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## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Sen. Garcia files Legislation to Fight Human Trafficking

HOUSTON, TX – Senator Sylvia Garcia announced on Nov. 14 her filing of legislation that will require new Commercial Driver's License applicants in Texas to complete training in identifying and reporting human trafficking. She will be joined by representatives from the Texas Trucking Association and the Children's Defense Fund.

Texas has the second highest number of human trafficking victims annually in the United States, and Houston is one of the largest trafficking hubs in the country. One of the major factors contributing to this disturbing statistic is that the I-10 corridor between El Paso and Houston has been identified as a major route used by human traffickers.

State Senator Garcia believes that truckers can be our greatest asset in the fight against human trafficking, "we have nearly 200,000 truck drivers in the State of Texas that can be our eyes and ears on the road and in places like motels and truck stops where victims are being exploited every day. They are in a unique position to make a difference and stop traffickers who seek to exploit victims and our transportation system for their personal gain. This legislation will mobilize and empower truckers to save the lives of victims during the normal course of their job. We need all the help we can get in

See Human Trafficking, page 3

## Thousands attend Parrott Retirement Party

By Gilbert Hoffman  
 The long line stretched out the door of the courtroom, down the hall and into the lobby. These were the hundreds or thousands of friends who remembered the gentle compassion of a man that touched and served many over the 24 years as judge, and the 43 years of service to Harris County. Parrott held this Open House last Thursday, Nov. 7th at the Fonteno Courthouse Annex, in his courtroom. Parrott greeted each visitor, and posed for a photo with them. Curtis Stanley of Pct. 2 said that he took over 550 photos, many with several people in them.

Judge Mike Parrott has decided to retire this year from his seat on the bench, and will be replaced in January by Joe Stephens, board member of GPISD, local businessman and professional basketball player in the past. Parrott mentored and endorsed Stephens as his replacement.

Parrott was elected Justice of the Peace in 1993, after 18 years as Superintendent of Parks for Harris County.

Parrott is known for his work with youth, including Teen Court for five local high schools. Several of the students that he tutored have gone on to work as attorneys, in the District Attorney's office and private firms.

Parrott has been honored over the years by a number of civic clubs, including Optimists, Rotary, and the Masonic Lodge. He was also named Man of the Year and Sportsman of the



JUDGE MIKE PARROTT sits at his desk, contemplating his career and thankful for the thousands of well-wishers that came to his retirement open house last Thursday, at the Wallisville Courthouse. Parrott's office is full of memorabilia, toys and sports remembrances from his athletic days.



MIKE PARROTT and WIFE DEBI pose with some of their lifelong friends from Highlands, Jerry & Denise Smith, and Marie and Chester Stasney on either side of the Parrotts. Well-wishers came from all over Precinct 2 and North Shore, where many remembered the days when he played winning football for Galena Park and Univ. of Houston.

Year by the Galena Park Chamber.

On September 9, 2016 the Harris County Precinct 2 together gave a tribute to Parrott at the Black & White Ball at Sylvan Beach Pavilion, at which Commissioner Jack Morman presented him with the Jim Fonteno "Service to Our Community" award.

Parrott is a native son to Galena Park and the North Shore area. He attended Galena Park high school, where he excelled at football. Later he attended University of Houston, and also was an outstanding football player.

Mike is an avid golfer, and will continue to play, he said. He also will stay active in mentoring youth and serving on boards in the community.



Mike Parrott, Debi Parrott, and newspaper publisher Gilbert Hoffman share a moment at the retirement party.

## HCSO Citizen's Patrol hosts Thanksgiving for needy



The local Citizen's Police Academy Alumni recently put together distribution of 26 Thanksgiving Food Baskets to those with less means at the District Office at the Jim Fonteno Courthouse last Saturday. Deputy Grace Luna received names from local schools within the Sheriff's district 3. The Alumni asked local merchants for donations to fund the effort. The Wal-Mart in Crosby donated all the turkeys. Depicted above are volunteers including Becky Moon of the Alumni Association at Highlands Storefront. Deputy Grace Luna, Bernadette Beausham of Cloverleaf, Explorers from Post 43 including Green Alexander, and Yessnia Davila.

## THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY Jacinto City seniors receive Thanksgiving Turkey

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX, Tuesday, November 22, 2016 – Jacinto City's Heritage Hall Senior Center was just one of the many 18th Congressional District's Senior Centers where Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee annually gives thousands of turkeys to seniors during the Thanksgiving season.

Congresswoman Lee says she pays a special respect to the Senior's because of their valuable contribution they've made and continues to make to the nation. She also individually recognized each of the Armed Forces Veterans and Law Enforcement Officers in attendance.

Assisting in the event was State Representative Ana Hernandez's Community Liaison Linda Jamail, National Women of Achievement Bayou City Chapter's Connie Larkin, Bessie Fletcher with Top Ladies of Distinction, and staff of Heritage Hall.



Amelia Cavazos accepts turkey from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Jacinto City Councilmen Allen Lee, center, and Mario Gonzales.



Jacinto City's Heritage Hall Senior's enjoying a Thanksgiving meal.



88 year's young Josephine Bruce receives a Thanksgiving Turkey.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL North Shore Mustangs to play in Semi-Finals



The North Shore Mustangs football team will have a neutral playoff game vs. Katy this Friday, November 25, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at the NRG Stadium, Houston, TX. The Mustangs won 17-7 against Dickinson on November 18, 2016 at Sam Vitanza Stadium which put the team into the Semifinals. Follow North Shore (11-1) as they take on Katy (10-2) in the 2016 6A DI UIL Region III Semi-finals.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## GCCISD Special Olympics developing Athletes Field Day

By Susan Passmore

Glorious weather enhanced the recent Goose Creek CISD Special Olympics Developing Athletes Field Day at Robert E. Lee High School's Sultis Stadium at the Memorial Sports Complex. The event featured students from the 15 district elementary schools as well as three junior schools displaying their skills in cycling, flag football, softball, track and soccer.

Opening ceremonies, kicked off by Dr. Tom Kelchner, director of special education, and Dr. Joe Farnsworth, REL principal, included the parade of schools and the torch relay, run by several developing athletes, assisted by student volunteers from REL.

Stacy Saxon, head of delegation for Special Olympics and Life Skills teacher at Ross S. Sterling High School, coordinated the event.

"This is an opportunity for students to see what Special Olympics is all about and, hopefully, to join the after-school program. These are the same skills we use," Saxon said. "We couldn't have done any of this without all these high school volunteers. We appreciate them."

The sunny day was made even brighter by the proud smiles of the students, parents, staff and volunteers as the young athletes successfully demonstrated the skills they had been practicing for this long-awaited day. After all the schools had rotated through the sta-



Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, helps Lindsay Nunez, third grader from Victoria Walker Elementary, put her helmet on before the cycling event during the recent GCCISD Special Olympics Developing Athletes Field Day.



Photos by Susan Passmore

Javier Estrada (right), student volunteer from Robert E. Lee High School, walks with Braylan Jordan, fourth grader from Travis Elementary, in the torch relay to begin the GCCISD Special Olympics Developing Athletes Field Day.

tions, a hot dog lunch, cooked by Rex Miller and his students from Student Career Center, was served to the participants with assistance from Aramark.

"The Developing Athletes Field Day is a wonderful opportunity for our young athletes," said Kelchner. "It's

the result of a great deal of collaboration from many different groups at GCCISD. Most important, the field day gives our Goose Creek special needs students the opportunity to show off their abilities in many events. It's a great legacy."

## DPS urges Thanksgiving drivers to pack safety first

AUSTIN – As Texans prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) offers tips for safe travel and calls on residents to celebrate responsibly.

"The Thanksgiving weekend invariably means increased traffic on roadways, and DPS is reminding Texans that we all have a responsibility to help make the roads safe for everyone," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Our Troopers will be on the lookout for dangerous drivers who disregard the law – at the same time, we urge drivers to use extra caution while traveling and to always drive sober."

DPS troopers will be patrolling Texas around-the-clock during the holiday weekend looking for drunk

drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other drivers who are endangering themselves and others.

During the Thanksgiving weekend in 2015, DPS troopers issued 28,835 traffic citations and warnings for a variety of violations, including speeding, no insurance and seat belt/child safety seat usage. DPS patrols also resulted in 219 driving while intoxicated arrests, 127 fugitive arrests and 94 felony arrests during the same time period.

DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Thanksgiving holiday:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Slow down – especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.

- Eliminate distractions, including the use of mobile devices.

- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle – it's the law.

- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated – it's the law. Also, show the same courtesy to fellow drivers stopped along the road if it is safe to do so.

- Don't drive fatigued – get plenty of rest before trips or take breaks as needed.

- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.

- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.

## GCCISD student Councils attend TASC District 13 leadership meeting



Student Council groups from Goose Creek Memorial, Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling high schools, all members of the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) District 13, attend a recent leadership meeting hosted by Deer Park high school. Over the years, all three Goose Creek CISD schools have been working with the TASC to build their groups' leadership skills, and they are thriving due to their participation in District 13. GCM student Victoria Gonzalez was elected to be a District 13 JC (junior council) and will be a camp leader at the Retreat in February.

Student Council Officers from Robert E. Lee, Goose Creek Memorial and Ross S. Sterling high schools meet up during a recent TASC District 13 leadership meeting hosted by Deer Park High School to teach leadership and involvement to the students.

Pictured are (from left) REL Student Body Vice President Valeria Sixtos and REL Student Body President Angelica Renteria; GCM Student Body Vice President Dominic Borbon and GCM Student Body President Raymona Artis and RSS Student Body President Katie Guy.



## Give stuffing a lift with dried cranberries

(NAPSI)—For many clever cooks, the secret ingredient in spectacular stuffing is dried cranberries. Long a Thanksgiving favorite, cranberries can add great taste and festive color to stuffing, as in this mouthwatering recipe:

- Cranberry Stuffing**
- 10 cups day-old French bread cut into 1-inch cubes
  - 6 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
  - 1 Tbsp. dried thyme
  - Pinch of salt and pepper
  - 2 lbs. sweet Italian sausage, casings removed
  - 3 Tbsp. unsalted butter
  - 2 cups onion, chopped
  - 2 fennel bulbs, diced
  - 2 cups Graceland Fruit Dried Cranberries
  - 2 cups coarsely chopped walnuts
  - Zest from 2 oranges
  - 2 tsp. dried sage leaves

- 1/4 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1 cup chicken broth

Toss bread cubes in large bowl with 2 Tbsp. olive oil, dried thyme and pinch of salt and pepper. Heat oven to 325° F. Bake on 2 baking sheets until lightly toasted, about 15 minutes. Let cool, then transfer to a large mixing bowl. Cook sausage in 2 Tbsp. olive oil over medium-high heat, breaking apart with spatula. Drain extra fat. Add to the toasted bread cubes. Melt unsalted butter in skillet with 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Cook onion and fennel over medium-low heat for 10 minutes. Add dried cranberries and cook for an additional 5 minutes. Add to the sausage and bread cubes. Fold in walnuts, orange zest,

dried sage and flat-leaf parsley. Drizzle chicken broth cup at a time and stir. If using to stuff a turkey, let stuffing cool completely first. If not, heat covered at 350° F for 20-25 minutes. Enjoy.

What makes it even better is that it's created with dried cranberries, often called a "superfruit" because they're a good source of fiber, cholesterol-free, low in sodium and high in antioxidants. That, studies say, promotes heart and brain health.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 8 at 7:00 p.m.

# SCHOOL / SPORTS NEWS



## College Night in Channelview ISD

Channelview ISD students and parents visited with representatives from more than 50 major colleges, universities and technical schools at Channelview High School's College Night on Nov. 10.

## GALENA PARK ISD

### North Shore girls basketball player signs with The University of Texas

On November 9, Chasity Patterson signed a letter of intent to the University of the Texas at Austin. The North Shore point guard is the leading scorer in North Shore girls' basketball history. She enters her senior season with more than 2,200 points and is a leader on the team. Patterson is the number 4 prospect in the espnW HoopGurlz Super 60 for the Class of 2017 and is ranked number 8 in the nation by Prospects Nation.



Coach Allison Campbell said, "She is extremely coachable and a great teammate. She makes everyone around her better." Congratulations, Chasity, on this great accomplishment! We know you will be a great asset to the UT basketball team!

## GALENA PARK ISD

### Three North Shore baseball players sign Letter of Intent



Aaron Celestino, Jordan Hussein and Joshua Larzabal

Three North Shore baseball players signed a letter of intent to their respective college on Wednesday, November 9.

Joshua Larzabal, pitcher, signed with Rice University;

Jordan Hussein, shortstop, signed with Crowder College in Missouri; and Aaron Celestino, pitcher, signed with the University of Incarnate Word.

Congratulations on this great accomplishment!

## SELDON ISD

### Choir students ranked top 144 from 1,000 competitors

A few weeks ago, 21 King Middle School students auditioned to be in the inaugural Region 33 Middle School All-Region Choir. Over 1,000 students from surrounding districts also competed at this event.

As a result, KMS students Victoria Garcia, Natasha Romero and Kloey Spahni ranked in the top 144 students to be in the Mixed Choir, and Aracely Vasquez made it into the Treble Choir (top 250 students).



photo by DERIK MOORE  
Aracely Vasquez earned a spot on the Region 33 Middle School Treble Choir.



photo by DERIK MOORE  
Region 33 Mixed Choir selections (from left) Victoria Garcia, Natasha Romero and Kloey Spahni.

In addition, six students also qualified for the Middle School Regional Choir, and six students qualified in the Middle School Regional Orchestra who participated Saturday at Porter High School. The

KMS choral program is directed by Miguel Guzman.

Also, Sheldon ISD will be hosting the Region 33 Middle School Choir Concert at C. E. King High School on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 5:30 p.m.

## SHELDON ISD

### C.E. King HS student recognized at Gala



photo by DERIK MOORE  
C.E. King High School freshman Maritza Becerra.

C. E. King High School freshman Maritza Becerra was recognized at a special Gala Awards event last week for being selected as a winner in the 2016 Houston Games for Change Challenge.

Maritza created a video

game called "Save a Life," where gamers move around the screen and collect various objects. Her design was based on software she had used in her Globaloria course as an eighth grader at King Middle School.

## CHANNELVIEW ISD

### Books and Breakfast for Veterans



Freddie Garcia reading to students.

Local veterans were treated to a continental breakfast at Channelview ISD's Crenshaw Elementary in celebration of Veterans Day recently. In

addition, veterans like Freddie Garcia read to the students in the school library. The event was one of several held throughout the district during the week of Nov. 7-11.

## Human Trafficking,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stopping this epidemic that is occurring in our own backyard."

Senator Garcia has worked closely with the Texas Trucking Association, the Children's Defense Fund, and "Truckers Against Trafficking" drafting this legislation.

"For years, professional truck drivers have been known as the knights of the road, protectors of our highways," said Texas Trucking Association President John D. Esparza. "We know simple awareness training and education, can empower our drivers and save lives."

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# SCHOOL/COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY MEETING

Monday, November 28, 2016, 8:30 A.M., East Freeway HPD Storefront, 12001-A East Freeway (Next to Burlington).

### New - evening San Jacinto Pilot Club

Meetings began on November 1st at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church (next to WalMart) and continue every 1st Tuesday of each month. The charter ceremony for this new club, made up mostly of former Anchors, will be Saturday, Jan 21, at 6 pm. More information to follow. For answer to your questions or to JOIN us, call Ericka at 832-264-1565.

### 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.

### Galena Park Senior Dance

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

### North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors holds a dance every Thursday from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Lyndell/Basell on Sheldon Road at noon.

### Jacinto City Branch Library

-Thur., Nov. 24-26, library CLOSED.  
-Monday, Nov. 27, ESL Discussion Class, 4:00 pm.  
-Tuesday, Nov. 28, Toddler Time, 10:30 am; Children's Storytime-Pirates Theme, 11:30 am.  
-Wednesday, Nov. 29, ESL Class, 12:30 pm.

### COMPUTER CLASSES:

They will be suspending computer classes at this location until further notice. There are free computer classes at Galena Park Library, 713-450-0982 and North Channel Library, 281-457-1631. Jacinto City Branch Library is located at 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX 77029.

### Hope Memorial Candlelight Service

Hearts of Parents Endure (HOPE) will hold its fifteenth annual candlelight ceremony at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, at San Jacinto College North Campus, 5800 Uvalde, for parents, families, and friends to honor and remember children who have passed away. The ceremony will be held at the site of The Christmas Box Angel Memorial Garden. HOPE is a non-profit organization made up of parents who have lost children. The concept for the Christmas Box Angel evolved from a 1993 bestselling book, THE CHRISTMAS BOX, written by Richard Paul Evans. After writing the book, Mr. Evans commissioned an artist to sculpt an angel statue. Over 100 angels have been erected in the United States. The vision of HOPE is to create a quiet, peaceful place where families can go to remember their children and find comfort and healing. The ceremony is open to the public, and anyone who has lost a child is invited to be present to lay a white flower in memory of their child. For additional information, please contact Velma Chesnutt at 713-453-5266.

## 'Santa's Christmas Magic' returns to San Jacinto College Musical is a family celebration spectacular

PASADENA, Texas — The San Jacinto College theatre and film department is set to ring in the holiday season with its annual production of "Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical."

The family celebration spectacular will be performed in the Powell Arena Theatre, located on the San Jacinto College Central Campus at 8060 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. "Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical" performances are set for Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m., and on Dec. 4 and 11 at 2:30 p.m. Special day matinee performances will be performed for area schools and day cares on Dec. 1 and 2.

"Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical" is a fantasy about a sinister plot to steal Santa's magic. The cast includes male and female actors, as well

as singers and dancers from ages 4 to adult. Highlights of the show include toys that come alive and dance and sing, and chorus of children elves. Santa Claus will also take a break from building toys at the North Pole to visit with children during intermission.

"This is a high energy musical that includes outstanding acting, singing and a lot of dancing," commented Dr. Jerry Ivins, Central Campus theatre and film department chair. "For the last 20 years we have presented this show to the community, and it is a holiday tradition for the region. Nearly every performance has sold out since we introduced the production, and we are so thankful for the continued support of our patrons."

"The cost for general admission is \$10 per person. Tickets bought and picked up at least two days prior to the opening of the show, Nov. 28th, cost \$8 each." To make reservations, please call 281-476-1828.

San Jacinto College offers theatre degrees and classes at the South and Central campuses. To learn more about a career in theatre, visit sanjac.edu/career/theatre-film.



From left to right: J.D. Mathis of La Porte, Marcus Delzell of League City, and Luke Bellar of Pasadena, rehearse for this year's performance of "Santa's Christmas Magic." Photo credit: Andrea Vasquez, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations and government affairs department.

## Interact students brighten the day of veterans at VA Hospital

Channelview High School Interact Club members brought smiles to the faces of area veterans during a recent trip to the VA Hospital in Houston.

In what has become an annual tradition, the students assembled goody bags of assorted items and accompanied local Rotary Club leaders to deliver the gifts to veterans who are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

"This is one of the most meaningful projects we participate in all year," said Steven Shoemaker, CHS Interact sponsor. "Our students enjoy visiting with these heroes and being able to brighten their day."

The Interact students filled more than 50 bags for the veterans and loaded them onto a bus that was traveling to the VA Hospital. Once the Rotary members and the students arrived, they visited several rooms and presented the gifts to the patients.

North Shore Rotary Club member Bill Palko travels to the VA Hospital

every year to make the presentations to the veterans. He said he is always impressed by the thoughtfulness of Channelview's Interact students.

"These visits are so impactful," Palko said. "A simple gesture such as a 'thank you' and a goody bag makes a huge impact in a person's life. We appreciate the Interact students and all that they do to support these veterans."

Earlier in the day, the Interact students served as volunteers at the North Channel Salutes event at Armenta's Banquet Hall. The event, sponsored by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, is also an event that honors local veterans.

Interact students helped assemble the main display at the event, the Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall. The wall, founded by Carson George, honors the memory of his son Marine Lance Cpl. Phillip Carson George and 620 other Texas men and women killed in action since Sept. 11, 2001. The



Channelview High School Interact Club members load care packages onto a bus traveling to the VA Hospital in Houston. The students and members of the North Shore Rotary Club and others gave the gifts to veterans who are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

students put together the 14-panel wall, which travels to more than 60 memorial services and fundraisers for veterans every year.

"Mr. George just cannot say enough great things about the (Interact) kids," Palko said. "The kindness of this outstanding group of young people and their willingness to always lend a helping hand makes quite an impression."

CHS Principal Cindi Ollis said the efforts of the Interact students sets a positive example for others to follow.

"It makes me extremely proud when I see our students so involved in community service," she said. "It helps them to see the broader picture of volunteering and how their efforts really do make a difference."

## Thanksgiving Parade,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Office of Special Events and will begin on Smith at Lamar, north to Walker, east to Milam, south to Pease, west to Louisiana, north to Clay, west to Smith, and north to end at Smith and Dallas.

Sponsors of the H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade include: H-E-B, Airgas, Hyatt Regency Downtown Houston, Super Bowl Host Committee, Highland Village Shopping Center, Magical Winter Lights, Wells Fargo, McDonalds, Arro App, GOYA Food, First Choice Emergency Room, Miri Piri Academy, Dickens on the Strand, SP+ Parking Kings Bierhaus, and Lone Star Ford. The 67th Annual H-E-B

Thanksgiving Day Parade begins at 9 a.m., is free and open to the public. A limited amount of seats are available at the parade's starting line, and can be purchased through the official website for \$28 each including service fee. Curbside space along the route for lawn chairs and blankets will be plentiful. Arrive early to partake in the food truck offerings stationed throughout the route.

Easy access parking is available along the route, and Metro buses will be running on a holiday schedule. For route and schedule information, please visit Metro or call 713-635-4000.

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# LIFESTYLE

## OBITUARIES

### Henry Louis Boren



Henry Louis Boren, 83, of Channelview, Texas passed from this life on November 16, 2016.

Henry was born March 17, 1933 in Freeport, Texas to parents, Henry Cleveland Boren and Fannie Gertrude Boren. He served his country in the U.S. Army and retired from American Can Company as a line checker after 27-1/2 years. He is preceded in death by his parents and by his wife, Nellie Inez Boren. He is survived by his children, Steve Boren; Melisa Ferguson, Brenda Boren and Karen Bedoya; by 8 grandchildren, Stephanie Davidson, Amy Mullins, Justin Ferguson, Marshall Boren, William Boren, Audrey Boren, Destiny Moore and Emily Bedoya; by 9 great-grandchildren; as well as by three sisters, Shirley Boaz, Verdine Irwin and Ida Belle Cole.

A visitation and service will be held Monday, November 21, 2016 at Carter-Conley Funeral Chapel. Visitation will be from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. with Services to celebrate his life starting at 2:00 p.m. Burial will follow in San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

**Carter-Conley Funeral Home,**  
13701 Corpus Christi St.  
Houston, TX 77015  
713-455-5100

### Ricky Eric Swanner



Ricky Eric Swanner, 64, of Highlands, Texas passed away November 19, 2016. He was born on October 7, 1952 to Arlen Swanner and Bobbie Bridwell. Ricky graduated from Sterling High School in Baytown. He served his county and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force. Ricky was easy going, likeable, caring, and helpful to anyone. He loved watching the Dallas Cowboys, spending time with family and going hunting and fishing. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Melody Swanner Staudt; grandfather, Otto Bridwell; and grandmothers, Omie Bridwell and Vanya Swanner.

Ricky is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra Swanner; sons, Ricky Swanner Jr. and wife, Senoy and Jason Swanner; brothers, Arlen Swanner Jr. and wife Leanne, Chris Swanner, and wife Tammy, Mike Swanner and wife

Joy; granddaughters, Skyler, Sophie, and Kindle; grandsons, Chance, Johnny, and Stephen; and a host of extended family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Saturday, November 26, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the chapel of Sterling-White Funeral Home. Funeral services will immediately follow at 11 a.m. also in the chapel. Interment will follow in Sterling-White Cemetery.

Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd, Highlands, Texas. Please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com) to share memories and condolences with the family.

## TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie A. Farrar



## A short cold

Had a light frost the other morning but do not think it was enough to sweeten the collards. That's right as Google says cold converts starches in the leaves to sugar for a sweeter taste and changes the structures of some of the proteins giving a better flavor.

Always heard a freeze is good for collards so now we know why. Collards are the only thing growing in the Garden of Weedin except for one Tabasco pepper plant with a couple dozen colored pods sticking up straight; saving the pepper for the mockingbirds later on. They eat the colorful pepper pods like it was candy.

The recent cold only lasted one morning and that ain't enough for hog killing weather.

Back in the day, in hog killing weather we had two wash pots over fire outback off the Liberty Hill Rd back and are very thankful for being a young chap back in those days, but at least my memory seems to work remembering it. Simply put, hog killing is a lot of work and no place for kids or was back in the day.

Mom and my grandmother cooked in the big pots or one should say rendered the fat to lard for later use during the year. Doctor says don't eat that kind of food today but lard sure makes good bread.

Also in the pots were chunks of hog meat which was fried thus resulting in

clacking's that are also good in bread. Doctor says same thing...kill joy

Ma Pearl took the chore of doing the chittlins. One didn't hang around long while that was going on; a stinky job cleaning the chit out of the chitting. Men folk knew how to butcher the hog and do the meat for making sausage and it was placed into a big wash tub as it came out of the grinder. Some would fuss about the red pepper added to the sausage but that's ok. They made cheese out of the head but never got any. Guess it was so good they hogged it up.

One also read on Google that milk helps wash away the hot stuff from eating hot pepper (fatty oil). Milk and other dairy products help or so they say. The dairy product washes away the capsaicin...in fact spit it out and the capsaicin with it.

The milk thing is something one has heard about for a good while but one thinks it falls in the category of hog wash. You take one of those tabasco peppers in the garden and munch on it a bit. Then try the milk thing or cottage cheese to see if you get a relief from the heat much less feel that the dairy product dull down the inferno. Bread is another product that supposed to help and then again, don't swallow but spit it out. We be sitting back laughing at you.

You can reach Charlie Farrar at [xuseg@comcast.net](mailto:xuseg@comcast.net).

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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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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.  
Leviticus 19:32

# BUSINESS

## Diamond Jim: "What is the U.S. Merchant Marine?"



### United States Merchant Marine

The United States Merchant Marine refers to either United States civilian mariners or to a fleet of U.S. civilian and federally owned merchant vessels. These fleets are managed by either the government or private sector, and engage in commerce or transportation of goods and services in and out of the navigable waters of the United States. The Merchant Marine is responsible for transporting cargo and passengers during peacetime. In times of war, they can be an auxiliary to the United States Navy, and can be called upon to deliver military personnel and material for the military. Merchant Marine Officers may also be designated as Military Officers by the Department of Defense. This is commonly achieved by commissioning unlimited tonnage Merchant Marine Officers as Strategic Sealift Officers in the Naval Reserves. Merchant mariners move cargo and passengers between nations and within the United States, and operate and maintain deep-sea merchant ships, tugboats, towboats, ferries, dredges, excursion vessels, charter boats and other waterborne craft on the oceans, the Great Lakes, rivers, canals, harbors, and other waterways.

The United States Merchant Marine is also governed by several international conventions to promote safety and prevent pollution. As of 2006, the United States merchant fleet had 465 privately owned ships of 1,000 or more gross register tons. Nearly 800 American-owned ships are flagged in other nations. The federal government maintains fleets of merchant ships via organizations such as Military Sealift Command and the National Defense Reserve Fleet, which is managed by the United States Maritime Administration. In 2004, the federal government employed approximately 5% of all American water transportation workers.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (also known as USMA or Kings Point) is one of the five United States Service academies, and one of seven United States maritime academies. It is charged with training officers for the United States Merchant Marine, branches of the military, and the transportation industry.

The Academy operates on an \$85 million annual budget funded by the US Department of Transportation and is administered by the U.S. Maritime Administration ("MARAD"). Joseph Banks Williams entered the Academy in 1940 and was the first African-American to graduate in 1944. Admission requirements were further changed in 1974 to become the

### ASK DIAMOND JIM

first service academy to enroll female students, two years before the other service academies.

Freshmen, known as plebes, start in early July where they begin a three-week indoctrination period, also known as "in-doc." In-doc is functionally run by upperclassmen but is overseen by officers of the United States Maritime Service who are part of the Commandant of Midshipman's staff. This high stress period involves physical training, marching, and an intensive introduction to regimental life at the academy. After the indoctrination period is completed, the academic year begins. In September, first year students officially become part of the regiment upon taking the oath of office into the U.S. Navy Reserve on Acceptance Day. Until they are "recognized" later in the academic year, plebes continue to be required to adhere to stringent rules affecting most aspects of their daily life. After earning it, the plebes are recognized giving them the title of Midshipmen, which gives them more privileges, known as rates.

Academy students, known as midshipmen, focus on one of two different ship transport areas of education: marine transportation or marine engineering. Transportation students learn about ship navigation, cargo handling, navigation rules and maritime law. Engineering students learn about the function of the ship's engines and its supporting systems. There are currently five different academic majors available to midshipmen. Two of them are referred to as "Deck Majors" because in addition to a Bachelor of Science degree in the major field of study: Marine Transportation or Logistics and Intermodal Transportation; they sit for and upon successful completion of the examination are issued a Third Mate (Deck Officer) License of Steam or Motor Vessels, Unlimited Tonnage, Upon Oceans. The other three available curricula are referred to as "Engine Majors"; they are: Marine Engineering, Marine Engineering Systems, and Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management. "Engine Majors" sit for and upon successful completion of the examination are issued Third Assistant Engineer (3A/E - Engineering Officer) Licenses Steam and Motor Vessels, Any Horsepower. Marine Engineering Systems and Shipyard Management graduates are also qualified to sit for the Engineer In Training (EIT) examination administered by the

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

For part of sophomore and junior year, known at the Academy as third class and second class year, students work as cadets on American flagged unlimited tonnage merchant ships. Midshipmen are typically paired two to a ship, one engineering cadet and one deck cadet. Midshipmen work and function as part of the crew and gain an opportunity for generous amounts of hands-on experience as well as the opportunity to travel abroad to many different foreign ports. The average midshipman travels to 18 countries during this period, which totals a minimum of 300 days. Due to this absence from the Academy, the remaining three academic years span from late July, through mid-June.

Women were barred from U.S. maritime academies until 1974, when the State University of New York Maritime College and the California Maritime Academy first admitted women cadets.

We at Pineforest Jewelry proudly salute all members of the US Merchant Marine, as well as all of our service men and women...both alive and passed. Without your service and sacrifices we would not enjoy the freedoms we have today. Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com). If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

## Put Thanksgiving Lessons to Work in Your Financial Plans

Thanksgiving is almost here. Over the years, this holiday has taken on a variety of meanings, most of them centered on family, caring and sharing. You can carry these same values past Thanksgiving into your daily life – and you can certainly incorporate them into your financial strategies for taking care of your loved ones.

So, here are a few suggestions:

Protect your family. If something were to happen to you, could your family pay the mortgage? Could your children still afford to go to college someday? To protect your family's current lifestyle and long-term goals, you may well need to maintain adequate life and disability insurance. Your employer may offer these types of protection as employee benefits, but the coverage might be insufficient for your needs. Consequently, you might need to supplement your employer-paid insurance with additional policies.

Invest in your children. If you have young children, and you'd like to see them go to college someday, you may want to start putting money away toward that goal. You can save and invest for college in a variety of ways, but one popular method is through a 529 plan, which offers high contribution limits and potential tax advantages. Plus, a 529 plan gives you significant control and flexibility: – if you establish a plan for one child, but he or she decides not to go to college, you can name another child as the recipient.

### ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

Be generous. You don't have to be a millionaire to make meaningful financial gifts to your family. For example, if you have grown children, consider helping them fund their IRAs. You can't contribute directly to a child's IRA, but you can write checks for your children for that purpose – though, of course, they are then free to do whatever they want with the money. It's not always easy for a young person to "max out" on an IRA, which has an annual contribution limit of \$5,500 for workers under 50, so any help you can give your children in this area should be greatly appreciated.

Safeguard your own financial independence. Almost certainly, one of the most undesirable outcomes you can imagine is to become financially dependent on your grown children. Even if you save and invest diligently throughout your working years, you could still be vulnerable to financial dependency if you need an extensive period of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. These costs can be enormous, and Medicare typically pays only a small percentage, and usually for just a limited time. To protect your financial freedom, you

should explore ways of addressing long-term care costs. A financial professional can explain those alternatives that may be appropriate for your situation.

Communicate your wishes to your family. At some point in your life, you will need to draw up your estate plans, which could include a will, a living trust, a durable power of attorney, a health care directive and other documents. To be fair to your children and other family members, and to avoid hurt feelings, you should clearly communicate your plans and your wishes while you are still around.

Thanksgiving means more than turkey and football. And if you can successfully apply the lessons of this holiday to your financial plans, both you and your family will have reason to be thankful.

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Bids will be opened and read at the regular council meeting at 10301 Market Street at 6:00 p.m. on December 8, 2016. All bids submitted to Jacinto City must be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount of 5% of total bid.

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<b>REVENUES:</b>					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 112,534,280	\$ 40,439,141	\$ 652,734	\$ 6,593,497	\$ 160,219,652
5900 State Program Revenues	84,868,787	732,308	-	4,698,225	90,299,300
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,577,782	-	-	21,170,625	24,748,407
5020 Total Revenues	200,980,829	41,171,449	652,734	32,462,347	275,267,359
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	118,176,161	-	11,636,804	12,966,930	142,779,895
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	2,312,862	-	61,515	1,269	2,375,646
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,157,014	-	-	1,690,519	3,847,533
0021 Instructional Leadership	4,120,829	-	-	150,146	4,270,975
0023 School Leadership	12,114,531	-	-	-	12,114,531
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	6,477,658	-	-	571,028	7,048,686
0032 Social Work Services	967,164	-	-	9,557	976,721
0033 Health Services	1,994,461	-	8,117	-	2,002,578
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	8,543,303	-	-	-	8,543,303
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	14,023,821	14,023,821
0036 Extracurricular Activities	4,246,470	-	-	1,007,391	5,253,861
0041 General Administration	6,374,307	-	11,052	1,668	6,387,027
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	25,577,922	-	2,837,232	274,116	28,689,270
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	2,420,258	-	778,669	-	3,198,927
0053 Data Processing Services	3,391,733	-	38,906	-	3,430,639
0061 Community Services	217,162	-	-	1,576,818	1,793,980
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	572,085	15,905,000	-	-	16,477,085
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	114,903	21,377,144	-	-	21,492,047
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	1,045,042	-	-	1,045,042
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	158,003	-	29,425,035	-	29,583,038
Intergovernmental:					
0095 Payments to Juvenile Justice Alternative Ed. Prg.	6,600	-	-	-	6,600
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,120,967	-	-	-	1,120,967
6030 Total Expenditures	201,064,193	38,327,186	44,797,330	32,273,263	316,461,972
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(83,364)	2,844,263	(44,144,596)	189,084	(41,184,613)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):</b>					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	-	70,425,000	-	-	70,425,000
7915 Transfer In	750,000	-	2,082,626	38,850	2,871,476
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	7,945,753	-	-	7,945,753
7917 Prepaid Interest	-	137,752	-	-	137,752
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(2,121,476)	-	-	-	(2,121,476)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	-	(77,992,733)	-	-	(77,992,733)
9949 Other (Uses)	-	-	-	(158,192)	(158,192)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(1,371,476)	515,772	2,082,626	(119,342)	1,107,580
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,454,840)	3,360,035	(42,061,970)	69,742	(40,087,033)
3100 Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	69,533,633	25,042,613	156,042,156	3,942,471	254,560,873
3000 Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	\$ 68,078,793	\$ 28,402,648	\$ 113,980,186	\$ 4,012,213	\$ 214,473,840

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**Highlands Acid Pit Superfund Site Public Notice**  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6  
November 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, will be conducting the fifth five-year review of remedy implementation and performance at the Highlands Acid Pit Superfund site (Site) in Highlands, Texas. In the 1950s, the area was used for the disposal of industrial waste sludge, believed to be spent sulfuric acid from oil and gas refining processes. Waste disposal activities contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals.

Cleanup included excavation and disposal of contaminated soil at an off-site hazardous waste facility, backfilling of the excavated area with clean soil, establishment of vegetation, and installation of a security fence. The remedy also included monitored natural attenuation, institutional controls, long-term maintenance and groundwater monitoring. Site maintenance activities and groundwater monitoring are ongoing. The five-year review will determine if the remedies are still protective of human health and the environment. The five-year review is scheduled for completion in September 2017.

The report will be made available to the public at the following local information repository:

Highlands Public Library, Stratford Branch  
509 Stratford Street  
Highlands, Texas 77562

Site status updates are available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/highlands-acid-pit>

All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Press Office at (214) 665-2200

For more information about the Site, contact:

Stephen Pereira/Remedial Project Manager  
(214) 665-3137  
or 1-800-533-3508 (toll-free)  
or by email at [pereira.stephen@epa.gov](mailto:pereira.stephen@epa.gov)

Edward Mekeel/Community Involvement Coordinator  
(214) 665-2252  
or 1-800-533-3508 (toll-free)  
or by email at [mekeel.edward@epa.gov](mailto:mekeel.edward@epa.gov)

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Annual **Candlelight Remembrance**



Carter-Conley Funeral Home cordially invites the families we have served, as well as the general public to celebrate the Christmas holidays with a time of remembrance during the Annual Memorial Candle Lighting Service.

**Sunday Afternoon**  
**December 4th, at 3:00 p.m.**  
at Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi Street.


If you have lost a loved one and find that the holidays are a difficult time, we encourage you to come and share a word of encouragement and holiday entertainment followed by a candle lighting ceremony to remember your loved one. Refreshments will be served.  
We will also have a

**Christmas Remembrance Tree from**  
**November 28th thru January 1st, 2016**

on which you can hang a Christmas ornament personalized with the name of your departed loved one, which will be yours to keep after the holidays.

It is our hope to make the holiday a little easier to bear as we remember the reason for the season, as well as our loved ones.  
For any additional information please call 713/455-5100.

Sincerely, Carter-Conley Funeral Home Staff



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