

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Rep. Hernandez Files Legislation to support teachers, retirees

AUSTIN, TX- July 20, 2017 - Governor Abbott added additional items to his special session call, including measures to "increase the salary and benefits (including TRS-Care) of Texas teachers."

Answering this new item on the call, Representative Ana Hernandez (D - Houston) has filed House Bill 246, which would provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) tied to the Consumer Price Index for all TRS retirees.

"Fully funding TRS-Care is a necessary, but insufficient, step toward keeping our promises to Texas's educators," Hernandez said. "Even with adequate funding levels, cost-of-living increases and market volatility will continue to affect insurance premiums. The state needs to step up, put its money where its mouth is, and provide long-term financial relief for our school district retirees. If we are serious about supporting our classroom teachers in the work they do every day in shaping the next generation of Texans, then House Bill 246 must receive a hearing and full consideration before the House."

### JC Police warn of pedophile in local market

Police in Jacinto City are searching for a man who has been approaching young girls and forcing them to look at pornography on his cell phone.



The most recent incident was at the Seller Bros. store on Market Street Monday, July 24 when he approached a 9-year-old. Other reports said he did the same thing in stores last March.

JC Detective Sgt. Betty Silva said "This guy's dangerous" and that they need to get this man behind bars. He is described as Hispanic, 5 foot 8 inches, black gelled hair, black mustache.

### Galena Park/Jacinto City CIP Meeting

Next meeting has been set for Thursday, August 3, 2017. 5:45 p.m. - light dinner. 6:15 p.m. - business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. The meeting will take place at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park. Topics to talk about: Recycling of CIP Plant Products and other recycling by plants.

## LyondellBasell to build world's largest PO/TBA Plant in Channelview Complex

HOUSTON and LONDON, July 21, 2017 /PRNewswire/ - LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB), one of the world's largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies, today announced the final investment decision to build the world's largest propylene oxide (PO) and tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) plant in the Houston area. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$2.4 billion, representing the single-largest capital investment in the company's history. At the peak of construction, the project is expected to create up to 2,500 jobs and approximately 160 permanent positions when operational.

"This world-scale project is a key part of our organic growth strategy which is designed to meet rising global demand for both urethanes



LyondellBasell has made the final investment decision to build the world's largest PO/TBA plant at its Channelview Complex. The \$2.4 billion project is the company's single-largest capital investment to date and upon completion, will produce an anticipated 1 billion pounds of propylene oxide and 2.2 billion pounds of tertiary butyl alcohol annually.

See New Plant, Page 8

## EKG heart screening takes main stage

CROSBY - Scott Stephens & Associates, real estates appraisers held an open house at their new office on Bohemian Hall Road near Krenek and afterwards treated members of the press and North Shore Rotarians to a fried chicken dinner at Bill's Barn on Murff Estates.

Stephens recently moved his office to Crosby and now can be found at 15021 Bohemian Hall Road. After a complete tour of the new state of the art office, the dinner commenced and afterward speaking began concerning the upcoming Free Heart Screening to be held at the Crosby Community



Scott Stephens addresses North Shore Rotarians at Bill's Barn in the Murff Estates in Crosby on July 20. Stephens added new information concerning House Bill 204 as rekindled by Education Committee Chairman Dan Huberty.

Center on August 12 sponsored by Post Oak Bank and the Cody Stephens Memorial Foundation. One thing learned was that partic-

ipants can sign up for the screening at www.codystephensfounda-

See EKG Screening, Page 8

## JACINTO CITY BURGLARY: JC Police seek persons of interest



Suspect 1



Suspect 2

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX- Jacinto City police is seeking information and the identity of persons of interest in connection with the burglary of the Fuel Express (Market and Deli) on Holland.

Police answering a burglary alarm discovered the

store front glass had been broken open and merchandise was taken. Video security cameras did record the persons of interest.

Police Chief Ayala said anyone who recognizes either of the persons in the photo or who has any information should call him confidentially at 713-672-2455.

## NORTH SHORE ROTARY New officers, new goals at North Shore

North Shore Rotary Club has installed its new officers and board for the 2017-2018 year, with District 5890 Governor Bill Palko conducting the swearing in.

At the club luncheon on July 13, new president Adam Lund talked about his journey to become president, and reviewed his goals for the coming year. Lund is a vice president at Capital Bank in charge of lending.

He reminded the club of the national motto for this year, "Rotary: Making A Difference." He suggested that a goal for this year would be to plant trees in the community. He also wants to grow the membership from 75 to 100.

New Officers are President Adam Lund, Pres. Elect Bill Bowes, Secretary Ryan Dagley, Treasurer Lowell Everitt, and Past



NORTH SHORE ROTARY PRESIDENT ADAM LUND

President Kimberly Gonzalez. New Board members are Matt Davis, Cary Stephens, Robert Lunde, Rhonda Bean, David Gray, Shawn Silman, Dan Mims, Terri Denny, and Norman Giles.

Service Directors are Dr. Donald Niño, Lucia Bates, Shawn Silman, Derrill Painter, and Danna Lemmon and Dr. Donald Niño.

## GALENA PARK/JACINTO CITY GP/JC Rotary holds installation, awards



GALENA PARK/JACINTO CITY ROTARY CLUB installed new officers on Wednesday July 19, and honored its Rotarians of the Year. In the photo above are Rotarian of the Year Eileen Brightwell, new president Bryan Clements, District 5890 Governor Bill Palko, who installed the new board and officers, and Rotarian of the Year Maria Rodriguez.

Other officers are President-Elect Jennifer Ledwith, Secretary Ernesto Paredes, Jr., Treasurer Carol Thompson, Past President & Director Josh Moreno, Foundation Chair Ramon Garza, Public Relations Chair Eileen Brightwell, Membership Chair Jennifer Ledwith, and Directors Ramon Garza and Maria Rodriguez.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Investigation of Hernandez homicide case concludes with actions and Deputy firing

July 21, 2017 – A comprehensive Internal Affairs investigation into the handling of the May 28 altercation that resulted in the death of John Hernandez has concluded, and the Harris County Sheriff's Office is now taking steps to improve training and revise policies to ensure that best practices are consistently followed at incident scenes.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez ordered the Internal Affairs investigation to answer questions about how the initial investigation into the incident was handled.

The incident occurred just before midnight in the parking lot of a Denny's restaurant in the 17700 block of the Crosby Freeway in east Harris County.

Internal Affairs interviewed 32 people during the course of the investigation.

A Harris County grand jury has indicted Terry Thompson, 41, and Chauna Thompson, 45, on murder charges, alleging they caused John Hernandez's death by asphyxiation.

Chauna Thompson was an off-duty Harris County Sheriff's Office deputy at the time of the incident.

"I have strong confidence in the leadership of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, as well as the rank-and-file dep-



Terry Thompson

Chauna Thompson

uties who put their lives on the line every day to protect our community," Sheriff Gonzalez said. "However, we will learn from the tragic death of John Hernandez.

While our in-depth investigation uncovered no evidence of nefarious actions on the part of our on-duty personnel who worked the initial incident scene, we did find areas in which we must improve as a department.

I will continue reviewing best practices to implement changes aimed at improving scene management and other aspects of our operation.

We will also ensure that all appropriate personnel receive the support and training they need in order to meet the high standards we set for ourselves."

In addition to these changes, Sheriff Gonzalez has approved the following disciplinary

actions for some sheriff's office personnel:

- Deputy Chauna Thompson has been terminated.
- One sergeant has been transferred to a new assignment, ordered to complete additional training, and suspended for five days.
- One sergeant received a letter of documented counseling.
- One sergeant received a letter of reprimand and was ordered to complete additional training.
- One deputy received a one-day suspension and 30 days' probation.

All disciplinary actions are subject to appeal to the Civil Service Commission. Because this matter is related to a pending criminal case, no additional information will be released at this time.

## Governor announces support for school choice for special needs students

AUSTIN – July 20, 2017 – Governor Greg Abbott today announced that his call for school choice for special needs students is generating growing support across Texas. Allowing school choice for special needs students is part of the Governor's 20-item agenda for the ongoing special legislative session.

"The Texas Business Leadership Council applauds Governor Abbott's commitment to improving educational outcomes in Texas. Addressing issues like school effectiveness and teacher compensation will have a real effect on student success. The Governor also recognizes that providing additional opportunities for students with special needs is both the right thing to do and will have a lasting positive impact on the student, his or her family, and the state as well," – Justin Yancy, President, Texas Business Leadership Council

"For generations, homeschooling has grown strong based on the idea that each family should be empowered with freedom to make their own choices for their own family. THSC supports increased school choice options for special needs students based on this exact same premise. Empowering families with the freedom to make their own decisions gives them access to more and better options that meet the student's unique needs." – Tim Lambert, President, Texas Home School Coalition

"Texans for Education Opportunity applauds Governor Greg Abbott for his leadership on education freedom for our most vulnerable students. By including Education Savings Accounts for students with

special needs on the call for the Special Session, our state lawmakers will have the opportunity to pass meaningful legislation so these young Texans have the chance to realize their full potential through an environment designed to fit their unique learning needs." – Stacy Hock, Chair, Texans for Education Opportunity

"AFP-Texas is proud to stand with Governor Abbott in promoting educational freedom for the families of special needs students in Texas. We encourage the Legislature to pass compassionate reforms such as Educational Savings Accounts (ESA)s for Special Needs Students in the special session to ensure all Texas families have the ability to give their children a quality education." – Jerome Greener, State Director, Americans for Prosperity – TX

"As a congregational rabbi, I hear many heartbreaking stories from parents of special needs children. Parents struggle with the overwhelming cost and the daily challenge of ensuring that their child with special needs receives a high-quality education in the most appropriate setting. Parents need a full range of public and private educational options." – Rabbi Aryeh Feigenbaum, Congregation Ohr HaTorah of Dallas and regional representative of Agudath Israel of America

"Parents are the primary educators of their children and we applaud efforts to prioritize parental choice in the Texas legislature. In particular, we support opportunities for children with disabilities, who are most in need of our assistance. We will work hard for passage of these bills." – Michael

Barba, Associate Director of Public Policy, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

"The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention supports school choice for special needs students. We believe disabled individuals are a valued part of God's creation and those with disabilities require understanding, compassion, and assistance. It is critical to offer help and hope to individuals with disabilities and to their families that they will not face these challenges alone in a school that does not offer the educational services their child requires." – Gary Ledbetter, Communications Director, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

"A majority of states offer their families expanded educational freedom to meet students' individual needs; Texas is not among them. Our research has found that states that offer students with special needs more educational options have seen impressive student gains and overwhelming participant satisfaction. More than 600,000 vulnerable students in Texas are likely to be eligible for such a program." – Stephanie Matthews, Director, TPPF Center for Education Freedom

"If Texas lawmakers act now to lead, they can dramatically improve educational opportunity for families and students, by supporting educational freedom. The majority of special needs kids in the state are Hispanic, so this move will help the state to become more competitive, and help Hispanic families succeed at the same time."

– Jorge A. Lima, Executive Director, The LIBRE Initiative.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## SAN JACINTO COLLEGE: Pharmacy tech students receive Community Champion award

HOUSTON, Texas – Three San Jacinto College pharmacy technician students and their faculty member received the Community Champion award from the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families for their service with Medication Take Back Day.

Students Denetria Salyer, Eman Saleh and Adrian Acosta, along with faculty member Regina Ram and Natural and Health Sciences Dean Dr. Alexander Okwonna, were recognized for their participation in Medication Take Back Day that, in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement, allows the community to clean out their medicine cabinets and properly dispose of old, unused and expired medication.

The San Jac group collected 384 pounds of medication during the event. Since 2010 the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families has hosted 14 events and collected more than 14,000 pounds of prescription drugs.

“It takes many hands to make a Medication Take



Photo by Amanda Fenwick

San Jacinto College pharmacy technician students and faculty received the Community Champion award from the Bay Area Alliance of Youth and Families. Pictured, left to right: Amanda McLaughlin, Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families Coalition Manager; Dr. Brenda Jones, Provost, San Jacinto College; Denetria Salyer, student; Regina Ram, pharmacy technology instructor; Eman Saleh, student; and Dr. Alexander Okwonna, San Jacinto College dean, health and natural sciences.

Back work. Dr. Okwonna and his students are invaluable to our efforts and our success,” said Amanda McLaughlin, Bay Area Alliance Coalition Manager. “They are always prompt, courteous, hard-working and thoughtful, and have

been a joy to work with.” This award is given annually to a group or organization that invests in the young people of the community with their time and talents. There were three groups honored: San Jacinto College, League City

Police Department and Texas Auto. The Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families is a community coalition dedicated to reducing drug and alcohol abuse in young people. For more information about Bay Area Alliance, visit ccisd.net.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Trip Israel

Join Wayne & Patsy Moss on a trip to ISRAEL! March 2018. Call for more information. 281-447-4307.

#### Houston Metro Go Texan Committee meeting

Jacinto City/Galena Park. Friday, Aug. 4. Buckles and Birdies Classic. Time: 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Location: Stonebridge at Newport  
16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby, Texas 77532  
Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jacinto-city-galena-park-buckles-birdies-classic-tickets-34755154603>.

#### Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club Meeting

This newly chartered club meets on on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church. For more information, see the Facebook page entitled Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club or call 832-264-1565 / 832-289-4762.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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).

[www.facebook.com/NorthChannelStar](http://www.facebook.com/NorthChannelStar)

## New Plant,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and cleaner-burning oxyfuels while creating real, long-term value for our shareholders,” said Bob Patel, CEO of LyondellBasell. “Our investment in this plant combines the best of both worlds: our leading PO/TBA process technology with proximity to low-cost feedstocks, which gives Lyondell-Basell a competitive advantage in the global marketplace for these products.”

“We are pleased that LyondellBasell continues to view the Houston area as important to their global operations, creating jobs and opportunities for Houstonians,” said Bob Harvey, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. “This new project further advances Houston’s position as a global hub of petrochemical manufacturing, leveraging Houston’s strategic access to

the Americas and top markets around the world.”

#### Built to serve global markets

Once in operation, the plant will produce an anticipated 1 billion pounds (470,000 metric tons) of PO and 2.2 billion pounds (1 million metric tons) of TBA annually. PO is used in the manufacture of bedding, furniture, carpeting, coatings, building materials and adhesives, while the TBA will be converted to two ether-based oxyfuels, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and ethyl tertia-

ry butyl ether (ETBE). Both MTBE and ETBE are high-octane gasoline components that help gasoline burn cleaner and reduce emissions from automobiles.

LyondellBasell plans to sell the PO and derivative products to both domestic and global customers, while the oxyfuels will be primarily sold into Latin America and Asia. A portion of the TBA will remain in the

See *New Plant-II*, page 6



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## 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).



OPINION PAGE

Texas Senate preliminarily passes Senate Bill 1, Property Tax Reform, by a vote of 19-12

Texans from all over the State have all made clear that property tax reform is a top priority

AUSTIN - Answering the call of hard-pressed Texans from the panhandle, to Houston, to the I-35 corridor, from big towns and small towns, the Texas Senate yesterday preliminarily passed Senate Bill 1, by Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) to bring about property tax reform and relief for all Texas home and business owners. The bill, a top priority of both Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick, will head to the Texas House after one final vote.

"Texans are crying out for property tax relief as home and business owners are seeing city, county, and special district property tax levies which have gone up twice as fast as ISD property tax levies from 2005 to 2015," said Senator Bettencourt. "That is an astonishing amount of money flowing from Texans' checkbooks into government's pocketbook."

Over the last three years in Harris County, property tax bills have increased 36% for the average home for just the county portion of the bill. Dallas County and Tarrant County have seen similar increases, with property tax bill increases of roughly 25% and 19% respectively. Notably, Travis County offers an example of how SB 1 can work, with the average home seeing a 0.7% reduction on the county portion of their property tax bills, due to property tax rate cuts, despite an appraisal increase of roughly 28%. "The real problem is that when appraised values go up, tax rates never come down," added Senator Bettencourt. "When homeowners in the State's largest county are seeing a 36% increase in average tax bills in just three years it is time to act!"

Senate Bill 1 will lower the current rollback rate from 8% to 4%, and bring added transparency to the property tax process and eliminate confu-

sion surrounding multiple protest deadlines. It would additionally create an automatic election provision in November in a taxing entity exceeds the rollback rate, and also establishes an office in the Comptroller's office for oversight and complaint resolution. Echoing testimony heard before the Senate Select Committee on Government Reform, chaired by Senator Bettencourt, which said "let the people vote", and "trust in the people's vote", Senate Bill 1 will bring the public back into the process and allow them a vote in a November election on their property tax rates. An amendment added by Senator Perry (R-Lubbock) was enacted that exempts taxing entities with under \$20 million in tax revenue from the legislation, however, an amendment from Senator Buckingham (R-Lakeway) allows voters in exempt taxing entities to opt in to the legislation. Senator Birdwell (R-Granbury) eliminated all petition requirements for rollback elections which prevented taxpayers from rolling back their property tax bills due to the higher number of required petition signatures.

Senator Bettencourt highlighted why the property tax reform opposition's arguments surrounding how local ISD property tax bill revenue is used are misguided when he declared, "regardless of what the tax split is on a property tax bill, the taxpayer has to pay 100% of it."

After one final vote in the Senate, Senate Bill 1 will head to the Texas House of Representatives. Property tax reform is the top priority of Governor Abbott in the special session and it will now be up to the Texas House to pass.

Senator Bettencourt concluded, "Texans expect their elected representatives to show up and vote on the important issues that they face every day. The Texas Senate will continue to fight for the ordinary Texans who are bearing the brunt of these property tax increases."



Senate races through agenda to get to other-than-Sunset bills

AUSTIN — The 85th Texas Legislature convened at the Capitol on July 18 for its first called session, the main purpose being for lawmakers to extend the life of certain state agencies scheduled for termination, and then to proceed to other matters.

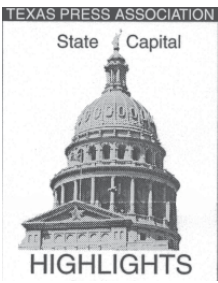
At the urging of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the Senate moved quickly to pass legislation continuing the function of the Texas Medical Board and several other health-care related state oversight boards through 2019. The House, led by Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, tentatively passed similar legislation (House Bill 1) through its State Affairs committee, but 10 amendments to the bill have been pre-filed, and those, plus the main bill, will be subject to a full-House floor debate scheduled for July 24. The 150-member House and 31-member Senate must agree on any legislation before it can be forwarded to the governor's desk for his consideration.

Patrick and the Senate appeared to be in more of a rush than Speaker Joe Straus and the House to get the Medical Board bill to the governor and then use the rest of the 30-day session to tackle the host of other items on the governor's legislative wish list.

Various Senate committees met in Friday and weekend hearings and did the following:

- Finance, chaired by Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, approved SB 9, relating to the constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations, and SB 19, relating to bonuses and salaries for public school classroom teachers and state assistance for the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program;
- Business & Commerce, chaired by Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, approved SB 8, relating to health plan and health benefit plan coverage for elective abortion;
- Government Reform, chaired by Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, approved SB 1, relating to ad valorem tax reform;
- Education, chaired by Larry Taylor, R-Galveston, approved SB 2, relating to public school finance, including the establishment of a tax credit scholarship and educational expense assistance program, and SB 16, relating to the creation of a commission to recommend improvements to the public school finance system;

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



- Health and Human Services, chaired by Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, approved SB 17, relating to maternal health and safety, pregnancy-related deaths, and maternal morbidity, including postpartum depression, and SB 11, relating to general procedures and requirements for do-not-resuscitate orders; and
- State Affairs, chaired by Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, approved SB 3, relating to the regulation of certain facilities and activities of political subdivisions, including public school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools.

Abbott expresses thanks

Gov. Greg Abbott on July 17 announced Texas would receive funding from the federal government in support of Operation Secure Texas, a militarized effort launched in 2014 "to secure Texas' border with Mexico," he said.

Texas National Guard personnel currently serving in the operation will transition to federal orders beginning in late July.

"The taxpayers of Texas have funded border security, a federal responsibility, for far too long. I am grateful that the federal government and Congressional appropriators are stepping up and dedicating additional resources to provide for the safety and security of all Texans," Abbott added.

Paxton to appeal ruling

Attorney General Ken Paxton on July 19 announced his intention to appeal a federal judge's ruling siding with a group of Texas inmates who sued the Texas Department of Criminal

Justice over summer heat conditions at the Wallace Pack Unit northwest of Houston.

U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison granted a preliminary injunction that orders the TDCJ to lower the temperatures in the Pack Unit's housing areas where heat-sensitive inmates reside to a heat index of no more than 88 degrees or transfer them to other facilities, and take other actions. Paxton said "Texas taxpayers shouldn't be on the hook for tens of millions of dollars to pay for expensive prison air conditioning systems, which are unnecessary and not constitutionally mandated."

Job growth continues

The Texas economy expanded in June for the 12th consecutive month with the addition of 40,200 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs, the Texas Workforce Commission announced July 21.

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent, down from 4.8 percent in May. The state's annual employment growth outperformed the previous two years, with 319,300 jobs added over the year, bringing the state's annual growth rate up by 0.4 percentage points to 2.7 percent.

Education and Health Services recorded the largest private-industry gain over the month with 13,100 jobs added.

DSHS: Cyclospora on rise

The Texas Department of State Health Services on July 17 announced a spike in intestinal illnesses caused by the parasite Cyclospora.

With 68 cases having been reported in the last month in Texas, DSHS is asking health care providers to be watch for the illness, pursue testing and report cases to local health departments.

Texas has had multiple outbreaks linked to cilantro, DSHS said, and outbreaks also have been associated with the consumption of imported fresh produce, such as fresh pre-packaged salad mix, raspberries, basil and snow peas.

Governor Abbott announces growing support for School Finance Reform

AUSTIN – July 24, 2017 - Governor Greg Abbott today announced that his call for school finance reform is generating growing support across Texas. School finance reform is part of the Governor's 20-item agenda for the ongoing special legislative session.

"The current school finance system is complex, inefficient, and not family-centered. We hope that the legislature establishes a commission to study the system, and recommend fundamental reforms which will benefit all Texas children." – Michael Barba, Associate Director of Public Policy, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops.

"Governor Abbott is right: we can pay teachers more by reprioritizing education spending. While funding to school districts in Texas continues to increase, only half of those funds are spent on instruction. The State of Texas has put a high priority on education spending, with 52 percent of the general revenue spending going to K-12 and higher education. Students, teachers and taxpayers are being shortchanged by ISD spending priorities. At TPPF, we believe it is time we get more education for our money, not simply put more money into education bureaucracy." – Stephanie Matthews, Director, TPPF's Center for Education Freedom.

"We commend Governor Abbott for prioritizing school finance reform by placing a school finance study on the special session call. Our children are the state's most precious resource, and more than 90 percent of them depend on public education to prepare them for the future. The current school finance system is inadequate and outdated, and we must work to implement a new system that funds our public schools equitably and improves the quality of the public school system throughout the state." – Kathryn Freeman, Director of Public Policy, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Texans deserve an efficient system of funding our public schools that is fair to every child and taxpayer in the state, regardless of where they live. School finance reform should be focused on providing relief and equal treatment to all schools and taxpayers, beginning with those who are burdened with low funding per student and higher than average tax rates. We are thankful that Governor Abbott has made fixing our public education funding system for all schools a priority and hopeful that the legislature provides a response that guarantees educational and taxpayer equity throughout the state. Our system shouldn't pick winners and losers among our children." – Josh Sanderson, Deputy Director, Equity Center.

"Every Texas child deserves the education that best meets their needs and should not be penalized for exercising choice within the public school system. This is why TCSA supports Governor Abbott's call for a school finance commission that will put meaningful, real reforms in place to help all students." – David Dunn, Executive Director, Texas Charter Schools Association

"We applaud continued focus on the school finance system to improve public education and to provide greater accountability with taxpayer dollars." – Todd Staples, President, Texas Oil and Gas Association.

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LIFESTYLE

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OBITUARIES

John Chester  
Hencke Jr.

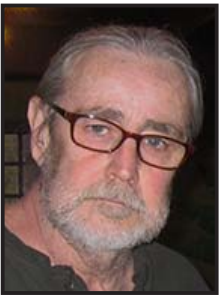
John Chester Hencke, Jr., also known as Jack Hencke, 66, of Highlands, TX, peacefully succumbed to a short battle with lung cancer, surrounded by his wife and children, Monday, July 24, 2017, at the VA Hospital in Houston, TX. He was born August 25, 1950, in Baytown, TX, the son of John and Doris Hood Hencke.

Jack graduated from Sterling High School, Class of 1970. Following graduation, he served with the U.S. Army in Germany. After the military, he married Elizabeth Irene Culwell, and they settled in Highlands, TX, where they raised 5 children. They celebrated 37 wonderful years of marriage in February.

Jack relished bird watching, baseball, and gardening. He loved the outdoors and camping, and cherished spending time with his family, especially his grandkids.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Doris Hencke.

He is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth Irene Hencke; his most grateful children, Ryan and Kristi Hencke, Kingwood TX, Chad and Beth Hencke, Baytown TX, Heidi and Bryan Duncan, Mont Belvieu TX, Hilde and Chris Baker, Baytown TX, Hannah and Joshua Sons, Kingwood TX.



Likewise, he is survived by his adoring grandkids, Kayla, Cody, Kolten, Hillary, Coby, Taryn, Karli, Kaymen, Hallie Mae, Colby, Kullan, Connor, and Cooper.

He is also survived by his sister, Patricia (Howard) Brockinton; brother, James (Robin) Hencke, sister, Sally Hencke; 15 wonderful nieces and nephews; and many in-laws, aunts/uncles, great nieces/nephews, and cousins.

The family will receive friends at Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home, 6123 Garth Road, Baytown, TX on Thursday, July 27th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The service will be held Friday, July 28th at 10:45 a.m. at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Houston, TX 77038. Bringing the message will be pastor, Br. Beau Rosser.



Highlands Rotary presents  
attendance awards



Dr. Larry White receives a certificate from Rotary president Diana Weaver, for 35 years of perfect attendance.



Rotarian Gil Hoffman receives a certificate from Rotary president Diana Weaver, for 22 years as a member of the club.

BIBLE TRIVIA Crosby Coach honored

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Nathan in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Though Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, where was he brought up? Jerusalem, Shiloh, Jericho, Damascus
3. What 8-year-old boy served as King of Jerusalem for 100 days? Shamgar, Jehoiachin, Adino, Sisera
4. From John 5, who stirred up the water at the pool of Bethesda? Priest, Angel, Wind, Jesus
5. Who was Jacob's firstborn, as found in Genesis 35? Reuben, Ehud, Joshua, Elah
6. From Judges 1, who fed 70 kings at his table? Benaiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Adonibezek, Mephibosheth

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Jerusalem; 3) Jehoiachin; 4) Angel; 5) Reuben; 6) Adonibezek

Coach Ronnie Davenport, will be inducted into the Southeast Texas Coaches Association Hall of Honor. Coach Davenport served as Athletic Director and Coach for Crosby ISD for 18 years and retired as Crosby Kindergarten Principal after 22 years of service in that position. We are so proud of Coach Davenport and we can't imagine a more deserving person of this honor. We want to congratulate him for his many years of selfless service and for the influence he has had on so many in the Crosby community.



Coach Ronnie Davenport

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John 7:38

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God is our refuge  
and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

COMMUNITY

Sheriff moves to protect deputies, public  
from exposure to dangerous opioids

July 24, 2017 – Deputies throughout the state's largest sheriff's office are being issued medications, protective gloves and respirators to protect them from potentially deadly synthetic opioids that are becoming more common on Harris County streets. The distribution of this equipment is coinciding with training for deputies on how to avoid exposure to the drugs Fentanyl and Carfentanil, which have been linked to multiple deaths throughout the nation. "We are committed to doing everything within our power to protect the

brave law enforcement officers who are fighting to keep our communities safe from these dangerous drugs," Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said. "When Fentanyl and Carfentanil began showing up in Harris County, we knew we had to quickly distribute the antidote and protective gear to our deputies, in case they encounter these drugs in the field. Deputies will also be able to administer the antidote to Harris County residents they encounter, who may have been exposed." The Harris County Sheriff's Office purchased

264 doses of the inhalable antidote called Narcan. In addition, deputies are receiving heavy-duty protective gloves that prevent the synthetic opioids from contacting the skin, and respirator masks. Earlier in July, the Harris County Sheriff's Office joined with other local law enforcement agencies to announce that officers will no longer conduct "field tests" of suspected drugs because of the dangers of possible exposure to Fentanyl and Carfentanil. Instead, this testing will now be conducted in a controlled lab environment.

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ROMANS 8:18

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the Holy Spirit and began to  
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Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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the faith. Have courage  
and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

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



# ASK THE EXPERT

## Diamond Jim: "How is natural yellow gold made into white or rose color gold?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

Gold is a chemical element with the symbol Au (from Latin: aurum) and the atomic number 79. In its purest form, it is a bright, slightly reddish yellow, dense, soft, malleable and ductile metal. Gold is commonly formed into bars or coin for use in monetary exchange. Gold is the most malleable of all metals; a single gram can be beaten into a sheet of 1 square meter, and an ounce into 300 square feet. Gold leaf can be beaten thin enough to become transparent. The transmitted light appears greenish blue, because gold

strongly reflects yellow and red. Such semi-transparent sheets also strongly reflect infrared light, making them useful as infrared (radiant heat) shields in visors of heat-resistant suits, and in sun-visors for spacesuits. Gold is a good conductor of heat and electricity and reflects infrared radiation strongly. White Gold: White gold is an alloy of gold and at least one white metal, usually nickel, manganese or palladium. Like yellow gold, the purity of white gold is given in karats. A common white gold formulation consists of 90 wt.% gold and 10

wt.% nickel. Copper can be added to increase malleability. The strength of gold–nickel–copper alloys is caused by formation of two phases, a gold-rich Au–Cu, and a nickel-rich Ni–Cu, and the resulting hardening of the material. The alloys used in jewelry industry are gold–palladium–silver and gold–nickel–copper–zinc. Palladium and nickel act as primary bleaching agents for gold; zinc acts as a secondary bleaching agent to attenuate the color of copper. The nickel used in some white gold alloys can cause an allergic reaction when worn over long periods (also notably on some wrist-watch casings). This reaction, typically a minor skin rash, occurs in about one out of eight people and because of this, many countries do not use nickel in their white gold formulations. Rose, red, and pink gold: Rose gold is a gold and copper alloy widely used for specialized jewelry. Rose gold, also known as pink gold and red gold, was popular in Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and was also known as Russian gold although this term is now obsolete. Rose gold jewelry is becoming more popular in the 21st century and is commonly used for wedding rings, bracelets, and other jewelry. Although the names are often used interchangeably, the difference between red, rose, and pink gold is the copper content: the higher the copper

content, the stronger the red coloration. Pink gold uses the least copper, followed by rose gold, with red gold having the highest copper content. Examples of the common alloys for 18K rose gold, 18K red gold, and 18K pink gold: 18K Red gold: 75% gold, 25% copper 18K Rose gold: 75% gold, 22.25% copper, 2.75% silver 18K Pink gold: 75% gold, 20% copper, 5% silver 12K Red gold: 50% gold and 50% copper. Up to 15% zinc can be added to copper-rich alloys to change their color to reddish yellow or dark yellow. During ancient times, due to impurities in the smelting process, gold frequently turned a reddish color. This is why many Greco-Roman texts, and even many texts from the Middle Ages, describe gold as "red". Rose gold (Also known as "Crown Gold"). The highest karat version of rose gold is also known as crown gold, which is 22 karat. Eighteen karat red gold may be made of 25% copper and 75% gold. For 18 karat rose gold, typically about 4% silver is added to 75% gold and 21% copper to give a rose color. 14 karat red gold is often found in the Middle East and contains 41.67% copper. High-end musical flutes are very commonly made of solid rose gold, the most common alloy being 14K. If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com). Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

## New Plant II,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

domestic market in the form of high purity isobutylene which is used in tires and lubricants. The majority of the products will be exported via the Houston Ship Channel.

### Project overview

The PO/TBA project will have a split facility design to optimize product balances and realize synergies between LyondellBasell sites. The proposed location for the PO/TBA plant is the LyondellBasell Channelview Complex located in Channelview, Texas. The associated ethens unit, which will convert TBA to oxyfuels, is proposed for the company's Bayport Complex near Pasadena, Texas.

The company has completed front-end engineering design work and received the required environmental permits. Site preparation is underway and construction is expected to begin during the second half of 2018. It is anticipated the project will be completed by the middle of 2021. Final site selection is contingent upon final approval of certain economic incentives by the state of Texas.

The PO/TBA project is part of LyondellBasell's \$5 billion organic growth program taking place on the U.S. Gulf Coast. LyondellBasell recently completed ethylene expansion projects at the company's La Porte, Channelview and Corpus Christi sites in Texas, finalizing a multi-year plan to increase annual ethylene capacity in the U.S. by 2 billion pounds (900,000 metric tons). Additionally, LyondellBasell began construction of a world-scale polyethylene (PE) plant at its La Porte Complex, which utilizes the company's proprietary Hyperzone PE technology and will more than double that site's PE capacity to 2 billion pounds (900,000 metric tons) per year upon completion in 2019.

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WILMA JEANETTE STUTTE  
  
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:  
  
c/o Weston Cotten  
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All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
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by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees named Region IV School Board of the Year

Galena Park Independent School District is proud to announce the 2016-2017 school board has been chosen by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) as Region 4 School Board of the Year! The board is now a finalist for Texas School Board of the Year.

The seven board of trustees, along with our superintendent, are best known as the Team of Eight. Under their direction, a \$290 million bond referendum was passed in 2016 with 73 percent of the community supporting the bond. The board approved the reconstruction and updates of 24 campuses and nine facilities. This includes rebuilding six elementary campuses, building North Shore Senior High 10th Grade Center, renovating and updating all other campuses and facilities and land acquisition for future facility needs.

The Team of Eight have been the leaders of Galena Park ISD. None of our



successes would be possible without the encouragement we receive from our Board.

The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees are Jeff Miller, Wanda Heath Johnson, Minnie Rivera, Dawn Fisher, Joe Stephens, Ramon Garza and Wilfred J. Broussard, Jr.

The TASA selection committee will now review all of the finalists and the top 5 in the state will be announced on August 8. The top 5 boards will then be interviewed for the title of Texas School Board of the Year. The winning school board will be announced at the TASA/ TASB Convention in October.

EKG Screening,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion. org. Donations are needed to carry on the work and will be accepted at the screening. Then on August 26 the Go Big or Go Home Foundation Fundraiser will be held at the David H. McNerney Ameri-

can Legion Hall Post 658 at 14890 FM 2100.

Stephens conveyed the history and his sense of urgency to pass legislation to screen first time athletes with an EKG machine, briefly explained the advance-

ment of the EKG machine over the currently accepted test of a doctor listening to the heart and that the EKG would be an addendum instead of a replacement for that doctor attention and 200 year old equipment of

stethoscope. He thanked the North Shore Rotarians for their continued support.

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