

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

### HERNANDEZ LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Join State Representative Ana Hernandez on:

• Thursday, August 27, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at Channelview High Joyce Hendrix Educational Center, 898 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 77530.

• Tuesday, September 15, 2015 from 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm at Neighborhood Centers, Inc. Ripley House, 4410 Navigation, Houston, TX. 77011.

Come get an update on new laws passed during the 84th Legislative Session.

For more information call 713-675-8596.

### REP. GENE GREEN TOWN HALLS & EVENTS

• Senior Citizens Issues Forum, Friday, August 21. 10:00-11:00 a.m., Baggett Community Center, 1302 Keene Street, Galena Park, Texas 77547

• Town Hall Meeting, Wednesday, September 2, 6:00-7:00 p.m. In conjunction with Wood Shadows II Civic Club, HPD East Freeway Storefront, 12001-A East Freeway, Houston, Texas 77029.

• Northside/Aldine Job Fair, Wednesday, September 2, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., M.O. Campbell Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Road, Houston, Texas 77032

• Paying for College Workshop and Academy Day, Monday, October 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Austin High School (HISD), 1700 Dumble Street, Houston, Texas 77023.

### REP. GREEN'S FREE IMMUNIZATION DAY SHOTS

Congressman Gene Green's 20th Annual Immunization Day, Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015, 9 am - 12 pm at Galena Park High School, 1000 Keene Street, Galena Park, TX. Please bring your child's shot record with you. Call 281-999-5879 for more information.

### NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER LUNCHEON

## Rep. Ana Hernandez reviews the 84th Legislative session

The featured speaker at last Friday's North Channel Chamber luncheon was State Representative Ana Hernandez, who represents the 143rd District in Texas. Her district covers part of Houston, Channelview, Galena Park, and Jacinto City. She serves on the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, and on the House Committee on Pensions. She is currently serving her fifth full term.

Ana reported that a change of leadership in this session led to a more friendly and cooperative atmosphere, and she thought much was accomplished.

The Legislature approved a \$209.4 billion biennial budget, improved funding for roads, and an additional \$1.5 billion for local schools, including \$130 million for Pre-K programs.

Other highlights were a change in high school seniors choices, so that they now can pick a career path other than an academic or college direction.

The gas tax will now be used for roads, instead of the general fund. Gun laws were modified, so that Open Carry for handguns



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANA HERNANDEZ

will start on January 2016, and Concealed Carry on college campuses by Aug. 2016, community colleges Aug. 2017.

Inadequate healthcare for citizens and women veterans was the greatest failure of

See LEGISLATURE, page 3

## Burn Ban issued for Harris County and surrounds

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas - Officials have issued a burn ban for Harris County and surrounding areas including Chambers and San Jacinto Counties, August 11.

Harris County officials said the burn ban is due to the extremely dry conditions.

Covered burn containers must be used for the incineration of household trash, vegetation and campfires.

Harris County Fire Marshal Mike Montgomery said by taking these restrictions and preventive measures, they can reduce the risk of wildfires.



The ban is effective until October but could be removed before if it rains in the region.

Violations to the burn ban order can result in a fine up to \$500.

Other burn bans have been issued for 90 days to Chambers and Liberty Counties.

## Backpacks, school supplies at Back-to-School time

### Galena Park Resource & Training Center:



Galena Park Resource & Training Center was the site for giving out over 200 free uniforms, backpacks and school supplies, donated by LyondellBasell and Joe Stephens. In the photo above, LyondellBasell representatives, and City of Galena Park officials Ernesto Paredes and Councilwoman Maricela Serna help hand out the backpacks and other items.

Serna reported that the event also provided information of services of this organization. Free immunizations were provided by Christus Mobile Health Clinic, and Oral hygiene by South Texas Dental. Other sponsors included GP/JC Rotary Club, United Community Credit Union, Shell Oil, and LULAC.



### Joe Stephens helps out:



Galena Park school board president Joe Stephens believes in giving back to the community, so he held a Back-to-School event last Saturday, at the Workforce Solutions office on Wallisville near the Harris County courthouse.

The event included giving away about 1000 backpacks and school supplies, and the 1500 participants also enjoyed displays of fire trucks, a jump house, and of course free food and drinks.

Attendees also were able to sign up for Voter Registration, and Stephens said about 90 persons took advantage of this opportunity. Stephens picked the Workforce site, because he is an advocate for finding jobs for our youth to give them meaningful activities and income.

### PRECINCT 3 CONSTABLE RACE:

## Eagleton benefit attracts large show of local support



Sherman Eagleton sweeps through a crowded gathering at his Fish Fry on Saturday at the Baytown Fair Grounds. The line in back is for fish plates.

BAYTOWN - The Baytown Youth Fair Pavilion was packed near the start of the live auction last Saturday for the "Sherman Eagleton for Precinct 3 Constable" Fish Fry.

"I am very grateful to

the people of this community for their support," said Eagleton, "I would like to give a big thank you to all of the volunteers that made yesterday happen. I couldn't have done it without you."

Beer, margaritas, a snow cone machine and a bounce house prior to the live auction made it even more enjoyable.

See Eagleton Continued on page 8

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

## San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Hellyer earns ACCT award

PASADENA, Texas - The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) has named San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, its Western Region CEO awardee.

"Since she was appointed Chancellor six years ago, Dr. Hellyer has transformed our College and focused employees on the mission of improving student success," said Mr. Dan Mims, Chairman of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees. "As we move students successfully through the education process, and they walk across that stage as college graduates, the community as a whole benefits. Much of that success is due to the transformational leader we have in Dr. Brenda Hellyer."

Dr. Hellyer began her affiliation with San Ja-



San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer.

Photo by Andrea Vasquez/San Jacinto College.

cinto College as a community volunteer. She served on the inaugural Board of Directors of the San Jacinto College Foundation before being named executive director of the Foundation. She went on to become chief financial officer and transitioned into the role of

chancellor in May of 2009.

One of her first priorities as chancellor was to work with the Board of Trustees to define the mission, vision, and values of the College. Over the last six years, her leadership has moved the College to an Achieving the Dream Leader College and an institution that has been recognized twice by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation. However, if you ask Dr. Hellyer about what she is most proud of, she will talk about student success and students completing what they came to San Jacinto College to start.

"Since 2007, we have more than doubled the

See AWARDEE, page 6

# ROTARY CLUB OF HIGHLANDS

Serving the Community for 67 Years ■ “Biggest Little Club in District 5890”

## Rotary Leadership:



New Board of Directors and Officers were sworn in by 5890 Assistant District Governor Derrill Painter at center, with new president Larry White beside him. The Ceremony took place at the Boat Club in Highlands.

## Community Fundraisers:



The major fundraiser for the club is the Annual Chili Feast with Raffle Prize, a new car or truck. This year's winner, Gary Clemmons of Baytown, is pictured above.



Washer Tournament is held every September, with all proceeds donated to the Rotary Polio Plus campaign.



**OFFICERS**  
**2015 - 2016**  
President – Larry White  
President-Elect – Diana Weaver  
Secretary – Teresa Martin  
Treasurer – Sheila McDonald  
Past President – Raymond Gonzalez  
Sergeant At Arms – Robert Woodall

**DIRECTORS**  
**2015 - 2016**  
Membership Chair - Betty Brewer  
Partners In Education Chair - Betty Brewer/Robert Woodall  
Foundation Chair - Charlie Ward  
Program/PR Chair - Gil Hoffman  
International Service - Patricia Scott  
Scholarship Chair - Larry White  
Community Service Chair - Denise Smith  
Vocational Service Chair – Brandon Baird  
Club Service Chair - Jeremy Rosenkranz

## Rotary Community Service Scholarships:



Rotary awarded a total of 18 Scholarships this year, for a total of \$30,250 to local students. The featured speaker at the Awards Banquet in May was Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randy O'Brien, seen at center.

## Support of Community Interests:



Donation to the Stratford Library in Highlands, for their summer programs and other needs.



Rotary presented a forum for ideas from government leaders Judge Don Coffey, Superintendent Randy O'Brien, and Congressman Bryan Babin.

**ROTARY**  
**FOUR WAY TEST**  
1. Is it the TRUTH?  
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?  
3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?  
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

**OBJECT OF ROTARY**  
To encourage and foster the ideal of service and a basis of worth enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster...

**FIRST**  
The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND**  
High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD**  
The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life; and

**FOURTH**  
The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business professional men united in the ideal of service.

## HISTORY OF HIGHLANDS ROTARY

On November 24, 1948, the Dayton Rotary Club sponsored the chartering of a new club in Highlands. The first president was Ralph McFarland.

While early details about the club have been lost, what is known is the relationship between the club and the business community has always been strong. In the absence of an incorporated government, the club often took a leadership role in the community. Business leaders of yesterday and today make up the president's roll. Jim Carrell, who served as president from 1971-72, later went on to be a District Governor.

During the early 70's the club went through a period of transition, where newer members began to interact with other chapters to learn how to operate properly. Members became more active in the community, with their first major fundraiser in 1971. The Rotary raised an unheard of \$2,400 for the volunteer fire department.

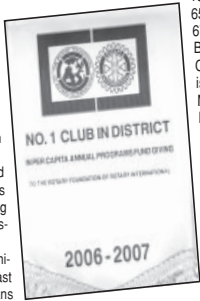
Rotary has continued putting the community first and worked towards its betterment. Its success in raising funds for community projects earned it the reputation among the 63 Houston clubs as the "Biggest Little Club in District 5890."

In November 1998, the club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a banquet attended by 150 present and past members, district and national officials, visiting Rotarians and friends.

In 2006, District 5890 awarded the club president, Steve Miller, "President of the Year" among the district's 63 clubs, because of the outstanding work the club did on Hurricane relief, and other accomplishments. In recent years, the club has been a leader in the Houston District, achieving 100% Paul Harris Fellows in 2007. Membership increased to 26, winning a President's Citation. Donations to the Rotary Foundation of over \$1000 per member made the club #1 in the District, #2 in the World.

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF HIGHLANDS ROTARY

Ralph McFarland, 1948-50; Ray Martin, 1950-51; A.J. Smith, 1951-52; Albert Franta, 1952-32; George Bower, 1953-54; Jeff Tanner, 1954-55; Bonnie P. Hopper, 1955-56; Dr. W.L. Herndon, 1956-57; Harry K. Johnson, Jr., and Larry Jacobs, 1957-58; W.E. Hendrickson, 1958-59; Derwin Walker, 1959-60; Jim Ezell, 1960-61; Charlie Ramsey, 1961-62; Glen Walker and Jim Brazzil, 1962-63; Jim Brazzil, 1963-64; J.C. Johnson, 1964-65; Alton Neatherlin, 1965-66; John Heger, 1966-67; James L. Creel, 1967-68; M.L. Bishop, 1968-69; Bill Morgan, 1969-70; Roy Loggins, 1970-71; Jim Carrell, 1971-72; Chester Stasney, 1972-73; Louis Stephens, 1973-74; Harold Kail, 1974-75; Mike McAlister, 1975-76; Walter Haynie, 1976-77; Elard Lambert, 1977-78; Bobby Zahn, 1978-79; Dr. Joe Ed Sutton, 1979-80; J.E. Bird, 1980-81; Bennie Wotipka, 1981-82; Gary Smith and Bennie Wotipka, 1982-83; David Brown, 1983-84; John Butler, 1984-85; Charlie Powell, 1985-86; Jack Lindsay, 1986-87; Dr. Larry White, 1987-1988; Doc Craig, 1988-89; Dr. Steven Scannell, 1989-90; Lynn Sorrells, 1990-91; Charlie Farrar, 1991-92; Mike Robinson, 1992-93; C.R. "Dickie" Woods, 1993-94; Raymond Gonzalez, 1994-95; Richard Robinson, 1995-96; Jay Burger, 1996-97; Tim O'Bier, 1997-98; Gilbert Hoffman, 1998-99; Weston Cotten, 1999-2000; Charlie Ward, 2000-2001; Beverly Culbreath (in absentia-deceased), 2001-2002; Weston Cotten, 2001-2002; Joe Hausberger, 2002-2003; Jesse Guillen, 2003-2004; Joe Hausberger, 2003-2004; Patricia Scott, 2004-2005; Stephen Miller, 2005-2006; Johnny Gaeke, 2006-2007; Charlie Ward 2007-2008; Patricia Scott 2008-2009; Robert Woodall, 2009-2010; Michelle Lomazoff, 2010-2011; Denise Smith, 2011-2012; Dane Listi 2012-2013; Aaron Cole 2013-2014, Raymond Gonzalez 2014-2015.



## HOW CHILI FEAST FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED

Highlands Rotary Club  
Donations Thru June 2007

Scholarships for local students	\$196,000
Rotary Foundation (Health & Humanitarian Programs)	72,575
Highlands Fire Department	71,200
Highlands Basketball Pavilion	26,000
Highlands Sports Assoc. Little League	16,070
Highlands Boy Scouts	12,895
Highlands Heritage Museum	10,000
Stratford Library	9,000
Highlands Community Center	4,200
Senior Citizens	10,492
Retarded Citizens Assoc.	1,200
St. Stephen's Society Mother's Day Out	9,225
Highlands Jamboree	
Highlands Horizons	6,910
Rotary Youth Exchange	5,600
World Peace Conference	1,850
South Africa AIDS Project	1,000
El Salvador Water Project	2,000
Sheriff's Department	1,500
Sheriff's Department Highlands Aux.	3,500
Crime Watch/Crime Stoppers	1,800
Chinquapin School	4,285
FFA/VHJ, Sterling Show Team & Highlands Jr. School	8,600
Highlands Chamber of Commerce	1,656
Centkar/SAD/O	
American Diabetes Assoc.	3,328
Highlands Food Pantry	5,302
St. Jude's Catholic Church	3,290
Area Rotary Club's Fundraisers	4,250
Channelview YMCA	300
Miscellaneous Area Fundraisers	1,550
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$495,578</b>

<b>Dr. Larry White - President</b> Rotarian <b>Dentist</b> 114 N. Main St., Highlands • 281-426-3558	<b>Diana Weaver-Pres. Elect</b> Rotarian <b>EDWARD JONES</b> Crosby 281-324-6139	<b>Raymond Gonzalez-Past Pres.</b> Rotarian <b>FOODTOWN</b> 302 N. Main, Highlands 281-426-4531
<b>Brandon Baird</b> Rotarian <b>WOODFOREST NAT. BANK</b> 420 S. Main, Highlands 713-495-8070	<b>Betty Brewer</b> Rotarian <b>STERLING-WHITE</b> 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Rd, Highlands • 281-426-3555	<b>Aaron Cole</b> Rotarian <b>EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR</b> Crosby 281-324-6139
<b>Weston Cotten</b> Rotarian <b>Attorney</b> 5223 Garth Rd, Baytown 281-421-5774	<b>Steven Dobbs</b> Rotarian <b>EARTHMAN FUNERAL HOME</b> 3919 Garth Road, Baytown • 281-422-8181	<b>Jerry Fallin</b> Rotarian <b>JERRY &amp; JULIE FALLIN</b> 713-455-5111
<b>Johnny Gaeke</b> Rotarian <b>CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS</b> 911 S. Main, Highlands 713-702-3200	<b>Gilbert Hoffman</b> Rotarian <b>STAR-COURIER Newspaper</b> Highlands, Crosby, Huffman • 281-328-9605	<b>Debra Langham</b> Rotarian <b>THE TEAPOT DEPOT</b> 112 Denny, Highlands • 281-426-3670
<b>Dane Listi</b> Rotarian <b>Attorney</b> 1011 Polly Street, Baytown 281-422-2220	<b>Teresa Martin</b> Rotarian <b>TEXAS CITIZENS BANK</b> 507 W. Baker, Baytown, TX 77521 • 281-422-3931	<b>Raul Martinez</b> Rotarian <b>GOOSE CREEK ISD, Police Dept.</b> 3401 N. Main, Baytown • 281-802-7769
<b>Delana Matthews</b> Rotarian <b>MOUNTBATTEN HOUSE</b> 213 Maple, Highlands • 281-843-2013	<b>Sheila McDonald</b> Rotarian <b>CAPITAL BANK</b> 3719 Garth Rd, Baytown, TX 77521 • 281-428-8662	<b>Alton Neatherlin</b> Rotarian <b>Antique Bottles, Palmwood</b> 130 Lone Pine, Highlands • 281-426-3038
<b>Mike Parson</b> Rotarian <b>PCT. 3 CONSTABLE'S OFFICE</b> 701 W. Baker Rd, Baytown • 281-427-4791	<b>Carol Radney</b> Rotarian <b>CHUCK RADNEY COMPANY</b> 620 West Drive, Channelview, TX	<b>Chuck Radney</b> Rotarian <b>CHUCK RADNEY COMPANY</b> 620 West Drive, Channelview, TX
<b>Jeremy Rosenkranz</b> Rotarian <b>STATE FARM INSURANCE</b> 440 S. Main, Highlands www.jeremyrosenkranz.com • 281-426-3512	<b>Tricia Scott</b> Rotarian <b>DENTAL OFFICE OF DR. LARRY WHITE</b> 114 N. Main St., Highlands • 281-426-3558	<b>Denise Smith</b> Rotarian <b>HARRIS COUNTY - JUDGE PARROTT'S OFFICE</b>
<b>Chester Stasney</b> Rotarian <b>RETIRED, HARRIS COUNTY</b> 106 Faith, Highlands 281-843-2882	<b>Charlie Ward</b> Rotarian <b>CHARLIE'S ICE HOUSE &amp; Outback Grille</b> 906 N. Main, Highlands CharliesIceHouse.com 281-426-3632	<b>Robert Woodall</b> Rotarian <b>ROBERT WOODALL ENTERPRISES</b> Highlands, Texas 281-843-2921



# CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

## Channelview Fire Dept. hosts Fill the Boot Campaign



Channelview Fire Department has completed the MDA fill the boot campaign for 2015 and collected \$3034.62. We would like to thank Kroger's Manager John Johnstone for allowing us to use his facility to host this event. We would also like to thank the community for their giving nature. 100 percent of the money collected will go to MDA. All 4 shifts participated in this event on 4 different days (July 25, 26, 31 and August 6) for a total of 24 hours.

Photo submitted by Richard Austin/ District Chief/Channelview Fire Department

### GALENA PARK

## LULAC Council awards scholarships in the North Channel area



Galena Park LULAC Council scholarship recipients.

On Sunday, August 9th, LULAC Council 4703 held its 14th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner at Don Chile Mexican Restaurant. The council awarded almost \$11,000.00 to deserving high school students from the North Channel area. Since 2001, this Gale-

na Park LULAC council has raised almost \$100,000.00 for scholarships. Pictured are from top left are: Cruz R. Hinojosa, Jr., LULAC President, Emily Rivera, Victor Cardenas, Karyme Sanchez, Isidro Maldonado, Eduardo Arizpe, Jacob Moncivias, Bot-

tom row: Veronica Gonzalez Juliette Garcia, Merilyn Duarte, Valerie Medina, Delmy Escobar, Juan Flores, Jr., Scholarship Chair.

LULAC's next major fundraising event will be their 15th Annual Roast & Toast on October 29th honoring GPISD Board Member, Joe Stephens.

### LEGISLATURE,

Continued from page 1

the session, she said, referencing the continued impasse between the state and the federal government over the expansion of Medicaid to the needy. Ana drafted a bill to expand healthcare for Women Veterans, but it did not pass.

She did work on and pass

bills strengthening penalties for human trafficking, and a bill to ease requirements for Silver Alerts.

More details on the Legislation will be available at her next Town Hall meeting, Wednesday Aug. 19 at 6 pm at Baggett Center in Galena Park, and Thursday, Aug. 27 at 6 pm at the Channelview ISD/Hendrix Education Center, 828 Sheldon Rd.

## Inflation and Your Retirement Income Strategy

By Edward Jones

You might not think much about inflation. After all, it's been quite low for the past several years. Still, you may want to take it into account when you're planning your retirement income strategy.

Of course, no one can really predict the future course of inflation. But it's a pretty safe bet it won't disappear altogether — and even a mild inflation rate, over time, can strongly erode your purchasing power. Consider this: If you were to purchase an item today for \$100, that same item, in 25 years, would cost you \$209, assuming an annual inflation rate of 3%. That's a pretty big difference.

During your working years, you can hope that your income will at least rise enough to match inflation. But what about when you retire? How can you minimize the impact of inflation on your retirement income?

One thing you can certainly do is include an inflation assumption in your calculations of how much annual income you'll need. The number you choose as an inflation factor could possibly be based on recent inflation levels, but you might want to err on the conservative side and use a slightly higher figure. Since you may be retired for two or three decades, you might have to periodically adjust the inflation factor to correspond to the actual inflation rate.

Another important step is maintaining an investment portfolio that can potentially provide returns well above the inflation rate. Historically, stocks have been the only investment category — as opposed to investments such as Treasury bills and long-term government bonds — whose returns have significantly outpaced inflation. So you may want to consider owning an appropriate percentage of stocks and stock-based investments in your portfolio, even during your retirement years.

Now, you might be concerned at the mention of the words "stocks" and "retirement years" in the same

sentence. After all, stocks will fluctuate in value, sometimes dramatically, and even though you may be retired for a long time, you won't want to wait for years to "bounce back" from a bad year in the market. But not all investments move in the same direction at the same time; spreading your dollars among a range of asset classes — large stocks, small and mid-cap stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs), foreign investments and so on — may help you reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio.

And you don't even have to rely solely on stocks to help combat inflation. You could also consider Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, or TIPS. When you purchase a TIPS, your principal increases with inflation and decreases with deflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Your TIPS pay interest twice a year, at a fixed rate; this rate is applied to the adjusted principal, so your interest payments will rise with inflation and fall with deflation. When your TIPS matures, you will receive adjusted principal or original principal, whichever is greater. As is the case with other bonds, though, you could choose to sell your

TIPS before it matures.

Work with your financial advisor to help decide what moves are right for you to help protect your retirement income from inflation. It may be a "hidden" threat, but you don't want to ignore it.

Yield to maturity cannot be predetermined, due to uncertain future inflation adjustments. If TIPS are sold prior to maturity, you may receive less than your initial investment amount. If bonds are not held in a tax-advantaged account, investors will be required to pay federal taxes on the accreted value annually, although they will not receive any principal payment until maturity. When the inflation rate is high and the principal value is rising significantly, the taxes paid on TIPS may exceed interest income received. Therefore, TIPS may not be suitable for investors who depend on their investments for living expenses.

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

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may occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.

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## NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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OPINION PAGE



★

JUST  
BETWEEN US

By Kristan Hoffman  
& Angie Liang

Sightseeing While Sick

By Kristan Hoffman

It started as a tickle in my throat. Just a little soreness, a small discomfort. I ignored it. Told myself there was nothing to worry about. Lots of people feel funny after flying, and I had taken a long trip over the Atlantic Ocean to spend a week in Europe with my best friends. (Our first trip all together!) No doubt I would feel better soon.

But after a week, I felt worse. Much worse. My sore throat turned into a head cold, which then wormed its way down and made a home for itself in my chest. I started coughing and hacking and sneezing in public – you know, that person who you shoot annoyed glances at and stand far, far away from.

Worst of all, my home was on the other side of the planet. I couldn't curl up in the coziest spot of my couch with a book and a blanket and my dog. I couldn't hide from the world until I felt human again. Instead, I was stuck in a stranger's apartment, which my friends and I had rented in lieu of a hotel room. The city outside our windows was cold and unfamiliar.

Of course this was the one time I had decided to pack light and leave my "just in case" meds at home. At first I thought I could tough it out, but it quickly became apparent (to my friends, if not me) that I would need some pharmaceutical assistance. Best friend and co-columnist Angie Liang dragged me to a little grocery store in Berlin, where I used my smartphone to look up "cold medicine" in German and bought a box that had those words on it. Erkältungsmittel, if you're wondering.

Unfortunately the Erkältungsmittel didn't do much. We later translated the rest of the package and discovered that I had basically purchased a natural supplement full of thyme. (Apparently thyme is a very popular herb over there.) It didn't even give me a good placebo effect.

At this point my condition was sliding from "a little under the weather" to "completely

miserable and useless," so I gave in and went to an actual pharmacy. (Throughout most of Europe, this is the only way you can get real medicine.) A kind-faced pharmacist supplied me with extra-strength cough drops and nasal spray, plus a few travel packs of tissue "as a gift."

Now properly medicated, I was ready to vacation in full force – or so I thought. But my body was not quite up to the challenge. Fortunately my friends were careful not to let me over-exert myself. They made me bundle up against the chilly spring air. (Angie even forced me to wear her coat.) When I ran low on energy, they urged me back to the apartment for a nap. They rearranged our schedule, delaying the most interesting attractions until the end of our trip, giving me time to recover. They made hot tea and cooked for me. They even let me have the single bed so that I could toss and turn and cough and snore all night, in privacy and without reservation.

Nothing they did could cure me of my cold – only time would do that. But knowing that I had such good friends, who were so thoughtful and generous in taking care of me? That made me feel better in a different, possibly more important way.

During the second half of our trip, when I was too weak to explore Copenhagen with them, I had a lot of time to think about how lucky I was. Yes, even sitting alone in a strange apartment in a foreign city in the middle of the day, I felt lucky. Because I could look outside and see tall, narrow apartment buildings in all shades of pastel, their windows shuttered and trimmed in white. I could watch people whizzing by on their bicycles with fresh fruit and baguettes for dinner. I could hear children playing in the courtyard, and neighbors laughing as they went down the stairwell.

I had the privilege of exploring two beautiful, magical cities with two beautiful, magical friends. Being sick was nothing in the scheme of things.



Fifth Circuit delivers opinion concerning voter ID law

★

STATE CAPITAL  
HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Even if the Texas Legislature did not intentionally pass a voter identification law that illegally discriminates against voters who are black, Hispanic or poor, the practical effect of the law is discriminatory and in violation of the federal Voting Rights Act.

A 49-page opinion of a three-judge panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals was released on Aug. 5. The panel ordered that much of the case be remanded to a federal district court in Texas for further consideration. When the Legislature passed Senate Bill 14 in May 2011, plaintiffs led by then-state Rep. Marc Vesey of Fort Worth filed suit, naming then-Gov. Rick Perry, the secretary of state and the chief of the Texas Department of Public Safety as defendants. Plaintiffs argued that the intent of the law was to suppress the minority vote and the law's requirement that a voter, to cast a ballot in person, must first present one of several forms of photo identification in addition to their voter registration certificate, amounts to an illegal poll tax. The U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, agreed and top state officials, acting on behalf of the state, appealed.

In its multi-part ruling, the Fifth Circuit panel: — Vacated plaintiffs' claim that the law is discriminatory in purpose and remanded that issue to the district court for further consideration.

— Affirmed the district court's finding that the law does have a discriminatory effect and thus is in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, but also remanded that issue to the



district court "for consideration of the proper remedy."

— Vacated the district court's holding that SB 14 is a poll tax and rendered judgment in the State's favor.

— Dismissed plaintiffs' claims that SB 14 violates the First Amendment (freedom of speech) and Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection).

Gov. Greg Abbott on Aug. 5 said: "In light of ongoing voter fraud, it is imperative that Texas has a voter ID law that prevents cheating at the ballot box. Texas will continue to fight for its voter ID requirement to ensure the integrity of elections in the Lone Star State."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said: "Today's ruling was a victory on the fundamental question of Texas' right to protect the integrity of our elections and the state's common sense Voter ID law remains in effect."

The Texas Democratic Party issued a statement

saying, "On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that Texas' discriminatory voter ID law — passed by Republican lawmakers and signed by Governor Rick Perry — violates Section 2 of Voting Rights Act."

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa said: "Texas Democrats believe that our nation and democracy is stronger when everyone is invited to participate in our electoral process. ... We remain confident that the courts will find justice for Texas voters and ultimately strike down this racist and discriminatory law."

TEA releases 2015 ratings

Texas Education Agency on Aug. 7 released the 2015 state accountability ratings for more than 1,200 school districts and charters, as well as the more than 8,600 campuses statewide and said the ratings reveal that 94 percent of school districts and charters across Texas have achieved the rating of Met Standard.

Districts, campuses and charters receive one of three ratings: Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard or Improvement Required. Districts, charters and campuses can appeal the rating and final ratings based on the outcomes of appeals will be released in late October or early November, said Education Commissioner Michael Williams.

Ratings can be accessed at [ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2015/index.html](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2015/index.html).

Abbott reacts to president

President Obama on Aug. 3 announced the finalization of "America's Clean Power Plan" which he called "the biggest step we've ever taken to combat climate change" and said, "This plan sets the first-ever carbon pollution standards for power plants while providing states and utilities with the flexibility they need to meet those standards."

Gov. Abbott on Aug. 3 reacted to the announcement, calling it "an environmental rule imposing steep cuts on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants."

"Not only will this rule result in higher energy prices for consumers, it will cost thousands of jobs," Abbott said. "As we have in the past, Texas will lead the fight against an over-reaching federal government that seems hell-bent on threatening the free-market principles this country was founded on."

★

TEXAS

With Russell  
A. Graves

The Pool

Have you ever built a pool before? Yeah, me either.

However, I'm going to try.

About a year ago, my brother and I were talking about alternatives to traditional pools. Our conversation centered around the TV show The Pool Master. On the Animal Planet show, designer Anthony Archer-Wills and his crew creates extravagant pools that above, all fits nicely into the landscapes where they are installed and often use a natural filtration method to maintain water quality. In our on-going conversations, we decided that for both of our rural homes we wanted pools that looks like they are an existing part of the landscape. However, doling out tens of thousands of dollars on a pool unfortunately isn't an option for either of us so we started trying to solve the problem in a more cost effective manner.

Back when my wife and I were dating in our early twenties, we partnered on a huge above ground swimming pool. The pool was simple in its design. The liner kept the water in the vessel while a pump pulled water from the skimmer, filtered the water through a sand medium, and returned it through a jet in the side of the pool. We tested the water daily to insure the pH and chlorine levels were optimum and aside from that, it was pretty carefree. I know I am over-simplifying this but the mechanics of how a pool filters water is not a complicated process.

As I spent the past year thinking about pools and researching filtration methods, I learned more about natural filtration systems. Essentially, water in a pool is cleaned as it passes through a filter medium like rocks. Bacteria grow on the rock which helps scrub the water and continually moving water doesn't stagnate. Think of a spring or a clean river running over rocks as it's roughly the same concept.

When I was a high school teacher, we had a 500 gallon aquaculture setup in my classroom. One year we raised over 100 pounds of tilapia in the tank and with such a huge biological load that challenged the water quality daily, all it took to filter the water was a four inch diameter tube that was three feet long and filled with a plastic filtration medium to which beneficial bacteria could attach and grow. A pump kept the water moving through the system and while the water became turbid from time to time, the fish thrived.

Ultimately, natural filtration pools are a sound concept. Using naturally filtered water instead of chlorine or salt filtration has many benefits. With the pool I'm building I'll be able to capture and store rainfall that I can use as wildlife and irrigation water. In addition, I'll have a water feature that beautifies the property and provides the added benefit of serving as a swimming hole.

In the end, between the design that takes it's cue from the big ranch country where I live and the flexible way I'll be able to store and use the water that I capture I hope to create a Pinterest-worthy project that provides hours of inspiration and enjoyment for my family.

Stay tuned. It's getting interesting.

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LIFESTYLE

LITTLE BIDDY BITS By Danny Biddy

Out of Line

Several years ago, I was in procession from the funeral home to the cemetery. I was on my cell phone talking with my wife, telling her how much I had to do afterwards. As we talked, I thought to myself, "With all I have to do, why am I going so slow?"

I looked in my side mirror, no one was coming, so I accelerated to pass the car in front of me. Then I noticed the police escort. I slowed down and eased back in line. Needless to say, the funeral director had some interesting comments for me when we arrived at the cemetery.

I have only had this happen once in my life, but once was enough! There are some mistakes you never want to repeat. Jesus said, "Straight is the way and narrow is the gate that leads to life." So get in line and stay in line.

Danny R. Biddy, Pastor of the Church on Old River since 1977. www.olderiverbaptist.com

Boris Phillips of Crosby, Texas, graduates from UALR

LITTLE ROCK, AR (08/10/2015)(readMedia)--Boris Phillips of Crosby, Texas, is a May 2015 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Phillips received a master of arts and was a Counseling major.

The Spring Commencement ceremonies took place at UALR's Jack Stephens Center on Saturday, May 17, in which a record number of students participated in two separate events, based on college.

With more than 11,000

students and 100 programs, UALR offers learning, research, service, social and career opportunities that can only be found at a metropolitan university located in Arkansas' capital city. To learn more visit www.ualr.edu.

With more than 11,000 students and 100 programs, UALR offers learning, research, service, social and career opportunities that can only be found at a metropolitan university located in Arkansas' capital city.

Mr. & Mrs. Bourdeau Wedding



Megan and Jody Bourdeau married August 8, 2015 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Crosby - Dayton Road in Crosby, Texas. Pictured is the wedding party on stage just following the reception.

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The Knights of Columbus Hall is available for rent for weddings, receptions, and all social occasions call 281-328-1104 or 713-201-6247 to review and reserve.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Ephesians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. What tree did Jesus tell a parable about? Apple, Fig, Olive, Sycamore
- 3. Who was John the Baptist's father? Zechariah, Zacharias, Zephaniah, Zaccheus

- 4. What did the oak tree symbolize in the Bible? Growth, Strength, Weakness, Fruitfulness
  - 5. Which of these is not a book of the New Testament? Revelation, Judges, Colossians, Jude
  - 6. From the Bible, who was Isaiah's father? Amos, Amoz, Laban, Heron
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Fig; 3) Zacharias; 4) Strength; 5) Judges; 6) Amoz

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Proverbs 15:3

The Helix Nebula (NGC 7293) in the constellation Aquarius

Eastgate Church to offer financial PEACE

Eastgate Church is offering Dave Ramsey's, FINANCIAL PEACE classes beginning on Sunday, September 13 through November 8 from 5-7 p.m. These life changing classes will give you a plan for your money - get rid of debt, manage your money, spend wisely, and much more. Register at Eastgate or online at www.eastgate-church.com. Cost of these classes is \$120. This includes your binder with life changing information and money forms as well as excellent video instruction by Dave. IT'S A WHOLE NEW WAY OF THINKING!

Deadline to pay Eastgate is September 5. You can also order direct from www.daveramsey.com, then \$20 to Eastgate.

Eastgate church is located 25 minutes east Humble on FM 1960, then south 1/4 mile on CR 611 (Shell station).

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Crosby Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members



Chase Bank-Atascosita new member The Crosby-Huffman Chamber welcomed new Member Chase Bank-Atascocita this month. Several members and staff of Chase Bank were in attendance for the Ribbon Cutting. They are located at 19240 W. Lake Houston Parkway, Humble - 281-812-2146



Wahl Street Mercantile new Crosby Chamber member The Chamber held the Ribbon Cutting for new Member Wahl Street Mercantile this past month. Several Chamber Board Members, Members, friends and family attended the festivities to welcome the new busy to town. The owners are Gabriel Ginn and Andria Flowers. Located at 311 Wahl Street, Crosby. They are bringing back farmers marketing and buying of local produce, local meat, along with several other products that are made here in town. Please stop by to visit and tell them the Chamber sent you. You can contact them at 832.926.6132 and visit them on face book at Facebook.com/wahlstreetmercantile.

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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

# COMMUNITY, SCHOOLS NEWS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SATURDAY NIGHTS 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 281-458-0799 or 832-444-5000.

### MONDAYS 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.

### 2nd & 4th THURSDAY San Jacinto Pilot Club

San Jacinto Pilot Club meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building.

### AUGUST Galena Park Library events

-Friday, August 7, 3 pm, movie.  
-Wednesday, August 12, 10:15 am, Raton y Teclado.  
-Thursday, August 13, 11 am, Baby Time.  
-Wednesday, August 19, 10:15 am, Mecanografía; 11 am, Children's Story Time; 1:30 pm, Typing.  
-Thursday, August 20, 11 am, Baby Time.  
-Monday, August 24, First day of class.  
-Wednesday, August 26, 10:15 am, Internet Básico I; 11 am, Children's Story Time; 1:30 pm, Internet Basics I.  
-Thursday, August 27, 11 am, Baby Time.  
-Saturday, August 29, 11 am, Meditation: A tool for stress reduction and healthier lifestyle.  
Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.  
The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX 77547.

### 2nd THURSDAY North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors will hold a Hawaiian Dance Thursday, August 13 from 1 - 4 pm at Grayson/Baldree Bldg., Corpus Christ. Live band and refreshments only \$ 5/pp for more information call 713-455-3660.

## Channelview ISD receives positive state accountability ratings

The Channelview Independent School District and all of its campuses had another strong showing of academic excellence as they earned the approval rating of "Met Standard" under the state's accountability system for the third consecutive year.

Under the Texas Education Agency's State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) testing system, districts and schools are ranked either "Met Standard" or "Improvement Required."

Campuses earning the Met Standard designation are Aguirre Junior High, Alice Johnson Junior High, Brown Elementary, Campbell Learning Center, Channelview High School, Cobb Elementary, Crenshaw Elementary, De Zavala Elementary, Hamblen Elementary, McMullan Elementary, Schochler Elementary and the Early Childhood Center.

"It makes me very proud to see such outstanding results from our students," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent.

"As the state standards become more rigorous every year, our teachers, principals and administrators work diligently to ensure all of our students exceed expectations. There are no words that can express my sincerest gratitude to all of our staff members who helped our students be successful."

Four Channelview campuses received Distinction Designations for their performance in different academic areas.

Channelview High School was honored for its outstanding performance in Mathematics and Social Studies, while Alice Johnson Junior High earned recognition in Mathematics and Science. De Zavala Elementary received distinction for its performance in Science and Hamblen was honored for its performance in Reading/Language Arts.

"All of our campuses continue to experience improvement and that comes from everyone working together to give students the tools that they will need to be successful," Ollis said. "I know these results will serve as encouragement as they enter the new school year."

## Channelview ISD offers free Mobile App

The latest news and information from schools in Channelview ISD are now available on smartphones and mobile devices with a new mobile app.

The district has partnered with SchoolWires to expand its communications outreach with a mobile app that is now available in the online iTunes® and Google Play® app stores for free.

The Channelview ISD mobile app will offer a constantly updated feed of district news and events with photos and links to the district's mobile responsive website. The app can also be customized by the user by selecting the schools they are most interested in for news and updates.

Users can also choose to receive push notifications

to get breaking news and updates about school closures, calendar changes, or even sports updates.

"We know that our students are more successful in schools when parents are engaged in their learning and school activities," said Greg Ollis, Superintendent of Channelview ISD. "With our new mobile app, parents and community members can stay connected with our schools and with the activities our students are engaged in every day."

Parents and the public are encouraged to download this free mobile app to their smartphones by following the instructions below:

To download on your mobile:

·Visit the App Store® on your Apple Device or the Google Play Store® for Androids.

·Search "Schoolwires" or Channelview ISD

·Then select the Channelview ISD App for FREE download

Important Notes:

·You will need to know your Apple or Google account password. Enter it when prompted.

·When downloading on Apple, please enter your Apple ID when prompted.

·If you are prompted to give a Schoolwires User ID, click the "Skip this Step" link at the bottom of the page.

·For iPad users, they will need to search for it under the iPhone apps.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

### What is that little eyeglass you use when looking at jewelry?

The Jeweler's Loupe – An Important Tool of the Trade

Not Just for the Experts

Of all the special tools used in the diamond and jewelry industry this might be the most recognizable. A jeweler's loupe, pronounced loop, is basically a fancy magnifying glass. Loupes, sometimes referred to as hand lenses, are easy to use and have become an invaluable tool for jewelers as well as diamond buyers alike.

What is a loupe?

A loupe is a magnification tool used to inspect diamonds during the certification process, by a jeweler inspecting a stone or by a diamond buyer. The loupe has either one or three lenses, and magnifies an object multiple times for easier viewing of tiny details. Loupes may be hand-held, attached to a visor or mounted on a stand. Professionals involved in diamond grading and certification generally use a three lens loupe with 10x magnification, meaning the diamond appears ten times as large as it really is.

Uses of a loupe

A loupe will show you what the naked eye cannot. At 10 times magnification a loupe is perfect to assess diamond inclusions which are internal as well as diamond blemishes which are external. If you want to get fancy a loupe can be used to assess diamond polish, diamond finish and diamond



symmetry. However it's best to leave the tough stuff to the professionals.

A diamond loupe is not a replacement for diamond certification.

For a more detailed evaluation, certification companies use a diamond scope. As you can imagine, the scope is used to examine many things. For example: diamond cut, diamond symmetry as it pertains to diamond facets, diamond color, evaluating the overall diamond shape, diamond polish, the overall anatomy of a diamond including the proportions as it affects diamond carat weight in addition to inclusions and blemishes.

Aside from evaluating gemstones and jewelry, loupes are used in many fields and industries, such as watchmaking, photography, printing, geology and dentistry.

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).

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

## AWARDEE,

Continued from page 1

number of degrees and certificates awarded to our students to more than 5,000 in each of the last three years," said Dr. Hellyer. "For me, we are here to ensure our students succeed in their higher education pursuits, and move on to further their education or enter the workforce to begin their dream career. I am both honored and humbled to have received this award from the Association of Community College Trustees. It is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff, administration, and trustees at San Jacinto College."

suits, and move on to further their education or enter the workforce to begin their dream career. I am both honored and humbled to have received this award from the Association of Community College Trustees. It is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff, administration, and trustees at San Jacinto College."

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 27, 2015 in Galena Park Independent School District Admin. Bldg., 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and complies with the provisions set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.2433/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.2701/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
<b>Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget</b>	
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.	
Maintenance and operations	4.15 % increase
Debt Service	2.23 % increase
Total expenditures	3.97 % increase

<b>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</b> (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)		
	<u>Preceding Tax Year</u>	<u>Current Tax Year</u>
Total appraised value* of all property	\$9,715,893,956	\$9,798,407,682
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$475,299,180	\$481,971,936
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$7,466,820,118	\$7,530,233,238
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$365,275,032	\$370,403,152
*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code. ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(2)(7), Tax Code. *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.		

<b>Bonded Indebtedness</b>	
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$177,169,349	
*Outstanding principal.	

<b>Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates</b>					
	<u>Maintenance &amp; Operations</u>	<u>Interest &amp; Sinking Fund*</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>State Revenue Per Student</u>
Last Year's Rate	\$1.2433	\$0.2701*	\$1.5134	\$5,243	\$5,066
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.4285	\$0.2669*	\$1.6954	\$5,983	\$4,493
Proposed Rate	\$1.2433	\$0.2701*	\$1.5134	\$5,249	\$4,553
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

<b>Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence</b>		
	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$73,358	\$81,926
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$49,267	\$55,801
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.5134	\$1.5134
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$745.61	\$814.22
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$68.61
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.		

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.5161. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.5161.

<b>Fund Balances</b>	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$117,000,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$2,852,200

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Sheldon ISD Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs Sheldon ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication, Business Management and Administration, Education and Training, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality and Tourism, Human Services, Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics. Admission to these programs is based in open enrollment. It is the policy of Sheldon ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. It is the policy of Sheldon ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Sheldon ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, J.R. Webster, at 11411 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000 and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, J.R. Webster, 11411 C.E. King Parkway, Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000.

Sheldon ISD Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales (Career and Technical Education Programs)

Sheldon ISD ofrece programas vocacionales en Agricultura, Alimentación, y Recursos Naturales, Arte, Tecnología A/V y Comunicación, Administración de Empresas, Educación y Entrenamiento, Finanzas, Ciencias de la Salud, Hospitalidad y Turismo, Servicios Humanos, Leyes, Seguridad Pública, Correccionales y Seguridad, Manufactura, Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas, Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en inscripción abierta. Es norma de Sheldon ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Es norma de Sheldon ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Sheldon ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, J.R. Webster en 11411 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, J.R. Webster en 11411 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

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"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 10:00 a.m., September 29, 2015 for RFP 16-008 Instructional Teaching Supplies – Catalog Pricing. At that time proposals will be opened at the Galena Park ISD Admin Bldg. located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at khelton@galenaparkisd.com or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing\_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

LEGAL NOTICE

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DETERMINATION OF NO EFFECT

TO ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED AGENCIES:

Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §363.14 of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rules, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

San Jacinto River Authority, Highlands Division, Harris County, Texas Siphon and Levee Improvement Project (Nos. 7, 37, and North Main Siphons) Water Development Fund Project No. 21749 (Loan No. L1000375) Total TWDB Funding Commitment: \$29,000,000

The San Jacinto River Authority, Highlands Division (Authority) is proposing to use funding from a \$29,000,000 Water Development Fund loan to rehabilitate and improve its system of approximately 27 miles of canals operated by the Highlands Division. These canals convey water from Lake Houston, the Highlands Reservoir, and the Trinity River (via Coastal Water Authority) to the Highlands Division's major industrial and other smaller usage customers. These improvements are needed to meet increased demand. All project work, and the customers and entities that will benefit from work, will be located within Harris County.

The Authority previously requested an expedited review of a portion of the project, specifically, two siphons along the Highland Division East Canal, located at Sjolander Road and Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) ditch Q114-05-00. The TWDB issued a Determination of No Effect on March 11, 2015 for those specific project elements. The Authority is currently requesting another expedited review of 3 siphons, i.e., Nos. 7 and 37, and the North Main Siphon (map available upon request). The environmental review of the remainder of the project will be handled separately.

Siphon 7 is located on the Highlands Main Canal where it crosses under Crosby-Lynchburg Road (i.e., FM 2100). This project component has been expedited because the Texas Department of Transportation plans to expand FM 2100. The project will consist of the abandonment of existing dual 48-inch siphon pipes, 60-inch concrete bypass, and appurtenances. The existing headwalls will be demolished. Siphons will be replaced with new dual 60-inch or greater siphons, headwalls, control gates, and appurtenances. The improvements will include approximately 500 linear feet of associated canal levee improvements (e.g., reshaping, regrading, or armoring). To avoid impacts to traffic on Crosby-Lynchburg Road (FM 2100), construction work will be performed utilizing trenchless construction.

Siphon 37 is located on the Highlands South Canal where it crosses under Baker Road. Project activities will include abandonment of dual 42-inch siphons, 60-inch bypass pipe, and appurtenances. The existing headwalls will be demolished. The siphons will be replaced with dual 72-inch siphons, headwalls, and appurtenances. The nearby canal bend will be armored with rip-rap to prevent erosion.

The North Main Siphon is located on the Highlands East Canal where it crosses under North Main Street. The existing 46-inch siphon pipe and appurtenances will be abandoned. Existing headwalls will be demolished. Siphons will be replaced with dual 48-inch (or greater) siphons or new triple 36-inch (or greater) siphons, headwalls, control gates, and appurtenances. The canal west of the North Main siphon may be shifted 20-30 feet to the north in order to be centered within the existing easement. This project component includes approximately 2,000 linear feet of levee improvements. Armoring may be necessary on a nearby 90-degree bend in the canal to avoid erosion. Trenchless construction will be used to avoid impacts to traffic on North Main Street.

The proposed projects, consisting primarily of replacement and maintenance activities, are eligible for a categorical exclusion from a full environmental review. However, coordination with regulatory agencies was required by the TWDB to ensure that there were no disqualifying extraordinary circumstances.

In a response dated March 11, 2015, the Texas Historic Commission concurred that no historic properties would be affected and that the project may proceed. In a letter dated June 3, 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Galveston District, Compliance Branch, stated that, based on available information, the project sites do not contain jurisdictional waters of the United States and, therefore, a permit was not required (USACE project number: SWG-2015-00367). The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program, reviewed the project and in a response dated April 16, 2015, made several recommendations related to avoiding and minimizing impacts to various natural resources. In a response dated July 2, 2015, the Authority noted that no impacts were anticipated for most of the resources, but that where practicable, some of the recommendations would be followed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was given the opportunity to review the project by letter and follow-up email dated July 1, 2015. No response has been received. The HCFCD, in a response dated March 2, 2015, did not require a permit or mitigative condition. Based on this information, it is determined that the projects qualify for a categorical exclusion from a full environmental review.

A Determination of No Effect for the projects is allowable under existing TWDB Rules because the specified activities should not result in significant adverse impacts to environmental quality or human activities and welfare. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This environmental determination may be revoked if it is found that the projects do not meet the requirements of 31 TAC Section 363.14. Circumstances warranting revocation may be based on, but are not limited to, changes in the projects; new evidence; or potential violations of federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The projects also must comply with the following conditions:

- Standard emergency condition for discovery of threatened or endangered species; and,
- Standard emergency condition for discovery of cultural resources .

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Planning and Development, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Channelview Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 in the Board Room of the Joyce Hendrix Educational Support Center located at 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, Texas 77330. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 1.0400	/ \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$ .3824	/ \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	8.8882	% increase	or		% (decrease)
Debt service	1.3424	% increase	or		% (decrease)
Total expenditures	6.1224	% increase	or		% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 3,180,035,384	\$ 3,253,634,478
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 28,827,191	\$ 17,266,989
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 2,746,046,028	\$ 2,827,403,391
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 25,092,786	\$ 15,091,027

\* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.0408, Tax Code.  
\*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(2)(7), Tax Code.  
\*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.0410, Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$ 142,095,000.00  
\* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.04000	\$ .40700 *	\$ 1.4470	\$ 4,325.26	\$ 4,429.01
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.03085	\$ .35810 *	\$ 1.38895	\$ 4,151.74	\$ 4,369.71
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.04000	\$ .38850 *	\$ 1.42840	\$ 4,271.31	\$ 4,429.01

\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 88,714	\$ 100,951
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 73,074	\$ 80,582
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.4470	\$ 1.4224
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,057.38	\$ 1,145.77
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 88.39

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.4224. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.4224.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 25,193,800
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 12,364,574



# Eagleton Fish Fry benefit,

Continued from Page 1



Rachel Hicks, Dickie Woods, Jessica Woods, Justice of the Peace Position 2 Precinct 3 Don Coffey and Virginia Woods congregate at the benefit fish fry last Saturday.

Hill Country Jane played a series of genres of music during the afternoon including a late Bob Dylan beginning, contemporary rock, with country and western flavors.

Although hot dogs were available the delicate flavor of fried fish was the preferred favorite of almost everyone.

Events began at 2:00 p.m. and went on until 8:00 p.m. and the crowd just gained in size.

## Burger King on I-10 at Mercury robbed; 3 arrested



Patrons and employees of the Burger King at I-10 and Mercury Drive were confronted by three armed robbers that demanded their money and valuables.

The thieves then fled as HPD officers arrived, and one was immediately arrested. The other two drove off in a green Toyota Camry, and ended up wrecking near the Budweiser plant at 775 Gelhorn. Officers searched the plant for the robbers, and eventually saw them cross back over the East Freeway, and were tracked down by a dozen HPD officers, aided by a helicopter and police dog.

Officers said that they were in possession of cash and weapons used in the robbery, and face aggravated robbery charges.





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## SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

# New women's basketball coach aims to maintain momentum

HOUSTON – New women's basketball Head Coach Mike Madrid takes the helm at San Jacinto College hoping to maintain momentum from last year's remarkable turnaround season.

The veteran coach comes to San Jacinto College after serving for two years as head coach of the Paris Junior College (PJC) women's basketball program. San Jacinto College and Paris are in the same conference, so Madrid is familiar with San Jacinto College's program. "The team and coaching staff from last year at San Jac proved that it's a program that can be competitive regardless of history or circumstances," Madrid commented. "I just hope to step in and continue winning and to maintain that momentum."

The 2014-2015 season was arguably the most dramatic turnaround season in the history of San Jacinto College's women's basketball program. After a 3-27 record in 2013-2014, the team finished last season with a 23-9 record, earned national ranking for the first time in the program's history, and advanced to the semifinal round of the regional tournament.

Madrid has an impressive resumé, having coached at either the high school or college level for 13 years. Before his two years at PJC, he served three years as assistant women's basketball coach at Texas Woman's University, where he helped the Pioneers win their first Lone Star Conference tournament championship in any sport, and advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association South Central Region tournament. He began his coaching career at New Mexico's Portales High School, helping the team win the 2001 Class 3A championship. After a year at Lubbock Estacado High School as a boys' football, track, and basketball coach, he coached boys' basketball for two years at Lubbock High School.

Madrid spent five years at Lubbock Christian University under women's head coach Steve Gomez, one as a graduate assistant and four as an assistant coach. While he was at Lubbock Christian, the team was the 2005-2006 NAIA National Runner-Up and won the 2006-2007 Sooner Athletic Conference championship.



San Jacinto College welcomes Mike Madrid as the new head coach of the women's basketball program.

Photo by Rob Vanya/San Jacinto College

Like all coaches, Madrid emphasizes winning. But his personal coaching philosophy is to stress winning in all areas of life, not just in sports. "I strive to help students to succeed not just in academics, but also in academics and really in every area," he said. "To do that, it requires being competitive, but also being consistent. We will stress the importance of graduating, and becoming well-rounded, responsible, and positive after graduation."

Madrid holds a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's in sports administration from Eastern New Mexico University. He holds a master's in education administration from Lubbock Christian University.

The San Jacinto College women's basketball season gets under way in late October. For information about San Jacinto College athletic programs, please visit sanjacsports.com.

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