NORTH CHANNEL & STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City VOLUME 9, NO. 29 (#380) THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

PURE CBD Grand Opening

Grand Opening at 12.750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston 77015. Saturday, 11am to 8:30pm. Complimentary healthy snacks and drinks. See AD in this paper for 15% discount on your CBD order. More information at www.puredodhouston.com, instagram.com/ purecbd-houston. and facebook.com/ purecbdhouston.

FRI. AUGUST 13 Roaring Twenties Casino Night

NORTH CHANNEL AREA FOUNDATION ROARING TWENTIES CA-SINO NIGHT

Friday, August 13,

7:00 - 11:00 pm, Jacinto City Town Center

TOGETHER AGAIN, OVERCOMING THE PANDEMIC TO RING IN THE TWENTIES!

Help support a local area student's education by raising funds for the Bill Palko Scholarship!

COME DRESSED IN YOUR ROARING 20'S BEST!

Our NCA Foundation Casino Night Fundraiser will be here in the blink of an eye! Join us as we ring in the twenties by coming together and funding the education of a bright and promising North Channel Area student through our Casino Night Fundraiser. We encourage you to consider participating or donating to our event. Break the stigma around Friday the Thirteenth, and bring your luck in support of our Chamber

Bad smell in Galena Park traced to LyondellBasell

GALENA PARK — Residents of the city have experienced an unpleasant odor in the air since last Friday. Harris County Pollution Control Services confirmed to this newspaper that they're received numerous complaints and they're looking into it. One person in the area described the smell as a combination of garlic and bug spray

Just after 9:30 a.m. Friday, a message posted to CAER (Community



LYONDELLBASELL identified their plant in Pasadena as the source of the bad smell that has permeated Galena Park for several days.

Awareness Emergency Response) announced the source of the smell as the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery at 12000 Lawndale. Plant officials said they're working to address the odor, and sought to clear the air on any potential health impact.

"While unpleasant, the odor does not pose any harm to our workers or community, and there is no need for nearby community members to be concerned or take any action."

the statement read. "We regret any concern this odor may have caused."

Galena Park's mayor posted the update to Facebook as well.

On Friday afternoon, the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery issued the following statement:

"At approximately 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, our Houston Refinery located at 12000

Continued. See Galena Park Smell, page 8

County Attorney informs CHIC environmentalists

By Allan Jamail

Channelview TX -June 24, 2021 at the Channelview Fire Department on Dell Dale Harris County residents gathered to learn how they can get pollution concerns addressed. Organizers of the newly formed Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition (C.H.I.C.) had Bethany Dwyer, Asst. Attorney Environmental Harris County Attorney's Office (CAO) as their guest speaker.

Dwyer explained what's needed to successfully present a case in court against environmental violators. She presented an exceptionally informative slide show which thoroughly educated the attendees on the step by step process of how to file a complaint. She explained the need for complainants to gather and document valuable evidence on the violators that'll give the CAO proof enough to be successful in court proceedings. Violations can be reported by calling: CAO: 713-755-

For an emergency with a chemical spill, odor or fire call the Channelview Fire Department, 911.

C.H.I.C. has organized in a continuing effort by residents to share information, to educate others and to work with govern-



Bethany Dwyer, Assistant Harris County Attorney of the Environmental Division.



Carolyn Stone, C.H.I.C. organizer



Jennie Ramsey, C.H.I.C. organizer



Theresa Blackwood, C.H.I.C. organizer

Photos by Allan Jamail

ing and other agencies to address issues impacting Channelview, to bring awareness and to document, prevent and improve the issues and conditions affecting resi-

Upcoming C.H.I.C. meeting dates, July 22nd, August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th,

23rd, October 28th, November 18th, December 16th. For information or to join email: c.h.i.c.77530@gmail.com
Attendees came from
all over east Harris County and the North Channel
area including Crosby,
Baytown, Channelview,
Jacinto City and Houston. Linda Jamail, Community Liaison of State
Rep. Ana Hernandez's office, Cindy Miller, Community Liaison Pct. 2
Comm. Adrian Garcia's
office, Rep's of East Har-

ris County Empower-

ment Council, Channelview Fire Dept., Rep's of Harris County Pollution Control Dept.

Recent ČAO news, on July 12, 2021 at a public comment session hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee proposed reinstatement of chemical disaster rules rolled back by the Trump ad-

ministration, and enhancing rules to address Harris County's unique vulnerability to chemical disasters.

Menefee said Harris County has the largest petrochemical complex in the U.S. and a history of severe weather events, "we're vulnerable to large scale chemical disasters that impact residents" He also proposed additional enhancements to the rules, including expanding the list of chemicals covered by the rules. requiring facilities to have safety plans in place to endure severe weather, and improving coordination with first responders.

President Obama's administration's EPA had imposed several rules in response to the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas. In 2019, the Trump administration rolled back many of these commonsense requirements, including requiring chemical companies to determine the root cause of spills and explosions, and training requirements for chemical plant supervisors. In response, Harris County, 14 states, and two cities sued $the\,Trump\,administration$ to invalidate the rollbacks. Harris County was the only governmental entity in Texas involved in the lawsuit. The entire County Attorney's press release can be found at: https:// cao.harriscountvtx.gov/

Constable gives Greenwood Leadership Award to Morrison

Please help us in congratulating Cpl. Shirley Morrison for receiving the department's first ever, Clinton Greenwood Leadership Award. This award is given to an individual that exceeds expectations, conquers any task given and who continuously displays the true characteristics of a leader. Congratulations Cpl. Morrison, you are truly deserving of this award.

#pct3 #leadership #Greenwood



Dems defy Abbott, continue stay in DC

WASHINGTON, DC – More than 50 Democratic members of the state House fled Austin for Washington, D.C., last Monday, paralyzing the House just as the GOP was advancing sweeping changes in elections during a special session. Under the Texas Constitution, the Legislature requires a quorum of two-thirds of lawmakers to be present to conduct state business in

either chamber.

The Texas Democrats plan to spend the week meeting with national voting rights advocates and labor leaders, election officials and other Democrats as they seek to keep the pressure on Congress to pass federal voting legisla-

After news broke over



Democratic State Rep. Senfronia Thompson

the weekend that three members of the caucus had tested positive for $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,n\right\}$

Continued. See Page 4

SHELDON ISD NEWS

SUMMER HOURS IN

SHELDON ISD Sheldon ISD will operate on summer hours through July 30. Buildings and offices will be closed on Fridays. Sheldon administration will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Normal operating hours will resume beginning the week of August 2.

EARLY REGISTRATION FOR 2021-22 IS ISD

If you're a new student in Sheldon ISD, go to www.sheldonisd.com/register/ to begin the registration process by completing the online pre-enrollment forms and uploading the required documents. Campus staff will call to set up appointments to let families know once the application is complete. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 11.

Current students should verify their residency information is up to date by logging in to Skyward Family Access located on the district's website.

REGISTER FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN IN SHELDON ISD

Pre-kindergarten registration is open for new students to Sheldon ISD entering pre-kindergarten. To learn more and to register, www.sheldonisd.com/register/.

SHELDON OFFERS BLUE CARD PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZEN RESIDENTS

The Blue Card Program is an initiative to honor all of our supporters in the district who are age 65 or older. One of Sheldon ISD's goals is to create and foster an environment where gaged and actively involved in the work we do



King High School ACE Academy and FFA students were selected to participate in a collegiate agriculture camp to train and learn more about rural economics and agricultural

KHS students selected to attend Texas agricultural camp

Nine C.E. King High School Agricultural Careers in Education (ACE) Academy and FFA students were chosen from Texas universities to attend the Agriculture in the Piney Woods Camp. This is a three-year grant program in partnership with Sam Houston State University and Stephen F. Austin State University. King High School students attended the camp June 14-18 at both SHSU and SFASU campuses. Participating students were seniors Jeronimo Villanueva, Samantha Doerr and Josselin Climax as well as juniors Ajiah Arceneaux, Abraham Munoz, Sierra Payne, Gabriela Gonzalez, Alexa Mireles and Bria Foggie.

Throughout the five-day camp, students experienced agriculture opportunities to include poultry science, horticulture, wildlife conservation, forestry, rural economics, agriculture engineering, Equine science, and college

sponsibility of community members, parents, and educators, and we believe a community's collective power is greater than individual efforts. To sign up to be a Blue Card member, go to www.sheldonisd.com/bluecard/

Members receive free entry to district-sponsored fine arts and sporting events as well as a free luncheon each year with an opportunity to learn more about the district and engage with district leaders.

Dr. Donald Stewart named Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Donald Stewart has been named the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning in Sheldon ISD. Dr. Stewart has more than 20 years in education with experience as a deputy superintendent, high school and middle school principal, history educator, athletic coach, and after-school director.

"I am looking forward to the addition of Dr. Stewart to our academic team. said Superintendent of Schools Dr. King Davis. "He is a strong, visionary leader with experience in instructional coaching and development."

Dr. Stewart comes to Sheldon ISD from East Texas Advanced Academies where he served as the Deputy of Business



DR. DONALD STEWART

Operations. Prior to that he was an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at Natalia ISD and a high school and middle school principal in Judson ISD, where he was awarded 'Principal of the

He has a doctorate of

education from Liberty University, a master's in education administration from Lamar University and a bachelor of science from the University of Texas-San Antonio. He began his role in Sheldon ISD in early July and will focus on enhancing curriculum while providing a focus on closing learning gaps created by the pandemic.

"I am excited to join the Sheldon ISD community and team," said Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Donald Stewart. "Sheldon ISD has a strong reputation of being innovative, and I look forward to working with all the staff and students of the district.

Sheldon Executive Director of Innovative Programs selected for educator hero award

Mrs. Becky Zalesnik, executive director of innovative programs, was selected by Shell Oil as a 2021 educator hero along with three other teachers and administrators from the Houston-area for supporting educators and making a difference during the pandemic school year. All selected educators were special guests at the Mayor's Freedom Over Texas live event downtown and treated to a VIP dinner and reception at the Hobby Center, along with being special guests at the concert and fireworks show sponsored by Shell Oil. Zalesnik was also selected to participate in making a commercial for







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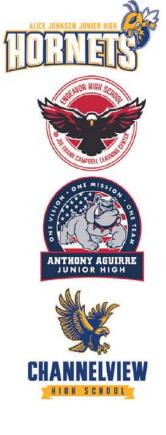
AUGUST 3-5

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3
MARTES, 3 DE AGOSTO DE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4
MIERCOLES, 4 DE AGOSTO
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

9 -11 A.M. & 1 -4 P.M. 1-5 P.M.

9 A.M.- 1 P.M.

Bill Neal Center 828 Sheldon Road 281-452-8002





Age Requirements

- Pre-Kindergarten students must be 4 years old by September 1
- Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 1

Requisistos de edad

- Los alumnos de pre-kinder deben tener 4 años antes del 1 de septiembre
- Los alumnos de kinder deben tener 5 años antes del 1 de septiembre

Required Documents

- Valid ID from parent/guardian enrolling the child
- Child Birth certificate (must be original)
- Social Security card (must be original)
- Immunization record
- Last report card or withdrawal paper (if applicable)
- Proof of Residency (utility bill or lease agreement)
- Two emergency contacts
- Additional PK requirements must be met

Documentos Necesarios

- Identificación válida del padre/tutor que inscribe al niño(a)
- Certificado de nacimiento del niño(a) (debe ser original)
- Tarjeta de seguro social del niño(a) (debe ser original)
- Cartilla de vacunación actualizado
- Última boleta de calificaciones o documentación de baja de la escuela anterior (si aplica)
- Comprobante de domicilio (factura de servicios públicos o contrato de alquiler
- Dos contactos de emergencia
- Se deben cumplir los requisitos adicionales de pre kinder

Have questions? ¿Tiene preguntas?

★ OPINION PAGE >



Congress must support fight against voter suppression

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee Statement on Need for Congress to Support Fight Against Voter Suppression of House Democrats of Texas General Assembly By Eliminating the Senate Filibuster and Passing H.R. 1 and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Committee on the Judiciary. Homeland Security, and the Budget, and Chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, released the following statement today regarding and in support of the House Democrats of the Texas General Assembly who are fighting the insidious voter suppression bill, and have now arrived in Washington, DC to press their case for immediate federal action to protect the right to vote, including eliminating the filibuster to block consideration of remedial legislation:

"Voter suppression is at a crisis level in America. Laws suppressing the right to vote are being passed in Red States and others across the nation.

"I applaud the House Democrats of the Texas General Assembly for being on the front lines, fighting in opposition to Texas SB7 on the House floor. They have arrived in Washington, DC and I join with them in calling upon the U.S. Senate to eliminate the filibuster and to bring to the floor for debate and vote — so Congress can pass — H.R. 1 and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

"Voting is our most precious right, guaranteed by the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. We must all do our part to preserve this most important heritage because it was earned with the sacrifices and the lives of our ancestors."

###

Congresswoman Jackson Lee is a Democrat from Texas's 18th Congressional District. She is a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security and a member of the Budget Committee.



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Dems defy Abbott,

Continued from page 1

Covid-19, the events were moved largely online. Sunday night, the caucus said two more members had tested positive.

EXPENSIVE PRO-

The price of keeping the Democrats out of Texas through Aug. 7, when the session expires, is expected to be around \$1.5 million, state Rep. Armando Walle said in an interview.

Walle said the pair of private charter jets the majority of legislators took to Washington cost more than \$100,000, while housing, food and other transportation costs will make up the bulk of other expenses.

Who is paying for the exodus has been an open question, as the legislators

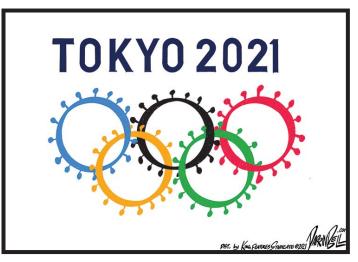
fled in a hurry without a fundraising plan.

The charter jets were paid for by wire transfer from the state House Democratic Caucus just hours before takeoff Monday afternoon, after NBC News reported that the legislators were planning to leave town, a caucus staffer with knowledge of the matter said.

Members and staffers have picked up costs on their personal credit cards, too legislators said

too, legislators said.

A large block of hotel rooms at a mid-range D.C. hotel was booked with a House member's personal American Express card, said a legislator, who added that members expect to be reimbursed eventually.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Absent lawmakers stymie Special Session

Nearly 60 Texas House Democrats left the state last Monday for Washington, D.C. in an effort to stop passage of a Republicanled elections bill. This in effect blocks all legislation since the House doesn't have a quorum present. As the Austin American Statesman and other media outlets reported, Gov. Greg Abbott has threatened to arrest the absent lawmakers upon their return. While in Washington, the legislators have met with Vice President Kamala Harris and several Democratic senators to push passage of a federal elections bill that is currently stalemated.

The House Democrats

The House Democrats have vowed to stay in Washington until the special session ends on Aug. 7. They are using private funds as well as campaign accounts to finance their decampment to the nation's capital and are mounting fundraising campaigns. San Antonio lawmaker Trey Martinez Fischer, one of the leaders of breaking the quorum, said Democrats are spending \$10,000 a day for hotel rooms and meals.

Abbott has blasted the Democrats' absences as a "taxpayer-funded junket."

ABBOTT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Abbott last week directed the Texas Rangers to investigate "multiple allegations" of potentially illegal behavior among ertain staff members of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The department operates five secure facilities and six halfway houses across the state for vouthful offenders. The move comes after numerous complaints that children in state lockups are subject to widespread sexual assault and other vio-

In late 2020, Texas Appleseed and Disability Rights Texas filed a complaint with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S.

HIGHLANDS

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Department of Justice, claiming "grievous violations of children's constitutional rights." TJJD has been under criticism for more than a decade for what critics term chronic understaffing, abuse and scandal, according to previous published reports.

INVASIVE SILVER CARP FOUND IN TEXAS WATERS

Invasive silver carp has been found in Texas waters, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The invasive species was found in last month in Choctaw Creek, a tributary of the Red River, about 15 miles downstream from Lake Texoma. "These are the first re-

These are the lifex reports of silver carp from Texas waters, although they have previously been found in other areas of the Red River including just downstream from Lake Texoma in Oklahoma waters in 2019," said Dan Bennett, TPWD fisheries management biologist. "Invasive carp pose a significant risk to Lake Texoma's ecosystem and boaters and there is adequate flow and upstream river area for them to become established and reproduce in the lake if introduced."

The carp are not native to the United States but have become prolific primarily in the Mississippi River Basin. They compete with other species, such as shad and buffalo, and can even pose a risk to humans. They can jump up to 10 feet out of water when

CROSBY

startled by boat engines, sometimes injuring boaters. Some can reach more than 4 feet in length and weigh nearly 90 pounds.

Anyone who catches either silver or bighead carp in Texas waters is asked to report the sighting with location information and photos to AquaticInvasives@tpwd.

AquaticInvasives@tpwd. texas.gov. Silver and bighead carp are prohibited exotic species in Texas and must be killed upon possession by beheading, gutting, gill-cutting or other means or placed on ice. Neither species can be possessed live.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is receiving more than \$210 million in federal emergency funding for mental health and substance abuse prevention services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has created much higher demand for mental health and substance use disorder services across Texas," said Sonja Gaines, HHS deputy executive commissioner for Intellectual and Developmental Disability

Developmental Disability and Behavioral Health Services. "The federal emergency funding will allow us to address challenges associated with the impact of COVID-19 and help get Texans who need behavioral support on the road to recovery."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that drug overdose deaths set a record in 2020, driven primarily by opioids. HHSC is using the emergency funding to create and implement a number of initiatives, including expanded access to treatment and recovery programs and diversion services that keep folks with mental health or substance abuse issues out of jails and emergency rooms.

NEW COVID-19 CASES RISING SHARPLY

Largely because of the delta variant of COVID-19 and a large percentage of unvaccinated Texans, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose sharply in the past week, with 22,773 new cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's close to double the number of cases the week before, and deaths reported also increased to 192. The Centers for Disease Control reports that 99% of deaths attributed to the virus are people who have not been vaccinated.

Hospitalizations of labconfirmed COVID-19 patients also rose sharply, to 2,834 currently in Texas hospitals as of Sunday. That's up nearly 50% from the previous week. The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated rose slightly to 12.353 million — 42.3% of all the total state population.



Adventures Everywhere

Years ago, I had trouble with my septic system. If you've ever had that kind of trouble, you know what kind of trouble it can be.

I was living in my old farmhouse out in the middle of the woods and had no idea where the sewage went until it suddenly went nowhere. That's when I called the sentic gay

when I called the septic guy.

The house (and presumably the septic tank) was 100 years old, and I had never had occasion to get overly curious about where the septic tank was or exactly how it worked—until it didn't.

The septic guy located the tank and then made what I thought was a shocking comment. "There's another one here somewhere," he announced, and headed off into the woods, looking for another septic tank cover.

er septic tank cover.

"There are two septic tanks?" I asked, confused.

"At least!" he said.
"Isn't that unusual?"

"Not at all! I've seen up to

"Five septic tanks?"

"Yup" The septic guy was now searching through the underbrush like a hunter stalking his quarry. He smiled broadly. "The septic business is always an adventure!" he

I had honestly never thought of it that way.

Yesterday we had a somewhat similar situation under our feet. Fortunately, this one did not involve sewage, but only the floor—which has been getting worse by the day.

been getting worse by the day.

The humidity has gotten the better of the inexpensive engineered wood flooring installed by the fellow who flipped the condo before selling it to us. The damage started out as a buckle in the hallway, spread to some ripples in the kitchen, and is now making its way across the living room like furrows in a freshly plowed field. My husband, Peter, has had it.

"I don't even like the color!" he said, looking out over the rippling black landscape. "I think we should rip it all out!"

And so yesterday a nice flooring man named Hayden came to visit. Hayden tut-tut-ted in what I thought was an appropriate way when he saw the ridges running the length of our floor.

"What's underneath it?"
Hayden wanted to know. Like
my old septic system, it had
never occurred to me to investigate.

"Rip it up!" Peter told him.
"We're getting rid of it anyway." Hayden grabbed a
chunk of the engineered wood
and pulled.

and pulled.
"Parquet," Hayden said.
"Excuse me?" I didn't know

"Excuse me?" I didn't know what Hayden said, but it certainly couldn't have been "parquet."

"There's parquet flooring underneath," Hayden said, pulling off another board so we could see. "And it looks like it's in pretty good shape, except for the paint they dripped on it."

Peter and I stared at the

Peter and I stared at the beautiful oak parquet hidden beneath the dreadful rippling flooring. So now Hayden will be refinishing the parquet floors we never knew we had.

That evening, I talked to Vern, the guy at the front desk. He remembers Elizabeth, who owned our condo from the year it was built until she died last year. She was a character, and a bit of a hoarder, but apparently a wonderful person. "I'm betting she threw down carpet on that parquet and forgot all about it!" Vern said.

Today I'm grateful that Elizabeth never got around to remodeling, grateful the flipper was too lazy to remove the old flooring before he put in the new, grateful that Peter got sick enough of the growing bumps to do something about them. I keep going back to the hole Hayden ripped in the floor and looking at that lovely parquet hidden just beneath the surface all this

There are adventures everywhere, and not just in the septic business.

Till next time, Carrie

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

ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Respect

One of my favorite recording artists from my childhood was Aretha Franklin. She could sing in a way that caught your attention. Not just with her voice but her style. I often think about her singing RESPECT. The passion she had while singing that song made a lasting impact on me

Now there are times that I am passing by a local school on my way to work or just in the area and \boldsymbol{I} see electronic marquees displaying a message of what character trait is being taught that month at the school. Those words like kindness, compassion, loyalty and patriotism all strike up feelings in my mind, but when I see the work RESPECT, it also strikes up a mood. Instantly, I find myself wanting to sing along with Aretha.

Somehow, in the last decade or so, too many people have lost empathy and lost respect for

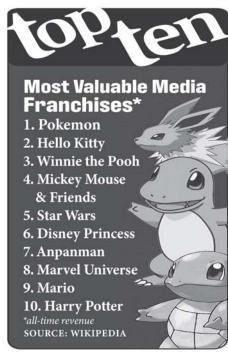
Never in a million years would my parents' generation ever thought about not standing for a time of prayer or for the Pledge of Allegiance. I am not sure if it is because my father worked almost 50 years in retail, but when I see someone at a grocery store and they just push the basket out of the way and not properly push it to the basket stall, it irritates me. I have noticed that when my 34 year old son is introduced to someone, no matter the age, he always extends a hand to shake their hand. I have seen him give up hours to help an older adult who needs their yard mowed or an appliance looked at. He may not know how to repair something at first, but if he can get on the internet and find a way to help them, he will

Both my son and daughter-in-law have instilled values in my granddaughters that I am proud of. When taking my oldest granddaughter and a friend to the movies, I love seeing them hold the door open for others. I notice the amount of respect that they show to their friends' parents and to the teachers in the schools. My youngest granddaughter has a lively spirit, yet her respect for others always outshine that. One thing I have seen in this younger generation is that even when they do not know someone but they feel someone is shaming the person or mistreating them, they speak up and not just to me or their parents. Both girls are quick to speak up to let people know that all people are equal even if they have different beliefs

Recently there were some pictures on social media that were clearly not flattering to the people photographed. My 13 year old granddaughter wanted to know instantly who took the pictures and even worse, who posted them. She was ready to call the person and tell them that their actions were uncalled for. The level of respect that she has is to be commended and hopefully duplicated. If you do not respect others, it is truly because you do







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*PERSONAL INJURY *SLIP/TRIP AND FALL *AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS *TRUCK ACCIDENTS



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What can you tell us about Coral?"

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ... CORAL

Coral is one of the oldest materials used by humans to adorn their bodies, offering vibrant pops of color in jewels dating all the way back to antiquity. But, as is the case with most materials used for adornment, there's a lot to learn about coral—the proper nomenclature, classification, how it's protected, and more. In an effort to offer clarity on the subject and an appreciation for the beauty and complexity of coral, here are five things to

1. IT'S IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH AMONG THE TYPES OF CORAL

Nomenclature is an important conversation in many facets of the industry and coral is no exception, so I want to start here. Corals are, as we know, tiny marine polyps—spineless organisms with a soft body and external skeleton made of calcium carbonate. The animals belong to the Cnidaria phylum,



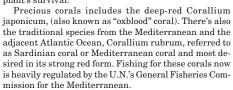
which includes more than 9,000 species

Coral is a huge, diverse group, and comparing them would be like comparing all mammals. Fewer than a dozen coral types are considered precious. There are a few coral types occasionally used for decoration. Referred to as common corals, they are mostly reef corals, which is what might first come to mind when talking about coral—the colorful coral reefs in shallow waters that can be admired while snorkeling. Reef corals are affected by climate change and ocean acidification, and grow in warm, clear, shallow water.

Precious corals, meanwhile, are solitary or colonial in habit. They grow at greater depths, making them less vulnerable to changes in water temperature. Precious coral is generally located and harvested 50 meters or more below the surface (one exception is the harvesting of Mediterranean coral) and belongs to a different eco system than reef-building coral. Precious coral is fished in such a way—when done legally and responsibly—that it doesn't destroy the environment

2. HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HOW CORAL IS REGULATED.

Endangered and threatened species are protected by an international treaty called CITES. It aims to ensure international trade doesn't threaten a wild animal or plant's survival.



3. PRECIOUS CORAL OFFERS A HANDFUL OF COLORS.

The corals considered precious by the trade are rare, beautiful, have a uniform color, and a porcelain-like luster after polishing. They also have a historical significance. For example, Mediterranean coral has been used for thousands of years and is featured in old scriptures. Coral also has a rich lore—Ancient Romans believed it calmed the ocean waves, while in the Victorian era, coral beads were worn to ward off evil spirits.

When it comes to precious corals, the strong red that can be seen in fine Mediterranean coral, for example, is just one of a handful of colors available from precious coral. There's also pink/salmon, white, cream, and various shades of orange.

4. HERE'S WHAT THE MARKET TYPICALLY LOOKS FOR.

Among the most valued types of coral in the trade is Angel Skin, the light pink variety which gets its color from an albino-like disorder. Peggy Grosz, senior vice president of Assael, which sources coral responsibly for its jewels, said: "Matching is critical in a strand or a necklace, not only in color but also in quality. And when you consider the rarity of Angel Skin coral, it is truly a treasure to have an entire strand."

5. HERE ARE RESOURCES TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INFORMATION AND RULES.

It's important for the trade to understand coral so they can help communicate clearly their decision to use, or not use, the material. In the U.S., coral is subject to regulations; these requirements include declaration and licensing permits from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for importation/exportation and additional declarations required by U.S. Customs and Bor-

der Protection (CBP) upon import.
Ultimately, sustainability and responsible sourcing should be at the forefront of anyone's mind who's working in precious materials of any kind. After all, even though precious coral might not be as at risk as reef coral, it's still a living organism that's sensitive to increased acidity in water, rising sea levels from global warming, pollutants, and physical dangers like fishing nets, divers and overfishing. We all need to be responsible for the future of all plants, animals, and organisms.

(Credit to National Jeweler for some of the content in this article)

 $Diamond\ Jim\ is\ a\ master\ jeweler,\ diamond\ dealer$ and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many $years. \ See \ more \ at: www.pine for est jewelry.com.$

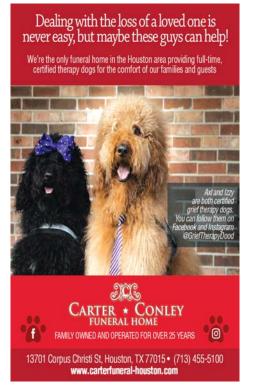
Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

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.











Harris County Transit's new service: HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT PLUS







Harris County Transit Plus will be a new on-demand transportation service within defined zones of North East Harris County. This includes providing pre-set destinations such as: grocery stores, shopping centers, hospitals, colleges and other job destinations.

Harris County Transit would like your feedback on transportation needs within your community.

Scan the QR Codes to take our survey and comment on our new service area OR visit our website at HarrisCounty-Transit.com to access the same surveys.

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Nuevo servicio de Harris County Transit : HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT PLUS

iEn Generation Park!





HarrisCountyTransit.com

Harris County Transit Plus sera un nuevo servicio de transporte a pedido dentro de zonas definidas dentro del Norte Este del Condado de Harris. Esto incluye proporcionar destinos preestablecidos como: supermercados, centros comerciales, hospitals, universidades y otros destinos laborales.

Harris County Transit le gustaria recibir sus comentarios sobre las necesidades de transporte en su comunidad.

Escanee los codigos QR para realizar nuestra encuesta y comentar sobre nuestra nueva area de servicio O visite nuestro sitio web en HarrisCountyTransit.com para acceder a las mismas encuestas.

transit@hctx.net

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HANDYMAN Anyone knowing the whereabouts

NEEDED General Maintenance at Jacinto City Business Park Paid Weekly 832-287-8819

of the heirs of PERRY FUSELIER of Opelousas, Louisiana, please contact Ogden Pitre of Pitre Law Firm at 511 E. Landry Street, Opelousas, LA 70570; Telephone (337) 942-1900.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Let ters of Testamentary for Docket No. 494211; Estate of ARDIS BUNDAGE De ceased: In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 28

ROSEMERRY HUDSON

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 F Wallisville Boad Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Es tate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law Dated this JULY 15, 2021

> State take by WESTON COTTEN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

www.pulidotransport.com.

Notice is hereby given that Original Let ters of Testamentary for Docket No 494661; Estate of RODGER JOHN MCLEAN Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 30, 2021.

KAREN MARGARET MCLEAN

tor is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing

c/o Weston Cotter 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this JULY 15, 2021.



Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction;

August 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2007-20313; TRACT 1: LT 49 BLK 7 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD #0836260000049; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 and TRACT 2: LT 4 BLK 11 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836300000004; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 and TRACT 3: LT 20 BLK 11 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836300000020; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 Opening Bid: \$19,500.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information

Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction;

August 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2011-28085; TRACT 1: LT 21 BLK 8 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD #0836270000021; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 - Opening Bid: \$9,300.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information

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HELP WANTED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary for Docket No 494832: Estate of MAUDIE M. STARLING Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Ha ris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE

WESTON G. COTTEN and WELDON K. COTTEN

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Es tate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law Dated this JULY 14, 2021



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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the President and Board of Directors of Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Channelview, Texas, Harris County, will be received at Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530 until 2:00 P.M., Thursday, August 12, 2021, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the 'Automated Bar Screen for the Wastewater Treatment Plant."

company Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, payable without recourse to the District, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at https://bids.lja.com for One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents, which sum will not be refunded. A printed set can be picked up at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston, TX 77029.

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the District

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 2:00 P.M. at the Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Conference Room, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530. Bids from Firms other than the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference Attendees <u>WILL NOT BE</u>

Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6

Gary O'Brian President

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR IN THE HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR. CALL

713-266-3444

Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal. Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 is accepting Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals for renovation of existing Fire Station. The Proposal is due no later than Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at Martinez Architects, LP 900 Rockmead, Suite 250, Kingwood, TX 77339. The Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal will be utilized pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 775, Texas Health & Safety Code and Ch. 2269, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code. For additional information regarding this project, please contact Mr. Ricardo Martinez (ricardom@martinez-architects.com, 281-346-7371). Request for Proposals may be reviewed or requested from Martinez Architects, made available from Associated General Contractors, McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge, Virtual Builders Exchange

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To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details

Phased closures due for two months on Hartman bridge to allow emergency repairs

Lanes will be placed in a contraflow configuration to keep both directions of travel open

July 7, 2021

HOUSTON - The Texas Department of Trans-portation will begin making repairs to a portion of the Fred Hartman bridge this weekend. During a routine inspection last year, crews found some fractures along the joint and immediately repaired the joint with steel plates and later asphalt.

The \$2.5 million emergency contract was approved to replace the modular joint. It took about six months to design

In order to replace the



joint on the southbound portion of the bridge, crews will close all southbound mainlanes on the Fred Hartman bridge and then

close the northbound mainlanes the following weekend. During construction, lanes will be placed in a

allow for two southbound and two northbound travel lanes on the northbound

contraflow configuration to

Beginning Friday, July 9 at 9 p.m. crews will close one left lane on SH 225 from Sens Rd. to SH 146 to prepare the lanes for contraflow. This closure will last until the project's completion.

Beginning Friday July 16 at 9 p.m. until Monday, July 19 at 5 a.m. crews will close the SH 146 $\,$ northbound mainlanes at ${\rm SH}$ 225 to implement the temporary contraflow traffic pattern and place the temporary barrier.

Motorists traveling northbound will detour to SH 146 north to SH 225 west to IH-610 north to IH-10 east

-- Beginning Friday, July 23 at 9 p.m. until Monday, July 26 at 5 a.m. crews will close the SH 146 $\,$ southbound mainlanes at Missouri St.

Motorists traveling southbound will detour to SH 146 south to Spur 330 north to IH 10 west to IH 610 south to SH 225 east.

It is recommended that motorists seek an alternate route during the time of these closures

On July 26 at 5 a.m. traffic will open to a reduced contraflow pattern and remain for the duration of the project, about two months.

All closures are subject to change due to inclement weather. Follow us on Twitter @TxDOTHouston and Facebook www.facebook.com/txdot-

Sheriff hosts public Bike Ride in Deussen Park

 $HARRIS\ COUNTY-In$ honor of Park and Recre ation Month, the Sheriff's office celebrates the beauty and value of our local parks and green spaces. They enhance our quality of life and contribute to the well-being of our communities. Our Parks Unit patrols nearly 100 parks across our county. These deputies ensure the parks are safe and welcoming for visitors.

For many, parks were essential mental and physical outlets throughout the pandemic. Our parks are often our first experiences in nature, and our introduction to walking, running, bicycling, and being active outdoors. They are at the center of many memories and a place to come together with friends and family.

Parks also connect us to our neighbors and those who patrol and protect our neighborhoods. We invite you to join our deputies for a community bicycle ride at Alexander Deussen Park in northeast Harris County on Saturday, July

Community Bike Ride Saturday, July 24 Alexander Deussen

12303 Sonnier St. Houston, Texas 77044 Registration: 7:30-8:30

Ride Start: 8:30 a.m. Our goal is for you to have fun while getting to learning about bike safety. This family-friendly event gives us another avenue to interact with our community beyond calls for service and traffic stops. We



The public is invited to join with Sheriff's deputies on Saturday, July 24 starting at 7:30 am registration, 8:30 bike ride. The ride will take place in Deussen Park near Lake Houston.

want to bring people to-gether and push our neighborhoods forward through positive relationships and open communication.

Join Us All ages welcome

--Safety helmets strongrecommended

--Bottle water provided --Chance to win prizes and giveaways --Learn bike safety tips

--Receive a basic bike in-

Download the park map Download and complete the event waiver form

The bike ride will start at 8:30 a.m. near the pavilion and water gazebo at the park. Be sure to arrive early to sign in. There will be two bike routes - a nearly 5-mile route within the park and a 7-mile route that extends to neighboring Eisenhower Park. For those that don't have a bike, there are 40 bikes available for rent at a Bstation at Alexander Deussen Park, Guest riders can pay with a credit card at the kiosk on-site or on the mobile app. Learn more

The ride will end back at the pavilion where our Park Unit deputies will announce giveaways, talk to you about what's on your mind, and offer basic bike inspections that include tire pressure checks, tightening loose bolts, and inspecting brakes, pedals, chains and more. You can also meet with team members from our Community Problem-Oriented Policing Unit, Patrol District 2, Motor Assistance Program, Community Engagement Division, and various other units

We welcome cyclists of all ages, skill levels, and riding all types of bicycles to join us. If you have any questions about the community bike ride, please reach out to our Parks Unit at 346-286-1943.

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Productive Pain

Growth and pain go hand in hand. We simply cannot have one without the other and trying to protect anyone from all pain is counterproductive. Far better, for instance, if parents allow children to experience pain and challenges a little at a time while holding their hands, helping them learn how to deal with life's hurdles. It enables kids to mature and prepare to face a life in which things won't always go their

This truth was illustrated in one recent study that compared two groups of children. In it, the children who had to face challenges and conquer them were far happier and more successful over all than those children who were "privileged" to have had most or all challenges removed. Man is designed to face life and conquer it, not hide from reality and only exist. We've seen in today's culture how overprotective parents have created a large group of adults who only exist, drifting through their days with no drive to achieve, and this is a problem not just for the individual, but for society as well.

With all of this in mind, let's look at the current state of the

church. Many churches today are feeding this very weakness, this unwillingness to face pain or even discomfort. They have determined that the people they want to attract "can't take" the painful challenges presented by the strong points of the Gospel, so they set aside large portions of the Word to make those people feel more at ease. This tactic may get warm bodies into the sanctuary, but it doesn't help the members they gain grow spiritually.

Maybe it's time to pull out the old WWJD $bracelets\ because\ Jesus$ did things differently. Jesus was in the Synagogue, teaching, on a regular basis; He laid the truth out in a strong way that religious people hated and sincere people hungered for. Then He went out into the highways, sat on the mountainsides, and preached from boats. unapologetically giving His listeners what they really needed, again...whether they liked it or not. Yes, He presented truth to them in a way they could understand, but He didn't hold back, and He expected them to take the truth and

It hurts to see how much of the modern church has turned

aside from presenting the Gospel as clearly and completely as Jesus would have. Like those overprotective parents, all too many ministers have watered down the message and let people merely exist as spiritual babies far too long. It's time for a change, and the change starts with us as individuals. Yes, the ministers who have backed off from the fullness of the Gospel are responsible for their churches, but we are each responsible to watch over our own spiritual walks

It is up to us to find the churches $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}$ wants us to attend, and to become contributing parts of those churches. It is up to us to have active prayer lives, dig into the Word of God, listen to the Holy Spirit, follow where He leads, seek out resources that empower us to grow and mature as Christians, and consciously put into practice all that we learn. These things all require commitment. They can make us terribly uncomfortable, even raise challenges that cause us pain at times. Even so, if we want to grow, productive pain is part of the

www.myhillsidefamily.com @myhillsidefamily

Galena Park Smell,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lawndale experienced a leak onto the roof of one of the storage tanks due to the heavy rain events in the area. This did not immediately result in an odor but during our cleanup efforts yesterday, July 15th, an odor became present.

The plant's incident response team is working to eliminate the odor as quickly as possible.

We understand that the material is odorous and community members may be able to detect a slight odor. Air monitoring demonstrated no levels of concern for the community.

There were no injuries. We reported the situation to the appropriate state and federal agencies and are still investigating the cause of the leak. We apologize for any concern this may have caused

As always, the health and safety of our people and the community are our highest priorities.

Harris County Pollution Control Services also issued a statement:

"PCS has identified chemicals of interest-carbon disulfide, dimethyl disulfide, methyl ethyl disulfide. Residents may

experience irritation of the respiratory system and digestive system. Cause of odor has been capped and smell should dissipate by later this evening. Sensitive populations should limit outdoor time and use face coverings."

The odor lingered in the area Saturday, according $to\ residents.$

Company representatives said in a statement that progress was being made to get rid of the smell, but weather conditions and ongoing work may cause more periods of the unpleasant odor.

Grand Opening!!!



12750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston, 77015 Monday-Saturday, 11:00 AM-8:30 PM and Sunday 12:00 PM-5:00 PM.

The Grand Opening will be held Saturday, June 26th we will have complimentary healthy snacks and drinks. Our social media is INSTAGRAM.COM/PURECBD-HOUSTON

our website is: WWW.PURECBDHOUSTON.COM and FACEBOOK.COM/PURECBDHOUSTON

"Bring in this ad during the grand opening and get 15% off total order."