# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City VOLUME 4, NO. 11(#114) WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016 www.northchannelstar.com



## **LAWSUIT FILED TO CONTEST CONSTABLE ELECTION**

SUNDAY



#### Eastside Neighborhood Safety Meeting

The next Neighborhood safety meeting with Congressman Gene Green is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016 at 8:30am at the East Freeway HPD Storefront, 12001-A. East Freeway

#### Pilot Club new member mixer

San Jacinto Pilot (lub will hold a "Bunco" mixer for members and interested prospects. Wednesday March 23, 6:30 pm at Tea-pot Depot in Highlands. Call 281-221-1616 for more in-formation.

#### North Channel Area Community Clean-Up

The 14th Annual North Channel Community Clean-up is scheduled on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:30am – 12:00noon. The kick-off lo-cation is the East Freeway

#### 4th Annual North Channel Job Fair

A Job Fair has been scheduled on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at San Jacinto College North Campus from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

HARRIS COUNTY -The election results from the March 1 election are being contested by one of the candidates for Constable Jacob Policy ble, Jasen Rabalais.

Through his attorney Michael Stafford, Rabalais filed a civil cause on March 10th with the 164th Dis-

that received more votes in the election than Rabalais, Sherman Eagleton and Michel Pappillion. There were nine candi-

There were nine candidates on the Democratic ballot, and they received the following vote tallies: Sherman Eagleton 3,687; Michel Pappillion 2,862; Jasen Rabalais 2,825; James Stewart 2,473;

Isaac Villarreal 1,865; Eric Reed 1,649; David "Bubba" Jones 1,402; Ken Melan-con 1,001; and William Norwood 790.

The defendents, when

contacted by the Star-Coucontacted by the Star-Cou-rier, did not have an imme-diate statement on the suit. With only 37 votes separating Rabalais from Pappillion, it is possible

that a ruling on the validithat a ruling on the validity of absentee or mail ballots could result in the run-off election between Eagleton and Rabalais, instead of Pappillion. It is understood that this is the

the court action.

Election watchers have said that the way votes were acquired, especially

egory, may be questioned in court, with the attempt

in court, with the attempt to change the total count. A hearing has been scheduled for next Wednesday, March 23, in the 164th Civil Court. The presiding judge will be Judge Randy Clapp, from Wharton County, due to state law on elections.

# Fourth San Jacinto College campus unveils technologically advanced maritime training

PASADENA. Texas

PASADENA, Texas — With the cut of a ribbon and ring of a bell, San Jacinto College marked the grand opening of the new Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus on March 8, 2016.

The Center is located next to a turning basin along the Port of Houston at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte, Texas – the ideal location for students training to enter the maritime industry, and for current mariners upfor current mariners up-grading their U.S. Coast Guard certifications. "This is what we have

envisioned for many years," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "The Maritime Technology and Training Center on our new Maritime Campus is our response to the region's growing needs surrounding the Port of Houston and the industries impacted by its activity each day. It has been many years in



Photo by Jeannie Peng-Armao/San Jacinto Colleg

A large number of local and State Representatives as well as San Jacinto College officials gathered outside the new Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus in La Porte, Texas on March 8, 2016 for the Center's ribbon cuttng.

## **COMMUNITY PROFILE** Rep. Gene Green Honored with Congressional Public Health Leadership Award

WASHINGTON - On Tuesday, Representative Gene Green (D-TX) was presented the Congressional Public Health Leadership Award for 2015 by the Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (COA). Green was recognized for his leadership on public health policy and for founding the Congressional Public Health Caucus in April 2015, along with co-chair Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA). The two are the first U.S. House Representatives to receive the award.

Representatives to receive the award.

"Public health is fundamental to a 21st Century health care system and provides huge social and economic benefits," Green said. "Investing in public health has led to increased life expectancies, reductions in infectious and communicable diseases, swift response to emergencies, and improved health outcomes for our communities. I was happy to join

Congressman Green accepts u Leadership Award from unife.

Rep. Wittman to launch and lead the new bipartise the conversation on the importance of a robust public health system."

CONGRESSMAN GREEN SAVE DAVID AWARD SAVE PUBLIC SAV



Congressman Green accepts the Congressional Public Health Leadership Award from uniformed officers of the United States Public Health Service during an Energy and Commerce Committee markup.

States Public Health Service. Through its associated PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health, it also works on behalf of public health issues such as tobacco use, obesity, and exercise as a health benefit.

### **COMMUNITY GROWTH** LyondellBasell trains tomorrow's workforce today

PASADENA, Texas — March 2, 2016 — Lyondell-Basell, one of the world's largest plastics, chemical and refining companies, is continuing its partnership with Austin Industrial on their Adopt-a-School program. In its ninth year, the two companies will offer employment to nine high school students from Galena Park ISD and Pasadena ISD to help them learn valuable trade skills. "Our vision is to be the best operated company in the industry and that requires having a pool of high-ly-skilled and trained workers now and in the future," said Houston Refinery Site Manager Jerome Mauvigney. "The Adopt-a-School program provides students the opportunity to experi-

vigney. The Adopt-a-School program provides students the opportunity to experience working alongside the top operations experts in the field. We teach them more than about the equipment and tools. They learn our safety culture, teamwork, communication and striving for excellence

for excellence.

Armed with real-world experiences in the class-



LyondellBasell Houston Refinery Site Manager Jerome Mauvigney addresses students at North Shore Senior High School.

room and on-site, students have a stronger advantage in gaining full-time employment upon graduation. LyondellBasell works with Austin Industrial, a contractor company on-site, to hire the students to work inside the facility.

"Working with Lyondell-Basell and Austin Industrial has given our students"

See WORKFORCE, page 3

the opportunity to get a head start on their careers," said Career & Technical Education Director of Galena Park ISD, Laura Mann. "Our partnership allows learning to happen in a realworld situation with the guidance of mentors from

# **SCHOOL NEWS**

#### CHANNELVIEW ISD: McMullan gets in the "groove" of reading

Family Literacy Night at Channehivew ISD's McMullan Elementary School showcased a '70s flair with teachers, students and parents dressing in tie-died shirts and beads. The events featured may literacy-oriented games and activities that were all geared toward the theme.



# Galena Park Middle School Earns Sweepstakes



Congratulations to the Galena Park Middle School Varsity Treble Choir for receiving a sweepstakes trophy at this year's Concert and Sight Reading Competition. This is the highest

## CHS construction trades students advance to state

Seven Channelview stu-dents constructed a variety

For the second consecutive year, Channelview High School construction trades students have qualified for the Skills USA state competition.

The CHS students advanced to state after receiving top honors at the district contest. The state finals will be held on March 31 in Corpus Christian ti.

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### Clubs, Organizations

### Sheldon ISD Middle School students & teachers participate in ROME challenge



Sheldon ISD middle school students and teachers taking part at the Robotics, Ocean, Microgravity Explorers challenge recently.

The San Jacinto Aerospace Academy and Sheldon ISD partnered together for the Robotics, Ocean, Microgravity Explorers (ROME) Challenge. C. E. King Middle School and Null Middle School and Null Middle School students and teachers learned the benefits of microgravity research on the ISS and discovered the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

The ROME Challenge is designed to engage teachers to explore the fascinating world of microgravity and the many benefits it brings our world. The challearned the benefits of microgravity research on the ISS and discovered the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

The ROME Challenge is designed to engage teachers to explore the fascinating world of microgravity and the many benefits it brings our world. The chal-

### North Shore Senior advances to national competition



Ashley Flores, a senior at North Shore Senior High School, won third place in "Exploring Education in Administrative Careers" at the state Texas Association of Future Educators competitive event. This win advances Ashley to the national competition to be held in June at Boston University. The TAFE competitive events offers future educators exciting, authentic opportunities to measure their creativity, skills, and initiative against high standards and their peers from across the nation.

www.facebook.com/ NorthChannelStar

## WORKFORCE,

LyondellBasell and Austin Industrial. This is a winwin situation for students and industry."

Since the program was established in 2007, LyondellBasell has donated more than \$72,000 in equipment and materials, along with countless volunteer hours, allowing more than 40 students to participate. The majority of those students have found full-time positions within the industry.

"We are committed to investing in our local schools and our young people in order to prepare them for a successful future," said Mauvigney. "Our hope is that one day these students will pursue a career with LyondellBasell."

Austin Industrial is one of the nation's larvest most

Austin Industria is one of the nation's largest, most diversified U.S.-based construction companies, providing civil, commercial and industrial construction ser-



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### **OPINION PAGE**



## Preventing Identity Theft

Protecting your identity begins by reducing the number of places where your personal information can be found. You can remove your personal information can be found. You can remove yourself from many mailing lists for up to five years by contacting the Direct Marketing Association. There is a processing fee for this service, however you can opt-out of pre-screened credit offers for free through www.optoutprescreen.com. Other free services include the state and federal no-call lists, and the Network Advertising Initiative's opt-out list which opts out of major online tracking companies. Next reduce the number of credit cards you have and only carry the cards that you intend to use. If possible use credit cards stat have your photo on them. If any of your credit card companies send random-issue convenience checks, request in writing to be removed from that mailing list. Also ask your bank about its privacy and information policies. Find out if your bank provides your account information to third parties. Ask to opt out of this practice or request that they notify you in advance. If you receive an offer for a preapproved credit card or loan but aren't interested, shred the application form before throwing it away.

Do not carry your Social Security number on a time-east or other place open to public view, ask them to change this procedure. Use passwords and install an electronic firewall to keep burglars and Internet hackers from accessing your computer.—Make sure you use and in-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer to check for malicious providers way un way and and anti-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer for check for malicious providers way un way un aveing and Internet Service manacers.

Provider account of the wall software they may provide. Beware of new scams such as Phishing (false emails pretending to be a trusted company or financial institution). Do not give your credit card number or other financial number or other financial information over the Internet unless you are certain you have a secure connection. A secure connection will have an 's' after the "http" web address and an icon of a "closed lock" or "key" at the bottom of the screen. And if you access the Internet over a wireless connection, be careful not to transmit personally identifying information if the connection is unsecure (did not identifying information if the connection is unsecure (did not require a password) or untrusted. Save any transaction or confirmation numbers from Internet purchases and make a note of the time and contents of the order. Review the privacy policy of any company you deal with. Request that they not share your financial information. your financial information

your inancial information.
You can also reduce the chance that you will be a victim of identify theft by taking the following precautions:

• Minimize the amount of personal financial information you carry. Memorize passwords and PIN numbers. Do not carry them.
• Keep financial information in a secure place in your home

in a secure place in your home.
Shred documents before throwing them away. Purchase a cross-cut shredder to better protect your information.

 Do not give sensitive information to unsolicited call Legitimate businesses will no make unsolicited calls asking Legitimate Dusinesses will not make unsolicited calls asking for your Social Security or bank account numbers. Caller ID information can be spoofed, so do not rely on the name and number that is on your box.

• Shield your hand when entering your PIN at a bank ATM or when making long distance calls with a calling card. Take your ATM slip and shred it before throwing it away.

• Pick up new checks or credit cards at your bank rather than having them delivered to your home. Do not print your driver's license or social security number on your checks.

number on your checks.

• If your bank or credit card statement does not arrive on time, call to make sure they sent

it to the proper address. Also contact the Post Office to see if a change of address has been filed in your name. A thief may steal or divert your statements to hide the theft.

Because of the nature of identity theft, you may not realize your identity has been stolen until much later. By then, your good name and credit history can be in name and crédit history can be in ruins. Because nothing can guarantee you protection from identity thieves, you should also be vigilant to detect theft as quickly as possible.

Prevent Or Curtali Further Identity Theft Abuses By Contacting The Following Agencies

1. Local Texas Department Of Public Safety Driver License Office

2. Social Security Administration (SSA)

3. Internal Revenue Service

3. Internal Revenue Service

(IRS) 4. U.S. Postal Inspection

5. U.S. Passport Agency An identity thief may use

5. U.S. Passport Agency
An identity thief may use
your personal identifying
information to fraudulently obtain
a driver's license, file for
bankruptcy, apply for social
security benefits or even get a
passport. To head off such
possibilities, contact the following
agencies and follow their
procedures to limit the damage
an identity thief can do.

Contact your local
Department of Public Safety
Driver License Office
The Department of Public
Safety (DPS) can check their
database to determine the last
time a driver's license was issued
in your name. If that issue date is
more recent than the last time
you personally received a driver's
license, you should immediately
report the fraud. Your local Driver
License Office will determine the
best course of action for your
individual situation. Determine
which DPS Driver License Office
you should contact via the
Internet or by contacting the
Texas Department of Public
Safety Driver License Division
Customer Service Bureau. Texas
Department of Public
Safety satery Univer License Division Customer Service Bureau. Texas Department of Public Safety Driver License Division (512) 424-2600 [English] (512) 424-7181 (Spanish) www.txdps.state.tx.us • Contact the Social Security Administration

www.tughs.state.tx.us

Contact the Social Security
Administration
If you believe your Social
Security number has been
compromised, you should contact
the Social Security Administration. Order a copy of your
Personal Earnings and Benefits
Estimate Statement (PEBES) and
compare it to your work history. If
you notice any employers or
earnings you do not recognize,
someone may be using your
Social Security number for
employment. Report any
discrepancies to the Social
Security Administration's Office of
the Inspector General and to the
Federal Trade Commission.
Office of the Inspector General.

Contact the Internal
Revenue Service
If you have reason to believe
an identity thief has used your
Social Security in the for a tax refund or

an identity thief has used your Social Security number to fraudulently file for a tax refund or has compromised your taxes in any way, contact your local Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Taxpayer Assistance Center immediately. IRS personnel will help you determine what damage has been done to your tax record and help you ascertain what your and help you ascertain what your next step should be to correct the

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problem. Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040. www.irs.gov • Contact the Postal Inspection Service: If you have reason to believe an identity thief stole anything from your mailbox or that the U.S. Mail was involved in the crime in any way, report it to the nearest U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the law enforcement branch of the U.S. Postal Service and handles all investigations into U.S. Mail theft and fraud. • Contact Passport Services If you believe an identity thief has used your identity to obtain a U.S. Passport in your name, report it to the United States Department of State. The threat of terrorism in America makes this a critical step. Reporting the crime will cause the passport to be rendered useless to the thief, as it will be invalidated once it has been reported as stolen, missing or fraudulient.



# Full 5th Circuit to hear Texas voter ID case

AUSTIN — The entire U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals will review Texas' controversial voter identification law.

A majority of the judges of the Fifth Circuit on March 9 voted in support of an "en banc" rehearing of oral arguments in Veasey v. Abbott, a case challenging the law. No date for the rehearing has been set.

The case stems from Senate Bill 14, a law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011, which requires prospective voters to present an acceptable form of photo identification along with their voter registration card in order to cast a ballot.

Texas Attorney General Ken Payton prajsed the

istration card in order to cast a ballot.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton praised the development, saying: "Today's decision is a strong step forward in our efforts to defend the state's voter ID laws. Safeguarding the integrity of our elections is a primary function of state government and is essential to preserving our democratic process. We look forward to presenting our case before the full Fifth Circuit."

The plaintiffs, however,

case before the full Fifth Circuit."

The plaintiffs, however, have argued that SB 14, passed by a Republican-dominated legislature, is a partisan move to suppress minority voter turnout. They contend that the practical effects of the law violate certain parts of the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

En bane hearings are conducted with all judges of a court present and participating. The Fifth Circuit currently has 17 sitting judges. Previous hearings in Veasey v. Abbott were conducted before smaller judicial panels, and as recently as six months ago, parts of the case had been adjudged sufficient to merit consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Governor files appeal
Gov. Greg Abbott on
March 9 announced his fliing of an appeal with President Obama for
"individual assistance" on
behalf of Collin, Dallas,
Ellis, Franklin, Rockwall
and Van Zandt counties.
On Jan. 26, Abbott requested a presidential disaster declaration to
address damages sustained from severe weather in December 2015.
Texas was granted public
assistance on Feb. 9, but
was denied individual assistance.
The Federal Emergancy

assistance in Teb. 3, our was denied individual assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individuals and Households Program has two provisions: housing needs and needs other than housing. According to FEMA, these provisions may be available to citizens if their property has been damaged or destroyed in a disaster declared for individual assistance and their losses are not covered by insurance.

hindright and their losses are not covered by insurance.

"Since May of 2015, the State of Texas has experienced a continuing pattern of destructive storms, severe flooding and tornadoes, resulting in multiple fatalities and severe damage to hundreds of homes and businesses," Abbott wrote. "In eight months, Texas has endured a major wildfire eligible for a





fire Management Assistance Grant and three federally declared disasters. The assistance received as a result of these earlier federal disasters has been vital, but many of the same communities are still in the recovery process from these earlier disasters, and assistance is still needed."

### Hegar to send revenue

Hegar to send revenue
State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 9 announced his office would distribute \$586.6 million in monthly sales tax revenue to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts.
The total of local sales tax allocations for March is 0.7 percent less than in March 2015, he said. The allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

"Energy-centric cities, such as Odessa, Midland,

monthly.
"Energy-centric cities, such as Odessa, Midland, Corpus Christi and Houston, continued to see decreases in sales tax allocations," Hegar said. "Other areas of the state helped to somewhat offset those losses, as cities such

as Austin and Dallas saw moderate increases in allo-cations."

### Problem gambling is

focus
March is National Problem Gambling Awareness
Month, and the week of
March 4-10 was recognized
as National Problem Gam-

March 4-10 was recognized as National Problem Gambling Awareness Week.
The Texas Lottery Commission announced its participation in the effort to educate the general public and medical professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and to raise awareness about help that is available locally and nationally.
In a March 8 news release, Anthony J. Sadberry, acting director of the Texas Lottery Commission, said, "If you believe that you or someone you know may have a problem with gambling, we strongly urge you to seek assistance."

System targets
tobacco use
Representatives from
each of The University of
Texas System's 14 institutions met last week in
Houston for the "Eliminate
Tobacco Use Summit" to
discuss creating a "systemwide tobacco-free culture."
According to a March 4
news release by the UT
System, each institution
developed its own comprehensive plan to improve
tobacco control policies and
strategies. Participants
were tasked with bringing
back to their institutions back to their institutions information "to facilitate discussion and seek adop-tion from campus leader-

## The Garden of Weedin

TWO CENTS

**WORTH** 

By Charlie A. Farrar

The Garden of Weedin started as of Valentine's Day with the first planting of variety tomatoes and Early Girls were planted a week or so later along with some but penpers week or so later along with some hot peppers. Round Up was sprayed over the area back in January and after the weeds were all kilt out, the tiller did its job over time. It took several rounds for the tiller to get down deep enough to get down deep enough to satisfy yours truly. The tiller is a small Mantis brand and runs like a sewing machine.

sewing machine.

February 14th is also the date potatoes should be planted and one potato planted is enough for maybe one meal but that's ok, it'll help change the taste of a piece of loaf bread. With this fickle Texas weather it's hard to tell when to olant, we get hog to plant, we get hog killing weather one day and T-shirt weather the

Blooms are abun Blooms are abundant already on the tomato plants and do not plan to do any pinching of suckers this year to see if that helps production in any way as time will tell.

Me and the Mrs. just got back from a bit of R & R out near New Mexico as we went as far as Big Spring, Texas to visit my uncle JC who is now 87 and looks worse for wear but his mind is sharp as a tack. The purpose of the road trip was to attend the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round UP and we did. Seems to be more snakes this year and some really big ones. They had them piled in a round enclosed area and the aroma was enough the aroma was enough to knock a buzzard off a

gut wagon.

As we were around the walled in area this brave man (handler) was telling of the snakes and said he had one rattler that was a high striker and it struck above his boots so he went and put on his chaps that go around his waist. The lad is most fortunate the snake didn't penetrate his didn't penetrate his Wranglers.

Wranglers.

A small boy looking over the wall asked the handler what rattle-snakes ate and the handler responded, "Mice, rabbits, an occasional blond headed little boy." The small blond headed little boy at the wall did a double take.

at the wall did a double take.

Beautiful area can be seen during the drive as we rode the 10 to Comfort, Texas and turned right up heading through Fredericksburg and on to Brady area. We did stop and browse the National Museum of the Pacific War and was impressed to say the least. The most interesting thing I learned in all that walking was a link on the anchor chain for the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier U.S.S. Nimitz CVN-68 weighted 365 pounds. FOR ONE LINK!

It's good to be back

ONE LINK!

It's good to be back in flat land country and will be for a while now. The plan is to stay home while the tomato crop produces or at least the hope is to have a good crop.



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### LIFESTYLE





#### Telly Lee Opelia

Telly Lee Opelia, 52 passed away on Satur-day, March 5, 2016 due to an accident at his home in Highlands,

He grow up in Channelview and graduated in 1981 from Channelview High School.

He still has many friends in the area. He worked at Audubon Engineering in La Porte, Texas.

Porte, Texas.

He is survived by his son Tyler Opelia, and daughter Tara Opelia, parents Whitey and La Jayne Opelia of Crosby. Uncles Dennis and Nancy Kingston, Sonny Opelia and cousins and family. He is also survived by Sheila and Don Perkins, and many friends.

"We will Love You and Miss You Always!" REST IN PEACE

From your Family & Friends

### Galena Park ISD hosts annual Elementary Prose and Poetry Competition

On Thursday, March 3, Galena Park ISD hosted its second annual Elementary Prose and Poetry com-petition. Students in grades K-2 and 3-5 com-peted at the district level after being named campus pecul at the district level after being named campus winners. It was a tall task for the judges due to the high level of preparation and complexity of students' selected pieces. Once the night was complete, the following students walked away as district winners:

sırıct winners: Kindergarten-2nd

Grade Winners were: First Place, Kylah Eckford of Havard Elementary; Sec-

Place, Kylah Eckford of Havard Elementary; Seconde Place, Matthew Mon-sebaiz of Cimarron Elementary; and Third Place, Nicole Zavala of Woodland Acres Elementa-ry School.
Winners for grades 3-5 were: First Place, Nicole Ariza of Jacinto City Ele-mentary; Second Place, Maya Guerra of Woodland Acres Middle School; and Third Place, Angel Grana-dos of Cimarron Elementa-ry.

# NEW CAMPUS,

the making, but it is finally here, and we are excited to begin training the next generation of maritime workers right here along the Gulf Coast."

The grand opening

here along the Gulf Coast."

The grand opening featured remarks from The Honorable Gene Green, U.S. Representative for Texas' 29th Congressional District; The Honorable Brian Babin, U.S. Representative for Texas' 36th Congressional District; The Honorable Larry Taylor, State Senator, Texas Senate District 11; and The Honorable Dennis Paul, State Representative, Texas House District 129. Mr. Jay Guerrero, Regional Discreptions of the Guerrero, Regional Discreption of the Guerrero, Reg

rector for Southeast
Texas, representing The
Honorable John
Cornyn, U.S. Senator,
presented a congratulatory certificate to the
College.
In addition, a flag
raising ceremony was
held, with a U.S. flag
that was flown over the
U.S. Capitol on the first
day of classes held at the
Center. The flag was donated by Congressman
Babin. The event culminated with a christening
ceremony, ribbon cutceremony, ribbon cut-ting, and the ringing of the bell, opening the doors to the Center for

tours.
Texas ranks third in the nation, with Hous-



### **GPISD Middle School Students** Qualify for State Competition

Twenty students from Cobb 6th Grade Campus, Cunningham Middle School, and North Shore Middle School have qualified for the Texas Math and Science Coaches Association (TMSCA) state competition that will take place on the campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio in April. Each competition consists of four different subject areas that students may choose to participate - number sense, calculator applications, general mathematics and science. Congratulations to those that have qualified and good luck!

ton ranking second, for all domestic maritime industry jobs, according to a Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Study released by the American Maritime Partnership. However, more than half of the industry's workforce is reaching retirement age. This is why San Jacinto College began offering its maritime training in 2010, which led to the creation of the Maritime Technology and Training Center.

The Center sits 14 feet above ground and includes 45,000 square-

feet of space on each of the upper and lower lev-els; a 3,748 square-foot suite for three full missince for three full mission ship bridge simula-tors, donated by the Houston Pilots; 15 classrooms; an administrative suite; multipur-pose room, dining area, and engineering simulators; aquatic training facility; and stations for Global Maritime Dis-tress and Safety System training, automatic radar plotting aid train-ing, radar training, and liquid cargo handling training. A separate in-

dustry dock for crew changes will be built in the near future in part-nership with G&H Tow-ing. The Maritime Technology and Training Center was built with funds from the 2008 bond referendum, which voters in the diswhich voters in the dis-trict overwhelmingly approved by 71 percent. The land was purchased from the Port of Hous-ton Authority. The offi-cial ground breaking ceremony took place in December 2014.

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### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

#### Jacinto City Library programs

OFOSIGITIS

\*Children's Programs:
-Children's Story Time is at 3 pm every
Thursday. Join us for a story, finger play, and
a fun craft! Preschool ages and up welcome.
-Baby Story Time every Wednesday at 10:30
am. Fun interactive playing time and stories.
Recommended for ages 0-2 years.
-Children Holiday Program:
-Spring Time Puppet Show. Join us
Thursday, March 17 at 3 pm for a special
presentation of the classic story, Tortoise
and the Hare, re-enancted by puppets!
Children of all ages are welcome.
-Computer Classes:
-Computer Classes:

computer classes:
-1-on-1 Tech Help. We will be having a pecial session on Friday, March 11, 3-5pm or answer any questions regarding any digital levice and smartphone.

Google Classes. Thursday, March 17, 11 am & 6 pm we will be teaching all things Google such as using the browser, maps and drive. You can bring your digital device or smartbone.

smartphone.
•<u>ELS Classes</u> (Clases de Inglés) Cada Miercoles a las 12:30 pm. Es necesario

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.

#### 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.

### Heritage Hall Senior Center

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- Strenght and Balance class: Tuesdays at 9 am.

Heritage Hall Senior Center is located at 109.5

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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**

### Is Your "Financial Umbrella" in Place?

April showers may bring May flowers, but March is National Umbrella Month. While ranking high on the list of truly obscure celebrations, this "Month" can still teach us a few things — especially if we think about "umbrellas" that can help us protect our financial goals.

Consider these key areas:

eas:
• Your vulnerability to
I+'s a good emergencies – It's a good idea to maintain an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses. Without such a fund, you may need to dip into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected, and unexpectedly large, expenses such as a new furnace or a big bill from the doctor. You'll want to keep your ergencies – It's a good You'll want to keep your emergency fund in a liq-

You'll want to keep your emergency fund in a liquid, low-risk account.

• Your family's financial situation — If something happened to you, how would your loved ones be affected? Would your family be able to stay in your house? Could your children eventually go to college? Would your surviving spouse have enough retirement income to maintain the lifestyle he or she has envisioned? Having adequate life insurance in place can help ensure that all your hopes and plans don't fall apart upon your passing. Different types of life insurance offer different features. For example, "term" insurance, as its name suggests, is designed to provide a death benefit for a certain number of years. On the other hand, "permanent" insurance, such as whole life or universal life, can be kept in force

### **ASK THE EXPERT By Edward Jones**

indefinitely. This type of coverage may also offer a cash value component.

• Your current income —

• Your current income—
If an illness or injury keeps
you out of work, even for a
little while, the loss of income could disrupt your
family's ability to pay its
bills, leading to potentially
big problems down the
road. Your employer may
offer some type of disabili-

ty insurance as an employee benefit, but the coverage may be insufficient. So you may want to consider purchasing an individual disability policy.

• Your ability to live independently—If you're fortunate, you may never need to spend time in a nursing home or require any other type of long-term care. But no one can pre-

dict the future – and it pays to be prepared, because long-term care costs can be catastrophic. In fact, the annual average cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$90,000, according to the 2015 Cost of Care Survey produced by Genworth, a financial services company. A financial professional can help you find an appropriate way of paying for these types of costs.

• Your capacity to pro-

• Your capacity to protect your biggest assets – Your home is probably go-ing to be the biggest asset ing to be the biggest asset you ever own – so you need to protect it properly, with adequate homeowners insurance. It's also important to have sufficient insurance for your other major assets, such as your car, boat and so on.

• Your exposure to property loss or liability – You may someday face costs associated with repairing or replacing your home,

or replacing your home, auto or boat, or even liabil-ity-related expenses. Addiity-related expenses. Additional liability insurance—known as an "umbrella" policy—is designed to kick in when your standard coverage on other policies, such as home or auto, has been exhausted.

The sun may be shining in your life today, but it's always wise to be prepared for the proverbial "rainy day." So have your umbrellas ready.

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

> Edward Jones 6830 E Sam Houston Pkwy N, Suite 150 Houston, TX 77049 281-436-0396

# **ASK DIAMOND JIM**

### Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for March?"

MARCH BIRTHSTONES March are aquamarine and bloodstone.



Aquamarine
The name aquamarine is derived from the L a t i n wordaqua, me an in g water, and marina, meaning the sea. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color main calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Bloodstone
The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have bealing powers. to have healing powers — especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes ders. It is sometimes called the martyr's stone as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

If you have questions If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, pre-cious stones, precious met-als, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills @pineforestjewelry.com.

Diamond Jim is a dia-mond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals.See more at www.pineforest jewerly com.

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- That guy
   Autumnal
- abbr. Colorful
- parrot 12 Big bother 13 Winter ailment
- 14 Foolish
- 15 Crossword-
- page abbr. 16 What a trigge
- triggers 18 Discover
- er's cry "A Tree 19 Grows
- Brooklyn" writer Betty 20 Inmates 22 Mandela's
- old ora.
- 23 Pop 27 Illumination
- 29 Quaint fashion accessory
- 31 Urge 34 Put back
- to 0
- 35 Kegler's target 37 Meadow 38 Hint
- 39 glance 41 Handle 39
- 45 Duck
- 47 Mimic

## **King** Crossword



Shroud city

7 Ho Chi — 8 Director Lee 9 Upper limit 10 Blackbird

23 Porterhouse,

e.g. 24 Chances,

11 Cyst 17 Pruritus

21 Ski run

6

- fastener
- 52 Opposite of "trans-" 53 Pelvis-related 54 Tokyo's old name
- 55 Trench 56 Choppers 57 "— Kapital"
- 58 Type squaresl

### DOWN

gangster-

style

- for short 25 Conk out
- Destruction
   Baking
   potato
   Nitwit
   Kills,
   sapparator

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- 49 Draft pick?
  28 Half of bi30 Exist upon thee!"
  31 "Yada yada"
  32 Solidify
  33 Wildebeest

of Eve 48 Perch

37 Pretentious

40 Recorded 42 Mother-of-

pearl 43 Poppy

product 44 Defeats

45 Leave a good

impression 46 Grandson

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