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CHANNEL  
CHATTER

San Jacinto Coalition hears updates, waits for well report from Harris County Health Dept.

CISD offers "Gold Cards" for senior citizens, retirees

The Channelview Independent School District is offering a "Gold Card" to residents age 55 and over, as well as district retirees. Card holders will be allowed free admission to regular season athletic events and most cultural events, such as theater productions, musicals and concerts in all district schools.

Gold Cards may not be used for athletic playoff games or fundraising events such as dinners.

The Gold Cards are free. Please visit the Joyce Hendrix Educational Support Center at 828 Sheldon Road to obtain your card or call 281-452-8002 for more information.

HIGHLANDS – The San Jacinto River Coalition held their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night, with about 150 attending at the Community Center.

But instead of hearing information on the possible contamination in their well water, they had to wait a few more weeks, said Jackie Young. After attending a meeting with Harris County Public Health, she was unable to provide the definitive information that the audience asked for. They wanted a detailed quantitative report on dioxins, and other contaminants in their water.

100 wells have been tested by the county last month, and 71 of those received a letter advising them not to drink or cook their water.

Jackie Young, executive director of the group, gave a history of the organization, her involvement, and status of the EPA study of the waste pits.

She also played a video of Congressman Gene Green, questioning EPA



A LARGE CROWD of area residents listened for details on the water well tests, but were told it would be a few more weeks before the information was available.

encing health concerns and problems.

His comment on the video to Stanislaus, "We want it cleaned up. We want it completely removed."

See LETTER from HC Public Health reproduced on page 8 of this issue.

Young also produced a letter from Congressmen Brian Babin, and Randy Weber, expressing the same sentiment and asking for complete removal.

The Coalition is establishing a Memorial Display, to honor those who are sick or deceased from the environmental problems. The next meeting of the group is on August 23 at Walker Community Center. The topic is "ground water."

"Campus Carry" law start Aug. 1

The controversial law allowing the carrying of licensed concealed firearms goes into effect Monday, Aug. 1 for public universities, and one year later for Community Colleges. Many universities have opted for no guns, as allowed by law, or restricted where they can be carried.

North Channel CC Monthly Luncheon

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon will take place on Friday, August 5, 2016 at 11:30 am at Jacinto City Town Center located at 1025 Oats Road at Challenger Seven Drive, Houston, TX. 77029. To reserve, please call 712-450-3600.

GALENA PARK: Suspects wanted in aggravated robbery

Crime Stoppers and the Galena Park Police Department need the public assistance identifying the suspects responsible for an Aggravated Robbery with a Deadly Weapon.

On Sunday, July 3, 2016, at approximately 12:03 a.m., two suspects entered a convenience store located in the 1900 block of Clinton Dr., Galena Park, TX. One of the suspects pointed a handgun at the store clerk (victim) and demanded money. The same suspect then placed the gun to the back of the victim's head and threatened to kill him



if he did not comply. The victim immediately handed

See AGGRAVATED ROBBERY, page 3

11 year old boy accidentally shoots self



HPD investigating incident where boy shoots self accidentally.

An 11-year-old old accidentally shots self in the neck in east Houston, police said. The shooting happened at a home located on De Haven near Fidelity around 9:25 p.m. last Sunday.

According to Houston Police, the boy was playing

with his uncle's gun when it accidentally went off. The child was rushed to Texas Children's Hospital in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead.

No charges have been filed at this time, officials said and the HP is continuing to investigate the incident.

CHANNELVIEW ISD Channelview Falcon Band begins practices



The Channelview Falcon Marching Band began practices for the upcoming season this week. More than 300 students are participating in the award winning band, which has earned Superior ratings at the Region 19 Band Contest the past five years. ChannelView will host the Region contest this year on Oct. 22 at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium.

COMMUNITY PROFILE San Jac basketball player signs National Letter of Intent

PASADENA, Texas - Josh Huntley, a San Jacinto College forward, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Stephen F. Austin University (SFA).

"Josh is a good ball player and an even better person," said Head Coach Scott Gernander, who has been at the helm of the San Jacinto College basketball program for four years. "He is a blue-collar player on the floor and brought the team great energy throughout the season."

As one of only three players to play in all 32 games last season, the 6-7 forward produced six double-double performances, averaging 10.3 points per game. He connected on 68.9 percent of his free throws and 56.1 percent of his field goal attempts. He had 221 total rebounds, 85 of them on the offensive side, and 17 blocks. In his final game with the College, Huntley pulled down a career best 16 rebounds.

Several colleges showed



Josh Huntley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for

interest in Huntley this past season. The Lauderdale Lakes, Florida (Deerfield Beach HS) native visited Southern University and Texas Southern University before finally deciding to accept the offer from SFA.

"Josh was very patient in making his decision," said Gernander. "He wanted to make sure he found the right fit, and I'm glad

he found that in SFA."

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team went 22-10 last season, winning 15 of its 16 home games, and making it to the third round of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIV tournament. For more information about San Jacinto College athletics, visit sanjac sports.com.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## San Jacinto College offering maritime engineering courses ahead of January 2017 deadline

PASADENA, Texas – The San Jacinto College maritime program is offering engineering courses to help mariners meet new U.S. Coast Guard regulations that will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

The following courses are now being offered: Engine room Resource Management (ERM), Leadership and Teamwork, Leadership and Managerial Skills, Designated Duty Engineer (DDE) 4000 Horsepower, Designated Duty Engineer (DDE) 4000 Horsepower, Qualified Member of the Engineering Department (QMED) Oilier and Management of Electrical and Electronic Control Equipment (MEECE).

Additional maritime engineering courses are under development. The following courses are expected to be offered by the January 2017 deadline: Rating Part of an Engineering Watch (RF-

PEW) Motor only Assessments, Officer In Charge of an Engineering Watch (OICEW) Motor, (OICEW) Auxiliary Machinery, (OICEW) Basic Electronic and Electricity and (OICEW) Instruments and Controllers.

All San Jacinto College maritime courses are taught in the new Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus, located at 3700 Old State Highway 146 in La Porte, Texas. Students train in maritime engineering using equipment that includes refrigeration, electrical controller, desktop simulation, comprehensive pump, hydraulic and pneumatics trainers.

All classes are USCG approved. Upon successful completion students will receive their certificates, which will then permit them to gain employment in the offshore workforce.



San Jacinto College maritime student Phillip Morales interned with Hgman Marine last summer. Some of his duties included work in the vessel engine room. Photo credit: Jeannie Peng Mansyur, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### North Channel Library Programs

-Frid., Aug. 5, 2:30 pm, Catch Kids: Outdoor Activities.  
-Sat., Aug. 6, Summer Reading Program ends.  
-Tue., Aug. 9, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time.  
-Mon., Aug. 8, 1 pm, Intermediate Word, Lecture.  
-Wed., Aug. 10, 1 pm, Intermediate Word, Practice.  
-Thurs., Aug. 11, 10:30 am, Baby Time.  
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, 77049. For more details on these and other programs, please call 281-457-1631.

### Galena Park Library Programs

-Thurs., Aug. 4, Water Balloon Fun, 4 pm.  
-Wed., Aug. 10, Baby Time, 10 am; Storytime, 11 am; Get Active, 4 pm.  
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.

### 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. 5, Clases de Inglés Usando Mango, 1 pm.  
-Sat., Aug. 6, Family Movie Theater, 12:30 pm.  
-Tue., Aug. 9, Word 11 m.  
Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77099. For more information on other programs, please call 713-673-3237.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## North Shore fugitive wanted

On February 17, 2004, Cody Brentson Birdwell was convicted of a 3rd degree Criminal Sexual Contact charge stemming from a case involving a 13-15 year old complainant. Birdwell was sentenced to 25 years confinement in the state of Michigan.

On June 1, 2016, the Harris County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for Fugitive Birdwell for Assault-Impeding Breath on a Family Member. Fugitive Birdwell is also wanted for a Parole Violation warrant issued on July 30, 2015 by the Texas Board of Pardon and Parole. Fugitive Birdwell's last known address was located in the



Cody Brentson Birdwell

10900 block of Beaumont Highway in North Shore. He has been seen in Crosby, Highlands and Channelview.

Fugitive Birdwell is described as a white male, standing 5'9", weighing ap-

proximately 145 lbs. with hazel eyes and brown hair. Fugitive Birdwell has tattoos on his left calf, chest, abdomen, back and head.

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](http://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.

## Aggravated Robbery,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the money to the suspect. The suspects then fled the scene in an unknown direction.

Surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects.

- Suspect #1 Black, male, wearing gray hoodie with lettering (pictured), gray shorts, yellow gloves, and a black mask. Semi-

automatic pistol.

- Suspect #2 Black, male, wearing a black hoodie, black mask, and blue pants.

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 re-

ported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477) or submitted online at [www.crimestoppers.org](http://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.

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OPINION PAGE

★  
OPINION

Many boomers surprised by debt In retirement

(NAPSI)—If you're like most people, retirement means more time to travel, play with grandkids and experience greater personal satisfaction in everyday life. But as Baby Boomers begin to retire, many will experience a different reality—one marked by debt. Fortunately, there are ways to avoid being among them.

**The Problem**  
According to a new study commissioned by Bankers Life Center for a Secure Retirement, more than half of pre-retirees think they'll pay off their debts before retirement, but only a quarter of retirees actually are debt free.

The same study found that eight in 10 middle-income Boomers currently have some debt, and nearly 25 percent have more than 20 years remaining on their mortgage.

"We tend to prepare for costs that we can anticipate," said Scott Goldberg, president of Bankers Life. "Most do not foresee the amount of debt they will carry into retirement and other unexpected expenses, such as long-term care and various health related costs. Our studies show that only about half of Boomers feel they have a strong understanding of financial matters to overcome these hurdles."

**Golden Years Reality**  
Not long ago, many retirees relied on pensions and Social Security for income during their golden years. These income streams used to be

enough to live on comfortably. Today, fewer companies are offering pensions and benefits from Social Security are getting leaner just as a greater number of Americans are retiring.

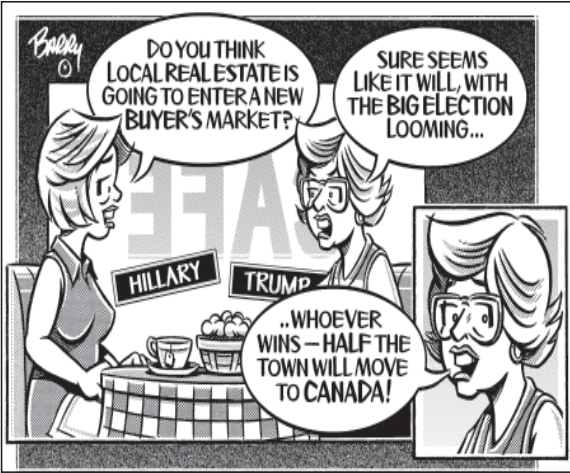
But as Boomers leave the workforce at what looks like lightning speed, they may not be prepared to continue paying off debt or other unexpected expenses.

According to the study, middle-income Boomers are unsure of the best ways to maximize their income and find additional sources of income during retirement. Nearly 90 percent express some concerns about making their money last in retirement.

"More than ever, it is crucial that Boomers take proactive steps in advance of retirement and recognize the options available while planning for a secure future," said Goldberg. "From annuities to long-term care insurance to investments, the options beyond Social Security and pensions are increasingly tangible for middle-income Boomers."

**The Good News**  
Thanks to advances in medicine, retirees are living longer, more independent lives. Therefore, being financially prepared for long-term retirement is more important than ever.

More good news: It's never too late for Boomers to meet with a trusted financial advisor to prepare and take the correct precautions that can set them up for a more fulfilling experience in their golden years.



State rolls out revised women's health program

AUSTIN — A women's health program is in effect and ready to deliver more care to more women statewide who are 15 to 44 years old and whose income is up to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, and Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Charles Smith, in a joint announcement on July 25, said they expect the "new and improved" Healthy Texas Women program to serve some 300,000 women, while earlier programs served 270,000 women. Participation for minors will require parental consent.

Nelson, current chair of the state Senate Finance Committee and former chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, said the program combines and streamlines two of the state's previous women's health programs to provide a full range of women's health services, including:

- Pregnancy testing and counseling;
- Family planning;
- Immunizations;
- Breast and cervical cancer screenings;
- Screenings and treatment for diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol; and more.

"State funding for women's health services has reached an all-time high," said Sen. Nelson. "We have expanded our provider network to the largest it has ever been and will continue working to make sure women all over the state can access family planning and other preventative health services."

"We place a high priority on helping all Texas women access the comprehensive healthcare services they need," Smith said, "and we're committed to helping ensure more women know what benefits are available to help them take charge of their health."

More information is available online at HealthyTexasWomen.org.

**Certification program debuts**  
Secretary of State Carlos Cascos on July 27 invit-

★  
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Ed Sterling



ed Texas businesses to participate in the Human Trafficking Prevention Business Partnership Program created by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

The program requires the secretary of state to present a certificate of recognition to a participating corporation or private entity to recognize its contributions to the efforts of federal, state and local officials engaged in combating human trafficking and prosecuting human-trafficking crimes.

To apply for a certificate of recognition, a business must submit information demonstrating a zero-tolerance policy toward human trafficking and that measures have been taken to ensure employees comply with the policy.

A certificate of recognition is valid for three years and may be renewed.

**Hurricane season continues**

The Texas Department of Public Safety on July 26 encouraged Texans to evaluate their emergency plans and monitor weather forecasts for potential hurricanes and tropical storms. Hurricane season began June 1 and continues through Nov. 30.

Historically, August and September are the more active months during a hurricane season.

DPS Director Steven McCraw listed measures to prepare:

- Assemble an emergency kit that includes essential documents, supplies and provisions;
- Review hurricane evacuation maps and select a route;
- Plan how family members and pets will evacuate safely;
- Consider any special needs for individuals with disabilities or older family members; and
- Stay informed about changing local and regional weather conditions.

More information is available online at texasprepares.org.

**Panel gets budget input**

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar expects the state economy to continue to grow, but at a slower rate than in recent years, when the oil and gas industry provided added stimulus.

Three simple ways to aid pollinators

(NAPSI)—Here's the buzz on an important aspect of helping our environment. Pollinator health can sometimes seem as complex as a beehive with the multiple challenges bees face. Pests, pathogens, diseases, climate change, improper use of pesticides and habitat loss are just a few. However, protecting pollinator health is something with which everyone can help.

For example, Feed a Bee is an initiative of the Bayer Bee Care Program that aims to tackle one of the most pressing issues facing pollinators today—lack of adequate forage. Just as humans can't survive on chocolate alone, bees need nectar from a wide variety of plants. By working with individuals and organizations across the nation, Feed a Bee has planted more than 150 million flowers.

Consider these three easy ways to be extra sweet to honey bees and other pollinators:

1. Tweet a Bee, Feed a Bee. Don't have a green thumb? Never fear. Every use of the bee emoji and #FeedABee on Twitter and Instagram generates virtual seeds that Bayer will convert to real wildflower seeds and plant with The Wildlife Society at a Feed a Bee planting.

2. Prepare for the spring. Surprisingly, fall is the perfect time to plant flowers to ensure pollinators have plenty to eat during the spring, and it's never too early to begin planning your planting. Native plants and yellow, blue or purple flowers are pollinators' favorites. Timing your planting perfectly is crucial to ensure they germinate and bloom at the proper time. You can read expert tips at beehealth.bayer.us/gardeners.

3. Celebrate like a queen bee. Each year, National Honey Bee Day and National Honey Month roll around to remind everyone of the important role honey bees play. In 2016, National Honey Bee Day lands on Saturday, August 20, while National Honey Month lasts all September long.

To celebrate busy bees, visit beehealth.bayer.us to explore learning resources, recipes and more information about how you can help pollinators. If you're ever near the Raleigh-Durham area, you can even plan a visit to the Bayer Bee Care Center by registering for a tour online.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

John Davenport

John Wesley (Wes) Davenport, 89, of Crosby, Texas, passed away Saturday, July 30th at Heritage Home, Humble, Texas.

Wes was born 8-10-1926 to Jim and Dora Davenport in Vernon, Texas. Wes was preceded in death by Peggy, his wife of 65 years, one sister and four brothers.

Wes served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, was a sports enthusiast, and an awesome father and grandfather. One of his greatest fulfillments was being a devout Christian and being a member of First Baptist Church of Crosby for sixty years.

He is survived by two sons, Jim, and wife, Sharon; Tommy, and wife, Tanya; twin daughters, Cheryl Petroski, and husband Robert, and Carol Weselka, and husband Gary; three brothers, Travis, Bob, Billy, and one sister Kitty Ann Roark; thirteen grand children, sixteen great grand children, and



one great-great grand-daughter.

Visitation will be 5-8 PM Tuesday, August 2nd, at Earthman Funeral Home in Baytown, Texas. Funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church, Crosby, at 10 AM, Wednesday, August 3rd, interment immediately following at Sterling-White Cemetery, Highlands, Texas.

To view the online obituary and post a tribute to the family, visit earthmanbaytown.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Earthman Funeral Home, 3919 Garth Road, Baytown, TX 77521, (281)422-8181.

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Martin Augustine Schmadl

Martin Augustine Schmadl, 96, went to be with the Lord on Sunday July 31, 2016. He was born in Shenango, Texas on January 10, 1920 to Louis Schmadl and Felicija Gatz Schmadl. He was a family man who protected and was supportive of everyone. He has been retired for 34 years. He was a fabricator/welder at Exxon with 36 years of service. Martin's favorite hobby was yard work and gardening, while taking great pride in maintaining his yard and his neighbors. Martin was happiest when he was on his tractor or riding his lawn mower. He was a devoted member of St. Jude Catholic Church, counted collections for them for over 50 years and he was a pioneer member since the church was first built.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife of 50 years; Lucille Catherine Gregory Schmadl; sisters, Gertrude Smith-McCoy (John), Tillie Womack (Andy), Rose Kingbury (Rayburn), and Alice Ripkowski (Marion); sisters-in-law, Rosalee McClosky (Paul), Bernice Bil-lot (George), Sadie Ulkie (Louis), and Clara Machala (Stanley); brother, Earl Schmadl (Sue); and brothers-in-law, Edward Gregory, Marion Gregory (Francis) and Herman Gregory (Rita).

Martin is survived by his daughters, Carolyn Hooks and Cynthia Schmadl; brother, Clarence Schmadl; brother-in-law, Brother Duane

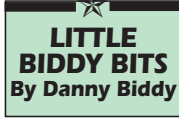


Gregory; grandchildren, Debbi Stockwell (Tracy), Kim Kelley (Tanner), Chad Garcia (Jaime), Kristen Garcia (Manuel), Kelly Garcia (Eli), and Chase Garcia (Abby); great-grandchildren, Christen Burch (Matt), Zachary Garcia, Theron Stockwell, Seth Stockwell, Nevaeh Arismendez, Lizah Roberts, Julissa Garcia, Elias Rodriguez, and Erian Rodriguez; great-great-grandchildren, Ryleigh and Asher Burch. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2016 from 5pm to 8pm with a rosary to be recited at 7:30pm in the chapel of Sterling-White Funeral Home. Services will be held on Thursday, August 4th, 2016 at 10:30 am at St. Jude Catholic Church in Highlands, Texas. Interment will follow in Sterling-White Cemetery. Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd, Highlands, Texas. Please visit www.sterlingwhite.com to share memories and condolences with the family.



1. Is the book of Philesians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. From Matthew 9, after Jesus healed a paralyzed man, what did the man pick up and carry home? Brother, Bed, Tent, Cart
  3. In 2 Kings 13, what prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out of a window? Paul, Job, Elisha, David
  4. Which book begins, "And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai"? Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
  5. What prophet saw "the tents of Cushan in affliction"? Japheth, Noah, Hezekiah, Habakkuk
  6. How many books of the Bible are only three letters long when spelled? 0, 1, 2, 3
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Bed; 3) Elisha; 4) Numbers; 5) Habakkuk; 6) 1



Down the Middle

An old shrimp boat captain named Robert has told me a number of stories about his days trawling for shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico. Many of those stories concerned the sharks that would swim up along side. Some of them would be nearly as long as the boat!

Robert said, "You made sure you walked right down the middle of the deck! You did not want to be close to the edge, especially in rough water."

"Do not turn to the right hand or to the left; remove your foot from evil." (Proverbs 4:27)

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

www.olderiverbaptist.com

About Crosby Texas Young Farmers

Crosby Texas Young Farmers is a chapter of State Wide Texas Young Farmers.

Blue Jean Ball concept was community activity and a fund raiser to support FFA young women and men, year one was put together in short order with great success with the support of CFR as well as numerous members and volunteers, we were able to get community involved in this project and distribute five Scholar-

ships and four Continuing educations scholarships. Our goal is to get students involved in FFA where learning basic, Animal science, welding, mechanics, Group involvement in numerous learning activities and basic in building knowledge of Character and professionalism

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- 2) Scholarship, Continuing Education
- 3) Support FFA activities

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  - Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168
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  - Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470
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  - Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223
  - Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"
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- New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082
  - Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232
  - Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.
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- Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.
  - South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.
  - First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.
  - Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.
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  - Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.
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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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

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

# BUSINESS



Here's how to properly & safely care for your Fine Jewelry

## CARING FOR STERLING SILVER

Clean your sterling silver jewelry with a soft 100% cotton (nub free) cloth or flannel cloth. Remember, silver is a very soft metal and you can scratch it if you aren't careful so don't rub it too briskly. Never use anything but a clean 100% cotton or a special sterling silver cleaning cloth or very soft bristle brush, like a baby's tooth brush or a horsehair silver brush. Paper, polyester, and coarse fabrics often contain wood fibers or synthetics that can cause tiny scratches in the surface of your fine sterling silver jewelry. Dirt left over from previous cleanings can scratch the surface as well.

Note: Focus on preventative care by storing your silver jewelry in a closed box or plastic baggy as silver will tarnish when exposed to air.

Diamonds are forever, as long as you take good care of them!

## DIAMOND CLEANING – THE DO'S AND DON'TS

Bridal jewelry, such as engagement rings and wedding bands are typically worn daily, and can appear like they've lost their sparkle if not cleaned on a regular basis. Lotions put on skin, and diamonds and reduce their shininess. Don't wear diamond jewelry while doing rough work. Avoid chlorinated pools and hot tubs. Avoid touching diamonds with your fingers, as smudges can affect a diamond's luster and fire.

**EXPERT SERVICE**  
If you have questions, feel free to visit an expert Jeweler for advice on cleaning and care. Some jewelry stores will gladly recommend the best products and procedures to use when caring for your diamonds, to help keep them in great shape.

## CARING FOR CUBIC ZIRCONIA

Use a cotton or flannel cloth to wipe your jewelry clean. A special jewelry polishing cloth would be perfect (a popular choice is Sunshine Polishing Cloth). Using straight, back and forth strokes, polish your jewelry and remove any surface dirt and dust. Do not rub in a circular motion as that can scratch the surface of your jewelry. Then use a cleaning solution to remove grime and dirt.

Just like a diamond, a cubic zirconia can be cleaned with warm water and mild soap. Use a soft, cosmetic applicator to reach crevices. However, if you wish, you can use a trusted jewelry cleaner to remove any dirt and dust from your zirconium.

Store your jewelry in an airtight, sealable plastic bag. If this is not possible, store your jewelry in a lined jewelry box, away from the outside air.

**CARING FOR PEARLS**  
Pearls are very soft and need special care and attention. You should never store your pearls in a jewelry box next to other jewelry as the box and other pieces of jewelry can damage the pearls by scratching and nicking. Instead keep your pearl in a fabric lined box or fabric pouch.

Human skin produces acids that can harm your pearls, so if worn regularly pearls should be wiped down with a soft cloth after every wearing. A pearl necklace

## Diamond Jim: "What's the best way to clean my Jewelry?"

### ASK DIAMOND JIM

will gradually absorb acid from the skin that will eat into the pearl causing it to lose its luster. Wiping pearls off with either a wet or dry soft cloth will prevent dirt from accumulating and keep perspiration, which is slightly acidic, from eating away at the nacre. You can also use a drop of olive oil on your cleansing cloth to help maintain your pearls' luster.

Along with being soft and easily scratched, pearls can be damaged by chemicals and heat. Only use jewelry cleaners that are clearly marked safe for pearls.

Never use ultrasonic cleansers, dish or wash detergents, bleaches, baking soda or ammonia based cleansers. Never use toothbrushes, or any other abrasive materials to clean your pearls. Always take off your pearls before using any cosmetics, hair spray, or perfume and avoid heat and dry air because both can cause pearls to turn brown, dry out, and crack.

## CARING FOR RHODIUM PLATED SILVER

Clean rhodium plated silver with warm water and a mild liquid soap (like ivory dishwashing soap). Rinse and dry with a soft polishing cloth immediately to avoid mineral residue from the water.

Never use any chemicals on your rhodium items. Never use toothpaste and never brush with a toothbrush. Don't use polishing cloths that are intended for use on uncoated silver or for gold jewelry. If you have an antique or heirloom piece, don't clean it without consulting an expert about your item.

## CARING FOR GOLD

Gold doesn't tarnish, but it can be dirtied or dulled by the oils in your skin, body lotion, makeup or other substances. There are lots of products out there that promise to clean gold, but you can do it easily with mild detergent and a soft cloth.

Mix a squeeze of mild dish detergent with warm water in a

bowl. Put the gold item into the soap mixture and let sit for a few minutes. Use a soft toothbrush to gently scrub the jewelry. Remove item from soapy water, rinse it and dry thoroughly with a soft cloth.

## CARING FOR GEMSTONES

Gemstones are quite literally hard as rock, but they can be damaged from careless handling and negligence. Here are some tips for keeping your gems and jewelry looking fabulous for years to come.

Remember, even the hardest gemstone variety can be vulnerable to breakage if it has inclusions that weaken the crystal structure. Exercise common sense: if you have a ring set with a softer gem variety or an included stone, take it off before strenuous exercise. Even the hardest gem of them all, the diamond, can shatter or break in two with a single well-placed blow.

Never remove rings by pulling on the stone: that habit may result in a loose and then a lost gem. Most importantly, store each piece of gemstone jewelry separately so that harder stones don't scratch softer ones. Almost every gemstone is much harder than the metal it is set in. Gems can scratch the finish on your gold, silver or platinum if you throw your jewelry in a heap in a drawer or jewelry box.

Rings in particular tend to collect dust and soap behind the gem, especially if worn often. You need to clean them regularly to let the light in so your gems can shine. To clean transparent crystalline gemstones, simply soak them in water with a touch of gentle dish soap. Use a bowl of water rather than the sink to eliminate the risk of anything going down the drain. If necessary, use a soft toothbrush to scrub behind the stone. Rinse the soap off and pat dry with a lint-free cloth (you want to make sure threads won't catch on the prongs).

Think twice before putting gems in an ultrasonic cleaner. Diamonds, rubies and sapphires will be fine but many other gems may not be, in particular emerald, opal, pearls, and peridot: when in doubt, leave it out.

Organic gems like pearls, coral, and amber should only be wiped clean with a moist cloth. Due to their organic nature, these gems are both soft and porous. Be careful about chemicals in hairspray, cosmetics, or perfume: they can, over time, damage pearls in particular. Opals also require special care. Never use an ultrasonic, never use ammonia, and avoid heat and strong light.

Opaque gemstones like lapis lazuli, turquoise, and malachite, require special care because they are rocks, not crystals of a single mineral like transparent gems. These gem materials should just be wiped clean gently with a moist cloth. These gemstones can be porous and may absorb chemicals, even soap, and they may build up inside the stone and discolor it. Never use an ultrasonic cleaner and never use ammonia or any chemical solution.

## CARING FOR STAINLESS STEEL

Stainless steel jewelry won't rust but it can tarnish over time. Steel jewelry does not tarnish as fast as silver jewelry but the rate of tarnishing depends on how it's used. As with any jewelry it is best to avoid contact with chemicals (lotions, chlorine from pools etc.) in order to keep it cleaner longer. Steel jewelry is easy to clean, you can use mild dishwashing liquid (two or three drops in warm water will do) and wipe it down with a soft cloth. Steel jewelry is very durable and can withstand a lot of wear and tear, as opposed to silver which is a very soft metal.

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

## ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

## Financial Tips for Single Parents

Parenting is never an easy job – and, unfortunately, it can be especially difficult if you're doing it on your own. As a single parent, you face many challenges, not the least of which are the financial ones. But by following the suggestions below, you may be able to make life easier – for you and your children.

• Create a "safety net."

On any given day, you could incur an unexpected – and unexpectedly large – expense, such as major car repair, a new furnace or a toothache-inducing bill from your dentist. Your daily cash flow may not be enough to cover these bills, and you won't want to tap into some of your long-term investments or retirement accounts. So you'll need to build a "safety net," or emergency fund, containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, held in a liquid, low-risk account.

• Purchase adequate life insurance. With sufficient life insurance, you can provide your survivors with a level of comfort and security. You might have heard that you require coverage worth seven or eight times your annual earnings, but there's really no one "right" answer for everyone. A financial professional can assess your situation and recommend an appropriate amount, and type, of life insurance.

• Consider disability insurance. As a single parent, without the support of a spouse's income, you could run into serious financial difficulties if you were to become ill or injured and had to miss work for an extended period. Your employer might offer disability insurance as an employee benefit, but it may not be enough to meet your needs. So you could consider adding private coverage.

• Save for retirement. It's not always easy to simultaneously save for your retirement and your children's college education. You will have to decide on your own priorities, but keep in mind that your children may have access to grants, loans and scholarships, whereas you have to rely on yourself for your retirement income. Consequently, you may want to put in as much as you can afford to the retirement accounts available to you, such as an IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan.

• Establish your estate plans. All parents need to develop their estate plans – but it may be even more essential for single parents. Your estate plans should include at least these three documents: a will, a power of attorney and a health care power of attorney. A will allows you to name a guardian for your children and specifies how you will pass your assets on to them. A power of attorney gives someone the legal authority to make financial and other decisions for you, while a health care power of attorney authorizes someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated. You may also need to create other arrangements – such as a living trust – but in any case, you will need to work with your tax and legal professionals to develop comprehensive estate plans. Single parenthood can offer every bit as much joy as any other family situation, but it will require you to plan carefully and take advantage of every opportunity to help ensure financial stability for your children and financial freedom for yourself.

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

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## LEGAL NOTICE

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Atomizer output
- Annoy
- Picnic invaders
- Pub
- Old Italian coin
- Poisonous evergreen
- Alternative to Windows
- Greek consonants
- Electrical resistance
- Some silverware
- Soon, in verse
- Individuals
- "Hamlet" Oscar winner
- Schedule abbr.
- "Once upon ..."
- Periodical, for short
- Semisweet sherry
- Location
- Study of the past (Abbr.)
- Wild
- Crazed one
- Silent
- Sandwich cookie
- Quadrennial games



- Elvis' " — Las Vegas"
- Fatherly
- Paradise
- Ordinal suffix
- Catch sight of
- Graduates
- 1492 vessel
- Advanced math
- Old German duchy name
- Responsibility
- Hoisted, at sea
- Enemy
- Aware of
- Authentic
- Preferred invitees
- Ear doctor's device
- Eastern potentate
- tat-tat
- Operatic solo
- Toothpaste style
- Buckeye
- Always, in music
- Show anger
- Relocate
- Desert-like
- Actress Campbell
- Legend
- Long, crosser
- and outs
- Baseball hat
- Crafty

### DOWN

- Chinese chairman
- Ailing
- Witness
- "Much obliged"
- Unopened roses
- Exploit
- Apache leader



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hccs.edu




Government Exhibits related to the Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Letter from the Harris County Public Health department, advising 71 residents of Lynchburg, Highlands, and Channelview to DO NOT DRINK their well water.

Umar A. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director  
2223 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027  
Tel: (713) 439-6000  
Fax: (713) 439-6088



Harris County  
Public Health  
Building a Healthy Community

Michael Schaffer, M.P.H.  
Division Director  
Environmental Public Health  
101 South Kirby, Suite G  
Pasadena, TX 77506  
Tel: (713) 274-6900  
Fax: (713) 274-6375

July 1, 2016

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

You recently participated in the Harris County Residential Drinking Water Well Sampling Project. Early testing indicates higher than acceptable levels of dioxins in your well water that may exceed safe drinking levels. However, due to a laboratory error, we will need to resample. The sample will be collected by InControl Technologies on Thursday, July 7, 2016.


Though current findings are inconclusive, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is recommending you use bottled water for drinking and cooking, and for your family pets. Please note, boiling the water will not remove these contaminants.

You may continue to shower, bathe, or use the water for other purposes. However, we ask that you refrain from ingesting your tap water until the results of the secondary test are concluded.

Results of the new samples are expected within three weeks of collection. Once the results are received and analyzed, a representative from Harris County will contact you to discuss the next steps.

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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