

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 5, NO. 03 (#157) THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

Sheldon FFA holds successful Livestock Show

FFA students from C. E. King high school held their 60th Annual Livestock Show, at the Ag barn on US90. Students had a total of 30 exhibits, and the total bids and add-ons brought in about \$40,200 for the exhibitors.

The North Channel Star is preparing a complete photo spread of entries, for a future issue. If you would like to help support that page with an ad, please call us at 281-328-9605.



THE GRAND CHAMPION STEER was exhibited by Alfonso Trevino, and sold for \$4200. The buyer was Javier Soto-Zorros Welding & Fabrication.

North Channel Chamber Gala

Saturday, January 28th, 2017. Social: 6:00 pm. Past Chairmen GROUP PICTURE: 6:30 pm. (All past chairmen must report to the ballroom dancefloor). Dinner - 7:00 pm. Location: Houston Hobby Airport Marriott, 9100 Gulf Frwy, 77017. RSVP to Blanca@ncchamber.com for this special event.

Highlands Rotary Club 42nd Annual Chili Feast

February 4, 2017 you can win a 2017 Chevy Camaro or Chevy pick-up truck. Tickets are \$100. Only 700 will be sold. Call 713-252-8000.



Democrats rally to save Obamacare

Health Fair, Press Conference by representatives

HARRIS COUNTY -- Federal, state and local Democratic office holders held a joint news conference, and health fair, on Sunday at the Greater Jerusalem Baptist Church on Jensen Drive.

The purpose of the meeting was to call attention to the possibility that the Republican led Congress will change or eliminate the current ACA healthcare program, also known as Obama Care. The meeting was sponsored by ACA Healthcare, Page 6



A unified group of Democrat officials spoke out in favor of saving the current Healthcare law. Included were Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Congressman Al Green, State Rep. Armando Valle, Congressman Gene Green, and State Sen. Sylvia Garcia. The conference was held at the Greater Jerusalem Baptist Church on Jensen, in memory of Martin Luther King Day.

LyondellBasell donates \$100,000 for specialized training for six Area Fire Departments



GRANT RECIPIENTS: (L-R) Assistant City Manager for Mont Belvieu Nathan Watkins; TEEEX Fire Chief Robert Moore; Houston Fire Dept. Dist. Chief Troy Lilley; Houston Fire Dept. HazMat Chief Terry Colburn; Mont Belvieu Mayor Nick Dixon; LyondellBasell CEO Bob Patel; Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner; Mont Belvieu Fire Chief Kenny Baumbach; Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena; Pasadena Fire Chief Lanny Armstrong; Channelview Assist. Fire Chief Charles Villegas; Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Chief Sidney Webb; LyondellBasell Manager of Emergency Services Peter Greco

See Specialized Training, Page 4



Houston Rodeo welcomes Eleven newcomers to the rotating stage in 2017

HOUSTON — More than half of the star-studded entertainer lineup scheduled to perform at RODEOHOUSTON will take the rotating stage for the first time in 2017.

"With a number of RODEOHOUSTON veterans and entertainers who are new to the rotating stage, the March entertainment schedule is set," said Joel Cowley, president and CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. "Houstonians can see a diverse offering of incredibly talented artists at truly affordable prices."

Tickets went on sale

Saturday, Jan. 14 through AXS Ticketing via rodeohouston.com. STAR ENTERTAINMENT

A mix of soulful blues, pop/dance music and traditional country tunes will grace NRG Stadium March 7 – 26 as the 21 entertainers set to perform at RODEOHOUSTON represent diverse musical genres.

The 2017 entertainment lineup is one of the most awarded in RODEOHOUSTON history, with a collective 209 music industry accolades, three hall of fame inductees, and three Grand Ole Opry members.

Tuesday, March 7..... Aaron Watson
Wednesday, March 8* Old Dominion
Thursday, March 9 Chris Stapleton
Friday, March 10 Alicia Keys
Saturday, March 11 Alan Jackson
Sunday, March 12..... The Chainsmokers
Monday, March 13 Sam Hunt
Tuesday, March 14 Meghan Trainor
Wednesday, March 15* Thomas Rhett
Thursday, March 16 Luke Bryan
Friday, March 17 Fifth Harmony
Saturday, March 18 Willie Nelson
Sunday, March 19 – Go Tejano Day Banda El Recodo and Siggno
Monday, March 20 Florida Georgia Line
Tuesday, March 21 ZZ Top
Wednesday, March 22* Chris Young
Thursday, March 23 Blink 182
Friday, March 24 Dierks Bentley
Saturday, March 25 Brad Paisley
Sunday, March 26 Zac Brown Band

*Value Wednesdays include \$10 upper-level Rodeo tickets, plus values throughout NRG Park.

COMMUNITY

Local Rotary clubs hold membership drives

NORTH CHANNEL -- Rotary Clubs throughout the Houston District, 5890, are making a major recruiting effort to expand their clubs. In this area, both the North Shore Rotary, and the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary, have put an emphasis on attracting new members.

One of the North Shore members, Derrill Painter, is the District Membership co-chair this year, and Maria Rodriguez of the GP/JC club has functioned as a membership co-chair.

The theme for this campaign is "Growing Rotary" with the goal of each of the 63 clubs in the district adding at least one new member, and in some cases one per quarter.

If you are interested you may contact Derrill or Maria, at 832-473-5729 to learn more about Rotary and to be a guest at a weekly luncheon.



Meeting recently at the Galena Park/Jacinto City club were Bill Palko, Sandra Liu, Derrill Painter, president Josh Moreno, and 5890 District Governor Eric Liu. Membership was the topic of the lunch.



North Shore Rotarians pose in front of a stretch limo that has been decorated by Rotarian Amir Khan, to attract new members as it drives through the District. Contact info is on the side lettering.

APPRECIATION

Sheldon ISD recognizes employees of the month



Members of the Sheldon ISD school board recognized the district's Operations Department Employees of the Month for November at the Dec. 13 school board meeting in the Ney Administration Building Board Room.

Pictured (from left) are Ken Coleman, SIDS Board President; Ben Taylor, Maintenance Employee of the Month; Debra Carmouche, Transportation Employee of the Month; Dusty Melton, Custodial Employee of the Month; and King Davis, SIDS Superintendent.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GCM Dazzler to Perform Paws Across America at Inaugural Gala 2016 working for Crosby

By Susan Passmore

Jailene Marquez, senior captain of the Goose Creek Memorial High School Dazzler Dance Team, has been selected to represent GCM, Goose Creek CISD and Baytown, Texas, as one of 25 All State dancers to perform at the Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Gala in Washington, D.C. January 19, 2017. The invitation comes from the Texas State Society through Texas Dance Educator's Association (TDEA).

Co-directors of the Dazzlers, Marisa Coy Yepez and Larisa Coy, will accompany Marquez to Washington, D.C. Although there is no funding for the trip, Marquez and her directors said they are more than happy to pay for this opportunity to attend this prestigious event.

"I have known Jailene since she was in sixth grade at Highlands Junior. I taught her in sixth grade and was able to see her grow into a beautiful young lady and dancer," said Marisa Coy Yepez. "I have seen her passion of dance and technique encourage our team to strive for excellence. This performance is a remarkable opportunity that she will remember for years to come!"

After the TDEA conference last week, performers learned a piece



All State dancer Jailene Marquez (middle), captain of the Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers is pictured with co-directors of the Dazzlers Marisa Coy Yepez (left) & Larisa Coy (right). Jailene is one of the 25 Texas Dance Educator's Association All State Dancers who will perform at the Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Gala in Washington D.C. on January 19, 2017.

choreographed by Eve Robinson, director of the Alvin High School Jacketeers, to be performed at several venues and times during the ball. The dancers will wear their school's traditional dance team uniform with a sash representing their hometown.

"This is such an amazing opportunity to represent my school and community," said Marquez. "I can't wait to share my passion for dance with other schools. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity!"

While in Washington, D.C., the dancers will visit the National Mall, Smithsonian Museums, Arlington National Cemetery and other historical landmarks as

well as take a night tour of the city.

Marquez is the daughter of Sandra Marquez, art teacher at Bañuelos Elementary. She has served as captain of the Dazzlers for two years and plans to dance at the University of Houston or Lamar University next year.

"Jailene is an exemplary leader and dancer. Her position as captain of the Dazzlers has inspired others to dance with their heart," said Larisa Coy. "We are so proud of her and this amazing opportunity! She deserves this experience with all of the accomplishments she has achieved during her high school career."

By Vonda Smesny

Thanks to the Crosby Wal-Mart shoppers several of our furry friends in shelters that depend on us for survival, will be well feed and taken care of this winter. Not everyone is an animal lover, however these creatures are a gift from God put here for our enjoyment.

Regardless of how greedy we are or concerned with our own lives, I believe God wants us to care for one another regardless of who we are. These little animals give so much love asking for nothing but a home. My heart goes out to all who gave and understand this special bond. We can't care for all the strays but every little bit helps. Thank you to all of Crosby and Wal-Mart for letting us use their store for this very essential purpose. It feels so good to do something extraordinary and make a difference.



Volunteers collecting donations for local animal shelters outside Walmart in Crosby.



Volunteers supporting Paws Across Texas.



Paws Across America collected \$819 dollars and 600 lbs. of food in Crosby to distribute to local animal shelters.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FM 2100 from Future State Highway 99 to Huffman-Cleveland Rd (North)

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a public meeting on **Thursday, February 9, 2017, at the May Community Center, located at 2100 Wolf Rd, Huffman, TX, 77336.** The purpose of the meeting is to present the proposed improvements to Farm-to-Market (FM) 2100 from Future State Highway 99 to Huffman-Cleveland Rd (North) in Huffman, Harris County, Texas. This meeting will be held in an open house format from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **No formal presentation will be made.**

The proposed project is the reconstruction and widening of the existing facility from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided roadway with a raised median and the construction of new four-lane divided roadway with a raised median from FM 1485 to future SH 99. The proposed improvements and new roadway construction would accommodate anticipated traffic demand and growth in the region while enhancing safety by providing a divided highway with raised medians and dedicated left turn lanes at select intersections and cross-streets. Wider shoulders and new sidewalks would also be provided. The proposed roadway design would include two 12-foot travel lanes, a 12-foot shoulder, and a 5-foot sidewalk in each direction divided by an 18-foot-wide raised median. The roadway would have open ditches and detention ponds. The proposed project area includes approximately 4.5 miles of existing roadway and 1.2 miles of new roadway. Approximately 91 acres of new right-of-way (ROW) would be required for the proposed project, including detention ponds. The proposed project may include potential displacements of seven residences, two commercial properties as well as two churches. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displacees, as well as information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT Houston District office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses.

Maps and other drawings showing the proposed project's location, geometric design, and environmental constraints will be available for viewing at the public meeting. Other information about the proposed project is on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District Office located at 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. To schedule an appointment at the Houston District, please contact Mr. Chance Norman, at (713) 802-5251. The information will also be posted online on TxDOT's website: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/houston/020917.html>. Information will also be made available for viewing at the North Harris County Area Office, located at 16803 Eastex Freeway (I-69/US 59), Humble, Texas 77396. To schedule an appointment at the North Harris County Area Office, please call (281) 319-6400.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting. Written comments from the public regarding this project may be submitted at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted either in person or by mail to the TxDOT District Office, Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments must be postmarked, submitted through the website, or emailed to HOU-PIOWebMail@txdot.gov on or before **February 27, 2017**, to be included in the Public Meeting Summary.

The public meeting will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Houston District Public Information Office at 713-802-5076. Requests should be made at least five days before the public meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



Claudia Leblanc Jenny Hinson Donna Haynes
Jodie Roane Jack Noonan Kathy Laramore

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SCHOOL NEWS

SHELDON ISD:

King High School grads return to share first year college experience



A few C.E. King Class of 2016 graduates spent some time during their winter break to share their first-year college experiences with current KHS students.

Sheldon Elementary Science and Technology Fair

Sheldon ISD student Trevor Barnes displays his first-place ribbon in his grade division for his science project at Sheldon Elementary Science and Technology Fair Jan. 11 at Carroll Elementary School. (photo by DERIK MOORE/ Sheldon ISD).



Sheldon ISD Rodeo Art Exhibit

Sheldon ISD students in PreK through grade 12 participated in the annual Sheldon ISD Rodeo Art Exhibit Jan. 9 in the King High School Annex cafeteria.



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 filers.

There are three locations supported by the local volunteers:

•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.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sheldon ISD Science, Technology Fair

Sheldon ISD's Science and Technology Fair will be Jan. 11 at Carroll Elementary. The events will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in both the gymnasium and cafeteria.

Channelview Senior Citizens Garage Sale

Neighborhood Garage Sale, Sponsored by Channelview Senior Citizens. Saturday January 21st 9AM - 2PM. Flukinger Community Center. 16003 Lorenzo. Channelview, TX. Table rentals available for \$10. Call 281-457-1810

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.

JC/GP Metro Go Texan BBQ Cook-Off

The Jacinto City/Galena Park Metro Go Texan Subcommittee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is once again hosting its annual BBQ Cook-Off. This will take place January 13-14, 2017, at the North Shore Rotary Pavilion located on Wallisville Road. All proceeds raised at this event go toward awarding scholarships to deserving high school senior from Galena Park High School and North Shore Senior High. Our committee is responsible for multiple \$18,000 scholarships.

They are in need of VIP Judges on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Please contact Terri Moore at tmoore@galenaparkisd.com, phone: 832-832-1063 or text: 832-256-5079.

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COMMUNITY PAGE

Specialized Training,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HOUSTON, Jan. 13, 2017 — LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB), one of the world's largest plastics, chemical and refining companies, announced a donation of \$100,000 to fund specialized emergency training for six Houston-area fire departments that serve key industrial corridors.

The donation will underwrite hazardous materials (HazMat) training scholarships for fire departments in Houston, Channelview, Pasadena, La Porte, Sheldon and Mont Belvieu. Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), an internationally-recognized leader in emergency response training and firefighting, will administer the training to the fire departments.

"We recognize the challenges fire departments in Houston and smaller outlying communities face in obtaining this unique type of training. We believe in being a responsible, good neighbor where we operate and are pleased we can help in saving lives and protecting our communities," said Bob Patel, LyondellBasell CEO and chairman of the management board. "We are honored to play a small role in ensuring that the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day are even better prepared to safely do their jobs."

The greater Houston area is home to many industrial facilities including refineries, storage terminals and chemical plants that handle a variety of materials and products. The TEEX courses will train firefighters specifically in handling incidents

involving different hazardous materials that require specialized response tactics.

According to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, the training provided by the scholarship donation is an essential resource that will help prepare area fire departments for all types of emergencies.

"This donation will go a long way toward better equipping our firefighters with the expertise they need when responding to industrial related emergencies," said Turner. "LyondellBasell is such a wonderful community partner. They never hesitate to step forward to help out. I want to thank them for their generosity."

The LyondellBasell donation will provide more than 1,200 hours of instruction in TEEX's HazMat training program. Fire departments will have the option of attending classes either at the Brayton Fire Training Field in College Station, Texas, or onsite at their fire stations using TEEX's mobile training units.

"This generous donation by LyondellBasell will help enhance the region's operational and hazardous materials response readiness. With Houston being the 'energy capital of the world,' it is important that we stay up to date with the dynamic arena that is hazardous materials," said Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena. "I would like to thank Mayor Turner and Bob Patel for their leadership and commitment to our area fire departments."

The donation of HazMat training is LyondellBasell's most recent effort to partner with and support local first responders.

The company regularly coordinates with fire departments and other mutual aid groups to cross train at its facilities in order to increase overall response effectiveness. The company also donated funds to purchase essential safety equipment for Harris County Sheriff's Industrial Unit Deputies, tactical vests for the Houston Police Department, and three rescue boats for the Houston Fire Department.

About LyondellBasell

LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB) is one of the world's largest plastics, chemical and refining companies, with more than 4,000 employees in the greater Houston area and 13,000 employees worldwide. LyondellBasell products and technologies are used to make items that improve the quality of life for people around the world including packaging, electronics, automotive parts, home furnishings, construction materials and biofuels. More information about LyondellBasell can be found at www.lyb.com.

About Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

TEEX is an internationally recognized leader in the delivery of emergency response, homeland security and workforce training, technical assistance and economic development. Last year, TEEX served more than 168,000 people from every U.S. state and territory and 82 countries worldwide. TEEX makes a difference by providing training, developing practical solutions and saving lives. More information about TEEX can be found at www.teex.org.

Channelview ISD's January Students of the Month



Channelview ISD recently honored their January Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. The January Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Samuel Diaz-Martinez (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Cindy Ortiz (Channelview High School), Lizbeth Aguirre (Alice Johnson Junior High), Diego Zuniga (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center) and Brandon Marshall (Aguirre Junior High). Pictured bottom row, from left, Molly Ovalle (Cobb Elementary), Kimberly Ramirez (McMullan Elementary), Yelenia Sanchez (Brown Elementary), Axel Rodriguez (DeZavala Elementary), Yelena Salinas (Crenshaw Elementary), Katelyn Diaz (Schochler Elementary) and Eduardo Lara (Hamblen Elementary).

Mary Louise Thane Gerold Dec. 3, 1924 – Jan. 19, 2016

Preceding Mary Louise are her parents: Heinrich Karl (Henry Charles) Thane & Sarah Ellenora Hickok Thane.

Mom, it's been a year since you left to go home. Your five children miss you along with your 10 grandchildren; 8 great, and one great great grandchild. We cherish and appreciate the Christian example you lived and Thank You for the

OBITUARIES



values of life you taught us.

James 1:12 (paraphrase) God blesses those who endure the test and they will receive the crown of life promised to those who love him.

Thank you mom and may we pay in forward, so we can all enjoy the riches of God's promises in this life and spend eternity with ALL who love HIM.

We love you.

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Gen Sales Mgr

Anthony Jordan
Sales Manager

JON Hershbarger
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PAUL Kiessling

JASON Lowry

DEBBIE Fannin

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Daphna Hotchkiss (third from left) and Mary Beth Hrabina (third from right) from H & H Tractor and Lawn Equipment, LTD, a Silver Sponsor to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, attend the Vendor's Luncheon, sponsored by the Education Foundation. They are pictured with (from left) Jessica Woods, GCCISD Board secretary and Education Foundation Board member; Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent; Jenice Coffey, GCCISD Board member and Education Foundation Board member and Kathy Clausen, Education Foundation president.



Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation accepts a Gold level donation from Hotchkiss Disposal Services, LTD at the Vendor's Luncheon. Pictured are (from left) Don Bobo, Education Foundation Board member; Jessica Woods, Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees secretary and Foundation Board member; Ryan Hotchkiss; Sammy Hotchkiss; Daphna Hotchkiss; Ronnie Hotchkiss, Foundation Board member; Jenice Coffey, Foundation Board member and Kathy Clausen, Education Foundation president.



Gilbert Santana (second from left), Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation past president and president of BDI Resources, Inc., gives Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, a Gold level donation to the Education Foundation at the Vendor's Luncheon. Also pictured are (from left) Sandra Bell, vice president of marketing and events; Kathy Clausen, Education Foundation president and Ronnie Hotchkiss, Education Foundation Board member.



SENIOR NEWS LINE
Where to Live in Retirement

By Matilda Charles

Where's the best place to retire? In your state or hometown, or right where you are? The answer might not even be in the United States. The 2015 Global AgeWatch Index is an eye-opener. First on the list is Switzerland as the best place for older people to live. It was followed by Norway, Sweden and Germany. So where on the list is the United States? Number nine, right behind Iceland and Japan. Some of the typical warm-weather retiree countries ranked as follows: Spain (25), Costa Rica (28) and Thailand (34).

Each country was ranked on 13 areas, consolidated into four key points: enabling environments, income security, health status and personal capability.

Yet the whole story about a country might depend on which list you read. For example, while the Global AgeWatch Index ranks Australia at No. 17, another less-scientific study ranks it in fifth place. And the Costa Rica in 28th place becomes the No. 1 spot in another list.

If you're searching online for information about retirement locations, beware. Consider the source of the information. Read the fine print. If kudos go to a country because it has an easy visa and residency process, that doesn't tell you what it will be like once you live there.

If a "study" was written by an investment company telling you what your likely monthly costs will be, that's fine, but it doesn't tell you about the quality of life and health care. Panama, coming in at No. 20 on the AgeWatch Index, gets high marks on another list because those who can prove a \$1,000 monthly income are given discounts on entertainment and phone bills.

LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Giving Honor

In my office hangs an old, old picture of two quail dogs "on point." One dog is stopped several feet behind the other one. That is called "honoring a point" in quail dog terms. It is truly a beautiful sight to watch and a wonderful life lesson. However, a dog that has to have all the glory can ruin a great experience. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in honoring one another." (Romans 12:10)

BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Jonah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 - 2. From Luke 3, whose voice was of one crying in the wilderness? Joseph, John the Baptist, Andrew, Paul
 - 3. How many times did the Israelites march around the walls of Jericho? 1, 2, 7, 13
 - 4. From 2 Chronicles 9:25, Solomon had how many stalls for horses and chariots? 100, 560, 1,180, 4,000
 - 5. Whose eye was Moses referring to in the song, "The apple of his eye"? Own, Lord, Idol, Storm
 - 6. In 1 Kings 17, the ravens brought Elijah bread and ...? Water, Oil, Flesh, Nuts
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) John the Baptist; 3) 13; 4) 4,000; 5) Lord; 6) Flesh

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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: "What's a good way to propose to my girlfriend?"



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You've found the right person. You've found the right ring. Now you have to find the right moment to pop the question.

So how do you make your proposal turn out flawlessly? We have plenty of tried-and-true tips to help you, but overall, it all comes down to just one thing: effort.

Putting in real effort, thought and love into your proposal makes all the difference. Remember, your proposal doesn't have to change the world. It just has to show your partner that they mean the world to you.

Here are a few tips that will help you along the way:

KNOW THE ANSWER

Your proposal should be surprising, but it shouldn't come directly out of left field. Before you pull a ring out, have a good idea how your partner will respond. "Will you marry me?" shouldn't be your first discussion on the subject.

RULES OF THE ENGAGEMENT (RING)

Here's where a little bit of effort goes a long way. The history of the diamond as an engagement ring first became popular in the 1930's, but the idea of an engagement ring has been around for centuries.

If you're still deciding on a diamond engagement ring, consider doing some window shopping with your partner prior to making a purchase. If you want to keep things more secre-

tive, talk to your partner's friends and family to get a feel for their taste.

Another option is to use a stand-in ring for the proposal. Perhaps you can use their great grandmother's diamond engagement ring, and then take your partner shopping later. (A trusted jeweler can tell you everything you need to know about how to buy a diamond and will take the time to help educate both of you).

PEACE-OF-MIND

Do your homework before buying the engagement ring. Most importantly, find a jeweler you trust.

And, since you're making such a big investment, make sure you insure the ring as soon as you purchase it. Your knowledgeable jeweler should be willing and able to discuss this with you. One option is that you may be able to insure it for an additional cost under your homeowner's or tenants insurance policy.

ASK PERMISSION, NOT FORGIVENESS

Before you take a knee, take the time to speak with your partner's parents first. Asking permission is a tradition carried since the Roman times, and it's a great way to make a good impression on your future in-laws.

BE CREATIVE

This is your chance to shine. A good Jeweler should have several ideas that will help you to be creative when "popping the

question". You could also use modern technology for a Twitter proposal.

No matter what you do, just put your heart into it. Here are a few ideas to get your started:

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Propose via video or in person from an extreme location - atop a mountain, while skydiving, or on the shores of a romantic and faraway beach.

KEEP IT TRADITIONAL

In an intimate setting, preferably one with family and friends waiting nearby, drop to one knee and let your heart do the talking.

SPREAD THE NEWS

Your partner will most likely handle this for you, but make sure to share the big news with people you know. You might also consider sending out an engagement announcement.

CELEBRATE

You did it! Consider toasting your engagement with a night on the town, a glass of bubbly or a celebration with friends and family.

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

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

Million dollar scholarship endowment completed

PASADENA, Texas - Students at San Jacinto College can now have a fully-dedicated scholarship source, as the Promise For Their Future scholarship endowment has reached its goal of being completely funded at \$1 million dollars.

"We reached the milestone that we set before ourselves," said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director for advancement. "It came through the generosity of so many. This legacy will provide scholarships for local students who will be the future leaders of our community. Our service to them may be their inspiration to achieve great things."

For many students, financing their education is often the barrier that prevents them from attempting a higher educational pathway or even completing their certificate or associate degree. San Jacinto College student Antonio Moran was worried about paying for the upcoming semester when he received the news that he was a recipient of a Promise For Their Future scholarship.

"This scholarship will definitely help me focus on my studies rather than worry about tuition for next semester," said Moran. "I know there were a lot of deserving students who applied for this scholarship so I am extremely thankful and honored that I was selected as a recipient. This scholarship is like the stepping stone to the road of success. I truly believe that with a little help and a strong will anything is possible. I am deeply appreciative of the San Jacinto College Foundation's support."



The San Jacinto College Foundation Promise For Their Future scholarship endowment has reached its goal of being completely funded at \$1 million dollars. Photo credit: Andrea Vasquez, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations and government affairs department.

Student Karina Martinez was also named one of this year's recipients. "I am deeply moved by being selected as a recipient of the Promise For Their Future Scholarship," she said. "I am the first in my family to earn a degree and this scholarship has enabled me to become a full-time student as I pursue my associate degree in general studies."

For more information about how to give to the San Jacinto College Foundation, visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

Democrats want to save ACA healthcare,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sored by Congressmen Gene Green, and Al Green. Gene Green reminded the audience that the public can still sign up for ACA, the Affordable Care Act, until January 31. Commenting on the Republican attempt to replace the ACA act, he said "Mend it-Don't End it."

In some fiery rhetoric, Al Green said that if "TrumpCare" replaces "ObamaCare" some 20 to 30 million people will lose health care. The local Harris Health department will also lose money. He commented that he and Gene Green had worked together on this issue since 2005, and he characterized Gene as "the Friend of the Work-

ing People."

Sylvia Garcia said that now in Texas 1 million people rely on ACA, and the state should expand it to include Medicaid for an additional 1.2 to 1.3 million who do not now have healthcare. She derided the Republican plan as "TrumpNoCare."

Walle said that as a member of the budget committee in the state legislature, he is working to keep the ACA program and expand Medicaid. He agrily denounced what he termed failed leadership at the state level.

He characterized the need for the ACA act as a matter of Life and Death, and the public need the vital health coverage that the state is withholding.

He reminded the audience that the main beneficiary of Medicaid is the elderly and children.

Commissioner Rodney Ellis, recently elected to his position in Harris County Precinct 1, said that the ACA act is the most important issue facing the county, because healthcare is the largest item in the budget, with the justice system following second. However, he noted that much expense related the administering the justice system, and jail, is related to healthcare costs.

Congressman Gene Green concluded on a somber note, "If you don't have HealthCare, you will die."

Green was recently named as the ranking Democratic member of the

subcommittee on Health in the 115th Congress.

He said "It is an honor to continue to serve in leadership on the Health Subcommittee on behalf of our District and all Americans." Because of our work 20,000 people in our District and 20 million Americans are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act and from other key legislation that is increasing families' and children's access to health care."

Green added, "The Committee on Energy and Commerce will be on the frontlines against the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans who are quick to repeal the ACA without a plan, proposed legislation, or an idea of how to replace it. Our battle is to make sure that Republicans know the huge cost that the American people will bear because of their decision to put politics over the interest of our citizens."

During the 114th Congress, Rep. Green was an active member of the Health Subcommittee and worked to address pressing health care issues. These included Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization, legislation to increase help in treatment of prescription opioids abuse, the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, which will accelerate cures to patients, especially in the field of cancer, and funding bills for CHIP and Community Health Centers.

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