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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Jacinto City December 2017 Crime Report

Warrant Arrests 49, DWI 14, Narcotics 7, Traffic 10, Public Intoxication 8, Theft 2, Interference with public duties 1, Assault 1, Tampering with government document 1, Evading arrests 2, Disorderly conduct 2.
Total arrest 97

Galena Park- Jacinto City CIP Meeting Feb. 1

The Community-Industry Partnership (CIP) meeting will be Thursday, February 1, 2018. 5:45 – light dinner. 6:15- business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m.

At Alvin Baggett Recreation Building in the conference room by the south door, 1302 Keene in Galena Park. Host plant: Shell Lubricants.

Highlands Rotary Chili Feast Feb. 3

Highlands Rotary Club's 43rd Annual Chili Feast Raffle & Auction at St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 S. Main Street, Highlands, 11 am - 3 pm. Live auction 12:30 p.m. Win a new 2018 Chevy Camaro or 2018 Chevrolet Equinox from Turner Chevrolet, Your Choice!. Call 713-252-8000 for tickets.

Sheldon Little League

Try outs Feb. 3, 5 & 6. Rain Out Date Feb. 8
Online registration only at sheldon.activesports.com
Questions? e-mail sheldonlittleleague@gmail.com

Pilot Club Bunco fundraiser

Friday, March 23, 2018, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. at Flukinger Center, 16003 Lorenzo in Channelview.

Enjoy an evening of dinner, bunco and silent auction while raising funds for the San Jacinto Pilot Club. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Table sponsorships are available for \$100.

CRIME FORUM SEEKS JUSTICE

Distinguished panel wants reform of Criminal Justice System

Criminal Justice Reform: a Moral Imperative

By Allan Jamail

HOUSTON, FIFTH WARD - January 24, 2018 hundreds of community leaders and citizens gathered to listen to the distinguished panel at the Criminal Justice Forum (CJF). The forum consisted of a broad spectrum of the criminal justice community, including elected officials, criminal justice reform advocates, law enforcement, judges, attorneys, community and religious leaders, educators, and ex-offenders. The CJF presented an opportunity for an open and provocative dia-



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (center) introduces Criminal Justice Panel L - R : Judge Darrell Jordan, Defense Attorney Joel Androphy, Executive Assistant Chief Troy Finner, Congresswoman Lee, Congressman John Lewis, Commissioner Rodney Ellis & District Attorney Kim Ogg. (Allan Jamail photos)



Civil Rights Icon Congressman John Lewis says, "The best non-violent action we can take to correct the unfair Criminal Justice System is to VOTE! Vote like you've never voted before. Get everyone to VOTE!"

logue about the real reforms needed in our system and to offer solutions that will bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. Panelists of experts from law enforcement, the judicial system, elected officials, and religious

leaders offered suggestions to bring a fairer result for those who cannot afford the cost of a defense and then end up wrongly sometimes being convicted. The panel addressed some very serious issues impacting the lives of Texas families and the very social fabric of our community. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime said, "The criminal justice system (CJS) in its current construct creates more criminals and victims than justice, and necessitates significant changes and reforms to ensure that all Americans receive equal treat-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Galena Park hosts Community Health Fair *City to get new medical clinic*

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX – On Saturday, January 20, 2018 the City of Galena Park and Riceland Healthcare professionals had a Community Health Fair. Citizens got an example of the medical services which will be available for the community in the near future.

Doctors and nurses set-up in the Shafaii Banquet Hall on Holland Avenue and provided free medical services and advice to the citizens. Family Medical Doctors, Allergist, Cardiologist, Podiatrist, and Pulmonologist gave examinations.

Mayor Moya said, "It's all about the citizens. After more than 27 years of not having access to a health clinic in Galena Park, with the help of Rice-



Mayor Esmeralda Moya addresses the media along with Commissioner Barry Ponder and Riceland healthcare professionals about the Health Fair and the future new clinic.

land Healthcare, approximately 12,000 people from this city will receive high quality, low-cost care in a state of the art clinic. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with some of Riceland's physicians and

realized their compassion and love for the well-being of the people. Citizens will now be able to have access to medical services without worrying about high-costs."

Commissioner Barry

Ponder said, "Last week the city had a ground breaking ceremony at the former Galena Park Bank building on Clinton Drive where a new medical clinic will be located. The mayor anticipates the new clinic

will open in the next few months to service citizens of Galena Park and the surrounding area.

"Today we had over 25 doctors of various specialties here to speak to citizens about their health concerns. The new clinic we are building is something the mayor has been working on tirelessly for the past 2 years. She realized the health issues citizens have were not being met. Riceland Health Clinic can provide low cost healthcare with specialist from ever field in medicine," Ponder said.

Jorge Flores the city's Economic Development Coordinator said, "today's health fair is an example of Mayor Moya's leadership, direction and courage, the City of Galena Park will become the city of the future."

Court papers reveal concealed funding of Waste Pits protest groups

HOUSTON – For over a year protest groups have voiced their opinion that the San Jacinto River Waste Pits should remain in place, with a membrane "cap" to protect the public and the environment, instead of the method of removing the toxic material by excavating and hauling it away.

These groups have manifested themselves as the San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution with a website "KeepItCapped.org" and also gave funds to a group known as the Galveston Maritime Business Association. Their representative, J. T. Edwards was allegedly a former Waste Management employee. He often spoke at public EPA hearings, urging the cap to be retained

as the solution to the dioxins, instead of removal. Other tactics used by the opposition group included anonymous phone calls to residents in Highlands, Channelview and Lynchburg urging the cap to be retained.

The financial link between the PRP companies (Potential Responsible Party) was uncovered by investigative reporting by Greg Groogan of FOX26 news. He discovered a recent filing, in December, in which the companies submitted additional information in a personal injury or property claim case now before the courts. The defendants are Waste Management and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation. In the filing, the attorneys stated that the companies "have



Cartoon by Nick Anderson depicts cardboard type false "citizens" campaigning to keep the Toxic Waste Pits capped and in place, but showing that the Potential Responsible Party, Waste Management, is actually behind the protests with their financing and encouragement.

(Art Courtesy of THEA)

been involved in some community engagement efforts" to influence the EPA decision on how to deal with the Toxins in the Waste Pits. The document states that the activities include "significant participation by retained third parties and involvement in keepitcapped.org, the San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution, and the Galveston Maritime Business Association."

Groogan interviewed J.T. Edwards, the president of the Galveston Maritime Business Association, who confirmed that his organization had received support from Waste Management. He said that one of his supporters had misrepresented his support as personal



Jackie Young
THEA president
Proponent of removal

See Waste Pits, P. 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary club installs new members



Last Tuesday, Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary club installed 4 new members in the club. The club meets the first and third Tuesday of every month in Alvin D. Baggett Community Center at 12:00pm. Front line: NEW MEMBERS Rebecca Gardea, Sandra Rodriguez, Maria Munoz, Jaime Rocha. Second line: ROTARIANS Bryan Clement, Lee Ramirez, Jennifer Ledwith, Ernesto Paredes, Larry Helgesen. NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE CLUB'S MEETING SCHEDULE. Meetings are held at the Baggett Community Center. Contact a club member if you are interested in joining Rotary.

Criminal Justice Reform,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment under the law.” Civil Rights icon Congressman John Lewis, who led the legendary March across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma Alabama, as the keynote speaker said “The civil rights movement of our time is to reform the CJS. The best non-violent action we can take to correct the unfair Criminal Justice System is to VOTE! Vote like you’ve never voted before. Get everyone to VOTE! I remember the

day when 3 young boys in Alabama were murdered just for registering voters.” The seventy-six year old Lewis showed that he can still rally a crowd of hundreds. He said, “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate, to stand up, speak up and speak out, and get in the way, get in trouble, good trouble, and necessary trouble.” “I’ve been arrested

about fifty times for standing up against things unfair and not right and I’ll probably be arrested many times again,” Lewis said. During the civil rights movement of the sixty’s Lewis once did something so heroic, so noble, that it helped to change the course of a nation for the better. The Georgia Democrat was beaten up savagely by white Southern racists in 1965, and everyone appreciates very much his personal sacrifice to advance civil rights.

Mother and two kids lose their life in mobile home fire

HUFFMAN, Texas – A mother and two of her three kids died in a mobile home fire during the winter storm last week. According to officials, the fire occurred in the 100, block of Cherry Laurel Street in Huffman. Firefighters received the call around 5:30 a.m. Family members are mourning the death of Natalie Tienda, 33, and two of her three kids, Tristan, 9, and Kienna, 11. The third kid, 13, was at the hospital at the time of the fire. Officials said the father, David Tienda suffered injuries more likely from trying to rescue his family and was taken to the hospital, he is expected to survive. A neighbor helped the father to try to get the family out; they broke some windows but could not get in due to heavy smoke and flames, according to re-



Firefighters after extinguishing fire at mobile home in Huffman.

ports. The family had purchased two new space heaters, neighbors said. The cause of fire is under investigation, officials remain citizens to be extra careful with space heaters.

Superintendent picks Rodeo Art winners

The Superintendent’s Award, a new category in the Goose Creek CISD local Rodeo Art Contest, went to (from left) Alondra Nunez, Gentry Junior School, teacher Jennifer Martin; Mark Stoner, Bowie Elementary, teacher Tina Pequeno and Daron Bush, Goose Creek Memorial High School, teacher Brandi Aguilar. The students are congratulated by Randal O’Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, who selected the winning art.



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Goose Creek CISD Career Night Rescheduled

The sixth annual Career Night, hosted by the Goose Creek Career and Technical Education Department, has been rescheduled for January 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Ross S. Sterling High School, 300 W. Baker Road in Baytown. A shuttle service will be provided from Robert E. Lee High School and Goose Creek Memorial High School to Ross S. Sterling High School starting at 5:30 p.m. and returning at 8 p.m. Open to all students, parents and community members, this event is designed to provide Baytown area youth with an opportunity to meet professionals from a variety of fields as well as representatives from high school and post-secondary programs and technical schools to help students and parents learn the pathway to a successful career of their choice. Pictured are Christopher Garcia from Robert E. Lee High School and his father discussing careers with ExxonMobil business partners at the 2017 Career Night.



Photo by Susan Passmore

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Channelview ISD January Students of the Month



Channelview ISD recently honored its January Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Andres Aguayo (DeZavala Elementary), Elena Gutierrez (Aguirre Junior High), Quinton Thomas (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Elyja Jones (Channelview High School), Aric Gonzalez (Alice Johnson Junior High), Luis Santibanez (McMullan Elementary) and Allana Marie Childress (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center). Pictured bottom row, from left, are Katherine Polanco (Crenshaw Elementary), Jimmy Le (Hamblen Elementary), Sebastian Garza (Schochler Elementary), Hagen Noble (Brown Elementary) and Madeline Ovalle (Cobb Elementary).

Galena Park ISD honors students with top SAT and ACT scores



On January 12, Galena Park ISD high school students were recognized at the administration building for earning top scores on their SAT and ACT tests. All students who earned a 1300 or higher on the SAT and a 27 or higher on the ACT were invited to the luncheon. Elizabeth Lalor, Assistant Superintendent for Educational and Academic Support, was on-hand to congratulate and recognize the students on their accomplishments. She expressed her excitement to each of the students while presenting them with a certificate and gift card. Many of the shared their chosen university and career goals, and they all are excited to start the next chapter of their lives. GPISD wishes all of these wonderful students the best of luck in their future endeavors!

Channelview BPA students qualify for state competition

All 12 Channelview High School Business Professionals of America students that participated in regional competition advanced to state in various individual and team events. Juan Gonzalez took first place in the Entrepreneurship category, while Jacob Catalano finished in second place in Banking and Finance. Other individual award winners were Ariel Juarez, who placed third in Fundamental Desktop Publishing and Emily Garza, who captured third place in Personal Financial Management. In the team events, the foursome of Nikole Arrendondo, Taylor Guillory, Briana Andrade and Myra Ramirez captured first place in the Animation category. The Network Design Team of Emily Luis and Dylan McRae also took the top spot in their division. The team of Briana Castillo, Emily Garza, Jacob Catalano and Brizah Torres earned a second place finish in Economic Research. Channelview's BPA organization is led by adviser Erin Bowman. The state competition will take place in late February.

Galena Park High School student wins Questbridge Scholarship

Congratulations to Eduardo Hernandez, Galena Park High School senior, for winning the QuestBridge Scholarship. The scholarship, worth over \$200,000, is given to the nation's brightest students who have the desire to continue their education and career opportunities. Students must be in the Top 5-10 percent of their graduating class and score above 1310 on their SAT and 28 on the ACT. "I would like to thank QuestBridge for bridging such a great opportunity for low income students," said Hernandez. "I would also like to encourage other GPISD students to apply for this opportunity." Hernandez will be attending Dartmouth starting this fall and will be a double major in government and economics. Congratulations, Eduardo! Good luck at Dartmouth!



Galena Park Elementary receives Laura Bush Foundation Grant

Galena Park Elementary (GPE) received a \$60,000 grant from the 2017 Disaster Relief Initiative Grant given by the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. This grant totaled more than \$850,000 and will be distributed to 17 school libraries damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Harvey. "Just like we did after Hurricane Katrina, The Laura Bush Foundation is committed to rebuilding school library collections that have been devastated during disasters we witnessed last fall," said Mrs. Laura Bush. "As a former librarian, I know school libraries are important to improving student achievement, and with the first round of grants from the 2017 Disaster Relief Initiative, these schools can start on the path to full recovery." Galena Park Elementary will also receive discounts on new books and materials offered by Scholastic Inc., Follett School Solutions and Mackin Educational Resources. "I cannot wait to see the students' faces light up with excitement when they get their hands on their new books," said Joy Price, GPE librarian. GPISD and Galena Park Elementary would like to thank the Laura Bush Foundation for this generous donation!





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OPINION PAGE

Facing a Serious Health Condition—Stories of Strength and Life with a Rare Lung Disease

(NAPSI)—Being diagnosed with a serious disease can be devastating. That's how Nick, 72, felt when he discovered he has a rare and severe lung condition called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, or IPF. Ginger, 68, said learning she has IPF was the scariest time of her life.

Chronic diseases such as IPF—which causes permanent scarring to the lungs, making breathing difficult—have an emotional impact in addition to the physical limitations they may cause. Caregivers and other loved ones share the burden too. It isn't easy to adjust to the “new normal” of life with a serious health condition, whether it affects you or someone you are caring for, but learning how to manage the condition can empower you or your loved one to face the challenge.

To encourage others with serious health conditions to take action in managing their diseases, Nick, Ginger and their families and friends share their stories of strength and support in facing IPF on www.aarp.org/ipf. Here are some of the lessons they've learned in their journeys:

1. Be proactive and learn about your options. If you are diagnosed with a chronic disease or other medical condition, it's important to become educated about what options are available to manage it. Initiating conversations with your doctor and asking questions soon after diagnosis are important first steps. This is especially true if your disease is progressive, or worsens over time.
2. Focus on the present and make the most of everyday moments. Feeling down in the face of a chronic disease is understandable, but living in the present instead of fearing the future or dwelling on the past may help you appreciate the everyday moments that make you happy.
3. Follow the money. If you are diagnosed with a chronic disease or other medical condition, it's important to become educated about what options are available to manage it. Initiating conversations with your doctor and asking questions soon after diagnosis are important first steps. This is especially true if your disease is progressive, or worsens over time.

IPF is one such progressive disease, as lung function lost due to scarring cannot be reversed. When Nick learned this, he discussed ways to manage the condition with his doctor, including FDA-approved medicines and a pulmonary rehabilitation program, which can help ease symptoms of breathlessness.

“Through pulmonary rehab, I've learned how to recognize the signs of my oxygen level dropping and how to breathe efficiently, and those two things have made a big difference,” Nick says.

In addition to participating in pulmonary rehab, Ginger learned about the importance of using oxygen therapy during day-to-day activities to help manage her IPF.

If you are living with a serious health condition, it's important to manage your symptoms and also discuss recommended lifestyle changes with your doctor that may help you be healthier overall, such as adjusting your diet and quitting smoking.

2. Seek out and lean on your support system. Support groups provide an opportunity to connect with others with similar experiences, and the mental and emotional support they offer helps people develop a more resilient mindset. You can find online or in-person IPF support groups on the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation's website at www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org/life-with-pf/support-groups.

Nick and Ginger have also found comfort in leaning on their loved ones during difficult times. For Ginger, it's her son Kenny, daughter-in-law Megan and many dear friends. For Nick, it's his wife Barbara, his children and his community, where he taught and coached at the local high school for 39 years.

“The love of my wife and family reminds me that, despite the challenges, life is good, and there are too many moments of joy to be thankful for. They remind me to do everything I can do to stay on the right track with my health and keep moving forward,” says Nick.

3. Focus on the present and make the most of everyday moments. Feeling down in the face of a chronic disease is understandable, but living in the present instead of fearing the future or dwelling on the past may help you appreciate the everyday moments that make you happy.

Nick says he focuses on what he can do instead of what he can't. He may not be able to go for runs anymore but he can still enjoy walks around a nearby lake and being outside.

Ginger finds strength through time and laughter with family and friends. “I want to continue being a good mom and a good grandma. I love to laugh and I want my loved ones to know I'm happy even though I have IPF. I fight for my family. They're my world,” she says.

Learn More

For additional information about IPF and to watch videos of Nick, Ginger and their loved ones, visit www.aarp.org/ipf.



Hurricane recovery efforts continue with much still to do

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Jan. 17 extended for 30 days the state disaster declaration for counties affected by Hurricane Harvey, which pounded and flooded the Gulf Coast and moved deeply inland, spreading its destructive power.

“As long as Texas families are fighting to recover, they can rest assured that the State of Texas is fighting with them,” Abbott said. The 60 counties listed in the declaration will continue to be eligible for assistance as they recover and rebuild, the governor said.

Abbott, who remains in regular contact with congressional leaders and the Trump administration, said he has continued to request funds to rebuild Texas. On Jan. 19, Abbott said he shared Hurricane Harvey survivors' aggravation over that fact that much-needed continuing federal disaster aid for Texas is bogged down in Washington politics.

Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp, who also serves as Texas' hurricane recovery czar, on Jan. 20 spoke to a group of newspaper publishers at a statewide press convention in Galveston. While delivering an overview of recovery efforts, Sharp expressed his frustration with federal sluggishness in sending disaster aid to Texas.

On the bright side, Sharp credited state agencies such as the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas A&M Forest Service for their employees' work in debris hauling and other areas of need. Sharp described this, or any other major disaster recovery effort, as a “bottom-up” operation, in which mayors and county judges must apply for aid for their jurisdictions and scrupulously attend to paperwork and accounting requirements for state and federal relief efforts to move forward.

Abbott, in his 15th weekly update on Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, said the Texas Department of Emergency Management estimates that more than 11.4 million cubic yards of debris have been collected, which is about 64 percent of the anticipated total.

Also, as of Jan. 16 more

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



than \$12.6 billion in federal funds had been provided directly to Texans, including FEMA grants to households, National Flood Insurance Program claims payments and Small Business Administration disaster loans, Abbott added.

Employment trend continues

Annual employment growth for Texas was 2.5 percent in December, marking 92 consecutive months of annual growth. The Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in December, below the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, the Texas Workforce Commission reported on Jan. 19.

Texas ended 2017 with record-level job creation numbers during the fourth quarter, with 10 of 11 industries expanding over the year and an annual gain of 306,900 jobs, said Texas Workforce Commission Chair Andres Alcantar.

Industry sectors adding jobs in December included Leisure and Hospitality, 6,800 jobs; Construction, 4,300 jobs; and Information, which includes traditional and software publishing, data processing and hosting and telecommunications, 3,600 jobs.

The Amarillo and Midland Metropolitan Statistical Areas recorded the lowest December unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted

rate of 2.5 percent, followed by the Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs, which tied for the second-lowest with a rate of 2.7 percent. The San Angelo, San Antonio-New Braunfels and Sherman-Denison MSAs tied for the third-lowest rate of 3.0 percent.

Hegar distributes revenue

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced earlier this month that he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts some \$709.2 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of January.

The amount is 9.5 percent more than the comptroller's office distributed in January 2017. These allocations are based on sales made in November by businesses that report tax monthly.

AG offers training video

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Jan. 18 announced the debut of his office's new training video “to educate and mobilize all Texans in the fight against human trafficking.”

The nearly hour-long video was developed over the last year by Paxton's Human Trafficking/Transnational Organized Crime section and was shown during a public screening at the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center.

Texas is responsible for the nation's second-highest number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and recent research indicates that at any given time there are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in the state, Paxton said.

The video is available to the public at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking.

PERSONAL FINANCE

5 Ways to improve your financial plan

(StatePoint) Spending too much and saving too little? Getting out of your current financial rut can feel daunting without the right habits and tools. Here are five ways to improve your financial plan now.

1. Set goals. What do your plans include? A car or house? An expensive getaway? Long-term retirement savings or a college fund for your children? Start by identifying your goals clearly. Then, figure out how to get there.

2. Plan smarter, not harder. The right tools on-hand can make the business of financial planning easier. Consider such tools as a multi-functional desktop printing calculator, such as Casio's HR-150TM-Plus, which features a 12-digit easy-to-read display and can print 2.4 lines per second. With two-color printing in red and black, exchange calculation and tax calculation, it can help you stay organized and accountable.

3. Follow the money. Take a deep look into your spending habits. While a \$5 cup of coffee or a lunch out with coworkers may not seem like much at the time, indulging in these expenditures five days a week will really add up over time. Think of all the money that can be put towards savings by making small changes to everyday habits. For example, pick one or two days a week to enjoy a lunch out with friends, but bring your own lunch the other days of the week. Skip the pricey latte and get yourself a thermos, so you can enjoy coffee brewed at home on your commute.

4. Analyze your expenses. New apps and websites that connect to all your finances, including bank accounts, savings, credit cards, student loans and more, can help you track your expenses and create and manage budgets. Graphs and charts help you understand all facets of your finances, so you can be more in tune with where your money is going, helping you navigate a plan to use it more wisely.

5. Make a change. Want to put your money to good, long-term use in a way that won't put a strain on your wallet? A selection of apps automatically round-up the leftover change from purchases made by you with your debit cards, and puts that change towards something else -- like student loans or investments.

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LIFESTYLE

Deadline for 8th Grade options drawing near

Goose Creek CISD eighth graders have more options than ever before when considering their high school plans, but the deadline to make their selections, February 2, is drawing near. Recognizing that not every student is interested in taking the traditional route in high school, Goose Creek CISD offers something for everyone in preparation for college and careers, including seven career academies and two early college high school options. Bus transportation is available for all students attending any of the career academies or early college high schools. Applications for these options for high school must be completed online by February 2, 2018.

Goose Creek CISD has developed seven career academies through feedback from GCCISD's business and industry partners to target some of the high-wage, high-demand jobs.

"Students in these academies will receive hands-on, project-based instruction in their area of interest that is focused on the goal of earning certifications and college credit toward their degree or employment immediately following high school graduation," said Renea Dillon, director of CTE.

Each career academy focuses on one of the following career pathways: Agriculture Science, Automotive Technology and Collision Repair, Biomedical Science, Business Administration, Culinary Arts, Engineering, and Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance.

Next year's freshmen have the option to apply to one of the three academies offered at the three traditional high schools in GCCISD. The Global Business Academy is housed at Goose Creek Memorial (GCM) High School.



Omar Nieto (middle), an eighth-grade student at Baytown Junior School, discusses Welding with his parents Paulo Nieto (left) and Abigail Nieto during the recent Stuart Career Tech High School Student Showcase.

Students in this academy complete a four-year pathway in a rigorous High School of Business curriculum, which can be supplemented with dual credit courses and other electives to learn the skills involved in the type of business they are interested in developing. Students can graduate from GCM prepared for a rigorous college business administration major with college credit and business certifications.

The Health Science Academy is located at Ross S. Sterling High School. Students in this career academy begin with a focus on biomedical science. Students are engaged by the rigorous Project Lead the Way curriculum, which provides weighted grade points toward their GPA, much like the other pre-AP classes they take. Students are provided many opportunities to explore the fast-growing number of medical occupations and even develop innovative ideas to improve areas in the various health-related occupations.

The third career academy that is on a traditional campus is the STEM-Engineering

Academy at Robert E. Lee High School, which helps students learn the many different facets of engineering and engineering technology, especially as it relates to the petrochemical, aerospace and environmental industries on the Gulf Coast. This academy also uses a rigorous Project Lead the Way curriculum that can result in college credit. Mentors from local industry assist students in learning which type of engineering they want to pursue before they begin applying for college.

Four career academy options are available to students who apply to Stuart Career Tech High School (SCTHS), which is also an early college high school. SCTHS is focused on earning college degrees in Career and Technical Education (CTE) fields including Culinary Arts, Manufacturing and Industrial Maintenance, Agriculture Sciences (including Environmental Studies and Veterinary Tech certifications), and Automotive and Collision Repair.

IMPACT Early College High School provides one more option for prospective

freshmen. At this nationally-recognized school, students focus on academics with the goal of graduating with a high school diploma as well as an associate degree from Lee College or at least some college hours to apply to a degree.

Students who wish to attend IMPACT Early College High School or Stuart Career Tech Early College High School must attend a Writing Night January 23, if they did not attend the Writing Night January 18, at either campus to write and submit two writing samples for their application. Students may attend Writing Night at the campus (IMPACT or SCTHS) that is more convenient, and the two campuses will share the writing samples. They should report to the Cafeteria at IMPACT or at Stuart Career Tech at 5 p.m. and plan to stay until 7 p.m. Students who apply to both early college high schools need to attend only one of the writing sessions.

Students may apply for up to three of these high school options in a single application that is available on the district's web page between now and February 2. Students will be notified February 16 which High School Option they were selected to attend.

Altogether, Goose Creek CISD eighth graders are able to choose among 44 programs of study in all five endorsement areas. Very few districts offer these diverse and specialized educational opportunities, so Goose Creek CISD eighth grade students should carefully consider their options as they create their graduation plans and begin their high school experience. Applications to the academies, Stuart Career Tech High School and IMPACT Early College High School are available on the Goose Creek CISD website at <http://www.gccisd.net>.

Curiosity Cruiser at Crosby Library

Crosby Branch is excited to host Harris County Public Library's brand new, state-of-the-art mobile library. It's called The Curiosity Cruiser! We would like to invite everyone in the community to come and take advantage of an opportunity to see The

Cruiser when it is here on Wednesday, February 7 at 10:30 am.

At 10:30 we will have Storytime in the library meeting room. Afterwards, The Curiosity Cruiser will be open to tour. Mascots Owlbotron and Northtale will also be here!

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

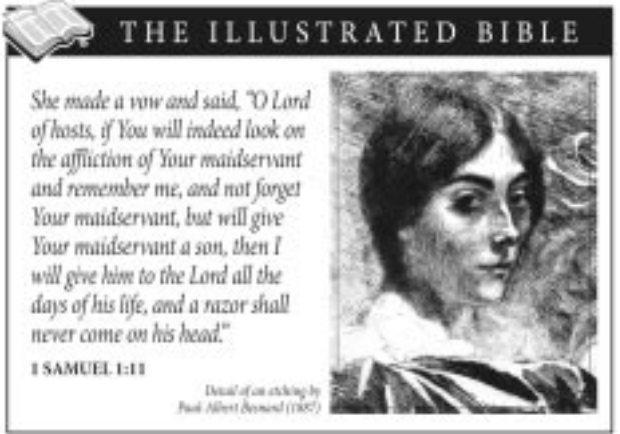
1. Is the book of Simeon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In which book's 13:12 does Jesus predict children rebelling against their parents to be a sign of end times? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. As found in 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David reign over Israel? Five, 13, 22, 40

4. From 2 Samuel 4, what 5-year-old boy was dropped by his nurse and lamed for life? Moses, Mephibosheth, Peter, Andronicus

5. What prophet was the son of Elkanah and Hannah? Samuel, Huldah, Daniel, Nathan

6. How many times in the Bible (KJV) do the words "Christian" or "Christians" appear? 3, 13, 30, 300

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Mark; 3) 40; 4) Mephibosheth; 5) Samuel; 6) 3 (Acts 11:26 and 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)



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John 7:38

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Pride only breeds quarrels,
but wisdom is found in
those who take advice.


God is our refuge
and strength, a
very present help
in trouble
Psalm: 46:1


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is nothing compared
to the glory He will
reveal to us later
ROMANS 8:18

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

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

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

ASK THE EXPERT

Diamond Jim: "What can you tell us about Amethyst?"



ASK DIAMOND JIM

FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE IS AMETHYST

For individuals with February birthdays, the amethyst makes a perfect birthstone. This month is often cold, dark and short for many people around the world, so the amethyst—which is often associated with qualities of peace, courage and stability—is the right gem for individuals who need a little extra warmth and strength this time of year.

AMETHYST OVERVIEW

Amethyst is purple quartz and is a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. The name comes from the Ancient Greek, derived from the word “methustos,” which means “intoxicated.” Ancient wearers believed the gemstone could protect them from drunkenness.

Amethyst, as previously mentioned, is composed of quartz, which is the second most abundant material found in the Earth’s crust. Amethyst gets its color from irradiation, iron impurities and

the presence of trace elements. Its hardness (a 7 on the Mohs scale) is the same as other quartz, which makes it a durable and lasting option for jewelry. While amethyst is most commonly recognized to be a purple color, the gemstone can actually range from a light pinkish violet to a deep purple that can read more blue or red, depending on the light. Sometimes, even the same stone can have layers or color variants, so the way the gemstone is cut is important to the way the color shows in a finished piece.

Amethyst often occurs in geodes or in the cavities of granitic rocks. It can be found all over the world, including the United States, Canada Brazil and Zambia.

The amethyst is not only the February birthstone, it is also used to celebrate the 6th and 17th year of marriage. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous

cultures. Some historical accounts say that Saint Valentine had an amethyst ring carved with an image of Cupid. And for those familiar with Old Testament history, amethyst was one of the twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel.



Stuller

For many years, amethyst was held to be one of the most precious gemstones, often favored by royalty or exclusively by the clergy as a symbol for the diety of Christ. It was even held for many years in the same regard as the diamond. It wasn’t until the discovery of more abundant supplies of amethyst that it became a gemstone enjoyed by more than just the wealthiest buyers.

Many wearers of amethyst throughout history and even today prize the gem for its symbolism as well as its beauty. Leonardo da Vinci once said that amethyst helps to quicken intelligence and get rid of evil thoughts. Other qualities like peace, stability, courage and strength are said to be derived from this gemstone. Today, many wearers simply prize the amethyst for its beautiful shade and the way it complements both warm and cool colors.

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

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com

San Jacinto College reaches record enrollment

30,509 enrolled in Fall 2017

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College reached record enrollment in the Fall 2017 semester with 30,509 students enrolled across the College district.

“This record enrollment is a testament to the work that our faculty and staff do every day in and out of the classroom,” said San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. “The Fall term was tough for all of us with Hurricane Harvey, and I know many of our students and employees are still recovering. However, I am proud of our faculty and staff for persevering to make sure that our students got enrolled and completed the semester.”

The record 30,509 enrolled in the fall term is an unduplicated number, meaning students who take classes on more than one San Jacinto College campus are only counted once for College-wide enrollment purposes. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board certifies enrollment data every semester. A more detailed breakdown of enrollment numbers can be found on

the San Jacinto College quick facts web page.

Traditional spring classes began Tuesday, January 16, 2018, but registration remains open for the spring 2018 semester with Take 2 classes (13B) that begin Monday, Jan. 29.

Educational planners and financial aid advisors are available to help new and current students with the enrollment and registration process. Educational planners and advisors can assist students in choosing a career path; and the application, enrollment and registration processes. Educational planners are available on all San Jacinto College campuses to help students select courses that will easily transfer to a four-year college or university, or get them the skills they need to enter the workforce upon graduation.

Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, and should begin the process by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There is no fee to apply, and assistance is available

by contacting a San Jacinto College financial aid representative. More information about financial aid is available online at sanjac.edu/financial-aid. The San Jacinto College FAFSA Code is 003609.

San Jacinto College also offers a Weekend College and online courses. Weekend classes are taught Friday through Sunday in various academic and technical programs. These courses provide an option for students who work during the week or cannot take classes in the traditional Monday through Friday format. Students who take weekend classes via the Weekend College program, a prescribed pathway, can complete an associate of arts degree and transfer to the university of their choice within two years. Online classes are available for some of the basic courses, offering full credit and transferability. For more information, visit the San Jacinto College online learning website.

To apply to San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu/ apply.

Robert Maurice Downing



Robert Maurice Downing, 89, of Channelview, Texas, went to be with the Lord on January 11, 2018. He was born to parents George Robert Downing and Martha Short on August 25, 1928 in Pasadena, California. He proudly served his country in the

OBITUARIES

United States Navy. Robert worked as a longshoreman for numerous years before retiring in the early 90's. He loved to travel to antique and glass shows, and was an avid Cambridge glass collector. Robert also loved to watch antique and glass shows as well. Robert is preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Martha; and his brother, James A. Downing. He is lovingly survived by his wife, Margaret Downing; stepchildren, Wayne Lucas, David Lucas, and Sallie Arseneau; granddaughter, Kristina

Norsworthy; sister-in-law, Judith Downing; nephews, Scott Downing and wife Tracy, Ryan Downing and wife Holly, 4 great-nieces and 2 great-nephews, as well as numerous extended family members and friends. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 27th at Channelview Church of Christ.

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