



Danna Nino,  
President of The  
North Shore  
Rotary Club,  
participating in  
the Christmas  
community  
service initiative  
See Pages 1, 6

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

### Sheldon FFA Livestock Show & Sale Jan. 18

The Sheldon ISD FFA will hold their 68th Annual Livestock Show Jan. 16-17 starting at 4pm, and the Auction Saturday Jan. 18 at 2pm at the Ag Center 17522 Beaumont Hwy, 77049. Buyers Luncheon 1pm on Jan. 18 at the Ag Center. More information: [robbyjones@sheldonisd.com](mailto:robbyjones@sheldonisd.com), or [amandalangley@sheldonisd.com](mailto:amandalangley@sheldonisd.com). All are welcome.

### North Channel Chamber 48th Annual Gala

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce presents its 48th Annual Gala on Friday, January 31, 2025 6:30pm Reception, 7:00pm Dinner. Attire: Cocktail Masquerade. Awards and Installation Gala Banquet, at the Hyatt Regency Baytown Houston Hotel. Tickets \$100. RSVP 713-450-3600 or [yesenia@ncchamber.com](mailto:yesenia@ncchamber.com).

## Good Deeds: North Shore Rotarians distribute 300 Baskets of Holiday meals to Needy Families

By David Taylor

For decades, one of the most important tasks performed by North Shore Rotarians is the giving of food at Christmas to families who are in need. This year was a little different. The need was greater than ever.

"We used to do this at the Holiday Inn in Channelview when we met there for our meetings," said Danna Nino, president of the North Shore Rotary Club.

"The county would send us some help that morning, we would assemble all the baskets, have a brief meeting and eat lunch, then Rotarians would take the names and fan out across the community and deliver them to the homes," she said.

It was a great time of bonding for Rotarians who went in groups of two or three and many saw for themselves the great need for the families. Some Rotarians told stories of them reaching into their own pockets and giving them



North Shore Rotary Rotarians standing behind the baskets full of food for the people in need.

money to help. It became a heartstring touching time to visit the family and see the children themselves.

"We could see the surprise on their face when they opened their door and the tears of gratitude," said past president Bill Palko. "We miss that part of the process, but it's more important that they actually receive the food." Palko said they could see the struggle of the families and

knew it was money they could now spend on presents instead of food.

Unfortunately, a lot of the addresses they had been given were to homes that were vacant or the family didn't live there.

"The families knew they were getting the baskets, but we couldn't find them," she said.

Rotarians, being practical, wanted to ensure the families were receiving the help they desperately

needed and in a timely fashion, so they changed the process about five years ago.

"It takes the fun out of it for us because we don't get to deliver them anymore, but this 100 percent ensures that the families that need it receive it," Nino said.

Now, the school, which provides the names for the students in need through counselors and the nurses office, can call the families

when the food arrives, and they come and pick it up.

"We pack it all up here at the North Shore Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville Road, the districts send box trucks to pick up their allotment, and then they deliver them to each of their campuses in the district. The schools then notify the families that the food is ready for pickup," she described the process.

Nino also said that they really couldn't leave the baskets on the doorsteps if no one was home because some of the food was perishable and wildlife, pets, or bugs could also get into the baskets.

"That meant us having to come back to homes at 7 or 8 at night which wasn't always a good thing either," she said.

For years, they have been packing 250 baskets, but this year, they increased it to 300 because of the need.

"In that basket, they get everything they need to

Continued. See NC ROTARIANS FOOD BASKET GIVEAWAY, Page 6

## UPLIFT 2.0

### Harris County Attorney Responds to Lawsuit Over Harris County's Guaranteed Income Program

Houston, Texas — The Office of the Attorney General of Texas has sued Harris County over the county's Community Prosperity Program, known as Uplift 2. The program provides \$500 per month via a preloaded debit card which comes with spending restrictions. Families eligible for this program live below 200% of the federal poverty line.

The program was developed after the Texas Supreme Court froze another Harris County program, Uplift Harris, which would have provided \$500 a month to underserved County residents with fewer spending restrictions.

The Community Prosperity Program incorporated guidance from the Texas Supreme Court by limiting the categories of items participants could purchase with the funds, such as housing, utilities, transportation, groceries, medical care, professional development, bill payments, clothing, and other essential needs.

Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee, who represents Harris County in all civil litigation, issued the following statement:

"After a lawsuit from Ken Paxton regarding the Uplift Harris program, Continued. See TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL SUES, Page 6

## Galena Park HS Class of '74 Celebrates Their 50th Reunion



Members of the Galena Park High School Class of '74 gathered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Shenandoah, Texas, to celebrate their 50th reunion. More than 100 classmates returned for the auspicious occasion, not counting spouses and guests, attended the milestone event.

## "State of the College" Report Showcases San Jacinto College's Commitment to R.I.S.E

PASADENA, Texas — Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College, delivered the 2024 State of the College address recently, highlighting the College's commitment to resilience, innovation, support, and excellence (R.I.S.E). The event, held both virtually and in person, brought together the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees, elected officials, community members, and College employees.

This year's theme, "R.I.S.E.," emphasized how San Jacinto College is continuously advancing to meet the needs of its stu-

dents, the community, and regional workforce. Dr. Hellyer illustrated each component of the R.I.S.E. framework with personal stories and program highlights:

**Resilience** — Hellyer shared the inspiring journey of Ted Tolley, a San Jacinto College graduate who, at age 74, was the oldest member of the 2024 graduating class. After a 50-year journey toward completing his degree, Ted embodies resilience and perseverance.

**Innovation** — Embracing a forward-thinking approach, San Jacinto College is launching new programs



Brenda Hellyer Chancellor of San Jacinto College.

to meet workforce demands, including biotechnology, cybersecurity, and education. Dr. Hellyer also highlighted the debut of San Jac Online, an initiative expanding online

course offerings to increase access and flexibility for students.

**Support** — Recognizing the importance of student support, Dr. Hellyer detailed various services designed to ensure student success. Resources such as the SJC Marketplace, veteran services, childcare, transportation assistance, and the San Jac Cares program provide essential support for students striving to complete their educational goals. She also complemented the institution's student services team for helping students through challenges this summer including a revamped FAFSA

and a new Apply Texas application.

**Excellence** — Excellence remains a core value at San Jacinto College, with recent achievements reflecting this standard. Dr. Hellyer proudly mentioned the College's nomination for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the selection of Dr. Celucien Joseph as the College's Minnie Stevens Piper nominee, and the accomplishments of Yakob Zumlot, a San Jacinto College alumnus now in his second year of medical school at the University of Houston. Zumlot's journey, from immigrating

with his family from the Middle East in 2014 to pursuing a career in medicine, serves as a testament to the College's impact.

"We are honored to be part of a community dedicated to building a stronger regional workforce and advancing educational opportunities," Dr. Hellyer shared. "Together, we RISE to support our students and their aspirations."

To explore more about San Jacinto College's dedication to resilience, innovation, support, and excellence, please visit the **State of the College's web page.**

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## New Sheldon ISD Board Members Sworn into Office

At the December 17 School Board Meeting, the Board declared the opposed and unopposed board members are elected. The following were administered the oath of office and sworn in:

Position 1 - Candace Randall

Position 2 - Latricia Archie (unopposed)

Position 3 - Darius Provost-Evans

Candace Randall is a lifelong resident of Sheldon ISD and a dedicated member of the community. She is the proud mother of two daughters, one attending Sheldon Lake Elementary and the other at King High School. Candace earned her Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Houston-Downtown and her Master's in Special Education from Lamar University.

With over 12 years of experience in education, Candace's career began right here in Sheldon ISD. She has served in various roles, including teacher's aide, math teacher, resource teacher, co-teacher, special education department chair, and is currently the program director for an after-school initiative. Her commitment to education extends beyond the classroom, as she regularly volunteers and actively participates in community events throughout Sheldon.



Latricia Denise Archie is a lifelong resident of the Sheldon community. She's a 1988 graduate of C. E. King School. She graduated from San Jacinto College North where she received an Associate Degree in Music and a Certificate of Technology in Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN). Ms. Archie loves her community and loves to serve in her community. She's a dedicated volunteer in the district. She has two wonderful sons who are graduates of Sheldon ISD. Latricia is passionate about Sheldon ISD district and the students and teachers. She desires that every child that graduates from this premier school district is successful and that every teacher and staff in the district are equipped with everything they need to make sure our children are successful. She is a God fearing wom-

an that lives by faith and walks in integrity. She quotes, "I love what I do and love the people I serve."

Darius Provost-Evans is a foster dad and educator with over 10 years of experience working with economically disadvantaged families. He began his career as a child abuse investigator and later opened his home to foster children. With a master's degree and a nursing degree, Darius brings a unique perspective to his work in education and community service. As an active member of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), he is committed to creating safe and nurturing learning environments for all children. Darius is a proud union member, committed to advocating for workers' rights and fair treatment in the community.

## Sheldon Hosts Inaugural Spanish Spelling Bee



On December 10 and 11, Sheldon ISD hosted its first Spanish Spelling Bee for middle school and elementary school students. The events were held at the Sheldon ISD Administration Building. Congratulations to all the students for their participation in this event. The following students were recognized as the champion and runner-up:

Santiago Moreno – Null Middle School (Champion) Samuel Lopez – Null Middle School (Runner-Up)

Stephany Santos – Garrett Elementary (Champion) Pablo Servilla – Sheldon Elementary (Runner-Up)

The champions will advance to the Region 4 competition.

## Sheldon ISD Celebrates Outgoing School Board Members

At the December 17 School Board Meeting, Sheldon ISD administration and trustees celebrated the commitment and dedication of outgoing board members Angela Cormier and Eileen Palmer. Ms. Cormier served Sheldon ISD for eight years and Ms. Palmer served 18 years. We are thankful for their service to the Sheldon ISD community.



In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

## STEM Sparks: Unveiling the Next Generation of Thinkers

Sheldon ISD educators representing six campuses will be recognized at the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) annual Outstanding Teacher Awards and Recognition Ceremony on February 9. Nominees from across the Houston region will be recognized for teachers who go above and beyond to serve their school communities, students and families. From the pool of nominees, HAABSE will select Teacher of the Year finalists and one elementary and secondary winner is chosen.

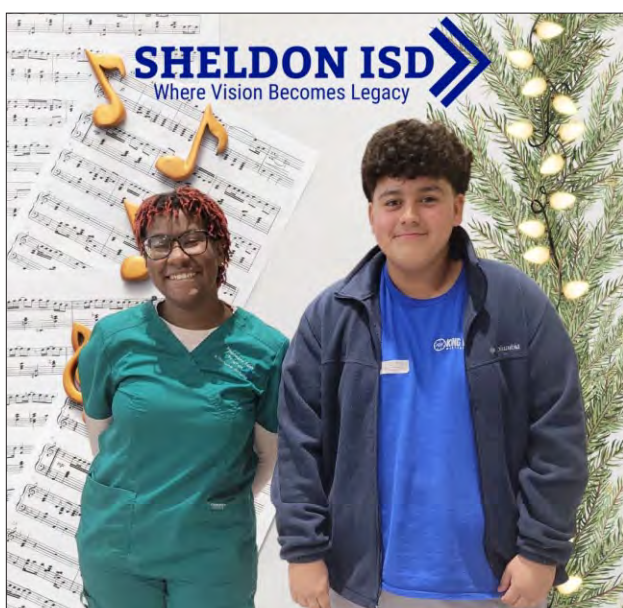
Congratulations to the following Sheldon ISD HAABSE Teacher of the Year nominees:

- Cravens Early Childhood Academy, Isylee Sanchez
- Sheldon Early Childhood Academy, Joana Castillo
- Carroll Elementary, Arissa Hayden
- Garrett Elementary, Sherri Howard
- Monahan Elementary, William (Andrew) Hyacinth
- Royalwood Elementary, Maria Garcia
- Sheldon Elementary, Britton West
- Sheldon Lake Elementary, Detra Burnside
- King Middle School, Raquel Johnson
- Null Middle School, Racquel Edwards
- King 9th Grade Center, Aja Jones
- King High School, Brian Stewart
- Kase Academy, Kimberley Franklin

Additionally, School Board Member Ms. Latricia Archie has been named HAABSE's School Board Member of the Year. They will all be recognized in February.

## 2 KHS students advance to Area Choir Auditions

Congratulations to senior Arielle Monuma-Antoine (soprano 1) and sophomore Nicholas Montelongo (tenor 2) for advancing to the final round of the Texas All-State Choir Area Auditions. They, along with 12 other King High School students, competed in the highly competitive round of Pre-Area auditions on December 3. Students compete with other high schoolers in the region for the top 5 chairs of each voice part. Monuma-Antoine and Montelongo will compete in Area auditions on January 11.





OPINION PAGE



State Fair Season

The calendar, and the quality of the air we breathe, insist it's state fair season.

But there is also love and devotion and great pride and tremendous work on display there.

Over the years I've interviewed a ton of these kids for whichever newspaper I was working for.

And the kid gives hugs and snuggles from the growing calf, and gets them back in spades.

So the kid and the calf are separated for good, one going on to college more affordably now.

And there are tears, of course, and deep questions to be asked, but the bottom line is that a beef in great condition can pay for a lot of tuition.

Here's a little something we can do to help: https://www.ktvu.com/news/online-ways-you-can-help-those-affected-by-the-lahaina-fire

Cold Weather is here

It's natural to mumble nasty things about the cold weather. We all do it from time to time.

One big plus is that it makes fireplaces a reasonable addition to our lives. In cold weather, we can build a fire in our home with a clear conscience.

Strange, isn't it, our love affair with a fireplace? Makes absolutely no sense. Today, we can make houses so impervious to cold that every time we light a candle.

But we don't care. We'll spend a lot of extra money to buy a house with a fireplace, and not think a thing about it.

inside and out, cooks our food, and answers our questions.

Questions? Sure.

When the fire's burning low, and you can just see the little blue lickem flames curling around the glowing embers late at night.

Campfire Wisdom

"When you been maturinatin' 'long as I have, they's a few ultimatum facts about life that jest can't be ignored."

With that, our favorite old-time camp cook, mule packer and occasional predictor of things that haven't happened yet.

We knew we were in for another dose of campfire education, even if it's totally wrong.

"Like them measurementals we use when we're cookin', he said. "If you look in them recipe books, they slam a buncha measurementals on ya that you never heard of and no one to convert them into plain American, like we speak here."

"You jest take in there them bakin' recipes," he said. "Cups a this, then you gotta shift them so they don't stick together with stuff you already tossed in a bowl ... like a dramblin' of this or a sticker of butter."

He sipped and stirred and looked up at us in that same way old Sam Elliott does when he finds a greenhorn he wants to set straight.

"Let's figger out real cowboy measurementals and use 'em. That's what I say."

"Like which ones, Windy?"

"Why, Doc, didya know there are them caf-ma terial ladies all over the place don't know what a herman is? Truth. A herman, as all of us know, is a cubic fistful.

Jest right handy fer makin' biscuits in a Dutch oven. Set 'er on that campfire and let 'er go! Gits too hot? Hey, jest pull 'er back a mite 'til she's settin' more in the coals out where the state line would be if campfires had states."

Our resident working cowboy, Steve, got up to pay his bill and leave.

"Don't run off, Steve," said Windy, " was jest 'bout to start 'luminatin' on stuff like googles, gurgles, bellyache triggers, slushes and nips."

"Next time, I guess," Steve said over his shoulder as he headed out the door for his getaway pickup truck.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Vehicle Inspections No Longer Required

Drivers will no longer be required to get annual safety inspections beginning Jan. 1, the Texas Standard reported.

While mandatory vehicle inspections are going the way of the pay phone and video cassette recorders, drivers will still end up paying a \$7.50 "inspection replacement fee" when registering their vehicle.

The emissions test required in urban counties consists of an engine and exhaust test to ensure a vehicle isn't exceeding the state's legal limits on emitting pollutants.

The counties that require emissions test in order to register a vehicle are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson.

Vehicle owners are urged to keep up with maintenance.

"We urge people to still take care of their vehicles, still check your tires, make sure your brakes are working, headlights, tail lights and mirrors are still safe before you drive," Sgt. Billy Ray with the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

LONG-TERM CARE ADVOCATES SAY MORE FUNDING NEEDED

The state's lead ombudsman for residents in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, is calling for lawmakers to fund more full-time and part-time positions and make other reforms to a long-term care system that ranks 42nd in the nation for safety and quality.

Patty Ducayet, the state ombudsman, works independently from the Texas Health and Human Services Department, which oversees these facilities. She and others are also urging more volunteers to advocate for residents as well as more state funding to hire additional ombudsmen.

"We would be lost in the long-term care community without them (volunteers), but they definitely need more support across the board," said Andrea Earl, the associate state director of advocacy and research for the AARP.



In 2024, the state ombudsman had its highest turnover rate at 255. Ducayet said ideally the state would have one staff member for every 2,000 licensed care facility beds.

WASTEWATER LEAKS FROM OIL WELLS POSE DANGER

The water that comes up as a byproduct of oil and gas fracking is becoming a bigger headache for the state's energy operators and those who regulate them.

The extremely salty water — nine times saltier than the ocean — also contains a number of carcinogenic chemicals, such as benzene. The practice of wastewater injection is believed to have caused earthquakes across the state and several environmentally damaging and costly blow-outs.

One barrel of Permian crude can also produce as many as eight barrels of tainted water. The industry is working to create a new technology to desalinate the water so it doesn't have to be injected underground and possibly could be reused.

POSTAL SERVICE WARNS OF TEXTING SCAM

Christmas is over, but that doesn't mean scammers have taken a holiday. Officials with the U.S. Postal Service are warning about a scam being sent by text messages.

The scam consists of text messages being sent to cell

phone owners that claims a USPS package can't be delivered because of missing information. A link is included in the message.

"The criminals want to receive personally identifiable information such as: account usernames and passwords, Social Security Number, date of birth, credit and debit card numbers, personal identification numbers, or other sensitive information," the news release says.

Postal customers are urged to go to the official USPS page to determine the status of a package: usps.com/sms-tracking.

TEXAS NOW HOME TO MORE THAN 31 MILLION

The Lone Star State added nearly 563,000 residents in the last year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Tribune reported the state's growth has slowed, though the 1.8 percent growth rate is still the third highest in the country.

Roughly 40% of the state's new residents came from net international migration, with 319,569 new residents from abroad, the Census Bureau said. Texas still led the country in migration from other states, adding 85,267 people in the last year who moved here from another state.

The slowing of domestic migration means Texas will likely rely on international migration to meet the labor needs of a booming state economy, according to Lloyd Potter, the state demographer.

"With a growing economy, we have a growing demand for labor," Potter said. "And if we're seeing a decline in domestic migration, well, that labor probably is going to need to come from immigrants."

TAKE A HIKE IN STATE PARK TO KICK OFF NEW YEAR

The state park system is once again hosting First Day hikes on New Year's Day, Texas Parks & Wildlife reported. Last year, Texas state parks hosted 177 events in which 8,729 people hiked, biked, swam and paddled a record 17,284 miles.

"One of the many reasons that I love Texas is the nice weather that we can have even in the winter, and there is no better way to spend a beautiful winter day than walking with friends and family at a Texas State Park," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks.

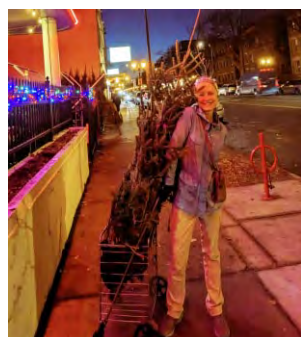
The agency strongly encourages anyone planning to visit a Texas state park to reserve a day pass in advance, since some parks could reach capacity. You can do so at www.texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com or at 512-389-8900.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park

Email: gborders@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Just in Time



I will be home in time for Christmas.

It's always a little hard to leave Mexico, and leaving right before the holidays is perhaps the hardest. The giant Christmas tree just went up in front of the church last night.

But I don't really mind because I'll be home, just in time for Christmas.

There's a reason there are so many songs about going home for Christmas. Many of them are from decades past, in the heyday of movie musicals. I imagine it must have been a challenge for songwriters, sitting around a swimming pool in Los Angeles, penning lyrics about snow falling and sleigh bells ringing and Christmas trees.

One of my favorite holiday songs is about Christmas in Australia, where going home for Christmas means arriving at the hottest time of year, with family sitting outside drinking "white wine in the sun." People write about being especially determined to get home at Christmas and especially lonely if they don't make it home.

I know there are plenty of people who don't go anywhere at Christmas and have given up the whole idea of what the holiday season is supposed to look like in favor of a more relaxed and peaceful time, with fewer expectations and obligations. I can understand that as well.

But I'll be home in time for Christmas.

I am fortunate because I actually enjoy all the holiday cliches. I love baking cookies every year with my sister and wrapping packages and setting the table for more people than it can comfortably hold. I love the falling snow and the ringing of sleigh bells and—most of all—the Christmas trees.

My first official act of the Christmas season will be to hurry down to the local hardware store to get my Christmas tree from the lot out front. I will walk there with my cart, and I will worry all the way to the store that I am too late.

"Sorry! Just sold our last tree 30 minutes ago," the man in the insulated overalls will tell me, and I will stand there in the snow with my little cart and my bungee cords and wonder where I will find a Christmas tree at this late date.

But this will not happen. Instead, I will pick out a tree, all wrapped up in twine, and I won't even untie it. I will judge by its appearance—all tied up—that it will be the perfect tree.

The man in the lot will help me strap it into my cart, and I'll wheel it home. A few people will stare at the woman hauling her tree in a cart, but I won't mind. And when I get home, I'll put my tree in the stand and cut the twine cords binding it, and ever so slowly, the cold tree will unfurl. In the morning, I'll get out of bed, and it will be as if a miracle has taken place in my living room.

The perfect Christmas tree will be there, waiting for me, and I'll be home—just in time for Christmas.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information and subscription rates.

# THEA finds new Toxic danger: Nurdles

Train wreck in East Harris County spews deadly micro plastic into water supply



Plastic Pellets called "Nurdles" were released after this train derailment in Highlands.

By Jackie Medcalf

If this is the first time you have heard of a nurdle, you are not alone. It's not a common word, but nurdles are all around us. A nurdle is a plastic pellet that is so tiny that 22,000 of them fit in a one pound container.

On December 6th, a Union Pacific train accident near Highlands derailed fourteen cars, including cars containing liquified petroleum gas (LPG). Fortunately, the LPG cars remained intact, but more than five cars containing nurdles did spill their contents, with two of the cars coming to rest in the drainage canal that connects the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers. Each railcar can hold 22,000 pounds of nurdles, or about 4.8 million.

Authorities quickly said everything was under control. The Houston Office of Emergency Management said, "This incident does not pose a threat to the city's drinking water supply" and the fire marshal's office said there was no hazardous material release. Union Pacific said the derailment was "under investigation."

Here's what was miss-



A Nurdle is a tiny plastic pellet.

ing from the official announcements - Nurdles, released from the overturned rail cars covering the ground like snowfall. Also missing - concern over the potential environmental harm from the tiny plastic pellets. Depending on their chemical composition, they can release toxins over time. Worse, if they reach water supplies they look like fish eggs. If birds swallow them, they can be a choking hazard. When fish eat them, the plastic can fill their bellies, keeping them from digesting real food.

Since they are made of plastic, nurdles don't decompose and disappear; they break down into even

smaller "nanoplastics."

In response to community concerns, THEA's team went to inspect the site and collect samples from residential properties. We discovered that no provisions had been made to contain the plastic pellets or keep them from reaching water sources. Without quick remedial action, nurdles will have a presence in Highlands and in nearby waterways for some time to come.

Reporters from the Houston Landing accompanied the THEA team. Here is their report:

## OBITUARY

### AUGUST HERMAN THAMM SR.

August Herman Thamm Sr., of Channelview, Texas, entered eternal rest on December 29, 2024. He was born on August 24, 1928, on the old home farm near Dayton, Texas, eighth of eleven children born to Frederick Augusta and Helen Julia (Kostka) Thamm.

In the fall of 1950, August and Maxine tied the knot on September 16th and began the start of their ever-growing family. He worked for 42 years as a longshoreman with the I.L.A Local #24 where he later retired from. He was admired and respected by many fellow longshoremen in the field. In the years following his retirement he kept himself busy by working at Carter Funeral Home, where for nearly 20 years he could be found parking vehicles for services, tending to the flowers and shrubbery around the funeral home, or wherever else he was needed. His true passion in life was working in his yard tending to his various trees, shrubs, flower patches, and bountiful vegetable garden. In the mornings he was often in the company of Steve Kotal, Frank Hotsteitler or D.B. Radican, engaged in political debates or discussions about the importance of prostate health.

He loved flowers and all wildlife, especially racoons, opossums, and birds. Over the years the Thamm family gained a variety of animal companions including the usual dogs and cats, but also a few more unique ones like



racoons, peacocks, chickens, and guineas to name a few. There was truly never a dull moment in the Thamm household.

August loved dancing in his younger years, especially when there was a polka or Cajun band playing. For a man who only went through the ninth grade, he was self-educated with a passion for history and foreign affairs. He was a regular subscriber of numerous magazines like National Geographic, Discovery, and Foreign Affairs, and could often be found reading from older encyclopedias. His TV could usually be found tuned into wildlife programs or other educational channels.

He was a hardworking man his entire 96 years of life, who stopped at nothing to care for his wife, daughters, sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His truly giving and generous nature will be carried on through his remaining family and all who knew him.

August is preceded in death by his parents and all 10 siblings, Martha M. Page, Fritz F. Thamm, Edward A. Thamm,

Rudolph P. Thamm, Helen A. Ewing, Sylvia Patterson, Marian A. Love, Herbert Thamm, Hans E. Thamm, and Pauline Simmons. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, Maxine Thamm; children, Julia Diana Davis and husband Wade, Connie Owens and husband Greg, August H. Jr. and wife Melinda, and Jana Reeves and husband Steve. His three grandsons Charles Clinton Thamm and wife Melanie, Garrett Evan Smith and wife Annette, and Remington Adcox and wife Michaela, as well as his three great-grandchildren Lorelei Thamm, James August Smith, and Elena Smith, will all fondly remember their grandfather and great-grandfather. His numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends will forever hold August's memory close to their hearts.

The family welcomes you to join them for a visitation at Carter-Conley Funeral Home on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. with funeral services officiated by Brother Ken Durham to begin at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, the family asks memorial donations be made to the Arbor Day Foundation, or the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston.

  
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# Market Lamb Show Winners from GPISD



Photo Credit: Sherrhonda Hunter

By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

At the December 9th Board of Trustees Meeting, Galena Park ISD recognized Galena Park High School FFA students Jenevieve Gomez and Marjorie Reyes for advancing to sale at the State Fair of Texas.

On September 28, 2024, in the Market Lamb Show, Jenevieve Gomez placed eighth, and Marjorie Reyes placed ninth in their classes. Each earned an impressive \$1,200 in scholarship money for future education or animal projects. Galena Park ISD is proud of these achievements and for providing the opportunity for all students to excel in their chosen fields of study.

A certificate and medal were presented to Jenevieve Gomez and Marjorie Reyes on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.



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# NS Rotary Delivers 300 Christmas Food Baskets to families in need,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provide a full meal for Christmas day," Palko said.

"They'll get potatoes, yams, rice, beans, macaroni and cheese, flour, oil, corn meal, and a meat," he said.

The funds to buy the food comes from money raised at their annual Fish Fry fundraiser so the funds stay in the community, particularly the three districts—Sheldon, Galena Park, and Channelview.

On Tuesday, they also partnered with the county to deliver baskets to homebound seniors.

Nino said that the baskets are made for families who are struggling.

"They're not asking for

the food, they're getting up and going to work, but just having a hard time making ends meet. They are extremely appreciative and thankful for the baskets," she said.

Nino said a lot of the kids didn't even have shoes or socks, so she donated socks to help.

"Some of them are wearing their siblings' shoes, but didn't have socks, so I bought socks for them," she said.

They are so appreciative; she said it makes you want to help. The project costs approximately \$20,000 and the food is purchased from local grocery stores who also appreciate the support.



North Shore Rotary Club President Danna Nino helps in the packing and loading of food baskets delivered to area needy during the Christmas holidays.



Food baskets are loaded onto box trucks sent from area school districts for distribution to their campuses for the families who will come and pick them up the same day.

# Texas Attorney General Sues Harris County Over Community Prosperity Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Harris County created a new initiative that addresses the state's concerns while still offering financial stability to our neighbors who need it most.

If it wasn't clear before, it should be clear now that the opposition to this program is not about concern for the law; it's about using people living in poverty as a means to score political points.

In Harris County, we understand the need to tackle the real problems people face. Folks in Austin may not prioritize helping those in need, but they shouldn't stand in the way of much-needed support. Once again, I am ready to defend the county and this program in court."

About the Harris County Attorney's Office

Christian D. Menefee serves as the elected, top

civil lawyer for Texas' largest county. The Harris County Attorney's Office represents the county in all civil matters including lawsuits. Menefee leads an office of 250 attorneys and staff members. He entered office at 32 years old, making him the youngest person and first African American elected as the Harris County Attorney.

BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE
<p><b>INVITATION TO BIDDERS</b></p> <p>Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the Mayor and City Council of City of Jacinto City, Texas, Harris County, will be received at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, Texas 77029 until 5:00 P.M., Thursday, February 13, 2025, and then publicly opened and read during the Thursday, February 13, 2025, City Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029 for construction of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – 2024</b> CDBG-MIT PROJECT NO. 22-085-053-D306</p> <p>Scope of Work: Work on this project includes the replacement of two (2) final clarifiers; provide and install single drop aeration in existing aerobic digesters; provide and install three (3) PD blowers; provide and install a non-potable water system; construct a concrete dechlorination and flow measurement basin; construct modifications to existing chlorine contact basins; miscellaneous site piping; electrical and instrumentation; and SCADA.</p> <p>The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the City of Jacinto City Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts.</p> <p>Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total base bid amount bid, payable without recourse to the City, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.</p> <p>Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at <a href="https://bids.lja.com">https://bids.lja.com</a> and <a href="https://civcastusa.com">https://civcastusa.com</a> for No Cost for an electronic copy for each set of documents.</p> <p>Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data &amp; Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the City.</p> <p>The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Jacinto City for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.</p> <p>A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at the City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant, 12202 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77015, and virtually through Microsoft Teams. To join virtually, the link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/49FoMOx">http://bit.ly/49FoMOx</a> or join by phone by calling +1 346-202-6170 and entering Conference ID: 295 569 93#.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">City of Jacinto City Ana Diaz Mayor</p>		

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<p>Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 ("District")</p> <p>The District's administrative office is located at 2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77019.</p> <p>CHARLES ANTHONY Secretary, Board of Commissioners</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTICE OF STREET ADDRESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b></p> <p>The street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is 332 Freeport St., Houston, Texas 77015.</p>				

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Andrew Burnap, left, and Brandy Norwood star in 'The Front Room'

'The Front Room'

'Wicked' (PG) — Universal Pictures' investment in adapting the Broadway musical 'Wicked' paid off big time...

'Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl' (PG) — Those of us who were kids during the 2000s remember the comical shenanigans of Wallace and his dog, Gromit...

'The Front Room' (R) — Singer/actress Brandy Norwood ('Descendants: The Rise of Red') is making her return to movies...



Q: Who is the actress who plays Maddie in the 'Sonic' movies? I swear she used to be on a soap opera when she was younger...

A: She's Tika Sumpter, and she honed her acting skills playing Layla Williamson on the ABC soap 'One Life to Live'...

Sumpter isn't the only former soap star in 'Sonic 3.' Shemar Moore and Sofia Pernas both got their starts on CBS's 'The Young and the Restless.'

Q: What ever happened to Rob Lowe's show '9-1-1 Lone Star'? I thought it got really high ratings.

A: Despite being Fox's second-highest-rated series during the first half of 2023, the Ryan-Murphy-produced series '9-1-1: Lone Star' was given the axe...

According to Murphy, he loved the show, but 'the financials just didn't work. It's a Disney company that was on a Fox network, and it just was never going to work.'

The announcement was another blow for Lowe in 2024, whose other series 'Unstable,' a comedy on Netflix co-starring his son, John Owen Lowe, was also canceled.



Tika Sumpter in 'Sonic the Hedgehog 2'

Lowe says it's because they're searching for the right script. The film's director, Joel Schumacher, passed away in 2020.

Q: When is the 'Georgie & Mandy' sitcom coming back? I know that like most shows, it's taking a break during the holidays...

A: The 'Young Sheldon' spin-off sitcom 'Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage' will return to CBS with new episodes beginning Jan. 30.

So far, Sheldon himself (Iain Armitage) hasn't returned, but perhaps they could be saving it for the season finale.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

ENTERTAINMENT

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TIGER



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

King Crossword puzzle with clues and grid. January 6, 2025 Posting Date.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. 'Better Call Saul'; 2. Epiphany; 3. 'Good Faith'; 4. Pig; 5. 1,000; 6. Bab-el-Mandeb; 7. Crust, mantle and core; 8. Eggo waffles; 9. Eye floaters; 10. Carl Sandburg

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. TELEVISION: Which popular spinoff series originated with the drama 'Breaking Bad'?



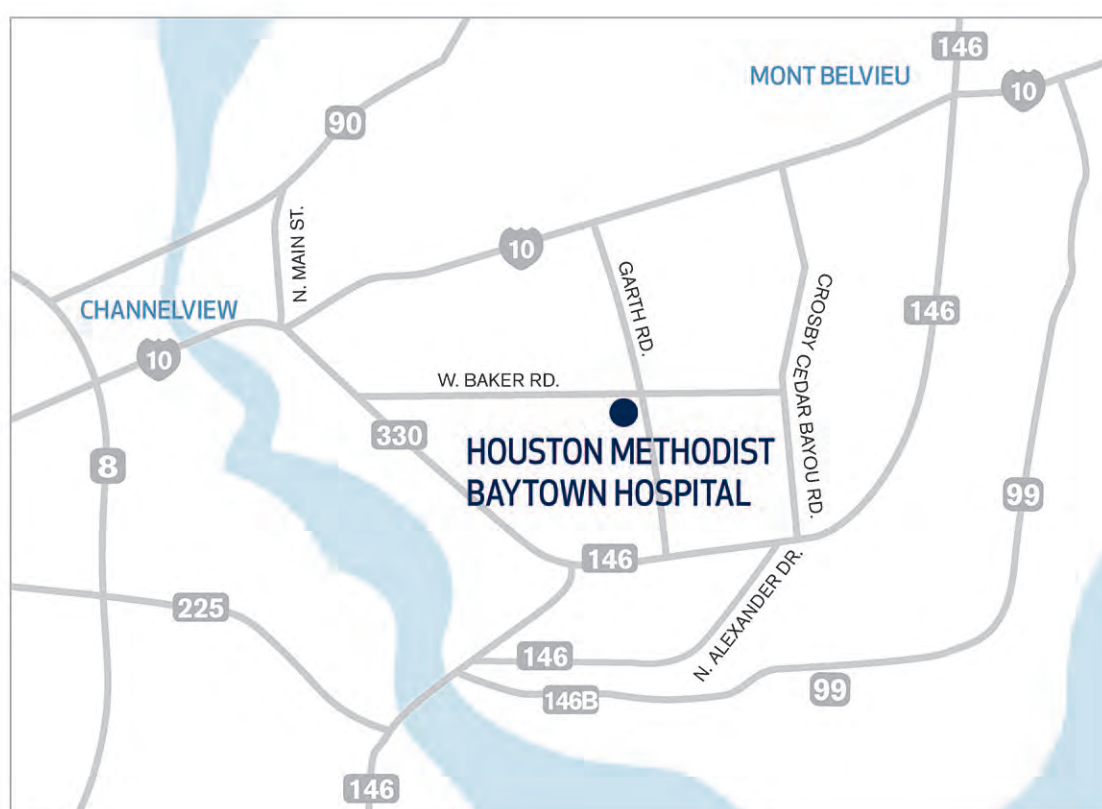
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