

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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VOLUME 4, NO. 09(#112) WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP

Thursday, March 3, 2016
5:45 p.m. - light dinner.
6:15 p.m.- business starts.
Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

NC Chamber Luncheon

Friday- March 4 @ 11:30am at San Jacinto College - North in the Monument Room of the Slovacek Student Center, 5800 Uvalde Rd., 77049. SPEAKER: Hank Moore. TOPIC: "Houston, Pathway to the World"
Call 713-450-3600 for more information.

Channelview ISD Community Health Fair

The Channelview ISD Community Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 5 at the Ray Madry Memorial Stadium Complex, 828 Sheldon Road.
Harris County's Public Health and Environmental Services office will be offering free dental and health screenings, along with other assistance at the event. In addition, a variety of entertainment will be featured, including a magic show with Ronald McDonald at 10:30 a.m. Children will also be able to tour ambulances, fire trucks and an emergency helicopter.
More than 30 vendors and community agencies are scheduled to be in attendance at the event. For more information, contact Suzanne Langham at 281-860-3827.

Pilot Club new member mixer

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

North Shore Girls Basketball team in State Playoff finals

SAN ANTONIO – Coach Allison Campbell will lead her North Shore Lady Mustangs into the state 6A Region III semi-finals on Friday evening, in a 7 p.m. game at the Alamodome.
This is the first time that the Lady Mustangs have reached this far into the finals. North Shore's record for the season is 36-1, with their only loss to Duncanville, the number one Class 6A team in the state. The North Shore Lady Mustangs are rated number 2 in the state for Class 6A.

North Shore will play Dekaney (also 36-1) in the semi-final game Friday night, and then if they win they will play in the finals on Saturday evening at

8:30 p.m. In this match, they will face either Duncanville (37-1) again, or Cibolo Steele (36-3).
North Shore reached the playoffs by defeating Tompkins 73-41, and Clear Springs 71-61 in the 6A Region III semifinals last Saturday at the Campbell Center in Aldine.
After beating Clear Springs, coach Campbell said "I've been waiting for this for 16 years, and not for me, for North Shore."
In that game, outstanding scoring was by junior guard Chasity Patterson with 26 points. At one point North Shore held a 29 point lead, in the third quarter. Patterson helped that with three three-pointers.

Other high scorers for that game were Alyssa Okeone with 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Victoria Blankenship with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Madisyn Francis had 8 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals.

However, the Lady Mustangs will have to play their best game against Dekaney Friday night, and then again Saturday if they reach the finals. Duncanville is the final hurdle, with a 37-0 record and is an eight time state champion. Duncanville has been to the finals 24 times, and was the

only loss that the Lady Mustangs suffered this season.
The state tournament is in San Antonio's Alamodome for the second year, having traditionally been in Austin. Another Houston school, Crosby (30-7), is so

excited to be in the 5A Region III tournament that they have announced schools will be dismissed early Thursday, and cancelled on Friday so that the community can attend the games in San Antonio.



Trail Rides start the Houston Rodeo



Last Thursday the Northeastern Trail Ride rode through Crosby and North Shore on their way to the Houston Rodeo. The next day Northeastern Trail Ride and more than a dozen trail rides arrived at Memorial Park for the Houston Rodeo which takes place at NRG Stadium from March 1 to March 20.
The Northeastern Trail Ride started in Cheeks, Texas on February 20, under the direction of Anthony Bruno, trail boss, and Keith Mack, assistant Trail Boss. They traveled a total of 109 miles to get to Houston Rodeo with 300-350 riders and 10 wagons. Northeastern Trail Ride has been participating for 26 years.

Few surprises in Election results

Cruz takes Harris County; Runoff for Constable Pct. 3

HARRIS COUNTY – With 92 percent of the votes tabulated, local and state elections have very few upsets from predictions. Voters are reminded that this is a Primary Election, and the final votes that count will be in November.
Ted Cruz took 45% of the Republican vote, and Hillary Clinton had 71% of the Democratic vote.
Closely watched races included the U. S. House District 29, where incumbent Gene Green defeated challenger Adrian Garcia with 58% of the votes, versus 38% for Garcia.
On the Democratic ballot, Kim Ogg defeated Overstreet with 52% of the votes. For Sheriff, Ed Gonzalez had 44% of the

votes, versus 30% for Jerome Moore. This will result in a run-off.
Local favorite Joe Stephens had 65% of the vote for Justice of the Peace for Pct. 3, but will face a Republican challenger Tom Zakes in November.
In Constable Pct. 2, Chris Diaz had 45% of the vote, and George Goffney Jr. had 22%, necessitating a runoff.
For Constable in Pct. 3, there were nine candidates in a hotly contested race. Sherman Eagleton had the most votes, 20.4%, with Michel Pappillon second with 15.5% and Jasen Rabalais third with 15%. A runoff will be held with the
See Election, page 8

GIVING BACK LyondellBasell Channelview volunteers at San Jacinto Energy Venture Camp



LyondellBasell Channelview Senior Engineer, Jennifer Cunningham, left, and David Chenevert, right, judge students' construction of an oil well at San Jacinto College's Energy Venture Camp reunion.
Over 100 students from area school districts attended the annual event during two weekends last month.

COMMUNITY PROFILE GPISD's Jonathan Frey earns top awards at TSPRA

Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) members from across the state received honors for their outstanding work in education communications earning Gold Star, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Best of Category awards. The awards were announced at TSPRA's annual Star Awards Celebration held February 24, 2016 during the Association's 54th annual conference.
Each year, TSPRA recognizes communicators in school districts, education foundations, education associations and organizations for their work in print and electronic media categories. There are 44 main categories covering various media such as newsletters, programs, posters, reports, writing, image/identity packages, photography, graphics, video, electronic presentations, mobile apps, campaigns and web sites.
This year, 1159 entries were received. The entries

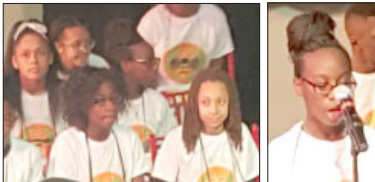
are divided into three divisions based on the number of students the district, foundation or organization serves - fewer than 10,000 students; 10,000 to 30,000 students; and over 30,000 students (Galena Park ISD falls into the 10,000 to 30,000 student category). Independent judges not affiliated with TSPRA evaluate and score each entry based on its own merit. Bronze, Silver and Gold Stars are awarded based on set criteria. Finally, the judges review their highest scoring Gold Star winners and select a Best of Category for each division in each of the 44 categories.
Jonathan Frey, Coordinator for Media and Community Relations for Galena Park ISD, earned 11 gold medals and 2 silver medals in four categories: Sports Photo; Photo - Other Subjects; External Newsletter; and Video - Special Interest. Two of the photos that earned gold medals earned Best of Category. "We're proud of the



Jonathan Frey, Coordinator for Media and Community Relations for Galena Park ISD awarded for his work in education communications.
work he does. He takes lots of photos at many of our major events. He's the voice people hear on many of our call outs. He creates videos and our GPS newspaper. He really enjoys what he does and it shows," said Crystal Murray, Assistant Superintendent for Community Relations.

SCHOOL NEWS

African American National Spelling Bee



Daria Bush and Serenity Wilkins, middle, participated at the African American National Spelling Bee.

Erin Copeland

This past Saturday, February 27, three students, Daria Bush, Erin Copeland and Serenity Wilkins from Galena Park ISD Cobb Sixth Campus Grade participated in the African American National Spelling Bee.

The event took place at Houston Community College Downtown campus from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Chaney Glover from

Channel 13 was the MC/ Host and former Anchor woman from Channel 2, Mary Benton was the Spelling Announcer.

These young ladies attended a work shop every Saturday for 6 weeks at the downtown campus on a voluntary basis.

Thank you Ms. Dana Guillory-Moten for helping Erin Copeland achieve this milestone.

SHELDON ISD

C. E. King High School welcomes new student health organization

Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is a new student organization at C. E. King High School that is made up of students who want to pursue a career in the health care industry. Even though the organization is new to the school, the very first C. E. King HOSA chapter is already proving to be successful. The group came in first place in several categories at the Area 6 Spring Leadership Competition in several categories.

Laura Cruz got 1st place in Dental Science.

Cynthia Bacerra got 1st place in Home Health Aide.

Mykayla Leach got 1st place in Biomedical Lab.

These young ladies will now move onto the State Competition in Galveston.



Laura Cruz, Cynthia Bacerra and Mykayla Leach are part of the new student organization Health Occupation Students of America at C.E. King High School.

Band Boosters planning classic car show

The Channelview ISD Band Boosters are making plans for a classic car show to be held on at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 5 at the Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium complex.

Participants who would like to show off their vehicles for the "Car Show In The View" may register up until the day of the event. Pre-Registration is \$25 and registration on the day of the event is \$30. To register, contact Rick Allison by e-mail at rick.allison_01@yahoo.com. Goodie Bags, dash plaques and free shirts are only for pre-registered entries.

The public is invited to this event and door prizes will be given away during the event. If heavy rains occur, the event will be rescheduled to April 9.

For additional information, please call 281-705-8470.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Channelview HS students learn about specialized demands of crane industry

A group of Channelview High School Career and Technical Education students learned about careers in the heavy crane operating industry at an event held recently.

Houston-based TNT Crane and Rigging, in conjunction with SkillsUSA, hosted a Lift and Move USA workshop on Feb. 8 that gave students a look at careers where cranes play an important role in major projects.

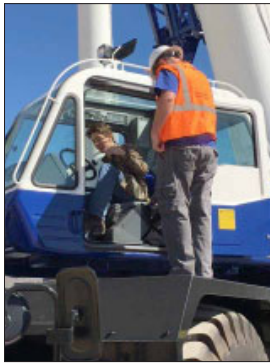
"Whether it is loading trucks that will carry heavy loads to a destination, or lifting steel beams several stories high to be put in place for a construction project, this is a specialized field that is in demand," said Mia Young, CISD's director of career and technical education.

Young said the workshop speakers explained specific roles in the crane and rigging field, which included the duties of crane operators, ironwork riggers, mechanics, maintenance technicians and drivers.

At the event, students were able to tour the cranes and operate the machinery under the supervision of a certified crane operator.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, crane operations workers earn an average wage between \$50,040 and \$61,060 per year.

The Lift & Move USA programs are targeted at young people considering their future careers, including students in high school and those attending community and technical colleges. To learn more about the crane industry, visit www.liftandmoveusa.com.



A TNT Crane and Rigging supervisor shows the controls of a heavy duty crane to a Channelview ISD Career and Technical Education student. The students attended a Lift and Move workshop that gave a close-up look of the crane industry.

Sheldon ISD gearing up for 6th Annual 5K Run

Sheldon ISD is getting ready for its biggest annual fundraiser, the Sheldon Shuffle 5K run/walk. The race will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Deussen park, which is located at 12303 Sonnier St., Houston, TX 77044.

This year's race is going through some changes. For starters, there's a new route. Race organizers saw that last year's route went

through a muddy area, so they worked with park officials this year to create a new route that is all concrete. Another change is that there will be no Kids 1K race, just the 5K. However, all ages are welcomed to register. Parents are encouraged to sign up with their child and join them in the race if they feel they are too young.

The Sheldon Shuffle was established five years

ago and benefits the Sheldon Education Foundation. All proceeds raised go toward the Foundation, which allows grants to be awarded to Sheldon teachers and scholarships to students. Last year's race raised more than \$23,000 for Sheldon.

Those who are interested in running the race or making a donation can do so online at www.TheSheldonShuffle.com.



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OPINION PAGE



JUST BETWEEN US
By Kristan Hoffman & Angie Liang

How to Buy Your First House

By Kristan Hoffman

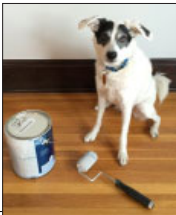
Step 1: Convince yourself that you do not need a house. Your 2-bed, 2-bath condo has plenty of space. You and your husband never even go into the spare room. You only have guests a few times a year, you

stained glass window in the stairwell. Updated kitchen and bathrooms. A fenced yard for the dog. Even a two-car garage!

When you look through the listing, a funny feeling fills your chest. There's a hiccup in your heartbeat. A sense of possibility. And maybe even of



hardly cook, and you have no kids. (Unless you count your dog...) The condo is fine. You do not need a house.



Step 2: Start browsing real estate websites anyway.

Step 3: Develop a crush on a gorgeous old Victorian in a quirky, up-and-coming neighborhood. Convince your husband to go take a look. No formal appointment, just a quick poke around the front yard. When his eyes light up with excitement, you know: The house-hunt is on.

Step 4: With a twinge of regret, rule out the Victorian because of its location. Realize that each neighborhood in your city has a very distinct personality, and finding the right fit is crucial. Visit a few homes in the areas you might like to live. You're auditioning both the neighborhoods and the realtors you meet.

Step 5: After much consideration, decide on a neighborhood and an agent. Get pre-approved for a loan. (Warning: Houses are expensive, so it's going to be a big number. Try not to panic. You can just eat ramen for the rest of your life.) Now settle in for a long ride. This is a competitive market, and the perfect house is not going to fall into your lap right away.

Step 6: Spot the perfect house for sale two weeks later.

OK, it's not perfect. But it has so much potential. Deep burgundy brick. Original hardwood floors. A

belonging.

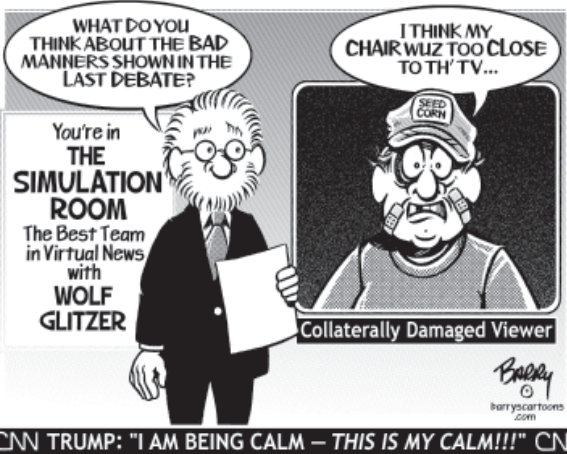
Step 7: Arrange a walk-through of the house with your realtor. Take note of all its flaws, and remind yourself not to fall in love. A million things could come between you and this house. Getting too attached would just be a liability.

Step 8: Fall in love anyway. Think about the house non-stop. Flip through the online photos a dozen times a day. Send a link to your family and friends and pester everyone for their opinions. (Tip: Cut ties with anyone who doesn't think it's the best house ever.) Imagine living there, working there, hosting parties there, raising kids there.

Step 9: Make an offer. Negotiate with the sellers a little. Agree to terms. Compile all sorts of financial paperwork for the mortgage company. More documents than you ever imagined. And then a few more on top of that. Schedule an inspection and spend over three hours with the inspector, going over every inch of the house and taking notes. Negotiate with the sellers again. Sign a thousand papers. And then a few more on top of that. When it's all done, several weeks will have gone by, and the fact that you're buying a house still won't feel real. But it is. When the realtor gives you the keys, hold them in your hand and smile. Appreciate this moment. This milestone.

Step 10: Celebrate by buying a ladder, several buckets of paint, brushes and rollers, and a nice bottle of wine. Drive to the new house and unlock the front door. Step inside and take a deep breath. Soak it all in.

Then roll up your sleeves and get to work. It's time to make this house your home.



Court dismisses indictment against former governor

AUSTIN — Former Gov. Rick Perry is no longer facing criminal charges.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Feb. 24 ordered the dismissal of a 2014 felony indictment of Perry by a Travis County grand jury.

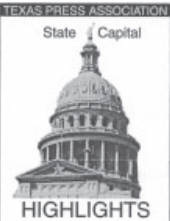
The two-count indictment alleged "abuse of official capacity" and "coercion of a public servant" related to Perry's veto of the budget of the state's Public Integrity Unit that then operated under the auspices of the Travis County District Attorney's Office.

Perry demanded the resignation of Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, who also headed the Public Integrity Unit, after she was arrested and jailed for driving while intoxicated in April 2013. Lehmberg, who served a brief jail term, refused to resign. Perry then vetoed the unit's \$7.5 million two-year budget.

Perry issued a statement at the time, explaining his veto: "Despite the otherwise good work of the Public Integrity Unit's employees, I cannot in good conscience support continued state funding for an office with statewide jurisdiction at a time when the person charged with ultimate responsibility of that unit has lost the public's confidence. This unit is in no other way held accountable to state taxpayers, except through the state budgetary process. I therefore object to and disapprove of this appropriation."

Last week, after the court dismissed the indictment against him, Perry said, "I've always known that the actions that I took were not only lawful and legal, they were right."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



UH hosts GOP forum
Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump of New York, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson of Virginia and Ohio Gov. John Kasich engaged in a Feb. 25 debate staged at the University of Houston.

The event, live-streamed and moderated by CNN, was the GOP candidates' last debate before the March 1 Super Tuesday primary elections. Texas is one of 11 states and the territory of American Samoa holding primaries on March 1.

Texans voting in the Democratic primary will choose between former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Abbott meets with Nieto
Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 22 met with Enrique Peña Nieto, president of Mexico, in Houston.

The meeting, Abbott

said, was to discuss "continued collaboration and progress on the joint energy task force — an agreement reached on the governor's visit to Mexico last year that will aid Texas in leveraging the vast investment and business opportunities made possible by Mexico's recent energy reforms."

Abbott said "Texas and Mexico's continued commitment to addressing shared challenges on both sides of the border" were affirmed at the meeting.

Mexico is Texas' biggest trading partner, and Texas exports more goods to Mexico than any other state, according to the governor's office.

3 states join lawsuit
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Feb. 26 announced the states of Indiana, Nebraska and Wisconsin had joined a federal lawsuit filed last October by Texas, Kansas and Louisiana, challenging the health insurance provider's fee in "Obamacare" or the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

Paxton said the fee "threatens the Medicaid programs of the states if they refuse to pay an unconstitutional tax, which would total over \$120 million annually in Texas."

Cuba trip promotes trade

Texas Department of Agriculture Deputy Commissioner Jason Fearnley, State Reps. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, and Tracy King, D-Batesville, and representatives from the cattle, rice, sorghum and wheat industries visited Cuba Feb. 22-25.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the goal of the trip was to identify areas for Texas farmers and ranchers to fill gaps and meet Cuba's supply demands. The Texans met with Cuban companies to develop business relationships and to tour farms.

Safety tips are given
The Texas Department of Public Safety on Feb. 24 posted a reminder to Texans to drive responsibly and to take extra precautions before taking to roads and highways during spring break days and nights in mid-March.

DPS offered these tips: slow down; eliminate distractions such as use of mobile devices; make sure the driver and all passengers are buckled up; don't drive when fatigued; drive defensively; and make sure the vehicle is properly maintained.

State troopers and local law enforcement will be looking for speeders, drunken drivers and seat-belt violators.



OPINION
REP. BRIAN BABIN

Stopping Guantanamo Jihadists from coming to U.S. prisons

After seven years, President Obama remains determined to fulfill his dangerous campaign promise of closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. This time he announced plans to bring the most dangerous jihadists to U.S. prisons.

Ironically, on the same day of Obama's announcement, we learned that a former Guantanamo Bay detainee was arrested in Morocco for recruiting jihadists. Many of those already released from the Gitmo prison have returned to the battlefield to fight against Americans troops and carry out jihadi attacks.

Instead of providing Congress with his plan to defeat ISIS as required by law, the President chose to present this foolish proposal to bring Guantanamo terrorists to our homeland.

The latest proposal outlined by Obama calls for releasing detainees to foreign countries, while placing the most dangerous in U.S. prisons. This is an absolutely terrible and insane course of action.

Last year, Obama's own Director of National Intelligence reported that nearly 30% of all detainees released by this Administration had been either confirmed or suspected of returning to terrorist activities. Sadly, with Obama's continued release of detainees, we can expect this number to rise.

The President took a sworn oath to protect the safety and security of the American people — and by releasing these detainees he is instead putting Americans at risk.

Placing the most ardent terrorists in U.S. prisons is deeply disturbing and dangerous. Included in this group are the likes of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks.

This issue is not just about bringing dangerous terrorists to the U.S., but also allowing them to infiltrate and radicalize criminals within our own borders. Unless President Obama has been sleeping through his daily national security briefings, he knows that U.S. prisons are a breeding, training and networking place for radical jihadists. According to law enforcement officials, ISIS is actively working to recruit from within U.S. prisons.

While two-thirds of Americans oppose closing Guantanamo Bay, this Administration has refused to rule out unilateral executive action — even though it against the law.

Americans don't want their security compromised by closing this much needed and proven detention facility. Not only should this facility remain open, but those held there should be prosecuted under military tribunals as authorized by the U.S. Congress and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

From the start, there has always been a strong, bipartisan opposition to Obama's campaign promise to close Guantanamo Bay. Each year, Congress has reaffirmed restrictions that prohibit detainees from coming to American soil. In fact, they were originally put in place by a Democratic Congress in 2009 — and this remains the law of the land.

It's not surprising that the President's latest proposal was dismissed as "unserious," "illegal" and merely "political exercise." Clearly, the President is more concerned with fulfilling a campaign promise than protecting the American people.

Simply put, the President's latest proposal is dead on arrival in Congress — and I will work tirelessly to block any attempt by this President to use executive action to close Guantanamo and bring these terrorist to U.S. prisons.

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LIFESTYLE

New members welcomed at Crosby - Huffman Chamber of Commerce



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Highlands Food Pantry is a community resource

HIGHLANDS – The Food Pantry in Highlands serves those in the community that are in need of basic food supplies, and can't afford them due to their circumstances.

They may be transients, homeless, have medical problems, unemployed, or just not able to afford decent food.

Melissa Harpster, director of the Highlands Food Pantry, explained to the Rotary Club how they or anyone in the community can help.

She suggested that you can pray for the families, donate financially to the Pantry, donate food items, and at the Holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas, help hand out baskets of food. This activity has been supported for many years by the Rotary Club, president Larry White noted at the club meeting.

Food items that could be donated include canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta products, canned noodle soup, canned tuna, chili, spaghetti, and more. Especially requested is cereal, she said.

To qualify for assistance you must be a resident of Highlands, and show an ID or utility bill. Recipients can come to the Food Pantry once a month. It is open every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Over the past year, Harpster said, the Food Pantry has services about 55 to 70 families each month. This amounts to al-



Melissa Harpster is director of the Highlands Food Pantry, a joint ministry centered at the First Baptist Church Highlands.

most 200 adults and children in the community.

The Food Pantry operates on a yearly budget of about \$18,000 which comes from local churches and individuals in the area. Currently the Food Bank is operating in the red, and Harpster encouraged anyone to stop by the church and donate.

The Rotary Club responded by donating \$1000 and going on a shopping trip, with the help of Denise Smith, and giving the Pantry 1400 items.



TXU Energy now part of Crosby Chamber of Commerce

Huffman Chamber of Commerce Welcomes TXU Energy. Thank you Sydney Kirkpatrick for helping to keep our communities out of the dark. For more information contact her at 832-509-9002 or via email Sydney.kirkpatrick@txu.com Marisa Flanagan Chamber Coordinator Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce 281-328-6984 marisa@crosbyhuffmancec.org.

LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Which Way Do I Go, Lord?

Jim Steiner, pastor of Summit Church in Boise, ID, shared a memorable thought with me from his time in the military. Jim said they were taught, "If ever we lost radio contact with the command center or got separated from one another while on mission,

we were act on our last clear command."

Life is full of distractions, detours and dead ends. Have you have lost contact with the Lord and His "command center?" What was the last clear command you received from His word? If you cannot remember, here is one. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me in Heaven and on Earth. Therefore go and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:18-19)

Danny R. Biddy, Pastor of the Church on Old River since 1977.

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Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

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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

Should You Retire in “Stages”?

For many people, the concept of retirement can be scary, both emotionally and financially. If you, too, feel somewhat anxious about what awaits you, you might feel more comfortable in knowing that, depending on where you work, you might be able to retire in stages.

As its name suggests, retiring in stages typically involves reducing one's work hours from full-time to part-time, and then, eventually, to complete retirement. If you enjoy the social relationships of work, and you define part of your identity with what you do at your job, this type of gradual transition may be easier for you to accommodate than the abrupt transition from “worker” to “retiree.”

As for the financial aspects of such a move, you will want to plan ahead. A “phased-in” retirement can affect your investment and income strategies in several areas, such as these:

- **Social Security** – You can start collecting Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will only be about 75% of what you'd get if you wait until you reach 66 (assuming that 66 is your “full” retirement age). And the payments get larger from there, until they “max out” at 70. So, if you had planned to retire at 62 but instead retired in stages, you could possibly afford to delay taking Social Security until your checks were bigger. You could work and receive Social Security, but if your earnings exceed a certain amount, some of your benefits may be withheld, at

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

least until you reach full retirement age – after which you can earn as much as you want with no withholding of benefits. However, your Social Security could still be taxed based on your income.

- **Required minimum distributions** – During your working years, you may well have contributed to

tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as a traditional IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. But once you turn 70½, you must start taking withdrawals (“required minimum distributions,” or RMDs) from these accounts. You can't delay taking these payments, which are taxable.

But if you did retire in stages and continued to work part-time, past when you expected to completely retire, you may be able to stick with the required minimum withdrawals at least for a while, rather than taking out larger amounts immediately. In this way, you could potentially keep more of your retirement funds growing in your tax-deferred accounts.

- **Investment mix** – If you planned to retire at a certain date, you might have created a specific mix of investments designed to provide you with sufficient income to last your lifetime. But if you continue to work, you may not have to rely so heavily on your portfolio – that is, your IRA, 401(k) and all investments held outside these retirement accounts – to help you meet your income needs. Consequently, during these extra years of work, you may be able to withdraw less from your portfolio, thus potentially having more assets to provide for your income needs down the road.

As you can see, a “phased-in” retirement could help provide you with options in making a variety of financial decisions. So, plan carefully before you exit the workforce – a gradual departure may be a good way to say “goodbye.”

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

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "How do you predict market trends?"



The Top 10 Trends Expected to Drive Retail in 2016
(Part 2 of 2)

By Brecken Branstrator

New York—Though trends in retail often tend to be consumer driven, these days the influence of technology is increasingly apparent.

In its latest market brief analyzing the retail environment, Synchrony Financial identified a number of trends impacting retailers nationwide. Synchrony developed the list from ongoing retail and consumer research, and by tracking emerging as well as well-established trends that continue to be important in the marketplace, as well as those impacting the payments space.

According to Synchrony, technology is part of eight out of the top 10 trends expected to have the greatest impact on retail sales this year. Here are the other five trends and what they'll mean for retailers (continued from last week):

6. **Internet of Things.** The Internet of Things is the network of physical objects—such as devices, buildings, etc.—that are embedded with electronics, software, sensors and network connectivity, enabling these objects to collect and exchange data. Rather than just collecting data at the point of sale, retailers are able to gather it in more places, providing further insight into consumer behavior, trends, buying patterns and

more. This also can lead to cost-saving through productivity improvements.

7. **Mobile payment and alternative payments.** Though the percentage of total retail sales paid through mobile payments remains small (less than 2 percent in 2015), it's expected to more than triple in 2016, especially as more smartphones offer mobile wallet apps such as Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, and as more wearables are equipped with near-field communication. 8. **Social network buy buttons.** Most of the big social networks have added the capacity to shop directly from their sites now. Even though adoption has been slow with millennials, the growing use of mobile will continue to advance the trend.

9. **Increased spending on pets.** Synchrony said that consumer spending on pets has risen 25 percent over the past five years and likely will continue to rise for a number of reasons—urban couples are opting to get animals as they wait longer to have children, and more pet owners are thinking of their pets as family.

10. **Personalization.** Consumers today are looking for personalized experiences and offers, with more than three out of four shoppers indicating they'd be more loyal to a store that provided their preferred loyalty benefits. Thanks to data and the Internet of Things, retailers now can give them that.

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

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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 will holds a dance Thursday, March 10, 2016 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.

San Jacinto Pilot Club

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Mr. Gatti's on Uvalde at noon.

Heritage Hall Senior Center

-Exercise class: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9 am. -Strenght and Balance class: Tuesdays at 9 am. Heritage Hall Senior Center is located at 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. 713-675-4487.

Channelview FFA

Channelview FFA Livestock Show is April 4-9, 2016. The Parade will be held down Sheldon Road at 10 am, Saturday, April 9. The Auction will be held at 1:15 pm, Saturday, April 9 at the Allen Hall Fairgrounds.

Jacinto City Library programs

- 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-enacted by puppets! Children of all ages are welcome.
 - Computer Classes:
 - 1-on-1 Tech Help. We will be having a special session on Friday, March 11, 3-5pm to answer any questions regarding any digital device 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 smartphone.
 - ELS Classes (Clases de Inglés) Cada Miercoles a las 12:30 pm. Es necesario inscribirse.
 - Teen Tech Week 2016:
 - Play Makey-Makey. Thursday, March 10, 3-7 pm. Makey Makey kit will be available, just bring your imagination and see what you can create. Recommended for ages 12-17.
- 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.

Channelview FFA students compete at showmanship

Recently Channelview FFA students competed in the John George memorial showmanship competition in Baytown Texas. Channelview FFA had 4 students won their division. Hunter Bell won 2016 senior swine experienced showmanship champion. Cory McCloskey 4th grade won 2016 Junior experienced showmanship champion with her swine. Ryleigh Mueller 3rd grade won 2016 Junior non-experienced showmanship champion with her swine. In the lamb division Yvette Leos won 2016 senior non-experienced champion. Channelview FFA was very well represented by the students. Congratulations to these students.



Yvette Leos



Left to right Ryleigh Mueller Hunter Bell Cory McCloskey

ELECTION,

Continued from page 1

top two contenders. Other Constable candidates received the following: Reed 9%, Stewart 14%, Norwood 4%, Jones 7.7%, Villarreal 8.8%, and Melancon 5.4%. The Republican ticket was also interesting, with Cruz receiving 45% of the

vote, Trump 25%, and Rubio 19%. Far behind were Kasich with 5% and Carson with 3%. In Montgomery County, for U.S. Rep.District 8, incumbent Kevin Brady fought off a strong challenge from Steve Toth, and got 58% of the vote. In District 36, Brian Babin won 72% of the vote, unopposed. In local State Representative District 127, incum-

bent Dan Huberty garnered a strong 78% of the vote, to defeat M. Bosworth. In State House District 128, it appears that incumbent Wayne Smith only received 43% of the vote. However, challenger Briscoe Cain only received 49% of the vote, which will

lead to a run-off. Sheriff Ron Hickman received a strong 72% of the votes, against challenger Carl Pittman with 20%. For Tax Assessor-Collector, Mike Sullivan had 83% of the vote, versus candidate and previous A-C Don Summers.

One arrested after police chase

HARRIS COUNTY — One person is in custody after a police chase in East Harris County. The chase began with a traffic stop at I-10 East Freeway and Sheldon last tuesday, February 23. According to police, the driver traveled on the East Freeway and then north on

Beltway 8. The chase ended when the driver stopped in the 14000 block of Victoria and the East Belt. One person was taken into custody and police searched a white sedan. It's not clear why the driver led police on the chase.

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