# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 VOLUME 4, NO. 07(#110) www.northchannelstar.com

## **CHANNEL CHATTER**

# HOUSTON — San Jacinto College honored former stu-dent-athletes and coaches who have excelled in collegiate and professional baseball at the Legends ceremony, held Friday, Feb. 5 at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park, located at the San Jacinto Col-lege North Campus. **PCT. 3 CONSTABLE** located at the San Jacinto College North Campus. Former San Jac student-athletes and coaches recognized at the event included Matt Albers (Chicago White Sox), Duane Walker (retired Major League Baseball player), Chris Rupp (Deer Park High School Head Coach), Rusty), Donald Wright (owner of Just Wright Sports), and Brandon

Constable Ken Jones is retiring at the end of his term next January. This vacancy has attracted a great deal of attention and money from potential candidates seeking to fill the Pct. 3 seat.

**CROWDED** 

RACE

3 seat.

On the Republican ticket is DAN WEBB, running unopposed in the March 1st primary, but will face the Democrat in November.
Webb is a DPS special ranger.

er.
The Democratic ticket has 9 candidates seeking the Constable's positioin One of these will prevail in the March 1st primary, or a runoff will be held later in

These candidates, listed as they appear on the bal-lot, are as follows: JASEN RABALAIS, chief

JASEN RABALAIS, chief deputy in Constable Jones office, in charge of the Community Services Division and the Harris County Joint Task Force, which works out of the Highlands store-front. Constable Jones has endorsed Rabalais to succeed him; MICHEL PAPPILLION, a bicycle patrol officer with the Houston Police Department, with 23 years supervisory experience;

visory experience; ERIC REED, JAMES L. STEWART, with 24 years law enforcement experience; SHERMAN EAGLETON, a

sergeant in Pct. 3 Constable's office; WILLIAM NORWOOD, a

Harris County sheriff's dep-uty, and bailiff at the jail; DAVID "BUBBA" JONES, ISAAC VILLARREAL, an

investigator with the Harris County District Attorney's office, formerly with the Pasadena Police Depart-

KEN MELANCON, a 30

year law enforcement offic-er and captain with the Har-ris County Sheriff's office. Jones is retiring after 33 years as Pct. 3 constable, and 50 years in law enforce-

## San Jacinto College honors MLB players, baseball standouts

Team remains undefeated through first 7 games



People attending the San Jacinto College baseball Legends ceremony included, from left, Nick Stavinoha (Sugar Land Skeeters), Rusty Pendergrass (MLB scout), Brandon Beit (San Francisco Giants), Matt Albers (Chicago White Sox), San Jacinto College Head Coach Tom Arrington, Chris Rupp (Deer Park High School Head Coach), Donald Wright (owner of Just Wright Sports), David Rollins (Seattle Mariners), and Larry Wilson (San Jacinto College Board of Trustees Vice Chairman).

# Early Voting starts for March 1 Primary

Early voting for the Democratic and Republi-can Party Primary Elec-tions began Tuesday at the North Channel Branch Li-

See PLAYERS HONORED, page 8

February 21: 1:00 pm -

February 21: 1:00 pm -6:00 pm. -February 22 - February 26: 7 am - 7 pm. Election day is March

North Channel Branch Library.

The Early voting hours are as follows:
February 16 - February 19: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.
February 20: 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Election day is March
1st.
Election day is March
1st.
Elerly voters in Channelview go to North Cha



Like Flowers in Springtime, yards in Galena Park have blossomed with Political Signs for local candidates.

135 Hare Road. Highlands oters go to the Baytown Community Center at 2407 Market St., Baytown, 2407 Market St., Daytown, 77520. Huffman voters go to Lone Star College -Atascocita Center, 15903 W. Lake Houston Park-way, Houston, 77062. However, if you are regis-

See EARLY VOTING,

## Galena Park FFA raises over \$65,000



AMARIS MOYA shows her Grand Champion Steer at the Galena Park FFA Livestock Show and Auction. The steer was purchased by the North Shore Rotary Club, for \$8500.

Galena Park ISD held their annual FFA Livestock Show and Auction last November, at the Ag Facility on Holland Avenue. Forty-Five lots were sold, and the unofficial total raised for student scholarships and the program was over \$65,000, plus so-called "add-ons" after the official bidding.

The Grand Champion Steer was raised by Amaris Moya, and sold for \$8,500 to the North Shore Rotary Club.

Amaris is a junior FFA ember, not yet in high school.

member, not yet in high school.

2015 program featured a turkey category for the first time, with Franzely Pena showing the GC bird.

The FFA clubs involve about 35 students from Galena Park High School, and 50 from North Shore High School. President of the GP FFA is Angelica Pecina, and NS FFA procedure in Lose George. president is Jose Garza

See GRAND CHAMPIONS, pages 9, 10

## BABY SHOE BRONZING SALE SAVE 25% This Month Only!



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VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION EARLY VOTING: February 16 - February 26, 2016 ELECTION DAY: March 1, 2016

## **COMMUNITY**

### Channelview ISD Community Health Fair set for March 5

The Channelview ISD Community Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 5 at the Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium Complex, 828 Sheldon Road.

Harris County's Public Health and Environmental Services office will be offering free dental and health screenings, along with other assistance at the event. In addition, a variety of

entertainment will be fea-tured, including a magic show with Ronald Mc-Donald at 10:30 a.m. Chil-Donald at 10:30 a.m. Children will also be able to tour ambulances, fire trucks and an emergency helicopter.

More than 30 vendors

More than 30 vendors and community agencies are scheduled to be in at-tendance at the event. Some of the major vendors include:

-Houston SPCA -Texas Star Program (Maximus) -Texas Children's Healthsteps -Houston Area Community Ser-

-Houston Area Community Services
-Women's Care Center
-Delta Dental
-Kroger
-YMCA
-Harris County Fire Marshal
-Houston Mounted Patrol
-The Allergy Clinic
-Channelivew Fire Department
-PHI Air Medical

-North Channel Martial Arts
-Cobb Elementary Fashion Club
-BBVA Compass
-Elite Medical Imaging
-Jefferson Dental
-Summit Dental
-Second Dental
-South Texas Dental
-The Rose

For more information. ntact Suzanne Langham at 281-860-3827.

#### EARLY VOTING,

LARLY VOTING,
Continued from page 1

tered to vote in Harris
County, you may vote at
any Harris County Early
Voting location.

Votes in the Primary get
to select their choice for the
Presidential race, Railroad
Commissioner, State Representative posts for Highlands and Crosby and
some of Huffman in District 128 and the rest of
Huffman for District 127.
Also on the ballot are the
race for Precincts 1, 2 and
3 Constables and all the

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## SCHOOL NEWS

# Sheldon ISD expanding access to college

Houston, TX — Sheldon ISD is one of 130 school districts in the United States being recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. The districts featured on the Honor Roll have expanded access to higher education by providing students with rigorous academic offerings and innovative college-preparation programs.

Districts on the Honor

Districts on the Honor Districts on the Honor Roll demonstrated significant and consistent growth in the number of underrepresented students and students from lower-income backgrounds participating in AP®, taking the SAT®, and applying to four or

the U.S. Are Honored

Houston, TX — Sheldon ISD is one of 130 school districts in the United States being recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. The districts featured on the Honor Roll have expanded access to higher education by providing students with a contract of the U.S. Are Honored

more colleges.

"The Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll recognizes educators who excelled in delivering opportunity to students," said David CEO of the College Board.

"By increasing access to stimulating courses and college opportunity, they have created a culture of success that will continue with the U.S. Are Honored

"The Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll recognizes educators and additional recognizes and additional recognized r CEO of the College Board.

"By increasing access to stimulating courses and college opportunity, they have created a culture of success that will continue to grow and benefit students."

There is no application process for the award. To be included on the Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll, Sheldon ISD had to have:

Increased the total number of underrepresented students who sent their SAT scores to at least four Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll, Sheldon ISD had to have:

Increased the total number of underrepresented students who sent their SAT scores to at least four caperton Opportunity Honor Roll show how exemplary classroom instruction, challenging courses, and daily hard work and practice make all tifference in the lives of students."

• Increased the total of students.

number of underrepresented students who took an AP course and exam
• Increased the total number of underrepresented students who were on track for college, as demonstrated by scoring 1550+ on the SAT

## Galena Park ISD earns Meritorious budget award



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## **OPINION PAGE**



## Religious freedom must continue to be protected in Texas

Our country was founded on the very concept of religious concept of religious freedom, and our Found-ing Fathers understood that creating and main-taining a free society requires protecting religious expression and the rights of individuals to exercise their personally-held religious beliefs.
While the federal and while the receral and state constitutions, as well as federal and state statutes, contain numer-ous provisions that protect our religious liberties, religious freedom is still being threatened in Tevas and threatened in Texas and across our great nation.

One such example is the case of Matthews v. Kountze Independent School District (KISD). In 2012, KISD banned the 2012, KISD banned the use of Bible verses and other articulations of personal religious faith on run-through banners created by cheerleaders at the local high school. The cheerleaders purchased the materials for the banners themselves chased the materials for the banners themselves and decided on their own accord to include expressions of faith on the banners to encourage the players and the fans. However, after receiving a complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, KISD board members quickly impler oundation, KISD board members quickly imple-mented a policy banning religiously-themed messages on run-through banners.

The cheerleaders filed a lawsuit stating that the district's policy violated the provisions of our state's Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act, which I co-authored while serving in the while serving in the while serving in the Texas House of Representatives. The Act requires school districts to treat a student's voluntary religious expression the same as they would a voluntary expression on a secular viewpoint. Furthermore, the Act provides that a district. Furthermore, the Act provides that a district "may not discriminate against the students based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student."

new policy, the run-through banners were no through banners were no longer considered student speech, as had previously been the case, but were now considered the school's speech. As a result, the banners were, according to KISD, no longer a means for the cheerleaders to design, construct and display messages to the football players and fans but were now only an expression of the school's message.

For decades, cheerleaders at Kountze High School created runthrough banners to increase pre-game excitement, and historically the design and content of the banners was 1.5% and to the same to the same that the sa content of the banners were left solely to the discretion of the cheer-leaders. According to KISD and its new policy, however, the cheerleaders no longer control the messages on their banners. Instead, according to KISD, the banners actually convey the ing to KISD, the banners actually convey the school's speech, and not the cheerleaders' personal expressions of faith—even though the school does not play, and has never played, a role in designing the banners, devising the content of the messages displayed devising the content of the messages displayed on them or paying for their construction. The implementation of this new policy, if accepted, threatens to set a prece-dent under which public schools and individual administrators could usurp a wide range of student speech to control its content and point-of-

In September of this year, I filed an amicus brief with the Texas Supreme Court in Matthews v. Koutze Independent School District, supporting the constitutional rights of Texas' public schoolchildren to express their own messages at school and school-related events. When our fundamental rights are threatened, we have an obligation to defend them. I am honored to have this opportunity to stand with the students and parents at Kountze High School who are committed to move forward in this In September of this



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## Supreme Court halts EPA pollution abatement rule

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Feb. 9 heralded the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 order that put on hold a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule requiring power producers to cut back on the release of pollutants emitted mainly from coal-burning operations.

tions.

In reacting to the order, Paxton and West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, the leaders of a coalition of 29 states and state agencies, declared victory over the rule referred to as the Obama Administration's "Clean Administration's "Clean Patrick Part Patrick administration's "Clean
Power Plan" or as the EPA
"Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources:
Electric Utility Generating
Units."
"Towas and West Vivein

Texas and West Virginia originally challenged the rule on Oct. 23, 2015, the day it was published in the Federal Register. The coalition requested a halt to rule on Jan. 26. Coalition members argue that the Clean Power Plan "fundamentally changes the nation's energy policy in violation of federal law," according to Paxton. "The Obama Administration clearly exceeded its authority in imposing this plan, which would cost taxpayers and consumers Texas and West Virginplan, which would cost tax-payers and consumers alike hard-earned money in exchange for less-reli-able service," Paxton add-ed.

ed.

However, EPA Director
Gina McCarthy said she
"remains fully confident in
the legal merits of this
rule" and that the rule
"squarely fits within the
Clean Air Act."
In accordance with the
Supreme Court order, the
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the District of Columbia
Circuit has been scheduled
to hear oral arguments on
the merits of the case on
June 2.

#### Tax revenue to be

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 10 announced that his office would send cities, counties, transit systems and spe-cial purpose taxing dis-tricts \$867.1 million in

STATE CAPITAL **HIGHLIGHTS** By Ed Sterling



local sales tax allocations for February.

The amount, based on sales made in December 2015, is 0.7 percent less than the amount distribut-ed in February 2015.

"Engrayment ric cities

ed in February 2015.
"Energy-centric cities such as Odessa, Midland, Corpus Christi and Houston continued to see decreases in sales tax allocation," Hegar said, but added that other areas of the state "helped to somewhat offset those loss-as cities such as San Anes as cities such as San An-tonio, Austin, Fort Worth and Dallas saw moderate increases in allocations."

## Texas leads in

Texas leads in exports
Last week the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released a report ranking Texas as the top exporting state in the nation for the 14th consecutive year.
Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 9 praised the state's performance and said, "This year I plan to lead more business development missions to bolster our state's economy and create opportunities for Texas businesses to further compete in the global marketplace."
Abbott pinpointed three facts in the report:
- Texas exported more

- Texas exported more than \$251 billion in goods in 2015;

Texas exports alone - Texas exports alone accounted for more than 16 percent of U.S. goods exported in 2015 and for the third year in a row; and - Texas surpassed California for high-tech exports for the third year in a row.

Request for aid is granted
Gov. Abbott on Feb. 9 announced that his request had been granted in the form of a presidential disaster declaration for 25

disaster declaration for 25
Texas counties that sustained damages in severe
weather in late December.
Abbott thanked President Obama and the Federal Emergency
Management Agency for
granting his request. "We
will continue to work with
our FEMA partners to rebuild these counties and build these counties and ensure that they come back stronger than ever," he said.

he said.

Formation rate increases
Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos on Feb. 8 announced a four-percent increase in new businesses formed in January; or the previous year.

"The increase of new businesses formed in the state reflects a belief that Texas is still a great state for business," Cascos said. "I applaud all the entrepreneurs and business leaders continuing to invest in and grow the Texas economy."

The 14,281 certificates filed in the month of January were for the formation of for-profit and professional corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and profes-

al corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and professional associations.

The year-over-year growth for January echoes the overall trend in 2015. Last year, a total of 165,026 businesses were formed in the State of Texas, an increase of almost 5 percent from 2014, according to Cascos.

Recruitment
initiative begins
Gov. Abbott on Feb. 10
announced the launch of
his University Research
Initiative to help Texas institutions of higher education recruit nationally
recognized researchers as
faculty members.
Under the initiative, eligible institutions can ap-

Under the initiative, eligible institutions can apply online for matching grants to assist them in attracting distinguished researchers, Abbott said.
The Governor's University Research Initiative grant program was enact

grant program was enacted in 2015 by the 84th Texas Legislature.



#### How to pay less next tax time (legally)

(NAPSI)—Getting a big check may not always be a good thing. For example, if you receive a large tax refund from the IRS, it means you paid out too much in income tax the year before and, essentially, lent your money to the government interest free.

Fortunately, a talk

Fortunately, a talk with a licensed tax specialist before the end of the year may help you avoid both that and having to pay a lot next tax time

Here are a few hints

- Make sure your Wform at work is up to
  date and filled out in
  your favor. Does it
  have the correct
  number for your
  dependents?
- Institute, increase or max out retirement contributions. Contribute more to your 401(k) to reduce your taxable income and your tax bill. If you taxable income and your tax bill. If you don't have one, or an IRA, now might be a good time to start.
- Be generous.
  Charitable gifts and certain presents to relatives may yield tax benefits. In addition to money gifts, donating clothes, toys and household items to charity can lead to a tax deduction. Keep a list of what you gave and its fair market value and get a receipt from the organization. You may also be able to deduct travel and other expenses of volunteering.
- Mix business with pleasure. If you can combine a vacation and business trip, you may be able to deduct part of the unreimbursed expenses spent on business, such as airfare and part of your hotel bill.
- Use health care to • Use health care to improve your wealth. If you can, tap into a medical reimbursement account or flex plan at work that lets you divert part of your salary, pretax, to an account from which to pay medical bills.
- pay medical bills.

   Looking for work?
  Job search expenses such as agency fees, résumé printing, career counseling costs and travel related to the effort may be deductible even if you didn't find a new job. If you do find one that meets the 50-mile test, you may be able to you may be able to deduct your moving expenses.
- Go green. Some energy-saving devices and appliances also come with a tax break.
- Be smart, go to school. You may be school. You may be able to get a tax credit on 100 percent of the first \$2,000 spent on certain college expenses and 25 percent of the next \$2,000 for up to \$2,500 per student.
- to \$2,500 per student.

   Get more good advice from an enrolled agent and member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents—a group of licensed tax practitioners who focus solely on taxation year-round. To find one nearby, call (855) 880-6232 or visit www.eatax.org.



## LIFESTYLE

## COMMUNITY **CALENDAR**

### Free tax help at the library

The Tax-Aide program sponsored by the IRS and AARP Foundation is again providing free federal income tax assistance this year. The program is designed to assist taxpayers age 60 and over but will also assist low and moderate income filers.

These are the locations supported by the local volunteers:

North Channel Branch of Harris County Public Library, Thursdays poon

County Public Library. Thursdays noor

• Sterling Municipal Library in Bay-

•Sterling Municipal Library in Baytown, Tuesdays/Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.
•Stratford Library in Highlands, Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Services will begin on Tuesday, February 2nd and conclude on Thursday, April
14th.

Taxpayers should bring the following
items with them:
-Social Security cards for yourself and
all dependents
-A copy of last year's tax return
- W-2 forms from each employer
-Unemployment compensation state-

-Unemployment compensation state--SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social

Security benefits
-All 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV,

-1093 to limit you received a pension or annuity
-All forms indicating federal income tax paid
-Child care provider information
-Receipts or cancelled checks if itemizing deductions
-Some type of picture ID
-Info about health insurance coverage

-Info about health insurance coverage for you and any dependents.

If you purchased your insurance through the healthcare.gov site please bring any info and forms that they provided you including form 1095-A.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 1-888-227-7669 or visiting the website at <a href="https://www.aarp.org/taxaide.">www.aarp.org/taxaide.</a>



#### Coldwell Banker Southern Homes

Congratulations to Terry Haydon for Top Producer & Top Lister for 2015. And congratulations to Wendy Reed, Terry Haydon, Penny Adams & Stacy Beard for their Multi-Million Dollar Production for 2015.



## Voting booths arrived at local library

Early voting began last Tuesday and b County Library, Crosby branch early. oths arrived at Harris

#### LITTLE **BIDDY BITS** By Danny Biddy

#### Noticeable Improvement?

My youngest son, Mark, recently came by our house on his way home from the vision center. He was wearing his new contact lens. So I asked him if he could tell a noticeable improvement.

Mark looked at me and said. "I can see that von're

Mark looked at me and said, "I can see that you're older than I thought!"
I decided to let him get by with that remark since the Bible says in Job 12:12, "Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding."

### BIBLE TRIVIA

Bv Wilson Casev

1. Is the book of Ecclesites in the Old or New Tes-

2. From Numbers 4, what color was the cloth draped over the Ark of the Cove-nant? White, Black, Gold,

nant? White, Black, Gold, Blue
3. "The wicked man tra-vaileth with pain all his days" is from what book's 15:20? Ezra, Nehemiah, Job,

15:20? Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms
4. Whose hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws? Daniel, Matthew, Luke, Nebuchadnezzar
5. In which city were 85 priests slain'? Gezer, Nob, Shechem, Aphek
6. From Daniel 5, who was so scared that his knees knocked together? Moses, Belshazzar, Solomon, Lot
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Blue; 3) Job; 4) Nebuchadnezzar; 5) Nob; 6) Belshazzar.

Lucinda "Cindy" Strange



Lucinda "Cindy" Strange, 57, passed away Friday, Feb-ruary 12, 2016 in Houston, Texas. She was born May 15,

37, passed away rhody, retorary 12, 2016 in Houston, Texas. She was born May 15, 1958 to parents Billy Dean and JoAnn (Dailey) Fitzgerald in Ozark, Arkansas. Cindy was a fun-loving and happy person. She always tried to take care of everyone and was known as "Mom" to many people other than her children. She was everybody's mom. Cindy will be remembered for her beautiful smile and her "Live, Love, Laugh" attitude towards life. She is preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Clayton Dean Fitzgerald. Left to cherish her memory is her loving husband of 30 years, Tony Strange; children, Aaron Jason Dean, Erick Ray Dean, Destry Dean, Destry Dean, Destry Dean, Destry Dean, Destry Dean, Destry Dean, Lily Dean, Kayla Dean; great-grandchildren, Angel Nicole Dean, Kayla Dean; great-grandchildren, Lagread and Mary Allene Fitzgerald and Mary Allene Fitzgerald; as well as nuerous extended family Fitzgerald; as well as numerous extended family members and many dear friends.

friends.
A celebration of Cindy's life will be held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 17, 2016 in the chapel of Carter Funeral Home.

Carter Funeral Home 13701 Corpus Christi St Houston, Texas 77015 713-455-5100 www.CarterFuneral-Houston.com

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## $\Rightarrow$ **OBITUARIES**

Robert Edward Denker



Robert Edward Denk-

Robert Edward Denker, 75, passed away February 13, 2016 surrounded by his family in Conroe, Texas.
Robert was born April 25, 1940 to parents Wayne and Eleanor Denker in Pontiac, Illinois. He was a 1958 graduate of Navasota High School. Robert attended Southwestern University at Georgetown and Sam Houston State University in State University in Huntsville.

State University in Huntsville.

He was service oriented and held positions in different industries throughout his life. He was fiercely proud to be an employee of Continental Airlines and their Top Gun BBQ team, where retired after 19 years of dedicated service. He is preceded in death by his parents; and son, Patrick Denker.

Robert is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Denker; sons, Paul E. Denker, Mark C. Denker and wife Andrea; grandchildren, Foster, Mason, Emily, Wayne, and Gabrielle Denker; sister, Paula Frances and husband Phillip; brother, Bill Denker and Zelda Whatley; as well as extended family members and friends.

to join the family for visitation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Carter Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Fri-day, February 19, 2016 at First United Methodat First United Methodist Church, 539 Main St., Liberty, Texas. Graveside services will follow at Liberty Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Carter Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be given to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in Robert's memory.

Carter Funeral Home 13701 Corpus Christi St Houston, Texas 77015 (713) 455-5100 www.CarterFuneral-Houston.com

Burkett



Hugh "Don" Burkett, 83, passed away February 9, 2016 surrounded by family at his home in Houston, Texas. He was born January 20, 1933 to parents Elbert and Dora (Ericson) Burkett in Fairbury, Nebraska. Hugh was lovingly known as "Don" by his family and friends. He honorably served God and proudly served discountry in the United

States Navy. He remained proud of his country. Hugh loved his family and spending time with his children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren as well as the fellowship of his church family at South Drive Baptist Church.

He also enjoyed golfing and supporting his home team, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. He is pre-ceded in death by his par-ents, brothers, and

ceded in death by his parents, brothers, and sister.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 59 years, Frances Burkett; children, Barbara Burkett Hand and husband William, Desi Hunt and husband David, Donna Bryant, Tommy Burkett and wife Julia, Mark Burkett and wife Cheryl; 16 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; as well as numerous extended family members and dear friends. Friends joined the family for visitation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 11th at South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, Texas 77530. Funeral services officiated by Pastor Kenneth Plunk and Pastor Kenneth Plunk and Pastor Kenneth Plunk and Pastor Kenneth Plunk and Pastor Kensury 12, 2016 at South Drive Baptist Church, graveside services followed at San Jacinto Memorial Park in Houston, Texas under the direcnoved at San Jacinto Me-morial Park in Houston, Texas under the direc-tion of Carter Funeral Home. Mr. Burkett's family suggests dona-tions he seds to the tions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

## **BUSINESS**

## Watch for Changes to the FAFSA

If you have a child in college, you're probably familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which must be completed to help ensure that students don't miss out on federal and state grants, work-study jobs and loans. But you might not know that some important changes will be coming to the FAFSA during 2016 – and these changes can affect both the process of filing for aid, and, possibly, the amount of aid your child will receive.

of aid your child will receive.

Here are three key changes to watch for:

\* Earlier availability of the FAFSA – Currently, you need to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1 – which means you're probably filling out the form even before you've filed your taxes, which aren't due until April. As a result, you may have to estimate your income and update the information later. However, beginning update the information later. However, beginning with the 2017–2018 school year, you can complete the FAFSA starting on Oct. 1 of the previous calendar year, rather than wait until January. At that point, you will already have filed your 2015 taxes. so in fill.

you will already have filed your 2015 taxes, so in filling out the FAFSA, you won't have to rely on estimates of your income.

• For 2016 only, this change presents something of an anomaly – specifically, you should fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible for the 2016–2017 school year, using an estimate of your 2015 income, and then complete the FAFSA again in October FAFSA again in October for the 2017-2018 school year, using your actual 2015 income. In future years, you'll only have to complete the FAFSA once, with applications accepted

## ASK THE EXPERT

**By Edward Jones** 

beginning each Oct.1.

• Lower "asset protection" allowance – When you report your financial information on the FAFSA, some of your assets – such as your IRA and 401(k) – are not counted toward the resources you're expected to contribute to your child's education. Some other assets are considered available, but a percentage of

these assets can be sheltered, with the exact amount depending largely on your age and marital status. For the 2016–17 school year, this sheltered asset amount has been reduced significantly. However, while this reduction could have some effect on your student's aid package, it shouldn't be too severe because income, more than

assets, is a bigger factor in the federal financial aid

formula.

• No more shared mailing list—When filing the FAFSA, students can choose up to 10 colleges to receive their financial information. Previously, when students sent their FAFSAs to multiple colleges and universities, these schools could see the other institutions on the mailing list. But starting with the 2016–2017 application, schools will no longer have this information. This could actually benefit your child. Previously, if a school saw it was listed first on the FAFSA, it might have assumed it was the student's first choice and, as a result, may not have felt the need to be flexible in awarding financial aid. Now, though, without a list of its competitors, a school might be more open to negotiating a more favorable aid package for your child. It's a good idea to stay current on the changes connected to the FAFSA because it helps determine financial aid eligibility and financial aid is a key component of your strategy to pay for your childs (or grandchild's) education.

This information is offered for broad, informational pur-poses only. Edward Jones does not employ financial aid experts or give financial aid advice. This or sive find told and davice. This is a highly specialized field, and specific questions should be directed to a qualified financial aid officer.

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

Edward Jones 6830 E Sam Houston Pkwy N, Suite 150 Houston, TX 77049 281-436-0396

## **ASK DIAMOND JIM**

# Diamond Jim: "What is the



🍃 birthstone for February?"

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE Amethyst

Amethyst
Amethyst, the
gemstone believed by
ancient Greeks and
Romans to ward off the
intoxicating powers of
Bacchus, also is said to
keep the wearer clearheaded and quickwitted. Throughout
history, the gemstone
has been associated
with many myths,
legends, religions, and
numerous cultures.
English regalia were
even decorated with
amethysts during the even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbol-ize royalty. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewel-ry. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia. The healing



power of amethyst is said to aid in the reduction of insomnia, arthritis, pain relief, and circulatory issues. Amethyst is considered the gemstone of meditation, peace, balance, courage, and inner strength.

strength.

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

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

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## COMMUNITY

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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#### 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-

#### North Shore Senior Dance

Monthly dance is the 2nd Thursday of every month from 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi eet. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. r more information call 713-455-3660.

#### San Jacinto Pilot Club

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

#### North Channel Library events

-Thur., Feb. 18, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 12 pm, AARP Tax Help.
-Sat., Feb. 20, 2 pm, Faithful Paws.
-Tue., Feb, 23, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time.
-Wed., Feb. 24, 10 am, North Channel Book Club; 4:30 pm, Houston Rodeo Children's Games of the 1800s & Pony Express.
-Thur., Feb. 25, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 12:00 pm, AARP Tax Help.

Help.
-Sat., Feb. 27, 3:00 pm, Pokémon Club.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049.
Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs.

#### Jacinto City Library programs

-Sat., Feb. 20, 12:30 pm, Family Sould Food Luncheon. Come bring your favorite Soul Food dish and enjoy friends, music and fun. There will be also a beading craft for all ages.

Thue, Feb. 23, 10:30 am, Power Point; 4:30 pm, Power Point

Basico. —Wed., Feb. 24, 10:30 am, Baby Time (ages 0-18 months); 12:30 pm, ESL Class. —Thur., Feb. 25.11 am. Wed.

-Thur., Feb. 25, 11 am, Word. Join for a story, finger play and a fun craft or pres-school ages and up at 3 pm during Children's

Story Time.
-Frid., Feb. 26, 1 pm, Clases de Inglés Usando Mango (es necesario inscribirse llamando al 713-673-3937).
-Sat., Feb. 27, 10:30 am, Internet; 12:30 pm, Children's Movie

Ineater.

Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029

For more information on these and other programs at the library please call 713-673-3237.

#### Heritage Hall Senior Center

-Exercise class: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9 am. --Strenght and Balance class: Tuesdays at 9 am. Heritage Hall Senior Center is located at 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. 713-675-4487.

www.facebook.com/ NorthChannelStar

## Suspected drunk driver causes deadly chain crash on I-10 E



A man died in the chain crash when his car rolled several times

HOUSTON - A s HOUSTON - A suspected drunk driver was arrest-ed after a fatal multi-car crash on East Freeway last Saturday, Feb. 13
According to officials, the accident happened around 6 a.m. on the westbound lanes of I-10 East at Hellhorn.
A 30-year-old man died when another car hit his car

and the vehicle rolled several times, officials said.
Two other cars were also involved in the crash when trying to avoid the accident.
The driver who caused the accident was arrested in a nearby Jack in the Box and was charged with public intoxication, more charges could be pending.

## **GP/JC Rotary Club** Golf Tournament

The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club is hosting its 14th Annual Golf Tournament with proceeds to benefit deserving Galena Park High School Students. February 29, Monday, at Texaco Golf Club, 12800 Texaco Rd. Houston 77013 Som peris. Giup, 12800 Texaco Rd., Houston 77013, 8am regis-tration, 9am Shotgun start, 4 person scramble, par is your friend, longest drive and closest to the pin,

included in registration fee of \$ 100 per player which also includes 1/2 cart.

Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, 1st and 2nd flights. Hole Sponsorships available for \$100. and donations requested for "goody bags", raffle items, and "general" sponsorsh help make college dreams come true for Galena Park High School.

## PLAYERS HONORED,

Continued from page 1

Belt (San Francisco Giants).
Belt played for San Jac in 2007, excelling as a pitcher and hitter. He transferred to the University of Texas, where he played two years for the Longhorns. He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in 2009, moving rapidly through the farm system and joining the MLB team in 2011. He currently plays first base and outfield for the Giants, and was a member of the 2012 and 2014 Word Series championship teams.
Albert, a relief pitcher for the Chicago White Sox attended San Jacinto College in 2002. His professional career started in 2006 with the Houston Astros. In his 10 years in the majors, primarily as a reliever, he has also pitched for the Baltimore Orioles, Boston Red Sox, Arizona Diamondbacks, and the Cleveland Indians. He was considered the White Sox most consistent reliever for the 2015 season, in which he posted an outstanding 1.21 ERA in his 30 outings.

season, in which he posted an outstanding 1.21 ERA in his 30 outings.

Relatives of the late John Ray Harrison, San Jacinto College's first baseball coach, attended the ceremony, including his wife Barbara, their son Robert, and daughter Nancy (Harrison Farries). The ceremonial first pitch of the game that followed the Legends ceremony was delivered by Larry Wilson, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees Vice Chairman. Wilson is a longtime friend of the Harrison family, is active in community events and an avid supporter of San Jacinto College athletic programs. After the first pitch, members of the Pearland Little League team that played in the League team that played in the 2015 Little League World Series were recognized on the field.



Larry Wilson, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees Vice Chairman, delivered the ceremonial first pitch at the 9016 Legends ceremony.

Meanwhile, San Jac is dominating on the diamond, going undefeated in the first seven games of the season. The team went 4-0 in the opening tournament played in Henderson, Nevada, outsooring opposing teams 48-12. The tournament highlight was a perfet game by lefty pitcher Colten Schmidt. Schmidt's gem was followed two games later by a no-hitter hurled by right-handed flamethrower Montana Parsons.

sons.

San Jac maintained its momentum – beating Grayson College 7-1, St. Petersburg College 9-0, and Howard College 9-1 – in the Tournament of Champions, played Feb. 5 through 7 in Houston.

The first home conference game for San Jacinto College will be on Saturday Feb. 27

game for San Jacinto College will be on Saturday, Feb. 27 when the team will host Galveston College in a double-header that starts at 3 p.m. For more information, please visit saniacsnorts sanjacsports .com



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# GP ISD FFA Livestock Show 2015

2000 HOLLAND AVE., GALENA PARK, TEXAS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

## RESERVE CHAMPIONS



RESERVE CHAMPION STEER Exhibitor: VALERIE MOYA Buyer: SECONDARY PRINCIPALS



RESERVE CHAMPION SWINE Exhibitor: ALAYNA MATHENY Buyer: BROOKS CONCRETE



RESERVE CHAMPION GOAT Exhibitor: ADRIAN LUNA Buyer: S & H MANUFACTURING





RESERVE CHAMPION RABBIT Exhibitor: CASEY WENNER Buyer: ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS



RESERVE CHAMPION BROILER Exhibitor: MONICA VAZQUEZ Buyer: S & H MANUFACTURING



RESERVE CHAMPION TURKEY
Exhibitor: FRANCOIS EUGENE
Buyer: ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS



3RD PLACE STEER



3RD PLACE SWINE
Exhibitor: FIDENCIO GALLEGOS
Buyer: GPISD CTE



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3RD PLACE LAMB Exhibitor: LESLIE LEAL
Buyer: SECONDARY PRINCIPALS



3RD PLACE RABBIT Exhibitor: BRADLEY BERGLAN Buyer: SWINDELL PAINT & BODY



3RD PLACE BROILER Exhibitor: LESLIE LEAL
Buyer: ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS



4TH PLACE STEER
Exhibitor: FRANZELY PENA
Buyers: GP EDUCATION FOUNDATION



4TH PLACE SWINE
Exhibitor: MONICA VAZQUEZ
Buyer: S & H MANUFACTURING



RESERVE CHAMPION FOOD
Exhibitor: ANGELICA
PECINAERIKA OLIVO
Buyer: VICO MANUFACTURING
BUYER: AMANDA LATHAM





RESERVE CHAMPION ART



RESERVE CHAMPION PHOTOGRAPHY
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RESERVE CHAMPION

Congratulations Galena Park ISD FFA Winners! from



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Page 10 NORTH CHANNEL ★STAR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016



# GP ISD FFA Livestock Show 2015

2000 HOLLAND AVE., GALENA PARK, TEXAS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

## GRAND CHAMPIONS



GRAND CHAMPION STEER Exhibitor: AMARIS MOYA Buyer: NORTH SHORE ROTARY



GRAND CHAMPION SWINE
Exhibitor: SHAYLIGH MYERS
Buyer: SWINDELL PAINT & BODY



GRAND CHAMPION GOAT Exhibitor: ERIKA OLIVO Buyer: SECONDARY PRINCIPALS



GRAND CHAMPION LAMB Exhibitor: ALAYNA MATHENY Buyer: GPISD SCHOOL BOARD





GRAND CHAMPION BROILER Exhibitor: VALERIE MOYA Buyer: GPISD CTE DEPT



GRAND CHAMPION TURKEY Exhibitor: FRANZELY PENA Buyer: GPISD OPERATIONS DEPT



GRAND CHAMPION FOOD Exhibitor: ANGELICA PECINA Buyer: SWINDELL PAINT & BODY



GRAND CHAMPION HORTICULTURE Exhibitor: LESLIE LEAL Buyer: GPISD CTE DEPARTMENT



GRAND CHAMPION ART Exhibitor: KARENA GONZALEZ Buyer: VICO MANUFACTURING



GRAND CHAMPION PHOTOGRAPHY Exhibitor: ALEXANDRA CARDENAS
Buyer: GPISD CTE DEPT.



GRAND CHAMPION FLORAL Exhibitor: KARENA GONZALEZ Buyer: SECONDARY PRINCIPALS



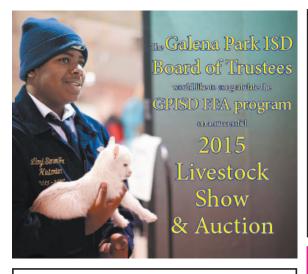
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