

CHANNEL CHATTER

### 4th of July Celebrations

CITY OF GALENA PARK will hold its 1st Annual 4th of July Festival, at 1600 16th Street from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Sponsored by the Committee for a Better Galena Park, it will feature Activities, Food, Games, Music and Fireworks at 9:00 pm. The pool will be open, and Free from 4 pm to 7 pm. CITY OF JACINTO CITY will have its annual fireworks on "the High Road" between the cities. Begins at dark. Free parking is available at the Galena Park Ag Center on Holland.

**Reps. Al Green and Gene Green: Federal proposal could abate flooding woes**

By Al Green and Gene Green

June 16, 2016 – Our world-class, international city is faced with a growing threat to the lives of our citizenry and our economy, a threat that is obvious to anyone who lives in the Houston area, and there is a way you can actively become a part of the solution.

Expensive, life-taking floods are becoming commonplace in Houston. Last year's Memorial Day Flood took eight lives and cost taxpayers more than \$100 million. This year's Tax Day Flood took nine lives and cost approximately \$2 billion. Based on past weather occurrences, it's not so far-fetched to believe that Houston will face more flooding, more damage and potentially more lives lost.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center, Harris County had 96 days with reports of flooding or flash flooding from 1996 through 2015, with at least one report of flooding for each of those years. This is an average of four to five days of flooding each year, four to five days of pain and suffering, four to five days of destruction of personal and real property, as well as four to five days of lost business productivity.

Although Houston has a recurring flood problem, there is

See FLOODING WOES, page 8

GALENA PARK – At its regular meeting this week, City Council considered a number of appointments to fill open positions in the city government. These had occurred due to previous Council action in firing or demoting certain personnel. On the Agenda were appointments of police chief, city attorney, water superintendent, water department billing clerk, and a civil service board person. Each of these items generated discussion, and most were acted on. However, the appointment of Edward Mata as Police Chief generated questions and was finally tabled,

because his salary of \$68,000 and requirement to live in the city was never discussed with him. The item was referred to committee for further action and later vote.

Appointment of a City Attorney went ahead without much discussion. Robert Collins, a local attorney who is a 1970 graduate of Galena Park High School, was appointed. He is also City Attorney in Port Isabel, he said. In accepting the position, he said he has some goals, including applying for more grant money for the city, updating the A/V equipment that the city uses in the Council



ROBERT COLLINS, new City Attorney for Galena Park

Chamber, and keeping the city out of the Courtroom. Other appointments

that proceeded were Jarrod Jones for Water Superintendent, Irma Betancourt for Water Dept. billing, and Hector Torres to the Civil Service Board.

The Agenda item that generated the most discussion, was a proposed ordinance that would prohibit the parking of autos, boats, and trailers on grassed front yards of residences. A number of persons in the

audience spoke out about this being unreasonable, or that it should be grandfathered for current violators. Although most of the Council seemed in favor of the proposal, to keep the city looking orderly, it was decided to table the item to study the wording, and to try to account for existing paving situations and handicap needs.

Council approved purchasing a prefabricated park restroom building from Corworth, to be installed at the park next to Baggett Center. If successful, Council said they plan on similar facilities in Galena Manor and Woodland Acres.

## GALENA PARK Council hires City Attorney; delays choosing Police Chief

## Galena Park completes Gateway Monument

GALENA PARK – The Gateway Monument that they city voted in favor of last year, has now been completed. It stands in the front of City Hall, demarking a "Gateway" into the Port Region. As such, it was paid for by the EconomicAlliance Houston Port Region, as part of a project known as Project Stars. These gateways are conceived as a regional themed beautification project, designed to highlight the rich historic assets of the 10-city district and to visually demark the entrance to each city.

In Galena Park, lacking an appropriate entrance site, the monument was constructed in the center, by City Hall.

EconomicAlliance paid \$100,000 toward the project, and the city contributed matching funds of \$25,000 according to information from Robert Prutt, previous City Administrator.

Each of the monuments in the various cities was designed by landscape architects Knudson LP. The Galena Park monument was designed by Bryan

Janhsen of Knudson LP.

Project Stars was originally conceived by Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, and Jan Lawler of the EconomicAlliance starting in 2004. It was conceived as a trail of living history, as Project Stars will mark the route to Texas Independence as the historical markers highlight each city or location in East Harris County. Tourists and citizens are encouraged to "Follow the Stars" as they make their way from the Harrisburg region, all the way east to the San Jacinto Monument. This monument marks the site of one of the most significant battles in American history, where General Sam Houston led his Texas Army to victory and freed Texas from Mexico.

Project Stars currently consists of four oil storage tanks painted with huge historical murals, and 9 gateway projects in the participating cities. Two of the murals are on Highway 225, one is on a VoPak tank on Independence aParkway, and the newest is on a tank in Baytown.



THE NEW GATEWAY MONUMENT is part of the Project Stars of the San Jacinto Historical District. Each of the 10 cities in the area served by EconomicAlliance Houston Port Region received money to build these monuments. Galena Park is number 9 in the series. The first Gateway was erected in La Porte in 2008. Although each design is different, responding to its setting, each has a Blue Star that lights at night. Project Stars is also responsible for the Historical Murals painted on the oil storage tanks along Highway 225 and Independence Parkway in Deer Park.

## JACINTO CITY Swimming Pool closed this summer

JACINTO CITY – The city's swimming pool and adjacent kiddies pool are closed this season, according to City Manager Lon Squyres.

The pool was scheduled for maintenance work this spring, but when the pool was partially drained it was observed that water had accumulated under the pool structure, some movement had occurred, and pipe connections necessary for the safe operation of the pool had broken.

The condition of the pool was the subject of public and council comment at the last two Council meetings. City Manager Squyres said that the pool is 65 years old, and has some cracks and broken pipes, including the main drain. There was some discussion on whether the draining of the pool might have contributed to the problem, but Squyres said

that he personally had drained it as a fireman, and no problems had occurred.

Squyres said they were working with a large pool company, who had started work when a rise in the pool structure was noticed. Therefore, the city plans to hold the company responsible for any damage.

Dee Maner spoke from the audience, saying that she had experience in maintaining the pool, and that a well under the pool had to be drained at the same time as the pool was emptied, or the well water would exert too much upward pressure. She suggested that correct procedures had not been followed.

Squyres stated that an experience pool engineer was evaluating the situation, and would report back to the city. The city is also looking at the pool company's liability.

## GALENA PARK/JACINTO CITY Rotary installs new officers for 2016-17

Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club installed their new officers and board last Wednesday at the Baggett Center.

At RIGHT, new president Joshua Moreno, Rotarian of the Year Ernesto Paredes, and District Governor Eric Liu, who installed the Rotarians.

BELOW, the new officers, outgoing officers, and new board members pose for a photo at the luncheon. New President Joshua Moreno is at the center, Rotarian of the Year Ernesto Paredes is at the left end, and District 5890 Governor Eric Liu is at the right.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## North Shore Senior High School student brings home first place in Computer Applications Competition

Congratulations to North Shore Senior High School's Cristina Rodriguez for bringing home FIRST PLACE from Austin's May 25, 2016 state Computer Applications competition. Computer Applications focuses on

word processing speed and accuracy, skill in the use of database and spreadsheet applications, and the integration of all of these. Contestants have the opportunity to produce two printouts and the mandatory tie breaker. Each

printout is assigned a weighted point value, based on difficulty, which will be so indicated on the contest paper.

This is a technology based contest, and the goal is for students to have a thorough, working knowledge of these three applications and be able to complete substantial tasks in all of them and to direct data from one application to another. The difficulty of the elements on tests increases as students get to higher levels of competition.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE GPISD spotlights Alumnus Ernesto Calleros

Meet Ernesto Calleros, a 2010 graduate of Galena Park High School currently working on his PhD in Mathematics at Rice University. Ernesto came to the United States from Mexico when he was in middle school with no English knowledge, but this did not stop him from experiencing success. He worked ardously to learn the language and excelled academically in the six years he attended schools in GPISD. While attending Galena Park High School, he received numeration



Ernesto Calleros at Rice University.

See ALUMNI, page 5

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### GPISD's Allyn Stephens wins first in National Junior Golf Tournament

Congratulations to Dr. Gerald D. Cobb Sixth Grade Campus Class President, Allyn Stephens. In her "spare time" Allyn is an avid golfer, and she recently traveled to North Carolina to compete in the National Junior Golf Tour Golf Tournament. She returned home with a FIRST PLACE win! This victory has qualified Allyn a spot in the Junior World Championship this summer in San Diego. She will be competing against the best golfers in her age group from around the world. It looks like Allyn will soon be following in the footsteps of her dad, former pro basketball player and former Houston Rocket, GPISD's very own Board President, Mr. Joe Stephens!

### GPISD hosts first annual French Spelling Bee



This year, the GPISD English as a Second Language (ESL)/Language other than English (LOTE) Department hosted the district's first ever French Spelling Bee. Students from Galena Park High School, North Shore Ninth Grade Campus and North Shore Senior High School gathered in the GPISD Board Room to demonstrate their skills as they intensely competed. Congratulations to this year's outstanding spellers: First place/Gold Medal: Caleb Dickerson, GPHS. Second Place/Silver Medal: Artletty Saen, NSSHS. Third Place/Bronze Medal: Marissa Rodriguez, GPHS. Campus Winner: North Shore Senior High School. We can't wait for next year's spelling bee!

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OPINION PAGE



# STARLITE

By Gil Hoffman, Publisher



How we got our 15 minutes of Fame

Andy Warhol used to say that everyone will get their 15 minutes of Fame in their lifetime.

I guess my wife Mei and I got ours, thanks to the University of Pennsylvania alumni club. Channel 13's news anchor, Illona Carson, is an alum of Penn, as we are, and she graciously

naturally of interest since we are newspaper folks, but the sets and the video equipment were the highlight. Or should I say being in front of the camera, under the lights, was the highlight. Mei laughed her way through a weather forecast, in front of a "green screen" that actually was



Illona Carson, a gracious hostess at 8 1/2 months pregnant



Mei is the Weather Girl.

blank. See the photo for the TV effect. And my highlight of the evening was sitting at the Anchor Desk with Illona, delivering news like I used to on my college radio station. A great tour, a fun time, but don't look for us on Channel 13. Our Fame was only on the monitors in the studio, watched by the Penn Alum.



Gil and Illona at the Anchor Desk at Channel 13.



# OPINION

Harris County Attorney Ryan Wins Major Case On Government Liability

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan has won a victory in a case that had far-reaching negative implications for Texas' governmental entities.

The Texas Supreme Court announced today that it has dismissed a lawsuit filed against Harris County and the county Flood Control District by over 400 homeowners who claimed that their homes suffered flood damage because the county allowed upstream development.

The County Attorney argued and the Court agreed that the County was not responsible for damages homeowners suffered from flooding that occurred in 1998, 2001, and 2002. The justices said there was no way officials would have known that particular properties downstream would flood.

"The record is clear that the County never harbored a desire to cause flooding anywhere," the Court stated in its opinion. "Its motive was the opposite: it desired to prevent flooding and undertook extensive efforts over many years to accomplish this goal."

The Court also agreed with the County Attorney's arguments that if the lawsuit had been successful, it would discourage governments on all levels from taking

actions that could result in liability claims.

"I am pleased with the Supreme Court's decision," said County Attorney Ryan. "This will allow the Flood Control District to move forward with solutions to flooding issues without the fear of possible liability claims."

The Supreme Court had ruled last year that the case, known as the Kerr case, should go to a jury. But the County Attorney's Office filed a motion for re-hearing, which the court granted in February. Ryan requested and then received over 40 "friend of the court" briefs from governmental entities around the state which expressed their concern that governments would be reluctant to take any number of actions for the good of their residents if they knew they could face liability claims. The court's opinion cited these briefs, saying "The homeowners' theory of takings liability would vastly and unwisely expand the liability of governmental entities."

"I want to thank everyone who filed a friend of the court brief," said County Attorney Ryan. "These briefs helped a great deal in a case that could have had enormous consequences for governments and taxpayers across the state."



DPS asks citizens to report suspicious behavior

AUSTIN — In the wake of the widely reported June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, the Texas Department of Public Safety called on Texans to pay close attention to what's happening in their own communities.

DPS Director Steven McCraw on June 17 said, "Amid today's ever-present threat of terrorism and crime, we are reminded that members of the public can be law enforcement's greatest resource."

And, he said, "When law enforcement and communities work together to combat crime, we are inherently more successful." He urged individuals to report illegal or suspicious behavior they see to iWATCH or to their local authorities. "By speaking up, you could save a life," McCraw added.

The DPS-maintained iWATCH website, [www.iwatchtx.org](http://www.iwatchtx.org), provides citizens with a place to report tips related to criminal activity.

Examples of information the DPS considers reportable include:

- Strangers asking questions about building security features and procedures.
- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package is left behind.
- Cars or trucks are left in no-parking zones at important buildings.
- Chemical smells or fumes that are unusual for the location.
- People requesting sensitive information, such as blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules, without a need to know.
- Purchasing supplies that could be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials; and
- Taking photographs or videos of security features, such as cameras or checkpoints.

Aid request is granted

President Obama on June 11 granted the request Gov. Greg Abbott made on June 9 for individual assistance for the flood-affected counties of Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Fort Bend, Grimes, Hidalgo, Hood, Montgomery, San



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



Jacinto, Travis, Waller and Washington.

Also granted was Public Assistance Category B — emergency protective measures — for local and state response costs and sheltering, Abbott said. "Texans can now begin the process of rebuilding their lives after experiencing some of the worst flooding in recent history," he added.

Governor invites CDC

Gov. Abbott on June 15 invited the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to send personnel to Texas to review the Lone Star State's Zika Virus Preparedness and Response Plan.

Abbott urged the CDC to approve requests for three important projects to assist in funding Texas' Zika response plan:

- \$1.5 million to support Zika preparedness and response efforts;
- \$360,000 to support Zika-related birth outcomes surveillance; and
- \$9.2 million to strengthen epidemiology and laboratory capacity and improve health information systems.

"With the benefit of the CDC assets on the ground in Texas working with the Texas Department of State Health Services and our Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response, we can ensure that we are developing and

implementing the strongest possible Zika virus response," Abbott said.

No borrowing necessary

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 14 announced that Texas, for the second consecutive year, would not have to borrow money to meet its cash flow needs.

Sound fiscal management, conservative budgeting and responsible stewardship of the state's \$9.66 billion Economic Stabilization ("rainy day") Fund will allow the state to manage cash-flow challenges without issuing Texas Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes for fiscal 2017, Hegar said.

Such notes had been used to deal with "anticipated mismatches" in funding that came primarily from the state's providing nearly 50 percent of its payments to local school districts in the first three months of the fiscal year. "Texas' diverse and dynamic economy has weathered this downturn in energy prices significantly better than other energy-producing states, meaning we still have the ability to do the fiscally responsible thing and avoid unnecessary borrowing," Hegar added.

Jobless rate stays same

The Texas Workforce Commission on June 17 reported that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.4 percent in May.

While Texas has added an estimated 171,800 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year with the addition of 200 non-farm jobs in May, the state has added jobs in 13 of the last 14 months.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate average currently stands at 4.7 percent.

AG division leads nation

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on June 13 said his office's Child Support Division ranks first in the nation in child support collections.

The division collected some \$3.87 billion in child support for the federal fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2015.

Paxton cited the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Data Report released in April, which lists Texas first among 54 states, territories and districts for: amount of child support collected; amount of child support collected per employee; and cost effectiveness.

Protect your family from Mosquitoes

(NAPSI)—According to the World Health Organization, as many as 3 to 4 million people may be exposed to the Zika virus in the next 12 months—but you and your family don't have to be among them. To combat the Zika virus-carrying Aedes mosquito, the use of personal insect repellents is already surging in many places where the virus has been reported.

Companies that provide insect repellent, such as Spectrum Brands, Inc., which makes the Repel® and Cutter® brands, are hard at work ensuring there will be enough products on the shelves and educating consumers on what they can do to help repel the mosquitoes that may carry the virus.

So what can a family do? Here are six bits of advice for protecting yourself and your family from mosquito bites while still enjoying the great outdoors:

- Eliminate mosquito-breeding areas. Female mosquitoes can lay thousands of eggs just about anywhere standing water collects. Those eggs become mosquito larvae and then adult mosquitoes in 10 to 14 days. To combat mosquito breeding, conduct a site survey of your property every week in search of standing water. Make sure your lawn is draining properly and look for any areas where standing water might collect, like rain gutters. Yard features like ponds or birdbaths need to include moving or fresh water to keep mosquito larvae from maturing.
  - Use insect repellent and remember to reapply. When picking an insect repellent, consider the length of time you'll be outside and the type of activity you're planning. Find a repellent appropriately labeled for that use (length of protection varies by the percentage of active ingredient). DEET-based products, in particular, are recommended by the National Institutes of Health for effective, long-lasting protection and can be used by pregnant and breast-feeding women throughout pregnancy after checking with their physicians. The American Academy of Pediatrics also recommends DEET repellents for kids and advises that 30 percent DEET concentrations or lower can be used on children ages 2 months and up. Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus is the only natural active ingredient recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, but should not be used on children under the age of 3 years. Always follow product label instructions.
  - Mosquito proof your home. Most people don't think about mosquitoes entering their home, but it only takes one getting through a window or doorway to cause a threat to your family. Be sure that windows and doors are sealed off from the outdoors and screens are in good working order without holes.
  - Use yard applications to eliminate mosquitoes. Kids and pets spend a lot of time in the yard during mosquito season. Using a product like the Cutter® Backyard™ Bug Control Outdoor Fogger can help eliminate mosquitoes in the area.
  - Wear the proper attire when outdoors. Mosquitoes are attracted to exposed skin and dark colors so you can prevent some contact with them by simply wearing long pants, sleeves and light-colored clothing.
  - Be aware that Aedes mosquitoes bite during the day. Mosquitoes are generally known to be most active at dawn and dusk, but the Aedes mosquitoes that carry Zika virus are most active and biting during the day. Educating your family about the use of insect repellents during the day to combat this additional threat is a good preventative measure.
- Having a plan in place and the right products ready to use for the situation at hand will go a long way to help repel mosquitoes that may carry the Zika virus.

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LIFESTYLE

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OBITUARIES

Melva Jean Stehley

Melva Jean Stehley, 81, of Houston, Texas, passed into her heavenly home on May 19, 2016.

She was born January 11, 1935 in Lexington, Texas, to parents, Duke Moreland and Annie Bell (O'Bier) Moreland.

She is preceded in death by her parents Duke Moreland and Annie Diese and by her beloved husband, Gus Albert Stehley, Jr.

She is survived by her children, Vickie Harrison; Guy Stehley, Stacy Carr & husband, Paul, and Mary Stehley; as well as by 7 grandchildren, Annie, Lee, Lindsey, Matthew, Benjamin, Aileen, and Isabel; and 4 great-grandchildren, Thelma, Matthew, Robert and Lucy.



Memorial Services to celebrate Melva's life and homegoing will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 30, 2016 at First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 1505 1st Street, Galena Park, Texas.

Carter Funeral Home  
13701 Corpus Christi St.  
Houston TX 77015  
713/455-5100

James Richard "Jimmy" Baker (1949 - 2016)

James Richard Baker, Jimmy, as his friends called him, went home to be with the Lord May 26, 2016. He passed from this life at home. He was born October 10, 1949 and was cherished by the Phil Baker, Jr. family since 1960. James is preceded in death by his parents, Phil Jr. & Mary Baker; brother, Danny Baker; sister, Mary L. Baker, who resided many years in Metairie, Louisiana and his youngest brother, which passed only eleven months ago, Phil Baker III.

He is survived by one sister, Barbara Baker Matranga and husband, Joseph Matranga; nieces, Stefani Scovolo, Bridget Matranga; nephew, Danny Matranga and wife, Mary Matranga and many cousins in Texas, New Jersey, and Massachusetts; one uncle, Frank Baker and wife, Christina; his cherished friends and his beloved pets and Shierff's Dept. Officers, whom he dearly considered family. James was loved and will be missed by all who knew him.

Funeral Service were held on Friday, June 10, 2016 at Gospel Truth Church, 1624 West 34th Street, Houston, Texas.



Interment was at Houston National Cemetery with full military honors.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Claire Brothers Funeral Home, 7901 Hillcroft Street, Houston, Texas 77081. [www.clairebrothersfuneralhome.com](http://www.clairebrothersfuneralhome.com).

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the Book of Daniel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. 2 Kings 19 and which other chapter are almost alike word for word? Deuteronomy 7, Isaiah 37, Jeremiah 50, Job 16
  3. From 2 Samuel 22, who said, "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer"? David, Samuel, Peter, Solomon
  4. In Genesis 29, which of Jacob's wives was first to bear children? Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, Zilpah
  5. From Acts 22, what famous Rabbi was Paul's teacher? Hillel, Turkel, Zakkai, Gamaliel
  6. In 2 Kings 16, who burned his son alive as a sacrifice? Joab, Ahaz, Isaac, Josiah
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Isaiah 37; 3) David; 4) Leah; 5) Gamaliel; 6) Ahaz

LITTLE BIDDY BITS  
By Danny Biddy

Script or Scribbling?

I noticed several pages in my legal-sized notepad had been scribbled on. My wife explained that our three-year-old granddaughter wanted to "practice her writing." She had marked wavy lines, one after another, all the way down the pages. Since she is only three that was cute. If she were 20 and still scribbling, that would be tragic.

Is your life in Jesus Christ just "scribbling and wavy lines," or a script that inspires others? "When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things." (1 Corinthians 13:11)

The RIDERS

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ALUMNI,

Continued from page 2

ous awards, including the AP Scholar with Distinction Award and he graduated with honors, ranking fourth in his class.

Ernesto attributes his college success to the Pre-AP and AP program offered at Galena Park High School. He believes these classes gave him a strong foundation and prepared him for the rigorous courses he has taken in college. He believes none of this would have been possible without the educators who paved his

way for success. Some of the educators who influenced him most were Mrs. Ledwith, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Ramirez, Mr. Wagonner, Mrs. Calderon, Mrs. Robinette, Mrs. Feliciano, Mr. Richard, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Cawood.

Ernesto believes strongly in being involved and giving back to his community. He tutors elementary students in math and science, as well as mentoring high school seniors. He also assists high school students by guiding them through the scholarship process, helping them to pass AP exams, and he provides them with tips for college essay writing. When he is not receiving prestigious awards such as

the Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, he enjoys dancing. Currently, Ernesto is a member of a dance group at Rice University known as the Rice Salseros. The organizations and community service projects Ernesto has participated in have helped him gain valuable leadership skills, all of which have taught him the importance of giving back.

Ernesto's future plans include becoming a full time professor at the university level and continuing research in mathematics. He plans to create and run university programs designed to introduce students to advanced math topics early in their education and to encourage others to conduct research at the graduate level.

GPISD is proud of Ernesto, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for such an ambitious young scholar.

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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

Gen Xers Must Juggle Both Money and Time

If you're an older member of Generation X – that is, if you were born in the early- to mid-1960s – you may have a lot of “balls in the air.” You are saving for your own retirement – which might not be that far away – while at the same time possibly wanting to help pay for your children's college education. And you may also be assisting your aging parents in some ways. How can you manage this juggling act?

To begin with, you need to emphasize your retirement. Now that you are likely in, or near, your peak earning years, you should contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Your plan likely offers you a range of investment options, so you can create a portfolio that's appropriate for your needs. The money in your 401(k) or similar plan can grow on a tax-deferred basis, and your contributions are typically made with pretax dollars. So, the more you put in, the lower your annual taxable income. You won't have to pay taxes until you take withdrawals, but if you do withdraw money before you reach 59., the withdrawals may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty.

Even if you're contributing to a 401(k) or similar plan, you're probably still eligible to contribute to an IRA. Like a 401(k), a traditional IRA offers tax-deferred growth potential, while a Roth IRA can provide tax-free earnings distributions if you've had your account at least five years and don't take withdrawals until you're at least 59..

If you devote most of your investable income to your retirement plans, you may not have much left to help pay for your children's college education. But that may not be a disaster – after all, they could get scholarships and financial aid. And even if they need to take out student loans, they have a lot more years to pay them back than you have until your retirement. If you can afford to help your children, choose a

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

smart college-savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan, which offers tax-free earnings distributions as long as the money is used exclusively for qualified higher education expenses. (If it's used for other purposes, you'll be taxed on it and also could face a penalty.)

How about your elderly parents? How can you best help them? Hopefully, they will not require any outright financial assistance from you – but that doesn't mean you can't assist them in other ways. If you haven't already done so, try to find out as much as you can about their estate plans and any arrangements they've made should they become incapacitated. Ideally, you'll want to get answers to questions such as these:

- Have they named a durable power of attorney?
- Have they chosen an executor for their estate?
- Have they thought

about how they would pay for any long-term care services they might need, such as a nursing home stay?

It may not be that easy to have these conversations, but they are important – especially if you are going to play an active role in your parents' plans.

Clearly, as a Gen Xer concerned about retirement, college-age children and aging parents, you'll have a balancing act involving both money and time. But with planning, patience and realistic expectations, you can help yourself and the ones you love.

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

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Diamond Jim: "What is Flag Day and what does it mean?"



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Flag Day in the United States

People across the United States celebrate Flag Day on June 14 each year to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption. On the same day, the United States Army celebrates its birthday.

Flag Day honors the United States flag.

What Do People Do?

Flag Day falls within National Flag Week, a time when Americans reflect on the foundations of the nation's freedom. The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. During both events, Americans also remember their loyalty to the nation, reaffirm their belief in liberty and justice, and observe the nation's unity.

Many people in the United States honor this day by displaying the American flag at homes and public buildings. Other popular ways of observing this holiday include: flag-raising ceremonies; Flag Day services; school quizzes and essay competitions about the American flag; musical salutes; street parades; and awards for special recognition.

Organizations such as The National Flag Day Foundation are actively involved in coordinating activities centered on the event and keeping the flag's traditions alive. Following Flag Day is Honor America Days, a 21-day period through to Independence Day (July 4) to honor America. During this period, people hold public gatherings and

activities to celebrate and honor the nation.

Public Life

Although Flag Day is a nationwide observance, it is not a public holiday in many parts of the United States. It is a legal holiday in a few areas in the USA, such as Montour County in Pennsylvania.

1916. However, Flag Day did not become official until August 1949, when President Harry Truman signed the legislation and proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. In 1966, Congress also requested that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week.

The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation to: call on government officials in the USA to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Flag Day; and to urge US residents to observe Flag Day as the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

Symbols

The American flag, also nicknamed as “Old Glory” or “star-spangled banner”, has changed designs over the centuries. It consists of 13 equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canton bearing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars. Each of the 50 stars represents one of the 50 states in the United States and the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies that became the first states in the Union.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmille@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmille@pineforestjewelry.com).

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



Background

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red and white stripes – one for each state. Although it is not certain, this flag may have been made by the Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross, who was an official flag maker for the Pennsylvania Navy. The number of stars increased as the new states entered the Union, but the number of stripes stopped at 15 and was later returned to 13.

In June 1886 Bernard Cigrand made his first public proposal for the annual observance of the birth of the flag when he wrote an article titled “The Fourteenth of June” in the old Chicago Argus newspaper. Cigrand's effort to ensure national observance of Flag Day finally came when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of the event on June 14,

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 442,114; Estate of TOMMY DEAN PRICE, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on February 24, 2016.  
**MARK PRICE**  
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is: c/o Weston Cotton 5223 Garth Rd. Baytown, TX 77521  
  
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 June 20, 2016.  
  
by WESTON COTTEN  
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**A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT JACINTO CITY CITY HALL, 1301 MERCURY DR. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.. VENDORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.**  
  
**THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY/OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY/OR ALL TECHNICALITIES AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID OR PART THEREOF, WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CITY.**  
  
**SEALED BIDS ADDRESSED TO THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY, TEXAS AND MARKED "SEALED BID" AND LISTING THE VEHICLE BEING BID ON WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE JACINTO CITY CITY HALL, 1301 MERCURY DR., JACINTO CITY, TEXAS UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON JULY 14, 2016 FOR THE SALE OF (1) 2007 MERCURY, (1) 2003 F150 FORD P/U, (1) 1987 F700 FORD BUCKET TRUCK AND (1) 1991 CHEVROLET KODIAK. VEHICLES SOLD AS IS - MINIMUM BID APPLIES. THE 2007 MERCURY MILAN MAY BE VIEWED AT THE POLICE STATION, 10429 MARKET STREET AND ALL OTHER VEHICLES MAY BE VIEWED AT PUBLIC WORKS, 12202 1/2 MARKET ST..**  
  
**THE BIDS WILL BE OPENED AND PUBLICLY READ IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 10301 MARKET ST. AT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, JULY 14, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.**  
  
**THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY/OR ALL TECHNICALITIES AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID OR PART THEREOF WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CITY.**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:**  
  
**THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY WILL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING ON JUNE 23, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER LOCATED AT 10301 MARKET ST. RD. IN JACINTO CITY, TEXAS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ACQUIRE AN AMBULANCE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THIS MEETING IS TO BE HELD AT THE REQUEST OF THE FUNDING AGENCY, THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TO ACQUAINT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ON ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, SERVICE AREA, AND ALTERNATIVES.**

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## COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Galena Park Library Programs

-Monday, June 27, Adult Program, Nutrition Program, 4 pm.  
-Tuesday, June 28, Family Board Games, 4 pm.  
-Wed., June 29, Baby Time, 10 am; Storytime, 11 am; Get Active, 4 pm.  
-Thur., June 30, Ronald McDonald, 4 pm.  
All children programs require tickets. Tickets are free and available the Monday before the program at the front desk.  
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.

## Jacinto City Library programs

-Friday, June 24, *Clases de Inglés Usando Mango*, 1 pm; *I-on-Digital Tech help*, 3 pm.  
-Saturday, June 25, *Family Movie Theater*, 12:30 pm; *Coding Basics*, 3:30 pm.  
-Tuesday, June 28, *Power Point*, 10:30 am; *Adult Coloring*, 2:30 pm; *Power Point Básico*, 4:30 pm.  
-Wed., June 29, *Baby Time*, 10:30 am; *ESL Class (Clase de Inglés)*, 12:30 pm; *Engineering Challenge (Teens)*, 2 pm.  
-Thursday, June 30, *Intro to Facebook*, 11 am; *H.C. Pct. 1 Traveling Naturalist (all ages)*, 2 pm; *Children's Story Time*, 3 pm; *Word*, 6 pm.

Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029.  
For more information on these and other programs at the library, please call 713-673-3237.

## ***Flooding Woes,***

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a lifesaving solution that will cost far less than the catastrophic economic losses the area has experienced. The Harris County Flood Control District has a number of flood control projects under construction which, if expedited, could eliminate or mitigate a good deal of flooding as well as save lives and money. Congress can and should help with federal funding.

The district estimates that existing flood prevention and mitigation projects would require approximately \$311 million to be completed. This is a common-sense approach, and while it would not eliminate all of the flooding problems in our area, completion of the projects would begin to address the crisis.

H.R. 5025, the 2016 Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act, is bipartisan legislation that would appropriate the \$311 million for flood control projects in the Houston area. The funds would be available until 2026, and returned to the U.S. Treasury if not used for these projects. This timeline will provide some degree of certainty that the additional funds will be used timely and efficiently to expedite the completion of these vital projects. Additionally, if properly implemented, H.R. 5025 could create approximately 6,000 jobs in the Houston area and save untold amounts in future flood-recovery tax dollars.

Congress has supported disaster relief in the past, and Houston should be no different. Congress appropriated an estimated \$16 billion for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, Gustav and Ike, \$5.35 billion for Hurricane Sandy relief, and approximately \$6 billion over the past 30 years for flood control projects. We have provided monetary relief for other disasters such as oil spills, wildfires, tornadoes and earthquakes. We have supported our friends around the world, including \$90 million to the Philippines after the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, \$150 million to Pakistan after the 2010 summer floods, \$3.1 billion to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, as well as \$950 million to aid countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami. Houston deserves no less.

H.R. 5025 has experienced a groundswell of support, with more than 80 members of Congress signing on to support this legislation, including Reps. Brian Babin, R-Woodville; Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands; Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio; Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo; John Culberson, R-Houston; Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin; Ruben Hinojosa, D-Mercedes; Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston; Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas; Pete Olson, R-Sugar Land; Beto O'Rourke, D-El Paso; Ted Poe, R-Humble; Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth; Filemon Vela, D-Brownsville; and Randy Weber, R-Friendwood.

In Houston, exigent circumstances created by inclement weather may be inevitable, but with the right proactive solutions we can reduce risk while making preparedness and increased safety the norm. More important, we will save lives as well as reduce the recovery funding after a future tragic event. We have an obligation to our city and our future generations to do all that we can to minimize expensive, deadly flooding in our city.

In the midst of this process to find solutions, we are constantly asked, "What can I do to help?" You can help by reaching out to your family and friends across our country and asking them to contact their members of Congress about the importance of co-sponsoring and ultimately voting to approve H.R. 5025. This is an issue that affects the welfare of our great city. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to be tireless advocates for Houston.

Al Green, a Democrat, represents Texas' 9th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where Gene Green, also a Democrat, represents the state's 29th Congressional District.

# North Shore Senior High School's Class of 2016 bids High School a fond farewell



Houston, Texas. Galena Park ISD's North Shore Senior High School Class of 2016 boasted 1,068 graduates, who at current tally, earned more than \$6,000,000 in scholarships. Dr. Joe Coleman, Principal of North Shore Senior High School, noted just a small sample of the many accomplishments of the graduating class, including prestigious honors and championships in areas such as academics, athletics and fine arts in his farewell remarks to the graduating seniors, their parents and commencement guests. GPISD is proud of the achievements of the Class of 2016 and looks forward to seeing what the future holds for this well-rounded and talented group of students.

## Galena Park High School's Class of 2016 gets set for the future



Houston, Texas – Galena Park ISD's Galena Park High School Class of 2016 is excited to announce that 446 students earned their high school diplomas during the commencement ceremony on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at NRG Stadium. The proud seniors had accumulated a total of almost \$2.4 million in scholarships, but rewards continue to increase daily as students receive good news of additional scholarships to assist in launching their college/university studies. Galena Park ISD congratulates the GPHS Class of 2016 as they prepare to set the dreams for the future in motion!

# GPISD teacher wins H-E-B Rising Star

On Friday, May 13, 2016, H-E-B sponsored its annual H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards in San Antonio, Texas. The program, designed to recognize top educators and school districts, has awarded more than \$8 million since 2002.

Galena Park ISD's Hilda Nanez, a teacher at Green Valley Elementary, was named a rising star, earning \$5,000 for herself and \$5,000 for her school. Teachers with less than 10 years of experience are eligible for the award.

Nañez grew up in an immigrant family, speaking only Spanish. When she was switched to an English-only class in fourth grade, she went from straight A's to struggling, according to her award entry with H-E-B. She wanted to ensure that other children didn't have that same experience. "When I was sinking I thought, 'When I grow up, I want to be a bilingual teacher and help kids like me be able to swim,'" Nañez told H-E-B. Nañez is a bilingual intervention teacher who provides students extra help on math and reading in both English and Spanish. She has already completed a master's in leadership with principal certification and hopes to become a principal someday. "As a principal, you can advocate for every single child on your campus," Nañez said.

H-E-B launched the Excellence in Education

Awards program with the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2002 to support public education in Texas. It's now the largest program for educators in Texas, spotlighting best practices and celebrating successful educators.



Galena Park ISD teacher Hilda Nañez was named HEB rising star.

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