NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 3, NO. 16 (#71)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

www.northchannelstar.com



CHANNEL CHATTER

CIP Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015 from 5:45 pm to 8:15 p.m. At Alvin Baggett Recreation Build-ing, 1302 Keene in Galena Park. Call 281-326-5253 for more in-

North Shore Annual Fish Fry - May 16

TISI I FI Y - MCdY I D

The 40 th Annual North Shore
Rotary Catfish Fry, Crawfish Boil &
Auction will be held Saturday May
16 th at the North Shore Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville Road(behind the
Fonteno Courthouse Annex).
Live a uction be gins at
12:30pm. See any North Shore Rotarian for med (\$10) or raffe tickets (\$100 -; Grand Prize is Toyota
Truck). Contact Event Chairman
Mike Williams at 713-560-2810 for
more information.

Fiesta Dance

North Shore Seniors will hold a Fiesta Dance Thursday, May 14 from 1 - 4 pm at Grayson/Baldree Bldg.,

1 - 4 pin at Grayson Corpus Christi. Live band and refreshments. Only \$ 5/per person. For more in-formation, call 713-455-3660.

Channelview ISD launches free Mobile App

Mobile App

The latest news and information from schools in Channelview ISD and on wardiable on smartphones and mobile devices with a new mobile app launched this week.

The district has partnered with SchoolWires to expand its communications outreach with a mobile app that is now available in the online iTunes® and Google Play® app stores for free.

The Channelview ISD mobile app will offer a constantly updated feed of district news and events with photos and links to the district's mobile responsive website. The app can also be customized by the user by selecting the schools they are most interested in for news and updates.

Users can also choose to re-

they are most interested into mean and updates.

Users can also choose to receive push notifications to get breaking news and updates about school closures, calendar changes, or even sports updates.

"We know that our students are more successful in schools when parents are engaged in their learning and school activities," said Greg Oilis, Superintendent of Chanpelivew ISD. "With our new mobile app, parents and community memapp, parents and community mem-bers can stay connected with our schools and with the activities our students are engaged in every day." Parents and the public are en-

Parents and the public are en-couraged to download this free mobile app to their smartphones by following the instructions below. To download on your mobile: Visit the App Store® on your Apple Device or the Google Play Store® for Androids. - Search "Schoolwires" or Chan-nelview ISD. Then select the Channelview

nelview ISD
Then select the Channelview
ISD App for FREE download
Important Notes:
You will need to know your
Apple or Google account password. Enter it when prompted.
When downloading on Apple, please enter your Apple ID
when prompted.

when prompted.

If you are prompted to give a choolwires User ID, click the "Skip his Step" link at the bottom of the

page.

· For iPad users, they will need to search for it under the iPhone

EPA report on Waste Pits indicates more studies prior to decision

Channelview, South *Impoundment* included in reports

CHANNELVIEW - After a CHANNELVIEW – After a series of meetings over the last two years that have taken place in Highlands, the federal EPA agency decided to expand the audience by holding the latest meeting last Thursday evening in Channelview, at the Flukinger Community Center.

There were several obvious reasons for this change in venue. One, the study area has now been expanded to include the South Impoundment below I-10, which is closer to the Channelview residents. Two,

See WASTE PITS, page 6



EPA Staff Member Gary Miller, points to a chart that explains the many steps that are required to study and process a Superfund Site before any action can be taken on the ground.

San Jacinto College Chancellor speaks at North Channel luncheon

NORTH CHANNEL – The Monument Room at San Jacinto College North was packed with students, teachers, and guests wanting to hear the San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, a favorite educator and leader of that institution.

In her keynote talke, Dr. Hellyer gave a status report on the college, and then went on to describe the changes taking place in education and at San Jac, and her vision of the future of the institution and education in general.

ture of the institution and education in general.

She said that the college now has about 30,000 students, of which 8300 are at SJ North. Continued growth has spurred a building program, including a new library and a new Center for Industry & Technology, under construcnew Center for Industry & Technology under construc-tion on the North campus. San Jac serves 6 of the surround-



KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. BRENDA HELLYER, second from right, joins in congratulating the San Jacinto College Outstanding Educator, Amy Ammerman, with Mike Williams of the North Channel Chamber, and Dan Mims of the San Jacinto College Board.

ONE MAN'S BODY FOUND IN BURNED CAR

Police investigating link between two bodies found in NE Houston



DEPUTIES INVESTIGATE burned car with body of dead man, found at John Ralston and Tidwell Road in Northeast Houston.

NORTHEAST - Sheriff's deputies are investigating a man's body that was found in a burned car, at John Ralston and Tidwell Road in Northeast and Tidwell Road in Northeast Houston. The incident was re-ported at about 4 a.m. on Fri-day morning, May 1. The car is a silver Infiniti, found off the road about 300

feet, in a wooded area near a canal. The body was apparently in the car before it was torched, deputies said.

Later in the day, deputies said they answered a call about 14 miles away from the scene, at a trail in Meadow-brook Park in the Channelview area. Here a dead man

was found, with a bullet shot to his head.

Deputies said they believe the two incidents are connect-ed, but they did not explain why. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sher-iff's homicide department, at 713-274-9100 or Crime Stop pers at 713-222-TIPS (8477)

Galena Park Charter Amendments

Election Day Saturday, May 9, 2015 7am to 7pm

To the Registered Voters of Galena Park:

The City Charter has not been updated since 1979, more than thirty-five (35) years ago. Many of the articles in the City Charter are outdated and should be brought up to current standards. The City Council appointed a Charter Review Commission of fifteen (15) citizens to study and recommend updates to our Charter. The Charter Review Commission studied the charter along with many other small Texas cities and submitted their suggestions to the City Council. The City Council approved the recommended Charter Amendments to be submitted to the voters of Galena Park for consideration.

Our Special Charter Election will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to submit to the qualified voters of the City of Galena Park, Texas, various propositions for amending the City Charter. Please refer to www.cityofgalenapark.tx.gov for the full Notice of Election.

PROPOSITION NO. 1
Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide

PROPOSITION NO. 3
Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS regarding the appointment, qualifi Chief and Fire Marshal.

PROPOSITION NO.4

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to establish a Police Department and the office of Police Chief and to prescribe the qualifications and duties for that office.

PROPOSITION NO. 5 Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide

PROPOSITION NO 6.

Amend the Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide for three year terms for Mayor and Council Members; provide for staggered terms of office and to provide for term limits.

PROPOSITION NO. 7

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide rules for determining when a position on the governing body becomes vacant or is forfeited, for the removal of members of the governing body for misconduct, and for filling vacancies that occur.

PROPOSITION NO. 8 Amend the CITY Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide for emergency and public council meetings at locations other than City Hall. PROPOSITION NO. 9

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to require the city Charter of the City Of GALENA PARK, TEXAS to require the company of the city o

PROPOSITION NO. 10

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide for a city manager form of government where the city council appoints a qualified professional to manage the day-to-day operations of the City, to create the office of City Manager, and to prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.

PROPOSITION NO. 11
Amending the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide for the appointment of the City Attorney and to prescribe the duties and qualifications of the City Attorney.

PROPOSITION NO. 12
Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to define the power of the Mayor.

PROPOSITION NO. 13
Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to permit all Council Members to participate in administrative oversight of the City and the City Manager.

PROPOSITION NO. 14

Amending the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to require a veto be signed by two Council Members and deleting an obsolete reference.

PROPOSITION NO. 15

Amend the CITY Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide rules against the hirring of employees who are closely related to members PROPOSITION NO. 16
Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide the City's citizens with the rights of initiative and referendum and recall.

PROPOSITION NO.17

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide the City's citizens with the right to petition for the amendment of the City Charter.

PROPOSITION NO 18

Amend the City Charter of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS to provide

Precinct 208
Polling Place:
City Hall 2000 Clinton Drive
Galena Park, Texas 77547

Precinct 81
Polling Place:
Alvin D. Baggett Community Building
1302 Keene Street
Galena Park, Texas 77547

Ms. Mayra Gonzale:

For questions or additional information please call the City Secretary's office at (713) 672-2556.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rep. Babin hosts open house at Deer Park district office



A ribbon cutting for the new office took place in Deer Park last Monday

Deer Park, TX — U.S.Representative Brian Babin (TX-36) held an open house on Monday at his Deer Park District Office to welcome constituents and highlight the many services offered by his congressional office. Babin explained to the crow that providing quality constituent services is one of his top priorities and that he has an experienced staff ready to assist local residents.

"I want our constituents to know that we are here to serve them in any way we can," said Rep. Babin. "Whether someone needs help with a federal agency, are trying to find information on federal grants, or are considering applying to a military service academy, our congressional office is here to help. We work under an open door policy and we welcome

any opportunity to assist our constituents and support our local communities."

Constituents needing help with Social Security, Medicare, veterans benefits, disability issues, or any other federal program, can visit the Deer Park District Office at 203 lvy Avenue, Suite 600, Deer Park, TX 77536, or call at (832) 780-0966 for more information.



Rep. Babin talks about the services they can help with



The Crosby Lions Club invites you to

When: Saturday, May 9, 2015 Where: American Legion Hall-Crosby, TX Time: 6:00 p.m. Tickets \$20

(Ticket includes entry, soft drink, food and \$20 in betting money) Extra betting money available- \$1 for \$1, or \$20 for \$25

Auction will follow races



Tickets will be available at the door. Come join us for an evening of FUN!

Ladies - we will be holding a Best Kentucky Derby Hat contest so wear your finest!

Thank you to our sponsors **United Community Credit Union** Friendly Ford Turner Chevrolet Ace Electric Community Bank of Texas Crosby Office Supplies Bayshore Dodge Wal-Mart Peso's

Please contact Bert Baker by phone (281-686-9218) or email (crosbylionsclub@gmail.com) for more details

Alliance hosts customers and car show



Tatum MacNa



Rayford Langston brought his wife and a 1916 Model T Ford Roadster, the ca that put America on Wheels for second place.



Raymond St. Julian took third with this Chevy.



With approved credit. See dealer for details. While supplies last. Photos for illustrative purpose. Offers end 5/30/15. On oldest 10% of inventory as of 5/1/15 while stock lasts. Not available with special finance, lease or ome other offers 1, 2015 Sonic LTSTK# F4112196 MSRP 1827:00.0 14995.00 sale price. 3. 2015 Mailbu LS STI F7128167, MSRP 23525.00 19665.00 sale price stik# E/142425 (2. 2015 Traverse LS MSRP \$32245.00 \$26736.00 sale price. stik# F2160473 (5. 2015 Silverado Double Cabs. MSRP 3957.00 92075 Dealer discount 1500.00 REBATE 500.00 Farm Bursua Member 750.00 USAA Member 750.00 Bonus Cash 1000.00 DPA Must Finance W. ALLY,GM FIN or Wells Fargo WAF. \$1000.00 Texas Edit. Bonus. — 750.00 Package Discount Included in MSRP Sale Price \$31,995. STIK #F2103400 6.) 2015 Equinox LS MSRP \$25530.00 \$20950.00 Sale Price. Offer ends 5/30/15. Not all buyers will qualify.

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COMMUNITY, SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

North Channel Library events

-Saturday, May 9, ASK a Lawyer, 11 - 19:30 pm. Tuesday, May 12, 10:30 am, For the Children; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time. -Wed., May 13, 4:30 pm, Strings Attached. -Thur., May 14, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 pm, Mee Teen Program. COMPITER C 1ASSES.

Intermediate Word, Lecture, May 11, 1-3 pm. Intermediate Word, Practice, May

13, 1-3 pm

-Interineciate Word, Practice, May 13, 1-3 pm - Registration required. CLASES DE COMPUTACION -Intermedio Word, Lectura, Mayo 12, 10-12 pm. -Introducción a Email, Parte 1, Mayo 6, 6-7-45 p.m. - Se requiere registración. Library is located at 15741 Wal-lisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information

Galena Park Library events

-May 11, Monday, 3:30 pm, Teen Time.

Time.

-May 13, Wed., 11 am, Story Time;

1 pm, Raton y teclado; 3:30 pm,

Mouse & Keyboard.

-May 14, Thur., 11 am, Baby Time;

3:30 pm, Asian Paper Fan Craft.

Please call the library at 713-450
0982 for more details.

The library is located at 1500

Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

SATURDAY NIGHTS The Buckshot lamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Satutday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

2nd & 4th THURSDAY San Jacinto Pilot **Club** meeting

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

GARAGE SALE First Baptist Church @ North Channel. May 16, 2015, 8 am - 1 pm. 13817 Force Street.

GALENA PARK ISD:

Students succeed at Junior VASE

On Saturday, May 2, Galena Park Middle School had a group of talented students participate in the Junior VASE (Visual Arts Scholastic Event) art competition. Junior VASE competitions differ from many other art competitions in that students not only submit artwork, they also interview with judges about the inspiration behind the piece and the process with which it was created. Upon interviewing students and judging their artwork, the judges bestow a score to each student. This is a four-point scale where 1 is average, 2 is good, 3 is excellent and 4 is superior. Only a rating of Superior receives a Gold Medal. Of the 10 artworks entered, 9 received a Superior rating and carned a gold medal. "These students worked hard all year. What's exciting is, not only did their artwork receive accolades, but their interviews went extremely well too. The judges were impressed with their skills and knowledge," said Wesley Frey, GPMS art teacher.



Ernesto Resendiz, 2 Gold Medals; Anthony Maldonado, 1 Gold Medal; Marcela Banda-Estrada, 1 Gold Medal; Maria Cortes, 1 Gold Medal and The Silver Medallion; Hunter Blake, 2 Gold Medals; Guadalupe Lombera, 2 Gold Medals.

One of the students, Maria Cortes, was also presented a Silver Medallion, which is the highest honor a student can re-ceive at this event. The Silver

Medallion represents the judges' favorite artworks chosen from the gold medal winners - the best of the best and very few are given

Toshiba donates to De Zavala Elementary

De Zavala Elementary in Channelview ISD recently received a donation of many items from Toshiba that will be used in the classroom. Proudly showing some of the Toshiba Tablet PCs, bags and other school supplies received were students Jayden Deskins, left, Luis Martinez, Jail Lara, Rosalva Gracia and Miriam Sanchez. Standing in back are De Zavala Principal Manuel Escalante and Michael Springs from Toshiba.

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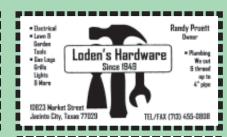




EILEEN BRIGHTWELL, DDS

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North Channel * STAR

Printing Department -713-977-2555



CHANNELVIEW ISD:

Winning T-Shirt design



The first-ever Gifted and Talented T-Shirt Contest was recently held The first-ever Gifted and Talented T-Shirt Contest was recently held for all elementary GT students in Channelview ISD. The GT Advisory Committee members judged all entries submitted by each of the seven campuses. Irene Nichols, a fifth grader at Hamblen Elementary School, was the clear winner with her colorful design of reaching to the stars, with her theme, "GT-Explore with us!" Irene is shown here after she was presented the first shirt by district coordinators Pam alter size was presented the linst shift by district coordinators rain Latiolais, left, and Heather Gilpin. Irene was very excited to see her design come to life. All students in the GT program received a shirt the next day compliments of the district.

GALENA PARK ISD

Educators of the month



Tammy Calaway (left), curriculum instructional coach at Shirley J. Williamson Elementary, and Ajani Euryspthee (right), special education teacher at Galena Park Middle School, have been named North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Educators of the Month for April. Both teachers affect students' lives, encouraging and influencing them to do their best, do the right thing, and never give up.



NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

House approves Rep. Babin Amendment to restrict administration's dealings with Iran

Washington, DC –The U.S. House of Representa-tives last night approved an amendment offered by Rep. Brian Babin to prohibit nuclear nonproliferation funds from being used in contracts with Iran unless the country is Iran unless the country is required to stop the pursuit and development of nuclear weapons. Babin's amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act (H.R. 2028) passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Bahin amendment The Babin amendment to the Department of Energy's Defense Department nuclear nonproliferation program states very clearly that, "None of the funds ... may be made available to enter into new contracts with, or new agreements for Federal assistance to the Islamic assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran except for contracts or agreements

that require the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease the pursuit, acquisition, and development of nuclear weapons technology.

"This is one more effort among many that is needed and will help us rein in an Adminstration that seems fully committed to agreeing to a bad deal with Iran, which will in my view lead the world down the dangerous path to a nuclear Iran," said Rep. Babin. "I believe Congress must do everything it can to stop a bad deal with Iran and my amendment is one more tool in our toolbag to help "This is one more effort tool in our toolbag to help us do just that."

The Energy and Water Appropriations Act (H.R. 2028) passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 240-177.

school districts and all other taxing jurisdictions) to justify the necessity of a tax increase on notices and election ballots.

• It allows a court

• it allows a court hearing on appraisal dispute to give preference to the testimony of an independent licensed appraiser.

• And, requires the Texas Comptroller to compile and annually publish a ranked list of tax rates by entity; deter-ring tax rate increases.

An amendment by Senator Paul Bettencourt was also added to this bill requiring a local government have a 60% vote of the governing body instead of the current 50% if they wish to increase

CAPITAL UPDATE

By Sen. Brandon Creighton

Under the Dome

Property Tax Relief (SB 1760): Standing strong for taxpayer rights was a promise I made to the citizens of Senate District

citizens of Senate District
4. My signature property
tax relief legislation, SB
1760, levels the playing
field for Texas Taxpayers.
I'm thankful my Senate
colleagues voted to pass
this landmark legislation
yesterday.

Below are a few high-lights of the bill:

• Taxpayers due a refund will no longer have to apply to receive it.

· It provides interest rate equality for taxpayers by increasing the interest rate on refunds due to

• It requires local taxing entities (applies to

taxpavers to 9.5%.



House, Senate produce disparate versions of tax relief

AUSTIN — Legislation approved by the House and Senate last week reveal widely differing views on how to bring about tax relief to Texans in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Speaker Joe Straus lauded the preliminary approach

the preliminary approval of House Bill 31, legislation to reduce the state sales tax from reduce the state sales tax from 6.25 percent to 5.95 percent, resulting in a \$2.66 billion revenue decrease, and House Bill 32, legislation cutting the franchise tax paid by many businesses by 25 percent and resulting in a statewide revue decrease of \$2.56 billion. Both bills were written by House Ways and Means Chair Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, along with several members credited as coauthors.

The bills, in combination,

The bills, in combination are intended to provide a form of tax relief that would be inof tax relief that would be insulated from the powers of local taxing entities and appraisal districts. Straus said the House "looks forward to a productive conversation with the Senate about how best to deliver results on this issue and the many others that matter to our economy and to Texas families."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, on the other hand, praised the Senate's preliminary approval of

ate's preliminary approval of Senate Bill 1760 authored by Freshman Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe. "Sen. Creighton's bill gives home-owners the ability to hold loowners the ability to hold local government accountable for the demands they place on taxpayers," Patrick said, and called the measure "another step in an overall plan to reduce property taxes for homeowners and businesses."

SB 1760 would, if adopted by the House in its present form:

form:
- Remove the requirement that taxpayers due a refund have to apply for it;
- Increase the interest rate on refunds due to taxpayers to

9.5 percent;
- Require local taxing enti-

Require local taxing entities to justify the necessity of a tax increase on notices and election ballots;
 Allow a court hearing an appraisal dispute to give preference to the testimony of an independent licensed appraiser:

Require the state comp-Require the state comp-troller to compile and annual-ly publish a ranked list of tax rates by entity; and
 Require a local govern-mental body that wishes to exceed the effective tax rate to

Saturday, May 16
Old Orchard Park * Diboll, TX

Contest, Kids Area, Arts & Crafts, Mexican Food, Folklorico Dancers, Mariachi Band, Washers Tour-

ent, Volleyball Tournament and lots more. For booth information or for more information, call 936-829-4888 or email dibollcivic@consolidated.n

We're searching for the best tamales for our Tamale Cooking Contest.

Tamale Eating Contest, Pepper Eating

HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

STATE CAPITAL



first have a vote of at least 60 percent of the governing body in support of the tax increase.

Bills aim to retool certification Speaker Straus on April 27 welcomed the House's passage of HB 6, HB 7 and House Joint Resolution 111, measures that

of Hb 6, Hb 7 and House Joint Resolution 111, measures that work together toward undoing the state's practice of using general revenue-dedicated balances for certifying other parts of the state budget.

"For more than two decades the state increasingly collected billions of dollars in fees for one purpose, but then used that money instead to certify spending in other areas of the budget," Straus explained in a news release from his office. "The House began working to end that practice almost three years ago, and in the 2013 seesion, the Legislature reduced the use of dedicated funds for budget certification by nearly idget certification by nearly

\$1 billion.
"This session, the House is well on its way to reducing that amount even further, from \$4.5 billion to \$2.9 billion. And if voters approve HJR 111, which the House passed today, we will end this practice altogether in the coming years."

Senate approves ethics bill

on April 28, the Senate approved SB 19, an omnibus bill that includes multiple initiatives from the governor's emergency item on ethics reform.
Written by freshman Sen.

Van Taylor, R-Dallas, the bill expands personal financial statement reporting require-ments for each state officer, elected official or candidate to

ments for each state officer, elected official or candidate to include the disclosure of written contracts for goods or services with governmental entities if the aggregate value of those contracts exceeds \$10,000 per reporting year.

SB 19 also contains various provisions to curb perceived conflicts of interest, such as a prohibition against a person who is registered as a lobbyist from serving in elective office unless that person is an elected officer for a political subdivision with a population of 150,000 or less, or the presiding officer of a political subdivision of 50,000 or less, provided they do not receive a salary or wage from the political subdivision.

Texas to reciprocate
with Ohio
Gov. Greg Abbott on April
28 issued an official proclamation that the state of Texas
now recognizes valid concealed handgun licenses issued on or after March 23,
2015 by the state of Ohio as
long as Ohio licensees comply
with all Texas laws rules and with all Texas laws, rules and regulations governing the use and carrying of concealed

LETTERS To the Editor

CHS Project Graduation Class of 2015

The 2015 Crosby Cougar Senior Class is counting on

The Crosby High School The Crosby High School Preject Graduation Organization is concerned about the abuse of alcohol and drugs among young adults. They are especially concern about the use of substances to celebrate special events such as their high school graduation. We wish to show our students there is a way to students there is a way to celebrate without imitation

highs.

This year, the Cougars again join numerous communities across America in providing an all-night, chemical-free partyy for graduating seniors as an alternative to the traditional drinking parties. Project Graduation has been proven as a better way for graduates to celebrate. It not only will keep our young adults off the to celebrate. It not only will keep our young adults off the streets and possibly prevent a tragedy, but also will send a powerful message that their community cares about them.

them.

One of the most difficult aspects of Project Graduation is raising the large amount of fuding ams prizes necessary to make such a large scale event successful. We have found that many of the expenses necessary for the expenses necessary for the expenses necessary for the event are apid well in advance of the graduation event, so it is a tremendous help to us to be able to know that contributions will be coming in so the budget cen be ket on track. The time for contributing to this outstanding event is now, as we are incurring some of the heaviest expenses with entertainment, food and prizes. If you are unable to contribute at this time but could contribute prior to the event, please contact us with what you will be able to donate and we will follow up later. One of the most difficult

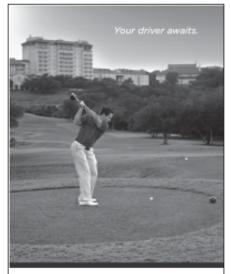
later.

Please consider supporting this year's event which will be held graduation night, June 2, 2015. Donations can be made to Crosby High School Project Graduation Class of 2015 and are tax deductible as allowed by law. To make donations, please contact Carrie Jackson: cjackson@crosbyisd.org.

Monetary donations, prize

Monetary donations, prize items, and gift certificates all make great donations!

Thank you for your apport!



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and the

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LIFESTYLE

CHURCH LISTINGS

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby. 832-661-

9693. APOSTOLIC CHURCH • First Apostolic Church of High-lands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633
Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516
 First Assembly of God, 406 N.
Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170
 Gospel Lighth

spel Lighthouse, 8218 John Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

Martin Hd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST
- Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman
Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-3243409
- Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal
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Matthew Baptist Church, 119 lity, Houston, TX. 713-674-

Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-67-0062.
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Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 102 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.
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Cinco de Mayo Celebration

udents at De Zavala Elementary enjoy celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Pictured are (1 to r) Ariana Valencia, Michael Muratalla, Keatyn Ward, Eduardo Zepeda, Teana Smith and Patrick Amos.

Photo by Mima Trujillo



Bobby Gene Mott



Bobby Gene Mott, 55, of Houston, Texas, passed from this life on April 26, 2015. Bobby was born Sep-tember 12, 1959 in Paris, Arkansas to parents, Rob-ert Scott and Anna Bell Mott. He made a living as a diesel mechanic in the Sheldon area.

He is survived by his best He is survived by his best friend and partner, Patsy Harris; by sons, Michael Mott and Chris Mott; by grandchildren, Vanessa Mott and Aaron Mott; by

OBITUARIES

step-children, Billy & Haley Munsinger; and by sisters, Tracey McKamie; Mary Goff and Louise Terry; by brothers, Jimmy Mott and Robert Mott.

He is preceded in death by his parents, by one sister, Joyce Goff and by stepdaughter & stepgrandchild, Shonda & Brandon Munsinger.

Memorial Somiage 2019

grandchild, Shonda & Brandon Munsinger.
Memorial Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 10, 2015 at Just Connie's, 17940 Hwy. 90, Houston, Texas where Boby will be remembered by family and friends. Lunch will be provided by friends at Just Connie's.

> Carter Funeral Home, Inc. 13701 Corpus Christi St. Houston TX 77015 713/455-5100

Dell Ray Skrabanek

Dell Ray Skrabanek, 51, was born on February 26, 1964 in Pasadena, Texas and passed away March 31, 2015. A graveside service was held on April 4, 2015 at the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery in Patillo, Tex-as. Dell Ray is survived in death by his parents, Marlyn Dell Hancock and Raymond Dell Hancock and Raymond Skrabanek, daughter Sara Marie Skrabanek, son Tyler Ray Skrabanek, granddaugther Fayth Marie Conroy, grandmother Ruby Skrabanek, girlfriend Vickey Roome, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, loving family and friends, especially Jeff Ellis and Jamie Browing.

Browing.

Dell Ray was loved by all and will be forever remembered as a caring person. May you ride peacefully with the Angels in Heaven.

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CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

EPA Reports on SJR Waste Pits,

Continued from Page 1

the EPA wanted to be sure the residents on the west side of the San Jacinto River were made aware of the dangers of fishing and recreation in the immediate area next to the Waste Pits. And three, the Superfund Process is long and slow, and this change in venue makes it seem like more is happening than really is.

The audience, partially from Channelview and many from Highlands, listened to

from Channelview and many from Highlands, listened to EPA staff Gary Miller, Donn Walters, and facilitator Mary Jane Naquin, give an update on the status of the process. Also present at the meeting, observing but not speaking, were the Harris County Dept. of Health, and staff from TCEQ.

CEQ.
Miller showed slides, which included a short history of how the wastes got to the site and when, and then a short disser-tation on the types of toxins that could be found in the soil

that could be found in the soil at the site, mainly dioxins and furans, with PCBs in some areas. He made the point for the new members in the audience, that dioxins are known carcinogens, and do not deteriorate with age.

He showed that the waste pits were now covered with a temporary "cap" consisting of a geo-membrane, with a rock fill on top to hold it in place. This cap is what the PRP, or responsible parties, want to call permanent, but many including the San Jacinto River Coalition and the Galveston Bay Foundation, feel is not a satisfactory solution.

Miller reported that the

Coalition and the Galveston Bay Foundation, feel is not a satisfactory solution.

Miller reported that the Draft Report on a solution to the Waste Pit problem, including storm studies and engineering criteria by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, due in April, has been delayed until June due to a computer crash, and then it will not be available to the public until fall, probably August. A government Superfund Review Board is meeting this month, he said, to evaluate the proposed solutions. After that, a final Report will be issued in December.

Miller said the temporary cap is performing properly,

with no leaks and no subsidence seen in the monitoring that has been done.

with no leaks and no subsidence seen in the monitoring that has been done.

The Final Report is expected to recomment one of the six Alternate Solutions that have been identified, ranging from leaving the cap intact with no further action, to a complete removal of the toxic materials.

This last solution, which is expected to cost \$92 million dollars and take 16 months to complete, is favored by many local residents, and activist Jackie Young, who has been the spokesperson for much of the grass roots public activity. Young was a resident of Highlands until her family got sick from the water, and they moved. She remains active with the TexansTogether association, and the San Jacinto River Association.

The EPA representatives than passed a microphone to the audience members, asking for opinions and questions. Donn Walters emphasized that public input is an import aspect of evaluating the final decision on disposition of the waste pits.

ating the final decision on disposition of the waste pits.

Pamela Barta, mother of Jackie Young, questioned why the state or county can't test the wells for toxins. She noted that since the 2004 flood and 2008 hurricane Katrina. and 2008 hurri-cane Katrina, much of the riv-er sediment has been pushed upstream, pre-sumably affectsumably affect-ing water tables and wells. Anec-dotedly she said that she knows of 8 people that have died in her H i g h l a n d s neighborhood in 2014 presumneighborhood in 2014, presum-ably from toxic

there are over 300 chemicals present in the water and soils in the area. Oysters taken in Burnet Bay, downstream not far from the site, tested high for types of dioxins.

Jim Stouhal, from Highlands, asked whether the large amount of barge traffic that has recently entered the river near the waste pits, has affected the cap or the spread of toxins. Gary Miller said that no erosion or migration has shown up in current tests.

Miller pointed out that the study area now includes what is called the South Impoundment, an area south of I-10 near the Southwest Shipyards. He said that so far only one of 3 sites in this impoundment has shown paper mill wastes, and therefore they are still trying to determine the PRP, or "Potential Responsible Party." The site also include oily waste, making them different from the sites in the North Impoundment.



Dumping in South Impoundment 1965



Location Map North & South sites



Channelview UIL students earn medals

Erica Villarreal, left, took first place in the Ready Writing category at the University Interscholastic League Academic/Debate Meet and is advancing to the Regional competition later this month. Fellow team member Abraham Elizarraras, right, also had a good showing at the district event, placing sixth at the event.

Aguirre students sweep Junior VASE art competition



Ashlev Aquilar proudly shows her artwork that earned superior Ashiey Aguilar Joudny shows her arrived that earlied superi honors at the University Interscholastic League's Junior Visual / Scholastic Event (VASE) competition. She was one of 12 Aguil students that earned the highest ratings at the event.

Twelve Aguirre Junior High students earned superior ratings at the 2015 University Interscho-lastic League's Junior Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) compe-

tition.
Capturing top honors at the event were eighth grade students Ashley Aguilar, Sumaiya Alam, Haleigh Burton, Genesis Dotting, Julissa Garcias, Micah Micarandayo and Salma Tellez. Additional gold medalists were seventh

graders Karolynne Muniz, Angela Martinez, Luz Torres and sixth graders Desiree Lewis and Olivia Villagomez.

The students were taught by Aguirre art teachers Nelly Casper and Vivan Soto.

The students were not only judged for their artwork, but they were also interviewed about their work, including their uses of the elements and principles of art.

"All of our students worked extremely hard on creating their masterpieces," Casper said. "They also did a fantastic job in articulating their artwork to the judges."



Frances Louise Strahan



Houston - Frances Lou-

Houston - Frances Louise Strahan, 78, passed away Monday, May 4, 2015. Funeral - Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 A.M. Friday at St. Dominic Catholic Church, 8215 Reservoir Dr. Houston, T.X. 77049. Internment: Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Nacogdoches County, T.X. on Saturday at 2 P.M. Visitation: The family will receive friends beginning at 5:00P.M. Thursday at Advantage Howard-Glendale, 1015 Federal Road Houston, T.X. 77015, with a rosary beginning at 7:30 P.M. Memorials - Should friends desire, memorials in lieu of flowers may be given to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and Cemetery P.O. Box 241 Chireno, T.X. 75937. Frances was born September 15, 1936, in Nacogdoches County, T.X. where she graduated from Chireno High School. She took some business course work and worked for Pan American Insurance Com-

work and worked for Pan American Insurance Com

work and worked for Fan
American Insurance Company for 9 years.
Frances was a member of
St. Dominic Catholic
Church. She was a devoted
wife, mother, grand-mother, daughter, sister, aunt
and was always willing to
lend a hand to help anyone.
Survivors - Husband of
nearly 52 years, Nelson,
Daughter Denise, Son-inlaw Kent, Daughter-in-law
Heather, Grandchildren
Heath, Christopher, Helena
and Gene, one Sister
Marjorie and two Brother
in-laws Howard and Gene,
numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws Howard and Gene, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Proceeded in death by Parents James and Lucy, Parents-in-law C.C. and Effie, Brothers Dennis, Louis, James Carl, Norbert Sidney, and John William, Son Gregory, Sisters-in-law Jeanie, Catherine, Nadine, and Gerry, Brothers-in-law Ralph and Ed, nephews James Leonard, Byron and David.

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NORTH CHANNEL STAR



Chamber luncheon, Continued from page 1

ing school districts, including Galena Park, Sheldon, Channelview, LaPorte, Pasadena, and Deer Park.

Of the present students, 49% are Hispanic, and 70% are part-time. Many of them are first generation college bound in their family. However, she said "Our job is to help our students succeed."

Current programs which

er, she said "Our job is to help our students succeed."

Current programs which she detailed include an accelerated Math program, and MECA, or Modified Early College Academy, for high school students who then get college credit. She said they now have two of these programs in place, with more to come, including Galena Park ISD.

Hellyer said that last year, the college granted 5222 Associate Degrees or Certificates, and of these 4500 transfered to a 4 year program.

transfered to a 4 year program.

In today's academic world, there is a culture change, she said, and students want credentials, to go on to higher education or a better job.

San Jacinto College is one of the most affordable colleges, with costs for a year of \$1690. The tax rate for property owners is .1856/\$100 valuation.

uation.
San Jac takes all students that apply, 100%, and that is



DR. BRENDA HELLYER

part of the challenge for a Community College.
Popular programs at SJC include STEM, Petrochem courses, autobody, and Nursing. The college also works closely with the Texas Workforce program, and the Port of Houston. They have a unique Maritime program, and soon a new building to house it.
New construction on all

new building to house it.

New construction on all
campuses is part of a \$295
million bond progam passed in
2008. There may be a new
bond issue in November of this
year, to meet growth needs.

Included in the future is a
branch at Generation Park of
Beltway East.

Hallwar is metabing action.

Hellyer is watching action at the Texas Legislature, with 4 year bachelor programs of interest, as well as Campus Carry and the Dream Act.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

IN RE: JONATHAN DAVID METZNER, d.o.b. 11/04/08

JAMES MADDOX and wife MARGARET MADDOX,

Petitio

Docket No. V-15-084_

LESLIE METZNER. AND
JONATHAN BLAKE,
Responder/Father

It appearing from the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights in this cause that the address and domicile of the Respondents, LESLIE METZNER and JONATHAN BLAKE, is unknown and cannot be ascertained so that ordinary process cannot be served upon the Respondent.

It is therefore ordered that the Respondent, LESLIE METZNER It is therefore ordered that the Respondent, LESLIE METZNER and JONATHAN BLAKE, will appear and make defense within thirty (30) days to the Petition, or the same will be taken for confessed as to default and set for hearing ex parte. If there is no answer, a hearing will be held on the 22nd day of July, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Failure to answer or appear may result in termination of the Respondents' parental rights to the child referenced above.

A copy of this order and notice of hearing shall be published for four consecutive weeks in the Highlands Star, a newspaper published in Huffman, Texas, the last known residence for the Respondents, LESLIE METZNER and JONATHAN BLAKE.

Within that time Respondents are required to serve a copy of their

Within that time Respondents are required to serve a copy of their pleadings upon Philip M. Jacobs, Petitioners' Attorney whose address is P.O. BOX 191, 30 Second Street, NW, Cleveland, TN 37364-0191.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Community's strong show of support fuels record-setting Relay For Life

If there's strength in num-rs, then cancer might have

bers, then cancer might have met its match.

The Relay for Life-Houston North Channel's "Carnival of Hope" brought in record crowds, participation and fundraising totals, as more than \$127,000 was raised toward the American Cancer Society's cancer research efforts. The grand fundraising total is expected to increase by the time the Relay calendar year ends on Aug. 31.

Thousands of community supporters passed through the gates of the North Shore High School Ninth Grade Campus track at the annual event May 1. In addition, 54 teams had campsites around the track and over 175 cancer survivors participated in the ceremonies.

"Because of our outstanding

participated in the ceremonies.

"Because of our outstanding teams and community, we have far surpassed our goals," said Darcy Blackstock, event co-chair. "We have received so much feedback about record amount of teams, survivors and participants. This is truly a blessing and a great reflection of our community giving back."

Carnival-themed special events, games, music and food

events, games, music and took added to the night's lively atmosphere. Briggs Equipment was this year's Event Sponsor and the North Shore Rotary Club and Chic-Fil-A were Gold Sponsors. Dow Emergency Center was a Silver Sponsor, while LyondellBasell Industries and Dependable Diesel were Bronze Sponsors. East Houston Regional Medical Center and Electro-Quip were Signature Sponsors. The San Jacinto Pilot Club was a Specialty Underwriter for the event and Kroger and Borden's were In-Kind Sponsors. At dusk, the Luminaria Ceremony was held to remember those who valiantly fought events, games, music and food added to the night's lively at-

Ceremony was held to remember those who valiantly fought the fight, those who continue to fight and those who have lost their battle with cancer. Guests at the Relay purchased bags and designed them in memory or in honor of a family member or friend and the bag was placed around the track. As the stadium lights went dark, candles inside were lit for the ceremony.



More than 175 cancer survivors participated in the Survivor's Lap at the Relay for Life-Houston North Channel.



Cancer survivors are greeted onto the track through a spirit line of many supporters at the Relay for Life-Houston North Channel at the North Shore High School Ninth Grade Campus Track on May 1.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear North Channel Star,

Those who staged the event and all the volun derful.

But what really impressed me were all the schowere a big part of it all. They were awesome!

May God richly Bless Them all!!

D.B. Radican Corpus Christi St.

Special event chairpersons for Relay led those in atten-dance in a variety of fun ac-tivities throughout the night, including the "Fight Back" cer-emony at midnight. Closing

ceremonies were held as time edged the end of the event at 1 a.m.

For more information on Relay for Life, please log on to www.relayforlife.org/north-channalty





