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San Jac sets open auditions for melodrama 'Lorna's Love Lost'

PASADENA, Texas – The San Jacinto College Central theatre and film department will hold open auditions for "Lorna's Love Lost," a family melodrama, on Saturday, Aug. 27, and Monday, Aug. 29.

Auditions will be held at 6 p.m., on both dates, at the Jerry Powell Arena Theatre located on the Central Campus at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena, Building 13. Auditions for the show are open to anyone in the community and enrollment at the College is not required. The cast will include four men and four women and the show might be double cast, depending on auditions. People who audition need not prepare anything and should be dressed to move.

"This will be a family-oriented show and it's the type of play that encourages audience participation and throwing popcorn," commented Dr. Jerry Ivins, the Central Campus theatre and film department chair.

The setting for the melodrama is 1880. Preston Dove is a rich and ailing landowner trying desperately to protect his only child, the innocent and pure Lorna Dove. But in the shadows, the mischievous master of disguise, the villain of all villains, Uriah Blackstone, has other plans. Can the hero, LeRoy Prince, save the day? Can the evil villain be stopped? Only the audience knows.

Performances will take place in the Powell Arena Theatre on Sept. 21, 22, 23 and 24 with a 7:30 p.m. curtain, and on Sept. 25 with a 2:30 p.m. curtain. General admission is \$10 per person at the door, with a discount price of \$8 per person for all who purchase tickets by Sept. 20 by calling the box office at 281-476-1828. San Jacinto College employees and students are admitted free.

To find out more about theatre degrees and courses at San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu/career/theatre-film.

Harris County: "OK to drink well water"

New lab tests okay well water & Highlands Water Company water

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – Several dozen residents of the area attended a meeting at the Community Center in Highlands Tuesday night, when local environmental activist Jackie Young explained the best practices for maintaining private wells.

The audience also learned that Harris County Public Health had sent a second letter to homeowners whose wells had been tested for contamination, telling them that a second round of lab tests indicated their water was now safe to drink, or use to wash and cook.

These homes totalled about 100, in Highlands, Lynchburg, and Channelview. Of the 100 that had agreed to have their well

water tested, 71 had originally been told not to drink or bath with their water. However the second letter notified them that an error in the laboratory was the reason for their test results, and a retest by a different lab had indicated pollutants were below an acceptable level, and their well water could now be safely used.

HIGHLANDS WATER TESTS OKAY

In a similar series of tests, Mark Taylor of the Harris County Water Control & Improvement District #1 (Highlands Water Company) informed the Star-Courier that they had their water tested by an independent lab, and it had tested well below the safe threshold of 30 parts per picolitre. In fact the results showed less than 5 parts per picolitre. Highlands gets their water only 20% from wells, and the other 80% is

purchased from the Baytown Water Authority, which purchases water from the City of Houston Water Department. Baytown further treats the water before providing it to Highlands, Taylor said.

A PRIMER ON WELLS & GROUNDWATER

Jackie Young handed out a fact filled manual, showing statistics and definitions related to well water, which comes from groundwater.

She first discussed drilled wells, and the three types of wells:

- Bored or Shallow, up to 100 feet deep
- Consolidated or Rock well, up to 250 feet deep, and bedded in layers of solid rock
- Unconsolidated or Sand wells, the deepest which reach the water in soft soil, clay, gravel and sand.

Which ever type of well you might have, she empha-



Jackie Young explains water wells and groundwater at Tuesday's meeting.

sized that the top of the well bore needed a Concrete Surface Seal, or cement collar, to keep pollutants from dropping into the well bore.

See Quality Water Approved, page 8

See a copy of the Letter that Harris County sent to well owners last week. SEE PAGE 8.

Galena Park Mayor donates backpacks to DeZavala



The Galena Park Mayor's Office donated backpacks to DeZavala Elementary in Channelview ISD on the first day of school, August 22. Celebrating the donation are, from left, Rusha Davis, DeZavala counselor; Stephanie Green, assistant principal; Esmeralda Moya, Mayor of Galena Park and DeZavala principal Manuel Escalante.

Cell phone store robbers wanted



Surveillance cameras captured suspects during robbery.

Crime Stoppers and Jacinto City Police Department's Investigators need the public's help identifying two male suspects responsible for an aggravated robbery at a cell phone store in Harris County, Texas.

On Saturday, July 23, 2016, two suspects entered a cell phone store located in the 11000 block

of Market Street in Harris County, TX. The suspects asked the employee/victim to look at a cell phone. The victim went into a back room to retrieve the cell phone. When the victim returned, suspect #1 removed brass knuckles

See Robbers Wanted, page 3

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Is there anything Ariana Montelongo de Valdivia can't do?

San Jac graduate builds impressive résumé

PASADENA, Texas - Ariana Montelongo de Valdivia started her studies at San Jacinto College with a choir scholarship and a passion for people. She later turned that passion into a 10-year career in public relations, experience as a television producer and her very own real estate business.

After graduating from San Jacinto College with an associate degree in communications, Montelongo de Valdivia went to the University of Houston to earn her bachelor's degrees in art and public relations. It wasn't long before she started working for the world's largest public relations firm, Edelman Communications and Marketing Firm.

"I managed multiple cli-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ariana Montelongo de Valdivia turned a passion for people into a 10-year public relations career.

ents with Edelman, but my primary account was the City of Houston," said Montelongo de Valdivia, who worked as a senior account executive for the

firm. "My biggest job was to launch the first ever social media campaign for the 2010 census." The campaign she created and launched won a Gold Excalibur Award from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Houston Chapter.

However, as she spent most of her years in public relations working with nonprofit organizations, Montelongo de Valdivia felt a calling of sorts.

"I spent most of my 10 years in public relations working with nonprofit organizations such as The American Heart Association, Life Gift, and Neighborhood Centers Inc.," she said. In her role as senior account executive, Montelongo de Valdivia ran media and public relations,

See San Jac Graduate, page 2

COMMUNITY CLUBS

North Shore Rotary donates to Channelview ISD Foundation



The Channelview ISD Education Foundation recently received an \$8,000 donation from the North Shore Rotary Club. Pictured from left are Bill Hendrix, North Shore Rotary member and CISD Foundation President; Darcy Blackstock, CISD Foundation Executive Director; Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD Superintendent and Adam Lund, North Shore Rotary.

SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Town Hall Meeting

Congressman Gene Green invites the community to attend the upcoming town hall where he will discuss current legislation and other issues of importance to the district. Wednesday, August 31, 2016, 6:30 pm at HPD East Freeway Storefront, 12001-A East Freeway, Houston, 77029.

North Channel Library Programs

-Mon., Aug. 29, Family Night, 6 pm.
-Tue., Aug. 30, Toddler Time, 10:30 am; Preschool Story Time, 1:30 pm.
-Mon., Aug. 29, Intermediate Excel, Lecture, 1 pm.
-Tue., Aug. 30, Excel Intermedio, Lectura, 10 am - 12 pm.
-Wed., Aug. 31, Intermediate Excel, Practice, 1 pm.
-Wed., Aug. 31, Tween Time: Back in School, 4:30 pm.
-Thur., Sep. 1, Excel Intermedio, Prácticas, 10 am - 12 pm.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, 77049. For more details on these and other programs, please call 281-457-1631.

The Buckshot Jamboree

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

Galena Park Senior Dance

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

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.

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Mr. Gatti's on Uvalde at noon.

Jacinto City Library programs

-Frid., Aug. 26, Clases de Inglés Usando Mango, 1 pm.
-Sat., Aug. 27, Family Movie Theater, 12:30 pm.
-Tue., Aug. 30, Tables & Smartphones, 11 am.
-Wed., Aug. 31, Baby Time, 10:30 am; ESL Class, 12:30 pm.
Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. For more information on other programs, call 713-673-3837.

Galena Park Library Programs

-Thur., Sep. 1, Kid's Creations, 4 pm.
-Sat., Sep. 3, Golden Classics Movies, 10 am (adult program).
All children programs require tickets. Tickets are free and available the Monday before the program at the front desk.
Galena Park Branch Library, 1500 Keene St., Galena Park, TX. For information on other programs, please call 713-450-0982.

San Jacinto College names new associate vice chancellor and superintendent of maritime

Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Stauffer will join the College on Sept. 12, 2016.

PASADENA, Texas – Over the course of 22 years in the U.S. Army, Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Stauffer has sailed on every U.S. Army ship and assisted in the reopening of Port-au-Prince following Haiti's disastrous 2010 earthquake. His next mission will be to move more military veterans into a maritime career as the new associate vice chancellor and superintendent of maritime at San Jacinto College.

Chief Stauffer will begin his position on Sept. 12, 2016. He will oversee both the credit and non credit maritime programs and head the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus.

"I'm an advocate for the mariner," said Chief Stauffer, who currently serves as director of the Maritime Operations Branch with the U.S. Army Transportation School at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia. "The maritime industry is already at the point of a shortage; the perfect storm is brewing. The United States Maritime Administration estimates that 70,000 seafarers will be needed by 2022, and universities will not be able to produce this amount by that time. This is why the San Jacinto College maritime program is so important."

Chief Stauffer plans to help more military veterans transition into maritime careers by earning maritime transportation associate degrees. He also plans to grow the maritime pipeline from high school to college.

"There's a necessity for more education when it comes to the maritime workforce," said Stauffer. "You have to be able to communicate when entering foreign ports. You've got to have

an understanding of math, know the basics of geometry, and as you progress, know basic trigonometry."

Chief Stauffer enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1994 and soon experienced his first maritime voyage as a deckhand. Over the next five years, he became a captain and was deployed three times to the Persian Gulf from 2001-2012, serving as Commander of the U.S. Army's largest ship from 2011-2012. Following the Haiti earthquake in 2010, Chief Stauffer assisted in humanitarian efforts and the reopening of Port-au-Prince as Commander of the U.S. Army's Harbor Master Team. He served as director of the U.S. Army's Europe Sea Section in Germany from 2012-2015 before transitioning into his current position with the Maritime Operations Branch in Virginia, where he oversees 32 U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)-approved courses.

Chief Stauffer's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, a Navy Commendation Medal and four Army Achievement Medals. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Saint Leo University and a master's degree in business administration from Liberty University. His licenses and certifications include a Master 200 GRT Upon Oceans, Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels Upon Oceans, USCG Qualified Assessor and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

"Chief Stauffer brings a host of sterling leadership qualities to the San Jacinto College maritime program," said Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College vice chancellor for strategic initiatives. "He gets to the heart of matters and can form those types of partnerships that are vital to the growth and success of our program, our



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Stauffer has been named associate vice chancellor and superintendent of maritime at San Jacinto College. He will oversee both the credit and noncredit maritime programs and head the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus.

graduates and our region's maritime industry. He understands that while maritime companies look for more mariners, they want those who meet the increasing educational demands of the U.S. Coast Guard. While he's passionate about meeting this industry need, he also aims to recruit and train so that more people can gain the benefit of having lucrative and rewarding maritime careers and bring home great wages for themselves and their families."

Chief Stauffer and his wife, Melissa, will move to the Houston region in early September. They have two daughters, 2nd Lt. Alli Stauffer, 22, a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in safety management; and Ashley Stauffer, 19, a student at Coastal Carolina University pursuing her bachelor's degree in biology.

For more information about the San Jacinto College maritime program, visit sanjac.edu/maritime.

San Jac Graduate,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which involved writing speeches, press releases and managing press conferences. "I felt fulfilled working for these nonprofits, because I got to influence a lot of positive change in the community."

Montelongo de Valdivia has always wanted to be an entrepreneur and start her own business. She felt that real estate was the perfect place to do this because of her love for people and because she is able to utilize her extensive public relations background. "Public relations is a skill that is needed in any job," says Montelongo de Valdivia. "I think that working in public relations for so long has really helped me run my real estate business."

San Jacinto College helped Montelongo de Valdivia realize her love for people could turn into a successful career. "I took a lot of mass communication classes at San Jacinto," she said. "I just knew then that I wanted to work in public relations."

"Don't underestimate the power of a two-year community college," Montelongo de Valdivia concluded. "I highly recommend going to a college like San Jacinto College, because it's great way to transition from high school. I was able to really enjoy the classes in a smaller environment and get to know my professors."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Robbers Wanted, Channelview ISD receives positive state accountability ratings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from his pocket and threatened to assault him if he did not give him all the cash out of the register. The victim opened the cash register drawer and suspect #1 removed all the cash and handed it to suspect #2. Both suspects left the store threatening to shoot the victim if he tried to follow them.

Suspect #1 was described as a Hispanic male, weighing approximately 200 lbs., 5'9" tall wearing sunglasses a gray cap, blue jeans, white tennis shoes and black t-shirt with "Training to Beat GOKU" written on the front. He also had brass knuckles on his right hand.

Suspect #2 was described as a Hispanic male, weighing approx-

mately 180 lbs., 5'10" tall with short black hair and a black goatee. The suspect was wearing a black t-shirt, blue jeans, a gray hoodie, white tennis shoes, and sunglasses.

Crime Stoppers will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477) or submitted online at www.crimestoppers.org. Tips may also be sent via a text message by texting the following: TIP610 plus the information to CRIMES (274637) or via our mobile app (Crime Stoppers Houston). All tipsters remain anonymous.

The Channelview Independent School District and all of its campuses earned the approval rating of "Met Standard" under the state's accountability system for the fourth 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," "Met Alternative 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 Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center.

"Our entire CISD staff has worked extremely hard preparing our students to be successful," Superintendent Greg Ollis said. "Based on these results, all of our campuses once again experienced high achievement levels."

"I am so appreciative to our staff for their efforts, and more

importantly I am very proud of all of our students for their accomplishments," he added.

In determining district accountability ratings, TEA has established four measures that assess overall achievement and progress:

- Student Achievement (measures whether all students across grade levels passed in all subjects)

- Student Progress (measures improvement for all students and all subgroups in reading, math and writing)

- Closing Performance Gaps (measures whether

er all economically-disadvantaged students and two lowest-performing ethnic groups met certain standards)

- Postsecondary Readiness (examines graduation rates and recommended or distinguished achievement diploma plans)

"When you have educators, school board trustees and parents who share the same common goal of success, great things happen," Ollis said. "In our district, great things are happening every day. I know these accountability results will serve as encouragement as we enter this new school year."

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OPINION PAGE

★

MESSAGE FROM

REP. BRIAN BABIN



America's Refugee Program: A clear and present danger

Our nation's refugee program is a clear and present danger to the United States of America. Over one year ago, I introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 3314, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015, that would suspend the program and stop the president's reckless plan to bring in tens of thousands of refugees from Syria and other radical Islamic hotspots.

America's refugee program was signed into law by President Carter in 1980 as a private-public partnership between the federal government, the United Nations, and religious institutions whose purpose was to help victims of Communism. The president had the authority to increase the refugees coming into the U.S. from the U.N.-run refugee program only after full consultation with Congress.

Since 1980, Congress has relinquished considerable control over the refugee program to the president, the U.N., and a handful of private contractors who get paid millions of taxpayer dollars to settle refugees in our communities. While we have been unable to determine the current cost of this program to local and state taxpayers, federal taxpayers pay at least \$1 billion a year.

President Obama has already admitted 8,000 of the 10,000 Syrian refugees he has promised to admit before leaving office, even while the attacks in Paris, Brussels, Nice, Boston, San Bernardino, and Orlando prove that terrorists have infiltrated and exploited the refugee programs of Western Europe and America, as well as our inept and porous immigration, asylum, and visa programs — leaving hundreds of Americans dead. Remarkably, Hillary Clinton has promised that if elected president, she will increase this number to 65,000 Syrian refugees in her first year.

President Obama's own FBI director has warned that he cannot properly screen refugees coming from troubled terrorist hotspots such as Syria. But political correctness blinds far too many in Washington to this imminent peril. Our first duty as elected officials is to protect American citizens and national security — immediately.

We must reevaluate our policy regarding refugee resettlement to protect the safety, freedom, and liberty we value as American citizens. Our current program is a Trojan horse allowing ISIS and other terrorist groups an open invitation to immigrate into the U.S. and establish bases of operation legally and at taxpayer expense. It is simply

common sense to protect what we value. We put our money in banks, lock our doors at night, fence our yards, and protect our families and communities.

There are currently 800 ongoing FBI investigations of ISIS-inspired terrorist suspects in the U.S., 48 of which are serious enough to justify round-the-clock surveillance. Last year, 31 ISIS terrorists were arrested plotting terror attacks against Americans. Documents seized by the FBI in raids of Islamic-extremist cells in the U.S. prove that there is a written plan and strategy to wage jihad "by migration" on the U.S., by exploiting our immigration and refugee programs.

We need to look no further than Western Europe to see the results of unchecked, overwhelming refugee numbers. Millions of unassimilated Middle Eastern immigrants and refugees now live in Europe in what are essentially "no-go zones" where police fear to enter, sharia law essentially rules — and future jihadists are radicalized to the point where they aim to kill the very people whose generosity and cultural liberalism welcomed them into their country in the first place.

Undeniably, this tragic situation is a direct result of Europe's liberal immigration and refugee programs. In fact, recent German intelligence reported this week in the U.S. shows "irrefutable evidence" that "ISIS hit squads" infiltrated Syrian refugees; the resulting carnage has sparked public outrage, resulting in a drastic reduction of the number of refugees accepted into the EU. This raises an unavoidable question: How can America be so willfully blind as to invite the same grave danger here?

As compassionate Americans, we can help displaced refugees in safe zones near their own homeland. Indeed, for the cost of bringing one refugee into the U.S. on a path to citizenship, we can help many more than that in safe zones.

In our history, thousands of people have found refuge in America and have contributed enormously to its greatness. America has always been a country of immigrants celebrating their individual heritages alongside the ideals of freedom and liberty that bind us together as Americans. But the world has changed, and a refugee policy that casts aside the safety of American citizens must also change. Innocent lives are at stake. H.R. 3314 must be brought to the floor of the U.S. Congress, passed, and signed into law. Although a veto by Obama is likely, it would be an absolute dereliction of our sworn duty not to try.

Rep. Brian Babin



Texan diagnosed with Zika illness after returning from trip

AUSTIN — A Texas resident who recently traveled to Miami, Florida, has tested positive for Zika virus disease, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported on Aug. 15.

The traveler, an El Paso County resident, sought testing after becoming ill. This is the first Texas case to be linked to travel within the continental United States. The case will be classified as "travel-associated" and is being investigated for more details, the DSHS said.

While this is El Paso County's first reported case of Zika, Texas had 121 reported cases of the disease as of Aug. 19. The count includes three pregnant women, two infants infected before birth and one person who had sexual contact with a traveler.

State health officials are urging citizens to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and to get more information from the website, TexasZika.org.

Texas adds jobs in July

Even with the addition of 23,600 non-farm jobs in July, Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.6 percent for the month, up from 4.5 percent in June.

The Texas Workforce Commission, however, in its monthly report issued Aug. 19, also noted that Texas' unemployment rate remained below the national rate of 4.9 percent.

And, according to the TWC, the labor market in the Lone Star State has grown by an estimated 173,000 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year. Also, state has added jobs in 15 of the last 16 months.

"Texas employers continued to create jobs last month in a range of industries that are important to the Texas economy," said Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar. "TWC will continue to focus on the workforce needs of these crucial industries and build education and training partnerships that support job creation by Texas employers."

The Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan

★ STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



itan Statistical Areas recorded the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs in July, with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 3.6 percent, followed by the Lubbock MSA with a rate of 4.1 percent.

Military helps economy

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 18 posted a bulletin with information about his "Good for Texas Tour: Military Edition" — an official excursion that included visits to nine of the 15 military bases in Texas.

Those bases, he said, generate \$136.6 billion in economic activity each year, add \$81.4 billion to the state's gross domestic product and pay \$48.1 billion in personal income annually. The military helps support more than 800,000 Texas jobs, he said.

"It's an important part of a strong, diverse and growing Texas economy," Hegar added.

Last fall, Hegar traveled on his first Good for Texas Tour, visiting with people across the state to learn about strengths and weaknesses of local economies.

Goal is safe, sober travel

Leading up to the Labor Day holiday, the Texas Department of Transportation on Aug. 16 urged drivers to make a plan for a safe and sober ride home. "Drinking and driving remains a big problem in

Texas," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "If you plan to drink, you must plan ahead for a safe and sober ride home. It's a plan that could save a family — even your own — from the heartbreak of losing a loved one."

The department's "Plan While You Can" campaign kicked off Aug. 16 in San Antonio and runs through Sept. 5 to coincide with Labor Day and increased DWI enforcement in Texas. During the Labor Day holiday period in 2015, there were 359 alcohol-related crashes that led to 12 fatalities and 36 serious injuries.

TxDOT suggested Texans visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking and driving.

DPS: Watch for children

With the start of the new school year ahead, the Texas Department of Public Safety on Aug. 17 cautioned Texans to watch for children who are walking to and from school or waiting for buses.

State law, TxDOT said, requires that approaching drivers stop when a bus is stopped and operating a visual signal, either red flashing lights or a stop sign. Drivers should not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed, or the visual signal is no longer activated.

A driver does not have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if it is on a highway with roadways separated by an intervening space or physical barrier. Roadways are not considered separated if divided only by a left-turning lane, and drivers must stop for school buses.

What to do when kids come home 'Hangry'

(NAPSI)—Good news for many parents who wonder what to do when the kids come home from school ravenous and dinner is hours away: According to the experts at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), it's perfectly fine to let them have a snack when hunger strikes between meals.

Just be sure, the NIH adds, that it's a healthful snack and the portions are right.

That's just as well, considering that snacking is rising across all ages and genders—94 percent of people say they snack daily, according to market researcher Mintel.

One answer for many busy families is a pair of kid-friendly treats: Mashed Potatoes and Macaroni & Cheese. Both of these varieties are available in the new Reser's Main St Bistro 4-Pack "single-serve" refrigerated sides. These tasty snacks are made with real dairy (milk, butter and cheese) and contain around 200 calories per cup.

The easy and convenient portion-controlled cups can be heated in the microwave and are ready to eat in less than two minutes. The small oval-shaped cups are easy for kids to hold and eat from. Each cup also has heat-resistant grips on the side to protect small hands from the heat.

Look for them at your grocer's Meat Department in the refrigerated case. They are not just for kids; empty nesters, singles, young adults and the eat-lunch-at-the-desk bunch will enjoy them, too. In fact, they're for anyone who wants a delicious, hot dish without all the hassle, calories and prep time.

What's A Parent To Do?

Other helpful snacking hints include:

- Send younger kids on a "veggie hunt" and ask them to pick out a colorful or unique vegetable they find at the grocery store. The only rule: You have to buy whatever they select.
- Remember to include portable items for days when you'll be shuttling kids from school to the playground or after-school activities.
- Bring your kids into the kitchen. One bonus: Cooking together offers a great way to teach math skills and master fractions.

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LIFESTYLE

Goose Creek CISD Convocations provide a magical start to the New School Year

By Susan Passmore

Magic was in the air as more than 2500 Goose Creek CISD faculty and staff members celebrated the new school year at one of two sessions of the annual convocation at Robert E. Lee High School. The event opened with GCCISD's version of Carpool Karaoke, featuring Randal O'Brien, superintendent, and Al Richard, Board president. Almost magically, O'Brien and Richard appeared on the stage in a puff of smoke.

O'Brien welcomed the group, and Marine Corps JROTC members from Goose Creek Memorial and Ross S. Sterling high schools presented colors. The combined choirs from Lee, GCM and RSS, under the direction of Michael Grauvogl from REL, Holly Lewallen and Lorin Hilyard from GCM, and Levi Duncan and Courtney Howard from RSS, sang the national anthem and "Shut Up and Dance."

Phillip Morgan, fine arts director, served as master of ceremonies, introducing Richard, who reflected on his first convocation as a teacher in Goose Creek CISD.

"Thirty-three years ago I sat in the second row of the Sterling Auditorium for my first Goose Creek convocation as a new teacher to GCCISD – and yes, I remember exactly where I sat because it was that special of a day. I was amazed at the enthusiasm of the educators gathered and felt privileged to be a part of an organization that exuded greatness and took pride in all facets of the educational process."

Richard, who attended GCCISD convocations for the next 28 years as a teacher or an administrator, recalled previous convocations and

gave examples of some of the “magic” he has seen this week during his visits around the district. He detailed challenges faced by educators over the past 4 decades, and starting with the 1980s, asked those who began their careers each decade to stand as he thanked them for working their magic to help students succeed.

"Over the past 35 years, education in Texas has changed and teachers are constantly faced with adversity and challenges. And yet, you always find the magic to 'engage, inspire and empower' your students," Richard said.

Kathy Clausen, president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, recognized teachers who had been honored with an innovative teaching grant by the Education Foundation's Grant Surprise Patrol or as a Students Choice recipient, selected by senior students for having made a difference in their lives. Both annual Education Foundation projects are made possible through donations from generous community members, businesses and industry as well as contributions by employees to the Get On the Bus campaign. Since its inception in 2009, the Education Foundation has awarded more than \$700,000 in innovative teaching grants and recognized 105 teachers at the Students Choice Banquet. She thanked participants and encouraged them to contribute to the Foundation this year. As a slideshow of Grant Surprise Patrol winners played, Foundation Board members carried a banner with a bus on it across the stage to emphasize the campaign.

"The campaign continues to grow. In our first year, 32 employees participated and the campaign raised just under \$5,000. Last year, 1065 employees 'Got On the Bus'



DRUMLINE: PHOTO BY SUSAN PASSMORE
The combined drumline from Goose Creek Memorial, Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling high schools got Goose Creek CISD's convocation started.

and contributed more than \$60,000 to the Education foundation through payroll deduction. A small contribution by many can generate powerful results," said Clausen.

O'Brien addressed the group, asking educators to consider how they would describe what they do in three words.

"There are three words, that when put together, I believe capture the essence of what we do, in and outside the classroom. Engage. Empower. Inspire," O'Brien said.

"You have embraced a career that will define our children's ability to believe in a better tomorrow. We engage our students and have them actively participating in their individual growth. We empower them with the tools that they will need to be successful in this life, including their academic, social, physical and emotional well-being. We inspire them to believe in themselves, far greater than their individual capacities would ever allow them to, with our unwavering passion to see every person, to witness the journey for them. I pray that they come to us as until the refined pottery that they leave with as we send them out into the world," said O'Brien.

Quoting Vince Lombardi, O'Brien said, "Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

"I am reminded of what my college coach Jim Webb would say to us when we gathered around the huddle. He said, 'All that I want from you is all that you have.' Sure, he was referencing diving after loose balls, blocking out to get a rebound, being unselfish and passing the ball, but I think it is very apropos to leave you with the same thought. All that our parents want from us is all that we have to give their children," O'Brien said.

Curt Miller, Houston magician and comedian, entertained with magic tricks and illusions, using volunteers from the audience and weaving the theme of educators working their magic in the classroom and on campuses into his show.

A drawing for door prizes, donated by Community Resource Credit Union, Baytown Crime Stoppers, Goose Creek CISD Athletics, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, HEB, JMB2 Architecture and Patients Emergency Room, concluded the program.



Phinias Reb led by Crosby's own Cody Kouba played excellent Bluegrass, and Country Rock tunes to close out the evening.

BAYTOWN—The Team Eagleton Pork Chop Dinner & Auction Fundraiser on August 20 at Baytown Youth Fairgrounds was packed from start to finish with supporters and deputies from Precinct 3.

"The most important thing to me is to thank all those that came out and contributed to this event," said Eagleton.

At the event Tom Moore, President of the Harris County Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge 39 said, "Our alliance voted support for Sherman Angleton. He is very honest, very thrifty and I believe what he can do for Precinct 3 constituents is bring a higher level of law enforcement. He is going to bring the moral up of the deputies and from a happy employee you get better quality and more work. He is all about giving back to the community. Sherman is the man for the job and he has proven it with his leadership in the department and within the Fraternal



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OBITUARIES

**Rodney Keith
Masterson**

Rodney Keith Master-son age, 80 went to be with the Lord on Wednesday August 17, 2016.

He was born in Highlands, Texas on December 30, 1935 to Ethel Ophelia Norris Masterson and Everett Levi Masterson.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and going to the casino, but most of all spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a graduate of Lee High School "Class of 54". During his senior year, he was on the Student Council and was also a cheerleader. He attended Lee College & U of H, was a life member of First Baptist Church of Highlands and a member of Masonic Lodge #231 F&AM. He was a very honest man with strict principles.



could be strong willed at times and will be loved and missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife, Shirley Jackson Masterson and his brother, Leroy Masterson. Rodney is survived by his son, & daughter-in-law Mickey & Charlotte Masterson of Highlands; his daughter, Melaine Lombard of Highlands; his grandchildren, Tyler Masterson of Highlands, Dustin & Katy

Dagenhart of Dayton, Mark & Cori Dagenhart of Vidor, Andrew Masterson of Baytown, Levi Masterson of Baytown, and Keith Lombard of Highlands; his great-grandchildren, Lane Dagenhart of Vidor and Cade Lombard of Highlands and a host of extended family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, on Friday evening August 26, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Services will be held in Sterling-White Funeral Home on Saturday morning August 27, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be in Sterling-White Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com



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

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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

BUSINESS

College hosts international auto tech conference

Consider All Aspects of College Savings Options

Automotive educators explore latest technology, teaching methods

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College recently hosted the North American Council of Automotive Teachers (NACAT) annual conference, attracting automotive technology educators from America, Canada, Australia and several European nations.

The weeklong conference featured 144 sessions that covered teaching methods designed to train students to perform virtually every type of automotive diagnostics and repair work, changing tires, electronic trouble shooting, working on brakes, transmissions, hydraulics, exhaust systems, etc.

Educators at the conference learned about emerging technology in the automotive industry. Incorporated in 1977, NACAT provides resources for improving automotive education among high schools, colleges and technical schools.

Presenter Jack Rosebro, a veteran automotive educator and author from Los Angeles, talked about autonomous, or self-driving vehicle technology. His presentation chronicled the evolution of self-driving cars from their early beginnings up to the recent ramp-up in development, including the development of Google's Self-Driving Car. All major vehicle manufacturers are working on self-driving cars or commercial vehicles, with 2020 being the most common target date for Level 4 (fully autonomous) self-driving car commercialization. The presentation covered 360-degree 3-D camera imaging, software, vehicle-to-vehicle communication, cloud-based data and other developments that indicate deep shifts within the automotive industry.

Longtime Canadian auto-



PHOTO BY ROB VANNA/SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
At the North American Council of Automotive Teachers, longtime automotive educator Alan Nagel talked about new developments in electric vehicle technology.

motive educator Alan Nagel talked about new developments in electric vehicle technology, with a focus on the Chevrolet Volt, an extended range electric/hybrid vehicle that runs on an electric charge and generates additional energy through a gas-powered generator when the battery runs out. GM made significant improvements from the first Volt model, introduced in 2011, to the newest 2016 "Gen 2" model. Thanks to innovations in battery technology and other developments, the Gen 2 Volt has a greater all-electric range, improved gas mileage, more seating capacity and cargo space, a lighter weight, quieter ride and improved acceleration. Nagel also talked about the Chevrolet Bolt, a new all-electric vehicle that will be available in late 2016. A highlight of the Bolt will be new battery technology that extends the range to over 200 miles between charges.

San Jacinto College automotive technology instructors attended the conference, benefiting from expertise shared by industry experts. "Our automotive technology instructors are all skilled, veteran educators who also have plenty of experience in the indus-

try," commented Jeffrey Parks, San Jacinto College Central Campus dean of business and technology. "Yet, it greatly benefits our students for our instructors to attend such a prestigious event like the NACAT conference so the instructors can keep up with the latest trends and developments in the ever-changing automotive field, and pass along their knowledge to our students."

At the conference's concluding ceremony, San Jacinto College automotive technology student Cesar Hernandez received a \$1,000 scholarship based on his performance in the College's GM training program. Hernandez is on track to earn an automotive technology associate degree from San Jacinto College next spring, with plans to transfer to Texas A&M University to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering.

Hernandez enjoys automotive technology because it requires both mental and manual skills. "I love anything mechanical," he commented. "Working on cars is not a walk in the park. It is not only challenging, it also requires a lot of intuition."

San Jacinto College offers automotive technology courses and degree plans at the Central Campus transportation center. To learn more, please visit sanjac.edu/career/automotive-technology.

It's almost back-to-school time. If you have young children going to public schools, your biggest expenditures may be on pens, pencils and notebooks. But if you want those same kids to go to college someday, you'll eventually face considerably larger costs – so you may want to start preparing soon.

College is costly. For the 2015-16 school year, the average expense (including tuition, fees room and board) was nearly \$20,000 at a public, four-year school, and more than twice that amount at a four-year private school, according to the College Board. Of course, cheaper alternatives are available – your children could go to a local community college for two years at a very reasonable cost, and then transfer to a four-year school.

Still, if your child does go on to get a bachelor's degree, those big bills will eventually arrive. As you consider how you can best deal with these costs, ask yourself these questions:

How much can I afford to contribute? As much as you'd like to help your children pay for college, you also have to think about your own needs – specifically your retirement. Think very carefully before reducing contributions to your retirement plans, such as your IRA and 401(k), to help fund a college savings plan. After all, your children may be able to get scholarships and grants, and even if they have to take out loans, they'll have many years in which to repay them – but you can't postpone saving for retire-

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

ment without jeopardizing your ability to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. When it comes to prioritizing your financial goals, putting yourself first is not necessarily a selfish act.

• What college savings plan should you consider? A number of college savings options are available. For example, you could contribute to a 529 plan which offers potential tax advantages and high contribution limits. You might also consider a custodial account, such as an UGMA or UTMA, although when your children reach the age of majority, they are free to do whatever they want with the money – and their plans may not include college.

• What will be the effect of a college savings plan on financial aid? When colleges determine financial aid packages, they will evaluate your child's assets differently than your assets. Your child typically would be expected to contribute 20 percent of his or her assets, while you are only expected to contribute up to 5.6 percent of your assets. Consequently, you may be better off saving for college

in your name, rather than your children's. Under the federal financial aid guidelines, an UTMA/UGMA account is classified as a student asset, while 529 plans are counted as parental assets if parents are the account owners. (The rules on financial aid are not always so clear-cut, however, so it might be worth your while to contact a financial aid officer at a local college or university to ensure that your chosen method of saving will still allow for the greatest possible assistance.)

As you can see, you've got several factors to think about when it comes to helping your kids meet their higher education goals. Study up on these options, so you can find the right answers for your family's needs.

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

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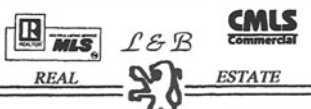
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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

THE CITY OF GALENA PARK WILL BE HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 2000 CLINTON DRIVE, GALENA PARK, TEXAS, 77547 CONCERNING THE 2016-2017 CITY BUDGET. ALL CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Vacationing
- Rotating parts
- Grouch
- Melody
- Garfield's pal
- Golf target
- Not restricted by convention
- Facility
- Sprite
- Wing part
- Strolled
- Perched
- Yoko of music
- Storm center
- Skewered entree
- And others (Lat.)
- Moray, e.g.
- Vagrant
- Aligned one self (with)
- Cosmetics mogul Mary — Ash
- Caviar base
- Type measures
- Fifth and Main, e.g.
- Take away (from)
- Dict. information
- Jai follower

DOWN

- Luminox
- Evergreen type
- Mooch
- Java
- Fuss
- Actress Sorvino
- Big rigs
- Fast cat
- Bellow
- As well
- Existed
- Wapiti
- "Mighty — a Rose"
- Troubles
- Opposed
- Color
- "A mouse!"
- Elsa's story
- Reed instrument
- Transvaal trekker
- With a suspi-

ACROSS

- cious eye
- Fond du —
- "CSI" evidence
- Sings in
- 60-Across?
- Unstressed vowel
- Ump
- Arp's genre
- Hebrew month
- Lofly
- Implement
- Swab the deck
- Corn spike
- Greek H

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COMMUNITY

Water Quality Approved,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She suggested that homeowners should have their well water tested once a year, looking for nitrates that are often present. She said that self-test kits are available at hardware stores, or a sample could be submitted to a health department lab for investigation.

Jackie also presented facts on how to disinfect your well and water system, if you happen to have been the victim of the recent floods. In addition to flushing or draining the system, the disinfecting process used liquid bleach to kill any coliform organisms that were present.

DIFFICULTY OF HAVING CORRECT INFORMATION

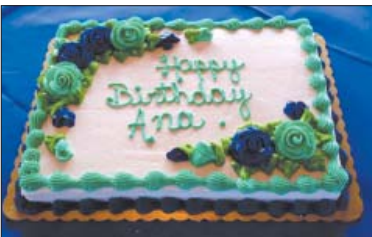
To illustrate the point about how agencies and citizens have difficulty identifying and sampling problem wells, Jackie presented slides showing three maps. One was from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), one was from the City of Houston, and the third was from Harris County. All three supposedly showed private wells within a 5 mile radius around the San Jacinto Waste Pits, but it was obvious that the information and locations on the map differed considerably, leaving investigators with a problem.

She also showed a City of Houston MSD application from Southwest Shipyards in Channelview, indicating they had discovered contaminated shallow groundwater on their property. Some of this exceeded safe levels, some didn't.

Rep. Ana Hernandez celebrates birthday



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANA HERNANDEZ HELD HER ANNUAL BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER LAST TUESDAY, AUG. 23 WITH A LARGE CROWD ON HAND TO HELP HER CELEBRATE. MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER, AT THE MICROPHONE, WISHES HER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, AS JUDGE DON COFFEY, JANICE COFFEY, CONSTABLE CHRIS DIAZ, JACINTO CITY MAYOR ANA DIAZ, AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARMANDO WALLE AND OTHERS LOOK ON.



THIS BEAUTIFUL BIRTHDAY CAKE DIDN'T LAST LONG, AS THE CROWD AT ANA HERNANDEZ' EVENT WAS LARGE, AND HAD A GOOD TIME AT THE CADILLAC BAR ON SHEPHERD DRIVE. ANA IS STATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISTRICT 143, AND AS APPROPRIATE DURING "BACK TO SCHOOL" WEEK, REMINDS US SHE FIGHTS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Rotary 2015-2016 Interact Club donates Breast Cancer Awareness bench to city



The Rotary Interact Club of Galena Park High School 2015-16 donated a pink Breast Cancer Awareness Bench for the enjoyment of the Citizens of Galena Park, and the many visitors to the city. The bench was installed at the GP Swimming Pool, for patrons to rest in the waiting area. Above, Rotarians Maria Rodriguez, Carol Thompson, and Ernesto Paredes pose with members of the Interact Club. A percentage of the money raised by the youth club was donated to the Breast Cancer Awareness program.

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Letter from the Harris County Public Health department about WATER WELL SECOND SAMPLING

Umar A. Shah, M.D., MPH.
Executive Director
2223 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027
Tel: (713) 439-6000
Fax: (713) 439-6000

**Harris County
Public Health**
Building a Healthy Community

Michael Schaffer, M.B.A.
Division Director
Environmental Public Health
1811 South Kirby, Suite G
Pasadena, TX 77506
Tel: (713) 274-6300
Fax: (713) 274-6375

August 12, 2016

Baytown TX 77520

Dear

You recently participated in the Harris County Residential Drinking Water Well Sampling Project.

Although initial analysis indicated a presence of dioxins, we were unable to confirm those findings due to a laboratory error. As a result, in July 2016, we notified you that your well would need to be resampled. The second sample was sent to a different laboratory for testing.

Analysis of the second sample shows that your well water does not contain elevated levels of dioxins. Based on these results and the guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency for safe drinking water levels, it is our opinion that your well water is safe for consumption. The advisory to abstain from drinking, cooking, and swimming with well water has been lifted. You no longer need to use bottled water.

In the next several weeks, a report detailing the specific analytical data for your water well will be mailed to you.

Harris County Public Health, Pollution Control Services and Precinct 2 are here to protect the public and strive to provide you with the most accurate information for you and your family. We appreciate your patience during this evaluation process.

For more information, contact Parul Pillai, Environmental Public Health division of Harris County Public Health, at 713-274-6409.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Schaffer, Director
Harris County Environmental Public Health

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

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