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CHANNEL CHATTER

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 location is the East Freeway HPD Storefront.

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.

Jacinto City adopts anti-idling ordinance

By Adrian Shelley

February 17, 2016 – Last week the City of Jacinto City, Texas became the third Houston-area city to pass an ordinance banning heavy truck idling. Jacinto City joins Galena Park and Houston among the cities that are saying “No!” to deadly diesel emissions. Air Alliance Houston has been advocating for anti-idling ordinances in Houston for several years. Diesel engine idling is costly, dirty, and unnecessary. By simply turning off their engines, truck drivers can save money and reduce pollution. Jacinto City’s ordinance, which was voted on in last Thursday’s city council meeting, bans trucks over 14,000 pounds and older than 2008 from idling their engines for more than five minutes at a time. There are exceptions to the rule, including for emergency vehicles and for air conditioning or heating for the comfort of the driver or passengers. Trucks from model year 2008 or newer are exempt because their engines are much cleaner—as much as 90% cleaner than older diesel vehicles. One of the best strategies for pollution reduction from vehicles is to retire these older vehicles.

JACINTO CITY

Emergency crew recognized for rescuing child

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – March 24, 2016 – Thursday’s Jacinto City’s Council Meeting was full of words of praises along with award presentations by Mayor Ana Diaz and Fire Chief Rebecca Mier to members of the Fire Department’s Emergency First Responder’s Unit and a 911 Police Dispatcher for their successful response to a 911 Emergency hang-up call.

It was Valentine’s Day February 14th when the family of Roger Matheny who’s known for his years of being Santa Claus as he rides the fire engine truck throughout the city giving candy stockings to the kids discovered that his 3 year old grandson Joshua Matheny Jr. was missing from



Jacinto City Paramedics Mike Bodek, left, James Aston, Jose Garza, 911 Police Dispatcher Tatiana Viana, Miguel Muro Jr. holding his cousin Joshua Matheny Jr., Mayor Ana Diaz, Joshua Matheny and Fire Chief Rebecca Mier.

Photo by Allan Jamail

within the house where family members had gathered for a visit.

Roger said, “Everyone began to call out and search and within minutes my grandson’s cousin 11 year old Miguel Muro Jr. ran to

the backyard and discovered his missing cousin submerged in the family’s swimming pool”.

After Miguel rescued his drowning cousin from the pool he began applying Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(CPR) techniques’ he’d seen on television. Police Dispatcher Tatiana Viana received a 911 emergency call from the address but for some unknown reason the call disconnected before Dispatcher Viana could inquire

about the nature of the call.

Dispatcher Viana following the city’s 911 emergency call procedures quickly passed the hang-up call’s ad-

See CHILD RESCUE, page 8

Channelview FFA Livestock Show events set to begin April 4-9

The Channelview FFA will hold its 53rd annual Livestock Show April 4-9 at the Allen Hall Fairgrounds, located on Wood Drive in Channelview.

The FFA will host a horticulture plant sale at the Channelview High School greenhouse from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 4. Show activities will begin Tuesday night at 6 p.m. with the broiler show, followed by the meat pen of rabbits show and concluding with the breeding rabbits.

Move in and weighing of all the market animals will occur on April 6. Later that evening, the sheep and meat goat shows will start at 6:30 p.m. The home economics non-food items will move in Thursday, April 7, from 3 to 6 p.m. and the swine show will begin at 6:30 p.m. On Friday, April 8, the adult and student home economics exhibits will move in from 7-9 a.m. with the judging at 11 a.m. Later that day, the cattle show will be held starting at 6:30 p.m.



Last’s year auctioning of the Reserve Grand Champion steer.

The annual Channelview FFA Parade will start at 10 a.m., Saturday April 9. The parade route will leave from Schochler Elementary, proceed east down Woodforest and north on Sheldon Road into the stadium parking area. The auction sale of placing market animals will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, contact Suzanne

Hutchins at 281-457-7310. For inquiries about having a food booth (for non-profit organizations), call Lisa Sowell at 713-703-0564. The Mighty Thomas Carnival will open on Wednesday, March April 6, with a special preview price for all rides from 6 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday. The carnival will continue the remainder of the week with a double session for rides on Saturday.

County Attorney wins another battle in the fight to stop retailers from selling Kush

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan, along with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, won a temporary restraining order last week against a La Porte Freeway gas station and convenience store to stop the retail sale of synthetic marijuana.

The order signed on March 23rd prohibits Moon Mart, 10010 La Porte Freeway, from selling or buying synthetic marijuana or any other “illicit synthetic drug.” The order specifically bans the sale of “potpourri, incense, bath salts, or herbal cigarettes that contain a controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, or an illicit synthetic drug.”

Synthetic marijuana, also called “Kush,” is a designer drug, typically manufactured overseas, that is marketed as a “safe” and “legal” alternative to marijuana. Synthetic marijuana is not marijuana at

all but a dried leafy substance that is sprayed with powerful, added-in hallucinogenic chemicals that are dangerous and highly addictive to the user. It is often marketed to children, and is the second most abused drug by high school students, after marijuana itself.

According to the lawsuit, narcotics officers from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, working undercover, purchased synthetic marijuana in packages labeled “Klimax.” The packages were hidden under the sales counter, and the officers had to ask for it by name. The brightly colored packaging states that the product is “potpourri” without disclosing that the contents actually contain dangerous and illegal hallucinogenic chemicals.

See KUSH BATTLE, page 5

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Channelview HS student successful at Houston Rodeo



Yvette Ariana Leos, a senior at Channelview High School, got 1st in class with her Breeding Duroc at the 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Friday, March 4, 2016. She purchased the Duroc with the money from the calf scramble, which she caught in the San Antonio Live stock Show And Rodeo in 2015. She also showed her in San Antonio and got 10th in class on February 11th, 2016. Her teachers are Dominic Mosock and Wesley Hutchinson.

COMMUNITY AWARD:

Longtime district partner earns award from GPISD

For the past 20 years, Jason Bailey and Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP have built a strong partnership that has greatly benefitted Channelview ISD schools.

Bailey serves as the district’s tax attorney, but helping to provide for the needs of students is something he takes seriously. The longtime support of Bailey and Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott has earned them the Stand Up for Texas Public Schools Award, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards. Bailey accepted the award on the firm’s behalf as part of a special recognition by the CISD Board of Trustees.

“We believe in giving back to the districts that we serve,” Bailey said. “Our partnership with



Bailey accepts Stand Up for Texas Public Schools Award.

Channelview ISD has grown over the years and it’s truly been a pleasure to help provide students and teachers the resources they need to be successful.”

Bailey and the law firm have supported a variety of programs and events in

the district, including the B.H. Hamblen Scholarship Golf Tournament, in which they have been a sponsor for all 18 years of the event. In addition, the

See PARTNER AWARD, page 8

SCHOOL NEWS

GALENA PARK ISD

District continues to strive to produce college and career Ready Graduates

Because of their continuing commitment to cultivating college and career ready graduates, the Galena Park ISD Career & Technical Education (CTE) program hosted its second semi-annual District Advisory Committee meeting of the school year on February 24, 2016. Participants included business and industry members, CTE instructors, and student and parent representatives.

Partnerships with local businesses and industry are an important part of the program's success. Through the partnerships, students receive access to valuable insights and services such as: feedback regarding current and changing business and industry needs; guest speakers and hands on demonstrations; facility tours; and donated materials for project based learning. Laura Mann, Director of Career & Technical Education stated, "Approximately 150 CTE students are interning with business and industry partners in positions closely relat-



Instructors, students, parents and business and industry partners meet to discuss how best to produce students who are college and career ready.

ed to their chosen career pathway. These internship opportunities are directly aligned with the mission of our program, to prepare highly skilled, adaptable, creative, and equipped college and career ready students who are successful in the global market place." Mann also introduced new CTE program partners, who included Dr. Deborah Burns of Beltway Animal Hospital, Cajun In-

dustries, LLC, Turner Industries, Lincoln Electric, and Paul Mitchell.

Committee members were challenged to refine each program's curriculum by reviewing certifications currently offered to students and aligning classroom instruction not only with Texas college and career-readiness standards, but also with the present-day needs of business and industry. Laura Mann noted,

"Whether students decide to enter the workforce upon graduation or attend a post-secondary institution, we want our graduates to have a competitive edge. The feedback from business and industry serves to ensure our goals are aligned with our vision and mission." The committee members took the task to heart and enthusiastically planned how best to provide students with a curriculum that would effectively integrate academic and technical content along with strong employability skills. In addition, participants developed a series of work-based learning experiences that will enable students to connect and apply classroom instruction with work shadowing and internship opportunities.

The GPISD CTE program is actively seeking new business and industry partnerships. For more information on how to partner with GPISD, or hire a student, please contact Dr. Melissa Botkin at mbotkin@galena-parkisd.com or 281-635-4550.

GALENA PARK ISD

Congratulations to Principal Lee Ramirez



Congratulations to Woodland Acres Middle School Principal Lee Ramirez on his selection to serve as a member of one of the three Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP) Strategic Plan Action Teams. He was recommended for this assignment by one of the members of the TASSP Board of Directors.

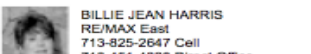
As a member of one of the three Action Teams, Lee will be asked to develop Action Plans for the TASSP Strategic Plan that was adopted by the TASSP Board of Directors at the January 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. His input into the Action Plans is vital to the future of the association.

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COMMUNITY

Investigators seek information on wanted man

The Harris County Sheriff's Office Crimes Against Children unit is requesting information on the whereabouts of 54 year old Troy Lee Lively who is charged with two counts of indecency with a child.



Sheriff's investigators have learned that Lively had molested two different vic-

tims while staying with their families as a house guest. Lively is a nomadic type male, who stays with friends or family, until moving on.

His last known residence was in the Channelview area.

Travis is described as a white male 54 years old with light brown/gray colored hair and gray eyes.

He is 5'5 inches tall and weighs 180lbs.

He is known to operate a black 1997 GMC Yukon SUV,

bearing State of Texas license plate FYK9513. The vehicle is said to be primer black, with orange or red decals on the hood and sides of the vehicle, which may be consistent with a "flame job".

Anyone with information on this defendant is requested to call the Harris County Sheriff's Office Crimes Against Children unit at 713-830-3250, or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Channelview FFA earns HLS&R Good Herdsman Award for fourth time

The efforts of Channelview FFA members made quite an impression on others as the organization earned the Good Herdsman Award at the 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for the fourth consecutive year.

Channelview received top honors for having the cleanest and neatest dis-

play of their stalls out of the hundreds of 4-H and FFA chapters entered from throughout the state of Texas.

"I am extremely proud of these kids," said Dominic Mazoch, Channelview FFA adviser. "Getting up at 4:30 a.m. or earlier during Spring Break and being at the livestock show by 6 a.m. was the norm for the

week. This is a dedicated group that takes pride in our program."

Representing this year's Channelview FFA team were Madisyn Beach, Kirsten Dominy, Collin Hare, James Hare, Yvette Leos, Colton Taylor and Trever Thompson. Mazoch and Wesley Hutchins serve as the Channelview FFA's advisers.



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OPINION PAGE

Understanding the hidden danger of high potassium levels

(NAPSI)—One morning in July 2015, Gary Bodenheimer, 69, a retired behavioral management teacher, was playing a game of pool with his buddies at his local senior center in Elwood, Nebraska, when he began feeling light-headed, weak and short of breath. Gary chalked up the symptoms to his kidneys, as he suffers from Stage 4 chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Later that day, Gary was rushed to the emergency department at the local hospital, where he had blood work done and was told by the on-call physician that his potassium was very high—over 7—and that he had hyperkalemia. “This was the first time I heard about hyperkalemia,” says Gary. “No one had mentioned the possibility of this happening with my kidney disease.”

Gary was admitted to the hospital and hooked up to a heart monitor. A few days later, he asked the physician, “Just how bad was I?” and was told, “It was bad. Your heart could have stopped.” Gary was monitored and treated in the hospital for three days before being discharged. Later, he learned from his nephrologist that the important medication he was taking to treat his CKD can cause the side effect of elevating blood levels of potassium. Unfortunately, this is a problem patients with CKD may face that doctors have been challenged with for a long time.

What Is hyperkalemia?

Everyone needs potassium. It is an important nutrient that helps keep your heart healthy and your muscles working properly. But too much potassium can be dangerous. Hyperkalemia, which is believed to affect as many as 3 million people in the United States, primarily those with CKD, can have harmful consequences. If not managed, it can lead to serious heart problems.

The majority of potassium (98%) is stored inside cells and released into the bloodstream as needed. For most people, the level of potassium in the blood should be between 3.5 and 5.0. In healthy people, excess potassium is primarily excreted through the kidneys. People with CKD have decreased kidney function, so this process can become compromised, putting them at risk for hyperkalemia. In addition, as Gary experienced, certain medications that are often prescribed to people with CKD to help delay the progression of their underlying disease, can cause hyperkalemia as a side effect.

Who Is At Risk?

- You may be at risk for hyperkalemia if you:
 - Have kidney disease.
 - Have advanced kidney disease and eat a diet high in potassium.
 - Take certain drugs that prevent the kidneys from losing enough potassium, causing your potassium levels to rise. These include renin angiotensin aldosterone system (RAAS) inhibitors, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and beta blockers. Discuss all medicines that you take with your doctor. Do not stop taking any medicines on your own.
 - Take extra potassium, such as certain salt substitutes or supplements.
 - Have Addison's

- disease, a disorder that can occur if your body does not make enough of certain hormones.
- Have poorly controlled diabetes.
- Experience a serious injury or severe burn.
- What Are The Symptoms?
 - Many people with high potassium have few, if any, symptoms. If symptoms do appear, they are usually mild and non-specific, and can include muscle weakness, numbness, tingling, nausea, or other unusual feelings. Because of this, many CKD patients—like Gary—are unaware that their potassium levels are elevated.

How Is It Diagnosed?

High potassium usually develops slowly over many weeks or months, and it can recur. A simple blood test can determine the level of potassium in the blood.

Are There Options?

Acute Episodes

When high potassium happens suddenly and blood levels are very high, you may feel heart palpitations, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea or vomiting. This is a life-threatening condition that requires immediate medical care. If you have these symptoms, call 911 or go to the emergency room. In this emergency situation, treatment focuses on quickly lowering elevated potassium levels.

Chronic Hyperkalemia

People like Gary who have an ongoing risk of recurrent hyperkalemia should speak to a doctor about the various options to manage potassium levels. It's important you tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking including over-the-counter drugs, herbs and supplements. Your doctor will determine what treatment is right for you. To help keep your potassium levels within normal range, your doctor may recommend the following:

- Following a low-potassium diet, if needed. Ask your healthcare provider or dietitian how much potassium in your diet is right for you. A dietitian can help you create a meal plan that gives you the right amount of dietary potassium to meet your needs.
- Try avoiding certain salt substitutes as they are high in potassium.
- Avoiding herbal remedies or supplements as they may have ingredients that can raise potassium levels. If you have any questions about them, ask your healthcare provider.
- Taking water pills (diuretics) or potassium binders, as directed by your healthcare provider. These medicines can help remove extra potassium from the body and keep it from coming back.
- Potassium is normally removed through urine. Water pills help rid your body of extra potassium by making your kidneys create more urine.
- Potassium binders often come in the form of a powder. They are mixed with a small amount of water and taken with food. When swallowed, they “bind” to the extra potassium in the bowels and remove it.
- Following your treatment plan carefully if you have diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, or any other serious condition. This will help keep your potassium levels in the healthy range.



DPS chief reminds citizens to be vigilant

AUSTIN — Following news reports of coordinated, terroristic bomb attacks in Brussels, Belgium, on March 22, the Texas Department of Public Safety posted a reminder to Texans to remain vigilant and to report suspicious behaviors.

DPS Director Steven McCraw said ordinary Texans “play a crucial role in helping law enforcement protect the public from groups and lone-wolf actors intent on harming others.”

“Fighting crime in today’s threat environment,” McCraw added, “can be greatly enhanced through the combined efforts of the public and law enforcement, and we urge individuals to report any illegal or suspicious activity they witness to iWATCH or their local authorities.”

The DPS’s iWATCH website, www.iwatch.tx.org, was created as a partnership between communities and law enforcement and uses citizen-sourced tips related to criminal activity, McCraw said. Anonymous reports may be made by contacting the DPS at 1-866-786-5972. However, as pointed out by the DPS, iWATCH is not designed to report emergencies, so if a situation requires an emergency response, the correct procedure is to call the emergency number 911.

In addition, for “smart phone” users, reports to iWATCH can also be made through the free Texas DPS Mobile App, available in both iPhone and Android versions.

McCraw listed examples of behaviors and activities to report, such as:

- Strangers asking questions about building security features and procedures;
- A briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left behind;

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



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

Debt collection scam
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on March 21 issued an alert to Spanish-speaking consumers, alerting them to scam perpetrators posing as debt collectors calling on behalf of government entities.

According to a news release from Paxton’s office, in recent cases, a caller claims

to represent the Texas Supreme Court and demands payment of outstanding debts supposedly incurred by consumers sometime in the past.

According to complaints, the person calling says the consumer can either appear in court and pay the alleged debt — which varies from \$1,000 to \$7,000 — or resolve the matter immediately by sending funds directly to the scammers. How the debt was incurred is never explained. The form of payment requested by the caller is either through prepaid cash cards or wired funds through Western Union.

“Every day, Texans unfortunately lose money to scams and frauds, and my office is committed to protecting consumers by spreading the word about such fraudulent activity, and informing them about what to do if they fall victim,” Paxton said. “The first line of defense against scammers and con artists is education and a wide variety of important topics are addressed in the consumer protection section of our website.”

Wait times too long at VA

U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, both R-Texas, and Gov. Greg Abbott on March 17 sent a letter to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald urging him “to address the improper scheduling practices and extended wait times” for veterans seeking health care across Texas.

On March 8, the Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General released 12 reports on VA Health Care Systems in Texas, seven of which revealed instances of scheduling mismanagement that led to extended veteran wait times. According to the governor’s office, the reports concluded that poor training, lack of supervision and non-centralized scheduling are the primary causes of data manipulation and that improper scheduling is systemic throughout the VA Texas Health Care System.

25 Zika cases confirmed

The Texas Department of State Health Service on March 22 reported that to date, Texas has had 25 confirmed cases of the mosquito-borne Zika virus disease.

Some 24 of those cases were in travelers infected abroad and diagnosed after they returned home. One case involved a Dallas County resident who had sexual contact with someone who acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad.

According to DSHS, Zika virus case counts by county were as follows: Bexar, 3; Dallas, 4; Fort Bend, 2; Harris, 10; Tarrant, 3; Travis, 2; and Wise, 1.

Commission Approves Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations for 2016-17

AUSTIN, March 29, 2016 - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a suite of changes to this year’s deer hunting regulations that includes expanding white-tailed deer hunting into 14 counties across the western Panhandle, and creating additional deer hunting opportunities in East Texas.

The Commission adopted the following changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Hunting Proclamation, the details of which will be incorporated into this year’s Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual:

- Elimination of the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit due to lack of demand;
- Define “unbranched antlered deer” to clarify what constitutes a legal buck across seasons and to alleviate confusion among hunters, and replace the “Special Late Antlerless and Spike-buck Season” with a “Special Late Season” to accommodate the inclusion of “unbranched antlered deer” in the bag limit;
- Allow the take of antlerless deer without a permit on certain U.S. Forest Service Lands during youth-only seasons;
- Clarify that white-tailed antlerless deer harvest during the archery-only season does not require a permit and harvest of antlerless deer during youth seasons is restricted to persons 16 years of age and younger including on properties issued Level 1 Managed Lands Deer (MLD) Permits;
- Implement both a general and special archery-only season for white-tailed deer in Andrews, Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Gaines, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Farmer, Terry and Yoakum counties, with a bag limit of three deer (no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless), which is identical to adjoining/nearby counties that currently have a season.
- Implement both a general and special archery-only season for white-tailed deer in Winkler County, with a bag limit of three deer (no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless, with the take of antlerless deer restricted to the archery-only season or properties issued MLDP antlerless tags). The new season is identical to adjoining/nearby counties that currently have a season.
- Establish four “doe days” (time periods in which antlerless deer may be taken without a permit in parts of the state where antlerless harvest regulations are conservative) in Bell (east of IH35), Burleson, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Kaufman, Limestone, Milam, Navarro and Williamson (east of IH35) counties;
- Increase the number of doe days to 16 in Anderson, Brazos, Camp, Gregg, Grimes, Henderson, Lamar, Leon, Madison, Morris, Red River, Robertson and Upshur counties; and

implement a muzzle-loader-only late season in Anderson, Bell (East of IH 35), Brazos, Burleson, Comal (East of IH 35), Delta, Ellis, Fannin, Falls, Franklin, Freestone, Grimes, Hays (East of IH 35), Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Navarro, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Smith, Titus, Travis (East of IH 35), Van Zandt, Williamson (East of IH 35), and Wood counties.

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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 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.

North Channel
Library events

-Tuesday, April 5, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Deussen Park's Traveling Naturalist followed by Eat, Play & Grow! registration.
-Wednesday, April 6, 4:30 pm, Strings Attached.
-Thursday, April 7, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 12 pm, AARP Tax Help; 4:30 pm, Mee Teen! Mixed Media Art Project.
-Saturday, April 9, 10 am, Scrapbooking; 11-12:30 pm Ask A Lawyer.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs.



GPISD Honors Students With Top Scores

On Wednesday, March 23rd Galena Park ISD hosted an ACT/SAT luncheon in honor of the district's seniors with the top ACT/SAT scores. In order to be invited to this special luncheon, students must be on track to graduate in June. The ACT/SAT scores from the students' 11th and 12th grade years are examined, and students are to request their scores be reported back to the district to be eligible. Those recognized this year scored a 25 or higher, out of a possible 36, on their ACT or a 1790 or higher, out of a possible 2400, on their SAT. The students received certificates for their academic achievement along with a \$25 gift card.

KUSH BATTLE, Free tax help at the library

Continued from page 1

"This office is committed to fighting the illegal marketing and sale of these powerful and dangerous drugs to our kids," said County Attorney Ryan. "We will continue to send the message that businesses that choose to sell these substances will face the consequences, including shutting down their business if necessary."

The filing is one of a series of civil actions taken by County Attorney Vince Ryan, in partnership with law enforcement and other agencies, using the state's consumer protection laws to combat businesses that sell synthetic marijuana.

The Tax-Aide program sponsored by the IRS and AARP Foundation is again providing free federal income tax assistance this year. The program is designed to assist taxpayers age 60 and over but will also assist low and moderate income filers.

- North Channel Branch of Harris County Public Library. Thursdays noon to 4 p.m. Services will begin on Tuesday, February 2nd and conclude on Thursday, April 14th. Taxpayers should bring the following items with them:
-Social Security cards for yourself and all dependents
-A copy of last year's tax return
-W-2 forms from each employer
-Unemployment compensation statements
-SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits
-All 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc.)
-1099R forms if you received a pension or annuity
-All forms indicating federal income tax paid
-Child care provider information
-Receipts or cancelled checks if itemizing deductions
-Some type of picture ID
-Info about health insurance coverage for you and any dependents.

If you purchased your insurance through the healthcare.gov site please bring any info and forms that they provided you including form 1095-A.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 1-888-227-7669 or visiting the website at www.aarp.org/taxaide.



GALENA PARK ISD
Student places 2nd in
Champions Challenge

Congratulations to Cloverleaf Elementary's Jose Avilez for placing 2nd Overall in the First Tee of Greater Houston 2016 Champions Challenge. This event is comprised of approximately 330 students in grades four and five from 21 area school districts! Jose is pictured with his coach, Jonathan Garza.

Shelby Lyn's Benefit

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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Leviticus 19:32

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BUSINESS

Which IRA Is Better for Younger Workers?

If you're at the beginning of your career, you might not be thinking too much about the end of it. But even younger workers should be aware of – and saving for – their eventual retirement. And since you've got many years until you do retire, you've got a lot of options to consider – one of which is whether an IRA may be appropriate for you and, if so, what type.

Essentially, you can choose between a "traditional" IRA and a Roth IRA. (Other types of IRAs are available if you're self-employed.)

With a traditional IRA, you contribute "pretax" dollars, so your contributions are generally tax-deductible, depending on your income limits and whether you also have a 401(k) or other retirement plan at work. In 2016, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to your traditional IRA, although the limit rises once you reach 50. You can fund your IRA with many types of investments – for example, stocks, bonds, and government securities– and your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis.

A Roth IRA has the same \$5,500 annual contribution limit and can also be funded with many types of investments. But there are some key differences. You can only contribute to a Roth IRA if your income is below a certain threshold, but that threshold is quite high, especially for younger workers starting their careers. So you'll likely be eligible. However, your contributions are never tax-deductible, so you're

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

basically funding your Roth IRA with money on which you've already been taxed. But your earnings can grow tax free, as long as you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years.

Assuming you can contribute to either a traditional or a Roth IRA, which should you choose?

There's no one right answer for everyone, but as a younger worker, you may be able to gain two important benefits from contributing to a Roth.

First, since you're probably earning much less now than you will later in your career, you're likely in a relatively low tax bracket. Usually, the only way to get money from a traditional IRA before you

retire is through a short-term loan; otherwise, you can get hit with both taxes and penalties on early withdrawals. But with a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions (not the earnings) penalty free to help pay for your first house or to go back to school.

Still, as mentioned above, there's no hard-and-fast rule as to which IRA is better for younger workers. For example, if you are certain you'll be in a lower tax bracket when you retire, you might be better off by taking the yearly tax deductions from your traditional IRA and then paying taxes on the withdrawals when you retire. But that's a hard prediction for anyone to make.

Your tax advisor may be able to provide some guidance on whether a traditional or a Roth IRA is better for you – but either one can be a valuable resource for that day, many years from now, when you say "goodbye" to work and start a new phase of your life.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

Edward Jones
6830 E Sam Houston
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ASK DIAMOND JIM

DIAMOND JIM: "What is the birthstone for April?"



APRIL BIRTHSTONE Diamond



HISTORY OF THE DIAMOND AS THE APRIL BIRTHSTONE

Natural diamonds are a rare and unique ultimate gift for a loved one. Thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe, diamonds date back billions of years.

The diamond is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength. Wearing diamonds is purported to bring other benefits such as balance, clarity and abundance. It's also symbolic of eternal love, and those fortunate to call April the month of their birth will enjoy the following history behind this rare gem.

Diamond Gemstones
Adopted from the Greek word *adamas*, meaning "invincible," diamonds come in a wide range of colors such as black, blue, green, pink, red, purple, orange and yellow. The color is dependent upon the type of impurities that are present in the stone. For instance, yellow stones have minuscule traces of nitrogen while blue ones contain boron.

The Origin of Birthstones
It's uncertain how the specific months became connected with the various stones. However, some speculate that the origins of birthstones dates back to biblical times when the breastplate belonging to a priest was decorated with 12 assorted colored gems. As time wore on, the 12 gems became associated with the zodiac and the months connected to it.

This started the tradition of wearing a colored stone each month as a sort of good luck charm. Initially people wore all twelve stones, rotating according to the month of the year to derive the greatest benefit of each stone.

Believing that the various gems held magical powers for the individual born within a given month, people started to wear the stone associated with their birth month for the entire year.

In 1912, the American National Association of Jewelers designed a list dedicating different gems to various months. What was once thought to be controversial based on its commercialism is now widely accepted as the official birthstone list.

The History and Beliefs Surrounding the Diamond
As told through the *Encarta*, Sanskrit texts dating back before 400 B.C. found that people associated significant value and wonderment with crystals. There is also significant research dating back to 1330 showing diamond cutting in Venice. The diamond trading business flourished towards the 15th century with the opening of Eastern trade routes.

Ancient theories touting the magical powers of diamonds were prevalent: some thought lightning bolts formed diamonds, while other theories asserted that diamonds were the tears of god.

The Healing Powers of Diamonds
During the Middle Ages, diamonds were thought to hold healing powers and to cure ailments stemming from the pituitary gland and brain. By heating the crystal and taking it to bed, it was thought to draw out the harmful toxins that were crippling the body.

It was also believed that diamonds could have an effect on an individual's balance and clarity and could boost their energy when combined with other crystals like amethyst.

The diamond as the April gemstone has garnered the hearts of many and is the most coveted crystal to date. Deemed as the "King of all Birthstones," diamonds make the ideal choice for an April birthday gift. (She'll love you for it!).

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

Retirement may be far off,

but the April 15 deadline for IRA contributions isn't.

You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2015 IRA contribution before the April 15 deadline.

By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it's easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA and begin receiving the face-to-face guidance you deserve.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 446,632; Estate of COLLEN DENNIS R. CAMPBELL, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on March 15, 2016.

ANTHONY ADDISON

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this March 29, 2016

Anthony Addison
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

CEMETERY LOTS

CEMETERY

Lots for sale, San Jacinto Memorial Park, East Beltway 8/1-10. St. Hyacinth, lots 38 (1-4) 713-666-2223.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 446,401; Estate of NORRIS SINGLETON, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2016.

KIMBERLY MONIQUE TAYLOR

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this March 23, 2016

Kimberly Monique Taylor
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

GARAGE SALE

BIG GARAGE SALE

First Assembly of God, 330 Sheldon Rd. in Channelview, TX. Friday, April 1, 8am-3 pm. Saturday, April 2, 8am-1 pm.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 445,598; Estate of RUBY ALOIS CAUGHMAN, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2016.

BILLY CAUGHMAN and ERNEST CAUGHMAN

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this March 23, 2016.

Billy Caughman and Ernest Caughman
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 10:00 a.m., April 19, 2016 for **CSP 16-016 Pest Management Services**. At that time proposals will be opened at the Galena Park ISD Admin Bldg. located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Kristi Helton 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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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a public hearing on May 5, 2016, at the Newport Elementary School Cafeteria, 430 N. Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, Texas 77532. The purpose of the hearing is to present the proposed widening of Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 2100 from FM 1960 to S. Diamondhead Boulevard, in Harris County, Texas, and to receive public comments. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:30 p.m. with the formal hearing commencing at 6:30 p.m.

The proposed project would widen FM 2100 from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided facility. Five-foot sidewalks would be constructed on both sides of the roadway. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and improve safety. The proposed improvements would require approximately 107 acres of additional right-of-way which includes seven proposed detention pond locations. The total project length is approximately 8 miles, and approximately six residences, eight commercial structures, and two churches would potentially be displaced as a result of the proposed project.

Maps and other drawings showing the proposed project's location and design will be displayed at the hearing. Environmental documentation for the project will also be available for inspection at the hearing. This information is available by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District office located at 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007, and at TxDOT's Southeast Houston Area Office, located at 702 FM 1959, Houston, Texas 77034. To schedule an appointment, please contact Wahida Wakil, P.E., at (713) 802-5513 or the North Harris Area Office at (281) 319-6400. The project information can also be viewed at TxDOT's websites: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html> and <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/fm2100.html>.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding this project are requested and may be presented for a period of 10 business days following the hearing. Written comments may be submitted either in person or by mail to the TxDOT District Office, Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251, or emailed to HOU-PIOWebmail@txdot.gov. Comments must be received or postmarked on or before May 19, 2016, in order to become part of the official hearing record.

The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing that have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT District Public Information Officer at (713) 802-5076. Requests should be made at least two business days before the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by the FHWA and TxDOT.

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COMMUNITY

Baseball team to host breast cancer awareness game

San Jac ranked 2nd in the nation at the midway point

HOUSTON, Texas – The San Jacinto College baseball team will help raise funds for Angel Flight South Central, an organization that helps breast cancer patients, at the seventh annual Play Pink game on Saturday, April 2. San Jacinto College will face off against conference rival Blinn College for a double header, with the first game starting at 3 p.m., at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the North Campus.

At the midway point in the season, San Jacinto College is ranked second in the nation by Perfect Game, and is in first place in the Region XIV South Zone, with a 22-6 (11-5 conference) record.

"The Play Pink events in past years were successful, and we hope the community will once again come out to support this worthy cause, while enjoying some good baseball action," commented Head Coach Tom Arrington.

Assistant coach Jimmy Durham lost his wife, Michele, to breast cancer 12 years ago. At the time, Durham was on the coaching staff at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico. While Michele was being treated in Houston, the couple used the services of Angel Flight South Central (formerly Grace Flight of America) to fly Michele to and from New Mexico and Houston free of charge.

Angel Flight South Central provides free air trans-

portation for medical and humanitarian purposes.

The organization's goal is to remove the transportation burden from patients so they can receive specialized medical treatment that may not be available to them locally. Angel Flight South Central also has a ground crew that drives patients to and from the local airports in their communities to hospitals.

The organization not only flew Michele to and from Houston for treatment, but would also occasionally fly one or all of the Durham's five children, so that they would not be far from their mother. "(Angel Flight) literally helped keep our family together," said Durham, who is now in his 11th season as an assistant coach at San Jacinto College. "They allowed the entire family to be together at least some of the time, and gave our children an opportunity to be with their mother."

All money raised from donations at the April 2 game will go directly to Angel Flight South Central. San Jacinto College players and coaches will wear special pink jerseys during the game. Fans are encouraged to wear pink to support the cause, and can bid on auction items, which will include sports memorabilia. Play Pink T-shirts will be



available at the game for fans who make contributions to the Angel Flight organization.

Durham says he hopes the Play Pink event not only raises awareness for Angel Flight South Central, but monetary help as well. "The pilots volunteer their time, planes, and fuel to help others," added Durham. "They pay for these flights themselves, unselfishly, and need more funding to continue to serve people in need."

San Jacinto College baseball games are free to attend, but donations will be accepted for admission to the Play Pink game. All San Jacinto College baseball home games are played at the North Campus at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston. For information about the San Jacinto College baseball team, please visit sanjacsports.com.

For information about Angel Flight South Central, or to make donations, visit the organization's website at angelflightsc.org.

CHILD RESCUE,

Continued from page 1

dress to the fire department's First Responder's unit in which one of the city's paramedics' scrambled a first-out-unit to the location while a second rescue unit quickly followed.

Upon arrival the First Responders took control of what appeared to be a child drowning victim. They immediately began life saving resuscitation techniques to the child whose skin had turned blue from being submerged in water.

The paramedics using the Glasgow Comma Scale which is an evaluation of responses from victims will quickly determine the condition of someone in a comma or is semi-conscious; it was determined the victim was

near death. But because of the quick work of the paramedics to remove water from the lungs and applying oxygen an improvement was noticed in the victim's condition upon arrival at the emergency room of Hermann Children's Hospital's.

Joshua Jr. continued to improve and within a few hours had regained full consciousness. After a one night's stay in the hospital for additional tests and evaluations he was released and on his way back home.

The grandfather said, "it was later determined even though our back screen door had its safety chain latched at the top my grandson managed to squeeze through the small opening to get outside to the pool". He said the pool's ladder is kept on the inside of the pool to prevent a child from climbing into it when not in use. He thinks

the tot must have put his foot on the top of a hard plastic ring around the outside bottom of the pool to raise himself up high enough to topple into the pool.

Child Protective Services later came and visited the home and pool and decided there wasn't any negligence from anyone which caused the accident. Even though the backyard has a high wooden fence Roger said, "the family has now removed the pool".

The child's dad, Joshua Matheny who's a member of the Cloverleaf Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department thanked everyone involved for saving his son's life.

Mayor Diaz gave a special medallion award to Cousin Miguel for his exceptional heroic acts of locating and rescuing his drowning cousin from the pool which saved the tot's life.



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Protest your property tax appraisals

Mike Sullivan reminds ways to lower tax burden

Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan is reminding property owners to be on the lookout for property tax appraisal notices from the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD).

"Harris County residents will be receiving appraisal notices from HCAD by the end of this month," said Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan. "I want to remind taxpayers, especially new homeowners of ways to save money on their upcoming tax bill by applying for exemptions and protesting their values."

Exemptions are the easiest way property owners can lower their tax burden. "When your appraisal arrives, make sure you are receiving the proper exemptions," said Sullivan. "If you forgot to apply for your homestead exemption last year, you can apply for both 2015 and 2016 tax years. Once approved, you could receive a partial refund on last year's 2015 tax bill."

Most common exemptions:

- Residential Homestead – Taxpayer owns and lives in the home on January 1st
- Over-65 – Taxpayer is over the age of 65 and lives in the home
- Disability Homestead – Taxpayer has a qualify-



HC TAC A-C MIKE SULLIVAN

ing disability

- Veterans Exemptions – 100% disability, partial disability and many others

Texas law allows property owners to protest their value if they believe it is too high. "You can apply online through HCAD (www.hcad.org) or fill out and send the form included in your appraisal notice," said Sullivan. "Be sure to provide as much information as possible on the protest form, whether it's about comparable properties in your neighborhood or changes to your property or land. All of this will aid in your protest and may lower the value, which will lower your property tax bill at the end of the year."

Visit www.hcad.org to view and apply for all property tax exemptions. Taxpayers may also contact the Tax Assessor-Collector's Office at tax.office@hctx.net or 713-274-8000.

The Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's office Property Tax Division maintains more than 1.6 million tax accounts and collects property taxes for 71 taxing entities including Harris County. The Tax Assessor-Collector's office collects more than \$6 billion in property taxes.

PARTNER AWARD,

Continued from page 1

company has supported the annual Channelview FFA Livestock Show and Auction, along with the district Teacher of the Year awards ceremony. The company is a sustaining partner and Founding Donor to the Channelview ISD Education Foundation. Bailey also serves on the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

"Jason's personal commitment to Channelview ISD is definitely above and beyond the scope of work performed for the district

and we are appreciative of his support," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent. "We are very fortunate to have Jason and Perdue Brandon's willingness to serve our students and staff in capacities far beyond any expectations."

As part of TASB's Business Recognition Program, Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP is listed on the statewide honor roll of the Stand Up for Public Schools award recipients at www.tasb.org.



GALENA PARK ISD

IS LOOKING FOR ITS FUTURE STUDENTS

If your child is ready to start Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year, please be sure to register early!

Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

GPISD will have early registration for Kinder and eligible Pre-K students for the 2016-2017 school year. Registration must be done in person and Pre-K placement is on a first come, first serve basis. All elementary campuses will hold on-site registration during the following dates and times:

Dates: April 26, 27 & 28

Times: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Late Night: April 28th 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: All Elementary Schools

(You must register at the campus you are zoned to.)

Texas State Eligibility for Pre-Kindergarten	Required Registration Documents for All Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Child will be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2016✓ Child is a resident of Galena Park ISD✓ Child meets immunization requirements, and also meets at least one of the following conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child is unable to speak and comprehend the English language or• Child is homeless, as defined by (42 U.S.C. §11302) or• Child is economically disadvantaged (low family income) or• Child of an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces or• Child of a member of the U.S. armed forces that was injured or killed while serving on active duty, or• Child is or has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Child's Birth Certificate (Texas law requires that Pre-K students must be 4 years of age and Kinder students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2016.)✓ Child's Social Security✓ Parent/Guardian's Valid Texas Driver's License or Identification Card (Must have current Galena Park ISD address)✓ Proof of Residency (Electric, gas or water utility bill or copy of mortgage or lease statement required)✓ Immunization Records (Child must be current on all required immunizations)
	<p>Additional Required Documents for Pre-K Only</p> <p>State law requires that proof of eligibility is verified and documented for all students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited English Proficient – Child must be present to be tested with oral language assessment• Economically disadvantaged- Must provide proof of household income in one of the following forms: current paycheck stub, letter from employer stating gross wages paid and how often they are paid, disability payment stub, current SNAP, or TNAP case number for free meals• Military Member's Child – Military identification or appropriate letter will be verified• Foster Care - Letter from Department of Family and Protective Services is required