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CHANNEL CHATTER

Rep. Hernandez appointed to Key House Committees

AUSTIN, TX—Joe Straus, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, appointed Representative Ana Hernandez to three legislative committees. The first, the House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, holds jurisdiction over the state's court system and civil remedies. The second, the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures, provides oversight of businesses, industries, general trades, and occupations regulated by the state. The third, the House Committee on Redistricting, oversees matters relating to the compositions of state and federal legislative districts.

"Whether strengthening our state's industries, providing equitable access to our justice system or fighting for fair representation in the halls of power, I'm eager to get to work with my colleagues," Hernandez said. "I thank Speaker Straus for the opportunity to serve on three vital standing committees and fight for hard-working Texas families."

JC/GP Rotary Programs

The Rotary Club of Jacinto City/Galena Park continues to seek new members, and invited you to join them at lunch for one of their programs.

The club meets every Wednesday, from 12 noon to 1 pm, at the Baggett Center building in Galena Park.

Programs for February are themed "Really? I didn't know that." On February 1st, James Beasley presented a program on Black History month. On February 8th Dan Waite presented a program on tax advantages in the IRS code.

February 22 - instead of a luncheon meeting, the club will hold a golf tournament on February 23.

Coffee Networking

Wednesday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. at Holiday Inn-Houston East, 16311 E. Freeway. Call to reserve at 713-450-3600.

Waste Pits comments are in review process

The TxHEA organization, the environmental watchdog for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, held their regular monthly meetings last week in Highlands and McNair.

Executive Director Jackie Young reported on developments in the review process that is now ongoing, according to David Gray of the EPA.

Young said that the PRP, or Potential Responsible Parties, have asked for a further extension of the comment period, but that has been denied by EPA, indicating they are moving ahead with their review process. Young said that a total of 57,000 comments had been received, but these include signatures on petitions, as well as individually written remarks. The comment period ran for 105 days, from Sept. 28, 2016 thru Jan. 28, 2017. Since the typical public comment

period is 30 days, EPA responded to the request from MIMC "EPA has determined that a further extension... is not appropriate." MIMC is McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, one of the two PRPs.

In their request for a further extension, MIMC stated that they were conducting work at the site for aesthetic reasons, and that the stone and membrane "cap" on the pits has not required as much maintenance as EPA projected.

To counter this argument, Young presented a slide that detailed erosion or damage, and repairs that were required, from July 2012 until June 2016 totaling seven different events. She termed these episodes



Jackie Young, TxHEA executive director

"The Repair Sage Continues."

Next Young presented a report on 101 wells that were tested by Harris County's contractor, InControl Technologies. She noted that all the wells had dioxins and metals below

the allowable safe threshold, but questioned whether this limit should be lowered for safe water use. She said that Harris County Pollution Control would be at the March 7 meeting of TxHEA to discuss this further.

In discussing the public comments that were submitted to EPA by TxHEA, Young noted that one of the requests was to lower the allowable dioxin threshold on the treated site from 300 ng/kg, to 30 ng/kg. This material is termed the Principal Threat Waste, and the threshold will determine how much of the polluted material is removed.

TxHEA also asked for a guarantee that CAC meet-

ings (Community Advisory Committee) would continue through the construction period. In relation to this, TxHEA has requested a new TAG (Technical Assistance Grant) be funded since the previous one has expired.

It was noted in the discussion that construction time for Proposed Plan 6N would be 19 months, and for 4S it would be 7 months. TxHEA is asking that EPA schedule an early start on 6N, so that the public would not have to wait as long.

Young reviewed some of the submitted comments, including those from the Galveston Bay Foundation. She noted that they had requested the threshold for Principal Threat Waste be lowered to 30 ng/kg; that EPA consider sediments outside the waste pits area

See Waste Pits, Page 6

Minority promotions make history in Sheriff's Department

FIRST BLACK FEMALES PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN IN HARRIS COUNTY'S SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

By Allan Jamail

Newly elected Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez a Democrat wasted no time increasing his command staff with highly qualified experienced minority leaders mostly from within the department. "There's many highly capable, skilled and qualified individuals already in the sheriff's office, as Sheriff my desire is to identify these bright experienced deputies that can really help" Gonzalez said. In his first week as sheriff, Gonzalez named three Latinos, three African-Americans and an Asian to leadership positions, and promoted a female as his Assistant Chief.

Jennifer Herndon a member of the Fifth Ward Church of Christ along with her colleague Kimberly Smith became the first ever African-American women in the history of Harris County's Sheriff's Office to become a Captain.

The promotion of Debra Schmidt to Assistant Chief became the first ever female Assistant Chief in the sheriff's office. Schmidt, who has advocated for LGBT issues, had been promoted to Major under former Sheriff Adrian Garcia but was demoted to Captain under outgoing Sheriff Ron Hickman.

"Overall, I think it's a good start and much-needed," said Johnny Mata, President of the Greater Houston Coalition for Justice, which advocates for better relationships between law enforcement and minorities.

In the Nov. 8 election, Gonzalez defeated Republican incumbent Hickman in a Democratic sweep of Harris County's top criminal justice posts, including electing Kim Ogg as the



Jennifer Herndon on January 26, 2017 became one of the first ever female African Americans promoted to Captain.

new District Attorney and all the judicial positions.

Sources within the department said morale is at an all-time high because the rank and file now feels they have a fair chance to move upward into command and leadership positions; instead of those positions mostly being filled from outside the department as has been in the past.

Sheldon ISD Board approves new AD/Head Football Coach



Derek Fitzhenry

Photo by DERIK MOORE / Sheldon ISD

By DERIK MOORE / Sheldon ISD

Members of the Sheldon ISD School Board unanimously approved North Shore Assistant Head Football Coach Derek Fitzhenry as the new C. E. King High School Athletic Director and Head Football Coach in a special meeting Tuesday evening at the Ney Administration Building.

Fitzhenry is replacing

outgoing Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Don Price who will be retiring this year following 41 years of service as an educator and coach.

"Coach Fitzhenry is the ideal candidate to fill this position," Sheldon ISD Superintendent King Davis said. "He is passionate about his players - both on and off the field - and he wants to see each of them succeed in life."

See New Head Coach, Page 3

ROTARY DISTRICT 5890 ANNUAL ALL CLUB MEETING

City-wide Rotary gathering draws local clubs



North Shore Rotary helped run the program, with Amir Khan and wife Sabrina (left), Bill Palko and wife Debby (right), with District Governor Eric Liu (center) with wife Sandra on the speaker platform.



Jacinto City/Galena Park Rotary's Josh Moreno and Ernesto Paredes and their spouses, with others at the table enjoyed the Valentine themed program.



North Shore Rotary president Kim Gonzalez, with PDG John Painter, Matt Davis, Adam Lund, Lucia Bates and spouses.



North Shore Rotary's second table had Derrill Painter, Dr. Don Nino, and other Rotarians attending.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crosby students sign letters of intent



Signing Day saw the following Cougar athletes sign for higher education. According to Athletic Director Jeff Riordan Top Left: Alec Lewis-Texas A&M Kingsville, Johnnie Harper III- Texas A&M Kingsville, Demetri Eaglin- Phoenix College, Devyn Henson-Morningside College, Shammah Gray-Brooks- Tyler Junior College. Bottom Left- Gary Carter- William and Penn, Tay'Lor Perry- University of Texas-San Antonio, Trevian Edwards- Independence College Not pictured: Eleven signed. Emmanuel Netherly- LSU, Carlos Grace- Blinn College, Terryl Wiley – Tyler Junior College. Photo by Michele Tatum-Eaglin of Photos by Michele

Huberty Named Chairman of Public Education Committee

Austin, TX - State Representative Dan Huberty has been named the Chairman of the House Public Education Committee and was also appointed to serve on the Pensions Committee for the 85th Legislative Session. Speaker of the Texas House, Joe Straus, announced committee assignments for all members Thursday morning.

Huberty was extremely pleased to hear about his assignment to lead the Public Education commit-

tee saying, "Having served on this committee for the past three sessions, I feel I have garnered a keen understanding of the issues Texas faces in public education. We have affectively addressed many of these and I look forward to making further progress for Texas students. I am glad to be



a voice for the education community." Similarly, Huberty was thrilled with his appointment to the Pensions committee. "Although this will be my first session serving on this committee, I am looking forward to working with Chairman Dan Flynn and my fellow members to address these issues for all Texans."

"These assignments place me in the company of some great members and I am looking forward to working with them. I will work to do what is best for the State of Texas and House District 127, in particular," stated Huberty. In his fourth term representing District 127, Huberty remains dedicated to addressing the many issues and challenges that lie ahead for his constituents and all Texans.

★ COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Crosby Community Center February Events

- Crosby Community Center is a Precinct 2 Community Center located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs, please call (281) 462-0543.
- Sit and Sew: Mondays at 9 a.m. Take this opportunity to quilt, share ideas, and enjoy the fellowship of other quilters. Create donation quilts for local needs.
 - Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Certified instructor Cindy Roberts teaches yoga at the Center.
 - Body Toning Chair Exercises: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Fitness instructor Melissa Turner offers body - wstoning chair exercises for individuals with limited stamina, mobility, and flexibility.
 - Quilting Classes: Thursdays at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Take this opportunity to quilt, share ideas, and enjoy the fellowship of other quilters. Quilters of all experience levels can attend these sessions.
 - Party Bridge: Thursdays at 1 p.m. Play party bridge every Thursday and meet other intermediate level bridge players from the Lake Houston area. This class is not suitable for beginners.
 - Boot Camp Aerobics: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Come exercise and have fun at the same time.
 - Watercolor: Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Professional artist and instructor Anne Vandagriff teaches composition, design, color, and contrast using a variety of subject matter.
 - Kickboxing with Angelique: Mondays at 6 p.m. Exercise with experienced fitness instructor Angelique Pool to achieve a toned body.
 - Body Toning Chair Exercises. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Fitness instructor Melissa Turner offers body toning chair exercises for individuals with limited stamina, mobility, and flexibility.
 - Krosby All-American Kazoo Band: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. A volunteer leads this fun-loving group of entertainers. No musical experience is necessary and all instruments are provided. The band is open to people ages 18 and older.
 - Pickleball: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Played with a paddle, wiffle-style ball, and net. Pickleball is the latest craze to sweep the nation. Open to participants of all fitness levels ages 50 and better.
 - Hand & Foot Card Game: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Volunteer Donna Jausz facilitates this fun card game.
 - Piesta Fund-Raiser Luncheon and Bingo. Friday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a Fiesta Fund-Raiser luncheon and get lucky playing bingo. Our luncheon includes Mexican casserole, rice, beans, dessert, tea, and coffee. Cost is \$8 per person and benefits the Crosby Advisory Council. Advance registration is necessary by Tuesday, February 21. Sign up at the Center .

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SCHOOL NEWS

SHELDON ISD:

Sixteen young women from C. E. King High School participated in NFL Women's Summit prior to Super Bowl

Approximately 16 young women from C.E. King High School had the opportunity to attend the NFL Women's Summit Feb. 3-4 at the Citadel in Houston.

This year's theme for the NFL Women's Summit was Plays for Life, and the focus on the event was to create an interactive experience for young women to discuss how to achieve goals, prepare for challenges, and utilize tools critical for personal and professional development.

C. E. King participants were introduced to a variety of inspiring speakers, new career ideas, and tools for success. They were also able to discuss important topics around mentorships, future career paths, and being their own advocate and finding their voice.

Fox Sports broadcaster Pam Oliver hosted the two-day event. Students were able to hear inspiring stories from young women who were game changers in their field. Women who broke through barriers to stand up for all women and the voice they have today.

Students were encouraged to "find their passion" by local Olympic Gold Medalist Gabby Douglas, who also said that that authenticity takes practice.



C.E. King young women attend women's summit.

Speaker and founder of I AM THAT GIRL and CEO of ProtectHer Alexis Jones spoke to students about loving yourself and the other women around you.

"Collaboration over competition gets you exponentially further toward your goal," Jones said.

Jones wanted the young women to understand that it is OK to work together instead of against each other.

Olympic Medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad spoke to the young women about her journey as a Black Muslim in the United States – and as a fencer. She talked about

overcoming obstacles with in her sport and in her own everyday life.

"There should never be a level of comfort to be made to feel different," Muhammad said.

The C. E. King students also participated in an NFL Analyze session and were able to meet pro football player Thomas Davis of the Carolina Panthers; Panthers Head Coach Ron Rivera; and Aeneas Williams, former pro football player and Hall of Fame member.

Lisa Friel, Investigations Special Council for the NFL, and her Dartmouth Head Basketball Coach, Chris

Weiglus, talked about how Title IV improved the girls' basketball program in the 1970s and the hardships they faced to win the Ivy Leagues four years after the team started.

The students were able to learn about flag football from the Women's Football Team as well as learned about how to promote themselves via Awesomeness TV. They also had the opportunity to here from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and his daughter, Ashley; Houston Texan Devon Still and his daughter, Lead; and Congresswomen Shelia Jackson Lee.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

East Houston Democrats meeting

East Houston Democrats invites you to attend the February Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 16 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Membership Meetings are held at Fudrucker's located at 855 Normandy Road. In an effort to introduce newly elected leaders to the community, they have scheduled at least one elected leader monthly to address the community. Membership dues are \$40 per household, \$30 for an individual or \$20 for a college student. More information may be obtained by contacting Charlotte Jackson, Treasurer at 832-896-633 or by email at Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com

East Houston Democrats Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar Training

East Houston Democrats Club is hosting a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar Training on Saturday, February 18 at 230 p.m. This free training is open to any registered voter in Harris County. The training will take Harris County Library located at 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston 77049. The class is presented by the Office of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Ann Harris Bennett. Class is one hour and participants must arrive on time and attend the training in its entirety.

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 LyondellBasell on Sheldon Road at noon. For more information, please visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com.

www.NorthChannelStar.com

North Shore Native receives Medical School Scholarship

Siddiqua Noor, a native of North Shore who has received the Community Outreach Scholarship Award from American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC).

Siddiqua became interested in medicine after a doctor withheld medical treatment from her diabetic

grandmother—all because she was uninsured. Her grandmother died as a result and Siddiqua made a vow to help other people in vulnerable health situations. She has volunteered at Memorial Hermann Hospital, the Houston Food Bank, United Muslim Relief, and Healthcare for the

Homeless—a clinic that provides care to Houston's homeless population. And, in 2016, she participated in the University of Houston's Medicine, Education, and Research through International Travel (MERIT) program, which allowed her to provided medical aid assis-

tance in remote villages of India. Siddiqua looks forward to becoming a physician (preferably at a nonprofit hospital) who never has to turn away a patient because of insurance.

Siddiqua graduated from Michael E. DeBakey Magnet High School for Health Professions in 2012 and grew up just a few blocks away from Cunningham Middle School.

CHANNELVIEW ISD:

Viola Cobb Elementary food drive benefits Mary's Kitchen



Viola Cobb Elementary students and staff collected hundreds of canned goods and non-perishable food items as part of the North Shore Rotary Club's Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive. The items were donated to Mary's Kitchen, located on the campus of St. Andrew Catholic Church. Celebrating the presentation of the items were student representatives from Xave Lewis' fifth grade class, Rudy Espinoza, executive director of Mary's Kitchen, local Rotarian Don Nichols; Cobb librarian Candi Boehme, Cobb assistant principal William Chalfant and Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent and North Shore Rotary member.. Lewis' class was also awarded for collecting the most food items during the drive.

New Head Coach,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fitzhenry is equally excited about coming to his new school district.

"Great things are happening at Sheldon ISD," he said. "With both a new high school and football stadium on the horizon, coupled with a high student growth rate, I feel like this is a fantastic opportunity to set the framework for a competitive athletics program."

Fitzhenry is wasting no

time transitioning from his previous school district to his new one. In fact, Wednesday is his first day on the job at Sheldon ISD.

"As far as next season, you win and lose football games starting right now," he added. "Pretty soon, our athletes will take part in what I call Panther Maker – which is kind of a boot camp that helps teach discipline, accountability, and commitment."

Davis said it's time to put Class 5A in the rear view mirror and focus on the present – Class 6A – because it's here to stay.

"We have to move forward and focus on competitive sports programs that can compete at the higher level," he added. "Ultimately, our goal is to send the Panthers back into the playoffs...and beyond."

Fitzhenry feels that he is the right person to help make this happen.

"I can't say enough about Sheldon ISD," Fitzhenry said. "This is the place where I wanted to be."

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OPINION PAGE

How Blinded Veterans help themselves and others to a better quality of life

(NAPSI)—According to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) statistics, there are over 130,000 legally blind veterans in America. Every year, another several thousand are added to the number either because of combat injuries, age, illness or other factors.

What's Being Done

Fortunately, they're not simply left in the dark. All over the country, the VA has set up residential and outpatient centers where former military persons who have impaired vision can learn to lead more independent, pleasant and productive lives.

There are two basic kinds of facilities. The Blind Rehabilitation Programs support blind and low-vision veterans and active-duty servicemembers in regaining their independence and quality of life to enable their successful integration into family and community life.

These places also support family and significant others to better understand visual impairment and foster the provision of appropriate support, to assist in enhancing home environments and to reduce caregiver burden.

The Visual Impairment Services Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) programs use a team approach to provide services based on a thorough assessment of the veteran's strengths, needs and personal goals.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to identify these goals and provide ongoing feedback regarding progress.

To enhance the quality of life for veterans and service-members experiencing vision loss, the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) works with VA to help keep these places up to par. Recently, that organization's Training Coordinator, Wade Davis, conducted a comprehensive and individualized Veterans Care Review at each of the 13 Blind Rehabilitation Centers nationwide. He is currently doing the same with the VISOR programs.

What Davis Does

Over several days, Davis visits each facility and meets

separately with the staff and the veterans involved. He considers various aspects of the programs: orientation and mobility, living skills, manual skills, low-vision therapy, computer access training, low-vision clinic, optometry, eye clinic, ophthalmology, recreation therapy, social work, psychology, nursing, diabetic education, and pharmacy. He also talks to the Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators individually. Davis' aim is to evaluate the full curriculum of care and to share findings with staff and the administration to promote and expand each facility's successful procedures and generally make the facility as productive and safe as it can be for blinded veterans.

He also holds information sessions for the veterans and provides literature about BVA.

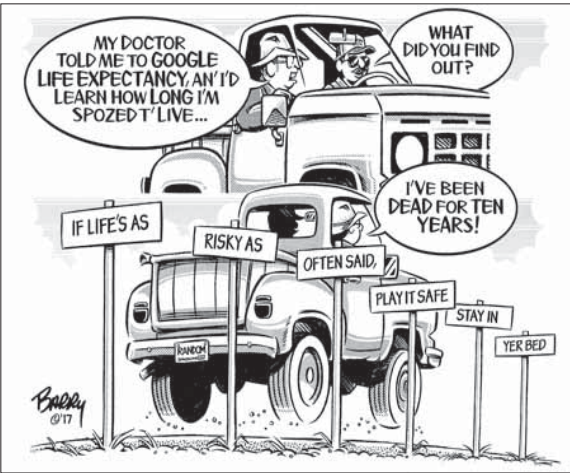
Davis' BVA evaluations have brought about a number of improvements to blind rehabilitation services, such as making sure each of the facilities has the training and equipment it needs.

What BVA Does

All this is just one way BVA fulfills the mission it's pursued since the end of World War II: to promote the welfare of blinded veterans so that, notwithstanding their disabilities, they may take their rightful place in the community and work with their fellow citizens toward the creation of a peaceful world. Through its free service programs, regional groups, resources, and advocacy before the legislative and executive branches of government, it makes life better for blinded veterans.

Where To Learn More

Because BVA advocates for all blinded veterans, whether they are members of the organization or not, and regardless of how their visual impairment occurred, veterans old and young and who experience vision loss can call BVA at (800) 669-7079, or visit www.bva.org to get connected with the rehabilitative services they may need and have earned. For more about VA health care, visit www.va.gov/health.



Legislation banning sanctuary city policies clears hurdle

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 8 praised the Texas Senate's approval of legislation to ban sanctuary cities, an item on his priority list for the current legislative session.

Senate Bill 4 by Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, passed after a 16-hour floor debate on a 20-10 party-line vote, with Republicans voting in favor and Democrats in opposition.

The bill, if enacted, would prohibit a municipality, county or special district, campus police department of an institution of higher education, an employee of certain local entities and a district attorney or criminal district attorney from adopting rules, orders, ordinances or policies that prohibit enforcement of state and federal immigration laws. It also would void any local policy that currently prohibits law enforcement from inquiring about a person's immigration status and would require compliance with federal detainer requests.

SB 4 now moves to the Texas House of Representatives for consideration.

Abbott said: "As governor, I will not tolerate sanctuary city policies that put the citizens of Texas at risk. Elected officials do not get to pick and choose which laws they will obey. Today's action in the Senate helps ensure that sheriffs and officials across Texas comply with federal immigration laws and honor Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests that keep dangerous criminals off our streets."

Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, voted against the bill. "It signals to many in our immigrant community that they are not welcome in Texas," Uresti said.

Last week, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers reportedly arrested more

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



than 40 undocumented Mexican citizens in Austin alone. Similar sweeps, ordered by the White House, were conducted in other major cities in Texas and across the nation.

Senate OKs ethics bill

Also on Feb. 8, the state Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 14, omnibus legislation to re-vamp ethics laws pertaining to elected officials. This was another issue tagged as an emergency item by Gov. Abbott.

Authored by Sen. Van Taylor, R-Plano, the bill would prohibit a registered lobbyist from serving in elective office and require any elected official convicted of a felony to be removed from office. The bill also calls for canceling any taxpayer-funded pension if the crime relates to abuse of office.

Other things the bill would require:

- Increased reporting of wining and dining by lobbyists;
- A moratorium of one full session before a former legislator could register as a lobbyist; and
- Public disclosure of any ties officials or their immediate family members have to contracts between private businesses and government agencies.

Speaker names committees

House Speaker Joe Straus on Feb. 9 announced chairs and members of 38 standing House committees for the 85th Legislature.

"These assignments reflect the diversity of the Texas House. Some very good members are taking on new challenges. I'm looking forward to their leadership. There is always a balance to strike between continuity and fresh thinking and I think we have the right mix," Straus said.

Lists of committee chairs and members can be accessed online at www.house.texas.gov/_media/pdf/committee.pdf

Missing jersey is sought

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick on Feb. 6 asked the Texas Rangers, a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety, to assist the Houston Police Department in the hunt for New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady's Super Bowl jersey.

"Whoever took this jersey should turn it in. The Texas Rangers are on the trail," Patrick said.

The jersey was reportedly missing from the Patriots' locker room at NRG Stadium in Houston. Brady wore the jersey in leading the Patriots to a come-from-behind victory in the Super Bowl Feb. 5.

Allocations to be sent

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 8 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$858.6 million in local sales tax allocations for February, 1 percent less than in February 2016.

These allocations, Hegar said, are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2016 sales by businesses that report tax annually.

"The cities of Houston, Midland and San Antonio saw noticeable decreases in sales tax allocations," Hegar said. "The cities of Round Rock, Frisco and Irving saw noticeable increases in sales tax allocations," he added.

CAPITOL UPDATE State Senator Brandon Creighton

Dear Friend,

Febrero 10, 2017 – This week, we passed the first bills of the session on the senate floor; two of which are Governor Greg Abbott's emergency items: sanctuary cities (SB 4) and ethics reform (SB 14). These are some of the most important bills this session and as a co-author of both initiatives, I am happy both passed with strong support! I also welcomed many constituents of Senate District 4 including a Physician of the Day and Senate Page of the Day. Below are a few more highlights from the week. Please feel free to share this update. Keeping you informed is extremely important to me.

Texas Senate passes bill to ban funding for Sanctuary Cities

As a coauthor of Senate Bill 4, Senator Creighton participated in a meaningful debate regarding sanctuary cities on Tuesday. SB 4 would cut all state funding to any city or county that does not obey federal immigration laws, effectively abolishing sanctuary cities. The bill passed out of the Senate 20-11 in the final vote that evening after 39 amendments were offered.

Brandon Creighton State Senator, District 4

On the Senate Floor

Senate Resolutions:

•On Monday, Senator Creighton recognized 9-1-1 Day at the Capitol. This organization represents the telecommunications, directors, planning professionals and industry service providers who are essential to emergency assistance. He also introduced constituents in the gallery, Conroe City Manager and Montgomery County 9-1-1 Board Member Paul Virgadamo, Executive Director Chip VanSteenberg and Public Education Coordinator Andrea Wilson.

•Also on Monday, Senator Creighton recognized the day as Texas Adoptee Rights Day with a Senate resolution recognizing the organization who was here advocating for SB 329. This bill by Senator Creighton allows Texas to join 21 other states which provide adult adoptees access to their original birth certificate and medical history form.

Senate Bills:

The Texas Senate worked on Governor Greg Abbott's emergency items on the floor. Senator Creighton is a joint author on these priorities:

•Senate Bill 4 passed the Senate 20-11 after a long day of debate on the floor. This bill would withhold state dollars for sanctuary cities where police fail to enforce immigration laws at the request of federal officials. "It is important for our communities that elected officials maintain their oath to protect and serve," said Creighton. Now, the engrossed bill will go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

•Senate Bill 14 passed unanimously out of the Senate. It is the greatest ethics reform bill passed in the last 25 years and contains four major pillars including felon politicians losing their pension and office, disclosure of government contracts, bond counsel and legal referrals, shining light on lobbyist wining and dining and establishing a clear line between elected officials and lobbyists. This bill will also go to the House for consideration.

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LIFESTYLE

Goose Creek CISD announces
Elementary UIL Winners



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

(front, from right) Nikita Gupta from Victoria Walker Elementary; Jose Ceja-Sanchez and Kylie Jo Nesselrode from Crockett Elementary; Tatiana Ortiz from Clark Elementary; Joseph Vallagonesa from Crockett Elementary and Tioni Fatal from Alamo Elementary receive their awards for the recent Elementary UIL competition at Ross S. Sterling High School. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, waves to Ceja-Sanchez's parents as he points out where they are sitting in the auditorium.

Goose Creek's annual Elementary UIL Academic Tournament was held January 20 at Sterling High School with 887 second-fifth grade students competing in twenty-one events. Students from all elementary schools with second-fifth graders competed.

Sterling High School Auditorium was also the event location for the UIL Awards Ceremony held on January 27. Individual medals were

awarded in creative writing, dictionary skills, listening skills, number sense, oral reading, ready writing, spelling, storytelling, and maps, graphs and charts. Team medals were awarded for art memory and music memory. Schools also received trophies for first through third place in each event. Certificates for perfect individual scores were awarded to nineteen students.

The event was a district wide competition

coordinated by the Goose Creek Advanced Academics Department with individual campus coordinators and event coaches as well as event directors, judges, graders, time-keepers and monitors. Winning students and teams were announced by Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and congratulated by Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent.

LITTLE
BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Fake Snakes

We were having trouble with birds building nests inside the entryway to our front door. My wife was told to buy some fake snakes to put on the ledge where the birds were trying to build. All was going well until the "snake" fell off the ledge and landed in front of the door. My wife was the next person to open the door. The "snake" not only worked on the birds, it worked on her as well!

The Bible calls the devil a real snake; a deceiver and his ways are never funny nor phony. "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world..." (Revelation 12:9).

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of 3 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. Who went to the city gate every morning to hold a court of justice trying to win people from David? Nain, Rehoboam, Absalom, Felix
 3. Where did the first miracle of Jesus take place of His turning water into wine? Cana, Antioch, Berea, Corinth
 4. From Judges 9, who had 70 of his brothers killed on one stone? Abraham, Abimelech, Samuel, Amos
 5. Which queen died by being thrown from a window and trampled by horses? Elisabeth, Jezebel, Vashti, Abigail
 6. In which book does Paul promote the public reading of scripture? 1 Timothy, 1 Samuel, 1 John, 1 Thessalonians
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Absalom; 3) Cana; 4) Abimelech; 5) Jezebel; 6) 1 Timothy

★
OBITUARIES

Raymond Lynn
Eilers

Raymond Lynn Eilers, 58, passed away February 10, 2017 in Baytown, Texas.

He was born November 24, 1958 to parents Victor and Viola Eilers in Yockum, Texas.

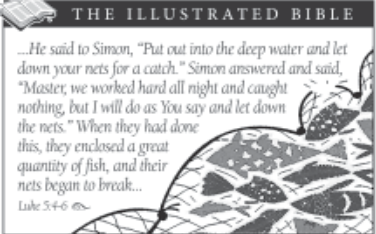
Raymond married the love of his life, Robin, on February 14, 1981. They raised their children together and enjoyed many family vacations over the years, creating many memories. Raymond loved spending time with his family at the beach, fishing and spending time together. He retired from Chevron Phillips after 33 years of dedicated service.

Raymond is preceded in death by his father. He is lovingly survived by his wife of 36 years, Robin Diane Eilers; mother, Viola Eilers; children, Randy Lynn Eilers and wife Kerri, Kristy Diane Jones and husband Clifton Dean; grandchildren, Isaiah Eilers, Raelynn Jones, Atreyu Jones, Aubreylynn Eilers; brother, Michael Glenn Eilers and wife Gladys; as well as numerous extended family and friends.



Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation Monday, February 13th from 4:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, 2017 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 11:30 a.m. at San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter Conley Funeral Home.

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John 7:38

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OBITUARIES

**James "Eddie"
Edward Keigley**

James "Eddie" Edward Keigley, 58, passed away February 5, 2017 in Baytown, Texas.

James was born May 16, 1958 in Baytown to parents Robert and Mary Keigley. He married his love, Barbara in 1988. James worked hard his whole life, even when he was not feeling well. He was a dedicated employee at GE, Turbine Division at Jacinto Port for many years as an operator. He enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing, cooking and being with his family. James loved his grandchildren and cherished the time together with them.

He is lovingly survived by his parents,

Robert and Mary Keigley; wife of 29 years, Barbara Keigley; son, James Paul Keigley; step-children, James Finley and wife Norma, Greg Finley and wife Stephanie, Connie Edwards; sisters, SherryRae McMurray and husband Steve, Gale Dorge and husband Steve, Brenda Little and husband James, Paula German and husband Ronnie; grandchildren,

Joshua, Bryan, Braydon and Chevelle Keigley; and step-grandchildren, Leslie Beaton, Jake Edwards, Ashley Whitehead, Colton, Ricky, Katelynn, Tisha and Brandy Finley.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon Friday, February 10, 2017, with visitation beginning 11:00 a.m., in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 1:30 p.m. at San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Mary Jo Weeks

Mary Jo Weeks, 51, of Houston, Texas, passed into her heavenly home on January 03, 2017. She was born January 03, 1966 in Houston, Texas to parents, Jim K. and Pauline "Becky" Ivie. She was employed by Williams Company where she worked as an natural gas analyst. She was a member of First Baptist Church of North Channel. She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her beloved husband of 18 years, Phillip Weeks; by daughter, Alivia Weeks; and by

sisters, Kim Boles and Cynthia Lynn Rush, and by a very close friend, Elizabeth Beaver; as well as by other family and friends. Visitation will be held Monday, January 9, 2017 at Carter-Conley Funeral

Home from 5-8:00 p.m. and services to celebrate her life will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at First Baptist of North Channel Church, 13817 Force St., Houston with Pastor Larry Hargrave and Pastor George Hayden officiating. She will be laid to rest in San Jacinto Memorial Park at 2:00 p.m., under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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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

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An item that was originally made to your specifications and may have very little "market appeal" to the average jewelry customer would not warrant a "trade-in" value but would

have a "scrap" value. This can also apply to special orders which, in fact, are items ordered at your request from one of our vendors and specifically made for you. Imagine that you order a "Name Plate Chain" with the name "Rebecca" on it, written in "script", in rose color 14k gold, and engraved with her date of birth on the back. Reselling that specific piece of jewelry would be nearly impossible, if not completely impossible. In this instance we would credit you with a percentage of the melt value of the item(s).

Spot or Market Prices

Keep in mind that we can also offer you a very good credit for the scrap/melt value depending on the weight and purity of the gold or silver items that you wish to trade-in. This amount is partially determined by "spot" price, that is to say the "market price" of gold or silver at the time we make our quote to you. The value of our quote is good but only if you sell it back to us for credit "at that time". In other words, if we quote you \$2,000 today based upon the market value of 14k gold and you decide to wait and think about it until tomorrow, chances are excellent that the value of your gold would have

either gone up or down as we have no control over "spot" prices or market values for precious metals. Your gold could be worth \$2,000 today and only \$1,750 tomorrow depending on how much the spot price goes down or, like I said, it could also go up and that's the risk you take in deciding to "think about it until tomorrow" or even an hour from now for that matter. AN item is only worth what someone is willing to pay you for it at that exact moment . . . days, hours, and even minutes can make a difference in the trade-in value of your gold or silver jewelry.

So the answer to your question is . . . Bring the item in for us to evaluate, and we will make the determination at that time. Having a jeweler that you can trust is nearly as important as a trusted mechanic, doctor, lawyer or most importantly, a trusted friend.

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.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

San Jacinto College to host climate change debate

HOUSTON – Col. Walter Cunningham, Apollo 7 pilot and Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Houston Museum of Natural Science anthropology curator will be featured as guest debaters in the San Jacinto College South Campus Lyceum Committee's debate event, "Climate Change: Are We in Danger?" on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Cunningham began his career as a U.S. Marine Corp fighter pilot and was selected as an astronaut in 1963. In 1968 he served as the pilot for NASA's Apollo 7 spaceflight mission, the longest and most successful first test flight of any new flying machine. Since then he has seen success with his own venture capital firm and as a writer, authoring the book "The All-American Boys" about the American space program. He has also been involved with energy and environmental issues since 1970 as one of the founders of The Earth Awareness Foundation, served on the advisory board of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and is a known, outspoken critic of the human caused global warming argument. Cunningham has graduate degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles in physics and the Harvard Business School.

A native of Belgium, Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout attended the Catholic University of Louvain, receiving degrees in ancient history and archaeology and was later accepted to Tulane University in New Orleans. Tulane's anthropology department provided a strong four-field

education with courses in archaeology, linguistics and physical and cultural anthropology. Through the Middle American Research Institute, he participated in excavations in Belize and Guatemala. He graduated from Tulane with a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in anthropology and began teaching at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. In 1999, he accepted the position of anthropology curator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and since then has maintained and expanded the anthropology holdings and organized temporary exhibits. He has also written a book on Aztec culture and has curated various exhibits. Among those exhibits are one on Ethiopia, featuring the original Lucy fossil, the Maya, and most recently the Virgen de Guadalupe: Empress of the Americas exhibit. For the last 13 summers he has also taught an introductory anthropology course at the University of Houston - Clear Lake.

Dr. Tuerenhout and Col. Cunningham will serve as guest debate team leaders, each presenting their stance on the issue prior to the debate. Several San Jacinto College students will join each guest as members of their debate team. Joining Dr. Tuerenhout will be Alfredo Ramirez and Daniel Perdomo Castillo; joining Col. Cunningham will be Phi Tran and Emily Fleck. Debate questions were crowd sourced from San Jacinto College South Campus students, faculty and staff. The Lyceum Committee selected a series of questions that were approved



Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout (pictured), Houston Museum of Natural Science anthropology curator and Col. Walter Cunningham, Apollo 7 pilot will be featured as guest debaters in the San Jacinto College South Campus Lyceum Committee's debate event, "Climate Change: Are We in Danger?" on Thursday, Feb. 23 at the San Jacinto College South Campus. Photo submitted.

by the moderator and team leaders prior to the debate. Debate questions were provided to both teams to facilitate research and preparation. Final decisions regarding the debate's content will be at the discretion of the moderator.

The debate event "Climate Change: Are We in Danger?" takes place on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Proscenium Theatre inside the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center (building S15) at the San Jacinto College South Campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. Doors open at 10 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that may also be polluted; and that a third party be assigned to the project to oversee the clean-up work done by the PRPs. The reference by GBF to other areas was specifically

directed toward an adjacent area known as the Upland Sand Separation Area, where sand was dredged in 2004-2005 for a period of several years. GBF noted that this area of

potential pollution was called out in the Proposed Plan, page 11.

Young expressed disappointment in the comments from TCEQ, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. In their submittal, they stated that they "need further information to support the (proposed) plan."

She also noted TCEQ said the ultimate goal was the removal of the fish advisory, which she said was short-sighted and that goals of restoring the site for community use were much broader.

TCEQ also asked for more information on the cost of all possible remedies, and details of remediation such as truck routes, final disposal facility name, additional sampling for dioxin in the Upland Sand Separation area, and information on backfill material and methods.

Young said that a number of new entities had surfaced that were opposed to the removal plan in addition to the first group, San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution (KeepItCapped.org). These include Sediment Management Work Group, Winstead PC law

firm working for MIMC, Galveston Maritime Business Association, Zach Vaughn John Doner & Associates, and Crystal Laramore or Laramore Media Group. Young thought some or all of these might be paid representatives for the PRPs.

The Sediment Group, from Detroit, Michigan, compared the existing cap with the proposed removal plan, and pointed out what they considered to be faulty analysis of costs and effectiveness. Other criticisms from Paul Chrostowski, PhD who wrote "A Scientific Peer Review," and CPF Associated pointed out deficiencies in the EPA proposal.

Young also showed a short video on the subject, prepared by a student class at Furr High School, titled "Jackie's River" which won a film festival award.

The audience at the meeting was asked to help by sending a letter to Texas Senator John Cornyn, expressing thanks for his support and asking for continued help to have the waste pits removed.

It is expected that the EPA will prepare a "Responsiveness Summary" for issuance before June.

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KAREN DENISE BROWN
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by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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