

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

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CHANNEL CHATTER



**NC CHAMBER
LUNCHEON**

Friday, September 4, 2015,
11:30 a.m. San Jacinto College N., 5800 Uvalde Rd., 77049. Speaker Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman.

**HERNANDEZ
LEGISLATIVE
TOWN HALL
MEETINGS**

Join State Representative Ana Hernandez on:
•Tuesday, September 15, 2015 from 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm at Neighborhood Centers, Inc. Ripley House, 4410 Navigation, Houston, TX. 77011.
Come get an update on new laws passed during the 84th Legislative Session.
For more information call 713-675-8596.

**MAN
INJURED IN
ROAD RAGE
SHOOTING**

A man was injured in a possible road rage shooting in northeast Houston last Saturday, Houston Police reported.
The man made a stop at at red light at the Intersection of Fidelity and Market St. around 11:30 p.m. when a car pulled up and opened fire, shooting several times through the passenger's side window, police said.
The victim was able to drive away, north on the East Loop to Wallisville Road where he pulled into a parking lot and asked for help.
Emergency personnel arrived, the victim was taken to the hospital in serious condition. The shooter got away.

Freeport Street reconstruction completed

NORTH CHANNEL – The first issue of the *North Channel Star*, dated Dec. 4, 2013 headlined the groundbreaking of a major redevelopment project, the rebuilding of Freeport Street and related storm drainage, sidewalks and curbs. The actual date of the groundbreaking was Nov. 6, 2013.
Now 22 months later, the project is complete, and many of the community leaders that were present before joined Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman on Thursday morning, Aug. 27 to cut the ribbon to ceremonially open the street to the public.
The street project was funded by federal money after Hurricane Ike damaged the area, and was administered by the Texas General Land Office and HUD, according to Morman. The total cost of the



FINISHED! Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman, center, and Constable Ken Jones, hold the ceremonial scissors to cut the ribbon signifying the completion and opening of the rebuilt Freeport Street. With the commissioner are officials from Harris County, and community leaders from the North Channel/Channelview area that were present for the original groundbreaking in November 2013.

project was about \$12.8 million, and the general contractor was Allgood Construction Co. Engineers were R. G. Miller Engineers, and Dannenbaum Engineering, Harris County was represented

ter his retirement. Pct. 2 road and bridge representative was Jeremy Phillips.
Beside the new paving of the three concrete lanes, the contract also called for curbs and storm drains.
Pct. 2 also repaved many streets in the Cloverleaf area during this time, with money from the Better2Streets 2Neighborhoods county funds.
Morman addressed the crowd of community leaders and involved parties before the ribbon cutting, at the Leon Grayson Community Center. North Channel Chamber board chairman Kim Gonzalez acted as master of ceremonies, and hosted a reception following the ceremony, in the community center.
The new street paving runs from the I-10 East Freeway frontage road, to Holly Park.

Yellow Jackets swarm to win over Spartans



On a punt return, senior David Solis broke numerous tackles to score a touchdown.

The Galena Park Yellow Jackets looked dominant in their 35-0 victory over the Scarborough Spartans Friday night.
The sparseness of the Spartan team was evident on the field. The Scarborough players

didn't stand down, but the well-coached Jackets overwhelmed them from the beginning.
"It was a win, but we still have some things to work on. Right now we're 1-0. It feels good. We can enjoy it over the weekend, but on Monday it's time to prepare for the next challenge," said Dave Handal, Head Coach of the Yellow Jackets.
The Yellow Jackets visit the Tomball Memorial Wildcats Friday night at 7:00 PM.

State Rep. Ana Hernandez, District 143 New Laws took effect September 1, 2015

September 1st is a very important day, as it is the date many laws passed during the 84th Legislative Session go into effect. Below you will find a summary of a few of these laws. Unless otherwise noted, each new law goes into effect today, September 1, 2015.
Please note that the following is not a comprehensive list of all new laws passed by the Texas Legislature. For information regarding all new laws, please click on the following link:
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/> or contact our office.
Protecting Our Retirees
The state will increase its contributions to the Employee Retirement System (ERS), putting the fund closer to full financial health and strengthening retiree benefits.
Cracking Down On Human Trafficking
Human traffickers will face increased criminal and civil penalties; these include stricter felony counts and seizure of traffickers' financial assets hidden behind shell corporations. Additional help and resources for trafficking victims will also be established.
Employer Requirements for Working Mothers
All public employers in Texas, such as school districts and state agencies, will now be required to provide accommodations for employees that need to pump breast milk at work. This will help retain talented employees by making workplaces more mother-friendly.
Faster Access to 911
Multiline telephone systems — like the ones in hotels and offices — where you would normally have to dial another number first to get an outside line, will now be required to have direct 911 dialing services.
Controlling Prescription Medicine Costs
The state will begin a pilot program allowing people

See NEW LAWS, page 8

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY Channelview Fire Department receives grant for fire prevention



Channelview Fire Department received a \$1,500 dollar fire prevention grant from LyondellBasell corporation. The funding for this grant will be used to purchase fire prevention items to educate the local schools in Channelview. Pictured from left to right: Gerald Sherman, David Gray, Richard Austin, Scott Buchman, and Todd Monette.

GO BIG OR GO HOME FOUNDATION Huge crowd attends Cody Stephens Foundation benefit



A sell-out crowd attended last Saturday's Go Big or Go Home Foundation's benefit auction and awards ceremony, at the American Legion Hall in Crosby. After the death of Scott Stephen's son Cody, he has worked for 3 years to raise funds to pay for EKG heart screenings for student athletes in local schools. This auction was attended by about 500 people, and raised a gross amount of over \$200,000 according to Scott. Funds pay for education and screenings.



ABOVE, Texas Legislators Wayne Smith and Dan Huberty are thanked by Scott for their efforts to pass HB876, which would have required EKG screenings. The bottom photo is a neon Logo of Cody's #76.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Law enforcement to crack down on drunk drivers during Labor Day holiday

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Transportation reminds drivers that law enforcement officers across the state are out in full force looking for drunk drivers in the weeks leading up to Labor Day, Sept. 7. Last year in Texas, 21 people were killed and 42 were seriously injured in 338 alcohol-related crashes over the Labor Day holiday.

“Labor Day weekend is a fun time for family and friends to celebrate, but you absolutely must have a sober-ride plan if you’re going to consume alcohol,” said TxDOT Executive Director Lt.Gen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). “Too many people are killed on our roads each year – especially during holidays – due to

impaired driving. These crashes are inexcusable and 100-percent preventable. We are grateful to our law enforcement officers who will be keeping Texans safe by pulling over and arresting impaired drivers.”

Many Texas communities implement “no-refusal” programs over Labor Day weekend, authorizing law enforcement officials to obtain blood samples from suspected drunk drivers and motorcyclists. Drivers convicted of DWI in Texas face costs up to \$17,000 plus possible jail time, limited career prospects and loss of driver’s license.

TxDOT strongly encourages everyone to have a plan for a sober ride be-

fore going out.

Visit SoberRides.org to locate alternatives to drinking and driving, including:

- Calling a taxi or using a transportation app on your smartphone.
- Using mass transit.
- Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride home.
- Spending the night.

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

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer’s Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of July 17, 2015.

Rotary’s Chinquapin Interact club very active



INTERACT is the high school club sponsored by Rotary clubs nationally. In Highlands, Rotary sponsors a club at Chinquapin School, and at Goose Creek Memorial. ABOVE, the Chinquapin attended a recent Rotary luncheon, and reported on the activities of their club. L to R, Advisor Yoli Bartholome, Ahmad Hill, Elizabeth Bernal, Alejandro Izaguirre, Analilia Rojas, Rotary Club President Larry White, and Yasmin Rojas. The club has about 35 students, and meets weekly. Activities have included helping with Baytown Special Rodeo, Highlands Chili Feast, visits to Mountbatten House, Wreaths Across America, and Books for the World.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES LIMITED TO \$2 MILLION

House Bill 1794 will curb county lawsuits

House Bill 1794, became law on Sept. 1, it sets a five-year statute of limitations and cap payouts at about \$2 million when counties sue companies that have fouled their water or air. Gov. Gregg Abbott signed the bill in a public ceremony.

Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, and Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, pushed the bill through both the House and Senate, drawing little debate.

Proponents say that curbing the civil penalties assessed on top of those state regulators issues will help the economy of certain companies.

Home to the nation’s largest petrochemical complex, the county receives about 1,500 citizen complaints about pollution each year, and employs four attorneys to handle environmental litigation and compliance. Smaller counties typically rely only on outside legal help in environmental cases.

About 50 years ago, Texas lawmakers gave local governments the power to bring civil suits against companies for violating environmental laws, and Harris County has often used that authority.

State environmental vi-

olations that result in a lawsuit requires the state to join in as a “necessary and indispensable party.”

In the past five years, Harris County has brought about 10 such cases per year, with penalties averaging about \$61,000 per case. But several high-profile environmental cases have resulted in bigger settlements with the county, including a January agreement with AT&T for about \$5 million over leaking storage tanks.

In the last year, Harris County won a lawsuit against polluters in the San Jacinto River, extracting \$29.4 million in a settle-

Get Ready for Higher Tax Bills More costly to live, do business in Houston

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan says living, building and working in Houston has become increasingly expensive.

“The Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) certified the 2015 appraisal roll. Be on the lookout for tax bills in the mail, the first week of November,” said Mike Sullivan.

According to HCAD Chief Appraiser Sand Stiefer, the total taxable value for property in Harris County has increased 12% since last year. In 2014, the value was \$349.9 billion. In 2015, that number climbed to \$392.2 billion.

The average residential home tax bill will increase approximately \$310.

Average Residential Home Appraised Values:

Average Home Value	Tax Bill
2014 \$ 133,147	\$3,243
2015 \$ 149,867	\$3,553

Residential properties, which are single family homes, make up 41 percent of the county’s tax base, apartments are 8 percent and commercial properties are approximately 25 percent.

Residential Properties	15% up
Commercial Properties	12% up
Apartment	19% up

The Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector’s Office Property Tax Division maintains approximately 1.1 million tax accounts and collects property taxes for 17 taxing entities including Harris County. For the 2014 tax year, the Tax Assessor-Collector’s Office collected more than \$5 billion in property taxes.



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CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

McDonald's Offers Free Coffee for Teachers

All teachers who present a valid I.D. can receive one free McCafe hot or iced Premium Roast Coffee every Monday during September. This offer is good at any time of day at participating McDonald's in the Greater Houston area.

McDonald's appreciates all of the hard work teachers do and would like to thank them by offering free coffee.

North Shore Rotary Golf Tournament

Mark Mulloy Memorial Golf Tournament will take place Thursday, October 29, 2015 at Red Wolf Run Golf Resort (Huffman).
11:00 AM Registration, Lunch, Meeting (short)
1:00 PM Shotgun
E-mail to: terridenny66@yahoo.com or call (713) 705-9731 for more information.

MONDAYS

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.

2nd & 4th THURSDAY

San Jacinto Pilot Club

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

SEPTEMBER

Galena Park Library events

-September 7 - CLOSED
-Sep. 9, Wed., 10:1 am, Computación básica; 11 am, Children's Story Time; 1:30 pm, Computers Basics; 4 pm, Get Active.
-Sep. 10, Thur., 10 am, Baby Time.
Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.
The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

SEPTEMBER

North Channel Library events

-Monday, Sep. 7, CLOSED
-Tue., Sep. 8, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time.
-Thu., Sep. 10, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 pm, Teens: Blanket Program.
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

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.

\$25,000 donation helps San Jacinto College provide workforce training

HOUSTON – Donations such as a recent \$25,000 scholarship fund from the PVF Roundtable allow San Jacinto College's pipefitting program to continue to meet industry workforce training needs.

The PVF Roundtable is an organization of industry professionals involved in the pipe, valve and fitting industry. PVF Roundtable member companies prepare for the future by providing funds to educational and training institutes to encourage the growth of the PVF field.

"The PVF Roundtable is looking to positively impact the lives of people by supporting educational partners like San Jacinto College," commented Harold Armstrong, PVF Roundtable vice president. "We look to such institutions to provide well-trained graduates who become solid, dependable employees."

Armstrong said the pipefitting, and pipefitting fabrication industry provides well-paying careers that are in high demand, and provide excellent job security. "By providing scholarship funding, the PVF Roundtable enables students to learn a skilled craft trade, and not only improve their lives, but also enrich our community," he added. "We look at it as a solid return-on-investment, and it's a win-win for industry, San Jacinto College, and the community."

San Jacinto College's pipefitting program prepares graduates to enter the construction industry as entry-level pipefitters or pipefitting fabricators – workers who fabricate, install, and maintain pipes that carry chemical products, steam, acids, and gases. Such pipes are mostly used in manufacturing, commercial, and industrial settings. In general, a pipefitter maintains and repairs existing pipe systems, whereas a pipefitting fabricator can provide maintenance, and can also



San Jacinto College student Paul Wellacher, right, works on a class project under the supervision of pipefitting instructor Jay Nuong Nguyen.

Photo by Rob Vanya.

fabricate a new system.

According to Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) data, the average salary for pipefitters in the Texas Gulf Coast region is \$24.21 per hour, or \$50,349 per year. According to the TWC labor market site, the demand for pipefitters in the Gulf Coast region is above average.

San Jacinto College's pipefitting program enables graduates to earn a Pipefitting Fabricator Marketable Skill Achievement Award. The program includes four courses that contain 64 contact hours each, meaning that the achievement award reflects a total of 256 overall contact hours (actual classroom time). The four courses are: Basic Pipefitting Skills; Pipefitting Fabrication and Blueprint Reading; Advanced Pipefitting Standards, Specifications and Installation; and Advanced Pipefitting Fabrication and Installation. A "fast track" schedule enables students to earn the pipefitting achievement award in one Fall or Spring term.

"We researched the current job market projections for the program and found that pipefitters are on the Governor's State Targeted Occupations top 25 list," commented Eddie Foster, North Campus industrial technology department chair.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, employment of plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters is projected to grow 26 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. The TWC labor market site indicates that from 2010 to 2020 the need for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters in the Gulf Coast area will grow by 2,190 jobs, which is an increase of 21.1 percent. The jobs require a high school diploma and post-secondary training. According to Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions, pipefitters are among the largest and highest paid construction occupations.

Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation, expressed appreciation for the scholarship donation from the PVF Roundtable. "Support from our industry partners is invaluable to San Jacinto College," Keenan commented. "We are so thankful for this generous gift from the PVF Roundtable. Working together leads to a better future for our students, their families, and our community."

For more information about pipefitting courses and degree plans at San Jacinto College, please visit sanjac.edu/career/pipefitting-fabricator.

Players, sponsors sought for Channelview scholarship tournament

It's time to pull out your golf clubs for a good cause. The Channelview Independent School District's Education Scholarship Foundation will host the 18th annual B.H. Hamblen Scholarship Golf Tournament on Oct. 12.

The Foundation is seeking teams and sponsors to participate in this year's tournament. Registration and lunch will be held from 10:45-11:45 a.m. The four-player scramble will begin at 12 p.m. Door prizes and award presentations will follow at the end of the event.

Last year's tournament raised more than \$27,000 and 81 scholarships of \$750 were awarded to graduating Channelview High School seniors. The tournament has raised over \$382,000 for scholarships over the past 17 years.

The sponsorship levels are as follows:
-Platinum Corporate Sponsor - \$5,000
-Gold Corporate Sponsor - \$2,500

-Silver Corporate Sponsor - \$1,000

Par Sponsor - \$450
• 4 player packages (1 team)

• Sponsorship of 1 hole
• Sponsor board listing
Individual Player Package - \$100

• 18 holes of golf with cart

• Lunch

• On-course refreshments

• 2 mulligans and on-course "specials"

Hole Sponsorship - \$100

• A sign with your name or company name will be displayed on one of the tee boxes.

Drink Cart Sponsorship - \$250

• A sign with your name or company name will be displayed on one of the

drink carts that will be driven around the golf course during the tournament.

Putting Green Sponsorship - \$250

• A sign with your name or company name will be displayed on the practice putting green.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, third and fourth place teams. The fifth through eighth place teams will receive trophies.

For additional information about playing in the tournament or sponsorship information, please contact Jimmy Smith at 281-960-3714, Fred Hubbard at 281-773-0883 or Pam Hall at 281-860-3802. Any door prize or tee gift donations will also be gladly accepted.

CAPITOL UPDATE

New DNA database law now in effect, will prevent and solve crimes

HOUSTON, TX- Today, House Bill 941, passed by Representative Ana Hernandez this year, went into effect. The bill expands the state's CODIS DNA database to include individuals convicted of certain assaultive and sexual offenses, such as Enticement of a Child.

"This law brings twenty-first century technology to bear on serious public safety issues," Hernandez said. "We now have an important tool with which to exonerate innocent persons, bring perpetrators to justice, and prevent future crimes by repeat sexual offenders."

DNA is generally used to solve crimes in one of two ways. In cases where a suspect is identified, a sample of that person's DNA can be compared to

evidence from the crime scene. In cases where a suspect has not yet been identified, biological evidence from the crime scene can be analyzed and compared to offender profiles in DNA databases. Crime scene evidence can also be linked to other crime scenes through the use of DNA databases.

Rep. Ana Hernandez represents District 143 in the Texas House of Representatives and is serving her fifth term. She serves on the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence and the House Committee on Pensions. District 143 includes part of Houston, Channelview, Cloverleaf and the cities of Galena Park and Jacinto City.

Senator Sylvia Garcia's Relationship Privacy Act (SB 1135) now effective

Houston, September 1, 2015 - Today, Senate Bill (SB) 1135, the Relationship Privacy Act, went into effect. Senator Sylvia Garcia authored the bill to help stop the disturbing trend of nonconsensual disclosure of sexually explicit images on the internet. This is usually done with the specific intent to gain revenge and harm the depicted person and without the consent of the depicted person. Thus, this practice has been commonly referred to as "revenge pornography."

Victims' images are commonly posted along with information such as their name, contact information, and links to their social media profiles. To add insult to injury, "revenge porn websites" are further preying on victims by charging fees to remove the sexually explicit images from the internet. SB 1135 establishes criminal penalties and civil remedies for this reprehensible practice. "Posting a nude or sexually explicit photo of someone on the internet

without their permission is an evil and destructive violation of trust. My hope is that the civil and criminal penalties provided for under the Relationship Privacy Act deter this heinous conduct from ever occurring again in Texas. However, should some coward choose to defy all decency in a petty attempt to get revenge, I take some comfort in knowing that the Act gives law enforcement and prosecutors the tools they need to get justice for the victims."

"I would also like to again thank the brave victims of 'revenge pornography' that came forward and shared their stories. This law could not have passed without their courage."

SENATOR SYLVIA R. GARCIA

State Senator Sylvia R. Garcia was sworn into office in 2013. Senator Garcia represents Senate District 6 and previously held office as Houston City Controller from 1998-2002 and County Commissioner from 2002 - 2010.



Did you miss the registration deadline for Fall 2015?

Don't worry, you can still Take 2 with classes that begin on Sept. 8, 2015. Enroll today!

Some students may be required to have a meningitis vaccination. Find out more at www.sanjac.edu/meningitis.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Ralph Wayne Blaha

Ralph Wayne Blaha 64, of Crosby, Texas went to be with the Lord on August 29, 2015.

Ralph was born on August 13, 1951 in Beaumont, Texas to Hubert J. and Mary Belle (Barnett) Blaha. Ralph graduated Crosby High School and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Crosby.

Ralph worked as a truck driver for many years and in his free time he enjoyed hunting, taking pictures of and feeding birds and most of all he loved to spend time with his family, especially his grandchildren who he loved very much. Ralph had a great sense of humor and was a very loyal, strong, witty and caring man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his father, Hubert Blaha; brother-in-law, Mike Davenport and nephews, Jason and Jared Blaha.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife, Pam Davenport Blaha; his mother, Mary Belle Blanchard and her husband James; sister, Debbie Churchill and husband Johnny and their children; brother, Terry Blaha; brother, Jimmy Blaha and wife Jan; mother and father-in-law, Travis and Geraldine Davenport; brother-in-law, Ronnie Davenport and his wife Donna and their three daughters and their families; sister-in-law, Melinda Arwine and her daughter



and family; son, Chad Blaha and wife Amy; son, Brad Blaha and wife Ginny; grandchildren, Tripp Young, Audrey Blaha, Caden Saintes, Brodey Young, Travis Blaha, Abby Blaha, Gabe Blaha and many other relatives and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 from 5pm-8pm at Sterling-White Funeral Home.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 10am at the First Baptist Church in Crosby with burial following at Sterling-White Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made in Ralph's memory to the American Heart Association 10900-B Stonelake Blvd., Suite 320 Austin, TX 78759.

Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, TX 77562. To send the family condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com

Donald Patrick Roberts



Donald Patrick Roberts, age 48, went to be with the Lord on Friday August 28, 2015.

He was born in Fort Worth, Texas on May 9, 1967 to Grace Waters Roberts and Donald Thomas Roberts. He enjoyed water related activities, spending time at the Hill country and at the lake house with his beloved wife, he was a kind, attentive, loving and loyal husband and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Cynthia Roberts; his half-sister Marilyn Nelson; three nieces, other relatives and many friends.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held in Sterling-White Funeral Home Chapel 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, on Wednesday morning September 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be in Sterling-White Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562.

To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lupus Foundation or to the S.P.C.A.



Superintendent reads to students

Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, reads to Alamo Elementary students during his visit to the campus the first week of school. Pictured are (standing, l to r) Kinleigh Elliot and Brandon Holt, 5th grade; Alayjah Jones, 3rd grade; (sitting, l to r) O'Brien; Kingston Thompson, kindergarten and Jacqueline Franco, 3rd grade.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

LITTLE BIDDY BITS By Danny Biddy

New Best Friend

Jerry stopped by the church office unannounced

today, Monday, August 31, 2015. He asked if he could meet with me. I was extremely busy at the moment, but I stopped to see what he needed. He walked in with an insulated bag and pulled out a new carton of Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream, which returned to the stores today. I yelled, "Jerry, you're my new best friend!" I then shared his gift with the rest of those in the office.

"Every man is a friend to him who give gifts." (Proverbs 19:6) The Lord put the name of a friend on your heart and move you to do something for them. You might be amazed how divine your timing is.

Danny R. Biddy, Pastor of the Church on Old River since 1977. www.olderiverbaptist.com

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Labour in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Ecclesiastes 4:9, how many are better than one because they have a

good reward for their labor? Two, Three, Five, Seven

3. In 1 Kings 5:13-14, how many thousand men comprised the labor force that King Solomon raised? 1, 5, 10, 30

4. From Exodus 20:9, how many days shalt thou labor and do all thy work?

Two, Four, Six, Seven

5. What son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor in David's kingdom? Baal, Adoniram, Cyrenius, Phaneul

6. From Proverbs 14:23, "In all labor there is" what? Love, Hope, Light, Profit

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Two; 3) 30; 4) Six; 5) Adoniram; 6) Profit

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SCHOOLS NEWS

Galena Park ISD Superintendent Encourages Students on First Day of School



Dr. Williams wishes some "Wildcats" a happy new [school] year at Cunningham Middle School where she was once a principal.

Dr. Angi Williams, Galena Park ISD Superintendent of Schools, visited numerous schools around GPISD on Monday, August 24 - the first day of the new school year. Students and teachers alike flocked to the well-known leader of

the district where she has served for 30 years in various roles, including counselor, principal and assistant superintendent. She is entering her 5th year as superintendent and is as energetic as ever.

"Being a leader is being a servant. I am here to serve the people of Galena Park ISD, from our students to our faculty to our community. I am extremely blessed to serve in this position," said Dr. Williams.

Channelview offers Career and Technical Education program

The pathways to unlimited opportunities for students can be found in Channelview ISD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

"Our goal is to create and maintain programs that will enable students to gain hands on knowledge and skills and to prepare them for a competitive workforce or post secondary education," CISD Director of Career and Technical Education Mia Young said. "Certification gives students an upper hand when applying for positions in various industries."

Young said several of Channelview High School students have gained certifications while being employed part-time and have seen an increase in pay once they show their employer their certification.

"These testimonies from their peers really motivates students to work hard in our programs to gain certifications," she said.

Students obtaining certifications have truly written their own success stories. For example, at the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year, four graduating seniors received paid intern positions at LyondellBasell with contracts through Austin Industrial. Seven juniors and seniors are also going to work in part-time administrative Cooperative /Work-Based Learning positions at LyondellBasell.

To build on those successes, CTE program is expanding their course offerings by offering new programs. A career pathway in Criminal Justice will begin this school year, along with a program fo-

cused on students who want to pursue career or degrees in Engineering.

Another program that will be offered in the future is for those who are interested in pursuing careers in the Education field.

"Once our Criminal Justice and Engineering programs are effectively implemented, our next program area to implement is our Education pathway," Young said. "Our goal is to have a true 'home grown' program with students who have chosen the Public Service Endorsement with an Education pathway. It is our hope that those students will become passionate about education and go on to become exceptional teachers in our district."

Young said traditional CTE offerings that have been popular have been Health Science, Architecture and Construction program, Agriculture Mechanics, Automotive Technology, Marketing and Family and Consumer Sciences.

This past May, Channelview High School was named an accredited training and education facility through the National Center for Construction Education and Research.

The organization began partnering with the district's Career and Technical Education programs this school year.

"We've been very impressed during our site visits and the programs offered here at Channelview High School," Horton said. "The Houston area is a prime market for students to become certified in construction careers - and then immediately put those skills to work."

NCCER is a not-for-profit 501c3 education foundation created in 1996 as The National Center for Construction Education and Research. It was developed with the support of more than 125 construction CEOs and various association and academic leaders who united to revolutionize training for the construction industry. Sharing the common goal of developing a safe and productive workforce, these companies created a standardized training and credentialing program for the industry.

"We are very excited about this accreditation," Young said. "With all of the growth in our area, there is going to be an ever-growing need in construction careers for years to come."

For more information on the district's Career and Technical programs, go to the district website at www.cvisd.org.

Bayshore Medical Center volunteers celebrate 50 years by giving

\$50,000 toward San Jacinto College scholarships

PASADENA, Texas - This year, 50 is the magic number for the Bayshore Medical Center volunteer auxiliary. The group is celebrating its 50th years of service by giving \$50,000 toward San Jacinto College scholarships.

Twenty-five San Jacinto College nursing students have each already received \$1,000 scholarships this semester for their tuition. In the Spring, the volunteers will donate another award of \$25,000 to the College for more scholarships. It's a gift that gives students like Emily Duggan a bit of relief when it comes to college expenses.

"This scholarship helps me out a lot," said Duggan, who was encouraged by her mother, Melissa Jackson, to attend the San Jacinto College nursing program. Jackson graduated from San Jacinto College in 1991 and has since earned her bachelor's degree in nursing. She has worked as a nurse for Bayshore Medical Center for more than 20 years. "My mom has been the one helping me out with my tuition, so I'm very appreciate to the volunteers for this gift."

John Logan, Bayshore Medical Center volunteer and upcoming scholarship chairman, said funds are raised each year through purchases from the Bayshore Medical Center gift shop. He noted that giving funds to the San Jacinto College nursing program is an investment toward the future health care workforce while also bringing some financial relief to the students.



The Bayshore Medical Center volunteer auxiliary is celebrating its 50 years of service this year by giving \$50,000 toward San Jacinto College scholarships. Pictured from left to right is John Logan, Bayshore Medical Center volunteer and incoming scholarship chair; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor; Melba Solemmas, Bayshore Medical Center volunteer; Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation; Cathy Leimback, Bayshore Medical Center volunteer; Larry Wilson, vice chairman of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Miriam Moore, Bayshore Medical Center volunteer; and Michael Kane, dean of health sciences at San Jacinto College.

Photo by Amanda Fenwick.

"It's important to help all people because it instills in them a sense of relief and the knowledge that someone believes in them," said Logan. "We're giving this money to advance students in the nursing program because we may see them here one day at Bayshore. It comes full circle."

Since its inception, Bayshore Medical Center has given nearly \$500,000 in support of San Jacinto College students through equipment and scholarship assistance. Approximately 302 students from programs such as nursing,

radiology, physical therapy, surgical technology, and emergency medical technician have received assistance through the group's donations.

"This is a community in which we can all be proud, one that includes passionate people like the volunteers of Bayshore Medical Center, who are devoted to giving back to their community to make it strong and vibrant," said Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation. "San Jacinto College is forever grateful for the continuous support given to our students."

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sphere" of "the price is this, but for you I can let it go for..." There are much more positive things I could say but I will keep it short, Highly Recommended!

Response from Diamond Jim:
David, we can only thank you from the bottom of our hearts! It is rare these days to find folks who will actually POST GOOD THINGS on the reviews. Instead, we get verbally attacked by the ignorant, the misfits, the losers, the incompetents, the liars, the just plain MEAN & POWERLESS. The know-nothings and do-nothings who feel they have no voice in society tend to use the review process as the vehicle to spread their negativity as though wielding a CLUB. They have no idea who they hurt, or how badly...and NEVER express remorse. That minority is small but relentless... and our cyber age gives them the same power as YOU, unfortunately. We have over 28,000 satisfied customers... but you will not see 28,000 reviews here. The disproportionate amount of good reviews versus the rare but vocal bad ones has always made me personally want to post good reviews for businesses that I want to recommend and see prosper. It is sad that the responses to those negatives are not easier to post... and for potential customers to locate and read. Lastly, and personally, I want to say this... do you remember the song verse, "If everyone lit just one little candle?" YOU are the bright light in our day each time you enter the store... and you have made today even brighter with this review. Thank you, my friend! :-)

Please, folks... make your thoughts known through social media. It is a great place to exercise your right to be heard. But your words carry a tremendous amount of weight. So remember to be FAIR and RESPONSIBLE when dispensing them. Google "Pineforest Jewelry" to read the above review.

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.

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

NEW LAWS,

Continued from page 1

to donate unused prescription medicine. This will help reduce waste while also making affordable stocks of prescription drugs available to those in need.

Supporting Our Veterans

The Texas Veterans Commission will now have a permanent program to study systemic economic and health challenges faced by female veterans, and help women veterans transition into the civilian work force.

Making College Credits Transfers Easier

The state will now regularly review course tracks that are supposed to be transferable between community colleges and four-year public universities. This will make it easier to transfer institutions and help reduce expensive, redundant course-taking.

Preventing and Solving Crimes

The state's DNA database will now be expanded to include individuals convicted of certain assaultive and sexual offenses, such as Enticement of a Child. This will help prevent future crimes, exonerate innocent persons, and bring perpetrators to justice.

Making Grand Juries Fairer

The state has abolished the "key man" system of jury selection for grand juries. Grand juries must now be selected through a more random, objective jury selection process.

Faster Benefits for Retired Teachers

The payment date of annuity checks in the Teacher Retirement System has been changed to the first working day of each month, allowing for quicker payment of benefits to retirees.

Decriminalizing Truancy

School districts will now be required to develop truancy prevention plans, such as mentorship and counseling programs, in lieu of only using criminal punishment against truant children.

Improving Cancer Prevention

Healthcare providers will now be required to give coverage for annual ovarian cancer screenings to all adult female policy-holders. This will help identify cancer in its early stages, and avoid dangerous medical complications.

Medical Cannabis Oil Legalized

The use of low-THC cannabis oil by patients suffering from epilepsy will now be allowed, provided two doctors sign off on a prescription, and if two other forms of traditional medicine have failed to work.

Revenge Porn Outlawed

"Revenge porn" (distributing intimate photos of a significant other online with the intent to cause harm) will now be criminalized. The practice will be punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Warrants Now Required for Body Searches

Police will now be required to obtain a warrant before conducting body cavity searches during traffic stops. This will help preserve due process and avoid unnecessary invasive searches during nonviolent encounters.

PLEASE NOTE: The state's new regulations allowing for the open carry of handguns by concealed-handgun license (CHL) holders will not go into effect until January 1, 2016.

The state's new law permitting the concealed-carry of handguns by CHL-holders on the campuses of four-year colleges and universities will not go into effect until August 1, 2016.

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

Investors Can Learn Much from the American Work

We're getting close to Labor Day, a celebration of the men and women who roll up their sleeves and go to work each day. If you're in the workforce yourself, you can appreciate this recognition of your efforts. And as an investor, you can employ these attributes of the American worker:

- Organization – The most productive workers are those who organize their time and efforts to maximize their productivity. When you invest, organization is also important. You might have trouble gaining traction toward your goals, such as a comfortable retirement, if you own a bunch of scattered investments that aren't really working together to help you. Instead, try to build a portfolio in which all your investments combine to provide the opportunities for growth and income you need to help reach your objectives.

- Perseverance – As workers, all of us go through difficult times, whether with our bosses, co-workers or even the work itself – but we persevere. As an investor, you, too, will experience bumps in the road, in the form of market downturns. Yet, if you avoid making hasty and ill-advised moves in response to potential short-term volatility, you can maintain your focus on your long-term needs and goals – and, as a result, you can help improve your chances of meeting those needs and attaining those goals.

- Vision – Workers put in their time, year after year, because they have a vision of what they hope their efforts will yield – a rewarding career, sufficient financial resources for their family, and so on. As an investor, you also can benefit from articulating a picture of what you hope to achieve. And that means you need to be specific about what you want. Instead of saying to yourself, "I'd like to retire comfortably someday," pin yourself down

as to what this really means. At what age would you like to retire? Will you want to travel the world or stay close to home to pursue your hobbies? How much money will you need to make these wishes come true? Where will this money come from? By answering these and other questions, you can define a vision for your financial future, leading you to the next step – creating a strategy to help turn this vision into reality.

- Diversity – The American workforce benefits from drawing on the experiences and viewpoints of people from all different backgrounds. When you invest, you should also seek diversity. If you only owned one type of investment vehicle, such as growth stocks, and the market hit a downturn, your portfolio would likely take a big hit. It's a given that the value of investments will fluctuate, which means, under some circumstances, you could lose some or all of your principal. But if you spread your dollars among a range of vehicles – including stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit and real estate – you can reduce the impact of volatility on your holdings. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss.)

Labor Day will come and go quickly. But by emulating some of the characteristics of the American workforce, you can continue making progress toward your goals – without even having to work overtime.

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

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