

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 5, NO. 14 (#168) THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Channelview FFA Livestock Show Parade & Sale

The Channelview FFA will hold its 54th annual Livestock Show Sale, April 8 at the Allen Hall Fairgrounds, located on Wood Drive in Channelview.

On Friday, April 7, the cattle show will be held starting at 6:30 p.m. The check-in for the chili cookoff will be at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 8.

The annual Channelview FFA Parade will start at 10 a.m. Saturday. The parade route will leave from Schochler Elementary, proceed east down Woodforest and north on Sheldon Road into the stadium parking area. The auction sale of placing market animals will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

### North Channel Chamber Luncheon

Friday - April 7, 2017  
11:30 AM @ San Jacinto College North - 5800 Uvalde Rd.  
Speaker: Robert Boudwin, Former Houston Rockets mascot "Clutch the Bear"

### Egg Extreme at South Drive Baptist Church

Come and enjoy FREE FUN for the whole family "Egg Extreme", Sunday, April 8, 2017 from 10 am - 2 pm at South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX 77530. Egg Hunt for all ages groups.

BBQ plates for sale, Prizes and much more. Come and help our Youth to Camp.

## Sheldon FD breaks ground for new Station #2

SHELDON – Monday morning of this week, fire department officials, ESD board members, and the family of the major founder gathered on a construction site on the Old Beaumont Highway, just east of Sheldon Road and west of the Sheldon ISD agriculture barns.

Construction has started on a new fire station for the Sheldon Community Fire & Rescue, and will include a new station, offices for ESD#60 officials, and a training facility.

The building will be 15,000 square feet in size, and include 3 truck bays, 2 vehicles deep, so that a total of six vehicles can be accommodated. At first it is planned to house four pieces of equipment: a fire engine, a tanker, a brush truck, and a rescue squad. The project cost for the facility is about \$10 million dollars, which is being furnished by ESD#60.



SHELDON FIRE CHIEF SIDNEY WEBB presents a commemorative groundbreaking shovel to Paul V. Reed, son of Paul V. Reed, one of the founders of the modern fire department, and in whose honor the new training facility is named. The shovel has a picture of the new building printed on the blade.

Fire Chief Sheldon Webb acting as emcee of the dedication ceremonies, and groundbreaking. He gave a short history of the department, tracing its origins to the Beaumont Fire Department started in 1955 by J. W. Perryman,



THIS PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE NEW STATION #2 is the side that faces Old Beaumont Highway. The building has 3 truck bays, able to hold six pieces of equipment, and includes offices, training rooms, sleeping rooms, a kitchen and day room, and support spaces. The building will be manned 24/7 by a permanent paid fire crew of four men.

PICTURE COURTESY JOINER ARCHITECTS

Paul V. Reed, and members of his family, including his son Paul Reed, were on See SHELDON FIRE, page 8

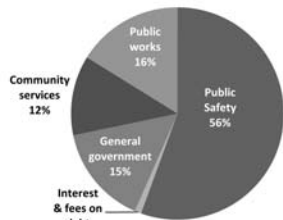
## Jacinto City's Council receives financial condition

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY - On Thursday, March 23, 2017 the audit firm of Belt Harris Pechacek, LLP presented a positive financial report for years 2015/2016, ending with a general fund balance of \$9,058,423. Expenses for that period were \$9,049,402.00 compared to the 2016/2017 projected expenses of \$11,395,383.00. City manager Lon Squyres said the nearly \$2 million dollar increase in expenses is largely due to the new police station, modification of the fire station, and repairing the swimming pool.

The council approved the second and final reading of the ordinance declaring unopposed candidates in the May 6, 2017 city election; therefore cancel-

JACINTO CITY 2016 EXPENSES



ling the election.

The council approved the first reading granting Magellan Pipeline Co. a permit to install one 24 inch pipeline for transporting crude liquid along or under city streets.

Police Chief Joey Ayala presented the mayor and council with a list of 27 locations of unhealthy condi-

See Financial Condition, Page 8

## Chase, rollover kills driver on Beltway



EAST HARRIS COUNTY – A police chase that started on Avenue D in Channelview, ended in Tragedy last Tuesday night, when the car being pursued lost control on the East Sam Houston Parkway feeder road northbound, and went off the road and rolled over several times. This occurred near Highway 90.

At 12:15 a.m. Sheriff's deputies tried to stop a Ford

Explorer, but the driver fled, running a red light.

The whole chase and fatal ending was captured on Houston Transtar cameras. The car rolled over five times, and the driver was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene.

The driver was described as an Hispanic man in his 30s, but not otherwise identified. It is believed alcohol contributed to the crash.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS Channelview soccer advances to Regional Semifinals



The Channelview Falcons force the ball upfield during their quarterfinal playoff game with C.E. King on Tuesday. The Falcons scored three goals in the second half to fuel their 3-2 victory, earning them a spot in the Regional Semifinals.

After a 3-2 victory over C.E. King on Tuesday, the Channelview Falcon Boys Soccer Team advanced to the Regional Semifinal round and will face Cy-Ridge at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Deer Park ISD's Absher Stadium.

In the Falcons quarterfinal match-up, they scored three second half goals to defeat C.E. King. Previously, Channelview defeated Alief Hastings in the Area Round and Deer Park in the Bi-District round.

With the win, Channel-

view now has an 20-1-5 mark overall and is enjoying its best season in the history of the program. The Falcons are led by Head Coach Carlos Galuppo and assistant coaches Clyde Messiah and Stephen O'Sullivan.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Pct. 2 completes North Shore Park Trail Improvements



North Shore Park Trail completed.

HARRIS COUNTY PCT. 2 – Commissioner Jack Morman recently completed the reconstruction of the North Shore Park walking trail. The project included reconstructing the three-quarter-mile asphalt trail to a six foot wide concrete walkway, extending the

trail nearly 160 more yards, and re-grading five acres of land for improved drainage.

"This park is known for its high traffic in walkers and joggers, so I'd like to thank everyone for their patience during this project," said Commissioner Morman.

The Precinct is currently in the planning phase of trail improvements at W.E. Bill Crowley Park in East Aldine. They hope to have that project complete by the end of this year. For more information and updates on the Precinct, visit www.hcp2.com or like their Facebook page "Harris County Precinct 2."

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## TxDOT urges drivers to stay focused on the road *Distracted driving crashes in Texas up 3 percent in 2016*

AUSTIN – March 30, 2017 – An estimated 1 in 5 traffic crashes in Texas is caused by distracted driving, and the problem is getting worse. As part of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April, the Texas Department of Transportation is launching its “Talk, Text, Crash” campaign to remind drivers to stay focused on the road.

“People are dying on Texas roadways because drivers are diverting their attention from the road to talk on a phone, send a text, post to social media or engage in some other distracting behavior,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “When drivers take their focus off the road, they put themselves, their passengers and oth-

ers at risk. It’s just not worth it.”

Last year, there were 108,962 distracted driving crashes in Texas – up 3 percent over 2015. Those crashes killed 452 people and seriously injured another 3,068. These crashes are highest among younger drivers ages 16 to 34.

In Texas, 38 percent of drivers say they regularly or sometimes use a cell phone while driving.[1] Text messaging is particularly dangerous as reaction times double when drivers read or send text messages.[2] A driver texting at 55 mph will lose sight of the road for nearly five seconds, which is comparable to driving the length of a football field while blindfolded.[3]

While mobile phone use

is the most recognizable driving distraction, other high-risk activities that can take your eyes or mind off the road include adjusting a music player, grooming, eating or programming a navigation system.

The “Talk, Text, Crash” campaign reminds drivers to:

- Put away the phone – or turn it off – before getting behind the wheel.
- Pull over to a safe location if you must talk or text.
- Use an app that will block texts and calls while driving.
- Tell friends, family and colleagues you won’t respond to calls or texts when driving.
- Always give driving your full attention.

## State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.2 Billion in March

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said today that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.24 billion in March, 3 percent more than in March 2016.

“Overall net growth in sales tax revenue represents mixed performances by major industry sectors,” Hegar said. “Collections from the manufacturing, wholesale trade and information sectors increased, while receipts from construction, retail trade and restaurants declined from last year’s levels.”

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in March 2017 was up

by 2.1 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections in fiscal 2016. Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes, motor fuel taxes and oil and natural gas production taxes are also large revenue sources for the state.

In March 2017, Texas collected the following revenue from those taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$403.6 million, up 2.2 percent from March 2016;
- motor fuel taxes —

\$266.3 million, down 5.5 percent from March 2016; and

- oil and natural gas production taxes — \$297 million, up 177 percent from March 2016. The increase is due in part to refunds provided to natural gas severance taxpayers in March 2016, which resulted in artificially low tax collections during that period.

For details on all monthly collections, visit the Comptroller’s Monthly State Revenue Watch. Go to the Comptroller’s website for an audio clip of Hegar’s statement on this month’s sales tax revenue.

## HIGHLANDS ROTARY Polio survivor, up close

HIGHLANDS – Speaking from a wheelchair, Houston attorney Jack Emmott told the Rotarians about his life, and experiences since he contracted polio at the age of six.

Polio eradication is a major program of Rotary International, and all clubs around the world, including the Highlands club help fund the eradication effort. The program is known as Polio Plus, and has raised \$850 million dollars since its inception, and has seen the number of cases of polio, most often affecting children, drop to only 38 in four countries of the world. Polio Plus was started in 1985 and has treated over two billion children with vaccine.

Prior to 1950, polio was very common in the U. S. spurring programs such as the March of Dimes to fight the disease and ease the suffering of those who had contracted it.



Author and Attorney Jack Emmott, with a picture of “Donk” from his childhood.

As a boy, Jack Emmott grew up along the banks of White Oak Bayou, in a neighborhood named for his family: “Emmottville.” The family owned 100 acres in farmland along the bayou, which is in the area now known as Spring Valley, north of I-10.

In 1954 the bayou flooded, and many children waded and played in the water, not knowing that it contained dangerous bacteria from pollution. This was the event which transmitted the polio virus to Emmott. Emmott recalled that he actually contracted the virus from fecal matter in the water of the flooded bayou. He was walking down a road with his grandfather, PawPaw, to get the mail.

Polio comes on very quickly, and it was soon that Emmott had trouble walking, and weakness in his body. Polio affected his body, and he was paralyzed

from the neck down.

Emmott was treated at the Hedgcock Hospital in Houston, along with other children. Along with physical therapy, the hospital tried to deal with the despair and hopelessness that many patients felt.

At the height of the polio epidemic, there were 6000 cases in Houston, and there are now 300,000 survivors around the country.

Emmott learned to cope with the disease, and although he was confined to a motorized wheelchair, he went on to school and a career as an attorney. He is now a successful collaborative family law divorce and child custody lawyer. He functions often as a mediator, and is also an inspirational speaker, entrepreneur, song writer and author. He is happily married, with two children and four grandchildren. He credits his wife Dorothy as one of his Angels.

He wrote two books as a result of his struggle with the disease and his law practice. “Prayerful Passages” opens the doors of comfort and healing to guide Christians struggling with the anger, loss, and grief of a marriage in

peril.

His second book is “Bending Angels” about those in his life that have supported him during his life-long journey of hard-won faith and unshaken hope.

As he speaks in public, as he did at the Rotary luncheon, audiences are struck by his enthusiasm and optimism. As he said in his talk, “we need to live in the present and appreciate it.”

This was from a man who at the age of 35, had to go into an iron lung for 5 years as his polio attacked his body again. Physically, Emmott has had much to deal with, including pins in his back to hold him upright, and hand surgery to insure he had workable thumbs.

Jack Emmott is now a serene and happy person, it seems, and deeply religious. “Pray for my ministry” he asks, and reminds us that everyone has a Bending Angel reaching down to help them through the rough times.

He knows very well, having been there and lived the life, and seen the miraculous results.



Claudia Leblanc Jenny Hinson Donna Haynes  
Jodie Roane Jack Noonan Kathy Laramore

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## GALENA PARK ISD

### North Shore Theatre Wins Big at UIL Competition

North Shore Senior High School Theatre was selected as the winning play in the UIL District 21 One-Act Play competition held on Tuesday, March 21st.

In addition to placing 1st and advancing to the Bi-District competition, North Shore's Jerra Gentry and Katreyvion Smith both earned All-Star Cast awards, Derrick Thomas received Best Technician honors and Brytanni



lations to the North Shore Sr. High School Theatre Department and their directors, Veronica Stell and Vaughn Belcher, on advancing to the UIL One-Act Play Bi-District competition.

Davis earned Best Actress honors for her performance as Lena Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun.

Congratulations to the North Shore Sr. High School Theatre Department and their directors, Veronica Stell and Vaughn Belcher, on advancing to the UIL One-Act Play Bi-District competition.

### Channelview HS Debate District Champion



Channelview High School Debate team member Cyrus Robinson proudly wears the gold medal he earned as district champion in the Informative Speaking category of the UIL District 21-6A Academic Tournament. Congratulating him are, from left, Davion Ruckett, Nelson Mejia, Debate coach Lindsay Smith and Chloe Torres.

### Channelview ISD students attend Mind Trekkers festival



Hundreds of Channelview ISD sixth graders from Aguirre Junior High and Alice Johnson Junior High attended the Mind Trekkers Adventures in STEM event at San Jacinto College's Central Campus in Pasadena. The students were able to participate in over 100 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics interactive experiments and activities at the event. Dow Chemical and Lubrizol are funded the event, with Michigan Technological University engineering students and San Jacinto College students showcasing their work. This event was sponsored by San Jacinto College, Dow Chemical, Michigan Technological University, the East Harris County Manufacturers Association, Air Liquide, INEOS, Chevron Phillips, LyondellBasell, H-E-B and Austin Industries.

### GPISD selects Elementary and Secondary Principal of The Year



Galena Park ISD would like to congratulate Ms. Becky Gardea, Jacinto City Elementary, and Mr. David Pierson, Cunningham Middle School, for being named GPISD Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year! Congratulations Ms. Gardea and Mr. Pierson, GPISD is lucky to have you as leaders!

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Live Your Dream

The DoroTom Company is conducting a Singing Talent Competition Food Drive Benefitting the Star Of Hope Mission Food Pantry. This Singing Talent Competition called Live Your Dream is Free to the public with a donation of Non-Perishable Food Items (please pre-register at [www.thedorotomcompany.com](http://www.thedorotomcompany.com)). If you would like to donate food items to the Star Of Hope, please call 832-699-1595 for more details.

### Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club Meeting

This newly chartered club meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church. For more information, see the Facebook page entitled Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club or call 832-264-1565 / 832-289-4762.

### 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.

### North Channel Branch Library

-Thursday, April 6, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 12:00 pm, AARP Tax Help.  
-Friday & Saturday, April 7 & 8, Book Sale.  
-Saturday, April 8, 11:00 am, Ask-A-Lawyer; 2:00 pm, Faithful Paws.  
-Monday, April 10, 4:30 pm, Game Day.  
-Tuesday, April 11, 10:15 & 11:15 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time.  
North Channel Library, 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, 77049. 281-457-1631.

### North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors holds a dance every Thursday from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

### 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.

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Lyondell-Basell on Sheldon Road at noon. For more information, please visit [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

### Joe Stephens Golf Tournament

Annual Golf Tournament, Thursday, April 13, 2017, 12:00 pm at River Terrace Golf Course, 16777 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049. You may register online at [www.VoteJoeStephens.com](http://www.VoteJoeStephens.com) Catfish Dinner from 6 pm - 8 pm at Wallisville Rotary Pavilion, 14350 1/2 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049.

### East Houston Democrats meeting

East Houston Democrats will hold their monthly membership meeting on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Fuddrucker's located at 855 Normandy, Houston 77015. Each month, invited special guests speak on serving the community as an elected official. At the April 20 Meeting, Constable Chris Diaz will be speaking on his journey from Mayor of Jacinto City to his current position as Harris County Constable of Precinct 2. The added bonus is that his wife has not only traveled this journey but also has been active in the community, currently serving as Mayor of Jacinto City.

Please join them for the meeting and learn about additional events such as upcoming Voter Registration Drives, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training and fundraisers for local Democratic Officials. Should you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Jackson at 832-896-1633 or Linda Britten at [brittenlg@yahoo.com](mailto:brittenlg@yahoo.com)

### Senior Honor Student's Luncheon

Friday - April 28, 2017. San Jacinto College North - Monument Room. SPONSORS NEEDED. Sponsor a student for \$20 or become a Contributing Partner for \$250 (LIMITED SPACE). Please contact blanca@ncachamber.com or 713-450-3600 for more details.

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Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to: [northchannelstar@gmail.com](mailto:northchannelstar@gmail.com)

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OPINION PAGE

Sen. Creighton's Texas Ports Bill Passes Senate

Senate Bill 28: Texas Ports

Austin – Today, Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) issued the following statement after the unanimous passage of Senate Bill 28:

"This landmark legislation is an important first step for Texas ports," said Senator Creighton. "As improvements to the Panama Canal create a flow of larger vessels from distant trading partners, we must ensure Texas ports are equipped to sustain our economic leadership role."

This bill is the product of the findings of the Senate Select Committee on Texas Ports, that was commissioned by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick during the 84th Interim. Senator Creighton was appointed to chair the committee tasked with

studying Texas' port assets, both coastal and inland hubs. The Committee paid special attention to the economic impact of the Panama Canal expansion and made several trips to Texas ports.

This bill creates the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund for navigation districts to secure loans for projects to improve ship channels.

It is important to note there is no cost associated in creating the fund and there is no appropriation in the budget for this fund. The legislative intent is to lay the groundwork for future projects by creating this account.

"It is now time for Texas to take the lead," concluded Senator Creighton. "Our Texas ports are strong, but we are in the midst of a significant opportunity with the Panama Canal expansion."

Protect Our Environment Year-Round — Here's How

(NAPSI)—Invasive pests threaten to destroy the forests and crops that beautify our lives and put food on our tables. Fortunately, no matter the season, you can take simple steps to help stop the spread of these damaging, non-native insects and other species.

The USDA has identified 19 destructive "Hungry Pests," the invasive species that people are most likely to spread accidentally. While Hungry Pests often arrive through commercial trade, members of the public can unknowingly spread them once they are here. But by learning a few simple actions, you help to protect so much that we value. In fact, you could decide to take just two actions each season of the year and make a huge difference!

Spring

As you come out to enjoy the warming days, invasive pests are also becoming more active. April is Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month and a good time to learn the signs of these pests and how you can help stop their spread. When buying plants, buy from dealers—including those online or "pop-up" vendors—who follow USDA regulations to ensure plants are free of invasive pests. If you live in the northeast part of the country, look for gypsy moth egg masses on patio furniture and other outdoor items. Carefully remove and dunk them in warm, soapy water.

Summer

Planning to travel this summer? Bring back happy memories but leave plants and produce—and the Hungry Pests that may be infesting them—behind. If traveling in

the United States, be sure to wash trailers, campers and even bikes that you have kept outdoors, before taking them elsewhere. Also, clean camping gear free of dirt that may hide pests. In August, Tree Check Month, protect your trees from invasive, tree-killing beetles. Look for dime-sized, round holes in your trees. They could be signs of the invasive Asian longhorned beetle. If you see any holes, report them to local agricultural officials.

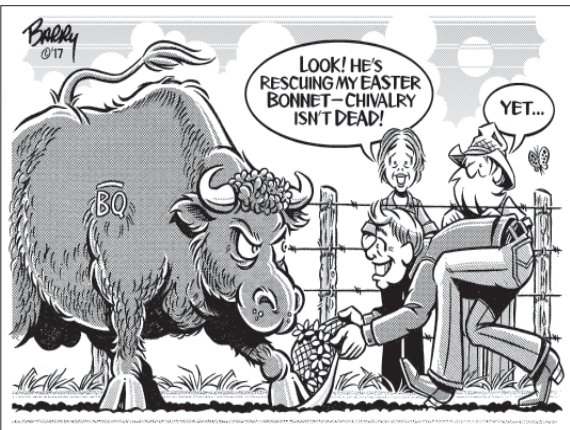
Fall

Enjoy campfires and roasting s'mores in the crisp, cool weather. But remember: If you move firewood to another area, you may also move invasive pests on or inside the wood. So buy or responsibly gather firewood near the place you plan to burn it. If you bring in the harvest from your garden, but you live in an area known to have invasive pests, please keep your homegrown plants and produce at home.

Winter

Take your mind off the cold and plan for your spring garden. When buying seeds online, take care to only buy from established sources that follow USDA's regulations to keep plants pest-free. And please be careful when sending or receiving international gifts. Greenery, seeds, plants and citrus may be packing Hungry Pests.

When it comes to protecting our country from invasive pests, you make all the difference. Keep these tips as handy reminders of ways you can help throughout the year. Learn more about the pests of concern in your area by visiting [www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com).



Governor welcomes Justice Department's sanctuary cities announcement

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on March 27 praised an announcement by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions that the Department of Justice will withhold and take back federal funds from cities that do not comply with federal immigration laws and enforcement directives.

"Texas joins the Trump administration in its commitment to end sanctuary cities and I look forward to signing legislation that bans these dangerous policies in Texas once and for all," Abbott said. Senate Bill 4, legislation to prohibit anti-sanctuary city policies in Texas, was passed by the Senate on Feb. 8. It was heard in the House State Affairs Committee on March 15, but has not been scheduled for a committee vote.

In 2015, Abbott's office implemented a policy that requires the sheriffs for each of Texas' 254 counties to certify their cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainee requests or risk losing funding through the Governor's Criminal Justice Division.

In mid-March, the Travis County sheriff was denounced by the governor's office for not complying with ICE detainee requests but was praised by immigration reform advocates. Travis County leads all other counties in the nation in not complying with these detainee requests, according to a report disseminated last month by the Trump administration.

While lack of funding and jail capacity complicate the issue for many counties, Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez has said her policy is to honor ICE detainee requests when her office receives a judicial warrant or court order, or when a suspect is charged with capital murder, first degree murder, aggravated sexual assault or continuous smuggling of persons.

Senate OKs budget bill

The Texas Senate on March 28 approved a budget that would spend \$106.4 billion in state revenue for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

"This is a lean budget, but it's also a smart budget," said Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound. The spending plan, set to be considered this week in the House Appropriations Committee, "responsibly

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



grew by 4,400 jobs in February, and manufacturing employment expanded by 3,900 jobs.

'Snapshot' data is posted

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath on March 30 announced the availability of "2016 Snapshot: School District Profiles" on the Texas Education Agency website.

"Snapshot" gives an overview of primary and secondary education for a particular school year and contains a profile of each public school district and charter school but does not provide any campus-level information.

Common categories and a peer-search function permits grouping districts according to shared characteristics.

Scorecard compares states

Texas leads the nation in total energy production and new residents, according to an updated 50-State Scorecard unveiled March 28 by the state Comptroller's office.

Texas also ranks high in its growth in employed workers and gross product, according to the web tool, which uses data from a variety of sources to score each state in six key categories: population and demographics; business and workforce; economic indicators; tax and debt; and, new this year, quality of life and natural resources.

Jobless rate about same

The state economy expanded in February by 6,700 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs, but the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.9 percent for the month, the Texas Workforce Commission announced March 24.

The unemployment rate stood at 4.8 percent in January.

According to U.S. Department of Labor Statistics information, Texas' education and health services category recorded the largest private-industry employment gain over the month with 11,700 jobs added. Leisure and hospitality employment

Summer Break: A good time to check your credit report

(NAPSI)—School will be out soon and that means summer vacation planning for families. Before planning your vacation, financial experts recommend reviewing your finances by getting a FREE annual credit report from Equifax, Experian and/or TransUnion at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

One credit reporting agency survey showed that 72 percent of consumers spent more on their vacation than planned. The majority of that expense was put on their credit cards. Checking your credit report periodically can help you understand your financial situation when budgeting for a vacation or other large expense.

While most consumers know they can get a free credit report every year, only three in five do so. "Each year, there are over 25 million free credit reports provided to consumers," said Eric J. Ellman, Interim President and CEO of the Consumer Data Industry Association. "Even so, many consumers, unfortunately, don't exercise their right to review their free annual credit reports."

The National Consumer Assistance Plan, an unprecedented program by the three nationwide credit reporting agencies in cooperation with the New York Office of the Attorney General, has been instrumental in educating consumers about how to get their free annual credit reports. Improving consumers' understanding of their credit reports is a priority for the industry. By reviewing your credit report every year, you can check up on your financial health as well as identify issues that might cause a credit denial later.

When reviewing your credit reports, if you see information you don't recognize, notify the credit reporting agency right away. All three of the nationwide credit reporting agencies can be accessed online, by phone or by mail. Whichever method you choose, the credit reporting agency will investigate disputed information and respond back to you with the results.

Go get your FREE annual credit report from Equifax, Experian and/or TransUnion at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Make this summer a happy and credit-healthy one.

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Subscribers are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562 News and Ad Phones.....281-328-9605 FAX Line.....713-977-1188 email: [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com) Member Texas Press Association



LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Francis K. Woodall

Francis K. Woodall went to be with the Lord on March 23, 2017 at the age of 101.

Francis was born on November 27, 1915 in Liberty, Texas to Robert Franklin and Ida Mae (Ford) Stuckey.

Francis was always very busy taking care of her family, but in her free time she enjoyed deer hunting (Francis was an avid hunter until the age of 90), sewing, crocheting, camping, fishing and most of all spending time with her family (especially her grandchildren). Francis was a member of Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church in Baytown and also a member of the Highlands Book Club.

Francis was a very loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother who will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Woodrow Woodall Sr.; son, Woodrow Woodall Jr.; sisters, Maxine Ewell, Lela Krause and Robbie Stabs.

Francis is survived by her son, Robert Woodall and wife Anne of Highlands, Texas; daughter-in-law, Mary Woodall of Highlands, Texas; granddaughters, Kathy Croker and husband Robert of Carmine, Texas, Robin Galen and Carl White of Houston, Texas, Tracy Martina and husband Frank of Boerne, Texas; grandsons, Jason Woodall and wife Jennifer of Huff-



man, Texas, Douglas Woodall and wife Melody of Cypress, Texas, Buck Woodall and wife Denise of Huffman, Texas; 21 great grandchildren; 17 great great grandchildren; 2 great great great grandchildren; sisters, Ferol Ramsey and husband Charlie of Highlands, Texas, Cora Lynn Miller of Highlands, Texas, Neva Sanders of Tyler, Texas; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Francis family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Dr. Chris Hays for his excellent care and compassion shown to her for over 30 years. Also to The Bay View Home Health, especially Sheila, Loretha and Chrissy, for the care given to Francis for the past 14 months. Also, the family would like to thank Pastor John Newsom for his visits and the prayer shawl ministry of Cedar Bayou Grace UMC for the beautiful prayer shawl.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church or your favor-

ite charity in Francis' memory. A visitation for family and friends will be held on Friday, March 31, 2017 from 5pm-8pm at Sterling-White.

Funeral services will be held at 10am on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Sterling-White Funeral Home and graveside services at Rosewood Cemetery will follow at 1pm. 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](http://www.sterlingwhite.com)

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Gethsemane in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible (KJV) that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. Who rolled away the stone from the mouth of Jesus' tomb? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
4. Jesus ate fish and what else first after the resurrection? Figs, Berries, Honeycomb, Manna
5. Which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus
6. From Acts 1, how long did Jesus remain before He ascended into heaven?
- 3 hours, 1 day, 7 days, 40 days
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Matthew; 3) An angel; 4) Honeycomb; 5) Thomas; 6) 40 days

William "Bill" Joseph Bagi Sr. dies at 86

William Joseph Bagi Sr. "Bill", age 86, of Elyria, passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at South-west General Hospital in Middleburg Heights.

He was born on March 3, 1931 in Cleveland and has been a resident of Elyria for the past 20 years, moving from Texas. Bill was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War and become a heavy equipment operator for B & L Excavating.

Running heavy equipment wasn't just a job to Bill, he enjoyed doing it in his free time too, especially the bulldozer. In his free time, he enjoyed gambling and fishing.



Bill is survived by his companion of 15 years, Jackie Sopko; sons John Bagi of Alaska, Bill Jr. (Frances) Bagi of Texas, Michael (Nancy) Bagi of Columbia Station; daughters Debbie (Charles) Hawley of Elyria and Cindy Reasor of Elyria; 8 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; sister Ethel

Alten of Florida.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Elizabeth (nee Olah) Bagi; brother John Bagi; sisters Barbara Young and Dorothy Reeves.

Funeral Services Sunday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bogner Family Funeral Home, 36625 Center Ridge Rd., N. Ridgeville, where family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. until time of service. Rev. Larry Beckman will officiate. Interment will be private.

Family requests donations be made to the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland, 10011 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106.

Kimberly Smith selected as James Becker Thomson Winner

By Susan Passmore

Kimberly Hanle Smith, special education math teacher at Baytown Junior School, is the James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year for 2016-2017. The award was established by Dr. Richard Thomson in honor of his brother James, and this is the 42nd year it has been presented to a Goose Creek CISD teacher.

Smith is a product of Goose Creek CISD, having attended Austin, Bowie and De Zavala elementary schools, Gentry Junior School and Sterling High School, where she was active in the Sterling Stars and in Student Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in human development from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in educational administration from Lamar University. She and her husband Joseph have a two-year-old daughter Lexi.

Now in her 11th year of teaching at Baytown Junior,



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Kimberly Smith is the James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year for 2016-2017.

Smith became interested in teaching after Steve Koester, former BJS principal and now director of educational technology, asked her to take a long-term substitute teaching position.

"He said, 'I just know you're going to love it!'" Smith

said. "A few weeks later, I went to him and told him that I did love it and I wanted to become certified."

Smith's sister Jennifer Nerf, also a special education teacher at BJS, has been an inspiration to her in her career.

"She is a role model to me of what a special education teacher should be," Smith said.

Sarah Chase, former coordinator of campus services at Goose Creek CISD, depended on Smith to help her in co-teaching training and appointed her as the Fast Forward Reading Intervention coach and the lead coach for Cogmed Working Memory Training.

"She works well with kids and with parents and has a thorough knowledge of working with the most significantly impaired to those who have fewer challenges," Chase said. "She's one of those people that you ask her to do something, and she makes it happen. She's a shining star."

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John 7:38

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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

# ASK THE EXPERT

## Diamond Jim: "Does the price and value of Diamonds stay about the same over time?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

**Key Points:**

- With continued economic growth around the world and more demand for luxury goods and decline in the mining of diamonds, it is expected that the prices of high gem quality natural diamonds will increase by roughly 6% each year until 2020.
- While the overall health of the economy influences the prices of diamonds, in general this gemstone has gained value over the years. Data shows the prices of diamonds over the past ten years have increased by approximately 32-33%, giving it an average of 4% every year.
- De Beers no longer controls the largest supply of diamonds as their market shares have fallen from roughly 90% in the 80s to close to 30% now. This is good news because it shows that diamonds can hold its value even when its supply is not controlled by a large cooperation.
- While many pundits would suggest that diamond is not a good investment, it is not necessary true. If you get the diamond from a trusted source at fair price and it is a top gem quality stone, diamond is one of the best commodities you could own. People are not insane to invest billions of dollars in this alluring gemstone. However, it is a different story if you buy the gemstone at a 400-700% marked up price as is sometimes the case in big chain jewelry stores.

**Detailed analysis:**

Determining the best price for a diamond is critical for investors and consumers alike. This rare and alluring gemstone has been around for years and, all this time, its price has been quite high. To understand diamond and how its market value has been over the past half century or so, it is important to have a good perspective of the worldwide diamond industry. The value of the diamond has always been high since it was discovered and the main factor that affects this is the demand for diamond jewelry. With continued economic growth in the world, the demand for diamonds is expected to have a positive increase in the future.

With increased demand for this unique gemstone over the coming years, eventually demand will be way higher than the growth of diamond production. This is due to the slowdown of current mines and the lack of discovering new mines for this mineral. With the increase in demand of diamonds, more and more companies have come to the realization that such demand would affect prices globally.

Similar to any other goods, polished diamond prices fluctuate like other

commodities, and a range of forces lead to this increase and decrease. The price might change due to external factors, including basic economic ups and downs, or their maybe internal factors, for example, traders' expectations. If compared to another mineral such as gold, diamond prices haven't fluctuated as much, but they have changed nevertheless. Surveys show that the price of diamonds over the past 8 years has increased by approximately 33%, giving it an average of 4% every year. Yearly the prices of diamonds fluctuate on a moderate scale. From high to low, the process might change by about five to seven percent. In the year 2008, in August the prices of diamonds decreased to its lowest at an average of more than 12%, compared to January of the same year due to the financial market collapse. A 12% decline is quite significant especially if it was another economic sector that was being affected. However, in 2011 the scenario was much different. In this year, the prices of diamonds rapidly increased to a record breaking 20% due to higher demand. These changes basically mean that there are several factors affecting the diamond trade. One reason might be due to changes made by the manufacturers and wholesalers who want operations to run as per their needs. There are other contributing factors to the price of the diamond. When it comes to mining of diamonds, there are different types

of diamond sizes being mined. And different sizes of diamonds, means different price fluctuations. The size of the diamond will highly affect the price of the diamond. You will find that large type of diamonds (weighing about three carats or more) will fluctuate more compared to the smaller diamonds (weighing 2.99 carat and below to 0.50 carats). When you look at larger diamonds, you will notice that they have gradually increased in price over the past fifteen years, more than doubling their prices. The 4 carat diamonds (most active type) tripled between the year 2004 and 2008. When you look at the changes in prices of the smaller diamonds (0.50 to 2.99 carat) you will notice that the change in price over the past years is smaller.

While the price you pay for diamonds may change from year-to-year, the unique beauty, appeal and luster of this amazing natural stone will likely remain as it is . . . unrivaled. You can learn more about diamonds on a personal level by visiting the experts at Pineforest Jewelry.

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com). If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

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## San Jacinto College one of top 5 community colleges in the nation

PASADENA, Texas — The Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence today named San Jacinto College as one of the top 5 community colleges in the nation, awarding the College a Rising Star award. The announcement was made today at a luncheon in Washington, D.C.

"I am honored and humbled to accept this Rising Star award on behalf of the entire San Jacinto College community," said Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "This award is for our students. They are the focus of our work and our efforts. We want them to achieve their goals and we want to eliminate barriers that could impede their success. This recognition as one of the top five community colleges in the nation is proof that we are accomplishing those efforts."

Launched in 2011, the \$1 million Aspen Prize is awarded every two years to a community college achieving high marks in student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings for graduates, and access and success for minority and low-income students. From the more than 1,100 community colleges nationwide, San Jacinto College was first selected among the top 150 last spring. A selection committee then narrowed down those institutions to the top 10, and today named the Aspen Prize winner, two Finalists with Distinction and two Rising Star recipients.

"San Jacinto College is delivering highly-skilled graduates to fuel economic growth and enable social mobility in the Houston region," said Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and author of "What Excellent Community Colleges Do." "Student completion rates have risen steadily and substantially since San Jacinto College reorganized and began to develop a strong culture where everyone at the college is uniquely focused on and held accountable for student success."

Between 2007 and 2016, San Jacinto College increased the number of certificates and associate degrees awarded by 161.7 percent. Last academic year, 7,019 students earned a certificate or degree from San Jacinto College. This increase is due to a laser focus on student success and the support students receive along their

paths from when they first arrive at San Jacinto College through graduation. The College concentrates its efforts on initiatives that show results in student achievement and progress.

**Addressing Outcomes**

In selecting San Jacinto College as an Aspen Prize Rising Star recipient, a panel of distinguished leaders in higher education evaluated the College's efforts in several areas including completion and labor market outcomes. San Jacinto College has developed a number of innovative initiatives that put students on a path to success. For example, San Jacinto College faculty developed a reading first and math re-design for students without college-level reading skills. This course combines developmental reading, developmental math and college algebra into one course, and had a success rate of 71.4 percent in Fall 2015, compared to traditional algebra success rates of 53.7 percent. To ensure students achieve labor market success, San Jacinto College has aligned program learning outcomes to industry standards. The College monitors labor market trends and develops programs in partnership with local industry representatives. Each program maintains an advisory committee comprised of local experts who meet annually with faculty and staff to review student success data, curriculum, facilities and equipment, and job placement. The maritime and petrochemical industries are two of the strongest in the Gulf Coast region. In January 2016, San Jacinto College opened its fourth campus, one that specializes in maritime training, located along Port Houston. This new campus was a direct response to industry demand, and reflects a true partnership between the College and local businesses who are looking for a local site to train incumbent workers. San Jacinto College is also planning to construct a new technologically advanced Center for Petrochemical, Energy and Technology, another direct response from the region's industry. Funded through a bond referendum approved by voters in the District in 2015, the new Center will be the region's hub for petrochemical and manufacturing training, directly supporting the economic engine in the Gulf Coast region and

preparing people for careers at all levels.

**Closing the gap**

Another area that the Aspen Institute panel evaluated was around achievement gaps between different groups of students and how San Jacinto College addressed those gaps. To effect a cultural change, in 2009 the College created an immersive two-day training based on Skip Downing's On Course principles. The training, titled "Success at San Jac" was mandatory for all employees. San Jacinto College also instituted a new faculty academy, new staff orientation and a re-connect program to refresh long-term employees to sustain momentum. These initiatives resulted in an institutional commitment to student success. Some student success initiatives that resulted from the college-wide approach to student success include Aid Like Paycheck and a new Open Educational Resources (OER) degree. Aid Like A Paycheck provides students with financial aid refunds every two weeks, rather than in a lump sum 30 days after the semester begins, which is the methodology for most financial aid students. The result is that students are better able to manage their financial resources throughout the semester so they can stay enrolled and graduate. San Jacinto College provides financial literacy and coaching for students from entry through completion. San Jacinto College recognizes that achievement gaps exist between minority students and students of all other races and ethnicities. However, the College has been making significant strides in closing those gaps. "Community College Week" ranks San Jacinto College eighth in the country in awarding associate degrees to Hispanic students, and the College was recently recognized by "The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education" magazine as one of the top 10 community colleges for Hispanics. The College has increased the number of certificates and degrees awarded to Hispanic students by 174 percent since the 2008-2009 academic year, and has increased by 109 percent the number of certificates and associate degrees awarded to African-American students.

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## Sheldon Fire Department,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MEMBERS OF THE ESD#60 BOARD, AND CHIEF WEBB AND ASSISTANT CHIEF BALDERAS, are the first to break ground and turn a ceremonial shovel of earth to start the construction of the new Fire Station. In the background it the dedication sign, and the site beyond.

hand for the ceremony. In his dedication remarks, Chief Webb mentioned that the facility is meant to keep up with the fast growth of the Sheldon area. He cited a growth rate of 27% over the last few years, and indicated that another station or two might be necessary in the future. Specifically, the growth at Generation Park will need fire service as it develops, he said. Chief Webb noted that the Sheldon Fire Department now has 70 paid firefighter, the largest of any community fire depart-

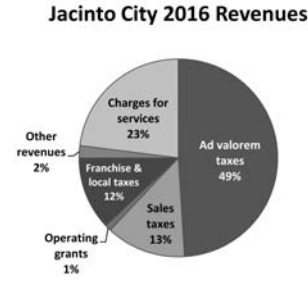
ment in Harris County. Firefighters are on duty 24/7, and will man this new station with four firefighters and a captain. The new station is replacing one currently operating at 9035 Johns Road, Webb said. Station 1 is at 8407 C. E. King Parkway, and Station 3 is at 12911 South Lake Houston Parkway. Webb thanked the ESD Board for their support. These include President Helen Lauersdorf, VP Daron McCaslin, Alfred Adams, Dale Langdon, and James Collins.

Also, the Fire Board Directors were recognized, including President Don Nesbitt, VP Curtis Roane, Jennifer Balderas, Jim Gamel, and Edna Webb. Fire Department Staff include Chief Sidney Webb, Asst. Chief Roland Balderas, and Captains Daniel Grabill, Jose Munoz, Issac Pinson, and Zach Lopez. Architects for the project were Joiner Architects, with principals Joby Copley and Chad Joiner. Construction Manager is Brookstone Company.

## JC Financial Condition,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions and possible ordinance violations of junk vehicles, vehicles with expired license or inspection stickers, high grass or weeds, and debris or trash clutter in yard. Other public notices were the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th, pet vaccination clinic on April 22nd, all pets must be registered and have a current rabies vaccination and city tags worn on a collar at all times. The need to eliminate anything in yards such as tires or pots holding water where disease carrying mosquitoes can breed and obtaining building permits before doing any remodeling or new construction work on homes, fencing, roofs, electrical and or plumbing work. Allan Jamail founder of the Keep Jacinto City



Clean (KJCC) introduced Teresa Arzapala as the new president and Irasema Salinas as vice president and asked the city to cut the wild trees growing in with the landscape shrubbery along Market Street. See the accompanying revenue and expense pie charts for a visual financial analysis of the city.

## SHELDON ISD: Board recognizes students of the month for March



Members of the Sheldon ISD school board recognized the district's Students of the Month for March at the March 21 school board meeting in the Ney Administration Building Board Room. Pictured (back, from left) are Fred Rivas, School Board President; Brandon Murphy, C. E. King High School; Sofia Garcia Bucio, Early College High School; Katelyn Elaine Stevens, KASE Academy; Emily Villanueva, C. E. King Middle School; Andrea Fuentes, Null Middle School; and King Davis, Sheldon ISD Superintendent; (front) Isaac Frausto, Monahan Elementary; Kevin Escobar, Sheldon Elementary; Ava Ruiz, Cravens Early Childhood Academy; Luna De Leon, Sheldon Early Childhood Academy; Julie Ngo, Royalwood Elementary; Travonne Morris, Garrett Elementary; and Melanie Moreles, Carroll Elementary.

# EggExtreme

**When: April 8, 2017**  
**Time: 10:am - 2:pm**  
**South Drive Baptist Church**  
**15229 South Drive**  
**Channelview, TX 77530**  
**281-452-4500**

## Egg Hunt

**All Age Groups**

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## NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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### PRESENTS

## Spring Coloring & Painting Contest

The contest is open to children ages 5 – 18.

Categories are as follow:

- Category A: Ages 5 – 8 – Coloring
- Category B: Ages 9 – 12 – Coloring
- Category C: Ages 13 – 15 – Easter Egg Design
- Category D: Ages 16 – 18 – Painting Contest

Registration starts March 5<sup>th</sup> and ends March 30. Winners will be published on April 13, 2017.

Contestant may only submit one entry.

All entries must be done at THE ART HUB. Schedule will be given upon registration. Registration Fee: \$10 which includes use of materials: crayon, oil pastel or acrylic paint. Contestants may bring additional coloring materials of their choice.

Prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner for each category will win: Summer Art Class (valued at \$195) plus other sponsored prizes.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner for each category will win: Gift Cards

Prizes are progressive. Weekly update will be published on NORTH CHANNEL STAR newspaper.

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