

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER



North Channel STAR Inaugural coverage

See Page 8 for exclusive photo coverage of the inaugural from our own Jerry and Juli Fallin.

Rep. Gene Green Town Hall meeting

Congressman Gene Green is hosting a Town Hall Meeting:

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

GP/JC

COMMUNITY-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP (CIP)

February 5, 2015-Building Plant Awareness of the CIP Community History. Meetings take place at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building beginning at 5:45 p.m.

•Host plant introductions help members learn what CIP plants make or do. This meeting is aimed at helping plants learn more about their CIP communities.

•Sue Edwards, who was born in a log cabin on 2nd Street in Galena Park, will share her knowledge of the history of that city. Lon Squyres, CIP member and city manager of Jacinto City will share his knowledge of that city.

•Dorothy Harding will talk about the Harding Hotel that occupied the site of what is now McDonald's.

Rodeo Art Show "kicks up dust" at North Shore HS

Seven winners will exhibit at HLS&R

The Galena Park Independent School District's annual Rodeo Art Show was held on Thursday, January 15 in the North Shore Senior High School auditorium. This event featured artwork by approximately 450 students in grades K-12 from each elementary, middle and high school campus in the district.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ School Art Committee judged the 2015 GPISD Rodeo Art Show and bestowed special recognition on seven pieces of artwork selected as "Best in Show" and "Gold Medal" winners. Those winning pieces will be prominently displayed in the HLSR's Hayloft Gallery at the Reliant Center throughout the duration of this year's Rodeo. Approximately 50 pieces of art, as determined by the final round of Grand Prix judging, will be auctioned. Every participant in the School Art Program is a winner, receiving a

certificate of merit signed by the Show president, and a blue, red or white ribbon for achievement.

This year's elementary "Best of Show" winner was **Houston Towner** (Havard Elementary) and the "Gold Medal" winner was **Trinity Garcia** (MacArthur Elementary). The middle school "Best of Show" winner was **Marlene Santaloya** (Woodland Acres Middle School) and the "Gold Medal" winner was **Daniel Medina** (North Shore Middle School). The high school "Best of Show" award went to **Maria Rivera** (North Shore Sr. High School). High school "Gold Medal" awards went to **Adam Garcia** (North Shore Sr. High School) and **Zulma Mejia** (North Shore Sr. High School). Congratulations to all of this year's Rodeo Art Show participants and winners.

--Jonathan Frey

See Artwork on Page 8



THE STAGE OF NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL WAS FILLED WITH RODEO ART.

Navy father returns from duty, surprises son at campus event

By Mark Kramer

Eli Jones thought the Community Helper Parade was just like any other fun activity at Channelview ISD's Early Childhood Center.

During the special event, the children are able to meet people in different professions that help and serve others — such as police officers, firefighters and doctors. He was especially fond of the Navy, since his father had been on active duty for the past year as a submarine sonar technician. For the parade, Eli dressed in his own sailor uniform to honor his dad.

As far as Eli knew, his fa-

ther was still stationed in coastal waters somewhere. Little did he know he was in for quite a surprise.

Eli rounded the corner and he approached two members of the U.S. Navy, decked out in uniform. As he got closer and a huge smile beamed across his face and he headed into the arms of one of servicemen.

It was his father, Tanner Jones.

Vicki Jones, Eli's grandmother and Tanner's mother, and Tanner's wife JoAnn, worked with the Early Childhood Center to plan the surprise. Vicki is the districtwide teacher for the visually impaired. Three-year-old Eli attends the ECC Day Care.

"As miserable as it can be to leave your family, the joy of coming home never changes," said Tanner, who is also a 2004 graduate of Channelview High School. "We thought it would be really cool to surprise Eli in this way. This time was very special because it was the last time that I have to come home from being away from extended periods of time."

Tanner said that he thought by playing a part in the parade would make for a memorable celebration for Eli — and ECC principal Judy Lee agreed. "We were honored that our campus was involved in this

See SURPRISE, page 8



Eli Jones is surprised as he embraces his father, Tanner, who recently completed a one-year assignment in the U.S. Navy. Tanner was a special guest to the Early Childhood Center's Community Helper Parade and had planned the surprise homecoming at the event.

STATE OF THE UNION: Congressman Green responds to State of the Union

(Washington, DC) — On Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 9:00 p.m. ET, President Barack Obama delivered his sixth State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress. Congressman Gene Green released the following statement:

"Tonight the President laid out a plan to strengthen the middle class that would make paychecks for hardworking Americans go farther, prepare Americans to earn higher wages, and keep good paying jobs in America. We've seen tremendous economic growth and success, but while Americans

are still struggling, there is still work to do. I support expanding access to education and reforming the tax code to create a fairer playing field for all Americans.

"He also called America number one in oil and gas, and he was right. In Houston, we call ourselves the Energy Capital of the World because of our energy renaissance, which is boosting our economy. We need to continue to invest on our energy infrastructure, which creates jobs, brings more revenue to the U.S., and could lead to energy independence in America.



Congressman Gene Green

"I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to address our nation's issues, and make a better America for all."

COMMUNITY INSIGHT: San Jacinto College - North Campus pioneer dies at 95

By Grady Hicks

Our dear dad, Proctor Woodward Brightwell, passed away on January 13, 2015.

At 95 he truly embodied the "greatest generation". He was the youngest of 5 children and was employed for 48 years by the same company in the gas pipeline business. He served 10 years on the San Jacinto Junior College Board of Trustees and was instrumental in the start of the North Campus. His commitment to technical education was honored by the naming of the Proctor Brightwell Technical Vocational Building — the second building to be built on the North Campus.

An inveterate traveler, by age 80 he had been to all 7 continents. For over a decade he lived and traveled in his RV for 6 months every year in addition to enjoying many cruises.

He leaves a wonderful legacy for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We were blessed to call him our father and "Grampie", to have him for as many years as



Proctor Woodward Brightwell

we did, and to know in so many tangible ways his love and support for us. He is sur-

vived by daughters Emily and Eileen, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

New chamber officers, board in Crosby



CROSBY/HUFFMAN CHAMBER NEW OFFICERS: Chair Larry Koslovsky, 1st VP Justin League, 2nd VP Dan Meaux, Secretary Macie Schubert, Treasurer Tiffany Muller, Parliamentarian Keenan Smith, Directors Velma Ellison, Glenn Cole, Eddie Foster, John Sparks, Don Guillory, Albert Luna, Lara Umberger, Angela Richey, Lewis Spearman, Chuck Murray, Tatum MacNaughton, Linda Williams. Non-Elected Directors Dr. Keith Moore, Benny Soileau. President Glenda Logsdon, Staff Member Kim Harris.

New chamber officers, board in Highlands



HIGHLANDS/LYNCHBURG CHAMBER NEW OFFICERS: President Traci Dillard, 1st VP Albert Luna, 2nd VP Dickie Woods, Secretary Dennis Smith, Treasurer Brandan Baird. Directors pictured are 1st Row: Gretchen Knowles, Dickie Woods, Weston Cotten, Traci Dillard, Brandi Garnuch, Betty Michalsky, Jim Wadzinski, Albert Luna. 2nd Row: David Kostka, Randy Casey, Yvonne Silva, Justin League, Brandan Baird, George Browning. Not pictured: Brenda Moore, Sandy Denson.

HUFFMAN F.F.A. LIVESTOCK SHOW
SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 24

Huffman F.F.A BBQ Cook-Off 5a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 Weigh-in Sift for steers, swine, Lambs and goats. Check in for Ag Mechanics, Horticulture, Art, Photography and Food Science All products must be checked in before 7:00 p.m. to participate in the Livestock Show

Thursday, Jan. 29 Check in Sifting for Poultry, Livestock judging begins.

Friday, Jan. 30 Judging continues.

Saturday, Jan. 31

9:00 a.m. Mandatory Sale Meeting for all students involved with the premium sale and all Livestock Sales

11:00 a.m. Buyer’s Luncheon (Livestock Auction student participants not allowed in this area.)

1:00 p.m. Livestock Auction

★
COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

May Community Center’s AARP
Driving Class

Hone your driving skills in this safe driving class offered by AARP, Friday, January 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For those that are 50 years and older, this seminar may be used for insurance reduction. A \$15 supply fee is required for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers; checks are payable to AARP. This program cannot be used for ticket dismissal. Sign up at the Center or by calling (713) 274-2434.

May Community Center is located at 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman 77336. 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 (713) 274-2434.

Crosby Craft & Consumer Expo

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the 2015 Crosby Craft & Consumer Expo to be held at Crosby High School on Saturday, February 7, 2015 from 10 am - 3:00 pm. They are looking for a variety of quality vendors to contribute to the success of this event! Chamber Members have 1st choice to register for a booth. If you would like to participate please contact them at 281-328-6984. There will be a Booth Decorating Contest and the winning Booth will receive a free vendor space in 2016. Theme this year is Football. Booth spaces are all indoors, therefore space is limited and will be assigned on a first paid first served basis.

Community events & activities

Birthday Party Bingo. Friday, January 30, at 11:30 a.m. Crosby Community Center’s salad and spud luncheon serves up a generous-sized, oven-baked potato with all the trimmings, fresh green salad, dessert, iced tea, and coffee. Meal is \$5 per person and helps defray the cost of the food. Advance registration is necessary by Tuesday, January 27th.

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.

Focus Group meeting

The next meeting of the Focus Group will be Feb. 9th, Monday, at 7 pm at the Marcelous-Williams Resource Center at 811 N. Main in Highlands. This is a new facility in Highlands that will officially open on Jan. 31st, with an art show from 3 to 7 pm. The Community Outreach Conference, held last Monday, was a success. Several churches were represented and there was a productive discussion on how citizens can help their neighbors as part of the Volunteer Chaplaincy program of the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. We also learned about the CIRT teams who help to access mental needs of people in crisis, to direct them to proper agencies instead of going to jail.

For more information, please call Diane Walters, member of the Focus Group, 281-426-7712.

Tax Services

From Tuesday, February 2nd, to Tuesday, April 14th, volunteers from the AARP will be at Stratford Library in Highlands every Tuesday from 11 am tp 3 pm. They will be offering free tax filing assistance. Stratford Library is located at 509 Stratford Street, Highlands, TX. 77562. 281-426-3521.

WE DON'T JUST WISH YOU HEALTH AND HAPPINESS,
WE'LL HELP YOU ACHIEVE IT.
LEARN MORE AT OUR FREE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS.

Vein Seminar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Varicose and spider veins can be painful and may even lead to other health problems. You no longer have to endure throbbing or cramping in the legs, swelling of the ankles and feet, sleep disruption from leg pain or discolored skin around varicose veins. Join Dr. Jacobo Nurko, board certified vascular surgeon, for a free seminar to learn about the causes, symptoms, who is at risk, treatments and prevention of varicose and spider veins.

Nutrition Counseling Seminar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

6:30-7:30 P.M.

Do you need to lose weight or do you have dietary restrictions that you need to follow in order to maintain a healthy body? Come learn about the medical nutrition therapy program offered at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital. The program focuses on making healthy lifestyle choices and how to make better daily dietary decisions. If you struggle with obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure or any condition that requires dietary changes, you are a candidate for the medical nutrition therapy program.

Please call 281.428.2273 or visit houstonmethodist.org/events to register.

HOUSTON
Methodist
SAN JACINTO HOSPITAL

These events are located at
Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital
Community Room
4401 Gerth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

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 Zolt 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

-Monday, Jan. 26, 6 pm, Steam Camp Science.

-Tuesday, Jan. 27, 10:30 am, & 1:30 pm, For the Children / Para los Niños / "Family Communication".

-Wednesday, Jan. 28, 10:30 am, Book Club; 4:30 pm, Tween Time.

-Thursday, Jan. 29, 10:30 am, Baby Time.

COMPUTER CLASSES:

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

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

WED. EVENING CLASSES

-Basic Windows 8, Part 1, Jan. 21, 6-7:45 pm.

-Basic Windows 8, Part 2, Jan. 28, 6-7:45 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

-Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1 pm, Internet Básico; 4 pm, Internet Basics.

-Wednesday, Jan. 28, 11 am, Story Time.

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

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

2nd & 4th THURSDAY

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

San Jacinto Pilot Club meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building.

2nd THURSDAY

North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Senior Citizens hold a monthly dance the second Thursday of every month 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.

CHS, junior high band students capture honors

Channelview High School band members and musicians with the Aguirre and Alice Johnson Junior High bands received region and district honors.

Pedro Lucio from Channelview High School was named to the region band, while Carrollann Rodriguez was chosen to the area band. Nathan

GPISD Recognizes Board of Trustees



Ramon Garza, Trustee; Wilfred J. Broussard, Jr., Secretary; Minnie Rivera, Trustee; Jeff Miller, Trustee; Wanda Heath Johnson, President; Dawn Fisher, Trustee; and Joe Stephens, Vice President.

During the month of January, public schools across the state take a moment to honor their school board trustees during School Board Recognition Month. Like other districts, GPISD does the same, but staff, students and administrators go above and beyond by making them truly know how much they are cared for

and appreciated. Board members give selflessly and tirelessly on a daily basis not only to our district but to our community as well. During the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees on Monday, January 6th, Jonathan Frey read a proclamation on behalf of Esmeralda Moya, Mayor of Galena Park. In addition, to show

their appreciation, campus administrators and employees packed the house to recognize this special group of servants.

Before they left for the night, each member received gifts and tokens of appreciation in the form of special treats such as cookies and cakes, cards, books and even personalized student art.

Channelview ISD's January Students of the Month



Channelview ISD recently honored their Students of the Month programs by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. Students were treated to lunch, along with a tour of the press box and field. The January Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Nikole Arredondo (Aguirre Junior High), Katelyn Sowell (Channelview High School), Larissa Torres (Kolarik Ninth Grade Campus), Wendolyn Sanchez (Alice Johnson Junior High) and Hongbin Wu (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center). Pictured in front are, from left, Martha Perez (McMullan Elementary), Unique Williams (Cobb Elementary), GloriaAnn Nguyen (Brown Elementary), Lindsay Caudillo (Schochler Elementary), Jaylia Box (Crenshaw Elementary) and Ben'Treal Wright (Hamblen Elementary). Not pictured is Heily Vanegas of De Zavala Elementary.

SATURDAY NIGHTS

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

GPHS Band of Gold Member selected to All-State Band

Salvador Flores, a member of the Galena Park High School Band of Gold, will perform with the Texas All-State Band in San Antonio, Saturday, February 14, 2015 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center as part of the 2015 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention. He was chosen for this prestigious honor through a competitive process held this year across the state at district, region, and area levels.

Sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association, the competition starts with over 60,000 students from around the state vying for only 1,600 positions to perform in one of the 15 ensembles (bands, orchestras, and choirs). Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or vocal part. From this ranking, a select group of musicians advances from their region to compete against musicians from other areas in seven TMEA Area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians judged at the TMEA Area competitions qualify to perform in a TMEA All-State music group. Only the top 3% of musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians.



Salvador Flores

For Salvador Flores, a sophomore, this is his first time to be selected as an All-State musician.

These All-State students participate in three days of rehearsals directed by nationally recognized conductors during the TMEA Clinic/Convention. Their performances for thousands of attendees bring this extraordinary event to a close. For the All-State concert schedule and conductor information, go to www.tmea.org/convention.

Channelview ISD to offer Credit by Exam

Channelview Independent School District offers students currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 12 the opportunity to take Credit by Exam tests (CBE). The exams will be administered March 9-12, 2015. Students must score 80 percent or better on exams to receive credit. Students have the opportunity to advance an entire grade level in elementary or junior high and students in high school can receive course credit. Interested students can be registered now through February 6, 2015. Students and/or their parents should visit with their school counselor regarding registration and eligibility.

vance an entire grade level in elementary or junior high and students in high school can receive course credit. Interested students can be registered now through February 6, 2015. Students and/or their parents should visit with their school counselor regarding registration and eligibility.

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OPINION PAGE

★
OPINION

Understanding
escheatment and how to
keep your property safe

By Cynthia Nisley

(NAPSI)—If you have a bank account, are holding uncashed checks, own stock, are heir to an insurance policy or have property in a safe-deposit box, there are steps you can take to help protect your property from escheatment.

“Escheatment” is the term that describes how “abandoned,” “unclaimed” or “lost” property is turned over to the state. If the property owner cannot be found or hasn’t demonstrated an interest in the asset, the U.S. state where the holder lives can take custody of those belongings. If the owner or heir comes forward, he or she can claim it back from the state but early withdrawal penalties or market losses may significantly affect the asset’s value and the funds may not be immediately available.

You may say, “But I haven’t abandoned my property. I don’t have anything to worry about.” That’s not necessarily so.

Consider the case of an employee of a fast-growing technology company who held stock certificates with a face value of nearly \$500,000. He kept the certificates in a safe and intended to use the funds for his kids’ college education. Unknown to him, his stock had been escheated due to returned mail and lack of contact. His nest egg was ruined and he was able to claim just under \$20,000, the amount the state sold his stock for at the time of escheatment.

Here are a few similar scenarios that can happen to anyone:

- If you don’t cash dividend checks, those checks and associated stock may be escheated unless you have made contact with the transfer agent. Since most states sell shares immediately, you will lose out on any market gains, dividends or stock splits that occur after the shares are sold.

- If you move and do not update your address with your financial institution (such as a bank), it will mark your account as “lost” once it receives two pieces of undeliverable mail from

the post office. After three to five years, depending on the state, your assets will be escheated unless you make contact with the institution.

- If you have a safe-deposit box and never access it or make contact with your bank, the contents of the box may be turned over to the state and sold at auction. You could claim back the cash value—but not the valuables themselves.

So how can you protect your assets? Staying in contact with your financial institutions is the key to protecting your property. To actively show interest in all your assets:

1. Keep a list of all the financial institutions you deal with, such as a bank or transfer agent, and contact them at least once per year. This can be as simple as accessing your account online, calling in to the customer service center, cashing a check, updating your address, changing a beneficiary or voting a proxy.

2. Keep your address updated with all your financial institutions if you move.

3. Consolidate accounts, to make it easier to maintain contact and keep track of your assets.

4. If you receive a notice alerting you to the fact that your account is considered “inactive” or “abandoned,” respond immediately. Note that service providers such as Geogerson may contact you, offering to provide assistance in helping prevent escheatment of an inactive or abandoned account. You have the option to use the service or handle it yourself directly with your financial institution—the service provider should disclose all options.

5. Make sure that your heirs know which stocks you own and where you have financial accounts.

To find out if any of your property has been escheated, visit www.missingmoney.com and search participating states’ records by the property owner’s name, or for contact information for nonparticipating states.



Perry gives parting speech as
legislative session begins

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry addressed a joint session of the House and Senate for the last time on Jan. 13, opening day of the 140-day regular session of the 84th Texas Legislature.

Before recounting various aspects of the state’s performance during his record-breaking tenure as chief executive, Perry said, “I have come here to reflect on what we have done together, and to say farewell. But most of all, to tell you it has been the highest of honors to serve as your governor for the last 14 years.”

Perry painted a picture of Texas “as a land of unlimited opportunity” with mentions of such items as job growth, the booming oil and gas industry, various other economic drivers, fiscal management, education and public safety. “While some still struggle in the shadows of opportunity, we have created tremendous possibilities for millions of Texans. While the rest of the nation has lost middle class jobs, Texas has created them,” Perry said. He also reminded the audience of challenges recently faced, such as “the disintegration of the Space Shuttle Columbia, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, devastating wildfires, the spread of Ebola and a humanitarian crisis at the border.”

Wrapping up, Perry said, “I couldn’t pick a better successor as governor than (former Texas Attorney General) Greg Abbott. And he couldn’t have two better partners to lead this state than (Lieutenant Governor and former Senator) Dan Patrick and (House Speaker) Joe Straus. As I bid farewell, I know the future is in good hands.”

Straus reelected as
speaker

State Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, was elected to a fourth consecutive term as speaker of the Texas House of Representatives on Jan. 13, opening day of the 84th Texas Legislature.

The vote was 128-19 in favor of Straus. The 19 votes were for second-term state Rep. Scott Turner, R-Frisco, a businessman and former National Football League player.

★
STATE CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



Revenue estimate is
given

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Jan. 12 released the state’s Biennial Revenue Estimate, necessary information for Texas lawmakers to craft a state budget for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The 94-page document shows the state is projected to have some \$113 billion in revenue available for general-purpose spending during the 2016-2017 biennium. State revenue from all sources is estimated at \$221 billion for the next biennium, a total that includes \$110 billion in federal receipts and other income.

State government begins with a projected \$7.5 billion ending balance from the current biennium and that amount is added to the estimated \$110 billion in projected general revenue-related collections from taxes, fees and other income over the course of the 2016-17 biennium. And, about \$5 billion will be set aside for transfers to the Rainy Day Fund and State Highway Fund. The resulting \$113 billion represents the estimated revenue available to the Legislature for general purpose spending in the next biennium, according to the comptroller’s office.

Hegar noted, “The significant drop in oil prices in recent months will likely lead to a marked slowdown in oil exploration and production. This slowdown will dampen overall economic growth in Texas. However,” he added, “in addition to the economic boost felt by Texas motorists as a result of lower gasoline prices, there are industries in Texas’ diverse economy such as transportation and some manufacturing that will benefit from lower energy prices. This, coupled with continued strength in construction, professional services and other sectors of the broader economy, should somewhat counterbalance a slowdown in the energy sector.”

Donate Life program
grows

Texas Department of Public Safety on Jan. 14 announced that in 2014 nearly 1.4 million people added their names to the Glenda P. Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry, the database “of individuals who have officially indicated their decisions to donate organs and tissue to benefit thousands of people currently awaiting transplants.”

DPS Director Steven McCraw said, “Every person who selflessly elects to register as a donor has the potential to save another individual’s life.”

In 2014 a record 226 registered donors made nearly 800 transplants possible and currently, more than 13,600 individuals are awaiting organ or tissue transplants in Texas alone, according to the group Donate Life Texas.

Three organ and tissue recovery agencies: LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance participate in the registry along with the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Exploring The
Link Between
Obesity And
Cancer

NAPSI)—Emerging research suggests a link between obesity and the risk of developing and dying from many common cancers. Obesity is quickly overtaking tobacco as the leading preventable cause of cancer, with as many as 84,000 cancer diagnoses attributed to obesity each year in the United States. It is also estimated that obesity or excess weight contributes to as many as one in five cancer-related deaths.

The good news is that scientists are beginning to understand potential biological explanations for why obesity contributes to the development and progression of cancer. For example, current research shows a relationship between higher levels of insulin in a person’s blood, which is common in people who are obese, and the development of certain types of cancer.

In addition, hormones produced in fat cells have been shown to stimulate the growth of tumors, and it is also not unusual for people who are obese to have low-level chronic inflammation in tissues in the body. Chronic inflammation is a confirmed risk factor for certain types of cancers.

There is also existing data linking obesity, inactivity and poor diet to poorer outcomes in patients with cancer. Obesity is caused by a combination of factors, but it is never too late to take steps to improve your health.

Making Lifestyle
Changes

The best time to start a weight loss program or focus on making healthy lifestyle changes varies for each person. For some, a cancer diagnosis may spur a patient’s decision to focus on his or her health beyond cancer, encouraging healthy eating choices and increasing activity.

The first step is to talk with your doctor. Your doctor can calculate your body mass index (BMI) and evaluate your overall health and fitness level to find out if you would benefit from losing weight or making lifestyle changes to maintain your current weight.

Here are some additional tips from Cancer.Net for making healthy lifestyle changes:

- Eat and drink only as many calories as you need to maintain a healthy weight and support your level of physical activity. Talk to your health care provider about ways to reduce calories if your BMI shows that you are overweight or obese.

- Increase levels of physical activity. Even a small increase in physical activity has benefits.

- Get support. Most weight loss programs include more than one session with a dietitian or weight loss specialist to help you make healthy lifestyle changes and stick with them over time.

For more information and to download additional resources for patients and caregivers, visit www.cancer.net/obesity. Cancer.Net is the patient information website of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. Cancer.Net is supported by the Conquer Cancer Foundation.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Robert Edwin Russell III,

Robert Edwin Russell III, 59, of Dania Beach, Florida was born in Houston, Texas on November 16, 1955. He was called home on Saturday December 27, 2014.

A service of celebration will be held on Saturday January 24, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at New Life Assembly of God church located at 42493 Hwy 105, Batson, Texas. Brother Bill Campbell will speak at the service. The family will be receiving friends for a time of remembrance also on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from noon until time of service at the church.

Robert graduated from Crosby High School in Crosby, Texas. He was a compassionate and humble person. Robert loved to be on the water, so pursuing his dream, he moved to Florida in 1995. He continued his work as a road and bridge inspector and bought a sail boat. He became a certified Open Water Scuba Diver and then attended Captain's School with the U.S. Coast Guard. He obtained the Captain's diploma and was a licensed Merchant Marine officer with the U.S. Coast Guard. He loved to watch the sunset from the beach. He was close to nature and he enjoyed listening to blues music. He will be missed by many.

Robert was preceded in death by his grandparents, his father, R.E. Russell, Jr. He is survived by his mother, Lois Russell of Liberty, and his 12 siblings: Bill Russell



and wife Frances of Dayton, Texas, Marie Shepard of Houston, Texas Betty Cox and husband Lewis of Alto, Texas, Jed Russell and wife Robin of Valliant, Oklahoma., Bruce Russell of Highlands, Texas, Inez Frye and husband Claude Weishuhn of Dayton, Texas, Roberta Fregia and husband Tommy of Hull, Texas, Sue Wille and husband Harold of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Anthony Russell and wife Jerri of Stroud, Oklahoma, Kyle Russell and wife Renee of Russellville, Arkansas, Doris Chambers of Cleveland, Texas, Caroline Russell of Crosby, Texas and many cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Faith & Family Funeral Services Inc, Batson, Texas 77519 936-262-2100

Proctor Woodward Brightwell



Our dear dad, Proctor Woodward Brightwell, passed away on January 13, 2015.

At 95 he truly embodied the "greatest generation". He was the youngest of 5 children and was employed for 48 years by the same company in the gas pipeline business. He served 10 years on the San Jacinto Junior College Board of Trustees and was instrumental in the start of the North Campus. His commitment to technical education was honored by the naming of the Proctor Brightwell Technical Vocational Building – the second building to be built on the North Campus.

An inveterate traveler, by age 80 he had been to all 7 continents. For over a decade he lived and traveled in his RV for 6 months every year in addition to enjoying many cruises.

He leaves a wonderful legacy for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We were blessed to call him our father and "Grampie", to have him for as many years as we did, and to know in so many tangible ways his love and support for us. He is survived by daughters Emily and Eileen, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Sue Ann Edmonds



Sue Ann Edmonds age 67, went to be with the Lord on Saturday January 17, 2015 at 4:55 a.m. She was born in Dunkirk, New York on November 21, 1947 to Geraldine Rosemary Hall Stafford and Leo Michael Stafford.

Sue had an outgoing personality, liked music, enjoyed cooking and sharing recipes, gardening and most especially, enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Sue is preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her husband, James Edmonds; her children, Melissa; Kevin and Edjue Rak; her sisters, Mary Sealander; Michele Damon and Deidre Moore; her grandchildren, Lynsy Hamernick; Dominick Rak; Clayton Hamernick and Landon LaFour.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at Sterling-White Cemetery 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, at 10:00 a.m. Arrangements entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer the family condolences, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

Crosby Community Center's ongoing activities

Body Toning Chair Exercises: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Fitness instructor Melissa Turner offers body toning chair exercises for individuals with limited stamina, mobility, and flexibility.

Krosby All-American Kazoo Band: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. A volunteer leads this fun-loving group of entertainers. No musical experience is necessary and all instruments are provided. The band is open to people ages 18 and older.

Pickleball: Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Played with a paddle, wiffle-style ball, and net. Pickleball is the latest craze to sweep the nation. Open to participants of all fitness levels ages 50 and better.

WII™ Bowling: Tuesdays

at 11 a.m. Experience the excitement of the bowling lanes. Team up with some of your friends and have a tournament.

Senior Pinochle: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Players score points by trick-taking and also by forming combinations of cards.

Dancercise: Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. A volunteer instructor leads this class, which includes the same elements as line dancing and offers a good old-fashioned workout.

Yoga: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. Certified instructor Cindy Roberts teaches yoga at the Center.

Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. (281) 462-0543.

LITTLE BIDDY BITS By Danny Biddy

Auto Incorrect!

Too often I have typed or talked a text message into my phone and hit "Send" before I proofed it. When I read what I had sent, I was more than just a little embarrassed! Unfortunately, I have done the same thing with conversations. I have let words come out my mouth before I asked the Lord to "proof" it.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable (proofed before I hit send) by You, Lord." (Psalm 19:14)

Danny R. Biddy, Pastor of the Church on Old River since 1977. www.olddriverbaptist.com

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Acts in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From Proverbs 30, what will pluck out the eyes of anyone who scorns their parents? Demons, Ravens, Doves, Quails
 3. Who wrote, "The love of money is the root of all evil"? Timothy, Isaiah, Moses, Paul
 4. From Matthew 8, what Roman official asked Jesus to heal his servant? Marshall, Governor, Centurion, Jailer
 5. How many times are the words "apple" or "apples" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? 11, 14, 19, 37
 6. Who was the father of Hosea? Uzzah, Beeri, Joash, Ahab
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ravens; 3) Paul; 4) Centurion; 5) 11; 6) Beeri

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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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1 Corinthians 16:13

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Leviticus 19:32

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Tangled in "Silly String" for a good cause

Cobb Elementary School Principal Blake Smith and Assistant Principal William Chalfant promised if they raised more than \$3,000 during this year's Jump Rope For Heart fundraiser, they would let students spray cans of Silly String all over them. The students lived up to the challenge and two students from each grade level took aim and covered the principals full of Silly String. Funds from the donations went to the American Heart Association for heart disease research. (Photo by Raquel Gonzalez)



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim... How can so many stores offer credit with no payments for months, even years? What's the catch?



The answer is... Card Tricks! We're talking credit card tricks. The expensive kind, in which over-limit fees, residual interest, default APRs and other surprises suddenly appear as if by magic on your credit card statement. In each instance, they are within their rights to take your money, thanks to the often inscrutable terms of your cardholder agreement. But just like Three-Card Monte, these tricks can clean out your wallet faster than you can pick a card, any card. Some of these tricks may soon be outlawed by the Federal Reserve Board's proposed Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices reforms.

In the meantime, keep your eye on your statement, your hand on your wallet and watch out for these five sneaky credit card tricks.

This is the first in a series of 5.

1. The closing date mind crunch

Cardholder Lynnae McCoy thought she was doing the right thing when she switched from paper to paperless billing on her 0 percent APR card. When she didn't receive an e-mail notice of payment due around her customary statement date, she chalked it up to a transition glitch and made her normal payment at the usual time of the month.

The following month, her online statement showed that a late fee and interest had not only bumped her balance by \$100 but shot her 0 percent introductory APR up to 11.24 percent.

To McCoy's surprise, it turns out the card company had changed her closing date to later in the month. "Apparently my payment was posted one day before the new billing cycle began, so I ended up making two payments in one billing cycle and none in the next," McCoy says.

Columnist Liz Pulliam Weston, author of "Easy Money," sees this happen frequently to folks who try to buff their credit score by paying off a

chunk of credit card debt a month before they apply for a major loan.

"The way the credit card computer systems are set up, they are only looking for payments between the statement closing date and the due date," she explains. "So if you paid early and failed to make a second payment in that little window, then you're counted as late."

In other words, early birds get the shaft. McCoy admits she's one of the lucky ones because she didn't have other outstanding card balances whose rates may have similarly been bumped due to a highly controversial practice known as "universal default."

After repeated, lengthy phone calls, McCoy convinced her card company to drop the late fee and restore her 0 percent APR, "but they didn't take the interest off. It was about \$37. I just gave up and paid it. There came a point at which my time was worth more than \$37." The McCoy's have since sworn off credit cards for good.

Solution? "Pay off the card," says McCoy. "That and persist. If you're thinking about going to paperless billing, really stay on top of it, and maybe even make a small extra payment in the middle of the cycle until you're sure when your billing cycle is."

Gail Hillebrand, senior attorney for Consumers Union has an additional suggestion: "I think it's actually quite helpful to not take paperless billing. I do think this makes it harder for the customer to hold up their end of the bargain and pay on time."

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com. Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting set Jan. 22

The San Jacinto Pilot Club is proud to present Layton Gaskins, marketing and sales counselor for Remington Park Assisted Living Facility in Baytown, at their Thursday, January 22, 2015 meeting. She will be discussing Alzheimer awareness and the benefits of assisted living. The meeting will take place at noon at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building at the corner of Woodforest Blvd. and Beltway 8. Feel free to bring your lunch.

San Jacinto Pilot Club is part of Pilot International, an international service organization whose focus is on brain safety and fitness. More information about the organization can be found at www.SanJacintoPilot.com.

Head-on crash leaves 1 dead at Washburn Tunnel

A pick up truck crashed head-on into another truck killing a driver inside the Washburn Tunnel last Saturday, January 17, 2015 around 11 p.m.

Liquid was spilling out of one of the trucks, but the driver and passengers inside one of the trucks did not suffer any major injuries, reports stated.

According to police reports, two other drivers could not stop in time to avoid the crash, hitting each other, no one was injured in this other crash.

The tunnel was closed for several hours to clean up the accident.



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East Houston Regional Medical Center welcomes new Chief Operating Officer Todd Jackson

Houston, TX, January 5, 2015 – HCA Affiliated East Houston Regional Medical Center (EHRMC) proudly welcomes new Chief Operating Officer (COO) Todd Jackson.

Throughout his 10 years of experience in the healthcare industry, Mr. Jackson has held various positions including Associate Administrator, Associate COO, and Corporate Director of Performance Improvement.

Mr. Jackson received his bachelor of administration, master's in business administration and a master's in healthcare administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has achieved Fellow Certification from the American College of Healthcare Executives. In addition, Mr. Jackson is a Rotarian and a fundraising champion for the American Heart Association and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



Chief Operating Officer Todd Jackson

"We look forward to the new perspectives and strategies that Mr. Jackson will bring to our facility and community," said Alice Adams, CEO of East Houston Regional Medical Center. "Please join with us in welcoming Todd Jackson to the East Houston Regional Medical Center family."



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Rodeo Art Show “kicks up dust” at North Shore High School

Seven winners will exhibit at HLS&R
(Continued from page 1)

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DANIEL MEDINA, North Shore MS



ADAM GARCIA, North Shore HS



ZULMA MEJIA, North Shore HS

Rotarians hold All-club dinner, induct Neil Bush

ALL 65 ROTARY CLUBS from the 5890 District, which surrounds Houston, met last Thursday evening at the Crowne Plaza near the Astrodome, to hear Rotary International President Gary C. K. Huang speak. Also on the program was the induction of a new member, Neil Bush, son

of President and Barbara Bush, as a member of the Houston Rotary Club. Neil followed a tradition set by his brother George Bush, who had been a featured speaker at the All-Club dinner about 15 years ago, before he became Texas Governor and U. S. President.



At the microphone, Rotary District Governor Lisa Faith Massey, to her right Neil Bush and Gary C. K. Huang.



Representing the North Shore Rotary were John Painter, Amir Kahn, Derrill Painter, Mike Williams, Bill Palko, Bill Bowes, Matt Davis, and Allatia Harris in front.



The Highlands Rotary Club was represented by Patricia Scott, Denise Smith, Grace & Raymond Gonzalez, and Gil Hoffman.

Inauguration of Texas Governor

PHOTOS BY JERRY & JULI FALLIN FOR THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR and Other Media Sources

Texans celebrated the inauguration of Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick with plenty of fanfare Tuesday in Austin. Here's a look at some of the festivities.



SURPRISE,

Continued from page 1

special homecoming.” Eli’s baby sister Coral and mother JoAnn, along with grandmother Vicki were all present for the special gathering. Since the surprise reunion, Eli and his father have been inseparable. “We have been doing a little bit of everything,” Tanner said. “Eli is my shadow, so wherever I am, he is not too far behind.” Tanner is still on duty until the end of the year, but will not be venturing far from home. He has already started a land management business and plans to join the Air Force Reserves or Texas Air National Guard. He says that being a positive influence on his two children is the most important job



The Jones family is all smiles after Tanner recently returned from his Naval assignment. Pictured from left are Eli, Tanner, wife JoAnn and daughter, Coral.

of all. “I want them to do well in whatever it is they decide to

do and know that anything is possible if they work hard enough,” Tanner said.

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Highlands Rotary Club's 40th Annual CHILI FEAST

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Photos Courtesy of the Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER