

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

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## CHANNEL CHATTER

# LyondellBasell Channelview complex hosts U.S. Rep. Brian Babin

Visit provided in-depth look at facility and chance to meet employees

### GALENA PARK-JACINTO CITY CIP Meeting

THURSDAY, October 1, 2015. Topic: Trucks and Local Truck Traffic and Roads.

5:45 pm - light dinner.  
6:15 pm - business starts.  
Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m.

At Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

### North Channel Chamber Luncheon

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly luncheon on Friday, October 3, 2015, 11:30 a.m. at San Jacinto College N. (inside the Monument Room of the Student Center), 5800 Uvalde Rd. Guest speaker: Shane Williams with the Port of Houston. Cost \$25 per person. Reserve at 713-450-3600.

### 2015 North Channel Salutes

Service to our country & community. Business & Health EXPO. THURSDAY-NOVEMBER 5 at Armenta's Banquet Hall, 823 Sheldon Rd. Channelview, 77530.

Contact: Blanca@nca-chamber.com

DIAMOND SPONSORSHIP: \$1,000

Corporate Sponsorship: \$500

Booth: \$250 - Members

\$350 - Non-Members

Lunch tickets: \$15

Call 713-450-3600 for details.

CHANNELVIEW –Sept. 23, 2015 – Employees from the LyondellBasell Channelview Complex hosted a visit by Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36). The congressman and his staff were briefed on the plant's operations and met with LyondellBasell CEO Bob Patel, Executive Vice President of Intermediates and Derivatives Dan Coombs, site leadership and other employees.

"I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet directly with employees at LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex and get a firsthand look at the plant's growing operations. With six manufacturing plants in the 36th District of Texas,

LyondellBasell is a dependable and strong economic partner with a proven record in reliable production and safety," said Congressman Babin. "Their commitment and investment in Southeast Texas is an important reason why this area is a world leader in chemical manufacturing."

"I'm honored to have Congressman Babin spend part of his day at our Channelview facility. His visit allows us to showcase our focus on safety, operational excellence and dedicated employees," said LyondellBasell CEO Bob Patel. "We appreciate all the work Congressman Babin has done on behalf

of our industry and the district."

Congressman Babin received a tour of the facility to learn more about daily operations at the site before engaging in a town hall meeting with workers from the facility.

U.S. Rep. Babin represents more LyondellBasell facilities than any other member of the U.S. House of Representatives. His district includes Channelview, Bayport, La Porte and the Mont Belvieu terminal for the Company's pipeline group.

The LyondellBasell Channelview Complex employees

See CHANNELVIEW COMPLEX, page 3



Congress Babin visits the LyondellBasell Channelview Complex last week. Left to right – Todd Monette, Channelview Site Manager; Bob Patel, LyondellBasell Chief Executive Officer; Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX); Kelly Waterman, Rep. Babin District Director.

## New EPA rule will bring cleaner air to communities near refineries

HOUSTON, TX – September 29, 2015 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a new rule that will protect communities near oil and gas refineries. The rule will put in place new controls that will reduce toxic air pollution from refineries and, for the first time ever, require air monitoring at refinery fence lines.

"This rule is a step in the right direction for people living near refineries," said Adrian Shelley, Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston. "For too long, poor and minorities communities have suffered from toxic air pollution that damages their health and shortens their lives."

Today's rule is the result of a lawsuit filed in 2012 by Air Alliance Houston and others, including Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, Community In-Power and Development Association, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, California Communities Against Toxics, Del Amo Action Committee, and Coalition For A Safe Environment. These groups were represented by Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project. Together, these groups have been working for years to ensure that EPA would set stronger standards to protect public health, including by participating in EPA's comment period, the public hearings, and the public workshops that EPA held during this rulemaking.

The rule will reduce toxic pollution from refinery

sources including flares, delayed cokers, and storage tanks. The rule is expected to eliminate 5,200 tons per year of toxic air pollutants, 50,000 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (which lead to ozone formation), and reduce risk for 1.4 million people to below the EPA's 1 in a million cancer risk threshold. The Houston area is home to five oil refineries with a daily refining capacity of more than 1.3 million barrels.

The rule will also remove a significant loophole in the prior standards by deleting the exemption for emissions that occur during Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction. "People

See CLEAN AIR, page 8

## Budgets, tax rates for JC and GP announced

The city councils of Jacinto City and Galena Park have adopted budgets for the new fiscal year 2015/2016, and set tax rates accordingly.

On September 10, Jacinto City council adopted a budget accounting for \$9,554,554 in the general fund, and \$2,817,492 in the water fund, for a total of \$12,372,046.

Major expenditures in the budget included General Administration \$628,887, Parks & Recreation \$752,745, Police Department \$1,953,173, Municipal Court \$306,775, Street Department \$689,076, Sanitation \$106,407, Heritage Hall \$173,325, EMS \$523,427, and Fire Department \$66,216. Also included in the budget was debt payment of \$488,500.

JC council also set a tax

rate for 2015 at \$0.747284 per \$100 assessment, which is lower by \$.05 than last year.

Galena Park adopted a 2015/2016 budget of \$12,501,750.

Major expenditures include General Administration \$2,977,617, Fire Dept. \$508,833, EMS \$681,782, Recreation \$792,559, Police Dept. \$1,781,916, Court \$107,106, Streets & Drainage \$468,079, Grounds \$356,630, Sanitation \$440,520, water fund \$3,662,648, and debt payment \$189,750.

Galena Park is proposing a tax rate of \$1.03745 per \$100 assessment, which would be \$.01 lower than last year's rate.

Property values in the two cities have increased by about 7% over last year, allowing for rate reductions.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

## East Houston Regional Medical Center names DAISY award winner



Shown L to R: Brenda Martinez, Chief Nursing Officer of EHRMC, with Heidi Bechel, RN, DAISY Award Recipient, and Jannika Johnson, RN, Director of Critical Care.

Houston, TX September 21, 2015 – East Houston Regional Medical Center (EHRMC) recently named Heidi Bechel the DAISY Award recipient for September 2015. Bechel works in the Intensive Care Unit and has been with EHRMC for four years.

EHRMC implemented the national Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses in 2015. Heidi is the first employee to be selected for the award at EHRMC.

The DAISY Award is an international program that rewards and celebrates nurses who consistently demonstrate excellence through their clinical expertise and extraordinary compassionate care. They are also recognized as outstanding role models to their co-workers and within the nursing community.

See DAISY AWARD, page 8

See DAISY AWARD, page 8

### HOMEcoming GAME

## North Shore HS crowns 2015 Homecoming King and Queen



North Shore Homecoming King and Queen, Andrew Pouland and Chardon Mucker.

On Friday night, September 25, North Shore announced the 2015 Homecoming King and Queen – Andrew Pouland and Chardon Mucker. Andrew is a member of the Mustang varsity baseball team and National Honor

Society. He is head rounder for the Mustang football program and a student section leader. Pouland is ranked ninth in his class with a GPA of 4.4 and plans on attending Texas A&M University majoring in biomedicine. Chardon is

vital part of North Shore's girls track team, national honor society, and the national society of high school scholars. After graduation she plans to major in criminology and run track.

# HIGHLANDS HORIZONS MISS HIGHLANDS PAGEANT

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 3,  
2015



2014  
Miss Highlands  
Katlyn Burns



2014  
Jr. Miss Highlands  
Morgan Birdsong

## Miss Highlands Contestants



Courtney Lambright  
Highlands Star-All



Destiny Bogie  
Jeremy Williams-Grind Training



Jordan Gwaltney  
Junior's Smokehouse



Kay-Leigh Benson  
Ainsworth & Co.



Maegan Linck  
Children's Dentistry-Baytown



McKenzie Reznicek  
Kosika Auto



Michaela Jones  
JR Hobbs-Crawford Electric

## Jr. Miss Highlands Contestants



Cydni Selensky  
Mark Selensky/  
Trevor & Crystal Smith



Erin Radle  
Chris & Tammy Felder



Faith Ozio  
Jake & Heather Ozio



Haley Maxey  
David & Tonya Kosika/  
Roy Maxey



Harlie Rucker  
Karen Coursey



Kaitlyn Rolin  
Glenn & Teri Rolin



Kennah Holloway  
Christopher & Randi Holloway



Maci Lenderman  
Garrett & Morgan Lenderman



Riley Linck  
Rex & Clarissa Linck

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

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### LEGAL NOTICE

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## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY WCID #36 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2015 on October 21, 2015 at 9:00 am at 903 Hollywood, Houston, TX 77015. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

**FOR** the proposal: Gerardo Parra, Ronald S. Holder, Maria E. Koukoulakis, Gerardo Leal, Ola Mae Watts

**AGAINST** the proposal: None  
**PRESENT** and not voting: None  
**ABSENT:** None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.35000/\$100 Adopted	\$.35000/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00000/
\$100		
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		.00%
Average appraised value	\$49,613	\$53,964
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 9,923	\$10,793
Average taxable value	\$39,690	
\$43,171		
Tax on average residence homestead	\$138.91	\$151.09
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$12.18	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	8.76%	

### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

**Bob Leared, Tax Assessor-Collector 713-932-9011**

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 47 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2015 on October 08, 2015 at 5 p.m., at 210 Brookview, Channelview, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

**FOR** the proposal: Dennis Hamala, Jack Dauzat, Alan Wolcik, G W Gunter and Nick Shankle

**AGAINST** the  
proposal: None  
**PRESENT** and  
not voting: None  
**ABSENT:**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.96/\$100 Adopted	\$0.96/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0%
Average appraised value	\$66,587	\$73,982
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$6,659	\$7,398
Average taxable value	\$59,928	\$66,584
Tax on average residence homestead	\$575.31	\$639.21
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$63.90
and percentage of increase (+/-)		11.10%

### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.



SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER 8, THURSDAY  
Halloween Dance

North Shore Seniors will hold a Halloween Dance Thursday, October 8 from 1 – 4 pm at Grayson/Baldree Bldg., Corpus Christi. Live band and refreshments. Only \$ 5/ per person for more information, call 713-455-3660.

2nd & 4th THURSDAY  
San Jacinto  
Pilot Club

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

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.

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.

OCTOBER  
Jacinto City Library

-Friday, Oct. 2, Clases de Ingles usando Mango, 1 pm.  
-Sat., Oct. 3, All things Google, 10:30 am; Children's Movie Theater, 12:30 pm.  
-Tue., Oct. 6, Computer Basics, 10:30 am; Indoor Exercise, 2 pm; Computadore Básico, 4:30 pm.  
-Wed., Oct. 7, Baby Time, 10:30 am; ESL Class, 12:30 pm.  
-Thur., Oct. 8, Children's Story Time, 1 pm.  
Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. For more information on these and other programs at the library, please call 713-673-3237.

OCTOBER  
Galena Park  
Library events

-Mon., Oct. 5, ESL Tutor Training, 12 pm.  
-Tue., Oct. 6, Galveston: History & Hospitality, 6 pm.  
-Wed., Oct. 7, Word Básico I, 10:15 am; Children's Story Time, 11 am; Word Basics, 1:30 pm; Get Active, 4 pm.  
-Thur., Oct. 8, Baby Time, 10 am.  
Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details. The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

OCTOBER  
North Channel  
Library events

-Fri., Oct. 2 & Sat., Oct. 3, Library Book Sale.  
-Mon., Oct. 5, Monday Movie Madness: Cinderella, 4:30 pm.  
-Tue., Oct. 6, Toddler Time, 10:30 am; Preschool Story Time, 1:30 pm.  
-Wed., Oct. 7, Strings Attached, 4:30 pm.  
-Thur., Oct. 8, Baby Time, 10:30 am; MeeTeen: Hispanic Heritage Month Craft, 4:30 pm.  
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

Heritage Hall  
Senior Center

-Exercise class: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9 am.  
-Streight and Balance class: Tuesdays at 9 am.  
Heritage Hall Senior Center is located at 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. 713-675-4487.

CHANNELVIEW ISD:  
CMT presents special honors to students, school board member

Two Channelview ISD students and a member of the district's Board of Trustees were presented with special awards at the Channelview Ministry Team's First Responders Appreciation Luncheon on September 12 at the Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center.  
Brother and sister AJ and Star Orozco, who are Cobb Elementary students, were presented with CMT's first-ever Distinguished Students Award for their acts of kindness toward the area's homeless last winter, while CISD Board Member Alex Ybarra received the organization's Distinguished Citizen Award for his volunteer work with Texas Equusearch.

AJ and Star Orozco made headlines last Christmas season as they were leaving a local restaurant and presented a homeless man with a blanket to keep him warm in the freezing temperatures. The random act of kindness was featured on a KPRC-TV newscast and it inspired CISD employees to begin a holiday blanket drive. The brother and sister then rode on fire trucks to help the Channelview Fire Department help distribute the blankets to more of the area's homeless.

Ybarra became involved in Texas Equusearch when his 18-year-old nephew and friend went missing in last February – as he looked day and night for the boys with the help of volunteers. Sadly, the search ended tragically as the remains of the two were found in Chambers County. Ybarra was so moved by the kindness of the volunteers in his family's time of need that he and his wife further dedicated time toward Texas Equusearch efforts. He said he sees himself as part of a large family of volunteers helping other families.



Pastor Kent Wilson of South Drive Baptist Church presented Channelview ISD Board of Trustees Member Alex Ybarra with the Channelview Ministry Team's Distinguished Citizen Award for his volunteer involvement with Texas Equusearch.



Pastor Joe Herrera presented sister and brother Star and AJ Orozco with the Channelview Ministry Team's Distinguished Students award for their acts of kindness. The Orozcocos are both students at Cobb Elementary School.

In addition, the Alice Johnson LOTC presented the colors and Pledge of Allegiance at the CMT event, followed by the Channelview High School Choir and Falcon Band, who performed the National Anthem.  
The Channelview Ministry Team is comprised of

ministers, community leaders, educators and families who seek to provide solutions to community concerns. CMT meets on the last Friday of each month at CISD's Joyce Hendrix Educational Support Center at 9 a.m. and is open to Channelview and surrounding communities.

GALENA PARK ISD:  
Congressman Gene Green visits High School seniors



On Wednesday, September 9, 2015, U.S. Congressman Gene Green visited the seniors of Galena Park and North Shore Senior High Schools to talk about the importance of voting. When the congressman asked who was registered to vote, many raised their hand. For those not registered, however, he encouraged them to get registered and actively participate in the electoral process. "It's your civic duty to vote," Green said. "You can help elect the next president of the United States this November," he added. After speaking to the students he answered questions, shook hands, and took photos with students and faculty. "We appreciate him coming here every year. His presence on our campus helps our students feel like they do have a voice in our government," noted Dr. Coleman, principal of North Shore Senior High School. Tony Gardea, principal of Galena Park High School, believes Green's visits have a positive impact. "This is good for our students' educational process. Congressman Green is reinforcing the message we teach to our students - become lifelong learners as well as productive, involved citizens," Gardea said.

GALENA PARK ISD:  
Administrators  
receive honors



Lee Ramirez  
Woodland Acres Middle  
TASSP Region IV  
Principal of the Year  
Lucia Palazzi  
Woodland Acres Middle  
Assistant Principal of the Year  
Kim Martin  
North Shore Senior High  
TASSP Region IV  
Assistant Principal of the Year

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP) recognizes outstanding principals and assistant principals from the twenty regional education service centers in the state each year. School administrators are nominated and chosen by their peers within the regions, and then the TASSP Principal Image Committee reviews the applications and selects the finalists. Nominations are based upon exemplary performance and outstanding leadership in secondary education.

Galena Park ISD is honored to have three award recipients: Lee Ramirez, TASSP Region IV Middle School Principal of the Year; Lucia Palazzi, TASSP Region IV Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year; and Kim Martin, TASSP Region IV High School Assistant Principal of the Year. Ramirez and Palazzi both serve the students and community of Woodland Acres Middle School. Martin serves the students and community of North Shore Senior High School.

GALENA PARK ISD:  
Good food for a Good cause



Pictured (l/r): Elizabeth Bongat, choir teacher; Erin Huston, choir teacher; Gloria Moncada, owner Las Palomas; Jose Zuniga, owner Las Palomas; Brett Lalor, North Shore Middle School Principal; and Grant Lyons, choir teacher.

On Tuesday, September 22, the North Shore Middle School Choir held their first "Choir Night Out" fundraiser in cooperation with Las Palomas Mexican Restaurant on Woodforest Blvd. The deal: Las Palomas would donate 10% of

sales to the NSMS Choir. The turnout was overwhelming! The NSMS parents and supporters turned out in droves. In an even more generous gesture, the owners of the restaurant, Gloria Moncada and Jose Zuniga, decided

to personally match the amount raised, giving a total of \$750 to the choir. "I do it for the kids. The kids of this community are our future," said Zuniga. The money will help students attend summer choral training sessions.

CHANNELVIEW COMPLEX,

Continued from page 1

employs more than 1600 employees and contractors. The plant manufactures the chemical building blocks that are transformed into clothing, food

packaging, household furnishings, automotive parts, home building materials and gasoline blending products. Whether providing the basic services es-

sential to modern living or improving convenience, our products help enhance the quality of life for people around the world.

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OPINION PAGE

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Lawmakers get input on jails, suicide prevention

AUSTIN — The July 13, 2015, death of Sandra Bland, a woman arrested and jailed after a traffic stop in Waller County, has prompted meetings of Texas House and Senate committees. Bland, whose body was discovered in her jail cell three days after she was put in custody, was ruled a suicide.

Charged by the lieutenant governor to conduct an interim study, the Senate Criminal Justice Committee met for more than four hours on Sept. 22. The panel listened to invited testimony and discussed jail safety and inmate suicide prevention in county jails.

Under direction of Committee Chair Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, the panel received input on how inmates are assessed and processed at intake, how inmate populations are grouped and managed based on risk category and mental health condition, and how jailers are trained.

Texas Department of State Health Services Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Lauren Lacefield-Lewis was one of many people to testify.

Lacefield-Lewis said, of the entire county jail inmate population, you would expect some 30 percent to have a mental health illness, or about 20,000 inmates on any given day.

Each of Texas' 254 counties is within the catchment of a local mental health authority, Lacefield-Lewis said, and those authorities provide inpatient and outpatient services and crisis intervention under contract or simply at the request of county jail authorities. She said the state health department is working to increase access to mental health crisis services across Texas.

A week earlier, on Sept. 15, the House County Affairs Committee met under the direction of Chairman Garnet Coleman, D-Houston. The panel received expert input on jail standards and procedures concerning the treatment of mentally ill inmates and on suicide prevention.

Paxton files amicus brief

Texas Attorney General Paxton on Sept. 25 filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Texas Supreme Court in *Matthews v. Kountze Independent School District*, a case over the constitutional rights of public school children "to express their own messages at school and school-related events."

In a news release, Paxton said the case stems from a 2012 complaint by the Freedom From Religion Foundation against Kountze High School for allowing cheerleaders to print Bible verses on run-

through banners at football games.

When Kountze Independent School District banned students from using the signs, parents of the cheerleaders filed a lawsuit against the school district. The school

district changed its policy to allow the banners, but in doing so claimed the banners actually convey the school's speech, not the cheerleaders' personal expressions of faith.

The school district then asked an appeals court to dismiss the case. The Ninth Court of Appeals, in Beaumont, dismissed the case, effectively allowing the school district to control the speech on banners as "school speech" and to disassociate the cheerleaders from their personal expressions of faith.

The ruling is now before the Texas Supreme Court.

Whitmire seeks AG opinion

Sen. John Whitmire, dean of the Texas Senate and chair of the body's Criminal Justice Committee, on Sept. 22 requested an attorney general opinion on matters regarding the state's new open carry laws.

Whitmire is asking if the state Penal Code's trespass provision applies to school district property, including parking lots, driveways, sidewalks and walkways; and if the Penal Code prohibits the carrying of firearms on the grounds of a school district "where educational activity is being conducted" to include parking lots, driveways, sidewalks and walkways.

The attorney general's office has 45 days from the date of the request to render a decision or opinion.

Bond election info posted

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Sept. 22 drew attention to his agency's Bond Election Roundup, an online resource.

"Our table is searchable and sortable, so you can easily parse through bond propositions from around the state to see the information that matters most to you," Hegar said in a news release.

The database will be updated as new information becomes available, he said.

States to investigate VW

Texas is participating in a multi-state investigation of Volkswagen, the Texas Attorney General's Office announced on Sept. 24.

Volkswagen came under fire earlier this month, when news broke that its diesel vehicles' emissions, after being marketed as environmentally friendly, have tested many times higher than promoted.



Keeping kids safe in the classroom: What parents should know (and do) for peace of mind

(NAPSI)—If any of the estimated 55 million American schoolchildren is one you care about, you may be glad to learn about plans in place to keep them safe.

Today's school leaders face unprecedented safety and security challenges, whether from unwelcome intruders or natural disasters. Such risks make it essential for schools to stay current on the latest advances in construction, technological tools and safety protocols.

Three Steps To Better Secure Your School Now Many parents ask about school security measures to make sure classrooms are safe.

"Parents who are actively involved in their student's school security can improve their child's safety and success on campus," explained Patrick V. Fiel, Sr., head of PF Security Consulting LLC, who served as the former Executive Director of Security for Washington D.C. Public Schools and has extensive experience upgrading schools to meet today's security standards.

Following are three practices every school should and can do—regardless of available budget:

1. Plan and Prepare. Even the highest security technology is ineffective without proper training and prepara-

tion. Actions should be clearly defined, documented and practiced regularly. Staff and students should know exactly what to do and where to go in the case of emergency.

For example, in case of a lockdown:

- Lock down campus building and residence hall entries.
- Stay in the classroom or move to a safe area immediately.
- Quickly glance outside the room to direct any students or staff members in the hall into your room immediately.
- Lock your door.
- Lower or close any blinds.
- Place students against a wall where an intruder cannot see them if looking through a door sidelight.
- Turn out lights and computer monitors.
- Keep students and phones quiet.

Schools with open campuses have other challenges. Although a campuswide lockdown may not always be practical or even possible, individual buildings and classrooms can be secured.

2. Stay Focused on Proven and Reliable Practices. "Untested technologies such as makeshift door barrier tactics can block first responders from entering the classroom," said Fiel. "Having essay access to enter and exit the

classroom will help to safely and efficiently save the lives of students and provide care to those who need immediate attention."

3. Develop a Lockdown Strategy. Allegion, known for pioneering safety and security solutions for schools and universities, has security consultants who suggest having tools in place to manage comings and goings at each doorway so it can lock down on demand immediately. Three proven lockdown technologies are:

- Manual lockdown—uses keys and classroom security functions to lock down a space. This is an economical option but relies on an individual having the right key at the right place.
- Remote lockdown—enables classroom lockdown by remote fob within proximity of a door. It can be a cost-effective alternative to a networked system.
- Centralized lockdown—this networked system, when integrated with access control software, can enable immediate school or campuswide lockdown.

In many cases, facilities may need modification to create more efficient security systems. This may involve installing new locks, such as those created by Allegion, that offer a classroom security function that enables lockdown safely from within the classroom; or even architectural modifications, such as the addition of new vestibules.

Learn More For further information about how door hardware and security technologies support lockdown procedures, call (888) 758-9823 or visit [www.allegion.com](http://www.allegion.com).

A New App to help students prep for AP tests

(NAPSI)—There's good news for students preparing for Advanced Placement (AP) exams. A well-known study system is keeping pace with the latest changes in technology and, as a result, it's now possible for students to study on the platform of their choice.

The last decade has seen significant changes in the way high school students study and prepare for exams, particularly in the technology they use. Increasingly, laptops, tablets and other digital devices are what students prefer to use in order to access information, so it makes sense that a study program designed to meet students' needs would use the technology they prefer.

That's why McGraw-Hill Education is introducing a unique cross-platform system that enables students to access all the publisher's test prep content for each AP exam on the platform they choose, including Apple iOS devices, Android (including the Kindle Fire and Nook), BlackBerry and Netbooks. Anywhere and any time they want to study, students now have the choice of print, online or a mobile device. This new system also includes many innovative features to help students study smarter, such as a personalized study plan with daily goals, powerful analytics to help students chart their progress, flash cards, games and more. Students can even share tips and notes with other test takers via a social media function.

This groundbreaking cross-platform system is being introduced for all the best-selling guides in the publisher's signature AP study series—5 Steps to a 5 on the Advanced Placement Examinations. Each subject-specific course guide is structured around a five-step plan and contains several features that separate the system from other guides.

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To learn more and see the courses available, go to <http://ow.ly/S07xx>.

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LIFESTYLE

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OBITUARIES

Theodore “Ted” John Watkins

Theodore “Ted” John Watkins, 81 of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Monday, September 28, 2015. He was born in Lansing, Michigan on July 4, 1934. Ted is preceded in death by his father John Watkins and mother Maria Black. He is survived by his loving wife Cora; son, Douglas; daughters, Jennie “Lynn”, Katherine, Sally; grandchildren, Chris, James, Nathan, Nick, Josh, Ashley, Justin, Evan. He is also survived by his brother, DuWayne; sister, Lyn, and numerous great-grandchildren.

Ted was loved by his family and friends and will be missed. The family will receive friends for visitation at Grand View Funeral Home on Thursday October 1, 2015 from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Funeral service will be held on Friday, October 2, 2015 at 11am at Grand View Funeral Home. To share words of comfort with the family and sign the online guest book, please visit [www.grandviewfunerals.com](http://www.grandviewfunerals.com).

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Delivering package

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. President Cynthia Wunderlich-Johnson, left, recently delivered a Pick Me Up package to Tracie Comeaux, right, at Barbers Hill High School.

REL CLASS OF 1955 REUNION ON OCT. 10

The Robert E. Lee High School Class of 1955 is hosting a reunion lunch on Saturday, October 10 at the Monument Inn Restauramt. The event will be from 1 to 4 pm. Reservations are required. Cost is \$15.00 per person, including tax and gratuity (cost is subsidised by Class of 55).

Attendees will have an entree choice of FRIED SHRIMP PLATTER, FRIED FISHERMANS PLATTER, GRILLED 10 oz ANGUS RIBEYE STEAK, BROILED TILAPIA with Pontchartain sauce and CHICKEN BREAST with sauteed onions, mushrooms and red wine sauce. The meal includes salad, baked potatoe, tea, coffee, yeast and cinnamon rolls.

Sunday, October 11, at 9 am the Class of 55 will meet at El Toro, 5810 Garth Road for breakfast (meal not included, individual pay).

For more information call Allen Dunn at 281-422-7751, Maxine Beck Baker at 281-427-4454 or Sherrill Davis Poteet at 713-304-9991.

Lake Houston UMC church holding pumpkin patch

Lake Houston United Methodist Church in Huffman is home to a very large Pumpkin Patch throughout the month of October every year. Folks come from all over to pick out their perfect holiday pumpkins of all sizes from out of over one-thousand pumpkins. The Pumpkin Patch opens Monday, October 5, and stays open through Saturday, October 31. The patch is open daily (M-F 3pm-dusk/7pm, Sat. 9am-dusk/7pm, Sun. noon-dusk/7pm). Patrons are invited to bring their cameras for fun fall photo opportunities. Lake Houston UMC is located at 23606 FM 2100 in Huff-



There are plenty of photo opportunities at the LHUMC Pumpkin Patch.

man. For more information, contact the church office at 281-324-1541.



Over 1000 pumpkins fill the grounds of Lake Houston UMC in October.

★  
LITTLE BIDDY BITS By Danny Biddy

Love, Love, Love

After graduating from high school in Texas, Sa-

rah moved to Florida to attend college. She had just moved in when a hurricane forced everyone there to evacuate. Frantically, Sarah called home and asked her mother, “What do I do, and what should I take!”

Her mother calmly responded, “Take everything you love most and leave.” “Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:8.

Danny R. Biddy, Pastor of the Church on Old River since 1977. [www.olderiverbaptist.com](http://www.olderiverbaptist.com)

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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



# SPORTS

## San Jacinto College 10 players named to all-star team



San Jacinto College baseball players who played at the Texas / New Mexico All-Star game include, from left, front row: Brandon Montgomery, Gonzalo Sosa, Kyle Barfield, Hudson Treu, Donny Diaz, Max Wood, and Cody Nesbit; back row Brett Wright, Colten Schmidt, and Jorge Fernandez.

HOUSTON – San Jacinto College baseball was well represented at the Texas / New Mexico All-Star game played Sept. 25-26 at Weatherford College.

Ten San Jac players were selected to participate in the game, the largest amount to represent the College since nine players were selected in 2003. The event gives baseball student-athletes an opportunity to showcase their talents for collegiate coaches and professional scouts. Players are selected at the annual conference meetings based on the previous year's achievements.

The 10 players selected to represent San Jacinto Col-

lege are catcher Brett Wright (New Caney / New Caney High School), infielder Brandon Montgomery (Collierville, Tennessee / Collierville High School), infielder Gonzalo Sosa (Houston / Langham Creek High School), outfielder Max Wood (Vancouver, British Columbia / West Vancouver Secondary High School), outfielder Kyle Barfield (College Station / A&M Consolidated High School), pitcher Hudson Treu (Houston / Houston Christian High School), pitcher Donny Diaz (Kingsville / Kingsville High School), pitcher Colten Schmidt (La Porte / La Porte High School),

pitcher Jorge Fernandez (Del Rio / Del Rio High School), and pitcher Cody Nesbit (La Porte / La Porte High School).

San Jacinto College finished the 2015 with a 41-22 overall record, won the Region XIV tournament, and advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series for the 23rd time in school history. A school-record 16 San Jacinto College baseball student-athletes transferred to four-year colleges and universities following the successful 2015 season.

The 2016 season will get under way in late January.

## NORTH SHORE FOOTBALL: NS Mustangs back on track

The North Shore Mustangs took on the visiting Bruins from Beaumont West Brook last Friday night. This was the first district game of the season. In a game that felt closer than it was, the Mustangs actually trailed the Bruins in the first half, however the Bruin lead was short-lived. The Mustangs built a 10-point lead by half time. In the third quarter, North Shore failed to put up any more points while the Bruins managed a field goal. In the fourth quarter the Mustangs got things rolling, scoring 21 points while holding the Bruins to one touchdown. The defense played a solid game, giving up only 241 yards on the night. The Mustangs amassed 443 yards on the night. But for some costly turnovers, the Mustangs dominated the Bruins. North Shore Kicker Aaron Cuevas scored the first points for the Mustangs with a 45-yard field goal. Quarterback Maciah Long threw for 154 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT. Bryant Badie, relieving for Long, threw for 75 yards and 1 TD. Long also ran for 111 yards and two more TDs. Tyler Boudreaux rushed for 63 yards and scored 2 TDs. Eltro Potts caught 5 passes for 133 yards and 2 TDs.

The Mustangs have a bye this week, and prepare to take on the Channelview Falcons Friday night, October 9, at Maddry Stadium in Channelview. The



North Shore running back, Tyler Boudreaux, rushed for 63 yards and 2 touchdowns.



Jacory Nichols (#4) and Jalen Thomas (#18) team up against West Brook receiver Keith Corbin to force an incomplete pass.

Mustangs haven't forgotten about the fairy tale ending of their homecoming game against Channelview last year – only the Mustangs were on the wrong side of the fairy tale. As the final seconds ticked off the clock, Channelview QB Jalen Hurts completed

a Hail Mary pass in the end zone to clinch the upset. It was the first time, in recent history anyway, that Channelview defeated North Shore. This game should be filled with plenty of fireworks – a grudge match in the truest sense of the word.

## Crosby crushes Galena Park 57-19

Crosby had 10 penalties for 95 yards, the Yellow Jackets had 4 penalties for 25 yards.

Crosby passed for 278 yards, Galena Park passed for 204 yards.

Cougars rushed 26 times for 229 yards, Yellow Jackets rushed 36 times for 76 yards.

Crosby had 507 total yards Galena Park had 280 total yards.

Crosby had one fumble, one loss; Galena Park had two fumbles and one loss.

Kingwood Park comes to Cougar Stadium at 7:00 p.m. on Friday.

Crosby is 5-0-0 Kingwood Park is 1-3, 1-1.



Flamboyant catches and blazing defense before the Crosby second string took over was the story of the Galena Park victory.

## Channelview races past Port Arthur in 56-28 win

The Channelview Falcons offense was a dominating force once again in their 56-28 win over Port Arthur Memorial at Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium.

Channelview's offense piled up 620 total yards in the District 21-6A opener for both teams. The Falcons remained undefeated with a 5-0 overall record and they will travel to

Beaumont to face West Brook at 7 p.m. this Thursday.

Falcon quarterback Jalen Hurts used his arm and his legs to lead Channelview to a 21-7 halftime lead. He threw touchdown passes to Anthony Means and Davion Gibson – and ran for a 13-yard score.

Port Arthur attempted to make a run at the Fal-

cons lead by scoring 21 points in the third quarter, but Channelview countered back with a 55-yard touchdown run by Demon-tre Tuggle and a pair of rushing touchdowns from Hurts.

Tuggle, who rushed for 234 yards on the night, then put the game well out of reach with touchdown runs of 30 and 68 yards.

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If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281 328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Tax Rate Setting

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 will hold a meeting at 6:30 PM on October 8, 2015 at 5915 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas, 77532 to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2015. The proposed tax rate is \$0.0200 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 by 2.51%.

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The Harris County Emergency Services District #14 will hold a meeting at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, 123 San Jacinto, 2nd Floor (elevator is available) Highlands, TX 77562 at 12 noon, on Monday, October 26, 2015, to consider adopting a tax rate for tax year 2016. The proposed tax rate is 0.0500 per \$100 of value. No change in the tax rate is planned. The ESD#14 tax rate has not increased since the inception of ESD #14 in 1999. The proposed tax rate for the 2014 tax year is the same rate of 0.0500 per \$100 the value that has always been in place for ESD#14 since its formation.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District #14 ("District") is located 123 San Jacinto, Highlands, TX 77562. The District's mailing address is PO Box 96, Highlands, TX 77562. The District holds regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department located at 123 San Jacinto, Highlands, TX 77562 at 12:00 noon. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings. The Board of Commissioners are Jim Strouhal, President; Chester Stasney, Vice President; Kristy Stallings, Secretary-Treasurer; Deacon Tittel, Member; and Johnny Gaeke, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. The attorney for the District is Weston Cotten, Law Offices of Weston Cotten, P.C., 5223 Garth Road, Baytown, TX 77521, telephone number 281-421,5774, Email address [weston@westoncotten.com](mailto:weston@westoncotten.com)

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Chances, for short  
4 Taxi  
7 Walk through mud, maybe  
12 Shell game need  
13 Gorilla  
14 Anorak  
15 Attempt  
16 Greenish-blue deposit on copper  
18 "Impossible"  
19 Put forth  
20 Eats  
22 Schedule abbr.  
23 Oil job  
27 Mornings (Abbr.)  
29 Inspiring horror  
31 Supermarket section  
34 Playing marble  
35 Fodders for mills  
37 Speedometer stat  
38 Apiece  
39 Old card game  
41 Deuce topper  
45 Gls' alarm clock  
47 Ostrich's kin

DOWN

1 Re 26-Down  
2 — Amboy, N.J.  
3 Permission  
4 Grotto  
5 Pinnacles  
6 Jaunty chapeau  
7 Skewer

48 Perfumery fixative  
52 Rotating part  
53 Measure  
54 Type units  
55 Intention  
56 U-shaped river bend  
57 Witness  
58 Thickness

8 Trail the pack  
9 Hockey legend  
10 Tackle moguls  
11 Owns  
17 Schlep  
21 "America's Most Wanted" host  
23 Frivolous  
24 "Born in the —"  
25 Luncheonette order, for short  
26 Pupil's place  
28 Citi Field athlete  
30 Knock  
31 Census

statistic  
32 Playwright Levin  
33 [Uncorrected]  
36 Punch  
37 Illinois city  
40 Fairy tale baddies  
42 Summarize  
43 Cyber-message  
44 Delicious  
45 Concoct  
46 Being (Lat.)  
48 Way back when  
49 Limit, for short  
50 Mac  
51 Id counter-part



ASK THE EXPERTS

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim...  
"Is the  
'Diamond Is  
Forever' slogan just so  
much hype?"

Recently a somewhat random video called "Why Engagement Rings are a Scam" was entered at the end of a New York Post article which covers the same ground as every other "diamonds are a rip off"-type article: diamonds aren't rare, they aren't really worth anything. De Beers is a monopoly (incorrect; they control only 34 percent of the world's supply at this point) that invented the idea of the diamond engagement ring in the 1930s. While some people did exchange diamonds to mark their engagements before the '30s, it is correct that it was De Beers that really put the marketing muscle behind the concept with "A Diamond is Forever." But, De Beers is hardly the first company to try to connect with consumers in an effort to get them to buy their products, and they won't be the last. Sorry to break the news for the star of this ill-informed video and all the other men out there that rail against the diamond ring but ... there's some type of marketing behind almost everything you buy. Gentlemen, do you know that giant, 64-inch HD TV in your living room? You know, the one that will be technologically out of date in a few years and end up outside on the curb along-

side your Ikea furniture? You likely bought it because Samsung or Sony or LG convinced you that you needed it, which, unless you have a vision problem or are trying to compensate for shortcomings in other areas, you don't. You'd be perfectly fine with a much smaller, less expensive TV. Why diamonds, which really do last forever, specifically end up the subject of so many "they're a rip off"-type articles in a world where nobody has a problem constantly creating waste with cheap, throwaway furniture and fast fashion, I'll never understand. My mother has worn the same engagement ring for 45 years. I have no idea what my father paid for it back in 1969. It doesn't matter. It's something that she kept close to her for decades and that makes it worth a lot to me today." Michelle Graff, National Jeweler, 09-25-15.

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).

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

DAISY AWARD,

Continued from page 1

munity. The DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes who died of the auto-immune disease Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP) at the age of 33. During Pat's 8 week hospitalization, his family was awestruck by the care and compassion his nurses provided not only to Pat, but to everyone in his family. Pat's parents founded The DAISY Foundation with the goal of ensuring that nurses know how deserving they are of our society's profound respect for the education, training, brainpower, and skill they put into their work, and especially for the caring with which they deliver their care.

Alice Adams, Chief Executive Officer at EHRMC, states "we are very excited

to bring this program to East Houston Regional Medical Center to recognize the outstanding nurses we have at our facility. Our patients appreciate the compassionate care they receive and are eager to share their experiences with us through their nominations".

Each DAISY Award honoree is recognized at a public ceremony in his/her unit and receives a beautiful certificate, a DAISY Award pin, and a hand-carved stone sculpture entitled "A Healer's Touch." Additionally, everyone in the unit celebrates with Cinnabon® cinnamon rolls – a favorite of Patrick's during his illness.

East Houston Regional Medical Center – a campus of Bayshore Medical Center is located at 13111 East Freeway, Houston, TX 77015.

CLEAN AIR,

Continued from page 1

breathe all the time," said Shelley, "and it's important that all toxic emissions are accounted for."

Finally, this rule will put in place the first ever requirement to monitor air pollution at the fence line of all U.S. refineries. Refineries will monitor their fence lines for benzene, a known human carcinogen and infamous pollutant in Houston. This is the first time that EPA has established through rulemaking that fence line community residents have a right to know what harmful pollutants are exiting a facility and entering their communities.

This rule is a first step, and EPA could have gone further to provide commu-

nities with more protections. EPA declined to find the risk presented by refineries to be "unacceptable," a finding that would have given the agency more latitude in rulemaking. EPA also did not propose to use fence line monitoring technology that could have provided continuous monitoring and real-time access to information about pollution emissions. Regarding continuous, real-time monitoring, Shelley said, "Only data made available to the public in real time will allow fence line community residents to make their own decisions to limit their exposure to toxic pollution that threatens their health, or their lives."

ASK THE EXPERT  
By Edward Jones

Avoid Emotional  
Investment Decisions

What's the biggest obstacle to your ability to invest successfully? Is it the ups and downs of the financial markets? Political events? The fact that you weren't born rich? Actually, the chief hurdle you face is something over which you have control: your own emotions.

Your emotions can lead to a variety of ill-advised investment behaviors, such as these:

- Cutting losses – Declines in the financial markets can lead some investors to try to "cut their losses" by selling investments whose price has declined. Yet, when prices have dropped, it may actually be a good time to buy investments, not sell them, especially when the investments are still fundamentally sound.
- Chasing performance – In the investment world, the flip side of "fear" is "greed." Just as some investors are propelled by fear of loss, others are motivated by quick, big gains. They may pursue "hot" investments, only to be disappointed when the sizzle quickly fizzles. Instead of trying to "score" that one big winner, you may be better off spreading your investment dollars among a range of vehicles – stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. While diversification can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it may help reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio.
- Focusing on the short term – When the market is down, you might get somewhat upset when you view your monthly investment statements. But any individual statement is just a snapshot in time; if you were to chart your investment results over a period of 10, 15 or 20 years, you'd see the true picture of how your portfolio is doing – and, in all likelihood, that picture would look better than a statement or two you received during a down market. In any case, don't overreact to short-

term downturns by making hasty "buy" or "sell" decisions. Instead, stick with a long-term strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Heading to the investment "sidelines" – Some people get so frustrated over market volatility that they throw up their hands and head to the investment "sidelines" until "things calm down." And it's certainly true that, when owning stocks, there are no guarantees; you do risk losing some, or all, of your investment. But if you jump in and out of the market to "escape" volatility, you may take on an even bigger risk – the risk of losing some of the growth you'll need to reach your goals. Consider this: If you had invested \$10,000 in a package of stocks mimicking the S&P 500 in December 1979, your investment would have grown to more than \$426,000 by December 2013. But if you had missed just the 10 best days of the market during that time, your \$10,000 would only have grown to less than \$206,000 – a difference of about \$220,000, according to Ned Davis Research, a leading investment research organization. The bottom line? Staying invested over the long term can pay off. (Keep in mind, though, that the S&P 500 is an unmanaged index and isn't meant to depict an actual investment. Also, as you've no doubt heard, past performance is not a guarantee of future results.)

Our emotions are useful in guiding us through many aspects of our lives, but when you invest, you're better off using your head – and not your heart.

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

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CHANNELVIEW FIRE  
DEPARTMENT



Serving the Community



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The Channelview Fire Department has entered a new phase of service to the community, and is now staffed with 100% paid firemen and EMS personnel. There are currently 75 men and women on the staff.

Average response times are 5 minutes, as the trucks are staffed full-time 24/7, with 15 persons always on duty. The department runs 2 fire trucks, and 3 ambulances, as well as a District Chief and EMS supervisor.

Emergency Service District #50 is responsible for the finances of the department. Expenses for the department are paid with tax funding and EMS billing.

Equipment includes two active pumpers, a ladder truck, a back-up pumper, a brush truck, and four ambulances. Backup equipment includes another pumper, and an ambulance.

The department was founded in 1949, chartered in 1953, and in 2012 transitioned into a full paid department regulated by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. ESD#50 was established in 2003.

Channelview Fire Department serves about 38,000 people in a 16+ square mile area. It's success is built on its long history, the work of its predecessors, support of the community, and the commitment of the present men and women.

Fire Chief Ryan Thistle  
Assistant Chief Charles Villegas  
Administrator Jimmy Sumbers

Captain Jeremy Mays  
EMS Captain Robby Waddell

Captain Barrett Hansen  
Captain Justin Wischnewsky  
EMS Captain Ramiro Martinez

Commissioner Jim Owens  
Commissioner Ben Ballaw  
Commissioner Brenda Biggers  
Commissioner Eric Stricklin  
Commissioner Judy Brannon  
A.Shift  
District Chief Ennio Ponte  
Captain Kevin Labelle

B.Shift  
District Chief Stephen Roane  
Captain Nathan Matthews  
Captain Ernest Watson  
EMS Captain Steven Adams  
C.Shift  
District Chief Richard Austin

D.Shift  
District Chief Chad Mikush  
Captain Edward Escamilla  
Captain Jeremy Watson  
EMS Captain Chase McKey

CHANNELVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT, PO BOX 1437, CHANNELVIEW, TX 77530 •

OCTOBER IS FIRE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH



Fire Safety Tips

October is nationally recognized as fire prevention month. The inspiration behind the national recognition of Fire Prevention Week is the Great Chicago Fire of October 9, 1871. Burning for nearly 27 hours, this fire killed more than 250 people, destroyed more than 17,400 buildings and left 100,000 people homeless.

Forty years later, fire marshals across the country decided to recognize a fire prevention day to educate the public and pass along valuable fire safety messages to prevent another great fire from occurring. Finally in 1922, the nation's fire officials decided to recognize an entire week in October as fire prevention week.

Far too often we don't think about fire prevention until there is a fire in our residence. There are a number of things we can do to improve our safety or the safety of our family. A lot of this valuable information can be obtained during fire prevention week.

Channelview Fire Department would like to remind the community of a few simple but very important fire safety tips to pass on to family members.

- Smoke detectors: Smoke Detectors decrease deaths in fire by half. Test your smoke detectors at least once a month and replace the batteries once a year.
- Escape plan: Make an escape plan and practice it once a year to refresh you and your loved ones. This escape plan should include a meeting point away from danger where all family members will meet.
- Practice fire safety drills: After you have reviewed your escape plan, hold a fire drill.
- Matches and smoking: Keep all matches, lighters, and cigarettes out of reach of children. Never smoke in bed.
- Electrical safety: Never run cords under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas. Don't overload extension cords or outlets.
- Cooking safety: Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the cooking area turn off the heat. If you have a grease fire on top of the stove, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames. Never use water, salt, or flour to put out a grease fire. Never allow children to play in the kitchen while cooking.
- Heating equipment: Portable heaters need space. Keep anything flammable at least 3 feet away, especially drapes, furniture, and clothing.
- Fire procedures: If you or someone around you is ever on fire. Stop, Drop, and Roll. Do this until the fire is completely out.

Channelview Fire Department works day in and day out with members of the public to continue our on-going efforts of providing the safest community as possible. During the month of October we will be attending, schools, churches, and day cares to continue the message of fire prevention. Questions can be answered at (281-452-5782) or by emailing [publicrelations@channelviewfire.com](mailto:publicrelations@channelviewfire.com). Further information may be obtained by visiting [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and clicking the safety information tab or visiting our website at [www.channelviewfire.com](http://www.channelviewfire.com).