

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City

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CHANNEL CHATTER

North Shore Rotary Fish Fry this Saturday

NORTH SHORE – The North Shore Rotary club is preparing for their Fish Fry, to be held next Saturday, May 14 at the Rotary Pavilion at 14350 Wallisville Road, behind the courthouse.

Not only will the public have an opportunity to enjoy especially fried catfish, and broiled crawfish, but the event will also feature silent and live auctions of some very rare items, and a raffle to give away a new vehicle, a Toyota sedan or pickup truck. Raffle tickets are \$100, and meal tickets are \$10.

Proceeds from this event usually exceed \$300,000 and are used mainly for youth and other community programs.

Super Bowl chairman to deliver San Jacinto College commencement address

PASADENA, Texas – Mr. Ric Campo, Chairman of the Super Bowl LI Host Committee, and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Camden Property Trust, will speak to May graduates at the San Jacinto College commencement ceremony.

The May commencement ceremony will bring together San Jacinto College graduates from each of the four campuses for one combined ceremony. It will take place at 7 p.m., at NRG Stadium, on Saturday, May 14.

"Ric Campo is a true champion for the City of Houston," said San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "He understands the importance of a strong local economy, and supports the need to create jobs here along the Texas Gulf Coast. I am excited for our 2016 graduates to hear his message."

Neighborhood Safety Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2016
8:30 a.m. at East Freeway HPD Storefront, 12001-A East Freeway. (Next to Burlington).

North Channel community raises more than \$136,000 for Relay for Life

The Relay for Life-Houston North Channel was a huge success last Friday, May 6 as more than \$136,000 was raised to benefit cancer research. The North Channel community is joining together the fight against cancer.

According to North Channel Relay officials, the fundraising totals were still being tallied as of press time and were expected to significantly increase.

With more than 50 teams participating, the "May the Cure be with You" Star Wars themed event drew hundreds of walkers that participated in the event at the track of the North Shore High School Ninth Grade Campus.

The North Channel group also received an award from the American Cancer Society for raising

more than \$1 million toward cancer research for the past 13 years.

The event will began with special introductions and presentations, followed by the opening lap of the evening – the Survivor's Lap. The Parade of Teams followed, with some of them wearing Star Wars themed outfits to get in the spirit of fun for the evening.

Throughout the night, music from different groups was provided, along with a Disc Jockey – and was not unusual to find groups of people dancing in the middle of the football field. Also, community members and others made laps around the track and also participate in different "themed" laps.

Relay attendees also put bids in on many Silent Auction items that were donated for the event.

At dusk, the Luminaria Ceremony was held to remember those who valiantly fought the fight, those who continue to fight and



A large group of survivors wearing symbolic purple shirts makes the turn during the Survivor's Lap at the North Shore Ninth Grade Center.

those who have lost their battle with cancer. As the stadium lights went dark, candles inside the bag were lit for the ceremony.

Special event chairper-

sons for Relay continued to lead those in attendance in a variety of fun activities until closing ceremonies were held around 1 a.m.

ELECTION RESULTS: Sweeping changes in Galena Park; Tax vote passes in JC; School Bonds pass

Voters in Galena Park swept out all the incumbent councilpersons, affirming the changes they started two years ago with the election of Esmeralda Moya as Mayor. With a large turnout of 1063 voters, the unofficial results saw Moya returned to office, with 772 votes, against her challenger Dawn Fisher with 275 votes. This vote spread was also seen in the four council positions, as follows: POSITION 1: Chersky 714, Simms 309; POSITION 2: Silva 743, Hinojosa 281; POSITION 3: Broussard 723, Serna 250, Groba 60; POSITION 4: Ponder 734, Flores 304.

In other elections:
JACINTO CITY, passed the Proposition raising the Sales Tax by 1 cent, to 8.25 percent.

Galena Park ISD Community Approves \$290m Bonds
Houston, Texas: The un-



MAYOR ESMERALDA MOYA

official results of the Saturday, May 7, 2016 election indicate that voters of the Galena Park ISD community approved a bond package totaling \$290 million. Specific proposed uses for the bond funds include:

- Rebuilding 6 Elementary Campuses
- Constructing North Shore Senior High School 10th Grade Center
- Renovating and Upgrading all Campuses and Facilities
- Acquiring Land for Future Facility Needs



Voters Approve 2016 Sheldon ISD Bond
On Saturday, May 7, Sheldon ISD voters approved the passing of the 2016 Sheldon ISD bond. The measure passed with nearly 70 percent of the vote.

"The Sheldon ISD voters made a collective deci-

sion to invest in their community and our schools, and for that we are extremely thankful," said Superintendent King Davis.

Sheldon ISD is considered a fast-growth district, growing 7% this year and exceeding all projected enrollment numbers. The bond package, totaling \$285 million, will include funds to address the district's growth with projects like:

- A new high school (with the current KHS campus to be re-purposed for other district uses)
- New Elementary #6
- New athletic facilities
- Land purchases for new SISD facilities
- Parent vehicle traffic improvements at ECAs
- Extended student loading/unloading canopies at ECAs
- Playground upgrades at ECAs and elementary schools
- Renovations to the cur-

rent middle schools

- King Middle School field house expansion
- Resurfacing of tennis courts
- District-wide technology upgrades
- District-wide energy management upgrades (roof replacements, LED lighting retrofits, heating and cooling upgrades)
- New buses

"Thanks to the passing of this bond, Sheldon ISD will now be able to continue planning for the future of our children by providing the much needed schools and facilities to our students and staff," Davis said.

The district will move forward immediately with the planning process on the bond projects. To stay informed on all the bond projects, as well as other great things happening around Sheldon ISD, visit www.sheldonisd.com.

CLUB SUPPORTS STUDENTS Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary awards \$15,000 in scholarships



On Wednesday, May 4th, 25 Galena Park High School students received a total of \$15,000.00 in scholarships from the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club. These scholarships will assist the students in pursuit of their college and career goals upon graduation.

GALENA PARK Fire Department puts new pumper truck into service



GALENA PARK FIRE CHIEF PAUL GREGORY, with firemen Gab Perez, Dean Bailey, and Ed Thraen, stand with the new Sutphen Pumper that went into service last month. This is the first new fire engine for the GPPD in 15 years, according to Gregory. It cost over \$500,000, paid for by the Texas Forest Service and the City of Galena Park. Features include a 1000 gallon tank, foam, rescue equipment such as thermal imaging and the "jaws of life," and other saws. The department has 6 full time and 22 part time firemen, and 6 volunteers, and is looking for more.

SCHOOL NEWS



Galena Park ISD students explore martitime careers

GPISD 8th and 9th grade Career & Technical Education (CTE) students recently had an opportunity to visit Texas A&M-Galveston to tour their Maritime Academy. The purpose of the tour was to expose students to a genre of maritime related careers while experiencing college campus life. After the tour, many students expressed an interest in joining the GPISD Maritime program in high school and applying to the Texas A&M Maritime Academy upon graduation.



GPISD Elementary Robotics students visit STEM professionals

The Galena Park Elementary Robotics team spent Friday, April 8th at AMEC Foster Wheeler where they were able to converse with professional engineers, including the president of AMEC Foster Wheeler, about careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. Students were given the opportunity to exhibit their robot programming skills to the professionals and were treated to a tour of the building. This was an exciting experience for the students!

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Most wanted fugitive captured in Channelview

CHANNELVIEW, May 9, 2016 - Danny Ray Ferguson Jr., 39, a Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive, is now in custody after turning himself in on Tuesday in Channelview. Ferguson, who is an Aryan Circle gang member, was wanted for parole violation. The arrest was not the result of a tip, and no reward will be paid.

Ferguson was taken into custody by the Harris County Joint Task Force.

In 2013, Ferguson was convicted in Harris County of assault and received a three-year prison sentence. Additionally in 2015, Crime Stoppers of Houston added Ferguson to its list of most wanted gang members. His criminal history also includes unlawful possession of firearm by felon,



evading arrest and terroristic threat.

So far in 2016, DPS and other agencies have arrested seven Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives and Sex Offenders, including four sex offenders and three gang members, and \$12,500 in rewards have been paid for tips that resulted in arrests.

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GALENA PARK ISD

School nurse makes Houston's top list

Congratulations to North Shore Senior High School's Lisa Reeves, school nurse, for being selected as one of the top 150 Houston nurses by the Houston Chronicle. This year's Salute to Nurses award nominations came from medical professionals from specialty clinics to community health care centers, from suburban facilities to the internationally recognized Texas Medical Center and from numerous schools and hospitals in the greater Houston area. "This event is important to thank the



Lisa Reeves, North Shore Senior High nurse, selected as Top 150 Houston nurses.

people who have ever been hospitalized or have had a

loved one cared for by a nurse. It's easy for our team to get excited for this event every single year, because the stories and dedication to their craft are inspiring on so many levels. The Houston Chronicle's Salute to Nurses is just a small token to help recognize and give back to all of the nurses in Houston," said Rob Cravaritis, executive vice president of sales, Houston Chronicle Media Group. This annual program mobilizes area hospitals, clinics, schools and patients eager to recognize the top 150

nurses in Houston's growing health care community. The top 150 nurses were selected by a panel of educators and leaders in the field and the top 10 received special recognition as guests at the awards luncheon.

When Reeves was asked how she felt about the honor she stated, "I could not have done this alone. I am so grateful for my team members Sylvia Brosi, LVN and Melissa Cordero-Ramsden, MA. We make the perfect team!"

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- ▶ Breathing Problems
- ▶ Chest Pain
- ▶ Dehydration
- ▶ Dizziness
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- ▶ Head Injuries
- ▶ Major Burns
- ▶ Stroke Like Symptoms

MINOR EMERGENCIES

- ▶ Allergies
- ▶ Allergic Reactions
- ▶ Bites
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Spring Cleaning Tips From Connie

Let's get out the cleaning supplies and tackle "spring cleaning." The number one piece of equipment is your vacuum cleaner, so don't overlook the maintenance.

- Change the bags frequently and the filters every 10 bags. Bagless vacuums need the filters checked and cleaned. Dirty filters bog the machine down and can cause damage to the circuit board and the motor.
- Check the beater bar/brush roller (the spinning brush underneath the vacuum that brushes dirt out of carpet). Use scissors or your hands to remove anything wrapped around or caught in the beater roller.
- Check the electric cord. Take time to unwind cord properly and remove gently from wall socket. This will save the cord from damage.
- For hardwood or laminate floors see us for cleaning and refreshing products.
- Dusting blinds, pictures, window frames and hard to reach places will be easier with an attach feather duster.

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

Five tips your nurse wants you to know

(NAPSI)—In a U.S. health care climate challenged by more patients, older patients and fewer physicians, there's one particularly bright spot: America's nurses.

In fact, according to a recent Harris Poll, when it comes to the care received from a nurse, patients' experiences are overwhelmingly positive¹. While the nurses' role in health care delivery continues to advance, so does the respect and admiration patients have for them—nearly half indicate the majority of their health care over the past three years has come from a nurse. Additionally, about nine in 10 agree nurses are under-appreciated for the role they play in providing care and are admired for the job they do for patients. More than seven in 10 would use the words “helpful,” “hard-working” and “knowledgeable” to describe nurses they have encountered.

“Nurses are among the most trusted individuals in the health care system,” said Dr. Betty Nelson, academic dean, School of Nursing, College of Health Professions at University of Phoenix. “Part of this trust stems from today's nurses personalizing experiences to their patients. Patients sometimes have competing demands and want to be seen as a customer and a patient. As a customer, you have expectations for what you want, and as a patient, you need care. It's the nurse's job to assess the patient from a psychological standpoint to ensure the best possible care is being provided.”

When You See The Nurse

The next time you need the care of a nurse, advises Dr. Nelson, remember these five things:

1. It's important to provide accurate information. Be candid with your nurse about your symptoms, life-style, feelings and so on so you get the proper treatment. Speaking up and letting your nurse know exactly how you're feeling will ensure you receive personalized, high-quality care.

2. Let your nurse help you. While it's all very well to seek out information about your own health, you should also recognize that anything you find needs to be interpreted by a trained medical professional. Tell your nurse about your family history and any research you've done to help with diagnosis and treatment.

3. Every person is unique and treatment must be personalized accordingly. Two people might have the same condition but, based on a number of factors—like height, age and weight—would need to receive different care regimens personalized

to their specific needs.

4. Write down any questions you may have in advance. Having your questions ahead of time will ensure you'll have all your questions answered and may spur thoughts of more questions to ask during your visit.

5. Consider bringing a friend or relative along to be sure you take in the information you get accurately and completely. Your friend or relative may also have additional questions to what you wrote down in advance of your visit.

Education And Nursing Today

As the needs of health care organizations grow more complex, so, too, do the skills and training requirements nurses must be prepared to meet. Health care employers are increasingly hiring nurses with advanced education and more nurses have advanced degrees. Studies by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing found the link between nurses with bachelor's and graduate-level education and improved patient outcomes to be a strong one. Added the Institute of Medicine, at least 80 percent of the nation's nursing workforce is expected to have bachelor's degrees by 2020, while the number of nurses with doctoral degrees will double.

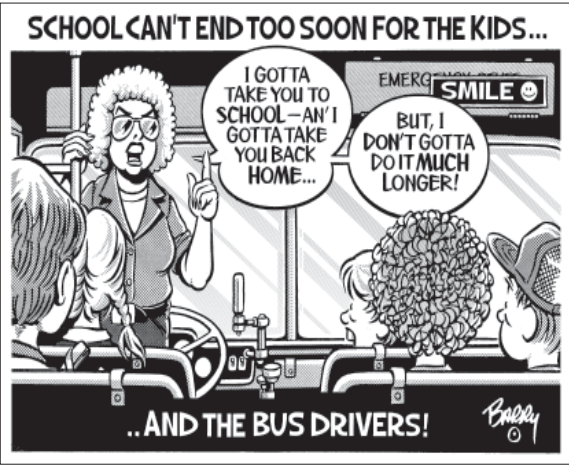
“Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow by 19 percent from 2012 through 2022, faster than the average for all U.S. occupations²,” said Nelson. “The need for nurses continues to grow and provides an opportunity for those seeking employment in the health care field to explore this fulfilling career path.”

One place many nurses can develop the skills and training to meet the new demands of the profession is through higher education options. Recognizing the expanding role of the 21st century nurse, University of Phoenix prepares graduates to address recent changes in the delivery of primary care so they are equipped with the skills needed to succeed in today's health care market.

Learn More

For more facts on nursing, or to learn more about programs in licensure nursing, health care administration and health care support programs, certificates and courses, visit phoenix.edu/nursing.

For more information about each of these programs, including on-time completion rates, the median debt incurred by students who completed the program and other important information, please visit phoenix.edu/programs/gainful-employment.



Cruz ends campaign, Perry endorses Trump for president

AUSTIN — U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, suspended his presidential campaign May 3 after losing Indiana's GOP presidential primary to frontrunner Donald Trump of New York.

The Indiana loss mathematically eliminated Cruz from achieving the necessary delegate count to gain the nomination at the Republican Party National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, July 18-21.

On May 6, Rick Perry, Texas' former and longest-serving governor (December 2000 to January 2015) endorsed Trump for president. Perry, who dropped out of the GOP presidential primaries in 2012 and 2015, also signaled his availability as a vice presidential running mate for Trump.

Cruz, who served as solicitor general under then-Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2012.

Revenue total increases State sales tax revenue in April totaled \$2.38 billion, up 3 percent compared to April 2015, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced May 3.

However, Hegar said, “As expected, receipts from oil- and gas-related sectors continued to fall due to the ongoing decline in drilling activity.” And, he added, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in April 2016 was down 0.8 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

For the month of April, Texas collected the following revenue from those taxes:

- Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes, \$250 million, down 31.9 percent from April 2015;
- Motor fuel taxes,

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



\$302.9 million, up 3.2 percent from April 2015; and
- Oil and natural gas production taxes, \$147 million, down 36.1 percent from April 2015.

According to the comptroller's office, sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 56 percent of all tax collections, and motor vehicle sales and rental taxes, motor fuel taxes and oil and natural gas production taxes also are large revenue sources for the state.

Preserving paper is goal

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on May 3 announced the launch of a month-long campaign through which individuals who donate \$30 or more will receive a Save Texas History kit that includes a limited-edition t-shirt bearing the phrase, “I saved Texas history.”

The Texas General Land Office maintains an ar-

chive of more than 35.5 million documents and 45,000 maps dating back to the year 1561 and tracing the history of Texas' public lands. But, Bush said, because no general revenue from the Texas Legislature is appropriated for conservation of the documents and maps, that conservation depends on private donations, map purchases and corporate sponsorships.

Donations to the Save Texas History program are tax-deductible and can be made at SaveTexasHistory.org.

Buckle-up program is set

The Texas Department of Transportation on May 3 promoted its annual “Click It or Ticket” campaign, reminding Texans that properly fastened seat belts save lives.

Police departments across the nation will step up enforcement efforts from May 23 through June 5. In Texas, the law requires everyone in a vehicle to buckle up or face fines and court costs up to \$200. Children younger than eight must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet, 9 inches.

“With Memorial Day weekend and the summer vacation season approaching, we're urging people to buckle their seat belts every time they get in their vehicle,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “Every person in a vehicle — front seat or back seat — needs to buckle up. Not only is it the law, but seat belts save lives.”

Alert: Post-flood car sales

The Texas Department of Insurance on April 28 posted a consumer-protection message telling Texans: “There's a reason why insurance companies usually declare flooded vehicles a total loss. Once an engine gets waterlogged, it's almost impossible to ever make it right.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous sellers will try to buy these cars at auction and resell them to unsuspecting buyers.”

The department suggests that shoppers look for the signs and smells of water damage, such as dirt or debris in the vehicle and the smell of cleaner or disinfectant applied to cover up odors. Also, the department suggests that a potential buyer check the vehicle's title and vehicle identification number (VIN), have a trusted mechanic inspect the vehicle and buy from a reputable dealer. For more information, Texans may call the department's consumer help line, 800-252-3439.

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OPINION

Look twice, stay alert to prevent deadly motorcycle crashes

Motorcyclists are 26 times more likely to be killed in a crash than vehicle occupants

AUSTIN — On average, a motorcyclist dies in a crash on Texas roads every day. To mark Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May — and to remember the 455 motorcyclists lost in crashes last year — the Texas Department of Transportation is launching its “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign.

“Motorcycles can be difficult to see so it's important for drivers to look twice, especially before turning at intersections or changing lanes,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “Motorcyclists are extremely vulnerable because they don't have seat belts, airbags and surrounding steel doors to protect them.”

Motorcyclists are nearly five times more likely than car or truck occupants to be injured in a crash and 26 times more likely to be killed. Besides last year's 455 fatalities, another 1,867 motorcyclists were seriously injured in 2015. About half of fatal motorcycle crashes result from a collision with a car or truck. Drivers cite not seeing the motorcycle or misjudging how fast it is traveling as the reason for the collision.

Each year at the end of April, many Texas cities issue proclamations that observe May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. During this period, TxDOT's “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign will make stops at baseball games and festivals in Texas communities where guests can participate in activities that highlight motorcycle safety. The campaign reminds drivers to:

- Look twice for motorcycles, especially at intersections.
- Use turn signals when changing lanes.
- Check your mirrors before changing lanes.
- Don't follow a motorcycle too closely.
- Always assume motorcycles are closer than they appear.

For media inquiries, contact TxDOT Media Relations at MediaRelations@txdot.gov or (512) 463-8700.

Information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from Texas Peace Officer's Crash Reports (CR-3) received and processed by the Department as of Mar. 4, 2016.

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<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <h2 style="margin: 0; letter-spacing: 2px;">STERLING ~ WHITE</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0; font-size: small;">FEDERAL HOME & CEMETERY 11911 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD. HIGHLAND, TX 77562 (281) 426-3555 www.sterlingwhite.com</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0; font-style: italic;">"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"</p> </div>									
<h2 style="margin: 0;">St. Timothy's Episcopal Church</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">All Invited to Worship with Us</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">SUNDAY</td> <td style="width: 44%;">Holy Eucharist Rite II</td> <td style="width: 23%;">9:00 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUNDAY</td> <td>Coffee Hour</td> <td>10:00 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist</td> <td>11:00 am</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">13125 INDIANAPOLIS ST., HOUSTON, 77015 sttimsinhouston.com 713-451-2909</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0; font-style: italic;">All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4</p>	SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Rite II	9:00 am	SUNDAY	Coffee Hour	10:00 am	Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist		11:00 am
SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Rite II	9:00 am							
SUNDAY	Coffee Hour	10:00 am							
Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist		11:00 am							
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<p style="margin: 0; font-size: large;">Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13</p>									
<p style="margin: 0; font-size: large;">Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. Leviticus 19:32</p>									

BUSINESS

Here’s how to keep your portfolio healthy

If you have a medical appointment this week, you might want to wish your nurse a happy National Nurses Week. This annual event is designed to celebrate the important role nurses play in health care. Of course, while nurses and doctors can help you in many ways, you can do a lot of good for yourself by adopting healthy living habits, such as eating right, exercising frequently, and so on. But you can also do much to help your financial health.

Here are a few suggestions:

Stay invested. During times of market volatility, it can be tempting to head to the investment “sidelines” until things “cool off.” Going to the sidelines can mean a few different things – you could simply not invest anything for a while, or you could move a substantial portion of your portfolio to “cash” instruments, which are safe in the sense of preserving your principal but offer almost nothing in the way of return or protecting against inflation. If you’re not investing during a market downturn, or if you’ve moved heavily into cash, you might well miss out on the beginning of the next market rally.

Rebalance your portfolio. It’s a good idea to periodically rebalance your portfolio to make sure it still reflects your goals and your comfort level with risk. Over time, and without any effort on your part, your portfolio can become unbalanced. For example, following a long “bull” market, the value of your stocks could have risen to the point where they make up a greater percentage of your portfolio than you had intended. When that happens, you may need to rebalance by adding bonds and other fixed-income vehicles.

Diversify. Rebalancing is important. But a balanced portfolio should also be a diversified portfolio. If you only owned one type of financial asset, such as

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

U.S. growth stocks, you could take a big hit during a market downturn. But different types of financial assets don’t always move in the same direction at the same time, so by owning a wide variety of investments – U.S. stocks, international stocks, government securities, corporate bonds, real estate, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on – you may help reduce the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. Keep in mind, though, that diversification by itself can’t guarantee profits or protect against loss.

Maintain realistic expectations. If you expect the financial markets to always move upward, you will be disappointed many times. Market downturns are a normal part of the investment process, and they will always be with us. Once you accept this reality, you will be less

likely to make questionable decisions, such as abandoning a long-term strategy. If you’ve designed an appropriate strategy, possibly with the help of a financial professional, you can stick with it through all market environments.

By following the suggestions mentioned above – staying invested, rebalancing your portfolio as needed, diversifying your holdings and maintaining realistic expectations, you can go a long way toward maintaining the fitness of your financial situation.

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

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

"Diamond Jim, What is the Birthstone for May?"



ASK DIAMOND JIM

The May Birthstone is Emerald

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth.

Emerald, derived from the word smaragdus, meaning green in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C.

Today, most of the world’s emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

In addition to being the birthstone of May, the Emerald is also the traditional gift for the 55th wedding anniversary in the US. Its iconic green coloring is closely linked to spring and rebirth making it a perfect stone for the month of May. Emerald has consistently surpassed other green gemstones like peridot and tourmaline with its unmatched vivid and lush green tones. However, even though emerald is a relatively hard gemstone, so many of them have various inclusions. This makes emeralds more difficult to set into jewelry. The inclusions also make the gems susceptible to cracking or chipping. Despite this, emerald is one of the most popular stones and one that is commonly faked. With the proper setting and proper care as well as a little know how, emerald makes for a great investment in the fine jewelry world.

Fun Emerald Facts

1. Emerald is one of the four recognized precious gemstones. The others are ruby, sapphire, and diamond.

2. Top quality emeralds can be worth more than diamonds because emeralds without imperfections are very rare.

3. A 1 carat emerald appears larger than a 1 carat diamond because emeralds have a lower density.

4. Most emeralds have some type of inclusion or imperfection. Instead of use the term imperfection, dealers like to reference emerald inclusions as an internal “jardin” (garden in French).

5. Most emeralds are treated usually by filling the emerald with an oil to fill in the cracks and help prevent unintentional chipping or cracking.

6. Due to the inclusions within an emerald, it is not wise to clean these gems in an ultrasonic cleaner. Instead clean gently by hand using warm water.

7. Emerald is made of beryl just like aquamarine but gets its green coloring from very small amounts of chromium and/or vanadium.

8. Color, clarity, cut, and carat weight are four factors used to determine the value of an emerald. The most important of these four is color. The best color is vivid green or bluish green with even saturation and no color zoning. It is also important that the emerald is very transparent and isn’t too dark or too light.

9. The oldest emeralds are about 2.97 billion years old.

10. The first known emeralds were mined in Egypt around 1500 BC.

11. One of Cleopatra’s favorite stones was emerald.

12. Emeralds were discovered in South America in the 16th century by the Spanish. They were used by the Incas well before this discovery.

13. The Spanish then traded these emeralds across Europe and Asia for precious metals, opening up the emerald trade to the rest of the world.

14. According to ancient folklore, putting an emerald under your tongue would help one see into the future.

15. Today, Colombia yields the largest amount of emeralds, contributing to more than 50% of all emerald production worldwide.

16. The Duke of Devonshire Emerald is one of the largest uncut emeralds weighing 1,383.93 carats.

17. Synthetic sapphire and ruby were created in 1907, but synthetic emeralds were not created until 1935 when American chemist Carroll Chatham successfully grew his first one carat Chatham emerald which is now on display at the Smithsonian Institute.

18. Emeralds were first discovered in North America in the Yukon Territory in 1997, though large emerald deposits in the United States and further north are very rare.

19. A gemologist judges a diamond’s clarity grade by using a 10x loupe. The clarity of an emerald is often assessed with the naked eye.

20. An emerald pendant necklace owned by Elizabeth Taylor sold for \$6.5 million in 2011, breaking down to about \$280,000 paid per carat.

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

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

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SEALED BIDS ADDRESSED TO THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY, TEXAS AND MARKED "SEALED BID" AND LISTING THE VEHICLE BEING BID ON WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE JACINTO CITY CITY HALL, 1301 MERCURY DR., JACINTO CITY, TEXAS UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON MAY 26, 2016 FOR THE SALE OF (1) 2007 MERCURY MILAN 4 DR., (1) 2003 FORD PCK L.E.V., (1) 1987 FORD F700 BUCKET TRUCK, (1) 2003 1/2 TON F150 FORD P/U, (1) 1997 BOBCAT TRACK HOE 320 EXCAVATOR, (1) 1990 FORD 3910 TRACTOR W/MOWER BUSH HOG CUTTER, (1) 1991 CHEVY KODIAK, (1) 2000 CHEVY 3500 DUALY TRUCK. VEHICLES SOLD AS IS - "MINIMUM BIDS APPLY". THE 2007 MERCURY MILAN MAY BE VIEWED AT THE POLICE STATION, 10429 MARKET ST. AND ALL OTHER VEHICLES MAY BE VIEWED AT PUBLIC WORKS 12202 1/2 MARKET ST.

THE BIDS WILL BE OPENED AND PUBLICLY READ IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 10301 MARKET ST. AT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 26, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M..

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY/OR ALL TECHNICALITIES AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID OR PART THEREOF WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CITY.

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"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 11:00 a.m., May 24, 2016 for **RFP 16-019 Electronic Supplies**. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg. located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 10:00 a.m., June 1, 2016 for **CSP 16-015 UIL Student Athletic Insurance**. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg. located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting 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."

"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 10:00 a.m., June 13, 2016 for **RFP 17-001 Support Services Uniforms**. 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 the Purchasing Dept at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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Galena Park Library Programs

-Monday, May 16, Coffee & Coloring, 2 pm.
-Tuesday, May 17, Mind-benders, 4 pm.
-Wednesday, May 18, Baby Time, 10 am; Storytime, 11 am; Microsoft Word Básico III, 10:15 am; Microsoft Word Basics III, 1 pm; Get Active/Activate, 4 pm.
-Thursday, May 19, Family Board Games, 4 pm; Get Active/Activate, 10 am; Citizenship Classes, 11:30 am.
Galena Park Branch Library, 1500 Keene St., Galena Park, TX. For information on other programs, please call 713-450-0982.

Jacinto City Library programs

-Frid., May 13, Clases de Inglés usando Mango, 1 pm; 1-on-1 Digital Tech Help, 3 pm.
-Saturday, May 14, Koi Paper Kites (Kids), 1 pm; Internet, 3:30 pm.
-Tuesday, May 17, e-mail, 10:30 am; email básico, 4:30 pm.
-Wednesday, Baby Time, 10:30 am; ESL Classes, 12:30 pm
-Thursday, May 19, Power Point, 11 am; Children's Story-time, 3 pm; BB-8 Playtime, 4 pm; Word, 6 pm.
-Friday, May 20, Clases de Inglés Usando Mango, 1 pm.
Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. For more information on these and other programs at the library, please call 713-673-3237.

The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 981-458-0729 or 839-444-5000.

Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

San Jacinto Pilot Club

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

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.

Shelby Lyn's Benefit

Monday, May 16, 2016. At Battle Ground Golf Club - 8 am Shotgun Start. Call 713-384-4128 to register and more info.

CHANNELVIEW ISD:
Falcon band sweeps top spots at Dallas area competition



The Channelview High School Falcon band proudly displayed their trophies from the Spring in the Park Music Festival near Dallas.

The Channelview High School Falcon Band took top honors at the Spring in the Park Music Festival at Colleyville Heritage High School near Dallas.

The members of the Falcon Band were split into two competing ensembles – a top band and a second band. Both bands won

their classifications and also received superior ratings. The top band earned the Grand Champion Award against all high

school competing ensembles.

The Falcon band is directed by Aaron Allison. He is assisted by Jeri Collins and Tyler Worley.

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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North Forest Campus, 6010 Little York Rd.

Northline Campus, 8001 Fulton Rd.

Pinemont Center, 1265 Pinemont

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(includes one serving)

Serving Time:

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GRAND PRIZE!

North Shore Rotary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Winners need not be present to win. Payment of all taxes, duties & national items, fee title & license will be the responsibility of the winners.

Automobile Courtesy of Community Toyota 47011-110 East Fwy., Baytown, TX 77521. Photos may not represent exact vehicle or selected equipment. No refund will be made due to car or lack of food.

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