

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

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MAY 7, 2014

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CHANNEL CHATTER

Jacinto City's Annual Tire Round Up

On Saturday, May 10 from 8 am until 3 pm, City crews will pick up tires from residences. This is the only time during the year when tires will be picked up. There is a limit of 4 tires per address, no large truck tires and no rims may be on wheels or rims of any sort. To insure pick-up, tires must be curbside by 8 am.



North Channel Job Fair, May 19

Congressman Green invites Texans to the 12th Annual North Channel Job Fair next Monday, May 19th at San Jacinto College North-Monument Room, 5800 Uvalde, Houston, TX 77049 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

"We're glad to host this event every year," Green said. "It's a great way to connect people with good, quality employers. It's also an opportunity for them to learn about different openings, and a good starting place for young people looking for summer jobs."

This job fair is being held in conjunction with Workforce Solutions-North Shore and the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from 40 local businesses will be participating and will be hiring full-time, part-time and summer employees. Participating employers include: City of Houston, Boasso America Corporation, CVS-Caremark, Southwest Shipyard, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, Mission Foods, Gulf Stream Marine, Allied Barton, LG Hospitality, Unites States Steel, Houston Area Plumbing Joint Apprenticeship, Enterprise Products, HISD, Harris County Education Department, Hydrochem, YMCA, Harris County Juvenile Probation and more.

Participants should dress professionally, and be prepared with resumes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information on GP Mayoral candidates appeared last week in the North Channel STAR.

Election day for Galena Park and Jacinto City will be this Saturday, May 10. Locations to vote are detailed later in this article.

Jacinto City will elect three city council members, with newcomers challenging incumbents in all three seats. These are: Position #1 Parks & Recreation, incumbent Jimmy Rivas faces Diego Lopez; Position #2 Finance & City Hall incumbent Gregg Robinson faces challenger LaGloria Sephus; and Position #3 Police & Fire incumbent Allen Lee faces Raymond Morlock. Voting takes place at the Town Center from 7 am to 7 pm.

In Galena Park, the mayor's seat and all the council positions are to be elected. To help the voters make a deci-

sion, the North Channel STAR and the GP-JC Rotary Club held a Candidates' Forum last Friday night, April 25th.

Candidates were given an opportunity to present their qualifications and their ideas for their office, and then answer questions from a panel and the public. About 100 people were in the audience for

this event, held at Baggett Community Center.

In the Council races, candidate Joe DeLaTorre recalled his 35 years in Galena Park, and said "I love this town." He said he was a candidate that could get things done, and improving the condition of housing was a priority. He recalled the family restaurant which

brought him here, and said it was important for people to shop and support the local businesses. He would convert abandoned properties into tax roles, and collect fines for air pollution.

Candidate Lois Killough presented a long list of her credentials, including educational and administrative

positions with GPISD. She also started the crime watch in Cloverleaf, and moved an underperforming school into Exemplary status. She said the perception of Galena Park needs improved, noting that it has the lowest crime rate in the state, but that is not

See CITY ELECTIONS, p. 8

CITY ELECTIONS MAY 10TH IN GALENA PARK, JACINTO CITY

Elections will result in new mayor, councils



GALENA PARK CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES: (L to R): At the recent Candidates Forum, these Council Candidates presented their qualifications: Position #1 Water & Sewer: Joe DeLaTorre; Position #2 Police & Fire: Lois Killough; Position #3 Parks & Recreation: Maricela Serna, Veronica Garcia; Position #4 Street & Bridge: Mark Groba, Juan Flores, Martha Flores. NOT SHOWN, Position #1 Danny Simms, Position #2 Zenaída Granados.

"Super Heroes" join forces to defeat cancer at North Channel Relay for Life

It was a night for celebration, reflection and fun as hundreds of community members joined forces to "finish the fight" against cancer during the North Channel Area Relay for Life on May 2 at the North Shore Ninth Grade Campus track.

The theme of this year's event was "Super Heroes: Finishing the Fight Against Cancer." Many of the teams, sponsors and steering committee members wore super hero shirts or their favorite super hero costume as they got into the spirit of the celebration.

"This event was all about celebrating our survivors, remembering those who lost the battle and to fight back through raising funds to provide important cancer research and treatment to bring an end to this terrible disease," said Darcy Blackstock, event chair for the North Channel Area Relay for Life.

Preliminary totals showed that the North Channel event



100-year-old Lavoie Smallwood, center, along with her family prepares to lead cancer survivors in the Survivor's Lap. Smallwood was the honored guest at North Channel Area's Relay for Life May 2.

raised more than \$95,000. However, funds will continue to be raised until the end of the Relay calendar year on Aug. 31.

One of the highlights of the event was when 100-year-old

cancer survivor Lavoie Smallwood shared some inspiring words with those in attendance before she made the Survivors' Lap around the

See SUPER HEROS, p. 8

EAST HARRIS COUNTY

Congressman Green pushes Legislation for LNG exports

There are fifteen proposed LNG export facilities awaiting permits from the Department of Energy. Under an amendment to the bill proposed by Congressman Gene Green, the Energy Department would have to approve or deny a permit within ninety days of the close of the public comment period.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has passed a bill to speed up the permitting process for facilities to export liquefied natural gas, or LNG.

The committee passed the bill on a vote of 33-18, with bipartisan support. The measure now moves to the floor of the House for a vote of the full chamber.

Texas energy companies tend to support expanding LNG sales overseas, where



Congressman Gene Green

natural gas commands higher prices. But large consumers have fought such efforts, arguing that boosting exports would drive up the cost of gas in the U.S. Democratic Congressman Gene Green's district puts him squarely in the midst of the controversy.

See LNG EXPORTS, p. 8

JACINTO CITY

Dedication remembers first Jacinto City woman mayor Nuñez

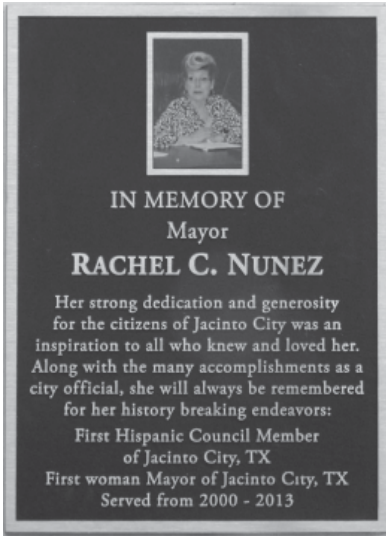
JACINTO CITY -- Known for her good works for the people of her community, and an iconic campaign to save the Santa on a Fire Truck program, friends, family and city colleagues gathered last Friday at City Hall to unveil a memorial plaque in her honor.

Rachel Nunez died on Jan. 4, 2013 after serving the city as its first Hispanic councilwoman since 2000, and its first woman mayor since 2011. She succumbed after a long battle with cancer.

At the unveiling ceremony, friends and family recalled their experiences with her over the years she served Jacinto City. Many tears and sighs were heard as the stories of her love for people, and service to all, brought back dear memories.



Jacinto City's current mayor, Ana Diaz, hosted and spoke in memory of Rachel Nunez, as did the city council persons behind her at the ceremony.



This Memorial Plaque is mounted in the lobby of the Jacinto City city hall, and recounts the accomplishments of Rachel C. Nunez.

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SCHOOLS, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 15, THURSDAY
San Jacinto College Foundation gala

San Jacinto College Foundation "Building a Brighter Future" gala, set for Friday, May 16, 2014, in the San Jacinto College South Campus allied health and science building, 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. For more information, call 281-998-6104.

MAY 17, SATURDAY
North Shore Rotary Fish Fry, Raffle

North Shore Rotary 38th Annual Catfish & Crawfish Fry, Saturday, May 17th at North Shore Rotary Pavilion, 14350 Wallisville Rd. Purchase your raffle and dinner tickets at Pineforest Jewelry. You don't need to be present to win your truck or car. SEE AD, page 8 for more details.

SATURDAY NIGHTS
The Buckshot Jamboree

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

MAY
North Channel Library events

-Saturday, May 10, Ask A Lawyer, 11 am - 12:30 pm.
-Monday, May 12, Monday Movies Madness, 4:40 pm.
-Tuesday, May 13, Toddler Time, 10:30 am, Asian Pacific Pre-school Story Time, 1:30 pm.
-Wednesday, May 14, North Channel Library 20th Anniversary Celebration 4 pm
-Thursday, May 15, Baby Time, 10:30 am, Lego Play, 4:30 pm and Bluebonnet Storytime, 6 pm.
15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs/classes.

MAY
Galena Park Library events

-Thursday, May 8, 4 pm Mother's Day Craft.
-Tuesday, May 13, 1 pm Mouse & Keyboard, 4 pm Raton y Teclado.
-Wednesday, May 14, 11 am Children's Story Time.
-Thursday, May 15, 11 am Baby Time, 3:30 pm Movie Family Night.
The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547. You may call 713-450-0982 for more information on other programs.

CAPLE Meeting

Community Advisory Panel to Lyondell and Equistar (CAPLE) meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2014. Visitors are welcome. Topics: Plant Water Use, Reuse, Recycling, and Drought Contingency Plans from 6:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and social time 5:45 pm- 6:15 pm. LyondellBasell Service Center, 2502 Sheldon Rd. in Channelview. For details or to RSVP, contact the CAPLE facilitator at dbsfacilitator@gmail.com.



Local Representatives gather at a GPISD Forum

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, Galena Park ISD hosted a forum bringing together State Senator Sylvia Garcia, State Representative Ana Hernandez, and area superintendents and school board members to discuss critical issues concerning education, including funding and House Bill 5.



ESOL completers recognized

The San Jacinto College North Campus recently held a ceremony to recognize students who completed the English for Speakers of Other Languages program. People who attended the ceremony include (from left), front row: Uyen Ngo, Dominga Silva, Silvia Marin, Ivonne Pineda, Runghip Taylor, Blanca Cortez, and Dr. Rebecca Goosen, associate vice chancellor of college preparatory; second row: Dr. RaShaunda Sterling, college preparatory department chair, Koheer Chetri, Lisa Smith, ESOL professor ESOL, Dora Martinez, Gabriela Alba, and Zuly Ordenez; back row: Tan Trinh, Shawn Silman, dean of liberal arts, Blanca Lopez, Eduardo Trevino, Rocio Tamez, Dr. William Raffetto, interim North Campus provost, Veronica Herrera, and Maria Williams, ESOL coordinator and professor. Photo credit: Rob Van-ya, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

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Diamond Jim... why do you go to Antwerp to buy diamonds?

As a Master IJO Jeweler and a member of the world's largest Buying Group, I travel to Antwerp to buy direct from some of the largest diamond firms in the world. This has established my reputation as Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry being the "Diamond Headquarters" in our community. In Antwerp I am able to hand pick the very finest cut diamonds at the very best prices for my customers. As long as a diamond has no color to the naked eye, and is relatively free of inclusions to the naked eye, then diamond "cut" is of the utmost importance. If you compare any two diamonds of the same size, same clarity, and same color... you

will easily determine that "cut" is the deciding factor in purchasing a diamond. I perform this comparison for my customers with each diamond I carry... and am happy to show my customers the difference in "cut". I do the "Happy Dance" in Antwerp each time I secure great deals. Don't know what my "Happy Dance" is? Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfri4CQj14 to see Diamond Jim and Linda doing the "Happy Dance".

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.

North Channel 20th Anniversary!

Celebrate 20 years with us at this location! We'll have old scrapbooks to browse, refreshments...and Texas Bubble Parties in the back lot!

Wednesday, May 14 4- 5:30 pm Public Meeting Room

Recommended for all ages

North Channel Branch Library
15741 Wallisville Rd
Houston, TX 77049
281-457-1631

Information for Persons with Disabilities: Harris County Public Library will make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities who are interested in attending library programs. To make a request, notify the Branch Librarian or call the Harris County ADA Coordinator at 713-755-4396 (voice) or 713-755-5095 (TDD) or 1-800-BELLY-TX.

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OPINION

Dear Editor,
I enjoy your paper and use it often as a resource to find local events and businesses, etc. This is an editorial response to a recent Opinion statement from Sen. Sylvia Garcia

Working Women do deserve a raise, but it can't happen through Legislation

I normally do not take the time to respond to editorial statements, but after reading the Opinion Statement printed Thursday, May 1 in the North Channel Star, I HAD to respond. This statement perfectly reflects the disconnect between the government leaders of today and the real world that each of us citizens has to live and work in everyday. Ms. Garcia presented the plight of the low income working women very eloquently, but then went on to state that the solution, as she and President Obama see it, is to increase the minimum wage by legislation.

While the facts of the matter are what they are, the proposed solution is where we have a major disagreement. The free enterprise system that we have in America, sometimes referred to as our "economic engine" is what has caused our economy and our country as a whole to prosper above other countries over the last 200 years. It is only when our government interferes through regulations and legislation that we see the economy struggle to grow.

The issue of minimum wage is a prime example. Ms. Garcia states that Texas has a large number of minimum wage workers, therefore we would "benefit" most from increased minimum wage legislation. She assumes the result of more government regulation would be a "benefit" while the results of more regulations are often less productivity. I do not know her background or whether she has ever run a small business and had to keep the books balanced, but her statement leads me to believe she has not. I have been a real estate broker for more than 35 years and have run many real estate offices and every month we have had to pay the bills or something gets turned off. With our politicians, too often the mentality is money will always just appear from somewhere since they have a long history of raising taxes whenever they want.

Since most jobs, and especially new jobs are created by small business, let's examine what really happens if Ms. Garcia and Pres. Obama get their way and minimum wage is increased to \$10.00 per hour or more as they hope. First, the immediate result is each small business sees an immediate 30% increase in labor from their minimum wage workers, which also increases payroll taxes and other employee related costs. Since the business does not see immediate revenue increases to match, and they must pay their bills at the end of the month, changes must be made – and they must be made now, to survive. You see, most of the industries she named that employ lots of Minimum Wage workers (retail, child care, restaurants, etc.) are in a struggle to survive today. They do not have surplus profits and huge reserve accounts to draw from to fund huge monthly deficits (like the government).

So, the first result is a layoff of 30% of the minimum wage workforce (roughly one in three workers). Would these workers rather have a job at \$7.25 per hour, or be unemployed? Did anyone ever think of asking them? So, now the state (and taxpayers) must pay for increased unemployment benefits and other assistance (welfare) to help these people until they can find other jobs. One of Ms. Garcia's claims was that this legislation would be "at no cost to the taxpayer". Sounds to me like the taxpayer costs just went UP.

Her next claim that there would be more expendable income to boost the state economy is also not realistic. True, the remaining workers will be making more money and have more to spend, but now there are a third less of them. Where will the money come from to create the "more expendable income"? Money does not just magically appear because some government body passes a new regulation, it only appears with increased productivity

– a net gain in goods or services produced. With the remaining workers having to try to do the all the work of the previously larger workforce, their morale will decline and their productivity will probably actually decline per hour worked.

Another issue is businesses will eventually pass the cost of the increase wage rate onto their customers (the taxpayers). So, prices (and inflation) now go up. This also flies in the face of her claim that this regulation would be "at no cost to the taxpayer".

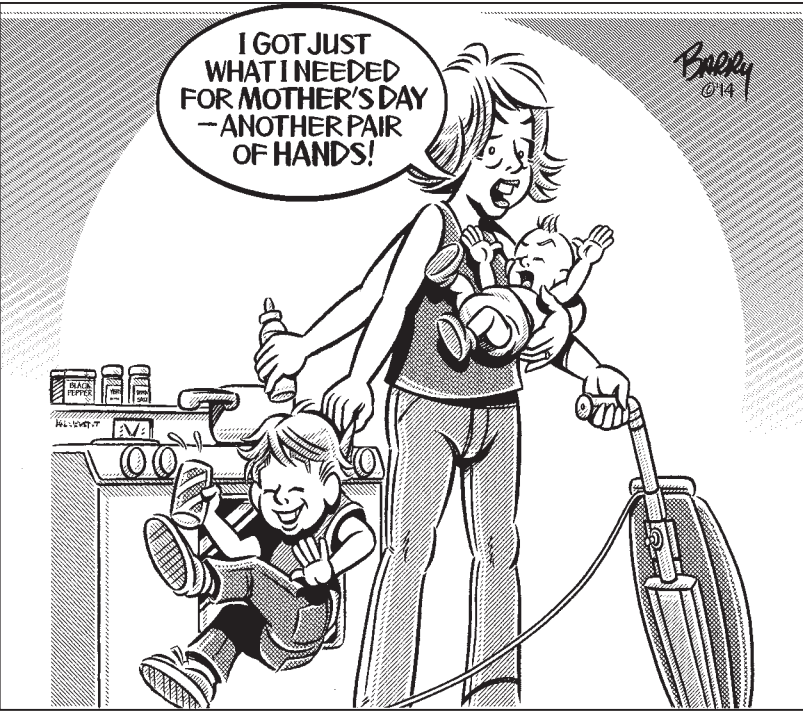
I would like to point out that our free enterprise system deals with low income workers much more efficiently than any government can. I just read a story about a local (Houston) real estate agent (a woman) who closed a huge sum of sales in 2013 and probably made a significant seven figure income. From her picture, she appears to be relatively young, and also is probably quite ambitious. She took it upon herself to obtain her real estate license, work hard, and create results. By doing so, she provided a service to her clients and her industry. She was paid well for her efforts and justly so. She could also have chosen to work at a minimum wage job and struggled – but she didn't. Even at my age, I am still learning, so I can provide better and increased service to my clients so I too can enjoy increased income. I am not going to wait for legislation to force people to pay me more. In my business we have a saying – "your raise becomes effective when you do". How true.

You see, low income workers may work hard, but they don't work every hour of every day. If they have enough drive and ambition, our free enterprise system allows them to go to the public library (free) and learn new ways to increase their productivity. If they need more direction, we have low cost community colleges that teach skills (and even provide job placement assistance). Opportunity is where you find it. A low income job should just serve as a temporary (1-5 years) source of minimal income while a person equips themselves to do better. It should not be considered a career position.

Also, money management skills are extremely important to low income workers. Many times I see low income workers eating out, buying lottery tickets, etc. If they were to understand that saving even only a small fraction of their earnings and then seeking good advice for above average investment returns, even a modest, regular amount can grow to a huge sum over time. My uncle worked as a utility worker for years, and amassed a huge fortune by persisting with a small continuous investment in utility stocks. I know of a hotel housekeeper that also became financially independent in a similar way. Not enough basic money management is taught in schools today.

Our system of government was not designed to be run by career politicians. It was designed for everyday business managers and owners that are in tune with day to day challenges to help legislate for a year or two, then go back to the private sector. It is only now, that the career politicians have taken over, that our country has seen the government take on this attitude that legislation can somehow create wealth. Government regulation most often results in reducing productivity and also reducing overall wealth. Our leaders must think through these proposed legislations better and only pass those that have an essential need, and not try to legislate a new lifestyle or social order. And, workers must learn to rely more on their own talents and skills and find ways to make those more marketable and productive to increase their incomes, not wait on government to legislate a forced increase.

Thank You,
Greg Buchaman



Toyota picks Plano for North America headquarters

AUSTIN — Toyota Motor Corporation on April 28 announced its decision to locate the headquarters of Toyota Motor North America headquarters to Plano.

Toyota said the move is "designed to better serve customers and position Toyota for sustainable, long-term growth."

Within the next three years, Toyota's three separate North American headquarters for manufacturing, sales and marketing and corporate operations will relocate to a single, state-of-the-art campus in Plano, just north of Dallas. Toyota's North American finance arm also plans to move its headquarters to this new, shared campus. Altogether, these moves will affect about 4,000 employees, Toyota said.

Gov. Rick Perry said Toyota is making a \$300 million capital investment in the move and the state has offered Toyota an incentive of \$40 million through the Texas Enterprise Fund.

"We're proud that both the Tundra and Tacoma bear the words 'Made in Texas' and we're excited our state will be the nexus for Toyota's North American operations moving forward," Perry said, adding that Toyota's Texas operations presently include its \$2.3 billion manufacturing facility in San Antonio that supports 2,900 jobs, and combined with its 21 on-site suppliers, Toyota supports 6,000 jobs in San Antonio.

Grand jury probe begins
A Travis County grand jury assigned with a special prosecutor convened in mid-April to examine Gov. Rick Perry's veto last year of legislation to fund the state's Public Integrity Unit, a division of the Travis County district attorney's office tasked with investigating public corruption.

Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, who heads the Public Integrity Unit, was arrested for drunken driving in April 2013, pleaded guilty, served half of a 45-day jail sentence and was released. Perry asked for Lehmberg's resignation, but Lehmberg chose to continue in office. Perry then vetoed the Public Integrity Unit's budget. Travis County, however, came up with money from its own budget to maintain the entity's functions.

Decision sets coal back
Texas Railroad Commission, the state agency that regulates energy-producing industries, lamented the U.S. Supreme Court's 6-2 decision on April 29 to uphold the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. "By upholding the EPA-written Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and overturning a lower court decision, the Supreme Court has made it increasingly difficult to burn coal to produce electricity," according to a Railroad Commission statement published the day the court rendered its decision. "Going forward, natural gas, renewables and nuclear energy must shoulder an even bigger load in order to 'keep the lights on' cheaply and reliably

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



in Texas, and throughout America," the agency further stated, adding, "As a result of today's holding, some coal-fired power plants may be forced to limit or shut down operations." Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas cast the dissenting votes in the 6-2 decision.

The U.S. Clean Air Act requires the EPA to write rules to enforce laws passed by Congress. The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule requires Texas, as an "upwind" state, to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions that cross state lines. Such pollutants react in the atmosphere to form fine particles and ground-level ozone and are transported long distances, making it difficult for other states to achieve air quality standards, according to the EPA.

Graduation rate is near best
According to the National Center for Education Statis-

tics' "First Look" report released in late April, for the class of 2012, Texas posted a graduation rate of 88 percent, tying with three other states for second highest. Iowa posted a graduation rate of 89 percent while the national average was 80 percent.

Texas Education Commissioner Michael Williams lauded the report and noted that Texas' overall graduation rate exceeded the national averages release in both 2011 and 2012.

Williams also pointed out the Texas class of 2012 had the highest graduation rate in the country among African-American students and tied for the highest graduation rates for white and economically disadvantaged students.

Enforcement result comes in
Texas Department of Public Safety on April 28 announced state troopers arrested some 1,374 motorists for driving while intoxicated during the agency's March 7 to March 23 spring break enforcement period.

A Texas Department of Transportation grant allowed increased patrols in high-risk locations during the times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent.

Furthermore, the DPS reported, stops made during the enforcement period resulted in 18,826 speeding citations, 3,266 seat belt/child safety seat tickets and more than 23,400 other citations, plus 848 fugitive arrests and 713 felony arrests.

TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie A. Farrar

May, my favorite month

The month of May is a favorite one because of good weather, crops which are about to produce and time for the Talladega NASCAR which was this past weekend. It was one month of May a long time ago when a seventeen year old joined the service to get away from the grind of the cotton mill in LaGrange, Georgia. Fortunately I was discharged (Honorably) four years later but never moved back to the state of Georgia, only visits. Two things learned in four years of military service was to painting and typing; both have stuck with me to this date, yet of course the painting has become less fun over time if you savvy.

Forty Six years later one finds himself married with grown children, retired and having fun while it lasts because time flies when you are having fun.

Of course over the course of forty six years one has seen things priced out of sight. Every day one finds something else which has gone up in price. Why just this morning at the car wash, the price for a book of car wash tickets has gone from thirty five bucks to sixty four bucks and that's just in a year's time, unreal. Just glad I bought 3 books of tickets when I felt rich.

Go to the grocery store nowadays and you could have a stroke at the price of produce and other edibles. The Wal-Mart had tomato plants on sale for \$11.98 each, which came with a large pot and a small circular stake but have to harvest a lot of tomatoes to make that plant pay for itself. A steak priced in the meat department caused a double look at \$17.98 per pound. Needless to say and sure glad that looking is free.

Same with the price of milk and petrol. With the way things are going up, maybe I can talk the Mrs. into continuing to work to keep us fed, but have my doubts if she could be sweet talked into not retiring.

Long ago when the folks were having a conversation about Eisenhower being elected to the Presidency of the United States, they called him a Republican. I asked my mother what that meant and she said that means we are going to be poor for the next four years. I thought we already were.

We have a Democratic President in office now and money seems to just fly by, remember well having more spending money when a Republican was in office compared to the Democrats, but doesn't seem to make much difference. The government socks it to you whenever it can. Work 40 years or more and when you want to use some of the money you've saved – not only do they sock it to you in income tax, but then they triple your Medicare costs.

It's like Bob Hope said, thanks for the memories.

Charlie Farrar can be reached via email: xuscg@yahoo.com

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Resurrection Church celebrates being a Parish with a picnic



Vicar Russell Ellisor had his parish visit his home with the Bishop on Sunday after services at the Church of The Resurrection, a Eucharistic community in the Anglican tradition following service at 11:00 at 5202 First Street where the Brethren Church meets for the morning service. Note the youth turning a flip inside the trampoline. Kensley Marie Holt



Kensley Marie Holt was born on April 28, 2014 in Houston, Texas to Brandon and Amanda (Pogue)Holt and she went to be with the Lord on May 1, 2014. She is preceded in death by her great grandfathers, Clovis Brewer, Robert Vallejo Sr., William Pogue, William Holt and great grand-

★

OBITUARIES

mother, Allie Holt. Kensley is survived by her parents, Brandon and Amanda Holt of Porter, Texas; grandparents, John and Gracie Holt of Oahu, Hawaii; grandparents, Bill and Charlotte Pogue of Highlands, Texas; aunt, Ashley Pogue of Highlands, Texas; aunt and uncle, Kimberly and Gregory Gonzales of Oahu, Hawaii; great grandmother, Betty Brewer of Highlands, Texas; great grandmother, Margarita Vallejo of Humble, Texas; great grandmother, Joyce Pogue of New Caney, Texas; cousins, Jayden, Brian, Briana, Nicolas

Gonzales of Oahu, Hawaii; cousin, Landon Pogue of Highlands, Texas; and many other relatives and friends. A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 from 9am-11am with Funeral services to follow at 11am. Burial will follow at Magnolia Cemetery in Onalaska, Texas. Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit. www.sterlingwhite.com

Pecan Street Christian Academy Youth fishing tournament

Pecan Street Christian Academy (PSCA) held its first annual fishing tournament last Saturday at Sheldon Lake State Park. Children from both PSCA and the surrounding area attended the event and much fun was had by all. Kari Reiss a PSCA parent initiated and coordinated the event with much help from parents, teachers and administrative staff. Again she proved that “teamwork makes the dream work.”

In addition to fishing the students took a nature walk through the park with

park director Kim Sorenson and studied plant, tree, and wildlife identification. Pre-K4 student Colin Walker caught the first fish to begin the excitement and he also caught the biggest fish to place first in the tournament followed by 3 year old Timothy Sampson for second place. PSCA’s focus is God first, safety, discipline and rigorous academics in reading, math, and science. For more information visit www.pscaeagles.org or come by for a facilities tour at 1215 Pecan Street Channelview, Texas 281-452-1333.



Colin Walker wins first place in the tournament.



There were many other participants at the fishing tournament.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lystra in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Acts 11, Barnabas was sent to Tarsus to bring back whom? Mark, Peter, John the Baptist, Saul
3. According to Proverbs, the wicked have to do “what” to sleep well? Lie, Mischief, Sin, Frown
4. In Romans 12:1, what of ours should be a living sacrifice? Demons, Elders, Bodies, Children

5. Who was the father of Joshua? Nun, Abraham, Aaron, Noah
6. Moses died in the land of? Havilah, Moab, Shinar, Nod

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Saul; 3) Mischief; 4) Bodies; 5) Nun; 6) Moab

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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Life lessons gives you change of heart

The National Basketball Association continues to set higher and higher standards for attendance and television ratings. The NBA is more than just a game—it's big business also. The popularity of professional basketball is even greater during the NBA playoffs than the regular season. The first round of the 2014 playoffs began in April and will climax with the championship series in June. Understandably, the focus during the NBA playoffs normally is the basketball game and the action on the court. The media broadcasts and reports on the various games with highlights featuring the skills of some of the best athletes in the world. Fans cheer for their hometown teams or favorite players and “trash talk” on which team will advance through the rounds to play in the championship.

The playoffs began this year with that same emphasis on the games on the court. All that changed on Friday, April 25th. A recording was released to the media on that day that has dramatically shifted the focus away from the ballgames to an intensive look into the very culture of the NBA. The recording is a conversation which includes insensitive, racist comments by Donald Sterling, owner of the Los Angeles Clippers. His comments are certainly inflammatory, but this is only the most recent chapter in a long history of questionable actions and attitudes. The fact that Sterling has been a 30 year member of this very exclusive club of 30 franchise owners in the NBA is now a public embarrassment to the league. NBA

★

PASTOR'S NEWS VIEWS

By Tim Edwards

Commissioner Adam Silver has been quick to bring a ruling in response to his comments. Silver issued a lifetime ban from any involvement with the NBA or the Clippers franchise. He is also counseling the NBA Board of Governors to force Sterling to sell the Clippers. Although the process for forcing the sale is yet to be determined, it is a foregone conclusion that the actions of the Board of Governors will be enforced.

As Christ-followers in this 21st century culture, this NBA racism incident teaches life lessons on how believers in Jesus are to impact the culture. One lesson is that racism is unacceptable in the USA, and certainly must be denounced by Christians of every ethnicity. Another lesson is that the root of racism or any wickedness is the heart not just the external words or actions. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Jeremiah 17:9 Therefore, the goal for the Christ-follower is to lead others to have a change of heart. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Proverbs 4:23-24 A third lesson is that God changes the hearts of people. God

speaks love as an offer of grace. Any person can have a change of heart. The gospel is that Jesus forgives all sin and thus any person can experience grace. When an individual is in a love relationship with God, Christ transforms hatred and bigotry into loving authentic fellowship with other people. This change is the result of new life in Jesus Christ. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand... how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. Romans 5:1-2,17

Much has been achieved and yet there is more to be done to erase racism from American culture. True unity is possible in the fellowship of Christ Jesus. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28 The NBA is certainly an example of cultural and racial diversity, but the local church must be the fundamental “Association” of love and respect for all persons in the USA and for all the nations.

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Phillipians 4:13

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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SPORTS NEWS & COMMUNITY

Channelview advances to Area round with win over Dobie

PEARLAND - It's on to the next round of the Class 5A baseball playoffs for the Channelview Falcons.

Andy Montelongo ended the game in dramatic fashion with a game-winning single to give Channelview a 4-3 victory over Pasadena Dobie at Pearland Dawson High School Friday night.

The Falcons, the fourth seed from District 21-5A, now advances to the Area round of the postseason at a time, site and opponent to be determined. Channelview is the only 21-5A team now left standing in the playoffs, as Deer Park, La Porte and North Shore were eliminated.

After several missed opportunities by both teams, the Falcons snuffed out Dobie's suicide squeeze opportunity to try and take the lead in the seventh inning. The Longhorns kept the Falcon bats quiet in the bottom of the inning, forcing the contest to extra innings. Seth Campbell started out on the mound for the Falcons, pitching 5 2/3 innings, before giving way to Jacob Macias, who earned the win.

Channelview's Mark Chavez led off the bottom of the ninth with a single to left field. He then advanced to second moments later on a wild pitch. Montelongo ripped the next pitch to left center to end the Longhorns' season and advance the Falcons to the second round.



Dobie's Jacob Mendoza (top) tries to go up and over Channelview catcher Kris Gonzales while attempting to escape a blown suicide squeeze in the top of the ninth. Gonzales (bottom) applies the tag for the second out of the inning.

Photo courtesy of Al Carter, Pasadena ISD

GALENA PARK

Sweetness pays off, funds scholarships

The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary held its annual cake auction at the Alvin D. Baggett Community Center on April 16, 2014. Local politicians, GPISD employees, GPISD Culinary Arts students, and other community leaders donated more than 50 cakes, pies and cookie trays in order to raise funds for student scholarships. The sweet treats included a number of delectable delights such as white chocolate tres leches and M&M Madness cakes as well as a blissful Boston cream pie. Retired Constable Gary Freeman solicited bid after bid as he auctioned the array of confections to a room full of excited bidders. However, the cake that... well, took the cake, was the cream cheese carrot cake donated by Esmeralda Moya and Nelia Garcia. This wonderful work of culinary excellence brought in the highest bid - \$405 by Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Chris Diaz. In all, the Club raised \$6,385, which will go a long way in helping award scholarships to area students.

Ernesto Parades, GP/JC Rotary Club president said, "We are celebrating. This was one of our best auctions. We are all very grateful that the community, dignitaries, and



Ricardo Arenas (left), Beatriz Cardenas (middle), Denia Cruz (right) from the GPISD Culinary Arts class created this "tropical paradise" cake. Every morsel is edible except the palm tree.

the superintendent and employees of GPISD, once again, supported this event. Paula Henney, GP/JC Rotary Secretary, believes this is one of the most inspiring events of the Rotary Club. "It's a simple thing, really, to bake a cake or a pie. But, the money raised from that act of service helps a student go to college. A small investment in time yields long-lasting benefits to our community. All who donated... all who participated... they are all contributing to the success of our students," Henney said.



Rotary Club president Ernesto Parades is happy to have raised over \$6,000 for student scholarships.

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NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Channelview HS students earn top spots at state

The Channelview High School Construction Technology students know how to create a blueprint for success - and their performance in the Skills USA State Competition is living proof.

CHS students won 10 first place medals at the statewide event, held in Corpus Christi. The participants were required to construct various projects such as, an oak bookcase, cedar lined trunk seat, flat screen TV cabinet, outdoor patio table and chairs.

Students who earned top honors were Abel Salinas, Gilbert Cruz, Yvette Delgado, Jose Salinas, Jorge Salanis, Joshua Davenport, David Sepulveda, Louis Anchando, Andrew Adams and Maciel Perez. Dwayne Ward serves as the Construction Technology teacher.

"As a teacher, it makes me

proud to be a part of a group of students that have used their talents to make it to a state competition and receive such honors," Ward said.

Ward said that the winning projects will be on display at Channelview High School in the near future.

SkillsUSA Texas serves nearly 15,500 student and professional members who are enrolled in Career and Technical (CTE) programs. Through a proven system that produces quality-trained, well-rounded, entry-level employees, SkillsUSA Texas brings together educators, administrators, corporate America, labor organizations, trade associations and government. The result is a coordinated effort that addresses America's need for a globally competitive, educated and skilled work force.

Community donates to make Men of Honor clothing drive a success



Purple Heart representative, Joseph Pulling, collects donated clothing from Saul Zarco, educational planner with San Jacinto College. Photo credit: Jeannie Peng-Armao, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

PASADENA, Texas - Thanks to the San Jacinto College community, the Men of Honor clothing drive was a success with donations of more than 45 men's blazers and sports jackets, 15 suits, 100 pairs of pants, 60 button shirts, 80 T-shirts, 15 pairs of shoes, 15 belts, and socks. Women's clothing included four suits, more than 40 tops,

20 pairs of pants (including jeans), and 30 pairs of shoes.

Many students were able to receive free clothing before the remaining donations were picked up by Purple Heart due to the work of the Men of Honor student volunteers and the coordination of the college-wide clothing drive by Leander Nash, disability service counselor with San Jacinto College.

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Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at the Channelview I.S.D. Educational Support Center, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments -> Business Office -> Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Crosby High School Serving Line Renovations

Crosby Independent School District is requesting proposals for CSP # 14-001 Crosby High School Serving Line Renovations for renovations to existing serving lines in Crosby, TX.

Responses must be received by: 2:00 PM Central Time, 5/21/14.

Crosby ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals and to waive any formalities or technical inconsistencies, or delete any item/requirements from this Request for Proposals when deemed to be in Crosby ISD's best interest.

The Request for Proposals and further information may be obtained by emailing kkominek@crosbyisd.org or contacting Kari Komeinek at 281-328-9200 x 1213.

No pre-proposal conference will be held.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park ISD school bus involved in a wreck



A light brown sedan and a Galena Park ISD school bus crashed last Thursday around 2:30 pm in Cloverleaf area. The accident happened at the 14200 block of Greenville. The driver of the bus, Erika, was transporting about 15 North Shore Elementary students back home at the time of the accident. No injuries were reported.
Photo courtesy of KHOU

LNG EXPORTS,

Continued from page 1

Green commented on the bill and the situation in his district:

"I have an expanding chemical industry in East Harris County — that's jobs in our community — and I also like to have reasonable priced natural gas providing electricity for our

homes. But I also know that we need to keep our producers in business, and so I use my Blue Bell technique. Blue Bell's ice cream, we're so proud of it in Texas. 'We eat all we can and sell the rest?' With natural gas, I want us to use all we can and sell the rest."

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CITY ELECTIONS,

Continued from page 1

known. She presented several ideas to improve air pollution, and collect more money for the city budget.

Candidate Maricela Serna told of her experience with the Area Senior Citizens, senior olympics, PTA president, and finance officer of her church. She works at the county health clinic on 16th street. She wants more citizen involvement in governing.

Candidate Veronica Garcia works as a phlebotomist at the county public health clinic in Denver Harbor. She would work to secure more funding

for low income families. She wants to attract more businesses into the local scene. She thinks the city would benefit from better public transportation.

Candidate Mark Groba spoke about his 56 years in Galena Park, and 30 years as a business owner here. He is a builder and in real estate, he said. He said the city should have some "dreams" to drive its future. He suggested that the city develop the land on the landfill for economic benefit and sales tax revenue. On this issue, others spoke about

the impossibility of building there, which Groba disputed. He wanted more open government, with city council meetings on Saturday so more people could attend, and the budget posted publicly so that it could be examined and debated. He said the city could offer tax incentives to attract new businesses. Another controversial idea he had, was to raise money for the city by charging tolls for truck traffic, on roads such as Clinton Drive or as they enter the Port. As for air quality, he said it is bad, and Harris County needs to help GP clean it up. He said the county has basically "forgotten about us" citing the need for a housing authority and health department facilities.

Candidate Juan Flores presented his qualifications, as a lifetime of work in public service positions, and now in the greater Houston management district. He said he had sponsored a high school youth group, and started the first National Night Out event in

Galena Park in many years. He urged people to know their neighbors for a better city, and wants to get the county to help with development in GP. He would form a committee to seek out new commercial development for the city.

Candidate Martha Flores said she was a medical doctor and an EMT person. She has been a teacher in Pasadena, and a Head Start worker. Her compassion leads her to special needs therapy, and to work on Special Olympics. On city finance, she thinks the budget should be public, and the city should hold more money in their reserve fund. She would work on collecting more delinquent taxes, and attract new grants and new partnerships. She wants the city to work on improving the existing infrastructure.

The voting in Galena Park will take place at Baggett Community Center for Precinct 081, and at City Hall for Precincts 208, 857, and 860. The polls will be open Saturday from 7 am to 7 pm.

SUPER HEROS,

Continued from page 1

track. She has been cancer-free since 2001.

"You must always keep a positive outlook in everything you do," she said. "I believe that's what helped me beat cancer and what has kept me alive this long - and also the grace of God."

Local companies, area schools and other groups set up tents for the all-night event. Food, special games and music added to the lively atmosphere. Platinum Sponsors included Briggs Equipment and the North Shore Rotary Club, while Dow Emergency Center served as a Gold Sponsor. LyondellBasell served as a Silver Sponsor for the event, as well as Dependable Diesel. Electro-Quip was a Bronze Sponsor and Chic-Fil-A and Kroger were In-Kind sponsors.

At dusk, the Luminaria 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.

Special event chairpersons for Relay led to lead those in attendance in a variety of fun activities throughout the night, including the "Fight Back" ceremony at midnight. Closing ceremonies were held as time edged toward 6 a.m.

For more information on Relay for Life, please log on to www.relayforlife.org

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