

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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CHANNEL CHATTER

Rep. Hernandez responds to Governor Abbott's Veto of Local Control & Public Safety Bills

AUSTIN, TX-Governor Abbott vetoed two pieces of legislation passed by Representative Hernandez in the 84th Legislative Session. House Bill 973 would have provided greater local control for Harris County emergency service districts to address EMS and fire control manpower needs. House Bill 1119 would have directed the Department of Transportation to assess the need for the replacement of mile markers along interstate highways, to help first-responders locate stranded motorists.

"I am extremely disappointed by the Governor's decision to veto critical local control and public safety legislation," said Hernandez. "Emergency service districts in Harris County provide both critical fire control and EMS services to our unincorporated communities, such as Sheldon, Clover Leaf and Channelview. By not entrusting our ESDs to allocate their funds as local manpower needs require, the Governor has chosen to play politics with our local emergency services."

"Mile markers can mean the difference between life and death for motorists in an accident, as they help first-responders locate crash sights. It is discouraging that the Governor feels that this public safety priority does not warrant the state's attention."

State Cancer study confirms high number of cases in East Harris County

Health department reconsiders, may conduct further studies

By Jackie Young

Friday, June 19, 2015 – Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) released an Assessment of the Occurrence of Cancer in a select study area in East Harris County, Texas. The report confirmed statistically significantly high rates of the following cancers in children: glioma, retinoblastoma, brain cancer, melanoma, and leukemia. The report also confirmed statistically significantly high rates of the following cancers in people of all ages: brain cancer, cervical cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, breast cancer,



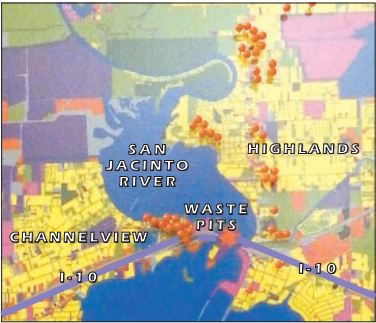
JACKIE YOUNG, San Jacinto River Coalition at an EPA meeting

leukemia, myeloma, and lymphoma.

Along with the data was an unprecedented announcement for TX DSHS.

In over 400 similar database investigations, this is the first time that the State of Texas is actually going to further investigate the health of specific communities. This is not only a victory for the San Jacinto River Coalition and residents of East Harris County, who have been advocating for the study for several years, but a major victory for public health in the State of Texas.

In 2011, the San Jacinto River Coalition began begging DSHS to study the health of Highlands, TX. Though they weren't sure



RED PINS on the Map indicate households with Cancer, Autoimmune disease, or other chronic illnesses.

what was making so many local residents develop cancer, they weren't convinced that it was all by coincidence. In 2014 DSHS

announced that in response to community concerns, they were going to

See CANCER CASES, page 8

North Shore Rotary installs new officers

The North Shore Rotary Club held their installation banquet last Friday night at the Monument Inn, with their usual verve and fun.

Mike Williams was sworn in as the 58th president, by Judge Mike Parrott. Parrott delivered an emotional talk about his

upcoming retirement in 2016, after a lifetime of service to the North Shore area.

Special guests at the dinner were the officers of Rotary District 5890, including Governor Nick Giannone and wife Fabiola, DG elect Eric Liu and wife Sandy, and DG designate



NEW PRESIDENT MIKE WILLIAMS presents outgoing president Allatia Harris with her gavel and plaque, a Rotary tradition.



JUDGE MIKE PARROTT swore in new board members and officers.

Bill Palko and wife Debby. Recognition was given to Rotarians who were present and had been in the club for 50 years or more, including B. J. Westbrook, Jerry Dominy and Frank Nadolney.

As outgoing president, Allatia Harris gave a short talk on the accomplishments of the club during

her term, summing it up as "An Amazing Year." She mentioned successful international projects to Mexico and Australia, help for youth through Early Act/First Knight, Interact, FFA Auctions at 4 schools, Food Baskets for the needy and Seniors, financial support for the Bay Area Homeless Family shelter, and an out-

reach to the Darrington Prison unit. She thanked members and her board, whom she awarded with copies of the book "Texas Rising."

Rotarian of the Year, voted on by the membership, was awarded to Amir Khan, noting that he dis-

See NS ROTARY, page 8

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Joe Stephens, former basketball star now aspiring to JP seat

HIGHLANDS – He's tall, has a big grin, and makes you feel comfortable right away.

Joe Stephens has a history that includes being a basketball star at North Shore high school, and on the Houston Rockets and other pro teams for a total of 10 years in the NBA. He played with super stars such as Akeem Alajuwon, Mario Elie and Clyde Drexler, and at a recent fund raiser for his political career, they were there as hosts.

Stephens is now a successful insurance agent in North Shore, but he plans to run for the office of Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3 Position 1 when Judge Mike Parrott retires next year. In fact, Parrott has publicly endorsed him for the position.

The Highlands Rotary club had Stephens as a

guest at a recent luncheon, and he spoke about his career, his work with youth, and his aspirations to help his life-long community as a Justice of the Peace.

Stephens told an entertaining story of how he got into pro basketball. In 1996 he and a few friends heard that there was an open tryout that the Houston Rockets were conducting in Sugar Land, so they went. After playing there for a while, he caught the eye of coach Rudy Tomjanovich, who came over to him, and offered him a position on the team.

He would play for the Rockets for 2 years, and a



JOE STEPHENS AT HIGHLANDS ROTARY

total of 10 years in the NBA for other teams, in-

See JOE STEPHENS, page 8

COMMUNITY WATCH

State and County attorneys join forces to fight synthetic Marijuana

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan announced last Tuesday, June 15, a joint operation against four Houston-area stores for distributing products that contain synthetic marijuana while deceptively claiming the products are safe and legal.

"Synthetic marijuana is an extremely dangerous substance and a growing risk to Texas youth, as evidenced by the mounting numbers of recent hospitalizations in Texas related to its use," Attorney General Paxton said. "These stores were operating in blatant disregard for the law and with an utter disregard for the safety of their customers. I commend investigators and officials who are working to



Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan announcing fight against synthetic marijuana. Also at left, District Attorney Devon Anderson, and at right, Sheriff Ron Hickman.



Samples of synthetic Marijuana.

See SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA, p. 3.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Strange visitor lands at Crosby Knights of Columbus Hall



On the lawn of the Knights of Columbus Hall last Saturday a drone crash landed and the local Knights would like to find the owners. If it is yours and you can answer some questions about it call (281) 328-1104.

FM 2100 suspect van may be same as Homestead

CROSBY – Local residents were shocked by a van striking the Subway Sandwich Shop and later the Family Dollar Store by a van that backed into the glass structure and suspects bound forth and seized safes from the ground in both cases.

Last week in nearby Northeast Houston a vehicle of the same description crashed into a gas station on Homestead Road and was video taped doing so and that tape was released to the internet. In this we are hopeful that the revelation can be of help and warning for storeowners.



Suspect van that may have crashed into two stores in Crosby over the last month video taped.

HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS

NEW MEMBER

A returning member of the Highlands Rotary Club, Deputy Constable Mike Parson, is welcomed by club president Raymond Gonzalez at the luncheon meeting on June 9th. Membership is growing, contact a club member if you are interested.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDED

Rotary club president Raymond Gonzalez presents checks for \$500 each to Jason Richards of Boy Scout Pack 107, for a fire pit in the community park; and Dalena Matthews in support of activities at the Mountbatten House for retired persons.



Governor signs bill to protect victims of revenge pornography

(Austin, TX) – Governor Abbott signed Senate Bill 1135 which was authored by Senator Sylvia Garcia. The bill seeks to stop the disturbing trend of non-consensual disclosure of sexually explicit images on the internet usually done with the specific intent to gain revenge and harm the depicted person who has not consented to the disclosure of the images. This practice has been commonly referred to as "revenge pornography." Victims' images are commonly posted along with information such as their name, contact information, and links to their social media profiles. To add insult to injury, "revenge porn websites" are further preying on victims

by charging fees to remove the sexually explicit images from the internet. SB 1135 establishes criminal penalties and civil remedies for this reprehensible practice. The law will take effect on September 1st of this year.

"I am thrilled that Governor Abbott recognized the need for this legislation and signed it into law. This will help those who have been victimized by the horrific practice of posting a nude or sexually explicit photo on the internet without their permission get justice against the cowardly perpetrators. The disclosure of these types of images without consent can lead to harassment, stalking, threats, harm to

reputation and job loss. Like other forms of sexual violence, this intolerable act of control can make victims feel powerless.

I am proud to have worked with Rep. Mary Gonzales (D-El Paso) and Rep. Sarah Davis (R-Houston) to pass a law to empower those that have been victimized and deter those that would victimize."

SENATOR SYLVIA R. GARCIA State Senator Sylvia R. Garcia was sworn into office on March 11, 2013. Senator Garcia represents District 6 and previously held office as Houston City Controller from 1998-2002 and County Commissioner from 2002 - 2010.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Galena Park Swimming Pool

open to the public

Galena Park Swimming Pool is open for 2015 season. Cost is \$4 per person. Open to the public 11 am - 9 pm Tuesday to Sunday. Senior Citizens: 8 am - 9 am. Swim Lessons: 9 am - 11 am. Pool will close on August 14 and will only open again for Labor Day Weekend, Sep. 5, 6 & 7.

Summer Meals For Kids

Summer meals for kids will start on June 15 at 12:00 noon at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church located at 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, TX 77015

Children under the age of 18 and disable students under the age of 21. The program ends on August 15th.

SATURDAY NIGHTS

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.

MONDAYS

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.

2nd THURSDAY

North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Senior Citizens hold a monthly dance the second Thursday of every month 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.

2nd & 4th THURSDAY

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

San Jacinto Pilot Club meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building.

JUNE

North Channel Library events

-Thursday, June 25, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 pm, Teens-My Comic Book.
-Saturday, June 27, 3 -4 pm, Pokemon Club.

COMPUTER CLASSES:

-Review, June 25, 10 am - 12 pm.
-Introduction to Windows 8, Part 2, June 24, 6-7:45 pm.
•Registration required.
CLASSES DE COMPUTACION
-Review, June 24, 1-3 pm.
•Se requiere registraci3n.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

JUNE

Galena Park Library events

-Thursday, June 25, 11 am, Baby Time; 3 pm, Puppet Pizzazz.
-Friday, June 26, 3 pm, Movie.
-Monday, June 29, 3 pm, Teen Time-3D Comic Book.
Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.
The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

Woman killed in a head-on accident



Accident scene where Nancy Acosta died after crashing head-on with another car while chasing her husband.

HOUSTON - A woman was killed after her car crashed head-on into another car in the 12000 block of Wallisville Road last Thursday evening, June 18, 2015.

According to investigators, the woman began chasing her husband, who was driving in a car with another woman. During that chase, the woman tried to run her husband's car off the road several times. Deputy Constable D. Wilkie of the Harris County Precinct 3 Consta-

ble's Office said she started ramming him from behind and then she lost control and went into oncoming traffic.

The woman has been identified as Nancy Acosta from El Salvador and mother of three kids, investigators said.

Eyewitnesses said Acosta slammed into the driver of a Honda CR-V and she died at the scene. The driver of the other car was taken to Memorial Hermann Texas Trauma Institute by LifeFlight.

Rep. Gene Green urges support for TSCA reform

WASHINGTON – On Tuesday, Rep. Gene Green (TX-29) stood before the House of Representatives to support H.R. 2576, the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Modernization Act and called on other Representatives to do the same. TSCA reform has been an ongoing bipartisan effort since the 113th Congress. This legislation would modernize the standards for use and regulation of commercial chemicals, an important issue for the 29th District, which includes several petrochemical plants and surrounding fence line communities along the Port of Houston. He delivered the following remarks:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2576, the TSCA Modernization Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation that will update the Toxic Substances Control Act, our nation's primary statute regulating the use and safety of commercial chemicals, for the first time since it was enacted in 1976.

"This legislation will directly address many of cur-

rent TSCA's biggest flaws, including eliminating the "least burdensome" requirement and explicitly clarifying that the law's safety standard excludes any consideration of costs.

"This bill would require EPA to consider the risks to vulnerable subpopulations, like children, pregnant women, and workers, and set restrictions, if necessary, to protect them.

"The TSCA Modernization Act will go a long way towards ensuring that all American families—especially the families of chemical facility workers and fence line communities in my district in Houston and Harris County are protected from potentially harmful chemicals and bring needed regulatory clarity to this important sector of our nation's economy.

"I would like to thank Reps. Shimkus, Tonko, Upton, and Pallone and their staffs for their hard work and willingness to come together and make TSCA reform a reality. I ask colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join us and vote in support of this important legislation.

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield the remainder of my time."

Robbery suspect wanted

Harris County, TX - Crime Stoppers and Robbery Investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office need the public's help in identifying one male suspect responsible for a robbery at a store in Harris County, Texas.

On May 6, 2015, Harris County Deputies responded to a call at a store, located in the 500 block of Normandy St., in reference to a robbery. Deputies arrived and met with the female victim. At approximately 8:50 a.m.

the suspect made a purchase at the register. The victim, who was returning from the bank carrying a bag of cash, entered the store. As she entered the store, the suspect proceeded towards the exit and grabbed the bag from underneath her arm and fled the scene in a Grey Toyota Camry with paper tags.

The suspect is de-



Wanted suspect

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA,

Continued from page 1

put an end to this substance's distribution."

"These products are marketed and sold to children, despite defendants knowing the products are illegal and unsafe. Use of these products has not only caused illness, but even death in some cases," said County Attorney Vince Ryan. "The statement on the packaging that it is 'not intended for human consumption' is simply an absurdity. The packaging itself was designed to provide cover for the seller and the user if they are confronted by law enforcement."

In a coordinated effort involving criminal and civil enforcement, the Harris County Sheriff's Department and the Texas Attorney General joined forces to fight this growing threat to Texas youth. As part of the operation, undercover agents from the Sheriff's department were deployed into the defendant stores to purchase the items. Among the products being sold is a product called Kush, which is sold in various fruit flavors. The packaging states that Kush is "lab certified," "contains no prohibited chemicals or materials" and is legal for sale in all 50 states. It lists the "main ingredients" as a variety of innocuous sounding vegetable matters—such as "lemon balm," "passion flower" and "wild lettuce,"—without any mention of the key in-

Herman Brown Park wins grant from The Walt Disney Company

During Earth Month, Public Voted for Park Projects to Receive \$20,000 for Improvements

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) has been selected as a winner of the national Parks Build Community campaign and will receive a \$20,000 grant for a wildlife trail in Herman Brown Park from the National Recreation and Park Association (N.R.P.A.) and The Walt Disney Company, including Disney Citizenship, Disney|ABC Television Group and E.S.P.N. Community members voted for the winning project throughout Earth Month in April.

Parks Build Community helps to revitalize and restore local parks and park programs across the country. Herman Brown Park was one of 15 projects selected to receive grant funding. The public was invited to decide which of three local park projects in fifteen communities would receive the funding through an on-

line vote, and the winning projects nationwide were announced on May 18, 2015.

The \$20,000 grant will build the Northshore Nature Walk at Herman Brown Park, the Houston area winner of the vote. A half-mile loop nature trail will be built, connecting neighborhoods on the east side of the park through a forested wildlife area to already existing park facilities.

"We thank the Walt Disney Company, the N.R.P.A. and all park users who voted for their favorite park project during Earth Month," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Their vote and involvement in this creative grant funding contest not only determined that the Northshore Nature Walk at Herman Brown Park would receive the funding, but also involved Houstonians in becoming more aware of their public park system."

"The tremendous support shown by the public through their daily votes

during Earth Month confirms what we truly believe: that parks have immense power to make our lives and the places we live better," said Barbara Tulipane, president and C.E.O. of N.R.P.A. "This grant will give the Houston Parks and Recreation Department the funds it needs to create a thriving gathering place in Herman Brown Park where youth, families and adults can connect with nature. This wouldn't be possible without the support of The Walt Disney Company."

The east side of the park will have a new access point with a nature trail, seating areas, and native plantings for passive recreation and viewing of the area's wildlife. The removal of invasive understorey vegetation will improve safety and visibility. The new pedestrian entry point will be near the North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church, which has agreed to adopt the maintenance of the trail.

Babin appointed Chairman of House Space Subcommittee

Will have oversight of NASA's Johnson Space Center

Washington, DC – June 8, 2015 – U.S. Representative Brian Babin (TX-36) announced today that he has been appointed by Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (TX-21) to serve as the Chairman of the Space Subcommittee. Rep. Babin, whose district includes NASA's Johnson Space Center, will now have a leading role in Congressional efforts to help refocus NASA's mission to ensure America is once again the world leader in human space exploration.

"It is an honor for me to serve as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and continue working with my colleagues on the Committee to strengthen NASA's core exploration mission, create an environment for commercial space ventures to thrive, and build a clear vision for America's space program," said Rep. Babin. "I believe we are on the verge of sig-



Rep. Brian Babin

welcome Representative Babin as Chairman of the Space Subcommittee. Congressmen Babin has proven to be a knowledgeable and capable member of this Committee, and I look forward to working with him in his new leadership role.

"We're extremely pleased on the recent announcement that Congressman Brian Babin, DDS, has been appointed chairman of the Space Subcommittee on the Science, Space & Technology Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Bob Mitchell, President, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. "This appointment means a great deal to this community, as well as all of NASA. It's very meaningful to have one of our own chair this important subcommittee. We all look forward to working with Dr. Babin on the significant issues which face NASA."

nificant space advancements and I look forward to doing all I can to create an environment for success."

"The Science Committee has already been hard at work this Congress promoting legislation that advances America's space interests," said Chairman Smith. "I am pleased to

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OPINION PAGE

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TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

Alibates Flint Quarries - Part 2

“Here’s a good example of a trade blank,” says National Park Ranger Marten Schmitz, as he bends down to retrieve a palm sized chunk of Alibates (pronounced AL-eh-bates) flint rock from the dried shortgrass prairie. The flint is a beautifully colored red and white and as Schmitz explains, was prized as a currency for people who lived in this region as far back as 13,000 years ago.

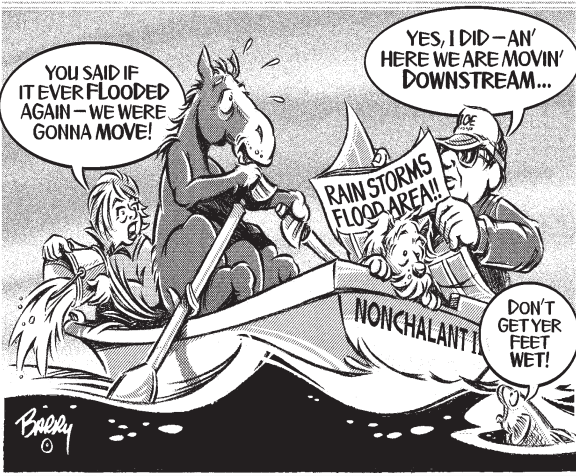
“We know that people have been collecting from the mesas for a long time,” he says as I run my fingers over the smooth, glassy stone and contemplate the ancient hands who chipped away at the raw chunk of flint to craft this big wedge. “Spear points made from Alibates Flint have been found in woolly mammoths and other extinct ice age era mammals that have been extinct for thousands of years.” Along the trail, shards of discarded flint carpet the ground and mark the spots where ancient people worked the stone to create tools, points, and the ubiquitous trade blank (biface blank in archeology-speak).

This cache of flint on the high mesas overlooking the Canadian River in the Texas Panhandle was so highly prized among native peoples, this small patch of shortgrass prairie was akin to the modern-day bank: the flint was harvested and cut into the biface slabs and the slabs were used as currency to trade for other items of value. Alibates flint is unique to just this one small patch of ground. It’s been found as far north as Canada, south to central Mexico, east to Minnesota and West to the Pacific Coast. In

turn, items like pottery from Arizona, pipe-stone from Minnesota, and abalone shells from the Pacific Coast have been excavated at this site.

Access to the quarries requires a hike. The parking lot is a short, winding drive from the visitors center and the quarries are a half mile hike with a 170 feet elevation change. On my mid-week visit, the area was empty except for the monument employees, me, and my friend Gary Clark. Since ranger-led tours to the quarries are mandated and must be made in advance, it’s not unusual for the monument to be all but devoid of people. In my opinion, that’s part of the beauty of the place: because it is uncrowded and largely undeveloped, I get a real sense of what this area’s been like for eons. In it’s ruggedness, visitors can get a real sense of the beauty and bounty that ancient people found in this area.

Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument is the only national monument in Texas. It was created in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson and its 1,371 acres is adjoined by the 45,000 acre Lake Meredith National Recreation Area. Historically, the lake covered over 10,000 acres and was clearly visible from the mesas of the monument. Because of a long-term drought, however, the lake only covers 3,900 acres currently. Despite, the drought-stricken lake, visitors to the recreation area still can hunt, fish, hike, canoe, and kayak. This year, rangers at Lake Meredith began offering kayak tours of the canals and wetlands around the recreation area.



Governor makes final decisions on bills passed by Legislature

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott on June 20 completed the task of reviewing all bills that were passed by the Texas Legislature. He had until midnight on June 21 to get the job done.

Of the 6,276 bills filed by the House and Senate during the Legislature’s 84th regular session that ended June 1, some 1,323 were passed by both bodies and therefore earned a trip to the governor’s office for final scrutiny. Of those bills, Abbott signed 1,202 into law, let 162 become law without his signature and vetoed 41.

Preliminary findings released

Questions about earthquakes in a zone where oil and gas exploration is widespread brought together state agency personnel, researchers and industry representatives in a June 5 meeting on a study titled, “Causal Factors for Seismicity Near Azle, Texas.”

Texas Railroad Commission, the state agency that regulates the oil and gas industry, on June 18 released a summary based on information presented at the meeting.

Three of seven “key findings” by the researchers were these:

1. Hydraulic fracturing was not a cause of these earthquakes, and that this is a common misconception in the public and media that should be resolved.
2. The vast majority of disposal wells do not have associated seismicity, but disposal wells in close proximity to critically stressed faults could change pore pressure and reduce effective stress, resulting in seismicity if faults are oriented in a particular way.
3. The researchers stated that their work is ongoing and that better data could enhance their modeling and research.

Abbott expands declaration

On June 18, Gov. Abbott added 24 more counties to his disaster declaration related to widespread severe weather, tornadoes and flooding events that started May 4. The addition of

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



those counties increased the total number of counties named in the declaration to 104.

“The use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster” are authorized by the disaster declaration. More counties may be added as the situation develops, according to the Governor’s Office.

Fifth Circuit rejects appeal

The New Orleans-based U.S. Fifth Court of Appeals on June 19 rejected a motion by plaintiffs to stop the abortion law revised by the Texas Legislature from taking effect.

Plaintiffs, the operators of several women’s health clinics that provide abortions under strict guidelines, have an emergency appeal pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Unemployment edges higher

Texas Workforce Commission on June 19 announced the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.3 percent in the month of May from the 4.2 percent recorded for the month of April.

Still, Texas gained 33,200 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in May bringing the over-the-year total to 286,400 jobs added.

Ronny Congleton, the agency’s commissioner representing labor, said Texas now has 13 million workers.

Notably, the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics calculated the nation’s unemployment rate at 5.5 percent for the month of May.

Scorecard compares Texas

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 16 announced his office’s launch of an Internet-based way to compare Texas to other states in key areas.

The scorecard, he said, “takes a balanced look at Texas and paints a mostly positive picture.” However, he suggested, there are “challenges the state needs to address. For example, the scorecard shows Texas has some of the nation’s highest local debt, has a population in which 10 percent of households have no bank account and has the second-highest percentage of residents above the age of 25 who lack a high school diploma.”

Texans who have access to the Internet may visit cpa.state.tx.us and click their way to the scorecard and its contents.

Governor names SBOE chair

Gov. Abbott on June 18 nominated Donna Bahorich of Houston to succeed Barbara Cargill as chair of the 15-member State Board of Education.

Bahorich lists on her resume service as district director and communications director for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick when he was a state senator.

Bahorich’s appointment as SBOE chair is subject to confirmation by the state Senate.

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MESSAGE FROM

REP. BRIAN BABIN

Bill to restrict funding for the United Nations

Washington, DC — U.S. Representative Brian Babin (TX-36) today introduced legislation (H.R. 2757) to prohibit any taxpayer funds from being voluntarily donated to the United Nations (U.N.) or U.N. related agencies.

“With more than an \$18 trillion national debt, its past time that the United States stops financing an international body that routinely opposes our priorities and values,” said Rep. Babin. “The United Nations continues to promote issues that run counter to our Constitutional rights and national sovereignty — including Global Warming initiatives, the Small Arms Trade Treaty and initiatives that weaken the security of our close-ally Israel.

“With over \$4 billion in U.S. tax dollars going to United Nations programs each year, our bill will help make sure that we aren’t burdening future generations with more debt to fund inefficient, ineffective and unaffordable programs that too often undermine our direct national interests.”

Governor Abbott signs State Budget Into Law

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today signed HB 1, the General Appropriations Act, into law. Upon signing the 2016-2017 budget, Governor Abbott released the following statement: “I am proud to sign a Texas budget that cuts taxes, provides a record amount of funding to secure the border, improves our schools and builds more roads. This budget proves that government can control its spending while ensuring the essential needs of its citizens are met.” In order to further reduce our state’s debt burden and restrain growth in government, Governor Abbott has vetoed nearly \$233 million in discretionary spending and made over \$295 million in overall reductions. To read the full budget proclamation, including budget veto statements, click here.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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LIFESTYLE

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members



Promo Gifts

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber welcomed new Member Promo Gifts at their Ribbon Cutting last week. Matt and Laura Dutton are the owners of this local based company in Huffman, TX. Established in January 2001, they are committed to providing customers with the largest selection of promotional items, at competitive prices. They are located at 1100 Success Lane, Huffman 77336 and can reach at 281.324.9044 or visit their web site at www.promogiftsonline.net Please give them a call for all your promotional needs.

This week at the Crosby Branch Library

Crosby, TX – July 6 – July 9 – This week the Crosby Branch Library will be offering three programs in conjunction with its "Reading is my Superpower!" Summer Reading Program theme. On Monday, July 6th, at 4:00pm, we will watch a hero movie that

will be fun for all ages. Free popcorn and drinks included! Call the library at 281-328-3535 for the movie title.

On Tuesday, July 7th, at 10:30 am, prepare to be amazed with Steve Burton's magic show!

On Thursday, July 9th, at 10:30 am, at pre-

school story time we will feature medical heroes. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 281-328-3535 or log on to <http://www.hcpl.net/location/crosby-branch-library>.



Nash sisters receive recognition

Meagan and Madison Nash with the Belt Buckles they received at this year's 2015 Crosby Fair & Rodeo. Meagan was a recipient of the Greenwade Family \$5,000 Scholarship given through the Crosby Fair & Rodeo this year as well as placing in the Auction third with her steer over all bought by Northshore Rotary and Crawfish Shack. Placing 10th overall with her pig that was bought by K&T Western Wear.

Madison who was Reserve Champion with her steer overall which was bought by Sterling White Funeral Home & Cemetery. Both girls wish to thank all who support the Crosby Fair and Rodeo as well as the youth in the auction and scholarship program.

They are now in Springfield, IL at the Junior National Maine-Anjou & Chianina Show.



Meagan & Madison Nash showing off their Crosby Fair & Rodeo Belt Buckles

19th through June 25th.
Showing their heifers as
well as contest of Show-

manship and Fitting with the last night being an awards program.

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Programs at Comm. Center

Krosby All-American Kazoo Band: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. A volunteer leads this fun-loving group of entertainers. No musical experience is necessary and all instruments are provided. The band is open to people ages 18 and older.

Pickleball: Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Played with a paddle, wiffle-style ball, and net. Pickleball is the latest craze to sweep the nation. Open to participants of all fitness levels ages 50 and better.

WII™ Bowling: Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Experience the excitement of the bowling lanes. Team up with some of your friends and have a tournament.

Hand & Foot Card Game: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Volunteer Donna Jausz facilitates this fun card game.

Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby. Call 281-462-0543 for more information.


**LITTLE
BIDDY BITS**
By Danny Biddy

You'll See

I was my father's sidekick and helper. Everywhere he went, I went. Often he would tell me to do things, but not tell me why. He would just say, "You'll see."

It was very frustrating at times. However, when we finished the work and got to where we were going, it all made sense.

"But the Lord knows the way I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)

*Danny R. Biddy, Pastor
of the Church on Old
River since 1977.
www.olderiverbaptist.com*

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Leviticus in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From John 3, what does Jesus say that everyone practicing evil hates? The light, Truth, The Lord, Believers
 3. Who found an Ethiopian eunuch sitting in a chariot reading the words of Esaias (Isaiah)? Ahaz, Philip, Jotham, Uziah
 4. From Joshua 2, where did Rahab hide Israelite spies? Under table, In cave, On roof, With oxen
 5. What did Jesus send into a herd of swine? Unclean spirits, Justice, Breath of life, Mighty wind
 6. Who was the father of Solomon? Nathan, Uriah, Judas, David
- ANSWERS
- 1) Old; 2) The light; 3) Philip; 4) On roof; 5) Unclean spirits; 6) David

[illegible]

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<div style="text-align: center;"> St. Timothy's Episcopal Church All Invited to Worship with Us <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>SUNDAY</td> <td>Holy Eucharist Rite II</td> <td>10:00 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUNDAY</td> <td>School & Coffee Hour</td> <td>11:30 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist</td> <td></td> <td>1:00 pm</td> </tr> </table> 13125 INDIANAPOLIS ST., HOUSTON, 77015 sttimsinhouston.com </div>		SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10:00 am	SUNDAY	School & Coffee Hour	11:30 am	Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist		1:00 pm
SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10:00 am								
SUNDAY	School & Coffee Hour	11:30 am								
Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist		1:00 pm								
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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Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. Leviticus 19:32										

SCHOOL NEWS

GALENA PARK ISD: GPISD Celebrates Academic State Champion

Galena Park ISD celebrated the success of yet another state champion, Alma Rodriguez, at the June Board of Trustees Meeting.

On May 26, Rodriguez competed in the UIL Academic State Meet in the Computer Applications category. According to the UIL website, "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." The competition is technology based and requires students to have a thorough, working knowledge of Microsoft® products (Word, Excel and Access) and the ability to complete substantial tasks in all of them, then direct data from one application to another.

After successfully completing these grueling



State champion Alma Rodriguez, middle, receives congratulations from board members.

tasks with a greater degree of efficiency and accuracy than other competitors, Alma won first place and was named the 2015 6A State Champion.

CHANNELVIEW ISD: CISD Trustee re-elected as director for Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards

Channelview ISD school trustee Steven Dennis has been re-elected as a Director of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards (GCAASB) for the 2015-2016 school year.

Dennis is currently Vice President of the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees. He has served on the Board for 19 years.

The GCAASB is a voluntary organization composed of more than 50 school boards in the greater Houston area to enhance the quality of education for public school children in the Texas Gulf Coast area by providing education and information to local school boards, and creating an opportunity for local school boards to impact legislation affecting the public schools.

The dues paid by GCAASB member school boards and associate members, who are supporters of public education, provide state-required training for local trustees at quarterly meetings, produce a regular newsletter, and support educational excellence at the local school level through a scholarship program.

"The experience that Mr. Dennis has gained on the local Board of Trustees will benefit all of the students, staffs, and schools in the Gulf Coast Area Association as it is combined on the Executive Board with the experience of trustees from 14 other school districts," said GCAASB Executive Secretary Jerry Smith. "That leadership will be meaningful."



Steven Dennis

More information about the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards may be obtained via e-mail GCSchoolBoards@aol.com or at www.tasb.org/About-TASB/Related.aspx.

GALENA PARK: TASSP Region Outstanding Principal/ Assistant Principal of the Year

Tony Gardea, Principal of Galena Park High School, has been selected to represent the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals as Region IV Outstanding Principal of the Year.

Mr. Gardea is a 15-year administrator. His administrative career began at Galena Park Middle School. He was promoted to high school in 2005 where he served as Assistant Principal at the North Shore Ninth Grade Campus. Mr. Gardea has headed the leadership team at Galena Park High School since 2010. He is credited with numerous achievements including Galena Park ISD Rookie Teacher of the Year and Secondary Principal of the Year.

Sheree Walker, Assistant Principal at Joyce Zotz Education Center, has been selected to represent the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals as Region IV Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Walker, a 6-year administrator began her administrative career at Galena Park Middle School in 2009 and was promoted to high school as an administrator in 2013. Mrs. Walker



Tony Gardea, left, and Sheree Walker, right, selected to represent the Texas Association of Secondary Schools principals.

er has strong communication, interpersonal, organizational, and leadership skills, which allows her to cultivate a strong learning environment for students and reinforce the district's vision for all campuses as well as the mission of Zotz Education Center to "Build bridges with purpose."

TASSP recognizes outstanding principals and assistant principals from the

Galena Park ISD board members sworn in

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees held on June 15, 2015, three Galena Park ISD trustees were sworn in by Judge Mike Parrott (l/r): Minnie Rivera, Joe Stephens and Wanda Heath Johnson. All three trustees ran unopposed, a sign that the community appreciates the values and leadership they bring to the board.



San Jac player named to NJCAA Women's All-Star team

Wilson helped lead team to outstanding turnaround season

HOUSTON - San Jacinto College women's basketball student-athlete Kaelynn Wilson has been selected to play in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's All-Star game, to be played July 23-26 in Niceville, Florida.

The freshman forward from San Antonio (Wagner High School) helped lead the San Jacinto College women's basketball team



Kaelynn Wilson (center) helped to lead the San Jacinto College women's basketball team to a turnaround season and was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Women's All-Star Game.

Photo by Rob Vanya/San Jacinto College

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"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 3:00 p.m., July 13, 2015 for DRY CLEANING SERVICES CSP 16-007. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg. located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 2:00 P.m., July 13, 2015 for GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES CSP 16-004. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 11:00 a.m., July 13, 2015 for ELEVATORS & WHEELCHAIR LIFTS - MAINTENANCE & REPAIR AND YEARLY INSPECTIONS CSP 16-003. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 10:00 a.m., July 13, 2015 for GREASE TRAP CLEANING CSP 16-002. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

FURNITURE SALE

Clearance of surplus office furniture Saturday, June 27 - 11 am to 1 pm 5327 Aldine Mail Route, Houston LOW PRICES From \$5 to \$50 Metal Desks \$10, Chairs \$5, Counter \$10, Shelving units \$10, Folding Tables \$5, Slope Top Shelf Unit \$10, Computers \$25. BARGAIN GIVE-AWAY PRICES.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT

PERMIT NUMBER: 99788

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Re-Cal Services, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 99788, which would authorize installation of an additional surface coating booth at the abrasive blasting and painting facility located at 1225 Crosby Dayton Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas 77532. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 18, 2014. The facility will emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, organic compounds, and hazardous air pollutants.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at the Crosby Branch Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk Street, Suite H, Houston, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID).

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.921111&lng=-95.051111&zoom=13&type=r

MAILING LIST. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you communicate with the TCEQ electronically, please be aware that your email address, like your physical mailing address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Re-Cal Services, Inc., at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Elliot Townsend, Project Director at (940) 387-0805.

Notice Issuance Date: May 29, 2015

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to go over your knuckle, then close and lock, fitting your finger snugly and securely in the wearing position, without the annoying and unsightly twisting and turning of conventional rings. The hinged ring is easy to put on, comfortable while worn, and easy to remove.

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

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

CANCER CASES,

Continued from page 1

do a cancer database investigation. The leader of the Coalition began assisting DSHS as a community representative, relaying crucial local information that shaped the parameters of their investigation.

Here's what they did: DSHS investigated cancer database information from 1995 to 2012 for populations along the San Jacinto River, in the inundation zones of the River. This area encompassed 38 census tracts. They looked at the data for the area as a whole and they looked at each census tract individually. DSHS investigated database information for 17 types of childhood and adult cancers.

Here's a summary of what they found:

Of the 17 types of cancers investigated, 14 types came back at a statistically significantly high rate in at least one census tract within the study area.

- The number of childhood brain cancer, leukemia, melanoma, and glioma cases were statistically significantly higher than expected in census tracts 2519, 2323, 2330, and 2520, respectively.

hood brain cancer, leukemia, melanoma, and glioma cases were statistically significantly higher than expected in census tracts 2519, 2323, 2330, and 2520, respectively.

- The number of childhood retinoblastoma cases was statistically significantly higher than expected in census tracts 2328 and 2529.

- The number of male breast cancer, kidney cancer, and leukemia cases among all ages were each statistically significantly higher in 1 of the 38 census tracts.

- The number of liver, brain, and cervical cancer cases among all ages was statistically significantly higher than expected in two, three, and five census tracts, respectively.

- The number of both lymphoma and myeloma cases were statistically significantly higher in one, and statistically significantly lower in another, of the census tracts.

the census tracts.

- The number of female breast cancer cases was statistically significantly higher in three, and statistically significantly lower in eight of the census tracts.

Above findings sourced from Texas Department of State Health Services Assessment of the Occurrence of Cancer East Harris County, Texas. The full report can be found at www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/CancerClusters/East-Harris-County-2015.pdf

With DSHS taking the next step and setting up a panel of experts to conduct a feasibility study for an epidemiological study, the San Jacinto River Coalition hopes that a source is determined so it can be eliminated and future generations will not face the same risks far too many already have.

NORTH SHORE ROTARY,

Continued from page 1

played the "Spirit of Service."

Dr. Don Nino was in charge of awarding the Paul Harris Fellows awards. Receiving the initial award were Amir Kahn, Ronnie Dwairy, David Gray, and Christopher Ryan.

In addition, a +1 pin was given to Brent Hughes, and Mike Williams. A +2 award went to Ryan Dagley and Matt Davis.

Major donors, those that have given or pledged \$10,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation, included John Painter, Bill Palko, Scott Stephens, and B. J. Westbrook.

A special Paul Harris



AMIR KHAN WAS ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR.



ROTARIAN Derrill Painter with Grandsons Tyler & Hunter Gobert receiving Paul Harris Awards.

award was made on behalf of Rotarian Derrill Painter to his two grandsons, Tyler Gobert and Hunter Gobert.

In his talk on goals for his term, new president Mike Williams said that he plans on emphasizing membership, community projects such as Betty's

Haven, a shelter, and Veterans recognitions, perhaps with a Memorial Wall. He also wanted to support counseling for veterans who might be under stress.

New officers that were sworn in are President Mike Williams, President Elect Kimberley Gonzalez,

Secretary Adam Lund, Treasurer Bill Bowes, and Past President Allatia Harris.

Board members include Jerry Dominy, Amir Khan, Lowell Everitt, Bill Palko, Shawn Silman, Dr. Donald Nino, Ronny Dwairy, Ryan Dagley, Danna Lemmon, and Marcus Presson.

JOE STEPHENS,

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cluding the Los Angeles Lakers.

He emphasized his commitment to the North Shore neighborhood, having grown up there and in the Crosby area. His family was originally from Pine Trails, in East Texas, and Mont Belvieu where his father worked for Gulf Oil.

In 2009 he became a member of the Galena Park Rotary, and was elected to the Galena Park school board, where he was recently made president.

As a parent, he has been active in the North Shore PTA, where he was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement" award.

He also serves on the North Channel Chamber of

Commerce board of directors.

He has spent a great deal of time helping the youth of the area, including mentoring 57 kids at the Can Academy in Houston.

Stephens is known in North Shore for his tradition of giving needy families a turkey for Christmas, and last year he gave out 500 of the birds.

In his life he has tried to set an example for youth, he said, and he advises them to "shoot for the moon, even if you miss you will be with the stars."

He sees his quest for the JP seat as an extension of the community service that is his hallmark.

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