

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

In this Issue:  
CHARLOTTE'S  
WEB  
DISCUSSES  
CHANNELVIEW  
ANGELS  
AFTER THE  
BUS CRASH  
See column  
on Page 3...

## JACINTO CITY 2018 EASTER EGG HUNT

Jacinto City Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 24 th at 11 AM at Wilke Park ball fields, 10200 Challenger 7 Drive. Children ages toddlers through 12 years old. For more information call 713-673-4624

## GALENA PARK 2018 EASTER EGG HUNT

Galena Park Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 24 th from 11 AM to 2 PM at Galena Park sports complex 1900 N. Main. For more information call Martha Perez 713-674-1741

## DIGESTIVE HEALTH SEMINAR

Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital will have a Digestive Health Seminar Gastroenterologist panel, 4401 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX 77521, at Main Boardroom., Thursday, March 24 from 6-7 pm. Space is limited, please call to reserve at 281-428-2273. See also AD, page 8 for more details.

## Governor infuses cash to solve flooding

*Lake Houston, San Jacinto River silting problem studied*



State Representative Dan Huberty, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett join Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in review of the San Jacinto Watershed. Comprehensive review of the waterways are under review by City of Houston, Harris County and State Authorities.

**EAST HARRIS COUNTY** – Texas Governor Greg Abbott looked over areas flooded by Hurricane Harvey and pledged millions of dollars to northeast Harris County following Harris

County Commissioner's Court determining a need for flood mitigation was necessary the week before within the San Jacinto Watershed, the watershed areas containing Lake Houston and the San Jacinto River.

See FLOODING, Page 3

## SUPERFUND NEWS

### SJRC's Young tracks Superfund progress of EPA

**HIGHLANDS** – The San Jacinto River Coalition/THEA met last Tuesday evening at the Community Center, to keep abreast of developments in the Waste Pits removal, and hear other environmental concerns.

There has been no public action recently on the Waste Pits, SJRC director Jackie Young said. The EPA made a Final Decision in October of last year, to remove the waste material completely from the site.

Since then, two parallel actions have been taking place: the negotiations with the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties); and the Remedial Design. Young showed a slide of the

### EPA appoints new Region 6 administrator

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Environmental



Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Anne Idsal to become regional admini-

See New EPA head, Page 6

## Seniors enjoy fish fry luncheon in Galena Park



Galena Park Mayor Esmeralda Moya (3rd from the right, bottom row) with Galena Park seniors, State Representative Ana Hernandez (bottom right). Moya sponsored the senior's luncheon this past Friday (March 16th). Seniors enjoyed catfish, hushpuppies, fries, coleslaw and chocolate cake. Mayor Moya said she was excited to see so many familiar faces, she recognized them for their valuable roles they've given the community. "Our seniors are the wisdom that we need at all moments. They're also true leaders in the community, Moya said."

(Photo by Allan Jamail)

## TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT 6

### Ana Hernandez campaign event attracts supporters



State Representative ANA HERNANDEZ is planning her campaign for the Texas Senate from District 6, currently held by Sylvia Garcia. This photo is from a recent reception held at Spring Street Cafe in central Houston. Attending were many supporters, including State Representative Mary Ann Perez (left), Ana, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (right). The large crowd was partisan, but very enthusiastic to see Ana head for the Senate. In her welcoming remarks, Ana reviewed her position on current matters of interest that she advocates, including better school financing, high paying jobs, immigration reform, equal rights for women, reduced domestic violence, better women's healthcare, including the right to choose, voters' rights, expanded Medicaid, and more. See more at anafortexas.com.

Photo by Allan Jamail

## CIP MEETING

### Pct. 2's Phillips reviews updates on district projects

**GALENA PARK** – Jeremy Phillips, director of infrastructure for Precinct 2, presented an update of current development projects planned or under construction in the precinct to the CIP monthly meeting. CIP is the Community Industry Partnership.

Phillips covered a broad range of projects, due to his responsibilities. In previous talks, Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman has indicated that no one knows more about activity in the county than Phillips.

You might ask "What is Infrastructure?" His topics included planned highways and bridges, recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey, Lynchburg Ferry operations, street paving projects, Quality of Life projects including parks and recreation, and more. A number of projects were specific to the Galena Park area, which drew interest from the audience.

Phillips started by talking about the project that will cost the most, the new Beltway 8 bridge over the Ship Channel. This will eventually replace the existing bridge, which has a number of design problems. The new bridge is expected to cost up to \$2 Billion dollars, and will be 4 lanes in each direction, with shoulders in addition. At the same time, the Beltway from the bridge south will be increased to the



JEREMY PHILLIPS, HARRIS COUNTY PCT. 2

same 4 lanes. Features of the bridge design include no supporting columns in the bayou below, they will be in the ground on either side, with a long span structure for the highway. Although the bridge will be high over the channel, the approach ramps will not be as

See Pct. 2 Projects, page 8



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# COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

## Channelview ISD March Students of the Month

Channelview ISD recently honored its March Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Jocelyn Contreras (Aguirre Junior High), Makayla Williams (Channelview High School), La'Taveyah Denise Saxton (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Said Hasan (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Marisol Gonzalez (Alice Johnson Junior High) and Angel Aguilera (Schochler Elementary). Pictured bottom row, from left, are Elizabeth Vaca (Hamblen Elementary), Evelyn Hernandez (Crenshaw Elementary), Daira Gordillo (DeZavala Elementary), Mia Rodriguez (Cobb Elementary) and Isabella Commons (McMullan Elementary). Not pictured is Diego Sanchez (Brown Elementary).



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

## Community Angels in Channelview

In a world where so many people are stressed out and have way too much on their “plate”, I am thankful for those who do not understand the word “no”. Last week, our community was rocked with the horror of the Channelview Band bus accident, yet in the midst of this, we all saw some amazing people step up as well as those who just stay ready to help.

From the pastors and ministers involved with the Channelview Ministry Team, to the School Board Members, Band Alumni and community members, love was felt EVERYWHERE. I cannot say enough about how Superintendent Greg Ollis cares about the students and the community. He was running on prayers as I know he did not take time to eat. From the morning of the accident and continuing daily, he has been the lighthouse in the midst of the pain. There were several members of the Crisis Chaplaincy of Texas present and these individuals under the direction of Lunetta Mitchell were a blessing to the families who were waiting to hear from loved one. Among those volunteers was Diane Collette Pinkney, who happens to also be a bus driver for CISD. To say that Diane loves her job is an understatement.

Over the past decade, I have seen her pray for the children that she transports to and from school as well as support them in their activities and love on them as a surrogate grandmother.

School Board Members who continued to communicate with the community and be present to join the Prayer Gatherings for the students and families were invaluable. Steve Dennis is to be commended for the pride he has in the District and the Community. Even when he is not in the best of health, he is there to remind us to pray for the families and support the schools. Greg Johnstone, Patrick Lacy, Kyle Campbell, and the other board members.

Pastors such as Johnny Brady, Irvin Clark, Rob Morris, Byron Murray, Christopher Shackleford, Charlie Tutt and Kent Wilson are often referred to as my brothers because each one of them has been there for me over the years when I have needed a pastor to encourage or direct me in some way. Each of these amazing men where present last Tuesday as we waited on the students.

Truly what blessed me even more was the young people who showed up to support the students. Nico Izaguirre is a 2017 graduate of Channelview High School as well as a current student at San Jacinto College and he was present to comfort and support the families as we waited on the bus to arrive. Later that evening he was one of the young adults who led the group in prayer for the healing of the group. It is no surprise that he and his mom were among the supporters at Chick-fil-A on Tuesday. Joseph DeCola who operates both the Wallisville and the I-10 locations is another angel among us. He donated all profit from both locations and it totaled more than \$8400 to help the Channelview Band. Other restaurants in the area are planning similar fundraisers.

While others may think they live in the best community, those of us who are a part of the North Channel Area truly are the most blessed. I love you and there is NOTHING you can do about it.

## Driver killed after car catches fire

### One car accident on Clinton Drive

A driver was killed in a crash in east Houston. According to investigators, the driver slammed into a telephone pole around 4:30 a.m. last Sunday near Clinton Drive and Hirsch Road intersection. The car then caught fire and the driver was found dead inside the car. No more details have been released and the crash is still under investigation.



## Flooding problem studied,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gov. Abbott flew around the San Jacinto Watershed in a helicopter to view the flooding problems. He noted the silt, sandbars, a stunning number of sand mining operations “all up and down the river, and were able to understand more comprehensively the way in which these sand mining operations contribute sand and silt into the river.”

Hazard Mitigation Funds for about \$3 Million from the Texas Dept. of Emergency Management is now authorized to start up engineering and permitting to find out where dredging should begin on the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston.

The same source will provided \$2 Million to study the region and discover how to prevent flooding in the San Jacinto watershed.

Gov. Abbott is instructing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to investigate and take action against sand mining operations violating regulations within the San Jacinto watershed.

The Governor’s office is directing the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) to immediately identify what can be done to prevent flood events along the West Fork of the river.

In the six months since

the deluge of Hurricane Harvey it has been discovered that areas around Lake Houston were hardest hit and struggling to recover. Earlier this month, City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner hosted State Representative Dan Huberty, Senator Brandon Creighton to follow up on the needs of Lake Houston.

The list they discussed included dredging of the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston, construction of additional gates at the Lake Houston Spillway Dam, and creation of a pre-release protocol during rain events for both Lake Houston and Lake Conroe.

Lake Houston residents find it no surprise that silt-sandbars and silt build ups have formed throughout the watershed even as silt-bars washed away from the west bank of Lake Houston

following Hurricane Harvey. The potential for flooding becomes worse with these erratically compounded deposits build from currents.

The question remains however as to who will be making the determination of where and when needed dredging of the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston will be performed.

Mayor Turner has asked that a bathymetric and topographic study be done of the San Jacinto Watershed and Harris County Authorities have called for one of the Cedar Bayou Watershed. This in hope that the studies will clue authorities as to where a siltation removal plan will be most effective at reducing flooding. Then a call for funding can be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board.

Texas Water Development Board is being asked to add eight to ten new gates to the existing spillway at Lake Houston to potentially allow bigger discharge in hopes that this will reduce the impact of large rain events. The new gates are estimated to cost about \$47 Million.

Tropical Storm Allison, the Tax Day and Memorial Day floods and Hurricane Harvey indicate that “500 year floods” are happening a lot quicker than every 500 years.

Harris County Commissioner’s Court has moved to obtain funding for, and complete, the regional flood infrastructure projects so studies are underway then they will need to secure the funds. Estimates at the cost of completion for such projects are in the \$100s of Millions.

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Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Sierra Ranch Storage at 8720 Sierra Ranch Dr., Houston, TX 77044 on March 26 at 10:00 am. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of the space of Kelly Saski: appliances, boxes, mattresses, gardening supplies, hammock stand, and miscellaneous furniture.

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# OPINION PAGE



## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

## Appellate court’s ruling on immigration law draws reactions

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on March 13 praised a ruling by a panel of the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upholding a new state law that bans sanctuary cities.

The Legislature enacted Senate Bill 4 in 2017 to set a statewide policy of cooperation with federal immigration authorities’ enforcement of the nation’s immigration laws.

“I’m pleased the 5th Circuit recognized that Senate Bill 4 is lawful, constitutional and protects the safety of law enforcement officers and all Texans,” Paxton said. “Enforcing immigration law prevents the release of individuals from custody who have been charged with serious crimes. Dangerous criminals shouldn’t be allowed back into our communities to possibly commit more crimes.”

The ruling also drew reactions from several lawmakers, including state Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, who serves as chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

“SB 4 will continue to jeopardize the safety of Texas communities by forcing our local police officers to enforce federal immigration laws instead of keeping families safe. From day one, this law was racially motivated for political gain against the will of local law enforcement and to the detriment of thousands of immigrants who work, live and call Texas home,” Anchia said. “The decision today doesn’t mean that SB 4 won’t lead to abuse of power against Latinos and immigrants. In fact, it likely means citizens’ civil rights will be violated before we can stop this unjust law in the courts.”

A U.S. District Court in San Antonio granted a preliminary injunction of SB 4 on Aug. 30, two days before the law was scheduled to take effect. On Sept. 25, a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit ruled that Texas could enforce key provisions of SB 4 while it appealed the lower court ruling. On Nov. 7, Paxton’s office presented its oral argument before a panel of the 5th Circuit in defense of SB 4. Paxton’s office is the key enforcement agency for SB 4 and is accepting complaints regarding entities that violate the law.

**Governor asks for tips**

At least two deaths resulted from the detonation of explosive devices in packages placed at Austin residences.

Investigations by law enforcement have been in progress since citizens unwittingly picked up or opened the packages, causing the deadly detonations.

Gov. Greg Abbott on March 12 issued a statement following what he termed “multiple package bombings,” saying, “As the investigation continues, the State of Texas will provide any resources necessary to ensure the safety of our citizens and quickly bring those guilty to justice.”

Abbott also said his Criminal Justice Division is offering a reward of up to \$15,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of anyone involved in the deadly blasts. To be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$15,000, tips must be submitted to Texas Crime Stoppers using one of the following methods:

- Call the Texas Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS; or
- Text the letters “DPS” followed by any tip information to 274637.

County lacks jurisdiction

Attorney General Paxton on March 16 applauded the First Court of Appeals of Texas after it ruled that Waller County lacks jurisdiction to sue a private citizen who complained that the county unlawfully banned firearms from its government building.

Paxton’s office filed a brief in the case, arguing that it should be dismissed.

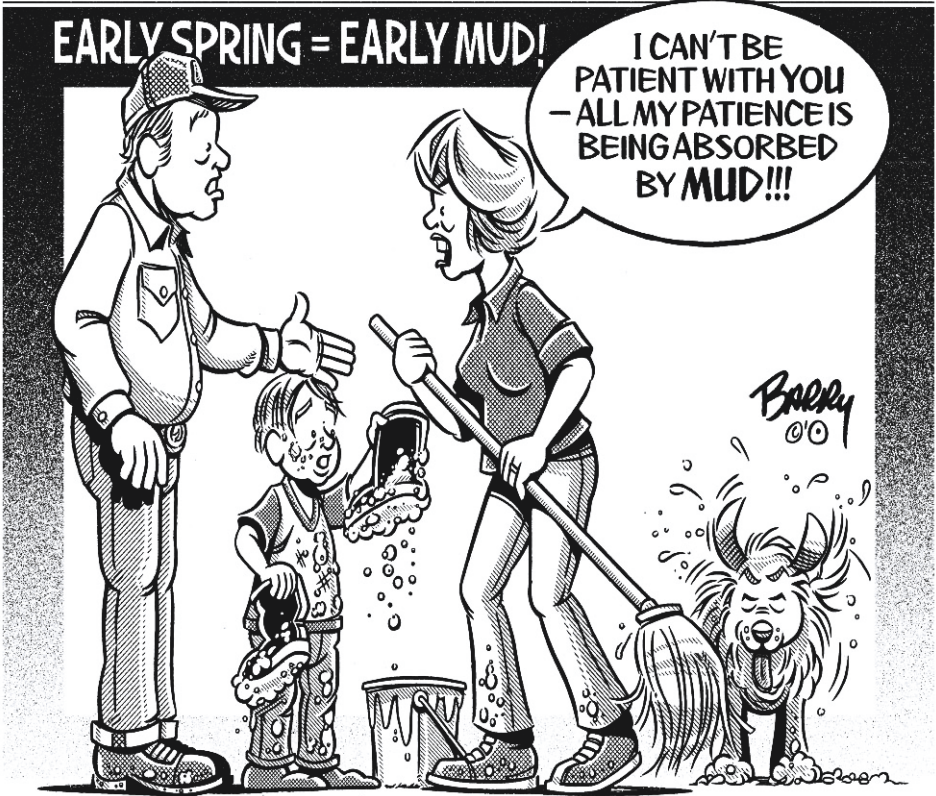
In reversing a Waller County district court’s ruling, the Court of Appeals held that Terry Holcomb Sr. had a constitutional right to send a letter to Waller County asking it to comply with Texas’ open carry laws without fear of a retaliatory and meritless lawsuit.

**Zika cases are reported**

The Texas Department of State Health Services on March 13 received reports of the first Texas Zika cases of 2018, two cases involving residents of Williamson County who got sick while abroad.

People should remember to protect themselves from mosquito bites this spring as they travel, particularly to warmer climates where Zika is more prevalent, such as Central and South America and the Caribbean, the DSHS said.

Zika is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause fever, rash, muscle and joint aches and red eyes. Zika has also been linked to microcephaly and other poor pregnancy outcomes in babies of mothers who were infected with the virus while pregnant.



## Keep the Spring in your step: good reasons to exercise after age 50

(NAPSI)—For many older adults, growing older seems to involve an inevitable loss of strength, energy and vigor—but that need not be, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The frailty and decreased energy associated with aging are largely due to muscle loss due to inactivity. And when it comes to muscle, the old saying is true: “Use it or lose it.”

**What To Do**

One of the best ways to keep muscles healthy and strong, the CDC advises, is through exercises called strength training.

**Why To Do It**

Done regularly, strength training builds bone and muscle and helps to preserve strength, independence and energy. These exercises are safe and effective for women and men of all ages, including those who are not in perfect health. In fact, people with health concerns—such as arthritis or heart disease—often benefit the most from lifting weights a few times each week.

Strength training, the CDC adds, can also reduce the signs and symptoms of:

- Arthritis—It reduces pain and stiffness and increases strength and flexibility.
- Diabetes—It improves glycemic control.
- Osteoporosis—It builds bone density and reduces risk for falls.
- Heart disease—It reduces cardiovascular risk by improving lipid profile and overall fitness.
- Obesity—It increases metabolism, which helps burn more calories and helps with long-term weight control.
- Back pain—It strengthens back and abdominal muscles to reduce stress on the spine.

What’s more, studies have shown that people who exercise regularly sleep better and have less depression, more self-confidence and self-esteem, and a greater sense of well-being.

Fortunately, strength training exercises are easy to learn, and have been proven safe and effective through years of thorough research.

What’s more, you may be relieved to learn, there are ways to train without undo strain, aches and pains.

**Doctor’s Advice**

To help, Bob Arnot, M.D., an award-winning journalist, author of 12 books on nutrition and health, host of the “Dr. Danger” reality TV series, previously Chief Medical Correspondent for NBC and CBS News, and Chief Foreign Correspondent for MSNBC and NBC, offers this advice:

- Find a few minutes at least two to three times a week to maintain general fitness. Try three or four

five-minute bursts of activity such as walking or climbing the stairs at the office.

- Take two or three more minutes a day for yoga breathing and movements to help your body maintain balance, usable strength, flexibility and muscular restoration.
- Spend another few minutes every day and before any vigorous exercise doing calf stretches and forward bends.
- Stay hydrated before, during and after your workout.
- To reduce your risk of muscle soreness after exercise, consider a massage, an Epsom salts bath or intermittent hot and

cold showers, as well as proper stretching and cooldown.

- Muscle strains and muscle pulls are major health concerns for weekend athletes. Signs you should look for alerting you to rest your muscles and avoid overtraining are a higher than normal resting heart rate, disrupted sleep due to an elevated heart rate, muscle cramping and muscle twitching.
- Eat right. In addition to lots of fruits and vegetables and a few lean meats, consume foods with magnesium, which helps fight inflammation, and with vitamin B12—especially if you’re over 50—such as fortified cereals. Drink three cups of fat-free or low-fat milk throughout the day or consume the equivalent in yogurt, cheese or other dairy products. Consider an anti-inflammatory diet—cut out sugar, potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant.
- Go topical. Topical pain relievers such as creams, gels and patches work locally. For example, the Salonpas Lidocaine 4% Pain Relieving Gel-Patch provides the maximum strength of lidocaine available without a prescription.

According to the Center for Medicare Advocacy, “[Lidocaine] is a highly effective pain reliever and its unique non-narcotic and nonaddictive properties make it a benign alternative to opioids, without the risks and devastating side effects of opioids.”

These unscented patches can desensitize aggravated nerves and provide numbing relief generally within an hour of application.

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LIFESTYLE

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OBITUARIES

Steven Gene Jones

Steven Gene Jones 47, of Crosby, Texas went to be with the Lord on March 15, 2018. Steven was born on January 20, 1971 in Taylor Texas to Jerry and Pam Jones.

Steven enjoyed music, swimming, going to church, Special Olympics, watching wrestling and most of all spending time with his friends and family. Steven was a friendly and kind young man who had a great sense of humor and a big smile on his face, he will be deeply missed by all who loved and knew him.

He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Bob-bye Miller Wood; grand-mother, Catherine Foster; grandfather, Gerald Jones; grandfather, Billy Foster; and grandfather, Gene Miller. Steven is survived by his parents Jerry and Pam Jones of Crosby; sis-ter, Lynsey Brashear and husband Chris of Crosby; sister, Amy Nevil and hus-band Jeremy of Crosby; nieces, Amber Hickl, Hailey Hickl, Emma Nevil and Kynlee Brashear;



nephew, James Nevil and many other relatives and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 5pm-8pm at Sterling-White. Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018 10am at First Baptist Church in Crosby 615 Runneburg Rd. Crosby, Texas 77532. Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com)

Terry Ann Bond



Terry Ann Bond , born September 01, 1952, was called to her heavenly home on March 02, 2018. Terry was preceded by her parents Malcolm L. (Chiefy) Bond and Eleanor Jean Newton Bond. Survived by sisters Elaine Carmichael and husband Mike Carmichael, Bonnie Roberts and fiance Danny Bartee, brother Michael L. Bond, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Terry was a gradu-ate from Channelview High School in 1971. She loved to travel the United States, espe-cially Gatlinbury and Pigeon Forge, Tennes-see. She was an avid quilter and loved to attend quilting re-treats.

Family would like to give special thanks to Dr. Sanjay Kunapuli, Dr Zehra Kapadia, Dr. Lucas Duvall, Dr. Anupam Sidu, Dr. David English ad Dr Ghayyath Sultan, along with the nursing staff at Methodist Willowbrook Hospital. God bless each of you for the wonderful you all gave Terry over the years.

Sweet ways to welcome warmer days

(Family Features) Warmer, longer days are made for quality time with friends and family. There's no better way to cap off an afternoon in the sun than a good meal followed by a great dessert. Plan to end your next gathering on a sweet note with these fruity desserts to conclude a day spent with loved ones.

Fruity treats are hard to resist, especially when paired with tasty, complementary flavors and textures. If you're looking for a treat that travels a bit off the beaten path, this pie may be just the answer. A crushed pretzel crust and creamy peanut butter filling provide a salty, savory background for plump, sweet strawberries. Or serve up a taste of the tropics with a cream pie that celebrates a medley of textures and flavors from lively blueberries to toasted coconut.

When you make fruit the star of the dessert, there's no question you need top-quality ingredients. Each of these desserts features Lucky Leaf Fruit Fillings, which are made from fresh fruit, contain no high-fructose corn syrup and are GMO-free, for a delicious dessert every time. With a variety of flavors to choose from, including apple, blueberry, cherry, peach and strawberry, there are plenty of convenient, versa-tile dessert options for any occasion.

Find more tasty treats for entertaining and beyond at [luckyleaf.com](http://luckyleaf.com).

Strawberry Peanut Butter Pie

- 1 1/4 cups crushed pretzels
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 cups frozen whipped dessert top-ping, thawed
- 1 can (21 ounces) Lucky Leaf Premi-um Strawberry Fruit Filling and Topping



Combine pretzels and granulated sugar then stir in butter. Press crumb mixture onto bottom and sides of 10-inch pie plate. Cover and chill.

With electric mixer on medium speed, beat together peanut butter, cream cheese and powdered sugar. Fold in whipped dessert topping.

Spoon 1/2 cup pie filling into crust-lined pie plate. Carefully spread peanut butter filling over top. Top with remaining pie filling. Cover and chill 2 hours before serving.

Fluffy Blueberry Cream Pie with Toasted Coconut

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 can (21 ounces) Lucky Leaf Premi-um or Organic Blueberry Fruit Filling or Topping
- 1/2 cup toasted coconut flakes, plus ad-ditional for topping, if desired
- 1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)

In large bowl, beat together cream cheese, sugar and milk until creamy, about 1-2 min-utes. Add whipped topping, pie filling and coconut; carefully fold together until no streaks remain.

Spoon filling mixture into graham cracker crust. Sprinkle top with additional coco-nut flakes, if desired. Cover and chill 2 hours, or until firm.



Cedar Bayou Grace UMC Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Celebration this Sunday, March 25th, 2714 Ferry Road, Baytown, TX 77520.

9:45am- Grab & Go Breakfast begins  
11:00am- Worship

"Christ is Alive", Easter Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir.

Kids of all ages who would like to wave palm branches and be a part of the Palm Processional can meet in the back of the Gym prior to the service.

Easter Egg Hunt immediately following worship.  
Egg hunt on the front lawn for kids ages Toddler-5th grade. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!

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I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.  
**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

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Pride only breeds quarrels,  
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those who take advice.

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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

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Does it take a lot of training to become a jeweler?"



Over the past 40 years, I've been asked this question countless times. Thank you for asking and allowing me to respond in writing. Most people equate being a "jeweler" with nearly any position in a jewelry store or jewelry manufacturing business. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word "jeweler" as "a person or company that makes or sells jewels or jewelry". Technically, the term or title of jeweler requires a little more definition. Someone who sells jewelry is a Sales Associate for a jewelry company and is not necessarily a jeweler. Personally, I find that it takes either the completion of formal education from an accredited institute, or many, many years of experience, or both, to earn the title of 'Jeweler'.

The GIA (Gemological Institute of America) is one of the most respected teaching institutions in the world in the arena of gems including diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, semi-precious gems and pearls. A formal education from the GIA will give you the educational acumen (basis) to begin what can be a very lucrative and rewarding career as a jeweler. Some of the career options available, once you have your schooling behind you, are; Gemologist, Bench Jeweler, Jewelry Appraiser, Jewelry Auction Specialist, Gem Buyer, Jewelry Designer / Manufacturer, and more.

An inexperienced jewelry sales associate tends to learn at the expense of a jewelry store owner and staff who must teach that person the basics of jewelry including how it's designed and created, how it's displayed, the content of the gold, platinum or silver metals in the jewelry, and some knowledge of the gems or stones that are set in the jewelry. The GIA offers a learning environment that employs some of the best

jewelry educators and lab equipment in the world. The cost of a formal GIA jewelry education is surprisingly low compared to a four year Bachelor's Degree at a university. For example, check out the beginners course entitled "Applied Jewelry Professional™". Obtaining the Applied Jewelry Professional™ credential is one of the fastest and most effective ways to improve your understanding of gems and jewelry, and covers essential knowledge related to diamonds and popular colored gems. You can earn your credential via eLearning by taking three online courses.

Course Listing: Jewelry Essentials, Diamond Essentials, and Colored Stones Essentials

The Graduate Gemologist credential is the most prestigious credential in the industry. The GIA Graduate Gemologist program gives you the comprehensive knowledge of diamonds and colored stones you need to succeed anywhere in the jewelry business. You'll gain both technical expertise and practical skills to evaluate gemstones by the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut, and carat weight), the International Diamond Grading System™, and the Colored Stone Grading System.

For more information, please logon to [www.GIA.edu](http://www.GIA.edu). If I can be of any assistance to you as you begin your amazing path towards a knowledgeable and financially rewarding career in the jewelry industry, please let me know.

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

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jimj@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jimj@pineforestjewelry.com).



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## Waste Pits Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EPA "Snake Chart" indicating the various steps required in the Superfund process. She indicated that we were right on schedule. However, she noted along with audience members, that there is no good reason why sheet piling to contain the toxic waste could not start immediately. She said the reasoning for starting piling now, was the damage from Hurricane Harvey, and as we approach another hurricane season starting in June, the issue comes around again.

Young showed a slide of a prototypical coffer dam, made with steel sheet piling, and removal of dry material from the center on trucks driving down a dirt ramp into the pit. She said our solution could be very similar.

Another environmental concern that was discussed is sand mining,

and disposal of dredge spoil material, on a site at 2739 Highland Shores Drive. According to a report from the Harris County Pollution Control, dredge material from the ship channel is being filled into ponds on the Highland Shores site. Toxicologist Dr. Latrice Babin of the HCPC office has been testing each barge load of material for toxins, and has told THEA that the material is safe, and meets the criteria set by the US Army Corps of Engineers for this work. Residents of Highland Shores who were in the audience indicated that the fill with dredge material has been going on for some time, as well as the sand mining.

Young said that THEA is monitoring an ExxonMobil permit to see if they need to take any action.

## New EPA Region 6 Head,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

strator for Region 6. Ms. Idsal joins the Agency having spent her career working for the Texas state government in helping shape environmental and land policy for the state.

Since 2015, Anne Idsal has served as chief clerk and deputy land commissioner for the Texas General Land Office (GLO) where she oversees all budget and expenditure matters, and initiated the Office's reorganization efforts to optimize business functions and provide cost-savings for taxpayers. She previously served as the general counsel to GLO where she provided substantive and procedural legal counsel to the Commissioner and led an office of attorneys on issues relating to oil and gas, coastal lands, public lands, financial transactions, and general law.

Prior to joining the Texas General Land Office,

Anne served as General Counsel to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), where she provided legal counsel to the Commissioners and oversaw the offices of the Chief Clerk, Public Interest Counsel, and Chief Auditor. She also served as a special advisor to the commissioner, providing counsel on policy development and implementation.

"Anne is an accomplished lawyer and civil servant who will make an immediate impact in providing positive environmental and health outcomes as a regional administrator," said Administrator Pruitt. "She has spent her career working to shape environmental and land policy for the Lone Star State, and her experience in the region makes her exceptionally qualified to provide administrative leadership for Region 6."

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but if they trust you, they'll do business with you.**  
~Zig Ziglar

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**There are no secrets to success. It is the  
result of preparation, hard work,  
and learning from failure.**  
~Colin Powell

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Trying to do business without advertising is like  
winking at a pretty girl through a pair of green goggles.  
You may know what you are doing, but no one else does.  
~Cyrus McCormick

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# Pct. 2 Projects,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

steep as currently exist. This project is actually under construction, he said, and it will take 4 to 5 years to complete.

Pct. 2 was actively engaged in rescue and restoration from Hurricane Harvey, and Phillips was involved in directin much of this work. He noted that 30,000 homes in Harris County received flood damage, of which 6700 were in Pct. 2. The precinct mobi-

lized dump trucks with high ground clearance to pick up people that had been forced to leave their homes. Later these same trucks were used to help remove debris. 1.1 Million cubic yards of waste material were removed in Harris County. Phillips noted that the Lynchburg Ferry had been out of service due to hurricane damage to the landings, but would reopen in March.

Pct. 2 has had an ongoing repaving or overlay progam for several years, called BS2N, or Better Streets 2 Neighborhoods. The precinct next plans to repave Market Street in Jacinto City, he said, and then to restripe it. He noted that they were using a new high-tech plastic striping material instead of the traditional paint.

The precinct has a number of Quality of Life projects planned. The largest and most recent is a new park known as Juan Seguin Historical Park, on the banks of the ship chan-

nel next to the Battleship Texas and close to the San Jacinto battlefield. This project was paid for by funds from a lawsuit that the county won against the polluters of the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site. The \$10 million dollar settlement was earmarked by the state for environmental recovery and recreation uses. The park opened in a re-enactment ceremony on March 14th. It includes historical markers about Seguin and the Texans, and recreational features includ-

ing a child’s playground, walking paths, and a viewing deck to observe ship traffic on the channel.

Phillips noted that the county is continuing to work on the Federal Road overpass over the Port Railroad rail lines. Although no construction can be seen, he said that utility planning work is underway, and on-site construction will follow. The project cost is expected to be \$16 million, and take the next 2 years to construct. It will include 4 lanes in each direction, and eliminate the wait for trains. Tx-DOT also expects to rebuild

the road leading to the traffic circle, at a cost of \$4.5 million.

The final project Phillips detailed is a Hike & Bike Trail traversing the so-called “High Road” landfill from Jacinto City to Galena Park. This land is owned by the Corps of Engineers, he said, but administered by the Port of Houston Authority. The trail should be constructed this summer, and will be 8’ wide, paved in crushed granite. The project is being paid for jointly by Precinct 2 and the Port Authority.



## GALENA PARK ISD

IS LOOKING FOR ITS FUTURE STUDENTS

If your child is ready to start Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten in the 2018-2019 school year, please be sure to register early!

### Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration

GPISD will have early registration for Kindergarten and eligible Pre-Kindergarten students for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration must be done in person and Pre-Kindergarten placement is on a first come, first serve basis. All elementary campuses will hold on-site registration during the following dates and times:

**Dates: April 24 & 25**

**Times: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Late Night: April 26<sup>th</sup> 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: All Elementary Schools**

**(You must register at the campus you are zoned to.**

**For this information, visit the GPISD webpage [Bus/School Locator](#).)**

#### Texas State Eligibility for Pre-Kindergarten

- ✓ Child will be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2018
- ✓ Child is a resident of Galena Park ISD
- ✓ Child meets immunization requirements, and also meets at least one of the following conditions:
  - Child is unable to speak and comprehend the English language **or**
  - Child is homeless, as defined by [42 U.S.C. §11302], **or**
  - Child is economically disadvantaged (low family income) **or**
  - Child of an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces **or**
  - Child of a member of the U.S. armed forces that was injured or killed while serving on active duty, **or**
  - Child is or has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services
  - Child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award

#### Required Registration Documents for All Students

- ✓ Child's Birth Certificate (Proof of age required)
- ✓ Child's Social Security Card
- ✓ Parent/Guardian's Driver's License or other form of identification (Examples: State ID or Military ID, Passport, Permanent Residence Card, Home Country Registration Card)
- ✓ Proof of Residency (Current electric, gas or water bill or copy of mortgage or lease agreement required)
- ✓ Immunization Records (Child must be current on all required immunizations)

#### Additional Requirements for Pre-Kindergarten Only

(State law requires that proof of eligibility is verified and documented for all students.)

- Limited English Proficient – Child must be present to be tested with oral language assessment
- Economically disadvantaged- Must provide proof of household income in one of the following forms: current paycheck stub, letter from employer stating gross wages paid and how often they are paid, disability payment stub, current SNAP, or TNAF case number for free meals
- Military Member's Child – Military identification or appropriate letter will be verified
- Foster Care - Letter from Department of Family and Protective Services is required

Galena Park ISD will also offer Pre-Kindergarten Program for 3 year olds. Students must meet the State of Texas eligibility requirements to qualify for the program and then be selected through a lottery system. **Registration for this program will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.** More information will be available on the district website.



## GALENA PARK ISD

BUSCA SUS FUTUROS ESTUDIANTES

¡Si su hijo(a) está listo para comenzar Pre-Kinder o Kinder en el año escolar 2018-2019, por favor asegúrese de inscribirlo con anticipación!

### Inscripciones para Pre-Kinder y Kinder

GPISD tendrá inscripciones para Kinder y estudiantes elegibles de Pre-Kinder para el año escolar 2018-2019. La inscripción debe hacerse en persona y la colocación para Pre-Kinder será de acuerdo al orden de llegada. Todas las escuelas primarias tendrán inscripciones durante las siguientes fechas y horarios:

**Fechas: 24 y 25 de abril**

**Horario: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Horario Adicional: 26 de abril 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Lugar: Todas las escuelas primarias**

**(Debe inscribirse en la escuela primaria de acuerdo a su domicilio.**

**Para obtener esta información visite [Bus/School Locator](#) en la página web de GPISD.)**

#### Requisitos de elegibilidad para Pre-Kinder en el Estado de Texas

- ✓ El niño tendrá 4 años de edad el o antes del 1<sup>o</sup> de sept. de 2018
- ✓ El niño vive dentro de los límites de GPISD
- ✓ El niño cumple los requisitos de vacunación y también cumple por lo menos una de las siguientes condiciones:
  - El niño no puede hablar o comprender el idioma Inglés **o**
  - El niño no tiene hogar, según lo establecido por el Código de EE.UU. (U.S.C.) 42 Sección 11302 **o**
  - El niño está en desventaja económica (bajo ingreso familiar) **o**
  - Es hijo de un miembro activo de las fuerzas armadas de EE.UU. **o**
  - Es hijo de un miembro de las fuerzas armadas de EE.UU. que fue herido o muerto mientras estaba en el servicio **o**
  - El niño está o ha estado bajo la custodia del Departamento de Familia y Servicios de Protección (Hogar de Crianza Temporal) **o**
  - Es hijo de una persona elegible para la Condecoración de la Estrella de Texas

#### Documentos Requeridos para Inscripción de Todo Estudiante

- ✓ Acta de nacimiento del niño (Prueba de nacimiento es obligatoria)
- ✓ Tarjeta de seguro social del niño
- ✓ Licencia de conducir u otras formas de identificación del padre/tutor (Ejemplos: identificación del estado o militar, pasaporte, tarjeta de residencia, matrícula consular)
- ✓ Prueba de domicilio (Recibo de luz, agua o gas más reciente, estado de cuenta de la hipoteca o contrato de renta es requerido)
- ✓ Tarjeta de vacunación (El niño debe estar al corriente con todas las vacunas requeridas)

#### Requisitos Adicionales Solamente para Pre-Kinder

La ley estatal requiere que la prueba de elegibilidad sea verificada y documentada para todos los estudiantes.

- Limitado en el Dominio de Inglés –El niño debe estar presente para que se le administre un examen de lenguaje oral
- En desventaja económicamente- Debe proporcionar prueba de ingresos familiares en una de las siguientes formas: talón de chequeo bruto y cuántas veces se le paga, talón de chequeo por incapacidad, número de caso actual de SNAP o TNAF para almuerzos gratuitos
- Hijo de un miembro del servicio militar–Se verificará la identificación militar o carta
- Hogar de Crianza Temporal - Se requiere carta del Departamento de Familia y Servicios de Protección

Galena Park ISD ofrecerá un programa de Pre-Kinder para niños de 3 años. Los estudiantes deben reunir los requisitos de elegibilidad del estado de Texas para calificar para el programa y luego ser seleccionados por medio de un sorteo. **Las inscripciones para este programa se llevarán a cabo el 1 y 2 de mayo.** Más información estará disponible en la página web del distrito.

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