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JACINTO CITY ELECTION ONLY FOR 2% SALES TAX

Voters in Jacinto City will not have to vote for new council or mayor, because there were no challengers to the incumbents, and they were declared elected at the last City Council meeting.

However, there will be an election on May 7, from 7am to 7pm to consider adopting a 2% sales and use tax with the city limits, proceeds to go to the city general fund.

Early voting at City Hall, April 25 to April 29

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

LyondellBasell Refinery Tour



Visitors with the Galena Park/Jacinto City CIP view inside the control room of the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery during a tour on April 7th. The next morning, the plant had a massive fire in their coker unit, that required 27 fire units from Houston, plus the refinery emergency units, to put out the blaze.



Visitors from the Galena Park/Jacinto City CIP took a tour of the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery installations. Here the visitors hear from the shop foreman about the refinery operations inside the machine shop/maintenance room.

Tugboat flips, Man dies



The tug, Ricky J Leboeuf, capsized next to barges and crews began to search for a missing tugboat crewman in the San Jacinto river about half a mile south of the I-10 bridge, Tuesday, April 19, 2016. The overturned hull is visible beyond rescue boat. Coast Guard crews eventually located the missing man's body downstream.

Harris County, TX – Harris County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit along with the United States Coast Guard recovered a body of a male who drowned, after the tug boat he was working on submerged for an unknown reason on the San Jacinto River in East Harris County last

See TUGBOAT DEATH, p. 6

ELECTION TIME IN GALENA PARK

Galena Park will hold a municipal election on Saturday, May 7th. All four City Commission seats, and the Mayor are up for re-election, office holders having served their 2 year terms since the 2014 election. All incumbents are running for re-election, as

well as new challengers for each position. Since Galena Park council meetings and government have often been contentious this last two years, the voters may be quite interested in who is elected to office, and what their positions are. This Candidates












Guide has been put together to help you cast your vote.

Early Voting will start on Monday, April 25, at City Hall. Hours are April 25 & 26, 7am to 7pm. April 27 thru 29, 8am to 5pm. May 2 & 3, 8am to 5pm. Voting is also possible by Mail, deadline is April

22 in person, and April 26 by mail. Contact information: Mayra Gonzales, city secretary, PO Box 46, Galena Park TX 77547 or mailballot@cityofgalenapark-tx.gov or fax 713-672-1840.

Regular Voting is on Saturday, May 7 from 7am to 7pm. Precincts 208, 857, and 860 will vote at City Hall. Precinct 81 will vote at Baggett Center.

METHODOLOGY: Each candidate was sent a letter, requesting a photo, biography, and platform. The results are published here. Some editing may have been required, for space considerations. A response was not received from some candidates.

MAYOR		COMMISSIONER POS. 1- WATER/SEWER		COMMISSIONER POS. 2- POLICE/FIRE		COMMISSIONER POS. 3- PARKS/RECREATION		COMMISSIONER POS. 4- STREETS/BRIDGES		
DAWN THOMPSON- FISHER	ESMERALDA MOYA	RODNEY CHERSKY	DANNY "BEVO" SIMMS	OSCAR SILVA JR.	CRUZ R. HINOJOSA JR.	ERIC BROUSSARD	MARK GROBA	MARICELA SERNA	BARRY PONDER	JUAN L. FLORES
										
57 Years Old Legal Assistant, GPISD school board trustee Resident in Texas 57 Years	49 Years Old INCUMBENT Mayor of Galena Park Resident in Texas 40 Years Resident in Galena Park 26 Years	50 Years Old Deputy Constable Resident in Texas 7 Years Resident in Galena Park 6 Years	55 Years Old INCUMBENT GPISD Lead Painter Resident in Texas 17 Years Resident in Galena Park 17 Years	47 Years Old Production Co- ordinator Resident in Texas 41 Years Resident in Galena Park 41 Years	63 Years Old INCUMBENT Retired Resident in Texas 16 Years Cruz R. Hino- josa, Jr. is a retired civilian supervisor with the Houston Police Depart- ment.	59 Years Old Aircraft Me- chanic Resident in Texas 15 Years Resident in Galena Park 15 Years	59 Years Old Real Estate Resident in Texas 58 Years Resident in Galena Park 58 Years	60 Years Old INCUMBENT Tax Preparer Resident in Texas 41 Years Resident in Galena Park 41 Years	62 Years Old Self Employed Resident in Texas 62 Years Resident in Galena Park 62 Years	38 Years Old INCUMBENT Outreach Coor- dinator Resident in Texas 38 Years Resident in Galena Park 33 Years
	My name is Esmeralda Moya City of Galena Park I am a graduate of Galena Park Senior High School. I hold an Associate's degree from San Jacinto College, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from University of Houston, and a Master of Clinical Psychology degree from the University of Houston-Clear	My name is Rodney Chersky and I am asking for YOUR VOTE for City Commissioner – Position 1, which oversees the Water & Sewer Departments within the City of Galena Park. I am deeply concerned that Galena Park's water supply barely meets minimum standards set by the State of Texas. This is unacceptable and there are	Danny "Bevo" Simms, a fourteen (14) year Water and Sewer Commissioner, I was appointed by former Mayor Bobby Barrett to fill the remaining term of Councilman James Brooks, who passed away. I had an opponent in 2002 and have not drawn one until two years ago. Why, because I'm trust worthy!	My name is Oscar Silva Jr. I am asking for your vote as I run for Police and Fire City Commissioner – Position 2 for the City of Galena Park. I have lived in Galena Park for over 40 years. I attended Galena Park Schools and graduated from Galena Park High School. I am very fond of our city and I am seeking office to help make Galena Park great	During his 23 years with the city, he worked in the city water department helping citizens with their water bills, teaching water conservation and supervising community service inspectors. Currently, he is board chair of NCI's Promise Credit Union, Board Chair of				My name is Barry Ponder and I'm running for Commissioner Position 4 - Streets and Bridges. I've been a resident in Galena Park for 60 years. I learned my values from two loving parents. My father was a 35-year veteran with the 101st Airborne from whom I learned the importance of honesty, integrity, respect and public service. I'm married to my wonderful wife.	
NOTE: STATEMENTS FROM CANDIDATES CONTINUE ON PAGE 4										

COMMUNITY PROFILE: Community leader Dickie Woods dies

Dickie Woods, born Carl Raymond Woods on April 7, 1940, passed away on April 16, 2016. He grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and was co-captain of the 1957 State Finalist Sweetwater Mustang Football team. He went on to attend Rice University in Houston, TX on a football scholarship and played in the Sugar Bowl, Orange bowl and the Bluebonnet Bowl. Upon graduation, Dickie joined the Texas Air National Guard after marrying his high school sweetheart. He then moved to the east side of Houston and earned his pilot's license and started his long entrepreneurial career. He bought his first business in 1966 and continued building and developing businesses in the North Channel Area throughout the 70's and 80's.

In 1985 he acquired Banana Bend Beach Park and brought his family to the Highlands area. Dickie began investing in the Highlands community and he joined the Highlands-



C.R. "Dickie" Woods

Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce where he served many years in the board and multiple terms as the Vice President and President. His love for the community and its people translates through the many projects he initiated and supported. He was a long time member of the Northshore and Highlands Rotary Clubs, the Citizens Bond Advisory Committee for GCCISD, and President of the local county water board. He supported the local first responders and law enforcement initiatives and worked with county officials

to bring improvements to the community that he loved. Dickie was also a great supporter of local youth programs through sports organizations, boy scouts, partners in education and the Goose Creek Education foundation. In 2006, he was recognized by the community for a lifetime of service and achievements with the Terry Davis Memorial Award.

Dickie enjoyed hunting and motorcycle trips with his buddies and spending time with his family. He loved touring the state parks with his wife of 54 years, Virginia, and their five grandchildren; Kenneth Michael McCann III, EmmaLee Lopez, Logan Lopez, Sarah Woods and Hunter Woods. He is also survived by his three children; Jennifer Woods-McCann, Jessica Woods-Lopez and Moises Lopez, and Dickson Woods and wife JoEllen, his sister Estelle Councilman of

See DICKIE WOODS, page 5

COMMUNITY WORKS TOGETHER Volunteers Turn-out for North Channel Beautification Project



Volunteers and Rep. Green gathered at the Houston Police Department storefront on the East Freeway to begin planting and cleaning the North Channel area on Saturday, April 9, 2016.

HOUSTON— Nearly 100 volunteers spent their Saturday (April 9) picking up trash and litter in the North Channel area during Congressman Gene Green's annual Community Clean-up. Part of Great American Cleanup and Keep Houston Beautiful Day, the event drew volunteers from 21 organiza-

tions and groups, including three local high schools, the mayor's office, the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Houston Police Department Northeast Division.

Sue Blackburn, an annual volunteer and active member of the Wood Shad-ows I Civic Club, said, "I

look forward to this event every year. It is a time when people from all over our area come together for one purpose: removing as much litter as possible from our neighborhood. It is especially heartwarming to me to see these young

See GREEN CLEAN, page 8

SCHOOL NEWS

Class of 2020 Inducted into Sheldon's Early College High School

Crowds of proud parents, educators and eager students packed the Fine Arts Theater of the San Jacinto College – North on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 for a special pinning ceremony. The 8th grade students of Null Middle School and King Middle School, who will be attending Sheldon's Early College High School next year, were recognized

and inducted into Sheldon's Early College High School. As part of the induction ceremony, each student was called up to the stage, received a certificate, an Early College High School pin, and a red carnation. The students even got some encouraging words from upcoming graduate, Vanessa Cias. She will be

graduating from the Early College High School with an associate's degree from San Jacinto College – North. After graduation, Vanessa plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin. Early college high schools are small and personalized schools designed for qualified students to simultaneously earn a

high school diploma and an Associate's Degree, or up to two years of credit toward a Bachelor's Degree. The concept began in 2002 and is founded on the principles, research, and support of several partner organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Early college high schools utilize innovative methods and provide the

academic and social support systems to promote student success in intensive, college preparatory studies. Sheldon Early College High School has partnered with San Jacinto College – North to combine high school and college level classes beginning in the 9th grade.



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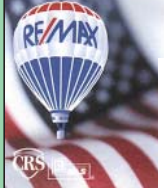
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HISTORIC FLOODING

Powerful Rainstorm soaks Harris County, worst in 15 years

HOUSTON – Powerful storms filled the sky last Sunday night, bringing strong winds, lightning, and heavy rains to the county.

Areas especially hit by flooding included Greenspoint, Jersey Village, West Houston, and Meyerland. Some flooding occurred in East Houston, along Greens Bayou and the San Jacinto River. Governor Abbott declared an emergency and asked the president for federal aid.

Thousands of residents on all sides of the county were flooded and in most cases had to be evacuated by emergency personnel.

Monday afternoon Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, went on television to entreat residents to stay off the streets. They said that over 115 deep water rescues had been made in one day, with two fatalities. These occurred in a semi-truck in the Greenspoint area, and another on Hardy Street.

Due to the impassable streets, all public schools and colleges, and most businesses were closed on Monday. Weather forecasts indicated more rain was due Monday night and Tuesday. Harris County Flood Control

representatives indicated that this was the worst one day flooding and storm in the last 15 years, and may in fact top records that go back 200 years. They reported that 13 of the 22 bayous in the county were out of their streambeds.

Since some of the worst flooding was around apartments in Greenspoint, including the Arbor Court, City View, and Park de Ville complexes, among many more, a temporary shelter was set up at Greenspoint Mall, and later a Red Cross shelter at M.O. Campbell Center.

In an effort to keep you and your loved ones safe, State Senator Sylvia Garcia urged everyone to follow emergency management personnel's recommendations: Stay at home. Unless you are escaping flood waters, the safest place for you right now is at your home. Houston police and firefighters have put their lives at risk today rescuing hundreds from high water, and you don't need to risk both your life and theirs by heading out into the flood waters.

Call 911 if you are experiencing a life-threatening danger. Emergency personnel are there to help you and

your family if you believe your life is threatened by rising water or other threats.

SHELTERS

There are designated American Red Cross shelters available if you or your family have experienced flood damage and need a place to stay:

M.O. Campbell Educational Center
1865 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, Texas 77032

Jersey Village Baptist Church
16518 Jersey Drive
Jersey Village, Texas 77040

St. John United Methodist Church
8787 N. Houston Rosslyn Road
Houston, TX 77088

Johnston Middle School
10410 Manhattan Drive
Houston, TX 77096

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mayor Turner asks all residents stranded or needing transport to shelter to call 311. Operators for Houston's 311 system are standing by to assist you with non-emergency questions, so please reach out to them for additional information.



Streets throughout the city were flooded and impassible.



This man swims away from his sinking car to save his life.



I-45 North at N. Main had no traffic, only water over the roadways.



These people boated away from their condo in the back, past a sunken car.



Over 70 horses had to be saved by volunteers.



Here an air mattress doubles as an escape boat.

PHOTOS COURTESY KHOU/KTRK

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

Texas Workforce Commission

Texas adds 185,000 jobs over the past year

AUSTIN, April 17, 2016 – Texas added an estimated 185,000 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year. The state experienced job gains in two of the first three months of 2016. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate maintained a 4.3 percent rate in March, matching the revised 4.3 percent rate in February and continuing to trend below the national average of 5.0 percent.

“The Texas unemployment rate continues to trend below the national average,” said Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar. “TWC remains focused on working with industry and education partners to create innovative solutions to our workforce needs around the state.”

Texas' total nonfarm seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 12,000 jobs in March's preliminary estimate. This comes on the heels of an impressive string of 11 straight months of job growth for the state.

“Texas' economic growth over the year is due to the resilience of our employers who have added 152,300 private-sector jobs over the past year,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughes. “Texas employers continue to be leaders in job creation.”

Employment in the

Leisure and Hospitality industry increased by 2,400 jobs in March, representing an increase for the 12th consecutive month. Over the year, this industry has gained 75,600 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities employment rose for a fifth straight month with the addition of 800 positions in March. These gains were offset by losses in other industries including Mining and Logging which lost 7,500 jobs in March.

“We are continuing to see low unemployment rates, coupled with a growing labor force,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. “Texas boasts a quality skilled labor force, and I encourage those looking for new opportunities to visit WorkInTexas.com.”

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) boasted the lowest not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the state at 3.0 percent followed by the Austin-Round Rock MSA with a rate of 3.1 percent and the Lubbock MSA with a rate of 3.3 for March.

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit tracer2.com.



SEC files charges naming Paxton in Servery case

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is facing civil fraud charges filed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Paxton was named in charges filed April 11 against Servery Inc., a McKinney-based technology company incorporated in Nevada, and its founder and former chief executive officer William E. Mapp III.

The federal regulatory agency's 26-page complaint contains the charges alleging “the boosting of stock sales with false claims about a supposedly revolutionary computer server and big-name customers purportedly placing orders to buy it” from November 2009 through September 2013, a period during which Servery raised some \$26 million in private securities.

Paxton, a former member of the company's board of directors, is also named as a defendant in the complaint. The SEC alleges that Paxton, while serving as a member of the Texas Legislature in 2011:

- Reached an agreement with Mapp to promote Servery to prospective investors in return for shares of Servery stock; and
- Raised \$840,000 in in-

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



vestor funds for Servery and received 100,000 shares of stock in return; and

- Failed to disclose his commissions to prospective investors while recruiting them.

The case, styled as SEC v. Mapp, et al., was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division.

In its complaint, the SEC also notes that on July 28, 2015, a Collin County grand jury indicted Paxton on two counts of first-degree state securi-

ties fraud and one third-degree felony count for failing to register as an investment adviser representative for the same conduct underlying a disciplinary order by the Texas State Securities Board. That indictment is pending.

Sales tax holiday is set

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 13 promoted the April 23-25 Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Holiday.

“The severe weather, fire and flooding we had last year provided a stark reminder that Texans should be prepared for any emergency,” Hegar said. “This tax holiday allows people to save money while ensuring they have the supplies they need if disaster strikes.”

During the three-day holiday, no tax will be

- charged on items such as:
- Batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced at less than \$75;
 - Hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced at less than \$300; and
 - Portable generators priced at less than \$3,000.
- Examples of purchases that do not qualify for the tax break include:
- Batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
 - Camping stoves and camping supplies; and
 - Chainsaws.

Zone dangers recognized

The Texas Department of Transportation, in observing National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 11-15, urged drivers to slow down, pay attention and be extra cautious — especially when transiting highway work zones.

In 2015, 138 people died in 21,886 work zone crashes in Texas, an increase of 13 percent over the previous year, and the top two causes of those crashes were speeding and driver inattention, the agency stated.

“People often think work zone crashes result in the deaths of roadside workers, but last year, 81 percent of these fatalities were motorists. Work zones require complete attention and strict adherence to posted traffic signs. For the sake of everyone working in and traveling through work zones, we urge drivers to be extremely careful and responsible so everyone can arrive home safely to their loved ones,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass.

TxDOT noted that with the state's population continuing to boom, “the price of progress can mean more than 2,500 active TxDOT work zones at any given time.” By law, drivers are required to move over or slow down when approaching work crews, emergency vehicles or tow trucks stopped on the roadside or shoulder with flashing blue or amber lights. Traffic fines in work zones double when workers are present and can cost up to \$2,000.

Galena Park Candidates, continued

ESMERALDA MOYA

Lake.

I was elected to my first term as Mayor of the City of Galena Park on June 21, 2014. I stand for Mayor based on my record of service to the people of Galena Park and as Mayor, I also offer new ideas for an ever-changing City.

As Mayor, I will be focusing on the future of the city while maintaining its unique history. Some of my goals include: more police officers on the streets, supported by the highest quality training and the best in new technology, as well as introducing more after school activities for the youths and job training for the citizens of Galena Park. I plan on balancing the budget without service cuts, keeping tax rates low and bringing more business and industry to the city of Galena Park. In addition, I strongly believe in working closely with City Council and Department Heads and create business and community development.

I feel honored that the people of Galena Park have elected me as their Mayor and I am here to serve the people. “I believe that together we can make a difference in our wonderful city.”

RODNEY CHERSKY

several options we should be looking at.

Additionally, as many of you know, a good part of our sewer lines are very old and in need of replacement. When high water backs sewage into YOUR home it will never be the same.

Let's get our priorities in order. No, we cannot get it all fixed overnight. Management has neglected it too long but we can get it started. We have good people working for Galena Park and I'm sure none of this work would have to be contracted out.

Finally, let me say that if I am elected, I will start work on Day 1 trying to remedy these problems and you can bet I will be easy to find and talk to. I want to hear your suggestions and recommendations and YES, your complaints. We can't correct a problem we are unaware of.

Who is Rodney Chersky?

I am a law enforcement officer and I have served in this capacity for 31 years. While working for Harris County I served as an Accident Investigator, Field Training Instructor as an Undercover Vice & Narcotics Investigator. In addition to my law enforcement career, I am also a licensed real estate agent. I have also served as a Property Tax Arbitrator where I was trained and certified by American Arbitration Association. This was a valuable learning process that helps protect the honest citizen.

Recent Achievements and Commendations:

2015 – Certificate of Congressional Recognition Award Recipient signed by Texas Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in recognition of dedicated service to community.

January 2015 – Harris County Pet. 1 Deputy of the Month Award for Outstanding Service

September 2015 – Harris County Pet. 1 Deputy of the Month Award for Outstanding Service

2014 – Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipient signed by President Obama for recognition of outstanding volunteer work, dedication and contribution to the community.

2014 – Certificate of Congressional Recognition Award Recipient signed by Texas Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in recognition of dedicated service to community.

DANNY "BEVO" SIMMS

I've been married to Carol Simms for 29 years, son, John Wayne Simms, teacher and coach at Galena Park High School and daughter, Shelby Simms, sophomore at Abilene Christian University. I am currently employed with Galena Park ISD for the past 36 years. I have also served as Lay Minister at Peace Lutheran Church for the past 19 years. Several of my hobbies include watching High School and College football games as well as losing lots of golf balls on the golf course. The most favorite time of the year for me is Christmas when I can listen and enjoy the beautiful sounds of Christmas music.

When questionable matters have been presented before council, my fourteen (14) years of experience has been very beneficial in making an unbiased decision on behalf of not only a select few but for the entire community. Although these past two years have been the most challenging for me, however, I feel I've grown stronger as a result of them. Citizens I have spoken to have grown very tired of the negative media exposure that has cast a shadow over the city of Galena Park. The citizens I represent are looking for strength and leadership and I feel they have that in me.

During my industrious time on council, I have acquired a tremendous amount of respect from surrounding communities and City Leaders such as but not limited to the Harris County Mayor/Council Association where I have been privileged to serve as an officers on the board.

This year is the year we move forward to bigger and better things such as: new police cars, new fire truck, new pavilion at the park, water and sewer problems which will finally be addressed along with great leadership and an improved financial status with those targeted goals, this city will see amazing things happen.

We are blessed with productive citizens working in our community but they need a Mayor and Council that will support them in making this city great and not criticized for every thought-out decision that's made.

Let's keep looking forward and with the help of God we will all do better!

Thank you for your support to have allowed me to serve you for the last 14 years and I look forward with great anticipation for your vote for this year on May 7, 2016. I pray you support my leadership and my experience for the next two years.

May God bless you and your family.

OSCAR SILVA JR.

again.

Keeping our city safe is one of my priorities. As your commissioner I will work extremely hard to hire and place more policemen and women on the streets patrolling. Provide them with high quality training and give them the best tools to do their job. Our world is changing daily, as we all know technology is everywhere, in everything we do. We need to keep up. I will work with the Mayor and City Council members on a place sub stations throughout Galena Park, Galena Manor, and Woodland Acres giving our residents fast, easy access in time of need. I want our Police Department to be visible throughout the city to help our residents feel secure again.

I will also oversee the Fire Department which we all know needs a facelift. Our fire hydrants throughout the city need to be inspected AND repaired timely. There should never be hydrants out of order, this is critical in an emergency. As far as our EMT service, I would like to work with our high school and offer students the opportunity to work hands on training and possibly lead to a career as an EMT.

Our children are our future. We need to work together to make Galena Park great again. Make it a city our children will be proud of and be proud to follow in our steps. We know all the changes cannot happen overnight but we can start them with a vote for me and my team!

I get your vote and am elected my job will start immediately! You will be able to find me and/or contact me easily. I want to know what you think, I want to hear what our citizens think of our city, what they need, how I can help, take all suggestions and recommendations. And if you are angry I want to hear from you too!

A little background on Oscar Silva: As I mentioned, I have lived in Galena Park for over 40 years. As a child at the age of 8 my family moved from Chicago down to Texas. I have made Galena Park my home and my family's home. I have 4 children, Jody, Jessemy, I want to hear what our citizens think of our city, what they need, how I can help, take all suggestions and recommendations. And if you are angry I want to hear from you too!

I have been employed by Shell Oil Product for 26 years. I started my career in May, 1989 as a temporary employee. I was quickly hired as a permanent employee and in less than a year I was promoted to Lead Man for one of our production lines. Soon after that I was promoted to Lead Man for the whole production department. My duties included overseeing the day to day operations. Approximately 6 years ago I was moved into management. I work closely with other managers and leads to oversee blending and coordinating. I am currently a Production boxing skills I provide motivation and criticism well. At least twice to three times a week you can find me at my younger brothers boxing gym, Elite Boxing Gym. Boxing is in our blood, I love the sport! There is no better feeling than giving a child or adult the right guidance in life.

I look forward to meeting you and your family and I look forward to working with YOU and for YOU! I would greatly appreciate your vote on May 7th!

CRUZ R. HINOJOSA JR.

SER Corp (Ser Jobs for Progress), American Leadership Forum, Class XXII, Hispanic Impact Panel and the Board of Directors of The Woods Project. Cruz has also served on the Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees from 2003-2007. Chairman of the Board for the Wendell D. Lay YMCA, Founding Board Chair of the Galena Park Community Resource Center, Early Head Start Advisory Board and Special Olympics Steering Committee to name a few. Cruz has also been an active member of the Knights of Columbus (the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world) since 1976. He has served on the local and state level. He is founder of LULAC Council 4703 in Galena Park and LULAC Youth Council 1017 at Galena Park High School. Since 2001 LULAC 4703 has awarded over \$100,000 for high school scholarships. In years to come, Cruz desires to continue nurturing and educating today's youth for their roles as tomorrow's leaders.

My twenty three years of working in city government and with the Houston Police Department as a civilian supervisor and as a graduate of the Houston Fire Department's (Citizen Fire Academy) gave me a head start when I was appointed to this position last August. Since then I have been instrumental in hiring more police officers, EMT/part time firefighters and a D.O.T. truck enforcement officer or patrol Clinton & Federal Roads, obtaining tasers for our police officers, replaced and added new street lights help pass a new environmental "no idling" ordinance. After hearing that we had not been collecting our municipal warrants for the last 4 years, I initiated the hiring of the Linerbarger Law Firm to collect over 1 million dollars in unpaid fines and warrants.

Working closely with First Responders these last few months has enabled me to see what is needed in the Fire & Police Departments. I will advocate for additional police & fire personnel, computers in their vehicles, additional disaster training and the staffing of the fire station in Woodland Acres.

One of the biggest goal I have at this time is to make use of the 32 acres of land "reclaimed" by the city, this land was donated to us in 1978 until I mentioned it to the administration they had no idea of this land belonging to the city. Landlocked as we are, we hope to use this land for bike & bike trails, nature discovery... whatever the citizens decide. But I believe the children should benefit from the rediscovering of this land.

BARRY PONDER

Cheryl, of 33 years and have two sons. My youngest son has served in the 82nd Airborne for 20 years while my oldest son works at the Shell Corporation in operations. They have blessed us with four beautiful grandchildren.

While attending Galena Park High School, I worked as a stocker at Midleton's Supermarket. Shortly after, I was employed as store manager for Weingarten's on Uvalde. I moved on and became a Safety and Health coordinator for British Petroleum. I obtained an Associate's Degree in Electronics and a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Safety and Health; I became a Coordinator for the American Heart Association and a Licensure Paramedic. In addition, I hold Examiner and Instructor certifications from the Texas Department of Health and serve as an Instructor for International Trauma life support.

After retiring from British Petroleum, my wife and I started our own business and provide training in Advance Cardiac Life Support, Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG), Cardiology, Pediatric Advance Life Support, advanced first aid classes, Cardiovascular Resuscitation, Basic and Advanced Trauma courses. Our client base ranges from Harris County's Precincts and Department of Education, oil & gas companies, Texas Children's Hospital, and NASA.

As a member of "Committee for a Better Galena Park" I helped organize and distribute 500 Christmas gifts to children, helped deliver ISO food baskets including turkeys and hams to our senior citizens and families in need. Furthermore, Committee for a Better Galena Park purchased soccer equipment and uniforms for local Galena Park youth teams, hosted two Health and Safety days for ALL fifth grade children in Galena Park schools.

As a strong supporter in Education, I assisted High School Seniors with financial aid. Also, as a supporter of our community, I have fought in court to protect our rights as Citizens of Galena Park when my opponents tried to take away our right to vote, and WE WON.

Instead of spending time writing negative letters, like my opponents, I focus on what our city desperately needs. I propose, among other things:

- o Fixing our streets, not just patching them
 - o Replacing old street lights with new LED technology
 - o Repairing ALL sidewalks, not only a few selected ones
 - o Participate in balancing the budget
- Let's think about our children and what we want to leave behind for them. Let's create a dialog in terms of where we want our beloved city to be in 5, 10 or 15 years from now. LET'S TALK and see how I can assist you.

LIFESTYLE / OBITUARIES

Top San Jacinto College students received medals at state ceremony



On March 25th 2016 the All Texas Academic Team Award ceremony took place in the Texas State Capitol. The ceremony awarded medallions to 86 top students from two year colleges in Texas who were chosen for outstanding academic achievement, exemplary community service, and the quality of numerous essay submissions. Two students from San Jacinto College North received a medallion, Sharon Williams, right, and Zariah Hedge, left.

Thelma Ann Womack

Thelma Ann Womack, 98, of Houston, Texas, passed into her heavenly home on April 14, 2016. Thelma was born December 12, 1917 in Cunningham, Texas to parents, Rev. Mark Malone and Lessie Gunter Malone. She was employed by Galena Park I. S. D. for 39 years, where she enjoyed working with and educating elementary children until she retired in 1981.

She is preceded in death by her parents and by siblings, Estelle, Dora, Lorraine, Ruby Faye, Juanita and Mark and Audie, and by her beloved husband of 49 years, Arless W. Womack. She is survived by son, John D. Womack & wife, Mary and by daughter, Carol Robbins & husband, Larry; by grandchildren, Amy Womack-Turk & husband, Mike Turk; and Scott Robbins & wife, Cheryl; by great-grandchildren, Sydney & Casey Turk. A visitation and service will be



held at Royalwood Pentecostal Church, 7803 Uvalde Rd. Houston, with Rev. Ron Macey officiating.

Visitation will start Monday, April 18, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. and services to celebrate her homegoing will start Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Carter Funeral Home
13701 Corpus Christi St.
Houston TX 77015
713/455-5100

Mary Phillips

Mary Phillips, 86, of Houston, TX, passed away on April 13, 2016 in Atlanta, GA at the home of her daughter Nena Byers.

Mary Phillips was born in Bazette, Texas to Lawrence Aubrey Purifoy and Bertha Lee Purifoy on August 4, 1929. She married Eugene Keith Phillips on July 8, 1950 in Bazette, TX. She was involved in music club in Pasadena and Galena Park for many years and loved her family deeply.

Mary Phillips proceeded in death by husband, Eugene Keith Phillips and son, Gary Keith Phillips. She is survived by her brother, Durwood Purifoy; daughter, Nena Byers and son-in-law, John Byers III; sons, Robbie Eugene Phillips and John Eric Phillips; daughter in law, Emma Phillips; grandchildren, Jeremy and Kristy Phillips, Mary and James Huerta, Steven Phillips, Hillary and Stephen Settle, Aubrey Byers, Shelby Phillips, Greg and Bailey Schneider, and Mickie Phillips; great-grandchildren, Dylan Clen-



denen, Cali Huerta, Kayla and Kelsey Phillips; as well as many loving friends and extended family.

Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m. Sunday, April 17th at Carter Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St., Houston, TX 77015. Graveside services will follow at 3:00 p.m. at Prairie Point Cemetery in Kereens, TX, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Carter Funeral Home
13701 Corpus Christi St.
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713-455-5100
www.CarterFuneral-Houston.com

CHANNELVIEW ISD

Region 4 donates iPads to Special Education teachers

Channelview ISD Special Education teachers received iPad training and an iPad from Region 4. Last month, the Region 4 Assistive Technology Department, directed by Angela Standridge, donated 40 iPads CISD Special Services. The iPads will be utilized for inclusion classes across our district. District Instructional Technology Specialist Meredith Bell has conducted trainings with this group so that they may implement iPad programs into the classroom.



Dickie Woods,

Cotinued from page 1

Sweetwater, TX, his brother Floyd Woods also of Highlands, TX, and nine beloved nieces and nephews.

Dickie is preceded in death by his Father Carl "Dick" Woods and his mother Thelma Francis Woods.

Dickie Woods, cherished Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle and friend to all he met... will be missed. A Celebration of Dickie's Life will be held on Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 2pm-5pm at the San Jacinto Community Center 604

Highland Woods Drive Highlands, Texas 77562. Donations can be made in Dickie's memory to the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce Dickie Woods memorial scholarship fund.

Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com

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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.
Leviticus 19:32

BUSINESS

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:
A Theme for Investors?

On April 22, we observe Earth Day. Like many people, you might participate in some activities to help the health of our planet. But you can also do some things to improve your personal investment environment.

In fact, you might want to follow a key environmental theme: reduce, reuse, recycle. How can these elements be applied to investing? Here are some ideas:

• **Reduce** —You don't want to waste time, effort and money on investment decisions that will ultimately not benefit you much, if at all. For example, if you are constantly buying and selling investments, you may be hurting yourself in a few different ways. First, by not holding investments for at least a year before selling them, you may have to pay taxes on short-term capital gains at a rate that's probably going to be higher than the long-term rate, which would apply if you held the investments at least a year before selling. Second, by always buying and selling, you could pay more in trading costs. Third, some investments simply need to be held for the long term before they will show positive results. And finally, excessive buying and selling can make it hard for you to follow a consistent, long-term investment strategy. So if you do trade frequently, consider reducing your activity.

• **Reuse** — You don't have to look hard to find all sorts of investment techniques being promoted by someone. Many of these strategies have exotic-sounding names, such as "Dogs of the Dow" or "Range Trading." These techniques may have some validity, but, unfortunately, some investors zigzag from one to another, hoping to eventually find that "sure ticket" to investment success. You need to develop, and reuse year after year, an investment strategy created just for you, based on your individual needs, goals, comfort with

ASK THE EXPERT
By Edward Jones

risk and investing time horizon. Of course, you may well need to adjust this strategy over time to reflect changes in your life—but "adjusting" isn't the same as "abandoning." Sticking with a long-term, personalized strategy is an effective—and less stressful—way of pursuing your financial objectives.

• **Recycle** — When you put money in some investments, you don't just make a one-time payment and then hope to eventually make a profit when you sell—you can actually "recycle" your investment earnings and put them to good use. To illustrate: If you invest in dividend-paying stocks, you can typically sign up for a dividend-reinvestment plan and, as the name suggests, reinvest the dividends back into the stock. This is an easy and efficient way to increase your share ownership—and increasing ownership in any

investment can be an important ingredient for successful investing. You can recycle investment dollars in other ways, too. If you own bonds or other fixed-income vehicles that provide you with regular interest payments, you can place this money in a different investment—perhaps one that can help you fill any gaps that may exist in your portfolio.

Reduce, reuse, recycle—it's a theme that has resonated in the environmental movement, and it can serve as a useful guideline for evaluating your investments.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Diamond Jim: "How do I
determine the value of
my Fine Jewelry?"



KEEP, SELL OR RE-PURPOSE MY FINE JEWELRY?

The diamond necklace from an ex, the gold watch that sits in your jewelry box, the ruby necklace that you loved—a decade ago. We all have jewelry that we no longer wear.

Selling your old jewelry is an option, but it can be hard to know how and where to get started. Here are a few tips for getting the most from your rings, earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

1. Know the worth

You may love your jewelry. It may have been in the family for many years, or been a treasured gift at some point, or something that you saved for a long time to purchase.

Unfortunately, the emotional value you assign to your jewelry often has little to do with the current fair market price of your piece. Many factors go into determining the current value of a piece of jewelry, including any wear and tear, needed repairs and quality of the gems and metals.

The best way to determine current value is to take your piece to be appraised by a credible jewelry appraiser. A trained and certified appraiser will carefully determine the retail replacement value (the cost for a comparable replacement in the retail marketplace) for your piece.

However, while an appraiser will certainly give you a thorough look at your

ASK DIAMOND JIM

piece, the value they assign may not be the price a buyer is willing to pay, especially if they are hoping to resell. That's why you should...

2. Be informed

Think through how quickly you want to sell. If you want an immediate sale (i.e. cash in hand today), your options will be limited on where you can sell, and how much cash someone might be willing to pay immediately. Some jewelers buy fine jewelry for both resale and for scrap purposes. Of course, there are pawn shops that may be able to help you with an immediate sale, but you will want to visit several to get a good idea of the range of what these brokers will pay for a piece like yours.

If you are able to wait a bit, researching some other possibilities could net you a better price for your jewelry, or give you some other options, like re-setting stones from your jewelry into a new piece.

If you're considering selling your jewelry, visit a credible jeweler who buys jewelry (not all do), and learn about your options to sell your piece or work out another solution. Some jewelers will credit you a higher percentage of the value of your jewelry if you work with them to create a new custom piece of jewelry.



3. Be realistic

Again, we emphasize that the way you feel about your jewelry's worth may not align with current fair market price. Have a range in mind of what you would accept for the piece and be willing to accept an offer in that range.

If you are looking for a jeweler in your area who might be interested in purchasing your jewelry, you are in the right place.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

SAN JACINTO RIVER DEATH,

Continued from page 1

Tuesday morning, April 19, 2016.

HCSO Marine unit was dispatched at around 9:00am to the San Jacinto River Bridge and Interstate 10 East. The tugboat had a crew of 5 working, when it

became submerged.

HCSO marine personnel rescued four people from the river to safety, but a fifth crew member was unaccounted for.

His body was located a

short time later, and a Coast Guard boat assisted in recovering that victim.

The Coast Guard will determine how this maritime accident occurred.

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COMMUNITY



Havard Elementary staff supports child abuse prevention month

Galena Park ISD's Havard Elementary faculty and staff members show their support during April's Child Abuse Prevention Month by wearing blue. National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country. In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, we have designed a historical timeline of significant moments in child abuse prevention in the United States.

East Houston Democrats Monthly Meeting

East Houston Democrats will hold their Monthly Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Fuddrucker's located at 855 Normandy.

Join now and be a part of making an impact in our community. Members are actively registering voters as well as participating in local campaigns. In an effort to connect local Democrats we are open to residents in the Channel-

view ISD, Galena Park ISD and Sheldon ISD, as well as those in East Houston. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda at 281-782-6437 or Charlotte at charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com.

Father and daughter found dead inside home

Investigation is ongoing for the bodies of a man and a woman found last Sunday afternoon in the 6300 block of Larchbrook Drive in east Harris County, Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) reported. According to HCSO, constables were originally called to the residence for a welfare check at around 12:15 pm. When they arrived, they discovered the bodies of a man and a woman who were unresponsive. EMS services were dispatched and both complainants were pronounced deceased.

A family member said the two people were a father and daughter. Neighbors said the two usually had their garage door open and somebody called police to check on them because they have not seen their neighbors in a while. HCSO Homicide is investigating and they believe there was a foul play involved. The Harris County Institute of Forensics Science will determine cause of death.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

North Channel Library events

-Monday, April 25, 6 pm, STEAM Camp.
-Tuesday, April 26, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Eat, Play & Grow; 3:30 pm, Robotics: Homeschoolers.
-Wednesday, April 27, 10 am, North Channel Book Club; 4:30 pm, Tween Time: We Do Lego Robotics (registration required).
-Thursday, April 28, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 pm, Children's Theater.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs.

Jacinto City Library programs

-Saturday, April 23, Children's Movie Theater, 12:30 pm.
-Tuesday, April 26, 10:30 am, Excel; 4:30 pm, Excel Básico.
-Wednesday, April 27, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 12:30 pm, ESL Class.
-Thursday, April 28, 12 pm, Ebooks/Devices; 6 pm, Nutrition and Healthy eating class.
-Friday, April 29, 1 pm, Clases de Inglés usando Mango; 3 pm, 1-on-1 Digital Tech Help.
Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. For more information on these and other programs at the library, please call 713-673-3237.

The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.



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