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YOUR NEWS, YOUR NEWSPAPER --Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CHATTER

GALENA PARK ISD
Galena Park HS
graduation, June 5

Sunday, June 5, 2:00 pm
at Reliant (NRG) Stadium.

**North Shore HS
graduation, June 5**

Sunday, June 5, 10:00 am, at Reliant (NRG) Stadium. Graduates should report to the Amegy Bank Gate Entrance no later than 8:45 a.m.

Over 50 rescued from San Jac River floods

Emergency First Responders were busy evacuating residents last weekend, as flood waters from a week of heavy rains north of Houston rose quickly in low lying areas around the San Jacinto River and the I-10 bridge.

The Channelview Fire Department reported that they rescued 35 persons, in a borrowed airboat. Highlands Fire Department responded to multiple calls, working on both sides of the river because some departments were short of rescue boats. Highlands recently upgraded their boat with a 50 HP motor, necessary in the rapid flow of water in the San Jacinto.



Channelview Fire Department was busy with an airboat and jet-skis helping families flee from the fast rising waters around Monmouth Drive and Riverside Inn.

Photo courtesy Richard Austin/Channelview FD

to River.

Highlands FD worked on rescues in Banana Bend, Highlands Shores,

and even Rio Villa on the west bank. As of Tuesday, waters had crested and the calls were subsiding, chief



Highlands Shores Road was closed, with water damage visible beyond. Also closed were Grace Lane, and Clear Lake Road leading to the Baytown Boat Club, which was under water.

Harvey Little reported.

Other flood damages included closing part of the Houston Ship Channel on

*See WATER RESCUES,
page 6*

Channelview High School's "Top 10" graduates



More than 500 Channelview High School graduates received their diplomas during graduation ceremonies on May 29 at the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine. Pictured are the top 10 students in the senior class, from left and in rank order, Valedictorian Elizabeth Tenorio, Salutatorian Jessica Telles, Andrea Tellez, Cesar Perez, Lesly Cruz, Christian Meza, Lauren Easton, Michael Gonzales, Blanca Vazquez and Rosario Armenta.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Channelview ISD honors Teachers of the Year

The achievements of Channelview ISD's top educators were in the spotlight at the Teachers of the Year and Rising Stars Banquet at Landry's Restaurant in Kemah on May 20.

Silvina Salazar from Brown Elementary School was named the district's Elementary Teacher of the Year, while Randy Mau from Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center was honored as Secondary Teacher of the Year. Both teachers now are in the running to become Region 4 Teacher of the Year and will be recognized at a reception later this summer.

"This group of teachers is something special," Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis told the audience. "These educators go above and beyond the call when it comes to serving their kids. Their creativity and innovation in the classroom inspires children to embrace learning."

The event was sponsored by the Channelview ISD Education Foundation, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union and



Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center's Randy Mau and Brown Elementary's Silvina Salazar were named Channelview ISD's Teachers of the Year. They now are in the running to become Region 4 Teacher of the Year.

Woodforest National Bank. The Education Foundation presented all honorees with monetary awards, with the district providing special gifts. Salazar and Mau both received \$1,200

and a large inscribed plaque for being the district's Teacher of the Year.

**See TEACHER OF THE
YEAR, Page. 8**

COMMUNITY SUCCESS

San Jacinto Pilot Club awards Scholarships



San Jacinto Pilot Club awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to local students. Recipients are pictured: Brennen Baird, Madeline Colonga, Maria Corea, Ciara Espinoza, Jahzeel Galvan Armando Garcia, Valeria Mercado, Kasi Schultz, Taryn Surratt, Oscar Teran, and Jocelyn Yanez.

Full list of Recipients: Adriana Aguirre-Hernandez, Brennen Baird, Jayair Chatman, Madeline Colonga, Maria Corea, Ciara Espinoza, Jahzeel Galvan, Armando Garcia, Valerie Mercado, Kasi Schultz, Maria Sorto, Taryn Surratt, Oscar Teran, and Jocelyn Yanez.

The event was held at Woodforest Presbyterian Church Thursday evening May 19, 2016.

SCHOOL NEWS

BPA students earn medals at national competition

For the second straight year, Channelview High School's Business Professionals of America (BPA) students earned medals at the National Competition in Boston.

The Video Production Team of Jose Garcia, Juan Salmeron and A.J. Zamora took second place honors, while Adrieli Arias captured third place in the Computer Modeling category.

Channelview's BPA sponsors are Career and Technical Education teachers Erin Bowman and Karen Neal.

"The success of our BPA programs continues to grow every year," said Cindi Ollis, CHS principal. "We are very proud of the accomplishments of these students."

The four students advanced to the national level after taking top honors at the area and regional competitions.

"This group of students is extremely talented," BPA sponsor Karen Neal



The Channelview ISD Board of Trustees recognized Channelview High School's Business Professionals of America national medalists at their May regular meeting. BPA students Adrieli Arias, left, A.J. Zamora, Juan Salmeron and Jose Garcia were presented certificates by Board President Kyle Campbell.

said. "They will continue to become more advanced in their skills, which will serve them well in their chosen career paths."

SHELDON ISD: Placement students awarded Letterman Jacket

For the first time in Sheldon ISD history, the Advanced Academics Department, in conjunction with the C. E. King High School and Early College High School principals, awarded letterman jackets to Advanced Placement students who achieved a qualifying score for college credit on their AP exams. The AP students had the opportunity to earn one of two patches: a Qualifying Score patch for earning college credit in one course or an AP Scholar patch for earning college credit on three or more AP exams.



Marie Farsi received a letterman jacket for having an AP Qualifying Score patch for earning college credit on three or more AP exams.

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Spring Cleaning Tips From Connie

Let's get out the cleaning supplies and tackle "spring cleaning." The number one piece of equipment is your vacuum cleaner, so don't overlook the maintenance.

- Change the bags frequently and the filters every 10 bags. Bagless vacuums need the filter checked and cleaned. Dirty filters bog the machine down and can cause damage to the circuit board and the motor.
- Check the beater bar/brush roller (the spinning brush underneath the vacuum that brushes dirt out of carpet). Use scissors or your hands to remove anything wrapped around or caught in the brush roller.
- Check the electric cord. Take time to rewind cord properly and remove gently from wall socket. This will save the cord from damage.
- For hardwood or laminate floors see us for cleaning and refreshing products.
- Dusting blinds, pictures, window frames and hard to reach places will be easier with an attach feather duster.

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SCHOOL NEWS

GALENA PARK ISD:

CTE Programs lead to certifications and bright futures



In order to ensure all students graduate college and career ready, GPISD offers programs that lead to certifications, in turn preparing them for the workforce. A majority of GPISD CTE programs afford students the opportunity to complete the necessary course work, and upon completion, have the opportunity to take the required exam(s) to receive their certification if mastery has been demonstrated. Students not only receive "official" certification for job opportunities, they also receive green cords to wear at their high school graduation ceremony in acknowledgement of their accomplishments.

The certifications offer students a better tomorrow and allows them the opportunity to continue advancement in their chosen career field.

GPISD teachers win Goldin Awards



pictured from left to right: Minnie Rivera, GPISD Trustee; Diane Townner, Gregory Culpepper, Krystle Breden and Dr. Angi Williams, GPISD Superintendent (Kouida Putman not pictured)

Teachers from Galena Park ISD were recently named as winners of the Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education award. The Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education recognizes and rewards educators who have made outstanding contributions in their classrooms, schools and communities. The

Foundation seeks to foster the respect for and appreciation of educators. It also seeks to retain quality educators and attract others to the profession. Congratulations to •Krystle Breden, Social Studies Teacher, North Shore Senior High School; Gregory Culpepper, Fatherhood & Partnership Specialist, Becker Early Childhood

Center; Kouida Putman, Art Teacher & Department Chair, North Shore Senior High School; and Diana Townner, Art Specialist, Purple Sage Elementary.

The outstanding educators were recognized at the May meeting of the GPISD Board of Trustees on Monday, May 9, 2016. rby the GPISD

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

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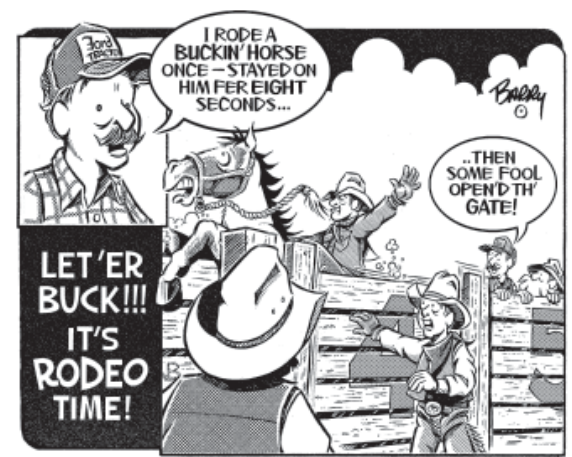
(NAPSI)—As a parent, life is chaotic. Some days can feel like a race to get through, but when we slow down and savor a joyful moment of simplicity, we never regret it. Positive memories that involve lively activities and healthful foods, like blueberries, can set kids on a positive path, instilling shared memories and good choices to last a lifetime.

To make this summer unforgettable, the Blueberry Council is sharing 100 Bite-Size Summer Moments—simple, enjoyable, wholesome and delicious things to do as a family. Here are 25 “bites,” or ideas for things to do together to kick off the summer. You can find detailed recipes and blueberry farm locations, plus new Bite-Size ideas every two weeks now—August, at littlebluedy namos.com:

- Slow it down on your nature walk—take pics of the coolest and weirdest things you see, then look them up when you get home.
- Pick your own blueberries at a nearby farm—make something fun or eat ‘em fresh!
- Pack up paper and art supplies for a trip to the local zoo and draw the animals you like best. Can you say arts and giraffes?
- Punch up your lunch with a family picnic! Everyone gets to choose or make one thing he or she likes the most.
- Stir up an adults-only beverage with Blueberry Moscow Mules. The occasion? Life.
- Establish a “no-phone zone” at meals. Replace texting with talking! What did YOU learn/do today?
- Host a recipe swap party with friends. Discover healthy, fun snacks for kids AND the latest gossip. #WinWin.
- Try your hand at fun-shaped pancakes. Not artistically inclined? Everyone can make a delicious smiley face out of blueberries!
- Challenge kids to make their own recipes using only ingredients already at home. (It’s not lazy, it’s resourceful!)
- Shop together for exotic new fruits or veggies to try—like star fruit or artichokes—and find recipes to use them.
- Preserve the taste of summer with homemade blueberry jam. Your future self will be grateful!
- Go for gold with your own Summer Olympics at the pool with races, relays and other games.
- Make each member of the family a “Wellness Wednesday” jar to drop in activity and healthy food

ideas. Every Wednesday, pick one from each jar and let the wellness wash over you.

- Plant blueberry bushes on your property. The environment and your family will thank you!
- Give your kids’ roadside stand an edge with bright blueberry lemonade.
- Get ready for long car trips and beach vacays with a neighborhood book swap.
- Got picky eaters? Entice them with a build-your-own-smoothie bar full of fruits/veggies.
- Plan a neighborhood “progressive playdate,” moving from house to house to enjoy different “play stations.”
- Rally the kids for a local playground/park cleanup day.
- Clear space for a serious dance floor. Rock the house with a Zumba party or try out the funniest moves you can find on YouTube.
- Hit your local blueberry festival for tasty treats and activities.
- Make a friend’s day with a surprise letter! Fill the envelope with fun paper gifts like a hand-made bookmark, stickers or confetti—and don’t forget to decorate the envelope!
- Practice “Muffin Tin Math”; with toddlers, letting them count and categorize healthy snacks in muffin tins or ice cube trays.
- Take turns storytelling—each person contributes one sentence at a time. Write down or record for lasting family memories.
- Chill out with some guilt-free, homemade ice pops with frozen fruit. Here’s how:
Red, White and Blueberry Popsicles
Makes 4
1 cup vanilla yogurt
1 cup frozen blueberries, thawed
1 cup diced watermelon
4 popsicle sticks and mold
In a blender, add blueberries and 5 tablespoons yogurt; puree until smooth. Divide blueberry mixture among the ice pop molds, filling them about of the way. Freeze 1-2 hours. Add a layer of 2 tablespoons yogurt on top of frozen blueberry layer to each ice pop mold. Freeze 1 hour until almost completely frozen. In the meantime, puree watermelon and 1 tablespoon yogurt in a blender. When the yogurt layer is almost completely frozen, add watermelon mixture to form top layer of the ice pops. Push in the pop handles. Freeze another 1-2 hours.



10 states join Texas AG in
lawsuit over school bathrooms

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on May 25 filed a lawsuit against the heads of the federal Department of Education, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Equal Opportunity Commission and other entities for issuing directives that would require public schools to open up restrooms and locker rooms to both sexes.

Joining Texas in the lawsuit are the states of Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Plaintiffs also include a diverse coalition of top state officials and local school districts, including the Harrold (Texas) Independent School District.

“Defendants have conspired to turn workplaces and educational settings across the country into laboratories for a massive social experiment, flouting the democratic process and running roughshod over commonsense policies protecting children and basic privacy rights,” Paxton said in the complaint.

In a long list of relief sought, the plaintiffs are asking the court for “a declaration that the defendants’ new rules, regulations, guidance and interpretations are unlawful and must be set aside as actions taken ‘without observance of procedure required by law’ under the federal Administrative Procedure Act.”

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, Wichita Falls Division.

Court hears voter ID case

The Texas Attorney General’s Office on May 24 defended the state’s Voter ID law before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. The case was heard en banc, that is, all 15 of the court’s judges.

Texas’ voter ID law was passed by the Legislature in 2011. It requires voters to present a valid driver license or one of several other accepted forms of official photo identification, in addition to their voter registration. Plaintiffs say the law has discriminatory effects that violate the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

At a previous hearing, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the Fifth Circuit to decide the case by July 20.

Runoff results come in

The Office of the Secretary of State posted May 24 election night returns for the 2016 Republican and Democratic parties’ primary runoffs. In statewide contests:

- Wayne Christian of Center, a former state representative, won the Republican Party runoff against Gary Gates of Rosenberg for a seat on the three-member Texas Rail-

★
STATE CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



Republican Party runoff for Texas Senate District 24, a Central Texas seat long held by Sen. Troy Fraser of Horseshoe Bay, who chose not to seek reelection.

Also:

- Incumbent state Rep. Ron Reynolds of Missouri City beat challenger Angelique Bartholomew of Missouri City in the Democratic Party’s Southwest Houston-area House District 27 runoff;
- Incumbent state Rep. Doug Miller of New Braunfels lost to Kyle Biedermann of Fredericksburg in the Republican Party’s House District 73 runoff; and
- Incumbent state Rep. Wayne Smith of Houston lost to Briscoe Cain of Deer Park in the Republican Party runoff for West Houston-area House District 128.

Complete party primary runoff results are available online at sos.state.tx.us.

Zika numbers reported

The Texas Department of State Health Services on May 20 announced that Texas has reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control one confirmed case of Zika in a pregnant woman who traveled abroad to an area with Zika transmission.

There have been 12 additional pregnancies in Texas with laboratory evidence of Zika infection since tracking and testing for Zika began, but all of those 12 have come back inconclusive.

The agency said that in order to be reported as a Zika pregnancy case, a pregnant woman must exhibit a rash or fever plus at least one other symptom, and also have a positive Zika-specified test result.

Other notable races:

- State Rep. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, beat State Rep. David Simpson, R-Longview, in the runoff for Northeast Texas Senate District 1 to succeed longtime Sen. Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, who chose not to seek reelection.
- Dawn Buckingham of Austin beat State Rep. Susan King of Abilene in the

Make your
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(NAPSI)—One of the last things most homeowners think about when buying the vacation home of their dreams is work. They’re envisioning more getaways and time with family and friends. However, if and when they decide to rent out their property to bring in some extra revenue, that can be a different story.

While peer-to-peer sharing sites have gotten owners thinking it’s easy to become a do-it-yourself host, a new Kelton survey found that nearly nine in 10 homeowners who rented out their home themselves “dread” something about doing it on their own, including the very things travelers find most important.

“It’s not uncommon to hear the same story from owners who switch from managing their home themselves to working with a professional manager,” said Mary Lynn Clark, president, Wyndham Vacation Rentals North America. “They initially think renting on their own, without any commission charges, is the best route. But they quickly realize the work involved. The study showed that not only does working with a professional manager get you more bookings, it saves you time, which is invaluable to most.”

For owners without the expertise or bandwidth to go it alone, a professional manager might help. In fact, among owners who have rented on their own and through a professional management company, more than seven in 10 prefer the managed option. Here are four common headaches a professional manager can help you avoid:

- Regular maintenance: When your vacation home is your escape, it’s draining to find it comes with a to-do list. According to the survey, chief complaints among homeowners who have rented their home themselves include handling inspections (48 percent) and cleaning the house (48 percent).
- Service issues: Dealing with guest issues is the top-cited complaint among homeowners who rent their home themselves. If the air-conditioning breaks, you’re responsible for getting that issue fixed quickly or explaining to your renters they’ll no longer have that amenity during their stay. Most professional managers can ensure your guests have 24/7 assistance.
- Time commitments: Owners who work with a professional manager save an average of four hours with every booking, which can add up to nearly 130 hours each year. If you have the time and a knack for hospitality, renting can be a fulfilling job. If you’re just looking to reap the revenue benefits, consider enlisting a manager to handle your home’s rental needs.
- Marketing pressures: It takes marketing savvy and dedication to get your property booked. Homeowners who have rented both on their own and through a professional manager feel a manager is more effective at attracting renters, marketing their home across the appropriate channels and filling their home during slow seasons. Close to seven in 10 even feel they would get more bookings with a professional manager.

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LIFESTYLE

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

Galena Park
Library Programs

-Monday, June 6, SRP Kick-Off Party, 4 pm.
-Tuesday, June 7, Family Movie, 4 pm
-Wednesday, June 8, Baby time, 10 am; Story Time, 11 am; Get Active, 4 pm.
-Thursday, June 9, Puppet Pizza, 4 pm.
-Monday, June 13, Adult Program, 4 pm.
Galena Park Branch Library, 1500 Keene St., Galena Park, TX. For information on other programs, please call 713-450-0982.

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.

Houston Sailor serving with a Navy Forward Deployed Unit

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class James Green, Navy Office of Community Outreach Public Affairs

SASEBO, Japan – A 2015 Galena Park High School graduate and Houston native is serving in the U.S. Navy with the forward deployed unit, Naval Beach Unit 7.
Seaman Jacquelyn De La Cruz is an information systems technician serving with the beach group operating forward in Sasebo, Japan.
A Navy information systems technician is responsible for maintaining all computer networks and

telecommunication systems.
"I really enjoy the work I do every day," said De La Cruz. "I've always been interested in computer science and mobile communications, and I get to do that here."
Commissioned in August of 2012, Naval Beach Unit 7 was formed to combine the three forward deployed naval forces detachments in Japan. The unit functions as the forward deployed naval force responsible for executing the manning, organizing, training, maintaining and equipping of all Naval Beach Unit 1 assets.
"The sailors of Naval Beach Unit 7 never cease

to amaze me with the effort they put into their daily work," said CDR Morris Oxendine, Commanding Officer, Naval Beach Unit 7. "Their dedication and hard work make me proud to be in command of these sailors."
According to Navy officials, Naval Beach Unit 7 operates in a high density, multi-threat environment as the Naval Beach Element of the Forward Deployed Naval Force Amphibious Ready Group.
"Being forward deployed means that you have to be ready to go at anytime to protect you family back home," said De La Cruz.
Challenging living conditions build strong fellowship among the crew, Navy officials explained. The unit is highly motivated, and quickly adapt to changing conditions. It is a busy life of specialized work, watches, and drills.
"My service in the Navy has helped me to grow as a person," said De La Cruz. "I've learned so much, and I wouldn't trade the experience of my service for anything."



Seaman Jacquelyn De La Cruz.

Championship Ring delivery
brings back sweet memories



Monday, May 2nd was a special day for the North Shore Senior High School Mustang Football Team. Not only was this their first day of training for the 2016-2017 school year, it was also ring delivery day for the UIL Class 6A, Division I Football State Champions! Even though their bodies were tired after a long, hard day of practice, students and coaches alike were wearing ear-to-ear smiles as they received their championship moments.

GALENA PARK ISD:
Jacinto City Elementary Hosts
"A Minion Ways to be Healthy"



Jacinto City Elementary recently held its Second Annual Health Fair. It was a great turn out with almost 300 members in attendance. Nurse Rainer would like to thank all the faculty, staff, vendors, and volunteers for coming out to support the event.

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OBITUARIES

Myra Dena Feather
Myra Dena Feather, 65, passed away May 27, 2016 in Houston, Texas. She was born September 12, 1950 to parents Ernest Elliott and Minnie (Sorrell) Robertson in Covington, Kentucky.
Dena married Floyd Robert Feather October 25, 1969 and they began their life together in Channelview, Texas. She worked until 6 months ago as a secretary in the Special Ed Department of Galena Park I.S.D. for 13 years and worked for Channelview I.S.D. several years prior to changing school districts.
Dena enjoyed helping others and made many dear friends through the years. She was one of a kind, and will be forever loved and missed. Dena is preceded in death by her parents; and son, Robert Dwayne Feather. Left to cherish her memory is her loving husband, Floyd "Bob" Feather; children, Timothy Allen Feather and wife Tammy Jolene Williams, Angela Dena Burris;
grandchildren, Rhonda Alicia Feather, Brandon Gray Feather, Brianna Nicole Feather, Ryan Charles Pavlu, Bryan Timothy Feather, Bradley Allen Feather, Justin Ty Burris; great-grandchildren, Syllas Morgan Thurston, Terra Lynne Thurston, Mikayla Skye Fulton; sisters, Jewell Thompson, Deborah Ann Smoak; as well as numerous extended family members and dear friends.
A celebration of Dena's life will be held at a later date.

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LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

The Devil Lost Another One
Today was a good day, a very good day. Any day you can make the devil sad or mad is a good day. Today I had the privilege of leading a friend to know Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Kenneth is 75 years old and I, along with others, have been praying for him for years. He was so happy when I left there today. What a difference the Savior makes.
"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16) What about you?

BIBLE TRIVIA
1. Is the book of Ephesians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the ... where-with Christ hath made us free"? Light, Liberty, Redemption, Resurrection
3. From John 8:32, "And ye shall know the ..., and the ... shall make you free"? Word, Truth, Love, Forgiveness
4. How many times is the word "independence" mentioned in the King James version of the Bible? 0, 2, 11, 17
5. From what book's 6:7 does it say, "For he that is dead is freed from sin"? Isaiah, Daniel, Mark, Romans
6. In Acts 22:28, who said, "But I was free born"? Paul, Bernice, Nicodemus, Phoebe
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Liberty; 3) Truth; 4) 0; 5) Romans; 6) Paul

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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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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

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

BUSINESS

Identity Theft



ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

Identity theft is a big problem. How big? Consider this: In 2015, about 13 million Americans were victimized, with a total fraud amount of \$15 billion, according to Javelin Strategy & Research. That's a lot of victims, and a lot of money. How can you protect yourself from becoming a statistic?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Secure your Social Security number. Identity thieves eagerly seek Social Security numbers — so don't give out yours to anyone who asks for it. In fact, as a general rule, be reluctant to give it out at all. Always ask whomever you're dealing with if he or she will accept another form of identification, or at the very least will take just the last four digits of your number. And never carry your Social Security card with you.

- Shred credit card offers and bank statements. If you're not going to apply for the credit cards offered to you, shred the offers. Identity thieves have been known to go through garbage, fill out credit card offers and take advantage of them. At the same time, shred your bank and brokerage statements — and any other statement containing personal or financial information.

- Study your credit card bills and checking account statements. Question any credit card charge or checking account activity you don't recognize as your own.

- Don't give out your credit card number unless you're initiating a purchase. Many of us shop online. As long as you're dealing with a reputable merchant who uses a secure site — i.e., one that has "https" in the web address — you should be fairly confident that your credit card information will be protected. Never give out your credit card number to people or busi-

nesses who, unsolicited, try to sell you something over the phone or Internet.

- Protect your passwords. Do you use a password to log onto your computer? If so, don't share it with anyone, outside perhaps your most trusted family members. And use a strong password — one that doesn't contain your real name or even a complete word that could be used to identify you. Also, it doesn't hurt to periodically change your password, whether it's for your computer logon or for entry to any of your financial or consumer accounts.

Even after taking these steps, you could still run into identity theft. That's why you need to watch for certain signs, such as the arrival of unexpected credit cards or account statements, denials of credit for no clear reason, or calls or letters regarding purchases you didn't make. If any of these things happen to you, you may want to place a "fraud alert" on your credit reports and review them carefully. Three na-

tional credit-reporting companies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — keep records of your credit history. If someone has misused your personal or financial information, contact one of the companies and ask for an initial fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert is free, but you must provide proof of your identity. And the company you call must tell the other companies about your alert. (For more information on placing a fraud alert, visit the website of any of the three companies.)

You can help preserve your good name from those who want to misuse it — so, stay vigilant.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for June?"

JUNE BIRTHSTONES
June counts three gems as birthstones: pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

Pearl

For centuries, pearls have been used as an adornment, and were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire. Later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age.

Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

The qualities that determine the overall value of a natural or cultured pearl or a piece of pearl jewelry are size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality, and—for jewelry with two or more pearls—matching. Size: When other value factors are equal, larger pearls are rarer and more valuable than smaller pearls of the same type.

Shape: Round is the most difficult shape to culture, making it the rarest cultured pearl shape and—if all other factors are equal—also generally the most valuable. There are exceptions, though. Well-formed pear, oval, or baroque (irregularly shaped) cultured pearls are also prized by pearl lovers.

Color: Natural and cultured pearls occur in a broad range of hues. There are warm hues like yellow, orange, and pink, and cool hues like blue, green, and violet. Pearls have a wide range of tone from light to dark. Pearl colors tend to be muted, with a soft, subtle quality.

Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chame-

ASK DIAMOND JIM

leon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.) Alexandrite is also the gem for the 55th wedding anniversary.

Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century.

A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye.


Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne.

The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

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

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

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COMMUNITY

Sheldon's Class of 2016 participate in 3rd Annual 'Senior Walk'



The graduating class from Sheldon's C. E. King High School and the Early College High School went to several Sheldon ISD schools to remember their start at school.

The graduating class from Sheldon's C. E. King High School and the Early College High School took part in their annual Senior Walk on Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

The seniors loaded up on buses in the morning and made their way to each campus, starting at Royalwood Elementary. From there, they went to the Sheldon Early Childhood Academy, Sheldon Elementary, Garrett Ele-

mentary, Null Middle School, Carroll Elementary, Monahan Elementary, Stephanie Cravens Early Childhood Academy, and C. E. King Middle School. The Senior Walk finally came to an end at C. E. King High School shortly after noon.

This tradition was started three years ago. The event is a time for the seniors to get dressed up in their cap and gown and walk through each campus

in the district for a look back at where it all started. It's a special moment for the senior class, as they walk the halls to cheering students, teachers and administrators. While the walk is a special time for them, it is also an inspiration to the younger students to see the older students moving forward in their educational journey.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Water Rescues,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sunday. The Lynchburg Ferry has not run for three days, and may not resume for several more. About 12 barges in the area around the I-10 bridge were floating loose, and Kirby Inland Marine worked to rescue them.

Portions of Market Street that run to the Southwest Shipyard were washed away, and emergency repairs by the county were underway on Tuesday.

Richard Austin, District chief of the Channelview Fire Department issued the following statement:

"The 3 photos are from a high water rescue CFD made today 5/30/2016. We were able to evacuate 35 people from the San Jacinto river bottom near I-10 thanks to the volunteer help of a Non-Profit organization called Houston Area Off-Road recovery. They provided an Airboat and 2 Jet Skis to assist us in our efforts. No one required Ambulance transport and all residents were removed from harm's way without any incident.

The City of Houston warned boaters that debris floating in Lake Houston made that water unsafe for now.



Using a borrowed airboat, firemen rescue a family.



Channelview FD carries a small child to safety.



Grace Lane is good for the Herons, but the road beyond is washed out.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

GPISD Spotlights Alumnus Dr. Oquin

Galena Park ISD is proud to recognize Wayne Oquin, a 1996 graduate of North Shore High School. While in GPISD, Oquin received top honors as a band and choir student which included Texas All-State Band and Texas All-State Choir. Upon graduation from high school, he attended Southwest Texas State University where he was named a Lyndon Baines Johnson Outstanding Senior and is recognized as a Distinguished Alum.

In 2008, upon completion of his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at The Juilliard School, Dr. Oquin received the Richard F. French Prize for best dissertation. As a Juilliard student, he also received the Arthur Friedman Award for best orchestral composing and the Palmer Dixon Composition Prize. In 2009, he was appointed to the Juilliard Graduate Studies faculty where he specializes in Beethoven and the American Symphony. He is widely known for his contributions to the symphonic world literature. His Tower Ascending, a tribute to the rebuilding of ground zero, has received more than one hundred performances throughout the U.S. and abroad. Affirmation, commissioned by the American Bandmaster's Association and the University of Florida, was named winner of the 2014 National Band Association's William D. Revelly Award. Both works have been recorded by The United States Air Force Band. This year, in recognition of its extensive collaboration with Dr. Oquin, the Air Force Band honored him as a composer with the prestigious Commander's Medal of Excellence.

When asked if there were



Dr. Wayne Oquin.

any influential educators who played a role in shaping him, Dr. Oquin stated, "It is no exaggeration to say that the basic musicianship skills I learned from GPISD I am still using to this very day. Many of these same fundamental building blocks I learned from Sam Harris (high school choir) and Ellie Cleveland (high school band) I am now imparting to my own students on a daily basis at The Juilliard School.

Never in my twelve years at GPISD did I have a bad teacher. Even my non-music instructors played such an important role in who I am today. I cannot imagine better teachers than Beverly Cooksey (third grade), Molly Mickiff (sixth grade social studies), Jerry Jones (sixth grade science), Darlene Beauvais (seventh grade English), Allison Burnett (tenth grade English), Mary Helen Anderson (middle school librarian), or Shirley Neeley (second grade principal). Many of these teachers worked to enrich my talents by seeing something in me at an age when my own academic ability was not so readily apparent.

Having taught for the past

seventeen years at Juilliard I understand, in a way I never could have otherwise, the unique challenges that face teachers today. While I believe there is no other profession more demanding, rewarding, and affirming than that of a classroom faculty, I also know that there is also no other field so little appreciated. The more I teach the more I appreciate those who taught me."

Wayne is proud to have been recognized as a Distinguished Alum from Galena Park ISD. "When I was recognized by the District, I thanked by name, every teacher of every course I had taken from first through twelfth grade, in and order, and I can still recite this list from memory. Above my desk on the center shelf of my Juilliard office I have proudly displayed this giant marble trophy given to me by my home school district. Sometimes when I'm working very late—composing, grading papers, or writing what seems to be an endless sea of student letters of recommendation, all under tight deadlines—I look up at this award, which means so much to me, and from the fifth floor of Lincoln Center I think of Sam Harris, Ellie Cleveland, and so many others who opened the doors to my career."

Dr. Oquin currently serves as Chair of Juilliard's long-standing Ear Training Department and also serves a member of the Theory and Graduate Studies faculties. He is known for his rigorous standards and unwavering precision. To learn more about Dr. Wayne Oquin or to listen to audio recording of his compositions, please go to wayneoquin.com.



Clear Lake Road is under water, and the Boat Club is inaccessible.

San Jacinto Waste Pits EPA updates public, listens to comments

Highlands Community Center was the scene of a meeting called by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to bring the public up-to-date on development with the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. The meeting was Tuesday, May 24 from 4:30 to 8:30.

They announced a new schedule, with the final draft report being issued late in July, which was 5 months earlier than previously planned.

The room was packed with residents from the east side of the river, Highlands, and the west side, Channelview and Cloverleaf.

Gary Miller, EPA Remedial Project Manager, reported that the site had been delineated with orange marker buoys to keep people away, and that 3 cameras were monitoring the site 24 hours. A dive team, and a probe team, are continued to investigate the geotextile membrane on top of the cap, with evidence of some failure, but no release of toxins. Repairs are being made.

In July the Preferred Plan will be announced, there will be a 30 day comment period for the public, and then a meeting to announce the final result.

A question and answer session followed, for about an hour.

On hand at the meeting were many county, state, and federal officials, including Carl Edlund, the Region 6 Director of Superfund Division.

The next meeting will be at the end of July, according to the EPA.



Jackie Young of the San Jacinto River Coalition, questions officials about the safety to barge workers.



An EPA team probes the membrane with metal rebars to see if it is impervious.



Channelview resident Tom Zakes questions whether dirt in yards is safe for children.



Over 100 were on hand to listen and discuss their concerns, and frustrations with inaction.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR,

Continued from page 1

The Campus Teachers of the Year and first-year Rising Star Teachers of the Year received \$100 and a commemorative clear-cube keepsake for their outstanding efforts.

Salazar has taught for the district for eight years at Brown, where she serves as a third grade English Language Arts teacher. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Urban Education from the University of Houston-Downtown and her Master's Degree in Reading from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Mau is in his second year of teaching at Campbell. He received his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He currently teaches 11th grade U.S. History, along

with 12th grade Government, Economics and U.S. Politics.

Campus Teachers of the Year that were recognized included Melanie Bates (Aguirre Junior High), Nathan Cassidy (Alice Johnson Junior High), Yvette Herrera (Early Childhood Center), Silvina Salazar (Brown Elementary), Randy Mau (Campbell Learning Center), Erin Bowman (Channelview High School), Donelle Wright (Cobb Elementary), Cinthya Banta (Crenshaw Elementary), Paris Springs (DeZavala Elementary), Melondy Robertson (Hamblen Elementary), Isabelita Maranan (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Millie Boudreaux (McMullan Elementary) and Jessica Pickrell (Schochler Elementary).

As a local honor, the district and campuses recognize the "Rising Stars" first-year Teachers of the Year. This year's "Rising Stars" are Douglas Hancock (Aguirre Junior High), Alexandra Flores (Alice Johnson Junior High), Candy Ramirez (Early Childhood Center), Kandace Clark (Brown Elementary), Esmeralda Tapia (Campbell Learning Center), Krista Simpson (Channelview High School), Erika Gomez (Cobb Elementary), Louis Aceituno (Crenshaw Elementary), Yessika Barrientos (De Zavala Elementary), Patricia Jefferson (Hamblen Elementary) Stephen Bowen (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Jennifer Collins (McMullan Elementary) and Rita McKay (Schochler Elementary).