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CHANNEL CHATTER

North Shore Mustangs lose 2 play-off games against Travis

It only took two games for a strong Fort Bend Travis baseball team to defeat the North Shore Mustangs, and move on in the 6A Region III play-off semi-final series.

In the first game, pitcher Sammy Faltine pitched the complete game, and drove in two runs. The Tigers defeated the Mus-



Mustang Pitcher Josh Larzabal

tangs by a score of 7-2.

In the second game, Travis' strength was even more obvious, overwhelming the Mustang ace Joshua Larzabal, who was pulled after the second inning. In that inning, Travis sent 12 batters to the plate, scoring 8 runs. In the third they scored 4 runs, and in the fourth 2 more runs, to win the game with a run-rule victory. This is the third time this season the Tigers won by that rule.

NC Chamber Luncheon

Friday - June 2, 2017, 11:30 am, San Jacinto College North, 5800 Uvalde Rd. (inside the Monument Room of the Slovacek Student Center). SPEAKER: Dan Parsons, President - Better Business Bureau of Greater Houston and South Texas. Information and Reservations, 713-450-3600.

Jacinto City celebrates Memorial Day

Representatives Lee and Hernandez honor Veterans



Group photo: Sheila Jackson Lee and Charles Scott (center) who led the pledge to the flag. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (center with flag) with resident Charles Scott who led the pledge to the flag.

By Allan Jamail
Jacinto City, TX. - May 26, 2017 at the Jacinto City Health Care Center Congresswoman Sheila Jackson

Lee and State Representative Ana Hernandez recognized Memorial Day. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for

those who have died in service of the United States of America.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee presented a United States Flag to Vet-

erans that flew over the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C. and a proclamation paying tribute to those of the Armed Forces.

Representative Ana Hernandez while in Austin because the Texas Legislature

See Jacinto City Memorial Day, Page 8

MEMORIAL BENCHES IN GP



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL

Sitting on the new park benches, L - R: Veteran David Kent, Mayor Esmeralda Moya, Veteran Hector Torres and City Secretary Mayra Gonzales
Standing: Galena Park High School Vocational Welding Department

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. - Friday, May 29, 2017 - Citizens from all parts of the city came together to pay their respect to those who have died protecting America.

Park benches were dedicated and installed in front of city hall to create

a Veteran's War Memorial. Each bench has a bronze plaque attached representing each of the branches of the Armed Forces. The Galena Park High School Vocational Welding Department fabricated and welded the benches.

Mayor Moya said, "While we celebrate Memo-

rial Day with our families and friends, let us not forget to say a prayer for the brave men and women who served and lost their lives to protect ours and our beautiful Country. Today we honor that service and pray for the day when wars end everywhere. God Bless America!"

Channelview ISD apologizes for offensive certificates

Officials of the Channelview school district were faced with criticism last week, because a teacher at Aguirre Junior High had awarded her students mock graduation certificates, with offensive wording on them.

One of the certificates said the student was "most likely to become a terrorist," and another cited the student as "most likely to blend in with white people."

The awarding of mock graduation certificates to students is not unusual, officials said, but the 7th grade teacher unofficially identified as Stacy Lockett, was cited by her principal Eric Lathan, and the District's superintendent, Greg Ollis, for using poor

judgement in the wording.

District spokesperson Mark Kramer said the teachers involved had been disciplined according to



Photo Courtesy Lindsey Henry, Fox26

district policy.

The matter drew a great deal of attention from parents and the public, both locally and nationally.

LEGISLATION WRAP-UP Representative Hernandez' End-of-Session Update!

After 140 days of proposed legislation, negotiations, and passionate debate, the 85th Legislative Session concluded this week.

The Legislature approved a \$217 billion two-year budget that encompasses \$20 million in additional funding for our local community colleges and fully funds health-care for our retired teachers through the biennium. I am especially proud of the efforts we made to provide an additional \$500 million in resources for the state's foster care system and CPS, improving care for our most vulnerable children.

However, the budget fails to adequately

invest in healthcare services, while also allocating an additional \$800 million in "border security" funds for the Department of Public Safety for initiatives that lack transparency and hard accountability standards. I look forward to addressing these topics with my colleagues during the interim.

This session, I passed eleven House Bills addressing a range of issues, from public safety to career training and technical program affordability. I am proud of the work we have accomplished to improve the lives of hardworking Texas families.

As my sixth legislative session ends, I am grateful for the oppor-



Rep. Ana Hernandez

tunity to serve in the Texas House of Representatives, and look forward to updating you and our neighbors on our successes in Austin!

Kind regards,

Ana Hernandez
State Representative, District 143

COMMUNITY LEGACY Past GP/JC Rotary president Abby Abou-Awdi dies

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Galena Park community mourned the death of Rotarian and GPISD employee "Abby" Abou-Awdi. The following Memorial is written by friend Charlotte Jackson.

By Charlotte Jackson

We have all heard it said "iron sharpens iron" but sometimes we need that person in our lives that is just a little different to push us to a higher level. This week, our community lost one of these individuals who walked a path different from the majority of us, yet pushed us to a higher level of life.

On Monday, May 29 it was with much sadness that I read the words from Ernesto Paredes, Jr. who serves as the Secretary for the Rotary Club of Galena Park Jacinto City. Our friend and coworker for many in the North Channel Area, Ibrahim "Abby"

Abou-awdi had passed away from that disease that has touched too many of our lives....cancer.

As customary with the Islamic faith, there was a prayer service within hours of Abby's death and then his body was committed to a grave. He leaves behind his wife Layla as well as two sons Kalial and Adam. Other family members as well as friends from his religious community were joined by members of the Galena Park ISD family, where Abby had served as Lead Director of Facilities Management. There were former coworkers as well as members of the Galena Park Jacinto City Rotary Club which Abby loved deeply.

Not only had he served as President of the Club during the 2007-2008 year, but he continued to serve in many areas of Rotary District 5890, with a special emphasis on membership.

Abby had a contagious



Ibrahim "Abby" Abou-awdi

smile and warm spirit that you could not help but enjoy being around. He simply made you feel better about life after spending any amount of time with him.

Even on occasions when those of another faith would vocally insult Abby, he ALWAYS took the high road and spoke one word...Shalom. As you go about your daily life, please take time to notice the positive in others instead of looking for the faults. You will be a better person.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Library Computer Class

Stratford Library - Highlands offers beginning computer classes every Monday night at 6:30 PM. The classes include Computer Basics, Email & Internet, Word, Library Apps, and Resume Help. No experience necessary! Space is limited and registration is required. Please call 832-927-5400 to sign up or with any questions. The Stratford Library is located at 509 Stratford Highlands, TX 77562, 2 blocks behind Food Town.

Crosby Alumni Asssoc. Mtg.

“The Crosby Alumni Association has announced the dates of the meetings for planning the annual All-Classes CHS Alumni Reunion to be held on August 5, 2017 at the American Legion Hall.

The meetings will be held at the Crosby Community Center on Hare Road beginning at 6 pm. The dates are: June 13 and July 11. All graduates of Crosby High School are invited to attend these meetings regardless of year graduated.”

Support Ministry Group

First Responder Peer Support Group meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy. 90, Crosby, TX. 77532. This is a safe venue within fire, law enforcement & EMS to discuss openly the realities of what you have experienced on the streets or over the phone or radio. For questions, please call 281-328-1310.

Eastgate Church Vacation Bible School

"HERO CENTRAL" will be June 26 - 30 Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to Noon for ages 4-10. Hey Kids, come enjoy learning about your strength in God that is better than all the Super Heroes.

Eastgate Church is located 6 miles east of Huffman on FM 1960, then south 1/4 mile on CR 611 (at the Shell station). For more information, call 713-898-0779.

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Plans are underway for the 35th Crosby Alumni reunion

Plans are underway for the 35th Crosby Annual Alumni All-Classes Reunion, which will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2016 at the Crosby American Legion Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Money raised at this event is used for scholarships for Crosby High School Seniors.

Planning meetings will be held Tuesday June 13th and Tuesday July 11th.

All graduates of Crosby High School are invited to attend these meetings, regardless of year graduated.

For more information, call Joyce & Bob Boyles at 281-328-2672, Franny Martin Hobbs at 832-514-9892 or Melanie Ransom (melliesue54@verizon.net)



Back row: Brenda Gracey Tuttle, Franny Martin Hobbs, Paula Novosad Webb, Bernice Florus Novosad, Patricia Meigs, Sydney Bollom, Patsy Svrcek Spitzmiller and John Lindsey. Front row: Bonnie Leissner James, Emma McDonald, John McDonald, Joyce Polka Boyles and Bob Boyles. Not pictured are: Melanie Ransom, Thomas Taylor Ransom and Shirley Lesikar Sebesta.

Governor Abbott announces results from violent crime reduction operation in Harris County

AUSTIN – May 22, 2017 – One month after announcing a violent crime reduction operation in Houston, Texas to combat the alarming rise in violent crime and gang-related activity in Harris County, Governor Greg Abbott today announced that in the last four weeks, more than 450 arrests have already been made. Included in these arrests were 26 suspects from ten highly-organized and coordinated take-over robbery crews, with five additional robbery crew suspects being sought as a result of the operation.

“Texas is a law and order state, and I’m proud of the remarkable efforts of

our law enforcement officers to crack down on those who seek to bring violence into our communities,” said Governor Abbott. “My top priority as governor is to keep our citizens safe, and I will not waiver in that effort. As governor, I am committed to dedicating the resources necessary to bring safety to our communities, and today’s report are an early indication that our efforts are working.”

“DPS is proud to provide support to the various law enforcement partners in Harris County to crack down on violent crime, and this initiative underscores the power of teamwork in

making an immediate and significant impact on public safety,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw.

Following the spike in violent crime and gang violence in Harris County, Governor Abbott took action and announced a crime Reduction initiative on April 10th, in Houston. In announcing the operation, the Governor established a Tactical Operations Center to enhance and coordinate operations around the clock, and provided \$500,000 in new funding from the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division to increase Texas Anti-Gang Center resources in the Houston area.

“The Harris County

Sheriff’s Office has made a priority of focusing our law enforcement resources on initiatives that will have the most significant impact on improving public safety,” said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. “Through Operation North Star, more than 450 arrests were made, which removed scores of violent offenders from our neighborhoods. I want to thank the team of law officers from DPS and other partner agencies that helped the Harris County Sheriff’s Office make our community safer by zeroing in on violent criminals who pose a real threat to Texas.”

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Typical US Brand Price for 15mg x 90		
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Generic Price for 4mg x 90		

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

San Jacinto Pilot Club Crawfish Boil

San Jacinto Pilot Club will host its annual Installation Banquet Friday, June 9, 2017, 6:00 p.m. in the home of Julie and Jerry Fallin, 118 N. Burnet Drive, Baytown, TX 77520. \$20 per guest. RSVP Julie Fallin at 281-221-1616.

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.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Old River Terrace UMC in Channelview. Information as follows:
VBS Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God
June 21-23 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX 77530
Ages/Edades : Pre-Kinder - 5th Grade.
Register at/Registrate en: 2017.CokesburyVBS.com
Or call: 281-452-2861

Channelview ISD
May Students of the Month

Channelview ISD recently honored their May Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Diego Zunga (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Pedro Davalos-Ramirez (Channelview High School), Herguin Chable (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Nadia Parades (Aguirre Junior High) and Joaquin Moreno (DeZavala Elementary). Pictured bottom row, from left, Hazel Venavides (Cobb Elementary), Reina Castillo (McMullan Elementary), Brianna Caul (Brown Elementary), Ronin Brinson (Crenshaw Elementary) and Carlos Morales (Hamblen Elementary). Not pictured are Anaya Trahan (Schochler Elementary) and Sebastian Aguilar (Alice Johnson Junior High).



Successful School Year for GP Student Advisory Board



On May 15, Dr. Williams, GPISD Superintendent of Schools, invited the 2016-2017 Student Advisory Board to lunch to celebrate a successful school year. These students were selected by their campus principal based on leadership qualities to represent their high school. Throughout the school year, the Student Advisory Board met to discuss current events and how to improve campus life. GPISD would like to thank each of the students who participated in the Student Advisory Board. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

GALENA PARK ISD
Cimarron students soar to new heights



Recently, students from Mr. Rey's third grade class at Cimarron Elementary were given the opportunity of a lifetime! The students went to George Bush Intercontinental Airport to tour the American Airlines Training Facility. The students and their parents took a simulated flight to New York City! During the mock flight, the students played the role of flight attendant; they worked a beverage service and served drinks to their parents! After their mock flight landed in New York, students were able to shop in a souvenir shop set up to look like New York. During the 2016-2017 school year, Mr. Rey has been sponsored by American Airlines. His class was set up like the inside of a plane, and the students have taken simulated flights all over the country. Thank you, American Airlines and Intercontinental Airport for this wonderful opportunity for our students!

Channelview ISD Summer Food Program

Channelview ISD's Nutrition Services Department is providing free breakfast and lunch to all children as part of its Summer Food Service Program. The program will be held throughout the Channelview area in June and July. Locations and serving times are as follows:

June 5-29 – Breakfast: 6:45-8:30 a.m., Lunch: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
July 5-27 – Breakfast: 6:45-8:30 a.m., Lunch: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Harvey Brown Elementary
16550 Wallisville Road

June 5-21
Breakfast: 7:15-8:30 a.m., Lunch: 10:45 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Early Childhood Center
915 Sheldon Road
June 5-29
Breakfast: 7-8:15 a.m., Lunch: 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Monday through Thursday

De Zavala Elementary
16150 Second Street
June 8-29
Breakfast: 7:30-8 a.m., Lunch: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
For more information, please call the district's Nutrition Services Department at 281-860-3807.

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OPINION PAGE

SEN. CREIGHTON
Property Tax Reform
Special Needed

May 29, 2017 - The Senate passed the Property Tax Reform & Relief act 69 days ago, giving the House sufficient time to pass the bill. Only recently, the Senate's comprehensive property tax relief measures were added to an ad valorem tax bill in the Texas House Leadership. However, the provisions that lowered the rollback rate were eliminated. These provisions are necessary to effectively lower property tax rates.

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick appointed Senator Brandon Creighton to the conference committee on property tax reform to resolve differences in the bill between the two chambers.

"There is no greater issue impacting working families throughout Texas than rising property taxes," said Senator Creighton. "The financial burden property taxes are putting on families must be addressed immediately."

During the 84th Interim, Senator Creighton was appointed by Lieutenant Governor Patrick to the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and traveled the state listening to Texans. Saturday, the Texas House missed an important deadline in order to consider conference committee reports and continue working on the bill. Therefore, the property tax issue will not be resolved during the regular 85th legislative session.

"We can't continue to treat this issue like a political football and punting it down the field," said Senator Creighton. "The people of Texas deserve action now. The Texas House Leadership fell short of the reforms Texans deserve by leaving out a key measure from the Senate's bill which requires voter approval before tax rates can be raised."

"I urge Governor Greg Abbott to call a special session on property tax reform," concluded Senator Creighton. "Texans deserve meaningful property tax reform and I am committed to that goal."

State Budget Details
"I voted in support of a conservative budget that will serve the state well and is an example to other states on how to spend well within means," said Senator Creighton. "The Conservative Budget Coalition, including Texas Public Policy Foundation, Liberty Action Texas, Americans for Prosperity-Texas, Americans for Prosperity-Texas, Americans for Prosperity-Texas and Citizens Against Government Waste, supported the final version of the budget. I appreciate all of the hard work that went into this bill to ensure Texas will remain the most successful state in the country."

Senate Bill 1 establishes a \$107.8 billion dollar fiscal year budget.

SB 1 passed with a vote of 30-1. Highlights of the proposed state budget include:

- In all funds, the budget appropriates an increase of .16% from the previous fiscal year
- Adds \$2.65 billion for new enrollment in education;
- Maintains the \$800 million for border security approved last session;
- Adds \$500 million for Child Protective Services;
- Dedicates \$5 billion for transportation;
- Includes \$40 million to support infrastructure projects at Texas ports;
- Includes \$350 million to address the Teachers Retirement System shortfall;
- Provides \$47 million for Veterans education;

This budget allocates \$990 million from the Rainy Day Fund for one-time expenses, which the Senate negotiated down from the \$2.5 billion the House proposed. The bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

Senate Priority
Passed

- Budget
 - Senate Bill 1 - This bill appropriates the state budget for the next two years. The bill has been sent to the Comptroller for review

- Sanctuary Cities*

- Senate Bill 4 - SIGNED! This bill cuts state funding to any city or county that does not obey federal immigration laws. By signing this legislation into law, Texas has secured its place on the front lines safeguarding our citizens and requiring local law enforcement to cooperate with immigration and customs agents.

- Inappropriate Teacher-Student Relationships*

- Senate Bill 7 - SIGNED! This bill amends current statute relating to improper relationships between students and teachers in order to reduce the risks faced by school districts and provide penalties for conduct relating to this issue.

- Preborn Protection and Dignity Act*

- Senate Bill 8 - This legislation protects the dignity and sanctity of life by increasing criminal penalties for buying or selling human fetal tissue and bans partial birth abortion in Texas. This bill has been sent to the Governor for consideration.

- Police Protection*

- Senate Bill 12 - SIGNED! This legislation ensures the safety of police officers by providing police with vests capable of stopping bullets.

- First Responder Property Tax Relief*

- Senate Bill 15 - This legislation creates a homestead tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty. The bill has been sent to the Governor for consideration.

- License to Carry Fee Reform*

- Senate Bill 16 - SIGNED! This legislation supports our 2nd Amendment rights by making lawful carry more affordable for all law abiding citizens. Previously, Texas had one of the highest License to Carry fee in the country.

- Pastor Protection*

- Senate Bill 24 - SIGNED! This bill continues to protect our First Amendment rights by protecting pastors from forced testimony and shielding sermons from government subpoena power.

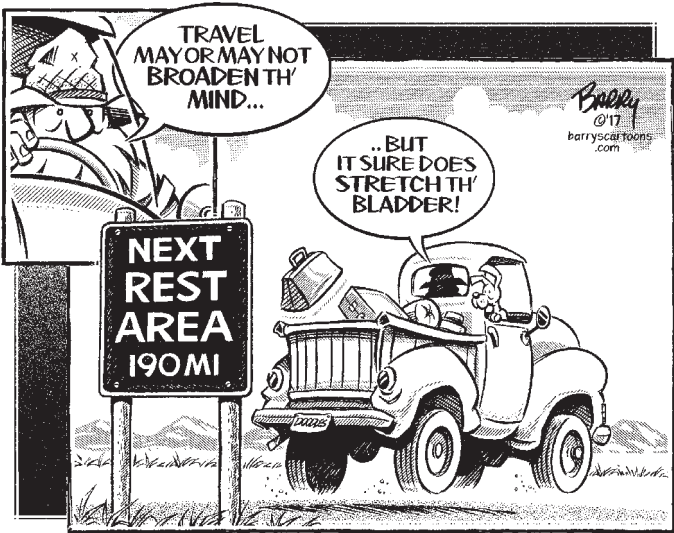
- Texas Stands with Israel (Creighton)

- House Bill 89 - SIGNED! This legislation was the first bill this legislative session to be signed by Governor Greg Abbott. The new law prohibits state contracting with or investing in companies that boycott Israel.

- Texas Ports (Creighton)

- Senate Bill 28 - SIGNED! This bill creates the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund for navigation districts to secure loan projects to improve ship channels. The legislative intent is to lay the groundwork for future projects by creating this account (there is no cost associated in creating the fund and there is no appropriation in the budget for this fund).

*Creighton is a Co-Author



Legislature completes
regular session with main
tasks accomplished

AUSTIN — The 140-day 85th regular session of the Texas Legislature ended on May 29 with hugs, tears and fanfare, plus demonstrations against “anti-immigrant” legislation and a scuffle involving members on the House floor.

Primarily, though, both chambers signed off on Senate Bill 1, the state budget for 2018-2019, and in doing so accomplished their only constitutionally required task.

The budget appropriates \$106.7 billion in general revenue and almost \$1 billion from the state's Economic Stabilization Fund. The budget totals \$217 billion, including federal funds and other dollars.

“We started with a sizable shortfall,” said House Speaker Joe Straus. “But we are ending this session with a balanced budget that invests in some very important priorities. We’re keeping overall spending low while improving child protection and mental health care.”

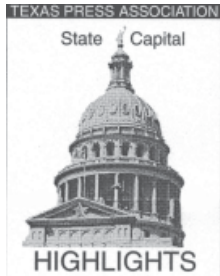
Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, said, “This state budget is more than a billion dollars less in general revenue than our current budget. It upholds our commitment to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and to live within our means. It maintains almost \$11 billion in the Rainy Day Fund.”

Fourteen House members and one Senate member voted against SB 1. Rep. Sergio Muñoz Jr., D-Mission, was one of them. The final version of the budget would spend almost \$1.4 billion less than originally appropriated and result in cuts of \$2.4 billion to Health & Human Services, \$1 billion to public education and reductions to other areas as well, Muñoz said.

Another House member to vote in opposition to SB 1 was Rep. Shawn Thierry, D-Houston. “Almost every area of state spending was cut or underfunded, including \$1 billion in Medicaid payments, in favor of allocating \$800 million dollars for border security patrol, which is really a federal issue,” Thierry said. “The budget now leaves nearly every state agency hanging on by a thread.”

Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, called the budget “inadequate” because it “leaves \$11 billion untapped” in the Economic Stabilization “Rainy Day” Fund. “There’s no new money for pre-K, there’s continued spending on more border militarization and it continues to shortchange education and healthcare. It doesn’t represent the values of my

★
STATE CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



district so I voted against it.”

Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, who chairs the Senate committee that drafted the budget, said, “We passed a responsible budget that meets our essential needs. It continues the policies of fiscal restraint that have shaped our success, and it positions Texas for a bright future.” Nelson also mentioned the passage of House Bill 2, supplemental appropriations legislation to cover shortfalls in the current 2016-2017 budget, which she said “protects the most vulnerable among us: our children. It balances the ledger for our current budget and puts Texas in a strong position to meet the challenges ahead.”

Members’ tempers
flare

Visitors poured into the Capitol on May 29, occupying the south steps, the rotunda floor, balconies of the upper floors of the rotunda and the House gallery to witness the closing hours of the legislative session.

A majority of the House

gallery crowd wore red shirts printed with statements in opposition to Senate Bill 4, legislation passed earlier this spring and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott. SB 4 bans sanctuary cities and toughens laws allowing law enforcement to identify, detain and deport undocumented residents.

As the crowd chanted “SB 4 is hate” and other slogans, a scuffle among several representatives erupted on the House floor, reportedly triggered by the sentiments expressed by the crowd. Other House members and staff broke up the disturbance and state troopers on guard duty cleared the gallery.

Some major bills
failed

Property tax reform and the so-called “bathroom bill” concerning the accommodation of transgender students created enough division between the House and Senate to stop, slow down or otherwise result in the demise of hundreds of other pieces of legislation.

Gov. Abbott, who named those issues high-priority, said he would decide this week if there is enough reason to call legislators back to Austin for a special session to act on his priorities.

Meanwhile, Abbott has until June 18 to sign or veto bills. If he does neither, they become law without his signature. He can leave Texans on pins and needles over the fate of bills by pushing those decisions right up to the deadline.

Lt. Governor
passes top 30
Legislative
priorities out
of the Senate

AUSTIN - May 29, 2017 – Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued this statement today after gaveling sine die for the regular 85th legislative session:

“I began this session with a strong conservative agenda that affirmed my commitment to property tax reform, women’s privacy, life, the second amendment, border security, religious liberty and a lean and efficient government. Twenty of the 30 priorities I announced in January are on track to become law.

“The Senate led in passing a conservative budget that is more than a billion dollars less than our last budget and did not use the Rainy Day Fund for on-going expenses.

“The Senate led in passing legislation banning sanctuary cities and maintained funding for border security. We passed one of the strongest pro-life bills ever, protecting the dignity and sanctity of life by banning partial birth abortion in Texas as well as increasing criminal penalties for buying or selling human fetal tissue. We also passed critical reforms for Child Protective Services.

“The Senate led in strengthening religious liberty with the sermon protection act and we provided funding for protective vests for every law enforcement officer in Texas. We also passed a critical Photo Voter ID law.

“The Senate also led on ethics reform including additional public disclosures for office holders and candidates and cutting retirement benefits for elected officials who are convicted felons.”

“...Patrick, who leads the Senate...gets high marks for tackling ethics reform. The ethics reform package, authored by Sen. Van Taylor, R-Plano, was the first legislation passed by the Senate this year.”

- Austin American Statesman, May 25, 2017.

Texas House Kills
Real Property Tax
Reform, Privacy
Protections, Additional
School Funding and the
Tuition Freeze
That Passed the Senate

“I am disappointed the Texas House blocked the passage of real property tax reform through rollback rates and mandatory elections. Unfortunately this means that Texans will continue to suffer a high property tax burden. The House also ignored the need to establish privacy regulations for schools and other local entities, ensuring that our state will continue to be embroiled in this issue in local communities and school restrooms, locker rooms and showers.

“The House killed the tuition freeze legislation which would have immediately addressed the spiraling costs of a college education that is crippling many Texans. Inexplicably, the House also rejected over a half-billion dollars in additional school funding because of their refusal to accept a school choice program for disabled children.

“I am very proud of what we were able to accomplish in the 140 days of this legislative session and I give all the credit to the vigilance and hard work of every senator. We will continue to celebrate these victories of conservative principles and governance and we will continue to fight the battles that remain -- particularly on property taxes and privacy which remain ‘must-pass’ legislation.”

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LIFESTYLE

Education Foundation Grant Surprise Patrol Awards Grants

By Susan Passmore

With the spirit and noise of a holiday parade, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation marched down the halls of district schools two mornings in April to award 77 grants to deserving educators to enhance classroom instruction. Accompanied by Robert E. Lee High School drum line members; REL, Goose Creek Memorial High School and Ross S. Sterling High School cheerleaders as well as some REL Celebrities, Education Foundation members and district administrators boarded yellow school buses carrying large checks to present to grant winners.

Since the inception of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation in 2009, the organization has awarded more than \$830,000 to teachers searching for ways to fund innovative ideas to benefit their students. Thanks to generous donors in the community as well as GC-CISD staff members, who donate through the payroll deduction program, this marked the eighth year the Grant Surprise Patrol has delivered these grants.

“Our teachers are creative in their methods and strategies, and it is often difficult for them to obtain the necessary resources to enhance their students’ educational experiences,” said Randal O’Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. “That’s why we at Goose Creek CISD appreciate the Education Foundation so much. The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation believes that schools are critical to the success of a community, and its members have committed to giving time



Tracey Prothro, vice president of programs for the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, presents a \$500 grant to Janet Sennet, a teacher at Highlands Elementary, for “The Big Bank” to enhance financial literacy for her students. The Grant Surprise Patrol, GCCISD administrators, cheerleaders, drum line members and Celebrities boarded school buses two days at the end of April to deliver 77 grants to deserving teachers.

and effort to funding creative educational programs in our district.”

Janet Sennet, a teacher at Highlands Elementary, was pleased to see the group stop at her classroom to present her with \$500 for her grant “The Big Bank” to enhance financial literacy. She will use the money to construct a bank and a store, and students will select a career.

“They will earn a bi-weekly salary, make a household budget and save 10 percent of their earnings. Also, students will be able to buy goods from the store,” said Sennet. “They will select a charity to which they will donate. Students will operate the Big Bank just like a real financial institution. I will

provide them with checks, debit/credit cards and money. The students will be required to borrow money from the bank to understand how interest works.”

To enrich the science curriculum at Horace Mann Junior School, Susan Dagley submitted her grant “KABOOM! Chemistry Demos” in the amount of \$1,270. The funds she received from the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will allow the Outreach program from The Museum of Natural Science to demonstrate chemical reactions for the entire student body.

“One of our science campus goals is to incorporate more hands-on activities during science class. Students would witness dem-



Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman
Randal O’Brien (back left), Goose Creek CISD superintendent, and Ronnie Hotchkiss (back right), Goose Creek Education Foundation member, present a grant to Kathryn Aguilar at IMPACT Early College High School for materials for her forensics classes. Also pictured are Robert E. Lee High School cheerleaders and Celebrities; Laura Reyes, IMPACT principal (front, fourth from left) and IMPACT students (front row) Keyla Gayton, Paulina Valencia, Anastasia Velasquez, (second row) Shanice Gordon and Pamela Pagaza.

onstrations of combustion, color changes, polymers and watching incredible effects of liquid nitrogen. These are demonstrations that we normally are unable to do due to lack of resources,” Dagley said.

Another happy grant winner was Kathryn Aguilar from IMPACT Early College High School, who received a \$2,000 grant for materials for her forensics class.

“Without the grant, we couldn’t do everything we want to do in the class. It takes materials to make an interesting forensics class. We will look for trace evidence, set up crime scenes and do more with serology,” said Aguilar. “We send real DNA samples to a National Geographic program,

and students present the results of the analysis of their own DNA.”

The grants are awarded to teachers at all different levels for various subjects and for a diverse range of projects. Some teachers, like Linda LeDay at Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary, have found that if they have creative ideas, they can receive more than one grant, but only one per year.

“Knowing that these innovative teaching grants are at work in Goose Creek CISD classrooms every day is so rewarding,” said Kathy Clausen, president of the Education Foundation. “The Education Foundation is extremely grateful to our donors for making this possible.”

The mission of the Goose Creek CISD Education foundation is to partner with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning and provide opportunities for excellence in education for all students in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. Goals include involving the community in assuring a quality education for the leaders and workers of tomorrow, supporting staff for innovative efforts, recognizing staff for exemplary teaching and encouraging all students to work at their highest potential.

If you would like to donate to the GCCISD Education Foundation, please go online to gccisd.net or call 281-707-3629.

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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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

ASK THE EXPERT

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



ASK DIAMOND JIM

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 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 chameleon-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.

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Local High Schools attend Judge Joe Stephens Teen Court



Pictured in both photos are North Shore High School and Crosby High School students. Last month they participated at Judge Joe Stephens Teen Court Program. North Shore High was the Prosecutor and Crosby High Schools was the defense team. The case heard was a minor in possession charge. Next Teen Court session is set for Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at Judge Stephens' Courtroom, North Channel Annex Courthouse located at 14350 Wallisville Rd., Ste 102, Houston, Texas 77049 at 6:00 p.m.



Teen Court is a diversion program for youth in middle & high school. The program is designed for youth to participate in the process of the criminal justice system. Teen volunteers have the opportunity to assume the role of a judge, prosecutor, bailiff, clerk, and juror. The goal of teen court is to intervene upon and prevent illegal behavior.

Teen volunteers have the opportunity to determine fair and constructive consequences for a peer who is cited for a violation of the law. (Class C misdemeanor cases).

Who is eligible to volunteer? Teens between the ages of 13-17

- Teens interested in careers in judicial system
- Teens interested in community service opportunities

- Dress code strictly enforced.

- Neat attire for court. No chewing gum.

Ladies: Dress, skirt, slacks, closed toe shoes, blouse or top with sleeves.

Gentlemen: Collared shirt, khakis or dress slack (no jeans), and belt.

For more information please call 713-274-0760.

PORT BRIEFS

An operations report for the first quarter report of 2017 showed that "Port Houston handled close to 10 million tons of total tonnage, reflecting an increase of eleven percent over 2016," Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther announced during the April meeting of the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority. During the first quarter of this year, Port Houston facilities handled 607,000 TEUs (the twenty foot equivalent measurement of container cargo). Guenther stated that the "majority" of this increase is "largely due" to an increase in container volumes, which showed an increase of 18 percent.

A highlight of some actions taken by the Port Commission during its meeting included to support adding the inclusion of a coastal barrier system for the Houston/Galveston Bay area to the President's national infrastructure plans. This approval provides Port Houston the opportunity to join the Texas Land Office Commissioner in his letter to the President, which is urging the President to include the coastal barrier system in the national infrastructure plans. The action also allows the option to submit one separately on behalf of the Port Authority.

The Port Commission also approved the Actuarial Valuation Audit Report of the Port of Houston Authority Restated Retirement Plan.

The Independent Auditors Report prepared by Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company opined that the August 1, 2016 Actuarial Valuation prepared by Milliman, Inc. provides a fair and reasonable assessment of the financial position of the plan. The final actuarial report is available on the Port Houston website.

The commission approved entering into a multi-party Interlocal Agreement with Harris County, Galena Park, and Jacinto City for infrastructure improvements involving the design and construction of a sidewalk and pedestrian bridges for those communities.

During the meeting, the Port Commission acknowledged the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Change of Command with the retirement of Captain Peter Martin. He was commended for his service and leadership as Sector Commander. The new

Captain of the Port, Captain Kevin Oditt has assumed command. The commission expressed its appreciation to the Coast Guard for their dedication and commitment to the safety, security and environmental stewardship of the Houston Ship Channel.

Forty years ago this month, the Barbours Cut Container terminal opened for business. Barbours Cut has grown to be one of the premier container-handling facilities in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. A modernization program is under way to increase cargo-handling efficiency and capacity. Since the opening of Barbours Cut, and with the subsequent creation of its sister container facility at Bayport, the Port now handles 68 percent of all the container activity along the U.S. Gulf Coast and 95 percent of the container activity in Texas.

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 455,748; Estate of GEORGE ROBERT GOODWIN, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on May 15, 2017.

CHERYL LYNN ROUSE

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. Dated this May 24, 2017.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Comfort Dog helps at Carter-Conley Funeral Home



AXL is a Golden Doodle breed dog, only 8 months old, with a very important job. He is a "comfort" dog, or therapy dog, at the Carter-Conley Funeral Home in Channelview. Seen here with owners Brad and Lisa Conley, at a recent North Shore Catfish Fry event. Golden Doodles are a cross-breed between a Golden Retriever and a Poodle, and have become very popular.

JC Volunteers Rescue Dogs

Photos & Story
by Allan Jamail

Jacinto City dog lovers has developed a group of volunteers working under the name, Jacinto City Dog Pound Rescue (JCDPR).

After 4 days JCDPR takes unclaimed dogs from the city's

dog pound to prevent them from being euthanized. Dogs are vaccinated, spayed or neutered, groomed and then members begin searching for a foster home or adoption.

At the recent Jacinto City council meeting Becky Gammage one of the volunteers announced their bar-b-q fund raiser brought in \$7,311.36 to

be used to spay or neuter and vaccinate rescued dogs before giving them out for adoption.

Becky said people can learn more about JCDPR on the facebook page she posts on at the Friends of Jacinto City page and anyone desiring to adopt a rescued dog can call her at 832-687-6628.



ABOVE: Jacinto City Dog Pound Rescue (JCDPR) members offering rescued dogs for adoption. R to L: JCDPR members Becky Gammage, Judy Clark, Brenda Kocian and Myrian Velarde and unnamed citizens.

RIGHT: Jacinto City Dog Pound Rescue volunteers presented member Becky Gammage (center) with a flower arrangement for her valuable service and care for the rescued dogs. Standing L - R: Dj Hatley, Jordan Davis
Seated: L - R: Diane Peacock, Becky Gammage and Charlotte Bean



Channelview High School Graduation



Channelview High School held its graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 27 at the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine ISD. More than 575 graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, with several of them also receiving their associate's degrees from San Jacinto College North. Video of the graduation is available for viewing on the Aldine website at <http://www.aldine.k12.tx.us/graduation/>

Jacinto City Memorial Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL

Sheila Jackson Lee & Linda Jamail make flag presentations to JC Health Care Center officials. Memorial Day presentations of flags to health care center officials: L to R: Division President Steve Wicks, Director Melissa Armstrong, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Director of Operations Sandra Brown and Rep. Ana Hernandez' Community Liaison Linda Jamail.

is in session was represented by her Community Liaison Linda Jamail who presented a Texas flag which flew over the Texas Capitol and a certificate honoring those who died in service to the country.

Former Jacinto City Mayor Allan Jamail (founder of Keep Jacinto City Clean) was the Master of Ceremonies. He began the memorial ceremony with a prayer and was followed by army Veteran Charles Scott a retired Jacinto City employee who's now a resident of the health care center.

The Honorable Congresswoman Lee stated, "I am humbled and honored to be with you this afternoon in the presence of heroes and in remembrance of every man and woman of the Armed Forces who gave the last full measure of devotion in defense of our country."

She said, "Memorial Day -- is a reminder to all of us who live in freedom that as President Kennedy said, "The price of freedom is

high, but Americans have always paid it."

Lee reminded those in attendance with the following information; That each May, veteran and service organizations come together to hold events around the country to demonstrate their gratitude to current and former men and women in uniform and their families for their service to our country.

They are the Army, the Army Reserve Army National Guard. They are the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve. The Navy and the Navy Reserve; the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve Air National Guard and the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve.

This year marks the 42nd anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, the conflict that deeply involved and affected every member of my generation, but none more so than the families and loved ones of the 58,148 men and women who never returned home but whose

valor and sacrifice is forever enshrined on the sacred Wall of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

357 of those names remind us of the sacrifice on the altar of freedom made by the families of Houston.

Of the 2.7 million Americans who served in uniform in Vietnam, more than 10% (362,000) were killed or wounded, including 5 Americans soldiers who were just 16 years old.

The average age of the soldiers who fought in Vietnam was just 22 years old and 61% of those killed were younger than 21. Three in every five (61%) of those killed were younger than 21 and 17,539 among those killed would never again see their wives and children.

The emotional and tearful event ended with the flag presentations to the Jacinto City Health Care Center representatives, Division President Steve Wicks, Director of Operations Sandra Brown and Director Melissa Armstrong.

Mosquito Season is Back

Harris County Officials present efforts in place to detect mosquitoes that carry disease

Houston, Texas -- It's mosquito season again and our warm weather and humidity are an ideal mosquito-breeding ground. Out of the 56 species of mosquitoes found in our area, only a handful transmit disease. Harris County officials encourage residents to take precautionary measures to protect themselves from mosquito diseases such as West Nile Virus, Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett along with Dr. Umair A. Shah, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Executive Director, and Dr. Mustapha Debboun, HCPH Mosquito & Vector Control Division (MVCD) Director, explained procedures and technology used to track mosquitoes that could carry Zika or other known mosquito-borne diseases in our area.

To date, one mosquito sample has tested positive for West Nile Virus. Those areas have been sprayed to reduce the risk of disease. Although 83 cases of Zika

have been reported in our area, none were transmitted locally. Currently, Harris County Public Health MVCD has not detected the presence of Zika, Dengue or Chikungunya in the local mosquito population. MVCD divides the county into 268 operational areas, including the City of Houston, and places over 500 mosquito traps throughout these areas to collect mosquitoes for testing.

"Our mosquito and vector control program has been protecting Houston/Harris County residents from mosquito-borne illnesses for more than 50 years, combining science and technology to fight disease carrying mosquitoes. However, we cannot do it alone. We need the help of our residents because fighting mosquito-borne illnesses like Zika, has to be a collaborative effort," said Dr. Umair A. Shah, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health.

As we move into the summer months, enjoy the outdoors but remember to protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne

disease. Your best defense against being bitten is simply to be prepared. "Prevent the Bite Day and Night."

Personal Protection

- When outdoors, use an EPA-registered insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535, or 2-undecanone. Follow product instructions
- If possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants

Mosquito-Proof Your Property

- Remove/empty containers that can hold water such as tires, flowerpots and toys.
- Change water in birdbaths and pet water bowls every 3 to 5 days.
- Keep rain gutters free of debris.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside. Use air conditioning, if possible.

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