (1) & unknown color (1)), a red present box & a green present box decorated with ribbons and

ornaments, and 3 sets of a red, gold & green trio of presents. When the Grinch(es) left with their sleigh full all that remained on the median were the two Christmas trees and two presents.

This was a planned crime. We had taken extra care to ensure the decorations were very securely anchored and the Grinch(es) did not simply jump from their vehicle and grab the large deer, the brown deer family, presents and lollipops. This theft follows our last year's loss of a large purple ornament decorated Christmas tree and a huge red puffy

CONTINUED. SEE STOLEN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, PAGE 5

# Nude body found in river needs identified

HIGHLANDS – Authorities at the Harris County Coroner's office are trying to identify a body without clothing that was found floating in the San Jacinto River on December 10th. It was found near 2410 Shorewick Drive in Highlands.

The body was a male about 6' 1" tall, 114 pounds, adult of unknown age and race, according to the coroner. Two tattoos are visible on the decedent, which include a large cross with hands in prayer, and the word "We" on the center of the back, and another tattoo with a rose and other plants/flowers on the lower



Large tattoo on decedent's central back



A portion of the flower/plant tattoos on the decedent's lower left arm.

left arm. The body was found without any identification or personal effects, and without clothing.

If you recognize or believe you may be able to help

# Newly elected County officials sworn into office

## Mealer challenges vote count

HARRIS COUNTY – Newly elected and re-elected Harris County officials were sworn into office at a ceremony held last Monday, January 2nd at the NRG Center. Federal judge Alfred Bennett conducted the oaths of office.

Included in the swear-in were Judge Lina Hidalgo, Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Pct. 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones, District Clerk Marilyn Burgess, Treasurer Carla Wyatt, and Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth.

The ceremony opened

Continued. See Page 5



Harris County newly elected or re-elected officials were sworn into office at a ceremony held Monday, Jan. 2nd at NRG Center. Included were Judge Lina Hidalgo, Commissioners Adrian Garcia and new Pct. 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones, and many county judges and constables.



## GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

### Galena Park Yellow Jacket Signs National Letter of Intent



Pictured: Noe Esparza, Galena Park ISD Board of Trustee Vice President; Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Kimberly Martin, Galena Park High School Principal; Spiridon Amarantos, Athletic Coordinator; and (seated) Timothy Marshall, GPHS Defensive Player

**Houston, Texas:** On December 21, 2022, Galena Park High School (GPHS) senior Timothy Marshall took advantage of the Division I Football scholarship offer and signed his national letter of intent to attend and play football for Houston Christian University (HCU). He will join the HCU Huskies as a member of the defensive line in the fall. When asked about the motivation for

his decision, Marshall shared: “I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue my education and keep playing football.”  
Congratulations to Timothy Marshall, and GPISD wishes you the best of luck!  
Story Credit: Dr. Tommie L. Smith  
Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

### Galena Park ISD Trustees Honored During School Board Recognition Month



Pictured: (Front Row - Left to Right) Norma Hernandez, Secretary; Adrian Stephens, President; Noe Esparza, Vice President (Second Row - Left to Right) Herbert Alexander Sanchez, Board Trustee; Linda Clark Sherrard, Board Trustee; Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools; Wanda Heath Johnson, Board Trustee; Ramon Garza, Board Trustee

**Houston, Texas:** January is School Board Recognition Month, and Galena Park ISD is celebrating its trustees for their dedication and commitment to the District and its students. The theme of this year’s School Board Recognition Month is ‘Forward, Together,’ which highlights the collaboration among school leadership, teachers, and parents on behalf of students.  
“Recognizing the efforts of our Board of Trustees is so important because of all the hard work they put into making our district a success,” Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools said. Dan Troxell, executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards, applauded the efforts of volunteer trustees with “Texas school boards are critical to the success of students and the future of

Texas. They lead their districts in the right direction and serve for the betterment of their local schools and communities.”  
Thank you to our Board of Trustees, Adrian Stephens, President; Noe Esparza, Vice-President; Norma Hernandez, Secretary; Wanda Heath Johnson, Trustee; Ramon Garza, Trustee; Herbert Alexander Sanchez, Trustee; and Linda Clark Sherrard, Trustee for helping Galena Park ISD move forward together and continuing the work of providing students in our community the best possible education!  
Learn more about Galena Park ISD’s Board of Trustees at <https://www.galenaparkisd.com>  
Story Credit: Dr. Tommie L. Smith  
Photo Credit: Co M Lam

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

### Sheldon ISD Celebrates School Trustees in January



January is School Board Recognition Month, and Sheldon ISD is celebrating its trustees for their dedication and commitment to the district and its students.  
The theme of this year’s School Board Recognition Month is Forward, Together, which highlights the collaboration among school leadership, teachers, and parents on behalf of students.  
School board members are elected by their communities and provide leadership and governance to the school district by

setting goals, overseeing the budget and selecting and evaluating the superintendent of schools. Their volunteerism is appreciated and Sheldon ISD is thankful for their service.  
Sheldon ISD school trustees are President Fred Rivas, Vice President Angela Cormier, Secretary Erika Martinez and Members Latricia Archie, Eileen Palmer, Kristin Williams-White and Devora Myles.

### Kristin Williams-White Seated as New School Board Member



At the December 6 school board meeting, Kristin Williams-White was sworn in as a Sheldon ISD school board member.  
Williams-White was elected by Sheldon ISD residents during the November election. She has served in Sheldon ISD as a bus driver and previously an administrative assistant at Null Middle School. She and her husband have four children, including two graduates of King High School.

### Sheldon Schools Celebrate National Computer Science Week with Hour of Code

In December, Sheldon ISD campuses participated in the global movement called the Hour of Code as part of the celebration of National Computer Science Week. This involves more than 180 countries participating with students of all

ages in one hour of computer science activities with coding and programming. This provides them with an introduction to computer science that is fun and engaging while learning basic technical skills.



### Sheldon ISD Closed January 16

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Sheldon ISD will be closed on Monday, January 16. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 17.

## CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS



Check us on the go at  
[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)  
[www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Unexpected Blessings

The new year has already started with another unexpected blessing. To make some extra money to start saving for a special trip, I decided to start driving for a rideshare company. In the process, I met someone who has blessed me more than words can describe. The first time I met him, I was not sure if I even liked his personality, yet I kept it real and when the trip was over, I thanked him and wished him well.

Many of the passengers that I have driven are young and are saving for a vehicle. Then there are those who are going to be out late, and they know they are going to be consuming alcohol, so they choose to get a ride. There are also those who are older and quite frankly, admit they do not like to drive any more. And then occasionally there is one who is new to Houston and wants to ask questions.

During the 1100+ rides that I have given since the pandemic started, I have had some interesting passengers and fortunately, always rated high on their reviews. I especially love it when I pick up someone who is from out of town and wants to know about Houston. I will share details about the various loops throughout Harris County, as well as about the many amazing opportunities there are to meet people. More than once, I have shared with them that high school football is much more exciting than the professional team in the city. Yes, they hear all about North Shore athletics as well as alumnus. (I will share that why Jalen Hurts has been recognized as being a Channelview High School Graduate, the truth is, he grew up in North Shore where his family still resides.)

I love to share about growing up when Urban Cowboy was being filmed at Gilley's and proudly remind them of the first word spoken from the Moon. Return visits to Houston for The World's Largest Rodeo are mentioned in the same dialog as reminding them that the original children's choir at my church had three little girls who grew up to be known around the world. Yes, I share the details of Destiny's Child being a part of St John's Downtown and how occasionally Beyonce returns to help with our food distributions and fundraisers.

Several weeks after picking up the passenger in Sterling Green who really did not seem to want to listen to me, I picked him up early one morning for work. This time, he must have had some sleep, as he was an entirely different person. As I drove him to work, he started mentioning things from that first ride. He seemed to be in a much better mood. By the time I dropped him off, he was smiling. Perhaps it was just the right time of the year, when even strangers were kinder, but this time, he smiled. Since this time, I have seen him numerous times in the area and with each smile, the ice has melted a little more. So, as we start 2023, I am blessed. I have a new friend who has truly been an unexpected blessing.

## Congresswoman Garcia secures \$250,000 grant for East Harris County Empowerment Council

HOUSTON – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia has announced that the Department of Human and Health Services awarded \$250,000 To East Harris County Empowerment Council for their substance-use disorder programs and mental health services..

Garcia said “Mental health illnesses can impact anyone, regardless of age, color, gender, or zip code. In fact, 1 in 5 adults will experience a mental health illness within their lifetime.

That is why investing in our local public health infrastructure and resources is critical to helping residents have access to health services to stay healthy and strong.

Nonprofit groups like the East Harris County Empowerment Council helps East Harris neighborhoods connect with the resources and help that they need.



SYLVIA GARCIA

That is why I am proud to share that they were recently awarded a federal grant of \$250,000 from the Department of Human and Health Services for their substance-use disorder programs and mental health services.

Federal grants like these go a long way to ensuring our community has the resources they need. But more must be done. That is why I promise to always fight for my constituents so that they have the resources that they need!”

## Spring classes begin January 17 at San Jacinto College

PASADENA, Texas — The Spring 2023 semester begins Jan. 17 at San Jacinto College.

“We look forward to welcoming new and returning students this spring,” said Jose DejesusGil, dean of enrollment services at San Jacinto College. “We have a large selection of classes for students to complete either on campus or online at various dates and times that allow for flexibility in a student’s schedule. We will also have an abundance of campus activities to welcome students back and keep them engaged throughout the semester.”

The 2023 Spring term also marks the beginning of 60 certificate and associate degree programs that can be completed 100 percent online. These programs range from business and education, to health sciences, public safety, and construction management, and many in between.

Student services are available to all students in-person and online for those who wish to connect to an expert to discuss services such as tutoring and advising, admissions, career services, dual credit, financial aid, testing, veterans services, and more. Registration for the spring semester is open, and students can register for a class up until the first class meeting.

The payment deadline is Thursday, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. Students must pay for their spring classes or set up an installment payment plan by this date in order to not be dropped from enrolled classes. Installment payment plans will be available beginning Monday, Nov. 7. Students who wish to set up a payment plan can do so by visiting the San Jacinto College website or logging into SOS and completing the steps in the Student Account Suite.

About San Jacinto College

Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation, as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence in 2021, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. San Jacinto College’s impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s.

For more information about San Jacinto College call 281-998-6150, visit sanjac.edu or join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “How to Spot a Fake Rolex Bracelet”



A watch’s bracelet can also have a lot of telltale signs of its authenticity, some that are easier to spot than others. The four styles of bracelets by Rolex are Oyster, Jubilee, President, and Pearlmaster, in addition to different strap options, as seen below:



### Links

Comparing these two watches again, you can see a couple visible differences in the bracelet links of both watches. On the real Rolex, the links are brushed metal all the way around the bracelet. Whereas on the counterfeit Rolex, only the outer links are brushed metal while the center links are polished and shinier in appearance.

There is also a noticeable difference in the size of the links and the width of the bracelets. The bracelet links on the genuine Rolex are thicker and more robust looking compared to the links on the replica that are much thinner and more slender in appearance, which in turn make its bracelet more narrow in width compared to the real Rolex bracelet.

### Clasp

The clasp on the authentic Rolex bracelet is much longer than the clasp on the fake Rolex, which you can clearly see with both clasps side by side.

The positioning of the Rolex coronet/crown on the clasp of each watch is different. The crown on the real Rolex is positioned so as the very bottom of the crown serves as part of the hidden flip-lock clasp mechanism – designed as a ledge to make it easier to open. On the replica, the whole crown is fitted within the center link with no part of it hanging off the edge like it does on the real Rolex. Additionally, the “hidden” flip-lock clasp on the replica isn’t very hidden at all and is clearly a separate piece that protrudes out further than the rest of the clasp.

On the fake Rolex, you can see two buttons – one on each side of the clasp – designed as a push-release mechanism for the clasp. On the real Rolex there are no buttons as none are needed to open the clasp, which is opened using only the hidden flip-lock clasp.

If you open the clasps of both watches, you can see the inside of the real Rolex’s clasp has an engraving of an emblem – with the word “ROLEX” in the center and the Rolex crown above it – as well as the (very small) words “GENEVA” and “SWISS MADE” engraved to the right of the emblem. You can see that on the inside clasp of the replica, there are no engravings whatsoever.

Interestingly, the reverse is true about engravings on the back side of the clasps of both watches. This time, the back side of the clasp on the replica can have an engraving of the words “STAINLESS STEEL”, while the back side of the clasp on the authentic Rolex has no engravings whatsoever. The fake will be a little harder to detect on this aspect alone, however, you can see the difference between the two.

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 (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) 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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OPINION

By Stephanie Swanson

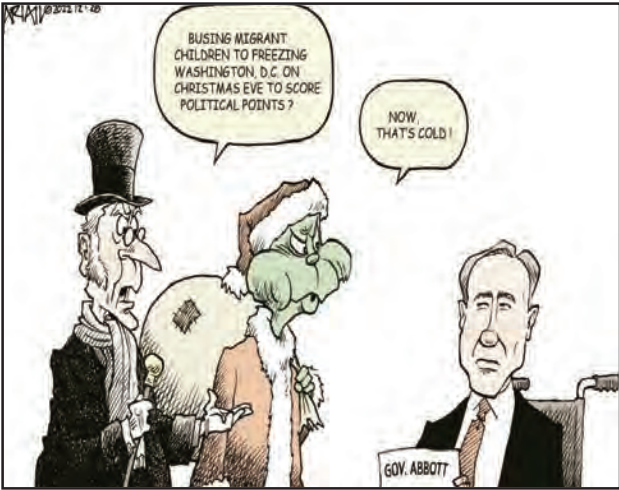
League of Women Voters of Texas

# Statement about the Busing of People Seeking Asylum

Austin, TX – The League of Women Voters of Texas condemns Governor Abbott’s busing documented immigrant asylum seekers to Washington DC, New York, Chicago, and other cities without warning or coordination with local and state officials, or aid organizations in those cities. The governor has been busing migrants to other cities since April, often without adequate food and clothing for the trip or without migrants knowing where they will be dropped off.

LWV Texas calls on the governor to stop this dangerous and inhumane political ploy. We call upon him and his administration to instead work with local, state, and federal officials, and immigration organizations to humanly aid these distraught people and to develop a fair and humane immigration policy.

About the League of Women Voters of Texas: The League of Women Voters is one of America’s oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older. Learn more about the League of Women Voters of Texas at LWVTexas.org.



top ten

New Year's Resolutions

1. Living healthier

2. Personal improvement or happiness

3. Losing weight

4. Career or job goals

5. Financial goals

6. Improve relationship

7. Travel or moving

8. Exercising

9. Stop smoking

10. Reduce drinking

Source: Statista



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

# Feds Investigating Meltdown at Southwest Airlines

Massive flight cancellations by Southwest Airlines during the Christmas holiday week are prompting the federal government to look into why thousands of travelers were left stranded across the country, along with huge piles of luggage in airports served by the beleaguered airline.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said his agency would examine what caused Southwest’s widespread cancellations, which began as a massive polar storm gripped much of the country a few days before Christmas. The airline was able to resume normal operations on Friday as another holiday weekend approached. The airline canceled more than 15,700 flights since Dec. 22, according to The Dallas Morning News. Cancellations by other airlines were a fraction of that amount, according to published reports.

“Because what we’re seeing right now, from the system and the flights themselves to the inability to reach anybody on a customer service phone line, it is just completely unacceptable,” Buttigieg told CBS early Wednesday. The Senate Commerce Committee also plans to investigate.

Southwest does not use the hub-and-spoke system relied upon by other major carriers, instead relying on a point-to-point system. That means even where planes were available, often crews and pilots were stranded in other cities.

## RRC LAUNCHES PROBE INTO ATMOS SERVICE ISSUES

The Texas Railroad Commission has launched an investigation of Atmos Energy’s gas distribution system, which left some Texans without heat during freezing weather just before Christmas. The company reported low gas pressure in cities across North and Central Texas, leaving some customers without heat. On Dec. 23, the Texas Tribune reported, Atmos asked its 2 million Texas customers to conserve gas use by lowering thermostats, not using gas fireplaces and any gas-powered appliances.

Gov. Greg Abbott signed a letter ordering the railroad commission and the Texas attorney general’s office to investigate Atmos Energy’s “failure



to prepare for the winter weather event last week.”

Leading up to and during the winter event, State of Texas agencies worked around the clock to mobilize resources and assist utilities in any way possible. At no time did Atmos Energy request assistance... It is apparent that Atmos Energy acted irresponsibly and was unprepared for the event,” the letter said in part.

## ABBOTT PUSHES BACK ON MIGRANT BUS CRITICISM

Abbott has drawn criticism after a bus from Texas dropped off more than 100 migrants in freezing weather near Vice President Kamala Harris’ official residence in Washington, D.C. An Austin American-Statesman report noted the state has bused nearly 16,000 migrants to so-called sanctuary cities. Abbott tweeted a breakdown of how many migrants have been bused to cities outside of Texas.

Thus far, 8,900 have been sent to Washington; 4,900 to New York City; more than 1,500 to Chicago; and more than 630 to Philadelphia. The governor has maintained in the past that the migrants have given permission to be bused North. The White House has called the move “a cruel, dangerous, and shameful stunt.”

“We’re providing relief to local communities overwhelmed by President Biden’s open border policies,” Abbott said.

The U.S. Supreme Court has so far stopped the Biden administration from eliminating Title 42, a federal rule enacted during by the Trump administration during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the U.S. to return asylum-seeking migrants to Mexico or

their country of origin.

## TPWD OPPOSES LISTING PRAIRIE CHICKEN AS ENDANGERED

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has reiterated its opposition to a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the lesser prairie chicken as endangered in some areas and threatened in others, citing “tremendous” voluntary collaboration with private landowners and industry to conserve the chicken’s habitat.

The federal designation will take place in January. It primarily affects Panhandle counties where the lesser prairie chicken is found.

“This decision jeopardizes decades of voluntary conservation efforts, increases regulatory burden and does not assure recovery of the species,” David, Yoskowitz, TPWD executive director, said.

## \$54 MILLION IN CAREER, TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRANTS

The Texas Workforce Commission has announced 152 grants totaling more than \$54 million to various public community, state and technical colleges, as well as school district and charter schools across the state. The grants will be used to buy equipment to establish or expand programs that offer Texas students the opportunity to earn licenses, certificates, or post-secondary degrees in fields such as nursing, welding, automotive repair and dentistry. “It’s important to identify high-demand jobs, but it’s critical to proactively commit resources to ensure Texans are ready to meet those workforce needs,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

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“It’s important to identify high-demand jobs, but it’s critical to proactively commit resources to ensure Texans are ready to meet those workforce needs,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

# A Letter to Krissy

A couple of days ago, a friend of mine posted something written by a friend of his on Facebook. This is what she had to say:

“I’ve been contemplating what I really miss in life. Why do I feel this empty space? I have not felt completely full in a very long time. I miss the outdoors... a good hike, fishing or camping. No radio, cellphone, TV, movies or internet. Just the birds, the river running...just the sound of crickets.

“I miss a good, deep, solid conversation about life, God and love. All the things that truly matter! The world has changed so much with technology that we don’t even know each other anymore. We don’t have time for each other anymore. You turn on the evening news and all you hear is bad news. Shootings and crime have skyrocketed, and it’s become the norm.

“We can no longer trust emails or use our debit cards without worry of scams or fraud. We can no longer leave a door unlocked or a window open.

“I miss the world I grew up in. Where people had time for each other. Where conversations mattered. Where there was respect for each other. When people knew what was right and wrong. Sometimes I honestly want to throw my cellphone out the window, but realize I have to use it to contact the ones I love.

“This new world has swallowed us up and there is not a damn thing we can do about it. Am I the only one who ever feels this way?”

“Signed,  
“Krissy”

I don’t know Krissy, but I wrote a letter to her anyway. This is what I said:

“Dear Krissy,  
“I think you should pull your tent out of storage and go camping this week. Unless you live up north. Then you might go snowshoeing in the woods. That’s fun, too.

“Shootings and crime have not skyrocketed—although reporting of them has. If you look at the statistics, you are actually far less likely to come to a violent end or die of disease than at any time in human history.

“But it does not sound like you are enjoying your smartphone. Maybe you should get a simple phone instead. They cost less, and you can still make phone calls. And use a credit card for online purchases instead of a debit card. Then you don’t need to worry so much.

“Meaningful conversations are there to be had. Sometimes you have to start them. I think you made an excellent start with this post. Maybe try again, but this time at your kitchen table with a friend and a cup of coffee.

“Krissy, you sound anxious, and I’m sorry. The world has not swallowed you. Meditation helps. Exercise helps. Being clear on your purpose in the world and helping others helps a lot. Life has never been perfect for anyone. But we have never had anywhere near as many years as we now get to enjoy life—or not. It’s your choice. And, yes, you can do something about it.

“All the best,  
“Carrie”

As I said, I don’t know Krissy. I don’t suppose she read what I wrote, and, if she did, I’m not sure she would care. We get invested in our beliefs, even if they aren’t making us happy.

But I wanted to tell her that every one of us gets frustrated and discouraged and sometimes feels things are going down the tubes. I wanted to tell her she was not alone.

And I wanted to wish her a happier New Year.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Photos from this week’s column and podcasts can be found at [CarrieClasson.com](#).

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# Updated COVID-19 boosters for children at Harris County

Houston – On Friday, December 16th, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) will begin administering Moderna COVID-19 updated boosters (Bivalent) to children six months of age to five years old and Pfizer COVID-19 updated boosters for children six months to four years old at all HCPH Vaccination Sites. The updated COVID-19 booster vaccine offers higher protection against the original COVID-19 strains and the Omicron variant.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children six months to five years old who previously completed the primary series of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive a Moderna updated booster vaccine two months after their final primary series dose. Children six months to four years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer updated booster vaccine as their third primary dose.

As a result of the expanded eligibility, the original (monovalent) Pfizer COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine is no longer authorized as a third primary series dose in children six months to four years old and will not be offered at HCPH sites moving forward.

HCPH encourages everyone to get their updated booster when they meet eligibility criteria. Residents can also utilize the CDC’s online vaccination tool or reach out to their healthcare provider if they have questions.

HCPH offers free COVID-19 vaccines and updated booster doses. Please visit [readyharris.org](https://readyharris.org) or call 832-927-8787. Appointments are not necessary, but HCPH can help you find a location closest to you or help with special accommodations for those who need travel assistance.

# County officials sworn into office; vote challenged,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the HCSO Honor Guard presenting colors, and ended with the Pride Chorus Houston singing “We Are Family.” Bishop James Dixon gave the Invocation.

Later in the week, candidate for county judge Alexandra del Moral Mealer issued a statement saying that the vote count for offices was not correct, and that many votes had been “suppressed.” She said she would file a challenge to the count, with the intent to overturn the results.

Mealer’s statement is as follows:

“After reviewing all publicly available data, I have decided to file an election contest in light of the post-election assessment submitted by Harris County Election Administrator Clifford Tatum.

It is inexcusable that after two months, the public is no further along in knowing if, and to what extent, votes were suppressed. Far from being a “success,” as the report characterizes, there were serious operational issues that occurred throughout Election Day that call into question whether the county’s failures denied voters their right to vote. The report culminates with the ultimate “dog ate my homework” excuse of the World Series parade being responsible for delayed openings and fails to solidify the number of polling stations that suffered from ballot paper shortages.

Unlike those holding office, I do not have the weight of government behind me to investigate the matters with the gravity and effort that reports of voter suppression justify but I do have the ability to exercise my legal rights as a candidate. My decision to file an election contest is fundamentally about protecting the right to vote in free and fair elections. There aren’t a lot of things that Lina Hidalgo and I agree on but surely, we can both agree that it is un-American to suppress votes.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra del Moral Mealer.”

# Emergency Blood Availability

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Memorial Hermann’s Life Flight Crew landed on Lyondell’s helipad for the ceremony of CFD’s new ability to give life saving blood to patients. L-R: Hermanns Life Flight Crew: Copter Pilot Eric Darnauer, Johnny Talley, Flight Paramedic & Destiny Young, Flight Nurse. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

ed by a \$10,000 grant from LyondellBasell and modeled after Memorial Hermann Life Flight’s Pre-hospital Blood Product Administration Program, CFD now carries one unit of O positive Whole Blood on board for patients that experience any medical or trauma-related condition that results in uncontrolled hemorrhage.”

Tony Wood, Site Manager for the LyondellBasell Channelview Complex said, “Our emergency responders are critical to our communities, and vital within our operations at LyondellBasell,” “We are honored to support CFD’s Whole Blood Program and grateful for the sacrifices and relentless efforts that our first responders make every day; they are true heroes to our community.”

Chief Adams said, “because of the generous grant donation from LyondellBasell, we’re able to obtain the proper equipment to store and administer the whole blood. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center’s quality assurance team directed our process with the storing, maintaining, and the documentation of whole blood. Memorial Hermann Life Flight provided a plethora of knowledge when it came to writing the medical guidelines and policies for the administration of whole blood and the blood warming device.”

“Once each of these aspects came together and months of training were completed, we were able to start the whole blood program. Every citizen who resides in our response district as well as anyone passing through will now have a better chance of survival, should they be experiencing a medical, or trauma induced uncontrolled hemorrhage. The end goal is to keep organs and tissues perfused with whole blood, while enroute to a definitive care hospital. We at the CFD deeply appreciate the support and dedication from LyondellBasell, Memorial Hermann Life Flight, and Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center that made such an enormous impact to the citizens we serve,” Adams concluded.

As of now this writing six agencies have the ability to provide blood in the field; Harris Co ESD#48, Community FD, Cy-Fair FD, North Channel EMS, South Lake Houston EMS and Channelview FD

# Stolen Christmas Decorations,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



star. C.H.I.C. does not receive funding from outside sources and relies on our members’ support, the decorations we use, that we do not make, come from a few members personal Christmas items. We can not afford to replace these items and are asking our community’s help in locating the missing decorations. If you were driving down Sheldon Rd or at Jack-In-The-Box on Christmas Day between 8:30 & 10:00 AM and saw the Grinch(es) at work or you learn who they are, who has the decorations or see them at a resale shop, flea market or other location please contact us by email at [C.H.I.C.77530@gmail.com](mailto:C.H.I.C.77530@gmail.com) or one our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/892294181644780>.

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Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 ("District")

The District's administrative office is located at 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas 77015.

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NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 ("District")

The District's administrative office is located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, Texas 77530.

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NOTICE OF STREET ADDRESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is 332 Freeport St., Houston, Texas 77015.

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Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No. 1 located at 7601 Uvalde Rd., Houston, Texas 77049.

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# HCC Approved to Launch Two Bachelor’s Degree Programs in 2023

HOUSTON, TX (Dec. 15, 2022) — Houston Community College (HCC) has been approved as a Level 2 baccalaureate granting institution, beginning with four-year degrees in Artificial Intelligence & Robotics and Healthcare Management.

The announcement was made by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees at its 2022 Annual Meeting Atlanta, Ga., recently. SACSCOC is the accrediting organization for HCC and other colleges and universities across 14 states in the southern United States.

HCC will launch its new bachelor’s degree programs in fall 2023.

The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics will address a growing and critical need for skilled workers in a rapidly evolving technical field. Over the last decade, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has gained a substantial foothold in a variety of industries. The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (2021) recognizes AI as “already ubiquitous in everyday life” and that “application of AI techniques to solve problems is...turning once-fantastical ideas into realities across a range of disciplines.”

Graduates of this program will enter a profession with 2,586 annual job openings in our region and a median annual salary of \$97,200.

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Healthcare Management will prepare students for career advancement or entry-level healthcare managerial positions. The degree program enables working professionals to advance their career by focusing on leadership skills, knowledge, and credentials in the healthcare management field.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cites Medical and Health Services Managers as a growing occupational field based on increased demand for healthcare services as the baby-boom population ages. As medical service needs increase, the need for managers “who organize and manage medical information and healthcare staff” will also increase.

Graduates of this program will enter a profession with 1,752 annual job openings in the Houston region and a median annual salary of \$64,200.

“We are continually exploring ways to provide relevant programs and instruction that serve the needs of students and employers in our service area,” said HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. “With these two inaugural bachelor’s degree programs, we give students an opportunity to start and complete their four-year education on the same HCC campus.”

-30-

About Houston Community College: Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit [hccs.edu](https://hccs.edu).

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## CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS


### 2022 Holiday Art Card Winners

Every year, Channelview ISD art teachers ask their students to submit a holiday card they designed. Ms. Tunink, Fine Arts Director, receives the cards from the teachers. She chooses a judge for each of the following categories: Best in Show, Channelview High School, Junior High School, and Elementary School. The holiday card must be created by the student, must be holiday themed, and must include excellent art skills for their grade level. Congratulations to our winners!

**High School 1st Place**  
Best of Show District Winner  
Delilah Flores  
11th Grade  
Channelview High School

**Junior High 1st Place**  
Miriam Lopez  
7th Grade  
Anthony Aguirre Junior High

**Elementary 1st Place**  
Anthony Cavazos  
5th Grade  
McGhee Elementary



Elementary 1st Place District Show Winner

Anthony Cavazos  
McGhee Elementary  
5th Grade



High School 1st Place Best of Show District Winner

Delilah Flores  
Teacher: T. Rudolph  
11th Grade



Junior High 1st Place District Show Winner

Miriam Lopez  
Aguirre Junior High  
7th Grade



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