

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 5, NO. 01 (#155) THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017 [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### GP-J COMMUNITY-PARTNERSHIP (CIP)

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

Update on Port Matters, Including Dredging

- The Port of Houston Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers will update us on port matters relevant to the CIP communities, particularly dredging plans and the local dredge placement area. Harris County Pollution Control will be asked to serve as a resource.

- A dredging contractor has been invited to refresh our understanding of how dredging works.

- Speakers have been advised that members are interested in the makeup of the dredged material; environmental testing of soil, water, and air; testing results; public access to testing information; signage needs in placement area; mosquito control and Zika concerns at the GP-JC border; odors; and general maintenance needs.

Contact facilitator Diane Sheridan with questions or RSVPs at [dbsfacilitator@gmail.com](mailto:dbsfacilitator@gmail.com) or 281-326-5253.

### HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB 42nd Annual CHILI FEAST

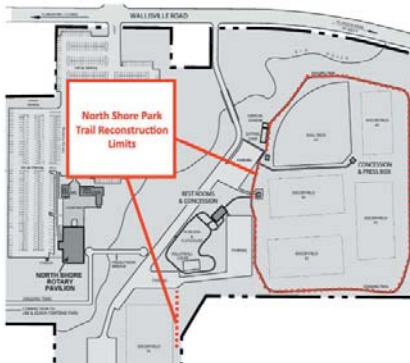
February 4, 2017 you can win a 2017 Chevy Camaro or Chevy pickup truck. Tickets are \$100. Only 700 will be sold. Call 713-252-8000.



## Pct. 2 Commissioner Morman begins North Shore Park Trail improvements

HOUSTON, Texas – Commissioner Jack Morman will begin the reconstruction of the North Shore Park trail on Monday, January 9th. “We know this trail is heavily-used, so our teams are doing all they can to ensure this project is complete by early April,” said Commissioner Morman.

The \$250,000 project includes replacing the three-quarter-mile asphalt trail with concrete and widening it from four feet to six feet. Portions of the trail and all surrounding amenities will remain open for the duration of construction. Park goers are encouraged to take caution



around the construction site and be mindful of directional signage for access points to amenities.

For more information and updates on the Precinct, visit [www.hep2.com](http://www.hep2.com) or like their Facebook page “Harris County Precinct 2.”

## Barbara Jordan Community Center holds groundbreaking



Community leaders attended the groundbreaking of Barbara Jordan Community Center.

By Allan Jamail  
Houston, TX. Thursday, December 8, 2016 at Barbara Jordan Park located at 6400 Winfield Road Harris County Precinct One -

Commissioner Gene Locke held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new community center honoring Late U.S. Representative Barbara C Jordan. Barbara Jordan, an un-

forgettable force not only in Civil Rights for African-Americans, but also a hero to women and Americans

*Community Center, page 3*

## 2016 Year in Review

*From the compiled files of the North Channel Star*

### JANUARY

- Sylvester Turner sworn in as new Houston Mayor
- Sheldon ISD named King Davis as new Superintendent
- El Franco Lee, Harris County Pct. 1 dies
- Dog Park opened in Galena Park
- New Gateway Monument planned for Galena Park

### FEBRUARY

- North Channel Chamber hosts annual Gala
- North Shore Mustangs honored as State Champions Division I - 6A
- San Jacinto River Coalition explored ways to spend \$10 million settlement funds
- Galena Park FFA raises over \$65,000 at livestock auction
- San Jacinto College hosts groundbreaking of new Center for Industrial Technology

### MARCH

- Sheldon ISD calls for \$285 Million bond election
- Candidates file for Galena Park Municipal election
- Lawsuit filed to contest Constable election
- Work continues on San Jacinto Waste Pits to repair cap
- A child dies after SUV crashes at day care on Uvalde
- Jacinto City emergency crew recognized for rescuing child

### APRIL

- Pct 1 will spend \$1.75 million on street repairs, sidewalks and curbs
- Jacinto City sees main drainage blockage repaired in Turkey Run Gully
- Tax Assessor-Collector gives talk at Highlands Rotary club luncheon
- Major fire occurs at Pasadena Refinery
- Sheldon FFA completes successful Livestock Show
- North Channel Chamber hears of Super Bowl LI
- Community Profile on Charlotte Jackson
- Candidates for Galena Park election profiled
- Community leader Dickie Woods dies
- Man dies when tugboat in San Jacinto River flips over
- Parade kicks off Channelview FFA show
- San Jacinto Battle re-enacted
- North Shore Rotary plans car raffle and Fish Fry in May

### MAY

- Channelview FFA auction highlights successful show
- Galena Park ISD has \$290 bond issue on ballot
- North Channel “Relay for Life” raises \$136,000
- Channelview FFA pictures from Livestock sale
- Galena Park puts new fire truck into service
- Election Results: Galena Park has 4 new Council members; Jacinto City 9 cent tax measure passes; Galena Park ISD bond issue passes
- Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary awards \$15,000 in scholarships to 25 students
- Run-off election required for Constable Pct. 3 and Pct. 2, Sheriff, and State Representative
- North Shore Rotary holds successful 41st annual Fish Fry at the Rotary Pavilion
- Galena Park and Jacinto City swear in new officials
- Run-off election results in winners: Chris Diaz, Sherman Eagleton, Ed Gonzalez, and Briscoe Cain
- Mosquito problem, and Zika virus, attacked in Jacinto City and Houston

### JUNE

- Over 50 rescued from San Jacinto River floods
- Channelview ISD announces “Top Ten” graduates
- San Jacinto Pilot Club awards \$10,000 in scholarships to 14 students
- North Shore Rotary club distributes books to elementary students
- Jamail visit with Hillary Clinton
- San Jacinto North reopens Lehr Library in new building
- Houston Symphony plays concert in North Shore High School
- Galena Park hires new city attorney
- Galena Park completes Gateway Monument
- GP/JC Rotary installs new officers
- Jacinto City closes swimming pool for repairs
- Man drowns in North Shore pond
- \$10 million in Waste Pits grants announced
- Gene Green’s Chemical Safety Act signed by Obama
- 4th of July celebrations planned in Galena Park and Jacinto City

YEAR IN REVIEW continues on Page 8

## COMMUNITY LEADERS

### Eagleton swears in Precinct 3 deputies

CROSBY – Sherman Eagleton took the oath of office on Jan. 1 for Constable of Precinct 3 at Crosby High School, he swore in a new staff that day.

“I want to thank the voters for electing me Precinct 3 Constable. Even though the door may say Sherman Eagleton Precinct 3 Constable, I want them to know that the office is theirs and I will run it as a trust from them to be run for them for the next four years. I am looking forward to working for them,” said Eagleton afterwards.

This is the first time that supervisors in this Constable’s precinct have been appointed by test scores.

“All my command staff have a minimum of a masters’ degree and my Chief Deputy has a doctorate.”



Sherman Eagleton swears in deputies including Crosby’s Ricky Larkin to uphold the laws of Texas.

## WARM WISHES

### Volunteers provide Holiday Joy to Jacinto City Health Care residents

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. - Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at the Jacinto City Health Care Center (1405 Holland Ave.) volunteers from Jacinto City and Galena Park provided a Christmas party for the residents of entertainment, refreshments and gifts donated by the volunteers and their family members.

Kathy Meador and Bo Vega Activity Directors for the center scheduled the event on the Activity Calendar so residents and family members could attend.

Former Mayor Allan Jamail a volunteer of over 40 years at the center had asked Jacinto City citizens Teresa Arzapala and Irasema Ochoa Salinas (Irase-



Photo by Allan Jamail

Left to right: Esther Casillas, Irasema Salinas, Teresa Arzapala Lupita Jaime & resident Charles Scott (seated) retired after 25 years of service to the City of Jacinto City got a Christmas haircut from Teresa Arzapala.

*See Holiday Joy, page 8*

# SCHOOL NEWS

## CHANNELVIEW ISD: Success of Aguirre’s AVID program captures attention of other districts



Aguirre AVID students showed Houston ISD teachers and administrators how they organize their binders for their classes. The binders help students to develop good organizational skills that will help them in high school and college.

The AVID program at Anthony Aguirre Junior High is becoming a model for secondary schools in other districts.

Twenty teachers, coordinators and administrators from secondary campuses in Houston ISD visited with Aguirre principals, staff and students during the school’s AVID Showcase on Nov. 29 to learn about what has made the program successful.

AVID, formally known as Advancement via Individual Determination, has enhanced Aguirre students’ college and career readiness skills through pre-advanced placement programs, enrichment opportunities, individual support and tutorials. The program is offered to sixth through eighth grade students.

“I was very impressed with what they have been able to accomplish at Aguirre,” said Dedre Jefferson, Houston ISD’s AVID District Director. “After their presentations at our Directors Meetings, I saw that this is the blueprint of how a successful program works. It is structured, innovative and keeps the students’ interest.”

To that end, Aguirre is in the initial phase of the certification process to become an AVID School-Wide Site of Distinction. Only 10 percent of AVID secondary schools worldwide hold this certification.

Aguirre Principal Eric Lathan said the success of the program is a collaborative effort among teachers,

students, parents and tutors. “These relationships and open lines of communication allow for feedback and exchange of new ideas that help our program to grow and better serve our students,” he added.

Lathan said the rigorous, but personalized curriculum of AVID allows students to develop the skills that will guide them academically and socially.

“Our AVID teachers are influential in making sure that students not only receive academic support, but also emotional support that motivates them to set their goals high and achieve them,” he said.

Lathan added that other opportunities such as college field trips, campus extra-curricular activities and other programs that showcase students’ talents are an important part of the AVID experience.

In addition to hearing presentations during the AVID Showcase, the Houston ISD group toured classrooms throughout the campus.

“We wanted our group to see how the (Aguirre) teachers put the AVID curriculum to work and make it relevant to the students,” Jefferson said.

On the day of the site visit, the guests were able to observe tutorials in the AVID classes. The tutorials, which are held two days a week, include mentors from San Jacinto College North that provide one-on-one guidance to the students.

“The college students

are very active in tutorial sessions,” Lathan said. “Our students are able to relate to these mentors and form connections with them. The students are very comfortable communicating with their mentors and are not afraid to ask questions.”

During the campus tour, Lathan mentioned that creating a “visible college atmosphere” throughout the building helped to capture the attention of students. The visitors from Houston ISD said they liked the college banners that line the main corridor of the campus, along with posters in the hallways and near classrooms that give information and facts about universities.

Aguirre Assistant Principal Samantha Poullard mentioned to the group that the visibility of higher education information “helps to keep students focused on the opportunities in front of them.”

Lathan encouraged the Houston ISD educators to be patient and willing to try new things as they launch AVID programs on their campuses.

“It will take a while to establish your programs, but stay dedicated to your vision and your mission,” he said. “Always keep the lines of communication open. Building your programs will be an investment of time, but the rewards of seeing your students achieve success is well worth it.”

## Sheldon ISD students of the month



Photo by Sheldon ISD/DERIK MOORE

Members of the Sheldon ISD school board recognized the district’s Students of the Month at the Dec. 13 school board meeting in the Ney Administration Building Board Room. Student of the Month recipients included (in alphabetical order) Parris Carmouche, C. E. King High School; Jazmin Garza, Carroll Elementary; Samuel Lemus, Sheldon ECA; Jada Lloyd, Null Middle School; Anissa Moreles, Early College High School; Dezire Reyna, C. E. King Middle School; Nathomilys Correa Rivera, Cravens ECA; Anthony Robles, Garrett Elementary; and Sheyla Ruiz, Royalwood Elementary. Also pictured are School Board President Ken Coleman (left) and SISD Superintendent King Davis (right). Not pictured are Denys Argueta and Jose Nolasco Diaz, KASE Academy.

## Register now for Spring semester at San Jacinto College Classes begin Jan. 17; Weekend College starts Feb. 3

PASADENA, Texas – Registration is open for the spring 2017 semester at San Jacinto College.

Traditional spring classes begin Tuesday, January 17, 2017, following the Monday Martin Luther King Day holiday; while Weekend College courses begin Friday, Feb. 3. The registration payment deadline is Thursday, Jan. 5. Registration remains open for the spring 2017 semester after the payment deadline, but all financial obligations incurred after the payment deadline not covered by financial aid, installment payment plan, third party agreement, or scholarship, must be paid on the day of registration. Students may register and pay in full up to the start of class.

“Our educational planners and financial aid advisors are here to help new and current students navigate the enrollment and registration process,” said Joanna Zimmermann, associate vice chancellor, student services. “We understand that not everyone who comes to San Jacinto

College knows the educational pathway they want to follow. Our staff is knowledgeable and has the resources available to help students find their passion.”

Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid if they have not already done so. Students should begin the financial aid process by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There is no fee to apply, and assistance is available by contacting a San Jacinto College financial aid representative. More information about financial aid is available online at [sanjac.edu/financial-aid](http://sanjac.edu/financial-aid). The San Jacinto College FAFSA Code is 003609.

San Jacinto College can assist students in choosing a career path; selecting an area of study; and the application, enrollment and registration processes. Educational planners are available on all San Jacinto College campuses to help students select courses that will easily transfer to a four-year college or university, or get them the

skills they need to enter the workforce upon graduation.

Students who are looking for an alternative to attending classes during the workweek should consider Weekend College or online courses. San Jacinto College offers a wide variety of weekend classes that are taught Friday through Sunday in various academic and technical programs. These courses provide another option for students who work during the week or cannot take classes in the traditional Mondaythrough Friday format. Students who take weekend classes via the Weekend College program, a prescribed pathway, can complete an associate of arts degree and transfer to the university of their choice within two years. Online classes are available for some of the basic courses, offering full credit and transferability. For more information, visit the San Jacinto College online learning website.

To apply to San Jacinto College, visit [sanjac.edu/](http://sanjac.edu/) apply.

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JANUARY 5, 2017

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

### Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

### North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors holds a dance every Thursday from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at LyondellBasell on Sheldon Road at noon. For more information, please visit [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

### 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](mailto:tmoore@galenaparkisd.com), phone: 832-832-1063 or text: 832-256-5079.

## Community Center,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with disabilities. This park was dedicated in her memory and named the Barbara Jordan Park.

Commissioner Gene Locke said he wanted to fulfill the promise of the late Commissioner El Franco Lee who wanted a community center for the people of that area.

The new building will cost \$4.1 million and will be open to the public and have a 250 capacity with meeting space and a state of the art kitchen. Con-

struction starts in January 2017 and expected completion in October of 2017.

Mrs. Rosemary Jordan-McGowan, President of Riverwood Civic Club and the Sister of the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan gave remarks of gratefulness and assisted in Groundbreaking with Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc- Anna Kirsey, Kim Tops & Bessie Fletcher of Houston & Suburban Bayou City Chapters and the community supporting.

## Channelview lands 16 players on All-District teams

The Channelview High School football program made an impression on District 21-6A football coaches this year as 16 Falcons were named 2016 All-District Selections.

Led by the efforts of these players and others, Channelview advanced to the playoffs for the second straight year. This year's Falcon team was the first in school history to clinch back-to-back playoff berths. The Falcons ended the season as Bi-District Finalists.

Channelview's All-District selections are as follows:

**First Team Offense**  
Bernard Childs, offensive line  
Demontre Tuggle, running back

**First Team Defense**  
Tuciano Pope, safety

**Second Team Offense**  
Gerald Gardner, quarterback  
Roberto Varvelo, offensive line  
Dawson Norbriga, fullback  
Devin Jennings, wide receiver  
Tuciano Pope, wide receiver

**Second Team Defense**  
Tayvien Green, defensive tackle  
Laveal Gibson, outside linebacker

**Second Team Specialist**  
Tuciano Pope, punt return specialist

**Honorable Mention**  
Neiman Thomas, defensive back  
Anthony Garzoria, defensive back  
Jeremiah Bennett, defensive tackle  
Curry Thomas, defensive back



Channelview's Demontre Tuggle, shown here running for a touchdown in the Falcons' playoff game against La Porte, was one of the leading rushers in District 21-6A and was named First Team All-District runningback.

Johnntrell Howard, defensive end

**Academic All-District**  
Alejandro Cortina, line-backer  
Gildardo Bernal, offensive line

The Falcons will have several of these All-District players returning for action next year. Gardner will return for his senior year to guide Channelview at quarterback, while Jennings assumes his spot at wide receiver and Nobriga will return as fullback.

Childs, who has lettered since his freshman year, will anchor the offensive line. On defense, Green and Thomas are expected starters in the secondary, while Gibson adds leadership at the outside line-backer spot.

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OPINION PAGE

Don't Be A Victim Of Tax Fraud

(NAPSI)—If you get a call from the “IRS” threatening you with lawsuits or jail unless you pay up immediately, don’t worry. It’s a scam.

IRS impersonation and tax scams by phone, e-mail, snail mail and text are ongoing. Criminals use increasingly creative ploys to trick taxpayers but you can protect yourself and your money.

What To Watch For

First, you should know that the IRS doesn’t initiate contact with taxpayers by e-mail, text message or social media channels to request personal or financial information. This includes requests for PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

Here are five more things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a telltale sign of a scam.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount it says you owe
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone

- Threaten to bring in police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Where To Get Help

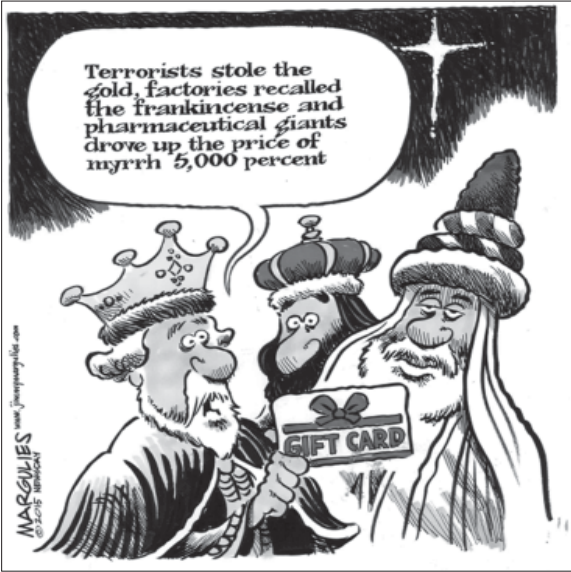
If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov.

You’ll be a lot less likely to worry that in fact there was an error on your tax return if you get help from a licensed professional tax preparer.

For example, enrolled agents (EAs) are America’s tax experts. They are the only federally licensed tax practitioners who both specialize in taxation and have unlimited rights to represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service. These tax specialists have earned the privilege of representing taxpayers before the IRS by either passing a stringent and comprehensive three-part examination covering individual tax returns, business tax returns, and representation, practice and procedure—or through relevant experience as a former IRS employee. All candidates are subjected to a rigorous background check conducted by the IRS.

Find An Enrolled Agent

To locate an EA nearby, go to the “Find a Tax Expert” directory at www.eatax.org.



Patrick applauds action preserving North Carolina’s ‘bathroom bill’

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has applauded the North Carolina legislature’s refusal to repeal a law banning individuals from using public bathrooms designated for the opposite sex.

Patrick, who has made the passage of similar legislation in Texas one of his priorities, said in a Dec. 22 statement: “Legislation like this is essential to protect the safety and privacy of women and girls, and is simple common sense and common decency.

“Legislation to protect women’s privacy and business is essential to assure that sexual predators, like those who exploit the internet, will not be able to freely enter women’s restrooms, locker rooms or showers and that businesses are not forced by local ordinances to allow men in women’s restrooms and locker rooms.”

The filing of legislation proposing new bathroom access laws is certain in the Texas Legislature’s upcoming 85th Regular Session, beginning Jan. 10. Several bills have already been filed by Democratic state lawmakers, all proposing a prohibition on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in regards to employment, access to public facilities, etc.

TAB chief decries NC bill

Chris Wallace, president of the Texas Association of Business, issued a statement taking the opposite position on the North Carolina bathroom bill.

“After months of debate and an unprecedented special session by the North Carolina Legislature, it’s unfortunate to see that the state chose not to repeal the discriminatory law created by HB 2. North Carolina and states that embrace discriminatory legislation will continue to suffer dire economic consequences, losing revenue and major events and disrupting job creation and investment.

“That’s why the Texas business community has made clear that discriminatory laws like HB 2 have no

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



place in Texas. We can’t afford to slam the door on the Texas Miracle and create an environment hostile to business, unsafe and unwelcoming for citizens and harmful to our larger economy and prosperity. Keep Texas Open for Business will continue to press our own Texas lawmakers to roundly reject discriminatory bills, no matter how they’re phrased or what they’re named.”

New case of Zika confirmed

The Texas Department of State Health Services and Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services on Dec. 22 announced that an additional Brownsville resident has contracted the Zika virus locally, bringing the total to six in Cameron County and Texas.

Work is ongoing to identify and offer testing to anyone with possible Zika symptoms and to all pregnant women in the area with or without symptoms. Efforts include environmental assessments to help reduce mosquito habitats. Recent cold temperatures, combined with mosquito control efforts, have reduced the mosquito population in the area. However, on warm days, residents should continue to use mosquito repellent and wear long sleeves and pants. It is also impor-

tant to dump out containers that hold standing water in and around homes to deny mosquitoes a place to lay eggs.

Eco-minded actions urged

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Dec. 21 posted its annual plea to be eco-friendly during the holidays and into the new year.

“Whether we try to save money, lose weight, or quit certain habits, one habit worth breaking is throwing away items that can be re-used or recycled. Every year, landfills take on more and more things we no longer want or need. In fact, in 2015, Texans added about 33.5 million tons of stuff to them. That’s more than six-and-a-half pounds of trash per Texan per day! If recent trends continue, that number will have increased for 2016. And at this rate, we only have enough landfill space to last another 56 years.”

Among things the TCEQ asks of Texans:

- Use and re-use gift bags;
  - Serve meals on reusable plates and use cloth napkins;
  - Use rechargeable batteries and recycle them when they no longer hold a charge; and
  - Sell, donate or recycle old electronics.
- Also, because more than 80 billion pieces of junk mail are delivered each year and most of it ends up in landfills, the TCEQ suggests that Texans opt out of unwanted catalogs, pre-screened credit and insurance offers remember to recycle junk mail.
- Last but not least, the TCEQ recommends: “Consider reusing holiday cards in craft projects instead of tossing them in the trash.”

Three Smart Suggestions For Your Self-Defense

(NAPSI)—According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 20 out of every thousand Americans will be a victim of some kind of assault every year—but you can learn to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Expert Advice

“The best self-defense tip is to always be aware of your surroundings and potential threats so that you don’t get into a situation where you actually have to defend yourself when it could possibly be avoided,” said Wade Eastwood, 2nd Unit Director/ Stunt Coordinator for the action & adventure movie from Paramount “Jack Reacher: Never Go Back.” You don’t want to get into a fight if you can help it, but “if it can’t be avoided,” he added, “then at least you are prepped and ready” if you follow these three Reacher’s Rules For Self-Defense.

1. Anything can be a weapon. Keys or a pen can inflict minor damage but after multiple hits can break an enemy down through loss of blood or acute impact strikes. Your voice is also a weapon and can draw help if needed.
  2. Hit them fast. If you have to fight, it’s critical to injure or immobilize your attacker immediately, and don’t get any closer to your attacker than necessary. Kicking the side or front of the knee is a great way to injure and throw your attacker off balance. If you’re already close, go for the eyes with your fingers or knuckles. You can also use the heel of your palm to strike up under the nose if your attacker is in front of you, or use your elbow to the nose if the attacker is behind.
  3. Hit them hard. Use your entire body weight to hit or break free rather than your individual muscles because your attacker may be stronger. If you kick the knee, throw your whole body into the kick. Same with throwing the heel of your hand into the nose—don’t just use your arm, use all your weight.
- Again, prevention is the best defense. Attackers want unsuspecting, vulnerable targets. “The Jack Reacher character is always on the lookout for danger and you should be, too,” Eastwood advised. “Always expect the worst.”

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Hilda Garza Guardado

Hilda Garza Guardado, 40, of Channelview, Texas, passed from this life December 30, 2016.

Hilda was born July 20, 1976 in Houston Texas to parents, A.G. Garza and Beatrice Rodriguez. She was employed with the Pasadena I.S.D. for over 13 years, recently working as a dispatcher for the campus police department.

She is survived by her husband of 13 years, Marbel Ivan Guardado; by mother, Beatrice Rodriguez and father and step-mother, A.G. and Beverly Garza; by sisters, Lupe Rodas and husband, Ernest; Rose Ann Reynoso and husband, Sergio; Beatrice Melendez and husband Antonio; and by brother, Narcisco Cruz and wife, Victoria; and by step-brother, Ray Houston; as well as by numerous nieces, nephews, other family and dear friends.

A visitation and service to celebrate her life will be held at First Assembly of



God Church, 330 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Texas. Visitation was held Tuesday, January 3, 2017 from 6-8:00 p.m. and Services were held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 4, 2017. Burial followed in San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning...

1 Corinthians 15:33,34

"Nobelskille (Malachias) der Herrgott" by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1920)

Norma Jean Brownell



Norma Jean Brownell, 51, passed away December 13, 2016 in Baytown, Texas. She was born June 23, 1965 to parents Frozie James, Jr. and Ruth Anne Trahan in Houston, Texas.

Norma was a loving and family-oriented daughter, sister and friend. She worked as a security guard with her sister, and was a dedicated and hard worker. Norma enjoyed playing one-liner slot machines and listening to Elvis Presley. She is preceded in death by her parents.

Norma is lovingly survived by her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Herring; brother and sister-in-law, Don and Cindy Goynes; sister, Malinda Bienek; grandchildren, Caleb and Nicholas; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Norma's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2016 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Charlotte Jeanine Holloway

Charlotte Jeanine Holloway, age 54, went to be with the Lord on Friday December 23, 2016. She was born in Houston, Texas on July 26, 1962 to Janet Elois Thomason Crites and Roy Charles McVicker. She enjoyed gardening and had a compassion for caring for animals, but most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. She was a big hearted, giving, free spirited person and was full of character. She was funny and clever and will always be loved and missed by all who knew her. She is preceded in death by her father; her daughter, Crystal Holloway; her grandparents, Lois and Walter Thomason and her niece, Bonnie Cox Clevenger. Charlotte is survived by her husband, Rick Mead; her mother, Jan Crites (and husband, Bill); her daughter, Katie Norman (and husband, Jeston); her sisters, June Cox Brodd and Kristy Fontenot (and husband, Donnie); her nieces, Kylea McCrary and Ashley Bloomfield and her cousins, Shawn Moore and Terri Bateman. Also survived by other relatives and many friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, on Thursday December 29, 2016 from 1:00 P.m. until 2:00 P.m. followed by services in Sterling-White Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be in Sterling-White Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com).

25 Years at Northside Baptist, Highlands

David R. Brumbelow has served as pastor of Northside Baptist Church of Highlands for 25 years. He began serving Northside as pastor the first Sunday of December, 1991.

Brumbelow is a graduate of Sam Houston High School, Houston; East Texas Baptist University, Marshall; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity), Fort Worth & Houston. He also attended Houston Baptist University and Navarro College.

Brother David previously pastored churches in Beeville and Henderson, TX. He is the author of two books: "The Wit & Wisdom of Pastor Joe Brumbelow" and "Ancient Wine and the Bible: The Case for Abstinence;" and writes at [gulfoastpastor.blogspot.com](http://gulfoastpastor.blogspot.com). He also serves as Director



Pastor David R. Brumbelow

of the Baptist Student Union, Lee College, Baytown, TX.

In December Pastor Brumbelow thanked the members of Northside for putting up with him all these years. Northside is located at 317 Barbers Hill Road, Highlands, TX 77562.

LITTLE BIDDY BITS  
By Danny Biddy

The Green, Green Grass of Home

I have a pile of leftover bricks in my back yard that were neatly stacked on a wooden pallet. Over time the grass grew up through the bricks, pushing them apart, and turning the neat stack into an ugly eyesore. The weight of the bricks was no match for the determination of the grass.

Is there something in your life that should not be there? It will be determined to grow and push your life apart if you do nothing about it.

"Be careful, lest any root of bitterness springs up causing trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." Hebrews 12:15.

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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

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

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# ASK THE EXPERT

## Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for January?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

#### January's Birthstone is Garnet

For babies born in January, the garnet is the perfect gem to represent their birthstone. This beautiful stone, which is most commonly red but can be found in a range of other colors, symbolizes peace, prosperity and good health. Some say it even has the power to give the wearer eternal happiness, health and wealth.

We say it's the perfect way to start each year!

#### GARNET OVERVIEW

The word "garnet" comes from the 14th Century Middle English word "gernet" meaning dark red. The word is derived from Latin "granatum" which means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to the beautifully red seeds of the pomegranate.

Garnet is actually 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 Tsavorite. Some rare garnets are even blue, colorless, or—most rare of all—change colors in different lights. But the most common color is a beautiful range of reds, from rust colored to deep violet-red.

The garnet is a very durable gemstone (6.5-7.5 on the Mohs scale) found all over the world, including Wyoming, Czech Republic, Greece, Russia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and India.

The folklore on garnet is extensive. Legend has it that the garnet can bring peace, prosperity and good health to the home. Some even called it the "Gem of Faith," and it's believed that to those who wear it and do good, more good will come. (Conversely, it was also said to bring very bad fortune to those who commit bad acts while wearing it.)

It is also believed that the garnet symbolizes deep and lasting friendship. With that "legend" in mind, give a garnet to someone whose friendship you deeply value.

No matter why or how you wear garnet, this beautiful gemstone is perfect for those who share January birthdays and get to start each New Year with a sense of goodwill, happiness, and purpose.

#### GARNET HISTORY

The garnet is so durable, remnants of garnet jewelry can be found as far back as the Bronze Age. Other references go back to 3100 BC when the Egyptians used garnet as inlays in their jewelry and carvings. The Egyptians even said it was the symbol of life. The garnet was very popular with the Romans in the 3rd and 4th Century. This gemstone was also used as a talisman for protection both by warriors going into battle and to those who wanted to ward off pestilence and plague. Some ancient healers and wise men even placed garnets in wounds and praised its healing powers.

Garnet jewelry has been a fixture throughout the ages. Garnets were often used as signet rings in ancient Rome, and the nobility favored garnets in the Middle Ages. The Victorians made garnets very popular during that time period. Some of the loveliest garnet jewelry from that era mimics its pomegranate namesake, with clusters of tiny red gems forming a larger statement piece.

Today, the garnet can be found in a range of colors, rare garnets in green or blue make breathtaking pieces, especially in pendants or drop earrings.

#### HOW TO BUY GARNET

If you're looking to purchase a garnet for yourself or a loved one, it is a great way to celebrate friendship, toast a 2nd wedding anniversary or recognize the wearer's January birthday. When buying, visit a jewelry you know you can trust to assist you in purchasing exactly the right stone and piece. Look at how the garnet reacts under light, both natural and synthetic and check for an intense, saturated color. Remember, garnets commonly come in a wide spectrum of reds, but can also be green, pink, colorless or blue. The price of the piece will likely increase for more rare colors like green or blue.

Garnets can also be judged along some of the same parameters as diamonds, with clarity and cut affecting the beauty and value of the stone. It should be noted that some garnets have inclusions that are part of the beauty of the overall stone (like "horsetails" in Demantoid garnets, or Hessonite garnets which sometimes have a "turbulent" look). So you may discover that you like the unique look these inclusions bring to the piece.

Try to find a cut that spreads light evenly over the surface of the gemstone. This will help to bring out the overall beauty and color of the garnet. No matter which stone or piece you choose, remember that the garnet is known for its durability and richness of color, so your investment will not only have great emotional value but could be a piece that stands the test of time.

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

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).

## WWII veteran fights a different front

Dr. Westbrook advocates for quality educational access

HOUSTON - When Dr. B.J. Westbrook joined the Army, he had no idea that he would be part of one of the most infamous wars that changed the course of American history. He also did not expect that his military experience would lead to continuing his education and future career as a dentist. As the country recognizes the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Westbrook reflects on the events that caused a generation to persevere and strive to accomplish their goals through hard work and education.

Upon enlisting Dr. Westbrook served as an infantryman during World War II (WWII). As the war came to a close, despite having no medical experience, he was given a medical assignment, promoted to sergeant and managed the dispensary of the 24th and 25th divisions of the 6th Army, which included about 7,000 men.

"I gained so much admiration for medical personnel," said Westbrook. "We had a dentist out there who just used a little pump machine, so even now it amazes me how much we did with what we had back then and how far things have advanced today."

As his interest in the medical field expanded, Dr. Westbrook found himself surrounded by the aftermath of another horrific WWII attack in the summer of 1945. "They had just delivered parts to the atomic bomb that would be dropped on Hiroshima, when the ship (USS Indianapolis) was hit by two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine." Of the nearly 1,200 onboard, 900 men were left swimming in the Pacific for five days ultimately succumbing to injuries, dehydration, exhaustion and shark attacks leaving only 316 survivors.



Dr. B.J. Westbrook, a World War II veteran, supports San Jacinto College students as a longtime donor and supporter of the San Jacinto College Foundation. He has also included the Foundation in his will, as a planned gift, to ensure a legacy of education. Dr. B.J. Westbrook (center) is pictured with his daughters Renee Westbrook (left) and Mickie Westbrook (right). Photo credit: Andrea Vasquez, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations and government affairs department.

After he completed his enlistment, Westbrook chose to pursue a college education, which was made possible by the GI Bill. As the first in his family to graduate from high school, a college education was an endeavor that no one in his family had ever dreamed of. "Both of my parents only went to school until the fourth grade, so making the decision to go to college after I got out of the Army was something I wanted to do for myself. At the time, I thought I wanted to go to medical school, so this was the only way to do that." After attending the University of Texas, Westbrook continued on to dental school and worked as a dentist in Houston's North Channel area for more than 50 years.

Since then, Westbrook has been a champion for community colleges and providing students access to a quality and affordable education through his donations to the San Jacinto College Foundation. In addition to his recent \$100,000 donation to the College's music program, Westbrook has also included the San Jacinto College

Foundation in his will, establishing an endowment that will continue to support student success through a legacy that promotes all forms of postsecondary education.

"College in the academic sense is not for everyone," he said. "San Jacinto College offers students different pathway options, so if a four-year university is not in their plan, they can still come to the College and become proficient in a technical area and enter the workforce making a decent living and work toward whatever their next goal is. This is why I'm a big advocate for community colleges."

The San Jacinto College Foundation creates educational access through generous donations from private donors, industry partners and alumni that fund scholarships for San Jacinto College students. The Foundation also has veteran student scholarships and emergency funding available to ensure continued veteran student success by serving those who have served us. For more information on giving to the San Jacinto College Foundation, visit [sanjac.edu/foundation](http://sanjac.edu/foundation).

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		40	Halt
25	Spill the	42	Swine

**ACROSS**

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**DOWN**

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2	Man-mouse link	9	Pinnacle	30	Sad
3	Retreat	10	Aching	33	Rut
4	Stretch, as the neck	11	Oklahoma city	34	Emanation
5	Deviates off course	16	Work units	36	Giggly sound
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		21	Leak slowly	39	Jock's antithesis
		22	"Loves me (not)" flower	40	Halt
		23	Grecian vessels	42	Swine
		25	Spill the beans	43	"The — Daba Honeymoon"
		26	Gilligan, notably	44	Past
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# Holiday Joy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Residents and volunteers

Photos by Allan Jamail

ma's Hair Looks, 1416 Mercury Drive) for help with comforting residents who hasn't any family members living nearby.

Teresa and Irasema began planning the Christmas party, Lupita Jaime (Lupita's Crazy Energy Z Fitness - 832-882-3562) of Galena Park organized her Zumba dance class to entertain residents and Payaso Chispurrin in a clown costume (Chispurrin Magic Show-832-909-4915) performed magic tricks.

Brothers Edgar Salinas used his banjo sexto (string instrument), Oziel Salinas Jr. with the accordion and their grandfather Felix Ochoa (Irasema's sons & dad) together sang Christ-



Zumba volunteers' of Lupita's Crazy Energy Z Fitness  
Left to right: Lupita Jaime, Francis Gonzales, Esther Casillas, Maria Barba, Teresa Arzapala, Rosa Godinez, Edith Gonzalez, Irasema Salinas, Mary Tamez, Myriam Cortez, Teresa Tamez, Nora Ramirez.

mas and Norteño music which is music combining elements of traditional Mexican folk song, polka and popular American music.

Melissa Armstrong the healthcare center's new administrator said she's

looking forward to working with Jamail and the Keep Jacinto City Clean Committee's volunteers he's the chairman of so together they can provide the most enjoyable atmosphere possible for the residents. Volunteer's plant flowers,

register voters, assist with mail ballot applications, text photos, provide cell phone contact for residents to family members living too far away to visit the center and offer spiritual support to residents upon request.

## SHELDON ISD: New Board of Trustees sworn in



Photo by DEREK MOORE

Angela Cormier (Position 1) was officially sworn in as the newest Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees at December's regular meeting in the Ney Administration Building Board Room.

## Former Sheldon ISD Board President recognized

Former Sheldon ISD Board President Ken Coleman was honored at Tuesday's SISD School Board meeting for serving the past two years as president.

Coleman said the district means a lot to him, and he wants to continue to see that SISD students have numerous opportunities to be successful.

Following the board's re-organization, the following new officers were unanimously approved: Fred Rivas, President; Patricia Charlot, Vice President; and Ken Coleman, Secretary.



Pictured (from left) are Sheldon ISD Superintendent King Davis and outgoing Board President Ken Coleman.

# Year in Review,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### JULY

- Some residents warned not to drink their well water due to possible contamination
- Two die in San Jacinto River drownings
- Dr. Angi Williams named Region 4 Superintendent of the Year
- North Channel Chamber hears heart doctor Rozo
- Large crowd attends Waste Pits meeting to discuss their well water
- Rep. Green calls for clean-up and removal of toxic wastes in river, at session of Congress
- Jacinto City receives federal grants for Ambulance and Police body cameras
- Galena Park residents advised to "shelter in place" due to a chemical release at the Pasadena Refining plant

### AUGUST

- Two suspects sought in armed robbery of store on Clinton Drive in Galena Park
- Father killed on Kenny Street, in front of son, in drive-by shooting
- Chamber hears about SETRAC organization
- LULAC awards scholarships to seven students
- Well owners told its okay to drink water after tests
- Cell Phone store on Market Street, Jacinto City, robbed
- North Shore Rotary donates \$8000 to Channelview EF
- Congressman Green hosts annual Immunization Day
- Deputies arrest three in Channelview for drugs, weapons

### SEPTEMBER

- North Shore Rotary hears from 3 school Superintendents
- Walgreens institutes Drug disposal program
- Chamber hears of Port of Houston activities
- LyondellBasell employees help community with Global Care Day
- Galena Park ISD recognizes media persons, Cathy Hernandez and Gilbert Hoffman
- Shots fired at East Houston Hospital parking lot
- Jacinto City officer Castaneda receives Star of Texas Award from Texas Governor
- John Painter honored by "Helping a Hero"
- Furr High School awards \$10 million by XQ Institute
- EPA plan for Waste Pits includes complete removal
- New Police Station planned for Jacinto City
- Chamber challenges membership drive with "Forty for Forty in Four" by Dr. Charles Grant
- Assistance Ministries opens new building

### OCTOBER

- National Night Out observed by area communities
- JC Police make felony drug raid
- North Shore HS holds Homecoming
- Chamber hears from 3 school Superintendents
- Pilot Club holds successful Spaghetti Dinner & Auction
- Judge Mike Parrott honored at Pct. 2 ball, announces retirement
- PineForest Jewelry suffers massive robbery
- New Call Center for five ESDs announced at groundbreaking
- North Shore Rotary dedicates Veterans Memorial Wall
- Community Meeting tells EPA to completely remove Waste Pits
- C.E. King HS holds Homecoming

### NOVEMBER

- Furr HS celebrates receipt of \$10 million grant
- San Jacinto Chancellor Hellyer roasted by LULAC
- Galena Park HS holds Homecoming
- Groundbreaking helds for Channelview FD New Station #3
- Chamber holds annual "Salute to Veterans"
- Nov. 8 Election results in upsets, Democratic wins in Harris County
- San Jacinto College plans to cut 4 athletics programs
- NS Mustangs headed for the Play-offs
- Mike Parrott retirement party well attended at courthouse

### DECEMBER

- Frost Bank opens Branch in North Channel!
- NS Mustangs lose Play-off game in Overtime
- Jacinto City replacing aging water system
- Four bodies found in burned car in Channelview
- Holiday Season observed with parades, celebrations in GP and JC
- NS Rotary distributes 300 Food Baskets to needy families
- President Obama signs Green's 21st Century Cures Act

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