

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City

VOLUME 3, NO. 02 (#55)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Rep. Gene Green to host Town Hall meetings

(Houston, TX) – Congressman Gene Green is hosting a series of town hall meetings throughout the 29<sup>th</sup> District of Texas in January and February. He will also host a Senior Citizens Issues Forum, Healthcare Enrollment Forum, E-waste Collection Drive, and a Paying for College Workshop.

"We're really looking forward to hosting these events," Green said. "Many of our constituents keep in contact with us throughout the year by writing or calling in, but there's no substitute for face-to-face conversation. Our town halls give me an opportunity to hear directly from my constituents and listen to their questions and concerns."

He added, "During our Senior Issues and Healthcare Enrollment forums, we connect our attendees with experts so they can receive personalized, one-on-one assistance. This year we're also hosting an E-waste Collection Drive where residents can recycle their unwanted electronic items. Our goal is to provide real, helpful services to our communities. We hope to see a lot of people taking advantage of these events and forums."

The event times and locations are listed below for Galena Park and Jacinto City area.

•Thursday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m. In Conjunction with Freeway Manor Civic Club. St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street, Houston, TX. 77034

#### Health Care Forum

•Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Channel Branch Library, 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston, TX. 77049

#### E-waste Collection

•Monday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. In Conjunction with Greater Magnolia/Pineview Place Civic Club at Magnolia Multi-Service Center, 7037 Capitol Street, Houston, TX. 77011.

## Rancor continues in Galena Park; Council walks out

### Mayor attempts to freeze bank checks

GALENA PARK – A special called city council meeting dissolved into near chaos on Monday afternoon, when members of the city commission or council, and the Mayor were unable to resolve a dispute over authority to sign checks for city obligations.

This is the latest disagreement that Mayor Moya has had with council members and the city administrator Robert Pruett.

The mayor has claimed, since taking office in January, that the council and administrator have been conducting city business in a way that violates the city charter. She has presented copies of the charter at council meetings, highlighting instances of non-compliance.



WALKING OUT — Galena Park commissioners Juan Flores, right, Lois Killough, city attorney Jim DeFoy, and city administrator Robert Pruett stand and prepare to leave the special called council meeting, after arguments about how the meeting was being run by Mayor Moya brought the proceedings to an unproductive halt. Monday's special meeting had been called to resolve the problem created when the Mayor's special counsel, attorney Edgardo Colon, had issued a letter to Galena Park's bank ordering the checking accounts to be frozen.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KPCC

Mayor Moya also claims her signature was illegally removed from the accounts, but city officials say she refused to put her name on the document.

The bank, Comerica, requires checks to have two authorized signatures to be honored and paid. In order for the city to continue paying its bills, Council voted a resolution in July to allow the mayor-pro tem, Danny Simms, to sign the checks in lieu of the mayor. This arrangement was approved by the city attorney, Jim DeFoy, and accepted by the bank. The city secretary must also sign, or as a backup the city administrator.

Moya's attorney, Edgardo Colon, sent a letter to the bank on January 2, demanding that they not honor city checks without Moya's signature. After several discussions be-

See COUNCIL WALKS, page 8

## East Freeway bank robber threatens to have bomb

The FBI needs the public's help identifying a bank robber who threatened to have a bomb during a mid-morning robbery of a Bank of America branch located inside an office building at 12605 East Freeway in Houston, Texas. Surveillance photographs of the bank robber are being released and a Crime Stoppers reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered for information leading to the bank robber's identity and arrest.

At approximately 10:05 a.m., the man entered the bank and approached a teller.

er. He passed the teller a note threatening to have a bomb. Tellers gave the man an undisclosed amount of cash which he placed inside a blue vinyl zippered bag. He left with the cash bag in his hands. Several customers were inside during the bank robbery, but no one was physically hurt.

The bank robber was described as a Hispanic male, about 5'3" – 5'5" with a stocky build. He wore a dark colored leather-type jacket with a grey hooded sweatshirt underneath, a blue colored knit hat, read-

ing glasses with wired frames, and one white glove covering his right hand during the robbery. He also carried a blue vinyl zippered bag into the bank and left with the bag full of cash.

Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$5,000.00 for information leading to the charging and arrest of this robber. If you have information about this case, please call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477), or the Houston office of the FBI at 713-693-5000.



Suspect wanted for bomb threatened in Bank of America robbery.

### NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER:

## Art Rascon to speak at North Channel Chamber's Annual Gala

Emmy Award winning Reporter Art Rascon will be the speaker at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards and Membership Gala. The Gala will be Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Marriot Houston Lobby, 9100 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX. 77017. Social Time from 6:30 - 7:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm.

Rascon joined ABC-13 in September 1998 to serve as anchor of the evening news. He has covered major news such as wars, conflicts in Iraq, Tsunami in Indonesia and Haiti earthquake as well as U.S. Presidential elections.

Rascon has reported from more than 50 countries, 5 continents and nearly every state

in the Union. He has been nominated for 25 Emmys and has won 19. He also has received other local and national reporting awards.

The National Hispanic Business Magazine named Rascon one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in America. And in 2008 he was named Houston Father of the Year; in 2010 he was honored with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award from Rotary International.

Rascon was born in El Paso, Texas and raised in Denver, Colorado. A graduate of Brigham Young University with additional studies of European Politics in Madrid, Spain.



Art Rascon

For reservations, please call 713-450-3600.

### CONGRESS UPDATES:

## Rep. Gene Green named Ranking Member of Health Subcommittee

(Washington, DC) – On Thursday, January 8, Representative Gene Green was elected by unanimous consent to serve as Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

"It is an honor to serve in leadership on the Health Subcommittee on behalf of our District and all Americans," Green said. "We've made great strides in health care reform, but some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens still lack access to the care they need. This Congress, one of our top priorities will be to address these gaps and foster a better system that will provide accessible, world-class care for all, regardless of age, gender, or income."

During the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Green was an active member of the Health Subcommittee and worked to address pressing health care issues. In 2013, he authored legislation to fund trauma care systems, and legislation to spur the development of treatments that combat drug-resistant bacteria. In 2009 and 2010, he was a strong supporter of health care reform legislation, including the House passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act and the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. He has also introduced and supported legislation on the Energy and Commerce Committee to expand access to quality health care, and pursued opportunities to improve access to coverage, including Medicaid expansion.



Rep. Gene Green

The Health Subcommittee has jurisdiction over public health, hospital construction, biomedical research and development, health information and technology, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance.



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SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FREE PARENT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING!

Galena Park ISD is offering FREE technology training for parents who have children in one or more GPISD schools!

Registration: Call 832-386-1038 Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Training Topics include Word Processing and Internet Tools.

There will be snacks and FREE babysitting for children under 12.

Training is being offered in both English and Spanish. Training will take place at Joyce Zotz Education Center, 13801 Holly Park, Houston Training Dates/Times: Select one training week (Monday-Thursday)

February 9-12 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

February 23-26 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

JANUARY

North Channel Library events

-Saturday, Jan. 17, 10am - 3 pm Scrapbooking with Mia; 2 pm, Faithful Paws.

-Monday, Jan. 19, LIBRARY CLOSED.

-Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Polliwog Club-Animals Underground.

-Wednesday, Jan. 21, 4:30 pm, Afterschool Craft.

-Thursday, Jan. 22, 10:30 am, Baby Time.

COMPUTER CLASSES:

-Intermediate Excel, Lecture, Jan. 26, 1-3 pm.

-Intermediate Excel, Practice, Jan. 28, 1-3 pm.

\*Requires registration

CLASES DE COMPUTACION:

-Intermedio Excel, Lectura, Jan. 27, 10am - 12 pm.

-Intermedio Excel, Práctica, Jan. 29, 10 am - 12 pm.

\*Se require registrarse.

Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other classes.

JANUARY

Galena Park Library events

-Monday, Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day, Library CLOSED.

-Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1 pm, Mecanografía; 4 pm, Typing.

-Wednesday, Jan. 21, 11 am, Story Time.

-Thursday, Jan. 22, 11 am, Baby Time.

Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.

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

GALENA PARK

School volunteer recognized at school board meeting

Bernice Hernandez, a volunteer at Cloverleaf Elementary School, was recognized for her service at the GPISD Board of Trustees meeting on January 13, 2015. For three years, Mrs. Hernandez has been an active member of the "Mama Bears," a group of parent volunteers who daily visit the campus to assist teachers

with their projects. She also assists with translating. "Mrs. Hernandez is a very special person on our campus. She is here daily to answer phones, communicate with other parents, and is always ready to assist in any way," said Joan LeBlanc, principal's secretary. The impact of the volunteers is felt on the campus.



Joe Stephens, GPISD Board of Trustees Vice-President; Bernice Hernandez, Lee Brown, Cloverleaf Elementary Principal; and Dr. Angi Williams, Superintendent of Schools.

CHS Science National Honor Society inducts new members



New members of the Channelview High School's Science National Honor Society.

Channelview High School's Science National Honor Society inducted several new members at a special ceremony recently in the campus Lecture Hall.

Participants included President: Mary Elliott, Vice President: Adriana Aguirre, Secretary: Judy Truong, Treasurer: Rubi Escamilla, Reporter: Abraham Elizarraras, and new inductees; Zachery An-

gell, Jessica Cortes, Lesly Cruz, Jorge Martinez, Cesar Perez, Erika Richey-Carson, Victor Sandoval, Erik Solis, Jessica Telles, Andrea Tellez, Elizabeth Tenorio.

Through their outstanding commitment to academic excellence in all coursework, especially in the area of Science, these students have earned special recognition by being



Channelview ISD recognizes Board Members

The contributions of seven community leaders in the Channelview Independent School District who give their time to help children are being recognized in January as part of School Board Recognition Month. "Local school board members work tirelessly and devote hundreds of hours to lead our students to success. Setting aside time in January is one small way to celebrate their service to our community," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent.

The board members serving Channelview ISD include Board President Kyle Campbell, Steven Dennis, Secretary Greg Johnstone, Parliamentarian Keith Liggett and members Raquel Dobbins, Patrick Lacy and Alex Yoarra.

"Our school board members are a vital link between the community and the classroom. They have a commitment to serve their community and ensure that all students are given every opportunity to excel through education. We appreciate our board members for giving of themselves and caring so much about every child enrolled in our schools," Ollis said.

Public viewing for instructional materials scheduled at Channelview

The Channelview ISD Curriculum and Instruction Department will provide a public viewing of proposed instructional materials for the 2015-2016 school year from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 5 in the Board Room of the Joyce Hendrix Educa-

tional Support Center, 828 Sheldon Rd.

Under Proclamation 2015, instructional materials under adoption are grades K-12 Social Studies, grades 9-12 Mathematics and some Fine Arts. For more information, call 281-452-8018.

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Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to: [northchannelstar@gmail.com](mailto:northchannelstar@gmail.com)

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# OPINION PAGE

## OPINION

### Bridging The Tech Divide

(NAPSI)—According to a recent Nielsen report, if you're like most Americans, you spend 11 hours a day with electronic media. For teenagers and young adults, the numbers are likely even higher. Data from Pew Research indicate that mobile Internet access is even more common among American teens than adults.

People are increasingly connected digitally—and it's altering the way we live. As a report published by the University of Michigan puts it, "The fabric of real communities in American life is slowly being rebuilt with virtual threads in on-line communities. Today, our individual identities exist within two types of communities—the physical and the virtual. Our desire for connection sets up our media experiences in today's world as proxies for 'community,' providing the depth of experience and interpersonal connections we crave."

The United States Department of State says, however, "Technologies can facilitate social change, but not create it. People are still in the driver's seat."

Exploring the effects of technology and how families and individuals deal with them is an insightful new movie called "Men, Women & Children."

Academy Award-nominated director Jason Reitman's film follows a group of teenagers and their parents as they attempt to navigate their relationships in an era of social media and online exchanges. A provocative snapshot of modern life, "Men, Women & Children" holds a mirror up to our society and poses thought-provoking questions about whether technology is indeed bringing the world closer together or driving us further apart.

"This film clearly reflects the complexities of our relationship to technology and how that affects our relationships with one another," said Dr. Larry Rosen, an internationally recognized expert in the psychology of technology and author of five books on the topic, including his latest, "iDisorder: Understanding Our Obsession With Technology and Overcoming Its Hold On Us." "As the film shows, technology can, in fact, help bring people together. But by not choosing to miss out on their virtual social world, many people are missing out on the real social world that's in front of them."

"Men, Women & Children" is available on Blu-ray, Digital and On Demand and stars Jennifer Garner, Adam Sandler, Ansel Elgort, Kaitlyn Dever and Rosemarie DeWitt.



### Proposal would put contracts under increased scrutiny

AUSTIN — Signaling his intent to promote transparency and accountability in the 84th Texas Legislature, House Speaker Joe Straus on Jan. 9 announced that in the coming weeks the House would release a budget proposal designed to strengthen oversight of state agency contracts. The Legislature convenes Jan. 13.

Agencies or institutions of higher education, under the proposal, would have to meet new reporting requirements prior to awarding a contract or making a purchase worth more than \$10 million, Straus said. Requirements also would apply to contracts and purchases worth more than \$1 million and which do not go through a competitive bidding process, he added.

At least 30 days prior to making such an expenditure, a state agency issuing a contract would have to notify the Legislative Budget Board, governor, state auditor, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, chair of the Senate Finance Committee and chairs of any other committees with jurisdiction over contracting. Along with that notification, an agency, before finalizing such a contract, would provide to the Legislative Budget Board and the others:

- Information about the nature of the contract and the vendor awarded it.
- A certification by the agency's executive director that the process used to award the contract or make the purchase complies with the state's Contract Management Guide, State of Texas Procurement Manual and all applicable laws.
- A certification by the agency's executive director that the agency can verify vendor performance and deliverables, payment of goods and services only within the scope of the contract, and other information.

Furthermore, Straus said, the next state budget "will make clear that the state comptroller should not allow the expenditure of funds if the Legislative Budget Board says the requirements listed above have not been met."

**AG Paxton is sworn in**  
Ken Paxton of McKinney was sworn in as Texas's 51st attorney general on Jan. 5 with Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, governor-elect Greg Abbott, lieutenant governor-elect Dan Patrick and Texas Supreme Court Justice Don Willett, family and friends present for the Senate Chamber ceremony.

Paxton, a McKinney Republican who served as a state senator from 2012 to 2014 and as a member of the Texas House from 2002 to 2012, suc-

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



so runoffs will be held in the near future between the top two vote-getters in each election.

In Bexar County, State Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, a Democrat, received 43 percent of the vote in a five-candidate race to fill the Senate District 26 seat vacated by Leticia Van de Putte. State Rep. Jose Mendez, also a Democrat, placed second, receiving 25 percent of the vote. The winner of the runoff will finish out the remainder of Van de Putte's four-year term, which expires in 2017.

In five-year race to succeed Tim Kleinschmidt as the state representative for House District 17 the top two vote-getters were Republicans John Cyrier, who received 46 percent of the vote, and Brent Golemon, who received 26 percent. The district includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Gonzales, Karnes and Lee counties. Kleinschmidt resigned from the House in November to accept a position as general counsel for the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Six candidates competed in the special election to succeed state Rep. Mike Villarreal in the San Antonio House District 123 seat. Democrat Diego Bernal received 47 percent of the special election vote and in the runoff will face Republican Nunzio Previtera who received 21 percent. Villarreal, like Van de Putte, is a candidate for mayor of San Antonio.

ceeds governor-elect Abbott as the state's chief law enforcement officer.

"We must be vigilant and stand our ground, guarding against the complacency that could erode everything that we've worked so hard to build," Paxton said after taking the oath of office. "We will remain steadfast in our dedication to principles and values that have made Texas great."

#### Ag chief Miller takes oath

Sid Miller of Stephenville was sworn in as Texas' 12th commissioner of agriculture before a crowd of family, friends, supporters and colleagues during a ceremony at the Capitol on Jan. 5.

Gov. Perry, who served as agriculture commissioner from 1991-1999, administered the oath. Present were Lt. Gov. Dewhurst, lieutenant governor-elect Patrick, three former Texas agriculture commissioners, several legislators and other state officials.

"Agriculture touches the lives of every man, woman and child in Texas more times a day than any other industry," Miller said. "It doesn't matter whether you live on a farm in Hockley County or in the suburbs of Houston. Life doesn't work without agriculture."

Miller, a cattle rancher, farmer and owner/operator of a commercial nursery business, previously served six terms as member of the Texas House of Representatives.

#### 3 races require runoffs

Special elections were conducted Jan. 6 for one state Senate seat and two state House seats. No candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote in any of the contests,

### Getting Rid of Clutter

By Matilda Charles

Whether you plan to stay in your home forever or sell it and move to smaller accommodations, getting rid of clutter can make your life easier and safer.

Here are a few very good reasons to declutter:

- Fewer opportunities to trip and fall. Consider what happens when a senior falls and breaks a bone: hospital, rehab and the question of where to go afterward. Can the senior go home and live independently again? Sometimes the answer is no.

- Organizing makes things easier to find.

- Clutter can be dangerous. If emergency services have to come to your house, will they be able to get to you? Or are pathways in rooms too narrow? Taken to an extreme, holding on to too many possessions can be called hoarding, and sometimes social services will step in to deal with it. Your best bet is to declutter long before it gets to that point.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Magazines and newspapers: Allow yourself three of each. When a fourth monthly magazine or daily paper arrives, throw out the oldest one in the stack.

- Keep incoming bills or correspondence in one spot, perhaps a basket or folder on the dining-room table, until you write checks or reply.

- Instead of viewing it as an overwhelming task, work on decluttering for an hour a day. Sort clothes you don't wear anymore, tackle stacks of paperwork, make a list of items to give away or donate, such as memorabilia, books or tools. Then arrange for pickup of your donated items.

- If things have accumulated on the floor, start there.

- Ask for help if you need assistance with lifting or hauling things away.

Decluttering is a process. Expect to have to go through things more than once before you reach your goal.

Matilda Charles regrets that she cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into her column whenever possible. Send email to columntreply2@gmail.com.

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafika@aol.com.

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LIFESTYLE



*Precinct2Gether celebrates 40 years*  
**Precinct2Gether is celebrating 40 years at Crosby Community Center at left depicted is the Staff with their annual Christmas Holiday Decorations "A Winter Wonderland."**  
**Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs please call (281) 462-0543.**



*Crosby Yard of the Month*  
**The Crosby-Huffman Chambers Beautification Committee would like to acknowledge and say Thank You to Franks Collision in Crosby for keeping Crosby Beautiful. It takes a lot of effort to keep up a great looking facility and the Chamber appreciates the hard work and dedication to our Community. They are located at 13313 FM 2100 @ Highway 90, or visit their web site at [www.franksr.com](http://www.franksr.com), or give them a call 832.434.4619**



**Glen Edwin Muldrow**  
  
Glen Edwin Muldrow, age 80, of Highlands went home to his Heavenly Father Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, at his home surrounded by family. He was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1934, in Houston, Texas to Hynes Stockton Muldrow and Blanche Denny Muldrow. Glen graduated from Lee High school in 1952, he served 2 years in the Army and was a Master plumber at M.S. Young Plumbing for 33 years, often volunteering for community organizations and those in need. Glen married Frances Arlene Irwin in 1953 and enjoyed 62 years of marriage. They had 3 children, 18 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Glen was

★  
**OBITUARIES**

a loving husband and father and was affectionately known as Pepaw to his grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other young people that loved him.

Glen was a faithful visitor of the sick and elderly. He enjoyed gardening, hard physical work, 3:00 coffee with Larkin McKay, Thursday morning breakfast with close family, listening to his granddaughters play the piano, spending time with great-grandchildren, and traveling throughout Texas visiting his out-of-town family and friends. His loved ones include his wife, Frances; daughter Shirley and son-in-law Larry Maddox of New Home, son Kevin and daughter-in-law Sandra Muldrow of Highlands, son Gene and daughter-in-law Becky Muldrow of Highlands; grandchildren Emily and Mary Maddox of Corpus Christi, Amy Baker and husband Tim of Lubbock, David and Ben Maddox of Lubbock, Sarah Hudson and husband Patrick of Austin, Bryan Muldrow and wife Jacquie of Mont Belvieu, Brittany Ramsey and husband Russell of Mont Belvieu, Adam and Nathan Muldrow of Houston, Katie, Stephen, Melanie, Julie, Kristin, Michael and Jason Muldrow of Highlands, and Dianna Muldrow of Aus-

tin; great-grandchildren Meredith and Ellie Hudson, Bennett and Sutton Muldrow, and Easton Ramsey; brother Robert Muldrow, sisters Betty King, Ann Tisdale and Carol Smith, and many cousins.

Remembering him will always bring a smile to each of us. He is preceded in death by his parents Hynes and Blanche Muldrow and sister Marie Rawls.

In lieu of flowers, share the gift of your time to visit and cheer an elderly friend, neighbor, or widow that you know – perhaps taking a gift of pecans, oranges, or something from your yard or garden, as Glen often did.

For those desiring to make a memorial gift, we suggest Houston Hospice a non-profit which provided our family with compassionate care. The family will receive friends from 5:00-8:00 on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Sterling-White Funeral Home. The service will be at 10:00A.M., Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church Highlands, with graveside service following at Sterling-White Cemetery.

God is very gracious, and we have peace and comfort knowing that Glen had put his faith in Jesus Christ and is now celebrating eternal life in Heaven with him.

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3. From Titus 1, Paul wrote that unto the pure all things are "what"? Gold, Righteous, Worthy, Pure  
4. What archangel is mentioned by name in the book of Jude? Gabriel, Silas, Michael, Melchizedek  
5. In 1 Kings 21, who forbade Naboth to give his vineyard to Ahab? The Lord, Jezebel, Absalom, Balaam  
6. In Psalm 103:5, what bird's youth is renewable? Dove, Eagle, Raven, Swallow  
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Lily; 3) Pure; 4) Michael; 5) The Lord; 6) Eagle

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Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."  
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# CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS



## North Shore Rotary donates to CHS JROTC

The North Shore Rotary Club recently presented the Channelview High School Army JROTC with a \$2,000 donation. CHS Principal Cindi Ollis and the JROTC cadets are shown accepting the donation from Rotary President Dr. Allatia Harris.

## Channelview Elles volunteer at Houston Food Bank



Over the holiday break, the Channelview Elles participated in helping the Houston Food Bank package food for the hungry in Houston. The Elles were humbled and excited to give back to the community through their service. Students that represented Channelview High School were Julissa Aleman, Kierra Boyer-Young, Kenya Brooks, Rykea Brooks, Alexis Bryant, Keyona Carpenter, Adryanne Coleman, Tiffany Conrad, Adriana Daniels, Tyzae Gaines, Kennedy Garrison, Kennedy Herderson, Tearlysa Johnson, Ashley Jones, Keondria Matthews, Sonserae Matthews, Chelsea Page, Brea Richardson, Breah Rogers, Raven Scott, Phillia Starghill, Kamryn Webb, Sharde Willis, Cayce Winnfield and Adeana Young. Sponsors for the group are La Kwanta N. Wheelock and Dorcassia Richard-Lewis.

## Rep. Ana Hernandez's statement on the President's proposal for Community College Affordability

Austin, TX – January 9, 2015 - "Today, the President proposed a plan that would invest in the potential of young Americans and entrust them with the economic future of our nation. By working with Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam on a national proposal to make community college affordable for a new generation of students, we would not only create an opportunity ladder that would help fulfill the promise of the American Dream, but also give the United States a distinct skills advantage in an increasingly competitive global labor market.

Texas is a national leader in many key industries- import/export, energy production, and healthcare. It finds itself increasingly competitive in high-skilled sectors such as software development and research. The Houston metropolitan area is a nexus for each of these key industries, and the communities I represent have been blessed by the increase of good-paying jobs tied to technical career paths in our region. Whether a student is seeking a maritime certification to work at the Port of Houston or is starting an academic path towards a master's degree in petroleum engineering, community colleges open doors which may be unavailable for some students. Making community colleges an affordable option to all not only helps fill critical industry needs, but delivers on our promise of Texas as a land of opportunity. As the President further details his policy proposal this month in his State of the Union Address, I look forward to working proactively with my colleagues in the Legislature to build on Texas's commitment to enhance workforce development and economic growth."

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



## Diamond Jim...What is the January birthstone?

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. *Garnet*, derived from the word *granatum*, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. *Garnet* is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet

to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India. *Diamond Jim* is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. 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). See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).



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CARLA A. ADCOCK The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is: c/o Weston Cotten 5223 Garth Rd. Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is current- ly being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner pre- scribed by law. Dated this January 13, 2015

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Waste Pits meeting eyes “Bring the Money Back”

HIGHLANDS – Concerned residents of this town met on Tuesday evening at the Community Center, to hear an update on the trial of alleged polluters in the San Jacinto river, that have endangered the health and economy of the townspeople.

Making presentations were Harris County attorney Rock Owen, and Environmental activist Jackie Young, representing TexansTogether and San Jacinto River Coalition.

Owen had been the lead attorney at the two month trial that ended in November, with the result that \$29.2 million dollars in fines were assessed by the Harris County court against Waste Management and its predecessor disposal company, McGinnis. These companies settled with the county by agreement. However, Owen said that the third defendant company, International Paper, was acquitted by a jury on a 10-2 vote of any responsibility for the pollution. Owen said the County is planning to appeal this decision, because many facts were excluded from the deliberations by the presiding Judge Caroline Baker.

Owen and County Attorney Vince Ryan have said that the proceeds, \$29.2 million, will be split between the legal fees, the state general fund, and the



Harris County attorney Rock Owen, and Environmental activist Jackie Young, made presentations and answered questions at the community meeting.

county general fund. However, the purpose of this meeting was to get public input on suggestions for a better use for the monies, with the idea that commissioners court, and perhaps the state, would return the monies to the community if worth while projects could be proposed. At present, the County Commissioners have discretion on how the money is used for their share.

A number of suggestions were made by the audience and some specialists that were present. These included:

1. Land conservation on the riverfront, a set-aside to buffer further pollution problem areas;
2. Water supply to High-

lands, from a more trusted source such as the City of Houston;

3. Dissemination of health information, warnings, and educational outreach regarding the dangers of the pollution in the river;

4. Remediation of other areas in addition to the known waste pits;

5. Provide sell testing and monitoring of private wells, which cannot now be paid for by public monies;

6. Water supply to areas that now only have wells;

7. Health Surveys, such as a complete epidemiology study;

8. Further testing of sedi-



Sam Sledge, standing, and Bud Hall, seated at left, made suggestions and asked questions regarding the disposition of the \$29.2 million proceeds from the fines levied at the trial.

ment and water quality in the river, over a period of time, and after storms.

Owen pointed out that under current law, the county cannot pay expenses of individuals who have suffered health problems or injuries. However, he noted that several private lawsuits were being pursued with this goal. He noted that groups have a better chance than individuals to win this type of lawsuit.

Owen also said that county attorney Vince Ryan was committed to having the toxic materials removed completely

from the river and the community. Besides the county lawsuit, there is also a federal EPA Superfund Site procedure, and private lawsuits still to be adjudicated, he said.

Owen noted that looking at a larger picture, it is possible that the state legislature will try to limit local authorities from being able to sue on environmental issues, which would not be in the best interests of area citizens.

Owen said that the county at present has no tools or authority to deal with people who are already sick or hurt by pol-

lution. Only private suits can bring any type of relief or compensation at the present time.

Questioned on how long all of this will take to resolve, Owen said years or longer. The EPA is not planning to issue a final decision until September 2015. Resident Bud Hall stated that there is an urgency for a few people that are already sick, and who have been “significantly harmed.”

Municipal water in Highlands is currently piped by the HCWICD from Baytown Area Water Authority, which is supplied from the Trinity River. However, many homes are on wells, not the water system, and may be subject to polluted water in their wells.

Chara Bebee, who has a son Christopher that had cancer, said “we should never forget the people here who have suffered, and were injured or died.”

Bob Allen, who works for Harris County Pollution Control, told the group that the Texas Health Department was planning a study of the area, to survey birth defects and cancer rates. However, this is not a full epidemiology study, which would require additional funding.

### COUNCIL WALKS, Continued from page 1

tween DeFoyd, Colon, and the bank's attorney, Shirley Halas, all parties agreed that it would be better to honor the checks and settle the matter through “the judicial and political processes.” However, the political process did not seem to work for the parties, as the council meeting on Monday

turned into a “circus atmosphere” according to one of the participants. The meeting only lasted about 12 minutes, before the councilpersons decided that they couldn't be heard or recognized by the Mayor, and it was fruitless to continue. A large audience, filled mostly with the Mayor's supporters, shouted comments and tried to speak although not officially recognized.

The bank, Comerica, added in their comments that they

had “never placed any type of restraint/hold on any of the City's bank accounts. There should be no disruption to payroll from our end.”

Councilman Juan Flores, obviously distressed at the events, said “she's playing Russian roulette with city finances. I think it's wrong.”

Council will meet again on Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. at city hall, to continue to work on the problem.

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