

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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CHANNEL CHATTER

NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER LUNCHEON

FRIDAY - AUGUST 7, 2015 at San Jacinto Town Center, 1025 Oats Rd. @ Challenger Seven Drive, Jacinto City, TX. 77029, 11:30 a.m. SPEAKER: State Rep. Ana Hernandez. RSVP to 713-450-3600.

BUCKLES & BIRDIES CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Houston Metro Go Texan Committee Jacinto City/ Galena Park presents the BUCKLES & BIRDIES CLASSIC on Friday August 7, 2015 at Newport Golf Club, 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby, TX. 77532.

If you would like more information or would like to register a team, please contact Paul Drexlet at 981-850-5484. Register or donate on line at www.eventbrite.com.

LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Join State Representative Ana Hernandez on:

•Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at Alvin Baggett Recreation Bldg., 302 Keene St., Galena Park, TX, 77547.

•Thursday, August 27, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at Channelview High Joyce Hendrix Educational Center, 828 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 77530.

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

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

For more information call 713-675-8596.

GREEN'S FREE IMMUNIZATION DAY SHOTS

Congressman Gene Green's 20th Annual Immunization Day, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015, 9 am - 12 pm at Galena Park High School, 1000 Keene Street, Galena Park, TX. Please bring your child's shot record with you. Call 981-99-5879 for more information.

San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center construction progresses

PASADENA, Texas --The San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte is set to open in January 2016. Construction has been ongoing since Fall 2014. The facility will serve as the site for certificate and associate degree maritime training delivered through U.S. Coast Guard-required and approved course work.

The following list provides an update on the Summer 2015 progress of the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center:

- Bulkhead work and dredging is nearing completion.
- Brick is installed on the south elevation and is being installed on the west elevation.
- Exterior sheathing is complete.
- Damp proofing of exterior walls is complete.
- Installation of windows continues.
- Roof cap sheet installation is



Maritime Technology and Training Center at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte under construction.

- underway.
- Interior walls are being closed and taped and floated.
- Installation of ceiling grid is underway.
- Tile work has started in restrooms.
- Work on sidewalks under building continues.
- Paving work at north and west continues.
- Pool construction has started.

- Next phase of activities to begin:
- Continue window installation
- Continue brick work
- Finish closing walls
- Continue taping and floating walls
- Startup of HVAC system
- Continue sidewalk and paving work
- Start priming walls
- Continuing the coordination of moving the maritime program's three full-mission ships bridge



simulators.

The San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center sits 14 feet above ground. The ground level showcases a training dock with lifeboats, davits, and fast rescue craft, and a separate industry dock for crew changes. This will allow for vessel specific training for local maritime com-

panies and will serve as an aquatic training facility for sea survival and life raft training, complete with men's and women's locker rooms.

Once complete, the facility will have 15 classrooms; engineering simulators to train maritime engineers

See TRAINING CENTER, page 8

Harris County wins lawsuit against Food Mart for distributing Synthetic Marijuana

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan last Friday in a lawsuit filed with the Texas Attorney General's Office and the City of Houston won a court order to prohibit the sale of synthetic marijuana products known as "Kush" at a local convenience store. The County Attorney, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and City of Houston jointly sued Alameda Food Mart for distributing products containing the dangerous substance that has led to hundreds of recent hospitalizations and overdoses across Texas.

The lawsuit follows several undercover investigations performed by the Houston Police Department (HPD), which uncovered and seized more than 300 packages of the substance at the store.

"This product, commonly called 'Kush,' is especially dangerous because it is marketed to children," County Attorney Ryan said. "The package labeling claims this

product contains seemingly harmless substances. It actually contains hazardous chemicals."

While synthetic marijuana is marketed as "safe," the dangers of the substance are widely reported—including severe paranoia, psychotic episodes, violent delusions, kidney damage, suicidal thoughts and self-mutilation. There has been an alarming uptick in these reports in 2014-15.

"The growing reports of overdoses on this dangerous substance among our youth should concern every Texan," Texas Attorney General Paxton said. "This illegal marketing of powerful and deadly drugs to children must be put to a stop. My office will continue to work with local authorities across Texas to send the message that businesses who choose to sell this substance will pay the price."

HPD initiated the investigation following reports from

paramedics with the Houston Fire Department of individuals overdosing on the drug from Alameda Food Mart, which is in close geographic proximity to several schools and shopping malls where youth congregate. Lab reports of the packages seized by HPD confirm that the products contain AB-CHMINACA and AKB48, both highly addictive and dangerous chemicals listed by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration as Schedule I controlled substances, the most dangerous kind.

County Attorney Ryan, the AG's Office and the City are alleging that Alameda Food Mart and its owners, Trung and Tamie Pham, have violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and common nuisance statutes under Texas law. The lawsuit is seeking a temporary restraining order and a temporary injunction

See LAWSUIT, page 6

GALENA PARK ISD Scouts honor Superintendent



The Boy Scouts of America recently honored Dr. Angi Williams, Superintendent of Schools for Galena Park ISD. Col. James Beesley, Ret., District Committee Chairman for Raven District, Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, presented Dr. Williams with a certificate of appreciation for her unwavering support of Scouting in GPISD. "Not only has she made personal contributions, but through her leadership, she has fostered the growth of Scouting in our area," Beesley said.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Suellen Denton, new Jacinto City librarian

Suellen Denton is originally from Ruston, Louisiana, but she moved to Houston in 1997, graduating from Northbrook Senior High School in the Spring Branch area in 1998. In 1999, she went back to Ruston and graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 2003, with a Bachelor of Arts in History and French.

During her college years, she worked part time as a Library Page for the Lincoln Parish Library from 2000 to 2002. After graduation, she went to Officer Candidate School, Navy in Pensacola, FL where she was commissioned an Ensign. Denton left active duty and went into the Navy Reserves in 2005, and moved back to Houston where she went to work full time at Fondren Library as a Circulation Assistant at Rice University.

Denton began to realize



SUELLEN DENTON, Librarian

how much she enjoyed libraries and decided that she wanted to become a librarian so she enrolled in the University of North Texas online program. Denton received her Masters in Library Science in summer of 2009. That fall, she received orders to mobilize to the Middle East. She returned in the fall of 2010, resigned her position at Rice, and became a volunteer at the Harris County Archives and at the San Jacinto Museum because

of her interest in Special Collections. She assisted them doing preservation and cataloging materials.

In January 2012, Denton was hired by the Harris County Public Library to be the Senior Circulation Assistant at LSC-Tomball Community Library. At Tomball, she developed a passion for serving the community and decided that she belonged in public libraries instead of special collections. She was promoted to Reference Assistant in 2014 at Tomball and headed up the ESL and Literacy program, overseeing 14 ESL tutors, 2 Literacy tutors and a total of 19 classes. She conducted an ESL Discussion class and created and taught a summer ESL Intermediate class which focuses on helping to improve conversation,

See NEW LIBRARIAN, page 3

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT TWO

North Shore Rotary gives \$5,000 to Senior Olympics



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2 GATHER holds a "Senior Olympics" each year, to challenge and entertain senior citizens in a week-long series of games and sports events. The North Shore Rotary Club supported this event with a donation of \$5000. Club president Mike Williams presents the check to Pct. 2 event coordinator Diane Casey.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Jr School students tour chemical plant, learn about jobs

Students from Highlands Junior School spent a day at Chevron Phillips Chemical's Baytown facility to learn about jobs in the petrochemical industry. The students are part of the "Young Dream Changers" program focused on teaching young men positive behavior and character traits through mentoring and education activities.

The visit to Chevron Phillips Chemical included an overview of the petrochemical industry and the types of jobs that exist in a plant. Operators from the Baytown facility met with the students and discussed obstacles they faced as young men and how they overcame them to be successful.

Laramie Valverde, an operator at Chevron Phillips Chemical in Baytown, said mentoring is a great way to expose students to a career field they may not have considered before.

"When I was in middle school I didn't think to myself that one day I would grow up to be a plant operator. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after school and didn't really have an adult in my life to help guide me. I was fortunate to have a friend's father suggest plant work," Valverde said.

Valverde has been an operator for 11 years and now volunteers his time mentoring students in middle school, high school, and at Lee College.

"Once I started on this path I haven't looked back. I have a great job that supports my family



Students participating in the Highlands Junior School summer program "Young Dream Changers" met operators working at Chevron Phillips Chemical's plant in Baytown to learn about career paths in the petrochemical industry.

and allows me to have the life I wanted," Valverde said.

Many of the careers at Chevron Phillips Chemical require a two-year degree in process technology, instrumentation technology, or electrical technology. GCCISD students enrolled in a dual-credit program can earn their Associate degree from Lee College while still in high school. Chevron Phillips Chemical also provides scholarships to dual-credit students funding 100% of tuition and book costs.

"Not everyone is meant to go to a four-year university after high school. And that's OK. There is a high demand for workers in the chemical industry who have a two-year degree, and if someone can earn that while still in high

school that's even better," said Heather Betancourth, community relations representative for Chevron Phillips Chemical in Baytown.

According to the trade organization American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM), the average salary for process operators is \$62,234 per year or \$28.96 per hour. The average salary for a welder is \$56,904 per year or \$27.36 per hour. Pipefitters, millwrights, scaffold builders, and instrumentation/electrical technicians are also in high demand. Due to expansion projects occurring at Chevron Phillips Chemical and the increase of retiring employees, the company expects to hire more than 2,600 new employees in the next six

years. The number of people needed to build the expansion projects is approximately 10,000.

"Our goal is to educate people that these jobs exist, they pay extremely well, and we prefer to hire within the local community," said Betancourth.

Twenty kids from Highlands Junior School make up the "Young Dream Changers" program and were selected based on behavioral needs. This is the first year the program has existed and was provided by Communities in Schools Baytown. At each event, there is an underlying goal to teach the kids while still trying to make it enjoyable. Volunteers are also a part of the program and serve as role models to the boys.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Quilt Guild meeting

The Crosby Quilt Guild meets the Second Monday of every month. Location is 5202 1st street behind the Brethren Church in Crosby in the gym. Social time is at 6:30PM and the meeting starts at 7:00PM. Everyone is welcome to visit us and enjoy our speaker and show and tell. For information call/text Mary Jo Terrell at 832-259-3410.

Crosby ISD Athletic program Fundraiser

The CISD Athletic Program and Scholarship Fund are holding a fundraiser dinner on Sat. Aug. 15 at the Crosby Fair & Rodeo Fairgrounds. Serving BBQ, bounce house for kids, music, and fun outdoor activities and competitions. Proceeds benefit a scholarship and funds for the athletic program. \$10 per plate and donations accepted.

May Community Center events

Craft Class: Thursday, August 6 at 10 a.m.
Project: Pumpkin Topper for welcome post (made in previous class) A \$5 suggested donation defrays the cost of supplies for this craft class.

Thursday, August 13 at 10 a.m. Project: Door Wreath
Below is the supply list for this staff led class. You will be required to purchase these supplies to bring to class.

- Lime green 24" work wreath (color optional)
- 21" Cream/white two tone deco poly mesh
- 8" Striped sheer fabric (moss brown cream)
- 4" Natural jute mesh ribbon
- 1.5" Light blue denim ribbon
- 1.5" Orange paisley mod ribbon
- Roll of wired orange jute roping
- 13" Wooden pumpkin, wooden initial or owl (your choice)

Thursday, August 20 at 10 a.m. Project: Sunflower Mason Jar
A \$5 suggested donation defrays the cost of supplies for this craft class.

Thursday, August 27 at 10 a.m. Project: Scarecrow Decor
A \$6 suggested donation defrays the cost of supplies for this craft class.

Call or stop by the Center to sign up for these cute crafts! May Community Center is located at 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman 77336. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs please call (713) 274-2434.

Crosby CCC programs

Kickboxing with Angelique: Mondays at 6 p.m.
Exercise with experienced fitness instructor Angelique Pool to achieve a toned body.

Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs, please call (281) 462-0543.

Turner Chevrolet's Back 2 School Backpack and School Supply Drive

The Dealership will match what the public gives.
Please bring gently used or new backpacks and school supplies
(please no rolling backpacks)
to 21001 Crosby Frwy. (Turner Chevrolet)
between now and August 20.

Several retail stores are selling prepackaged school supplies.
Any school supply contribution helps.

School supplies needed include:
4 oz. Elmer's Glue, 5 in. Fiskar's blunt tip scissors, #2 Ticonderoga pencils, latex free, med. pink pearl eraser, 16 ct. Crayola Crayons, 24 ct. Crayola Crayons, 85 ct. Kleenex facial tissue, Blue Expo low odor chisel tip dry erase markers, yellow plastic 2 pocket folder w/ brads, Green plastic 2 pocket folder w/brads, purple 2 pocket folder with brads, Small Elmer's glue sticks, 12X18 Manila paper 50 ct., wide rule black marble composition book 100 pg., Manila 1/3 cut letter size folders, plastic school box 8.5 x 5.75x2.5 plastic school box, 4 Expo Black Dry Erase Markers, 1 pair of headphones/earbuds, 1 package of manila construction paper, 1 package colored construction paper

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY NIGHTS
The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0799 or 832-444-5000.

MONDAYS
Galena Park Senior Dance

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

2nd & 4th THURSDAY
San Jacinto Pilot Club

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

AUGUST
Galena Park Library events

-Thursday, August 6, 11 am , Baby Time; 3 pm, Boom Puff Art. -Friday, August 7, 3 pm, movie. Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.

The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

2nd THURSDAY
North Shore Senior Dance

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

Student registration scheduled for Channelview campuses

Registration for students in all grades in Channelview ISD have been scheduled at the individual school campuses.

Elementary campuses will register students throughout the summer from 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Secondary campuses have scheduled registration 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Evening registration will be held at several campuses on the following times and dates:

Cobb Elementary - 5-7 p.m., Aug. 4 and 5-7 p.m., Aug. 13
Crenshaw Elementary - 5-7 p.m., Aug. 4
Hamblen Elementary - 4-6 p.m., Aug. 5
Hamblen Elementary - 4-6 p.m., Aug. 6
McMullan Elementary

- 5-7 p.m., Aug. 6 and 5-7 p.m., Aug. 11
Brown Elementary - 5-7 p.m., Aug. 6 and 5-7 p.m., Aug. 11

Crenshaw Elementary - 5-7 p.m., Aug. 6
Campbell Learning Center - 5:30-7:30 p.m., Aug. 6 and 5:30-7:30 p.m., Aug. 11

Alice Johnson Junior High - 5-7 p.m., Aug. 11 and 5-7 p.m., Aug. 13

Kolarik Ninth Grade Center (9th Grade) - 6-8 p.m., Aug. 11

Channelview High School - 6-8 p.m., Aug. 11 (10th Grade), Aug. 12 (11th Grade) and Aug. 13 (12th Grade)

Schochler Elementary - 5-7 p.m., Aug. 11 and Aug. 13

Aguirre Junior High - 6-8 p.m., Aug. 12 (Sixth Grade), Aug. 13 (Seventh

Grade) and (Eighth Grade), Aug. 14

Parents will need to have the following items when registering their child for school:

-Birth Certificate (original - no copies)
-Social Security Card (original - no copies)
-Immunization Record
-Last Report Card or Withdrawal Paper
-Two (2) Proofs of Residency - recent (within the last 30 days) light bill, water bill, gas bill, lease/rent agreement or purchase agreement - No Disconnect Notices
-Two emergency contact numbers other than your home or work

For more information, please call the school where you are enrolling your child.

Rep. Hernandez comments on the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act

AUSTIN, TX- Thursday, August 6, will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act by Texas-born President Lyndon Johnson.

"The Voting Rights Act is one of the greatest pieces of civil rights legislation in our country's history," Hernandez said. "Since its signing half a century ago, it has served as a bulwark to defend the right to vote

in an increasingly diverse America and Texas."

"The Governor and Attorney General have elected to turn away from the legacy of the Voting Rights Act by continuing to defend the state's unconstitutional voter ID law. This places them on the wrong side of history, and demonstrates their disrespect for the numerous elderly and minority voters disenfranchised by this measure."

NEW LIBRARIAN,

Continued from page 1

speaking, and grammar. She just heard last week from the interim ESL Coordinator at Tomball that her summer class will be a year round class because of its popularity.

As Branch Librarian of Jacinto City Branch Library, Denton will be focusing on programming for children and story time activities with more of an educational element to im-

prove literacy. She would also like to increase ESL and Literacy programming along with other adult other programs starting in the fall. The community will also be seeing them out and about at local schools and community events as well.

Denton says she is excited to be working with the Community of Jacinto City!

Senator Sylvia Garcia: Statement on Planned Parenthood Video

HOUSTON - Senator Sylvia R. Garcia released the following statement today in response to video footage taken at Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast:

"Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast has been a primary provider of women's healthcare in my district for many years. Women in District 6 have depended on Planned Parenthood for cervical cancer screenings and a variety of other

necessary and imperative health resources. I am hopeful that any investigation on the state and federal level will focus strictly on the facts and not political gamesmanship.

"The video released today is only a small, selectively-edited version of a much longer video. Naturally, there is far more to these videos than what has been released today, and my hope is that investiga-

tors and the media will seek the whole truth."

"This facility has helped numerous low-income families with an array of healthcare and reproductive services. Therefore, I am hopeful that this investigation will show that there was no wrongdoing on their part and that no Houstonian will lose access to lifesaving cancer screenings and other important healthcare services."

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OPINION PAGE

Keeping your ACCESS TO Affordbale Financial ADVICE

By Dale E. Brown

(NAPSI)—Whether you're just starting your working life or nearing your retirement, having the most dignified retirement possible could depend to a great extent on whether a proposed regulation from the Department of Labor (DOL) is enacted.

That's because, if the DOL rule is finalized, millions of small investors may find it impossible to work with a financial advisor who either can or has helped them save for retirement for years. People who work with a financial advisor save more money, get better returns on their investments, avoid costly mistakes and have greater confidence in their financial futures.

Here's what happened: Five years ago, the DOL proposed its first version of the rule, which would have limited choices for small investors and effectively priced many average Americans out of the reach of professional advice, services and products that help grow their IRAs. Fortunately, over 200 members of Congress—Republicans and Democrats—weighed in and the Department withdrew its proposed rule.

Then, in 2015, the Department proposed a new rule which, in its current form, is unworkable for financial advisors to implement. There are a number of problems with it, including costly and complex disclosures that duplicate paperwork already provided to investors. In addition, the proposal would expose even the best financial advisors who care deeply for their clients to class action lawsuits. That risk could make it very difficult for advisors to keep current clients or work with new clients who do not have large amounts of money to invest.

The simple fact is, if this rule goes through, millions of Americans may have to turn to the Internet, a "robot advisor," and not a trusted financial advisor, for their retirement information at a time when most people need more help than ever. A robot doesn't know your retirement goals, your fears or whether an emotional investment decision you may be about to make could jeopardize your retirement security. That's

the sort of thing for which you need a professional financial advisor who knows you.

Keeping Your ACCESS TO Affordable Financial ADVICE

The DOL says it wants to protect retirement-account holders from conflicts of interest, and the members of the Financial Services Institute (FSI), independent financial advisors, agree with that goal 100 percent. They are pillars of their business community, and they know that their reputation is their business and doing right for every client is what keeps their business growing.

Working with a financial advisor is often critical for a dignified retirement. People who work with a financial advisor save more money, get better returns on their investments, avoid costly mistakes and have greater confidence in their financial futures. In fact, savers who worked with an advisor had nearly 60 percent more money after four to six years, compared to those who tried to invest on their own.

When it comes to providing affordable, objective financial advice to millions of Americans, you cannot overstate the seriousness of this matter. The rule could very well result in many families losing access to retirement information, education and services.

Those families need the help. According to the Center for American Progress, 65 percent of households are at risk of not meeting their retirement savings target.

It would be a good idea for the Department of Labor to work with the industry to make this rule workable and truly help millions of Americans trying to save for their retirement—not put another roadblock in their way.

Many people have visited www.MySavingsMyChoice.org to tell the Department of Labor and elected officials that working with a financial advisor is a right. It's your savings and your choice. It only takes a minute and it may prove to be one of the best investments of time you can make towards the retirement you deserve.

• Mr. Brown is President & CEO of the Financial Services Institute (FSI), an association for independent financial advisors.



Panel hears testimony in wake of jail death

AUSTIN — The Texas House Committee on County Affairs met on July 30 to hear testimony on Sandra Bland and jail standards.

Bland, 28, was pulled over by a state trooper in Hempstead on July 10. Soon after, she was placed in the Waller County Jail and was found dead in her cell on July 13. Investigators ruled the death a suicide. The story, covered by local, state, national and world news agencies, has emerged in the context of other tragic outcomes involving black citizens and law enforcement.

"How does someone get pulled over for not signaling and end up dead three days later? It just does not compute," said Committee Chair Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, in opening the hearing. Coleman called for discussion on how such an event might affect the Texas Department of Public Safety's training of officers and how Texas county jails might adjust their practices in the incarceration of mentally ill inmates.

Brandon Wood, director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, said mental health has become the commission's top priority and that state funding to add beds for inmates with mental issues is forthcoming. Wood testified that there have been 140 in-custody suicides in Texas since 2009 and 22 in 2014. He recommended enhancements to mental health screening processes, such as the addition of personnel who are qualified to assess mental health and deliver mental health care.

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw said the Federal

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



Bureau of Investigation and the Texas Rangers are investigating the arrest and death of Bland and suggested the public release of the arrest video was an act of transparency on the agency's behalf.

Yannis Banks of the Texas NAACP testified, suggesting that transparency issues include official documents that could be altered and video recordings that do not capture everything that happens. Several audience members spoke about their personal experiences related to racial profiling by law enforcement.

Greg Hansch, public policy director of National Association of Mental Illness of Texas, called for Texas to better address racism in law enforcement. And, while acknowledging increases in the Texas Legislature's attention to mental health issues generally over the past couple of legislative sessions, Hansch said Texas still has

long way to go in addressing needed improvements in its mental health system.

Planned Parenthood is discussed

The state Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on July 29 met to receive invited testimony concerning Planned Parenthood and its Texas affiliates in light of recent news.

In opening the hearing, committee Chair Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, said, "Senators, I am sure all of you have seen the recent videos and news stories showing top Planned Parenthood executives casually discussing donation and potentially to sell fetal tissues and organs. The cavalier attitude portrayed in these videos was alarming and disturbing to many people throughout the nation and of course here in Texas."

Attorney General Ken Paxton testified that the state is conducting its own investigation of Planned Parenthood affiliates in Texas and that a federal investigation of Planned Parenthood also is in progress.

Texas Department of Health and Human Services representatives testified about the agency's role in regulating abortion practices and explained that the agency has no authority in the sale or donation of fetal tissue, but it can report suspected abuses to other agencies that have jurisdiction.

Agency urges conservation

The Public Utility Commission of Texas on July 30 urged consumers to conserve electricity because of record electricity demand and higher-than normal temperatures throughout the state.

The agency asked residential and business customers to adjust air conditioning thermostats at least two degrees higher and turn off unnecessary lighting and also to run dishwashing and laundry appliances after sunset or later.

When the weather gets hot, electricity usage peaks between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., according to the PUC.

Grand jury indicts Paxton A Collin County grand jury last week indicted Ken Paxton, a former state representative from McKinney and current state attorney general.

Felony counts against Paxton reportedly are expected to be unsealed sometime on Monday, Aug. 3.

Paxton has been accused of encouraging investments in a McKinney-based technology company without telling investors he was a stockholder in the company and that he was making a commission on the investments.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Complaint on Water Service

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to the Editor with regards to the services of J&S Water Company and their inability to act in a professional manner with regards to their customers. I am there customer and have been for over 5 years. I live in Woodland Acres in Old River Win-Free. I have met few businesses that treat their customers with such rude mutterings and disregard. Allow me to share my story: On July 27, 2015 our water was shut off in the am due to faulty equipment. We were told that the problem would be fixed shortly. At 5:00 pm our water was still not on and with a husband and son that work in the heat they wanted showers. We were again told that the water line was being worked on and that it should be on soon. We were patient in waiting for the issue to be resolved. When the next morning came and still we had no water, we called to find out that there was another problem with the system and that soon it would be resolved. I called the office for an update and for information concerns and was confronted by a stressed out and highly irritated employee. She proceeded to tell me that if the people in the neighborhood would quit calling her she might be able to find out further information for us. I suppose I had to represent the entire sub-division now. I'm so thankful that my daughter was sitting in the room with me as she could reaffirm that I was not being loud or rude to this women on the other end of the phone as she complained about her job to me and hung up the telephone on me. I sat in disbelief not knowing what I could do to get answers and now to report this situation to someone. I called back to say that I didn't mean to offend her but that she had a job to do and ... she interrupted me with sweet sarcasm saying, "You have a nice day." And when I tried to talk to her she kept repeating it like a child game player. I am appalled with such behavior from a business that provides services to so many customers. If this were the only time we have had concerns with our water company I would have let it slide off my back but it's not. High levels of arsenic in our water, constant shutting off of the water for problems and high water costs to pay for their new equipment that breaks down. It's enough. We need competitors in our area, any takers?

Michael Statton
Old River-Winfree

NOTE: Opinions in this letter are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper. Incidents reported here are allegations, not necessarily true facts.

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ASK THE EXPERT

Take Action to Leave the Legacy You Desire August is What Will Be Your Legacy

Month. If you knew this, you have an unusual knowledge of obscure celebrations. But even if you weren't aware of this "month," you can see that the idea behind it — the importance of leaving a legacy — is an important one. What should you do to help ensure you'll leave the type of legacy you desire?

To begin with, identify those people whom you'd like to directly benefit from your legacy. What can you leave behind to your children, grandchildren, other family members or even close friends? Then, think about those charitable organizations you support — can you leave something behind to them?

Once you have decided what your legacy should look like, you can take steps to implement your ideas. Here are a few suggestions:

- Draw up your will. A will is probably the most essential legacy-related document. Essentially, you need a will to ensure that your assets and personal belongings will be distributed according to your wishes. If you die intestate (without a will), your belongings will be distributed to your "heirs" as defined by state laws — and these distributions may not be at all what you had in mind.
- Consider a living trust. Depending on your situation, you may need to go further than a will when creating the estate plans that help define your legacy. For example, you might want to create a living trust, which can allow your assets to go directly to your heirs, avoiding the public, time-consuming and potentially expensive process of probate. A living trust offers other benefits, too, so you may want to consult with a legal professional to learn more about this estate-planning tool.
- Plan for your charitable gifts. To leave the legacy you have envisioned,

you might want to do more than provide your loved ones with needed financial resources — you may also want to provide lasting support to those charitable or educational organizations whose work you admire. Toward this end, you might want to consult with your tax and legal advisors about charitable gifting strategies that can provide tax benefits, both now and in the future.

- Give your family the power to act on your behalf. Like everyone else, you want to be in charge of your own destiny. Unfortunately, however, you may someday become mentally or physically incapacitated for a while. If this were to happen, you'll want your family to be able to act on your behalf with regard to financial and health care decisions. To grant your loved ones this power, you may want to create a power of attorney and a health care directive.
- Communicate your wishes. You need to communicate to your loved ones the actions you have taken regarding your will, living trust and other estate-planning documents. By explaining your wishes in advance, you may be able to help your family members avoid disputes and unpleasant surprises — and that lack of "drama" can also be a key part of your legacy.

What Will Be Your Legacy Month will come and go. But by definition, your legacy will last beyond your lifetime — so make it a good one.

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Register now for Fall at San Jacinto College

PASADENA, Texas — Registration is open for the Fall 2015 semester at San Jacinto College.

Traditional Fall classes begin Monday, Aug. 24, 2015, while Weekend College courses begin on Friday, Sept. 11. The registration payment deadline is Thursday, Aug. 13. Registration remains open for the Fall 2015 semester after the payment deadline, but all financial obligations incurred after the payment deadline not covered by financial aid, installment payment plan, third party agreement, or scholarship, must be paid on the day of registration. Students may register and pay in full up to the start of class.

"We encourage students, if they have not already, to begin the financial aid process by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)," said Robert Merino, dean of financial aid services. "It is free to apply, and if students need assistance, they should contact a San Jacinto College financial aid advisor."

Financial aid information is available online at sanjac.edu/financial-aid. The San Jacinto College FAFSA Code is 003609.

San Jacinto College also offers assistance with choosing a career path; deciding on an area of study;

and the application, enrollment and registration processes.

Educational planners are available on all San Jacinto College campuses to help students select courses that will easily transfer to a four-year college or university, or get them the skills they need to enter the workforce upon graduation.

Students who are looking for an alternative to attending classes during the week should consider Weekend College or online courses. San Jacinto College offers a wide variety of weekend classes that are taught Friday through Sunday in various academic and technical programs. These courses provide another option for students who work during the week or cannot take classes in the traditional Monday through Friday format. Students who take weekend courses can complete an Associate of Arts and transfer to the university of their choice within two years. Online classes are available for some of the basic courses, offering full credit and transferability. For more information, visit the San Jacinto College online learning website.

To apply to San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu or apply.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



What is the birthstone for August?

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yel-

lowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.

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

See more at www.pineforestjewelry.com.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals.

LAWSUIT,

Continued from page 1

on all businesses associated with the store to prevent the sale of these products. A permanent injunction will be sought at trial.

In June, County Attorney Ryan and the AG's Office coordinated with the Harris

County Sheriff's Department to investigate and sue four Houston-area Katz Boutiques, for distributing the substance and marketing it to children in the form of "Kush," which is sold in various fruit flavors.

A temporary injunction is in place and discovery is ongoing.

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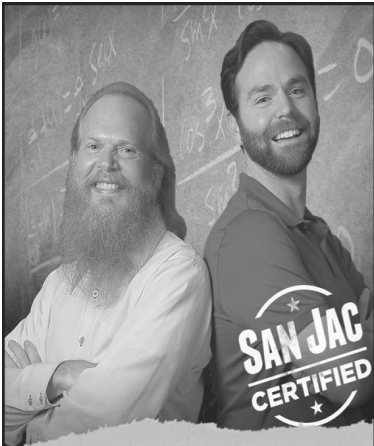
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One morning, as my wife and I were getting ready to head off to work, I told her I was out of deodorant and needed some more. She said, "Why don't you just use some of mine? I have plenty."

I said, "Sure, if I want to smell like a bouquet of flowers!"

She responded, "That would be better than smelling like a bouquet of weeds, don't you think?"

"And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." (Ephesians 5:2).

U.S. Navy Officer Caleb Noon serving aboard

Petty Officer 2nd Class Caleb Noon, a fire control technician and a 2009 Ross S. Sterling High School graduate and Baytown, Texas native is serving aboard the USS Maine (SSBN 741)'s Gold Crew. The USS Maine is one of the Navy's 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, also referred to as "boomers", which patrol the world's oceans for months at a time, serving as undetectable launch platforms for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Together with land-based missiles and strategic bombers, the Navy's Ohio-class submarines are part of the nation's strategic nuclear deterrence triad. Because of their stealth, they are considered the most survivable component of the triad. The Navy



U.S. Navy Caleb Noon. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Electa Berassa.

is currently developing a follow-on submarine to replace the Ohio-class, which will begin to reach the end of their service lives in the late 2020s. The Ohio Replacement Ballistic Missile Submarines will remain in service through the 2080s. The Ohio Replacement submarine will continue to fulfill the country's critical strategic deterrence mission while incorporating cost-effective and reliable systems that are advanced, yet technologically mature.

OBITUARIES

Patricia Ann Cooper



Patricia Ann Cooper, 76, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, July 31, 2015 surrounded by her family. She was born July 10, 1939 to parents Walter and Lois Welch in Houston, Texas.

Lovingly known as Pat by her family and friends, she was very involved in the North Shore community, helping with the Woman's Coalition, Pilot Club, and many other local organizations. She was the president of A-1 Fire Equipment.

Pat enjoyed spending time with her family and the fellowship of friends at Uvalde Baptist Church. She is lovingly survived by her husband, Ward Cooper and their beloved pup, Sassy; children, Kevin Coggin and wife Deidra, Kimberly Copaus and husband Billy; step-children, Ron Cooper and wife Renee, Gail Grant and husband Charles, Pam Hruza, Mae Nunn and husband Michael; grandchildren, Jared and wife Heather, Lindsey and husband Barry, Cassie and husband Chris, Nickolos and fiancé Corrine, Jase, Nicole, Sergio, Chad, Christy, Lacey, Ward, Alecia, Cary, Maegan, Susan; great-grandchildren, Gabby, Hunter, Brylee, Bo, Co-

per, Connor, Jones and Hannah. She is also survived by her sister, Geneva Harmon, husband Bennie and their son Keith; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 3, 2015 at Carter Funeral Home. Funeral services, officiated by Rev. Johnny Brady, will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 4, 2015 in the chapel of Carter Funeral Home.

Graveside services will immediately follow at Sterling White Cemetery in Highlands, Texas under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

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Chamber welcomes new member

A busy month for Ribbon Cuttings at the Crosby-Huffman Chamber. Chamber members along with several friends and family held the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for new Members Allstate Insurance Horace Bridges Agent/Owner this month. They are located in Huffman at 24501 FM 2100, Suite C and can be reach at 281.324.2451

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APOSTOLIC CHURCH
• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516

• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170

• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST
• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409

• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

• 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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• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

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• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551

• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

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• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

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• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL
• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT
• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705

• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD
•Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST
•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.

•St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.

•First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

BAPTIST-Southern
•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.

CATHOLIC
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•Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

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•Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

•Galena Park United Methodist, 1705 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-0245.

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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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Continued from page 1

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Houston Pilots in 2013. These room-sized replicas of ship control bridges will become a part of a 3,748 square-foot simulation suite, complete with instructor stations, debrief classrooms, and development stations. A full-mission engine room simulator also is planned for the future and will interact and interconnect with the bridge simu-

lators to allow vessel management exercises to accommodate deck and engineering officers and crew at the same time, in the same scenario.

Tellepsen Builders serve as the general contractor for the development of the Maritime Technology and Training Center. Texas IBI Group is the architect; Brooks & Sparks is the civil engineer; and Rizzo & Associates is the program manager.

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