

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 5, NO. 05 (#159) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Galena Park/Jacinto City CIP meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017. 5:45 pm – light dinner. 6:15 pm - business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

### North Channel Chamber Luncheon

Friday, February 3, 2017. San Jacinto College N. (inside the Monument Room of the Student Center) 5800 Uvalde Rd., 77049, 11:30 am. Speaker: Chris Daniel, Harris County District Clerk. For additional information you may contact Blanca at 713.450.1114.

### Highlands Rotary Club 42nd Annual Chili Feast

The occasion is the Rotary Club's 42nd Annual Chili Feast, at St. Jude's Catholic Church Hall on Saturday, Feb. 4th from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The local crowd always looks forward to socializing with old friends, eating great chili, bidding on auction items, and anticipating the winning numbers in the raffle. The public is invited.

### Pct. 2 Senior Market Day

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 from 10 am to 2pm, Grayson Center, 13828 Corpus Christi. Shopping, Healthcare, Screenings, Crafts, Jewelry, handmade quilts, door prizes, silent auction. Free to the public.

## North Channel Chamber celebrates 40 yrs

HOUSTON – Several hundred guests and Chamber members gathered last Saturday night at the Houston Hobby Airport Marriott Hotel, for a grand evening of good food, socializing, reminiscing, and dancing.

The occasion was the observance of the 40th Anniversary of the North Channel Chamber of Commerce.

The evening was a benefit fund raiser for the chamber, as well as a happy and historical occasion. A silent auction with a number of very special items kept the bidding lively.

Master of Ceremonies was chair-elect Shalonda Dawkins, and awards were presented by past chair Lucia Bates and chamber president Margie Buentella.

The evening included



ABOVE, Past Chairmen of the Chamber Board over the last 40 years gather for a group photo, to socialize, and to watch a video presentation of their accomplishments documented in pictures. 23 of the chairmen were present. Shalonda Dawkins noted in her introduction that some of them had passed away.

LEFT, Wayne Oquin, past president of the Chamber, and current president of the Galena Park Education Foundation, presented a history of the Chamber in his usual dry humor, much to the enjoyment of the several hundred guests present at the Gala.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.

the swearing in of the new Chamber Board for 2017, with Constable Chris Diaz officiating.

Music was by the San Jacinto North jazz trio, and a video history of the chamber was prepared by Wayne Oquin, John Lewis and Chris Goss of the Galena Park ISD.

Wayne Oquin was the keynote speaker, tracing the history of the chamber since its founding in 1977 with Dr. Ed Lehr as its first chairman.

The program concluded with remarks from outgoing chair Lucia Bates about the accomplishments of her year, and this was followed by remarks from the incoming new chairman, Adam Lund.

The evening ended with dancing and music, socializing and picking up silent auction items, and a general great time.

## Jacinto City Mayor awards volunteers



Photo by Linda Jamail

Front Row (L to R): Chispirrin (clown, Jaime Valdez), Erick A. Jaime, Erick Pena, Angel Jaime, Oziel Salinas, Jr., Vicente Salinas, Miguel Pena, Edgar A. Salinas, Jose Angel Pena. Back Row (L to R): Felix Ochoa, Marisol González, Teresa Tamez, Francis González, Marisa De La Cruz, Maria Guadalupe Barba, Maria Guadalupe Jaime, Maria Teresa Arzapala, Mayor Ana Diaz, former Mayor Allan Jamail, Irasema Salinas, Noema B. González, Rosa M. Godínez, Myriam Cortez, Esther Gallardo, Rosa De La Cruz, Maribel Tamez. Volunteers not present: Nora Elia Cruz, Patricia Nava, Susana Palacios, Oziel Salinas, Carmen Ochoa, Irma Ochoa, Ramiro Alvarado, Armida Patricia Pena, Nancy Patricia Romero.

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. - Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the City Council meeting Mayor Ana Diaz and former Mayor Allan Jamail recognized volunteerism in the city. Each volunteer received a certifi-

cate of recognition for exceptional dedication and volunteering services to the community signed by both Diaz and Jamail.

At the close of the city's business meeting but before adjournment the Award Ceremony consisted of certificate presenta-

tions, a Zumba exercise dance by Lupita's Crazy Energy Z Fitness - 832-882-3562, magic tricks performed by Chispirrin Magic Show-832-909-4915 and Norteño Mexican folk music by brothers Edgar Salinas, Oziel Salinas Jr., and Felix Ochoa. Refresh-

ments were donated by Constable Chris Diaz.

In a separate ceremony at City Hall Special Volunteer Appreciation Awards was presented to fulltime city officials, City Secretary Joyce Raines with 30 years of service and City Finance Manager Kathy

Greiner with 38 years of service for their valuable volunteer service to the city. Both Mayor Ana Diaz and former Mayor Allan Jamail praised Joyce and Kathy for annually giving

**See VolunteerRs Awarded, Page 3**

## North Shore Rotary Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo presentation

NORTH SHORE – Gary McHenry, chairman of the Speakers Committee of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, made a presentation to the Rotarians on January 19 at their weekly luncheon.

McHenry covered the usual fact, such as 33,000 volunteers, \$430 million in scholarships since the beginning, today's scholarships of \$20,000 for 4

years, and more. This year's show runs for 21 days, and starts Tuesday, March 7th. He mentioned the first performer was Gene Autry. The show is basically for and about agriculture, and students that are in that field.

But the talk took an interesting twist, when McHenry told about bull riding, one of the most popular events. He said that a

rider only had to stay on the bull for up to 8 seconds, and in a full 20 day show could earn \$56,000.

To better understand bull riding, McHenry dressed Rotarians in costumes and acted out a bull riding sequence. Imagine a clown, a cowboy rider, a barrel tender, a bull, and a matador type, and the club watched their moves, and listened to an explanation.



NORTH SHORE ROTARIANS learn about Bull Riding from Gary McHenry, left, by acting it out. Participating in the fun are Charles Grant, Don Spies, Matt Davis, Scott Stephens.

## First African American female judge for 61st District court



Photo by Allan Jamail

US Judge Al Bennett congratulates Judge Phillips with her daughters Ashley and Amber. Judge Alexandra Smooths-Hogan Master of Ceremony.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX – On January 6, 2017 at the Harris County Civil Courthouse the Honorable Alfred H. Bennett United States District Judge, Southern District of Texas administered the oath of office to Fred-

ericka Phillips.

Making history Judge Phillips became the first African American female to preside in the 61st District.

The 61st Civil District Court is a court of general jurisdiction for resolving civil disputes in which the amount in controversy is

\$200 or more involving property, contract disputes, and other civil matters in which jurisdiction is not placed in another trial court. Examples of cases this court hears are contract disputes, personal

**See First Judge, page 3**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Crosby Subway robbed, suspect eludes deputies

CROSBY – The Subway Restaurant in Crosby Town Center was robbed Monday morning, Jan. 30, the suspect remains at large.

A call from a neighboring shop operator at 5:55 a.m. to the Harris County Sheriff's Office was made to report a robbery.

The caller reported that a man in a black hoodie wearing black pants and brandishing a pistol walked up to the restaurant operator, a woman holding a four-year-old and forced her inside the restaurant the instant that she unlocked the door.

In about three minutes, two Sheriff's patrol units were at the front door and were joined there in two more minutes by another pair. A minute later another patrol car made the scene.

The suspect forced the woman to open the cash register. He took the contents, he insisted that she open the safe but she had no access to the safe. He took the woman's cell phone by point of pistol.

When deputies arrived outside, the suspect fled out the back door on foot. The operator and her four-year-old were apparently not physically injured.

This is the second robbery in as many weeks by someone described as about 5'7", thin build, medium brown complexion black male, believed to be between 30 and 35 years old.

It seems a donut shop on North Main in the vicinity of Crosby Town Center had

also been a robbery victim at about the same time of day.

Likewise, within that time frame, a woman had her car window smashed at the Crosby Post Office and the contents taken as she went to her Post Office Box. All of these incidents have in common that no suspect vehicle is associated with these incidents. It might be presumed that the suspect does not live far from where the incident took place.

Harris County Sheriff's Office considers this suspect armed and dangerous. The robbery division is seeking information that could lead to the arrest of this perpetrator. Anyone with information should call 713-274-9200.



Crosby student at District 33 UIL competition Marcel Camacho was first chair lead trumpet at the district 33 UIL Jazz Competition last week.

HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS

## Rotary Club supports Bay Area Homeless Services

HIGHLANDS – Rotary heard from former Baytown Mayor Pete Alfaro, at a recent luncheon, speaking about the services provided to homeless or needy families at their new facility. BAHS started in 1982, and serves an average of 30 families every year.

BAHS just opened a family shelter last year, with 6 family apartments, costing \$800,000. Families that stay there are encouraged and helped to find jobs, and usually leave in 30 days.

Alfaro said that federal support for the project ended in 2016, and now all funding is from private sources. On March 2 of this year, BAHS will hold a "Main Event: to raise money. It will be at the Sylvan



Rotary president Diana Weaver presents a check to Pete Alfaro and Bill Eckert of the Bay Area Homeless Services.

Beach Pavilion, and be a "roast & toast" of Fred Navarre. It is expected to draw 300 to 400 attendees, and Alfaro encouraged Rotarians and the public to come and help support the organization. Co-chairs of the event are Jim Wadzinski and Roger Elswick.

## New Year's Resolutions—Why bother?

HIGHLANDS – Austin Tenette is a Business and Life Coach with an organization known as Focal Point Coaching. He typically works with companies that want to improve their approach to business, and employee performance.

At a recent Rotary luncheon, he gave a humorous talk about how people make resolutions and usually break them in the first several weeks of the New Year.

However, he offered insight into a set of tools that would help keep them. Basically, he said you have to change your routine and break habits. His suggested tools include small changes in routines, partnering, visualization such as "if, then what," change in environment. His motivational tools included visualization of goals, self-monitoring of progress, and journaling.



Austin Tenette spoke to the Rotarians about resolutions, what are the most common, and how to keep them.

Gathering and preserving assets comes naturally to some.

For all others, Baytown's oldest independent investment advisory firm is the natural selection.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Galena Park ISD honors students with top SAT and ACT scores



On January 17, high school students from Galena Park ISD were recognized at the Administration Building for earning top scores on their SAT and ACT tests. All students who earned a 1300or higher on their SAT and a 27 or higher on their ACT were invited to the luncheon. Many of the students have already chosen their university and career, and are excited to start the next chapter of their lives. Dr. Williams, Superintendent of Schools, was on-hand to congratulate and celebrate with the students on their accomplishments. She expressed her excitement to each of the students while presenting them with a certificate and gift card. GPISD wishes all of these wonderful students the best of luck in their future endeavors!

### GALENA PARK ISD: Lady Mustang Breaks School Basketball Record

On Tuesday, January 27, North Shore's Chasity Patterson scored her 3,000th point making her the all-time leading scorer for Lady Mustangs Basketball. Patterson is now the 71st player in women's high school basketball to reach 3,000 points. "It's definitely an honor to become the 71st player to score 3,000 points," said Patterson. "I am proud to be a part of this elite group." The future Texas Longhorn was recently named to the 2017 McDonald's All-American team roster.



Coach Allison Campbell, Chasity and North Shore Senior High Principal, Dr. Coleman

The game will be on March 29 at 5 p.m. ET on ESPN 2.

### Volunteers Awarded,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more volunteer hours to the city than anyone. City Manager Lon Squyres said Joyce and Kathy never complain about staying after work or doing what may not be within their job description. They adapt to whatever happens and always have a can do attitude no matter the task, in short, if I had to sum up their role it would be that they are the glue that holds Jacinto City together Squyres said.



City Secretary Joyce Raines, Mayor Ana Diaz, Finance Manager Kathy Greiner & Former Mayor Allan Jamail.

### First Judge,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

injury matters, wrongful death cases, medical malpractice, tax appraisal appeals, and property disputes.

Fredericka Phillips is a native of Beaumont, Texas. Fredericka attended college at Lamar University Beaumont where she received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice graduating cum laude in 1996. Fredericka relocated to Houston in 1997 to attend South Texas College of Law where she was a member of law review. Fredericka received her Juris Doctorate in May 2000 and practiced law for over 16 years representing clients in state and federal courts across the country. Fredericka was elected judge of the 61st District Court in November 2016.

The Honorable Alexandra Smooths-Hogan of the 164th District Court presided over the Investiture Ceremony.

### 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](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

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### JANUARY 12, 2017 NORTH CHANNEL STAR PICK-UP LOCATIONS

#### NORTH SHORE

North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg  
Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd  
Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St.  
San Jacinto College North, Student Center & Library  
Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd  
East Houston Hospital, I-10  
Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd  
YMCA, Wallisville Rd.  
Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8  
Sen. Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg  
North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd  
United Comm. Credit Union, Normandy  
United Comm. Credit Union, Wallisville

#### CHANNEL VIEW

K&T Western Wear, Sheldon Rd  
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd  
Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd  
Food Fair, Sheldon Rd @ I-10  
Flukinger Comm Ctr, Lorenzo St  
Holiday Inn, I-10 E

#### SHELDON

Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg.  
Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest  
Parkway Feed, CE King Bldv

#### CLOVERLEAF

HC WCID #36, Hollywood St  
Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St  
Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest  
CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport  
North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Freeport

#### JACINTO CITY

City Hall, Main Street  
Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd  
Capital Bank, I-10 E  
Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St  
State Rep Ana Hernandez office, Mercury Drive  
Sellers Brothers Market, Market St  
Market Street Feed Store, Market St

#### GALENA PARK

Baggett Community Center, Keene St  
Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive  
Galena Park Library, Keene St  
United Comm. Credit Union, 16th St.

If you would like to be a PICK-UP LOCATION, let us know.  
281-328-9605 or [northchannelstar@gmail.com](mailto:northchannelstar@gmail.com).

# OPINION PAGE

## Babin issues Statement supporting President Trump Executive Order

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36), who has been a leading critic of America's United Nations (UN)-led refugee resettlement program, issued the following statement today in support of President Trump's executive order on extreme vetting:

"I commend President Trump for delivering on his campaign pledge to put a common-sense pause on a broken refugee program and immigration system that has serious national security gaps and is in desperate need of repair.

"By temporarily restricting entry into the United States from several nations that were established as terrorist hotspots by the Obama Administration, President Trump is doing exactly what he promised the American people he would do – and that's put their safety, security and well-being first.

"This is not a radical idea. In fact, polls show a majority of Americans support such a plan. It is also not a new idea. President Obama did the same thing in 2011 by suspending Iraqi refugee admissions for six months. The Trump Administration has simply stepped up the screening of those

entering the U.S. from these seven countries, which were designated as terrorism hotspots by the Obama Administration.

"As I have been saying for nearly two years, the refugee resettlement program poses a clear and present danger to the American people. We were told by President Obama's own DHS, FBI and DNI Directors that U.S. intelligence officials cannot properly vet or screen refugees coming from Syria and other terrorist hot spots. We have seen the deadly consequences in Europe as ISIS has already successfully infiltrated its refugee population. Why repeat the same mistakes here?

"As a compassionate Christian, I believe we can and should help displaced refugees by caring for them in safe zones near their own countries. In fact, for the cost of bringing one refugee into America, we can help at least twelve refugees in safe zones.

"The President's executive order will ensure our U.S. intelligence agencies have time to strengthen the vetting system and close this gaping hole in our national security. President Trump has my full support."

OPINION

By Congresswoman  
Sheila Jackson Lee



## "Protecting Religious Liberty"

Washington, D.C. – January 30, 2017 – Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees today released the following statement after introducing H.R. 735, the Universal Security of American Values Act of 2017 (USA Values Act), which will invalidate the discriminatory Executive Order issued by the President banning visitors and refugees from certain countries from entering the United States simply because they exercise their right to religious liberty by adherence to the Muslim faith:

"The United States of America is a country founded by persons escaping religious persecution and freedom of worship has been a bedrock national value since the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620. It is no coincidence that the first of the amendments comprising the Bill of Rights protects inviolate the free exercise of religion

"Neither the Constitution nor the First Amendment recognizes an exception to the free exercise of religion in the case of persons of the Muslim faith. The executive order issued by the President last Friday is discriminatory Executive Order because it has the effect and intent of excluding from the United States those persons from predominantly Muslim countries whose religious faith is Muslim. This is the type of invidious discrimination that our Constitution, laws, customs, and traditions do not countenance.

"That is why I have introduced H.R. 735, the Universal Security of American Values Act of 2017 (USA Values Act of 2017), which declares the Executive Order issued by the President on January 27, 2017 to be null and void of no force and legal effect. In addition, USA Values Act

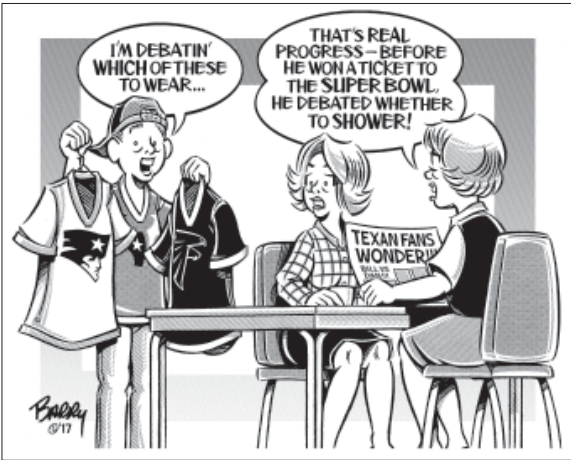
prohibits the issuance or implementation of any Executive Order that has the effect of abridging religious liberty or any of the privileges and immunities guaranteed under the Constitution or laws of the United States.

"As Americans we are best when we are true to the values we hold dear, beginning with fidelity to the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The executive order, which represents the President's attempt to make good on his pledge to impose a ban on Muslims from entering our country, is a radical departure from the values, principles, and practices that heretofore have made America the envy of the world.

"Former president Barack Obama 'fundamentally disagrees with the notion of discriminating against individuals because of their faith and religion.' The former president is right, the current president is wrong and I call upon the President to rescind this discriminatory order immediately."

"Arbitrarily excluding Muslim visitors to our country will not make us safer and makes a mockery of our reputation as the world's most welcoming nation. The USA Values Act, which affirms the nation's core values, complements the 'Statute of Liberty Values Act' (SOLVE Act), which bars ethnic and religious discrimination against refugees that was also introduced today by my colleague, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren of California, and sponsored by me and more than 125 Members of the House."

*Congresswoman Jackson Lee is a Democrat from Texas's 18th Congressional District. She is a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security and is Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations.*



## Abbott tells sheriff to reverse sanctuary policy or lose funding

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has stepped up the pressure on Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez to participate in immigration enforcement, warning that she could lose state funding if she refuses.

In a Jan. 23 letter, Abbott urged the sheriff to reverse her policy directive "forbidding Travis County Sheriff's Office employees from cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests."

Failure to reverse her directive would put in jeopardy millions of dollars in funding from the governor's office to Travis County, Abbott warned. Abbott mentioned that last year, he conditioned all Criminal Justice Grant funds from his office to counties on their enforcement of federal immigration law. Furthermore, Abbott said, he is committed to signing legislation that bans sanctuary cities throughout the state of Texas.

Sheriff Hernandez posted a news release in reaction to the governor's letter, saying: "I respect the letter, saying: 'I respect the values of our state leaders, but I will not allow fear and misinformation to be my guiding principles as a leader sworn to protect this community. I am following all state and federal laws, and upholding constitutional rights to due process for all in our criminal justice system. Our community is safer when people can report crimes without fear of deportation. I trust the court system and our judges to assess the risks and set appropriate bonds and conditions for all who are incarcerated. The voters, who elected state leaders and me, expect and deserve a collaborative effort to come up with solutions to this very complex issue. That is precisely what I'm committed to.'"

**Court rules against regent**  
Outgoing University of Texas regent Wallas L. Hall Jr. has lost the latest round in his legal battle to obtain admissions records from the university.  
The Court of Appeals for

★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



the Third District on Jan. 27 ruled unanimously in favor of the defendant, UT System Chancellor William H. Raven, in a lawsuit brought by Hall.

Hall sued over McRaven's refusal to grant Hall complete access to records containing student-admissions information. McRaven had the legal standing to deny Hall's requests for certain information, the court ruled.

The underlying dispute began in 2013, when Hall raised concerns about potential improprieties in the admissions process of UT Austin and requested information to conduct his own investigation.

Hall was appointed to the board of regents by then-Gov. Rick Perry in 2011. Hall's term of office ends in February.

**Jobless rate stays same**  
The Texas Workforce Commission on Jan. 20 reported that Texas added an estimated 210,200 seasonally adjusted jobs since December 2015, with the addition of 800 nonfarm jobs in December.

Furthermore, according to the agency, the state has added jobs in 20 of the past 21 months. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate maintained a 4.6 percent rate in December, the same rate as in November, according to informa-

tion posted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Education and Health Services industry recorded the largest private-industry employment gain over the month, with 7,300 jobs added. Leisure and hospitality employment grew by 3,900 jobs in December and manufacturing employment expanded by 1,400 jobs.

### Abbott reappoints two

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 25 reappointed Charles Smith as executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, effective Feb. 1, for a term to expire on Feb. 1, 2019.

Smith, first selected for the post by the governor on June 1, 2016, earlier served as deputy for child support in the attorney general's office.

Abbott also reappointed Donna Bahorich of Houston as chair of the Texas State Board of Education, effective Feb. 1, for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2019.

Bahorich was elected to the board in November 2012. She serves on the board's Committee on School Initiatives that oversees agenda items related to charter schools, State Board for Educator Certification rules and the appointment of school board members for districts located on military bases.

Both appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

### Vehicles to be tested in Texas

The U.S. Department of Transportation has picked Texas as one of 10 testing locations for autonomous vehicle technology.

In a Jan. 24 news release, the Texas Department on Transportation suggested the designation establishes Texas as a leader in the research and development of new transportation technologies that could make roads safer and less congested.

TxDOT will be involved in a "Texas Autonomous Vehicle Proving Grounds Partnership" with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, The University of Texas at Austin's Center for Transportation Research, Southwest Research Institute and 32 municipal and regional entities.

"This partnership puts Texas at the forefront of automated vehicle technologies that likely will shape the future of transportation around the world," said Marc Williams, deputy executive director of TxDOT.

## Governor Abbott: Property and Franchise Tax Reduction

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today listed property and franchise tax reduction as legislative priorities in his State of the State address. Low-tax advocates were quick to offer praise for the Governor's call to action:

On Property Tax Reduction:

"Americans for Prosperity is applauding Governor Abbott for pledging to support property tax reform here in Texas. Currently, too many hard-working families in the state are literally being taxed out of their homes and that is simply unacceptable. Lower taxes have played an essential part in Texas' role as an economic leader in the nation. Burdening Texas families with higher taxes is not a sensible solution for our state budget. We are proud to stand alongside Governor Abbott in his effort to give taxpayers greater control over rising property tax rates."

*Jerome Greener, State Director, Americans for Prosperity-Texas*

"There is a revolt brewing in Texas over soaring property tax bills that are neither realistic nor sustainable. In 2015, Texas' 4,171 local governments walloped homeowners and businesses for more than \$52 billion in property taxes, or about \$1,900 for every man, woman, and child in the Lone Star State. As mammoth an amount as that is, trends suggest that the burden is likely to get hetfier still, with tax levies historically outpacing standard economic measures by a wide margin. Governor Abbott's call for structural property tax reform could not have come at a more urgent time. Texans everywhere are struggling to cope with the relentless onslaught of local property taxes, and systemic change is needed to secure needed and lasting relief."

*James Quintero, Director, Center for Local Governance-Texas Public Policy Foundation*

On Franchise Tax Reduction:

"We are pleased with the Governor's commitment to continue working to eliminate the franchise tax. The compliance cost plus payment makes this tax one of the most burdensome taxes Texas businesses have to contend with."

*Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy-Texas Public Policy Foundation*

"Governor Abbott's call to ultimately phase out the franchise tax is an approach that the state must continue to pursue. The franchise tax was created in 2006 to help lower property taxes and to keep the school finance system out of court, yet it has failed in both of those objectives. Texas has slipped in national rankings for tax policy and economic outlook, in part, because of it. Economic projections show that eliminating the franchise tax would produce 41,450 net new jobs, \$3.4 billion in net new investment, and \$9.8 billion in new personal disposable income. Eliminating the franchise tax would make Texas one of only four states without a corporate income tax or gross receipts-style business tax, which would be a boon for investment, job creation, and economic growth."

*John Colyandro, Executive Director, and Tom Aldred, Director of Policy & Research-Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute*

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LIFESTYLE

Crosby student wins2016 Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizenship Award

Colleyville, TX – Constituting America is pleased to announce that Parker Emerich, of Crosby, Texas, is the winner of this year's Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizen Scholarship Award.

Parker, who attended Crosby High School and is now a freshman at Texas A&M University, is the third recipient of the award created in honor of Mr. Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr., who passed away on January 24, 2014. Parker was selected because he most exemplified the characteristics of Mr. Gauntt in the four cornerstone areas of the award: Stellar Academic Record Athletic Excellence Student Body Leadership Community Service.

Parker is an exceptional student who was inducted into the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta (math's honor society), earned the Principal's Award for Top Student of the Year and was named Distinguished Scholar for all 8 semesters of his high school career. He is an outstanding athlete who served as a 4-year captain



Parker Emerich

of his football team and was awarded 1st team All-District and All-State Academic team in football. He also exhibited leadership as a member of the student council as Senior Class Treasurer and was chosen as Student Ambassador for the Good Sportsmanship League. Finally, he was active in his community as a mentor to elementary and intermediate school students and volunteered to read at the community library.

"We chose Parker because we knew he had chosen to

attend Texas A&M, before we knew had chosen to join the Corps Cadets, before we knew he had chosen the Air Force unit and before we knew the nickname of Parker's squadron is "Hustlin' One," reminiscent of the B-58 Hustler my father flew. These amazing coincidences certainly validated our decision! Parker, as a high school student exemplified and as a Texas A&M student continues to exemplify, the remarkable life of my father, Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. said Constituting America's Founder and Co-Chair Jantine Turner.

Awarded to a new recipient each year, the Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizenship Award provides winners with a one-time scholarship payment of \$4,540 for the recipient to use toward higher education.

To nominate a student for the Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizen Award, go to: <http://www.constitutingamerica.org/blog/the-turner-maurice-gauntt-jr-exemplary-citizen-award/> Nominations due June 14, 2017.

GCCISD Board Honored with City Proclamation



Steve DonCarlos, (middle) presents a proclamation from the City of Baytown to the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees in honor of School Board Recognition Month. Pictured are (from left) Agustin Loreda, III, assistant secretary; Al Richard, president; Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent; GiGi Cockrell, member; DonCarlos; Jenice Coffey, member; Pete Papa, vice president; Jessica Woods, secretary and Howard Sampson, member.

Get Free Tax help near you

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 families.

There are three locations supported by the local volunteers:

- Sterling Municipal Library in Baytown, Tuesdays/Thursdays noon to 4 p.m.
- Stratford Library in Highlands, Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- North Channel Branch of Harris County Public Library, Thursdays noon to 4 p.m.

Services will begin on Thursday, February 2nd and conclude on Tuesday, April 18th.

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 statements
- SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits
- All 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc.)
- 1099R forms if 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

--NEW THIS YEAR...

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.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 1-888-227-7669 or visiting the website at [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

Baytown Junior School Mariachis performance

Baytown Junior School Mariachis perform during the opening exercises of a recent meeting of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees in honor of School Board Recognition Month. Pictured are (from left) Diego Deavila, Eriberto Sanchez and Daniel Lucatero. The group is under the direction of Jeanette Shackelford.



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

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

• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

**BAPTIST-Missionary**  
• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.

• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634

• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

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

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

BAPTIST-Southern

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

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

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

• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5415

• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448

• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518

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

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

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

INDEPENDENT

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

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

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

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

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

LUTHERAN

• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614

• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION

• Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. 281-576-5452.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

• Pentecostals of Crosby, 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX 77532, (281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

CHANNELVIEW, JACINTO CITY, GALENA PARK, HOUSTON

• Second Street Church of Christ, 15821 2nd. Street, Channelview, TX. 77530. [www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com](http://www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com)

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

• New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082

• Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232

• Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

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

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

BAPTIST-Southern

• Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

• South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

• First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. 713-672-2802.

• Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

CATHOLIC

• St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.

• Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.

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

EPISCOPAL

• St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

• Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

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

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

• Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

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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

# ASK THE EXPERT

## Diamond Jim: "Do you have a good story to share?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

There was a young man who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as he was getting his things 'in order,' he contacted his Priest and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wishes.

He told him which songs he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what outfit he wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Priest was preparing to leave when the young man suddenly remembered something very important to him.

"There's one more thing," he said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the Priest's reply.

"This is very important," the young man continued.

"I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Priest stood looking at the young man, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young man asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Priest.

The young man explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say,

"Keep your fork."

"It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming ...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'"

The man went on, "Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'"

The Priest's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young man good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see him before his death.

But, he also knew that the young man had a better grasp of heaven than he did. He had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice his age, with twice as much experience and knowledge.

He KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young man's casket and they saw the suit he was wearing and the fork placed in his right hand. Over and over, the Priest heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Priest told the people of the conversation he had with the young man shortly before he died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to him.

He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed.

They make you smile and encourage you to succeed.

Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share. Being friends with someone is not an opportunity, but a sweet responsibility.

Share this story with everyone you consider as a FRIEND... and I'll bet this will be something they will remember, every time they pick up a fork!

And just remember ... keep your fork!

The BEST is yet to come!

A personal note from Diamond Jim: "Although I did not write this story, the thought of cherishing the relationships of family and friends is very near and dear to my heart. Please, take a moment this week to be loving to someone who isn't expecting it...be kind to someone who perhaps does not deserve it...and be generous to someone who is in need. For giving (and forgiving) is its own reward. I wish you Peace my friends" Diamond Jim

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

## Rep. Hernandez responds to Governor Abbott's State of the State Address

AUSTIN, TX- January 31, 2017 – Governor Greg Abbott delivered his biennial State of the State Address.

"Governor Abbott said that 'the only good tax is a dead tax.' But he failed to stand up to the disastrous proposed Trump tax on Mexican imports that will increase costs for Texas consumers and devastate local businesses," said State Representative Ana Hernandez. "As Texas's largest trading partner, we should be working to im-

prove commerce, not support anti-business taxes."

"While the Governor failed to push back against this projected \$17 billion tax hike, he instead spoke in favor of hundreds of millions of dollars in wasteful, unaccountable 'border security' funding and has chosen to side against local law enforcement by supporting policies that will tear apart Texas families."

"These proposals will do nothing to create jobs,

grow our economy, or position Texas competitively on the world stage. Our state deserves better."

*Rep. Ana Hernandez represents District 143 in the Texas House of Representatives and is serving her sixth term. She serves on the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence and the House Committee on Pensions. District 143 includes part of Houston, Channelview, Cloverleaf and the cities of Galena Park and Jacinto City.*

## C. E. King High School Choir sings at January Board meeting



Members of the C. E. King High School Choir performed a song at the Jan. 17 school board meeting in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

## San Jacinto College presents events during Black History Month

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College presents a variety of events throughout February in observance of Black History Month.

This year's theme is "The Crisis in Black Education." Each campus will host events that are free and open to the public. Black History Month events are sponsored by the College's Office of Student Engagement and Activities and the Council on

Diversity and Inclusivity.

North Campus

•Black History Month Kick-off/Trivia, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Student Center Lobby (Building 12)

•Trip to the Movies: "Hidden Figures", Tuesday, Feb. 7, Time TBA, Tinseltown Movie Theater. Limited tickets available. Sign up in the Student Engagement Office.

•ThinkFast Game

Show. Thursday, Feb. 8, 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m., Student Center Lobby (Building 12)

•"The Importance of Black Education" Discussion. Tuesday, Feb. 21, 12 p.m., Monument Room (Building 12, second floor)

For more information about an event, call the Offices of Student Engagement and Activities – North Campus at 281-459-7167. For updates, please visit [sanjaco.edu/bhm](http://sanjaco.edu/bhm).

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**OBITUARIES**

**WAYNE MARSHALL MCINTOSH**

Wayne Marshall McIntosh was born in N. Charleroi, PA on February 16, 1940 and went to be with the Lord in Cleveland, TX on January 22, 2017.

Wayne attended Galena Park HS and was a member of the class of '58'. He then went on to college at Stephen F. Austin. He worked in the construction industry until retirement.

Wayne is survived by his wife Susan, his son James and wife Jeri, Stepson Michael and his family. His sister Margie Pyron and husband Howard. His brother in laws Douglas and Jeffrey Simmons in addition to many beloved nieces, nephews and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents James and Margaret McIntosh, sister Sally Roberts and husband Raymond C. Roberts, niece Dorothy Roberts-Abshire and stepson Russell McIntosh.

There will be a memorial service for Wayne to celebrate his life on February 11, 2017 at 1PM at the Oak Shade Baptist Church located at 1807 CR 2212, Cleveland, TX 77327, phone 281-593-1362.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

SERVICES

To All interested persons, the City of Jacinto City has received the following two Variance Hearing Applications.

1. 10122 Flaxman, Mr. Jose Laguna Jr. has removed his front Porch and wants to rebuild it in the same location which will be too close to the setback line.

2.10203 B Market Street, Mr. John Dutt wants to open a Tire Shop.

The Variance Board will hear the petition of February 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10301 Market Street. Any interested person may attend.

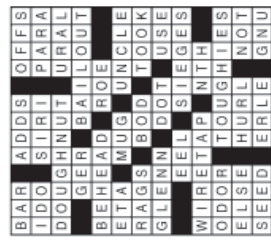
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LOCAL EVENT

The Wall That Heals.Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica & Mobile Education Center. Cuero Municipal Park. February 9th-12th, 2017. Open to Public. Free admission. Open 24 hrs. a day. www.cueroheritagemuseum.org.

LOCAL EVENTS

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4 Tosses in  
8 Slays, "Sop-  
ranos" style  
12 Altar affirma-  
tive  
13 Voice in an  
iPhone  
14 Law office  
aide, for short  
15 "Sinkin"  
17 Caspian  
feeder  
18 Teut.  
19 Financial  
rescue  
21 Decapitate  
24 Fish eggs  
25 Greek vowel  
26 Coffee holder  
28 Family mem-  
ber  
32 Tatters  
34 Physique  
36 Grabbed  
37 Astronaut  
John  
39 Speck  
41 Work with  
42 Wet wriggler  
44 Persistent  
attacks  
46 Bug  
50 To the —  
degree  
51 Smell  
52 Bafflers  
56 Otherwise  
57 Throw  
58 "To be or —  
..."

DOWN

1 Auction  
action  
2 Commotion  
3 Fiber  
4 Religious  
retreat  
5 Cacophony  
6 Defeat  
soundly  
7 Shankar's  
instrument  
8 Rich  
9 Gambling  
game  
10 Herr's wife  
11 Shaker con-  
tent  
16 "Golly!"  
20 Debtor's  
letters  
21 Ice mass  
22 List-ending  
abbr.  
23 Fix the sound-  
track  
27 Deity  
29 Cold symp-  
tom  
30 Misplace  
31 Stretches  
(out)  
33 Showed dis-  
dain  
35 Two, in  
Tijuana  
Butterfly  
catcher  
40 Feels pins  
and needles  
43 Workshop  
machine  
45 Ordinal suffix  
46 Troubles  
47 Not working  
48 American  
Beauty, e.g.  
49 Rain hard  
53 Web address  
54 A billion years  
55 Disco fan on  
"The Simp-  
sons"

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# North Channel Chamber 40th Annual Gala



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KIMBERLY GONZALEZ



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JIM WADZINSKI



COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
MARCILE BARNETT



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BILL PALKO



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CHARLES GRANT



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