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CHANNEL CURRENTS

RUN-OFF ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 22 Early Voting now

Voters are reminded that a run-off for several county offices is currently underway, and will finish on election day next Tuesday.

Early voting is through Friday, May 18. Hours are 7am to 7pm. Locations in this area include the Galena Park Library and North Channel Library.

Democratic voters must choose between candidates for governor, district clerk, county clerk, county treasurer, and county school trustee.

Republican voters do not have a candidate choice in the North Shore area. However, the race for U.S. Representative TX-2, the seat now held by retiring Ted Poe, sees challengers Dan Crenshaw vs. Kevin Roberts, and TX-29 Phillip Aronoff vs. Carmen Montiel as contests generating public interest.

WALLISVILLE ROAD CLOSED

Pct. 2 reports that Wallisville Road between Dattner Road and Normandy Street is closed until further notice as crews assess damage to the roadway near the bridge over Greens Bayou. Drivers are encouraged to use Maxey Road, Normandy Street, or Uvalde Road as alternate routes. For those needing access to businesses and schools west of Normandy Road will be given access by exception. Be sure to avoid the area, if possible, and check HoustonTranstar.org for updates.

FURR HIGH SCHOOL RIBBON CUTTING

Friday, May 18, 10:00 am, 500 Mercury Drive, Houston, TX 77013.

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 9 AM, 10346 Fairfax, Calvary Baptist Church of Jacinto City, everyone welcome.

Jacinto City Council takes Oath of Office New Swimming Pool Grand Opening on Saturday, May 26

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – May 10, 2018 at the city council meeting Justice of the Peace Judge George Risner gave the Oath of Office to, Councilmen Jimmy “JJ” Rivas, Gregg Robinson and Allen Lee, all of them unopposed in the city election.

The city’s government is composed of a mayor and five council members serv-

See Jacinto City Council, Page 8



Photo / Allan Jamail

L – R: Councilman Jimmy Rivas, wife Shelly Rivas, wife Mary Robinson, Councilman Gregg Robinson, wife Vickie Lee, Councilman Allen Lee and Justice of the Peace Judge George Risner.

Galena Park Commissioners sworn in

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 6:00 PM Mayor Esmeralda Moya called the Galena Park Commission meeting to order. After a prayer and pledge to the flag the Commissioners unanimously approved the reading of the Minutes of the April 17th and May 1st meetings and the Accounts Payable through May 15th.

See GP Commissioners, page 3



PHOTO BY LINDA JAMAIL

L-R: Commissioner Barry Ponder and wife Cheryl Ponder, Ruben Balderas, Commissioner Veronica Garcia, Sergio Moya, Mayor Esmeralda Moya, Commissioner Rodney Chersky and wife Samantha Chersky, Commissioner Zenaida Granados, Ofelia Castillo and Judge George Risner.

Rotary Club recognizes Officers of the Year

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – Tuesday, May 15th, 2018 the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club recognized Law Officers of the Year from police departments of Galena Park, Jacinto City and the Precinct 2 Constable’s Office.

Galena Park Interim Police Chief Rick Gonzales since taking office in February chose Sergeant Mike Knox a 30 year veteran of the department as the Officer of the Year. Gonzales said, “Sgt. Knox is my Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the department this year. Our department wouldn’t be the same without him; I quickly

See Officers of the Year Awards, page 8



Photo by Allan Jamail

L-R: Bryan Clements, GP/JC Rotary Club President, Pct 2 Deputy Constable Cpl. Mark McGinnis, GP Sgt. Mike Knox, GP Chief Rick Gonzales, JC Patrolman Ali Kamali and JC Chief Joe Ayala

Galena Park ISD selects 2019 Teachers of the Year



Galena Park ISD would like to congratulate Angelica Cuellar and Angelica Raines for being named the 2019 GPISD Teachers of the Year! Ms. Cuellar has been in education for 25 years and currently serves as the language arts instructional coach for 3rd-5th grade at Pyburn Elementary. Ms. Raines has been an educator in GPISD for 7 years and serves as the 7th and 8th grade Encounters teacher at North Shore Middle School. Congratulations, Ms. Cuellar and Ms. Raines. GPISD is lucky to have you!

See GP ISD Rookie Teachers of the Year, Page 8

North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil Saturday



THIS TOYOTA TRUCK is one of 20 prizes in the Raffle to be held Saturday at the 43rd Annual North Shore Rotary Fish Fry. The event will take place Saturday, May 19 from 11am to 3pm at the Rotary Pavilion behind the Courthouse on Wallisville Road. Tickets for the Raffle are \$100, and for the Fish Fry dinner, only \$12 Presale, \$15 at the gate. All Rotarians are selling tickets, and many businesses including Pineforest Jewelry, as seen above. Live and Silent Auctions with lots of unique items will also be held. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

COMMUNITY

36th Crosby Annual Alumni All-Classes Reunion



2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS– Back row: Bob Boyles, Joyce Polka Boyles, Melanie Ransom, Bernice Florus Novosad , Sydney Bollom and John Lindsey Front row: John McDonald, Emma McDonald, Franny Martin Hobbs, Tricia Meigs, Patsy Svrcek Spitzmiller and Bonnie Leissner James Not pictured are: Brenda Gracey Tuttle, Paula Novosad Webb, Shirley Lesikar Sebesta and Thomas Taylor Ransom.

Plans are underway for the 36th Crosby Annual Alumni All-Classes Reunion, which will be held on Saturday, August 4th, 2018 at the Crosby American Legion Hall beginning at 5:00 PM. Money raised at this event is used for scholarships for Crosby High School Seniors. Planning meetings will be held Wednesday June 20th and Wednesday July 25th. All graduates of Crosby High School are invited to attend these meetings, regardless of year graduated.

For more information, call or text Franny Martin Hobbs, 832-514-9892, Tricia Meigs, 713-569-8731 or Melanie Ransom, email: mellieusie54@verizon.net.

★

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Annual Bazaar

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish will celebrate their annual bazaar this coming Sunday, May 20, 2018 from 11 am to 5 pm. Enjoy BBQ Chicken and sausage dinners served in the gym. Delicious home-made desserts will also be available. Mexican dinners and hot dogs are also on the menu. There will be moonwalk, games, bull ride, and other outdoor booths. Bingo will be held in the Marian Hall beginning at 1:00 p.m. and live and silent auctions will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the gym. A raffle with 10 great prizes will close the day's festivities at 5:00 p.m. Father Joe Mundadan, Pastor, and parishioners invite the community to come enjoy a family day at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 800 S. Main, Highlands, TX.

Crosby Community Center's May Special Events

Salad and Spud Luncheon featuring The Harbor Light Choir

Friday, May 25 at 11:30 a.m. The Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir represents the Salvation Army as Ambassadors of hope throughout Houston. Their songs ignite hope, faith, and love in the hearts of everyone that listens to their performance. In addition to a great performance, enjoy salad, baked potato, garlic bread, dessert, tea, and coffee. Advance registration is necessary by Tuesday, May 22. Sign up at Center, or by calling (281)462-0543.

Quilting Classes

Thursdays at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Take this opportunity to quilt, share ideas, and enjoy the fellowship of other quilters. Quilters of all experience levels can attend these sessions.

Watercolor and Oil Painting

Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Professional artist and instructor Anne Vandagriff teaches composition, design, color, and contrast using a variety of subject matter.

Rhythm Walking

Weekday mornings from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Come rain or shine for a 2_-mile walk to music in the comfort of the Center.

Aerobics With Melissa

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. Boost your energy, stamina, and flexibility with certified aerobics instructor Melissa Turner. Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs, please call (281) 462-0543.

June 27 - July 1



SEGUIN CHAMBER

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Partial funding for this event is being provided by the City of Seguin, Texas



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Channelview ISD May Students of the Month



Channelview ISD recently honored its May 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, Caleb Davis (Channelview High School), Gisell Cruz (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Tiana Campbell (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Christian Hernandez (McMullan Elementary), Jazmin Catalan (Alice Johnson Junior High) and Justine Haro (Aguirre Junior High). Pictured bottom row, from left, are Ava Mendoza (Cobb Elementary), Belen Gracia (DeZavala Elementary), Ariana Gomez (Schochler Elementary), Joshua Aleman (Crenshaw Elementary), Leeotis Patrick Jr. (Brown Elementary) and Faith Rodriguez (Hamblen Elementary).

CHARLOTTE’S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson

Breathe, you are NOT Alone

Mental illness is not easy. It is an individual diagnosis that truly touches the lives of us all. The journey to receive a diagnosis is never easy, yet the road to living with the diagnosis builds resilience in the consumer as well as those close to them.

When my son was four years old I started noticing some behaviors that would ebb and flow in the seriousness. Our pediatrician suggested taking him for an evaluation with a specialist. Even today I cringe when I use the word psychiatrist. And the cringing is NOT from any experiences with a doctor, but with the stigma that mental illness carries. The first appointment took over six weeks to obtain. I am told this is much quicker than it is today. The doctor suggested that my son be hospitalized for an evaluation. One of the concerns was that my son never slept. After the hospitalization, we learned that the sleep study showed he slept on the average of 24 seconds of each minute. He had to be exhausted yet his mind would not rest. Among the tests they performed was one to determine his IQ.

“Ms Jackson, do you have an idea of how smart your son is?” The doctor went on to tell me that if we “harnesses his intelligence” he could find a cure for cancer. If we did not, he could blow up buildings with homemade bombs. Gee, just what every parent wants to hear.

The next five years were like living on a roller coaster. This led to his second hospitalization and a change in the diagnosis. He was diagnosed with a severe case of Bipolar Disorder. During the next 11 years, I cannot begin to count the hospitalizations, the discipline referrals, the therapists, the prayers, and outbursts nor the amazing people from our school district as well as church. Or the tears.

At one point, the medicine’s side effects just added to the issues and with him being 6’1 and over 285 pounds, there was no way to force him to take the medicine. At the same time this was happening, he managed to not only graduate high school ahead of schedule, but to obtain two college degrees. Around the same time, he was given a dual diagnosis of severe bipolar disorder and paranoid schizophrenia.

Too often, those who are diagnosed self-medicate and then the nightmare becomes worse. By the age of 23, my son had been locked up at Harris County Jail twice and was headed to prison. And each step of the journey, there are more issues. It was not until he arrived in prison and was jumped by two different gangs wanting him to choose which race he was (Father is Black, Mother is White. He has been raised to just be a good person), sent to the infirmary for months, only to then be sent to solitary confinement that we learned he has “missed his opportunity” to ask for a psychiatric evaluation. The struggle has been real.

Throughout the years, we have found comfort in the free programs offered by NAMI Greater Houston. (NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness). I have since become involved as a Family-to-Family facilitator and often speak to groups about the services. If there were anything I could stress, it is that this is not easy, we must erase the stigma, we must educate ourselves, we are not alone and we need to just stop and breathe.

San Jacinto College and Texas A&M Maritime Academy to host National Maritime Conference

Maritime professionals will convene for two days to discuss issues and challenges facing the industry

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College and the Texas A&M Maritime Academy will host the Shared Quarters National Maritime Conference, June 5-6. The conference will bring together industry professionals and educators from across the country to focus on the expansion of the maritime industry and efforts to incorporate community colleges for the training of the maritime workforce.

Rep. Gene Green (TX-29), Chairman Janiece Longoria with Port Houston, Jeff Brandt with the National Maritime Center, and Dr. Shashi Kumar and Kevin Tokarski with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) will be among the guest speakers. Ms. Longoria will serve as the conference’s keynote speaker.

Ms. Longoria is an honors graduate of the University of Texas and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas School of Law. She has served as the Chairman of the Port of Houston Authority, the leading economic engine for the greater Houston region, since she was unanimously appointed by the City of Houston and County of Harris in 2013. Ms. Longoria chairs the Port Com-

mission’s Audit Committee, Community Relations Committee and serves on the Governance Committee and Pension and Benefits Committee. She also created the Citizens Advisory Council to foster open communication between communities in and around the Port of Houston and the Port Commission. Ms. Longoria is also a Regent for the University of Texas System that oversees the flagship University of Texas at Austin, as well as eight other academic institutions and six healthcare institutions including MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

“The Shared Quarters Maritime Conference promises to be an event where we can discuss the issues facing maritime and ways that we as maritime educators can help meet the industry’s growing needs to compete globally,” said John Stauffer, associate vice chancellor and superintendent of maritime at San Jacinto College. “We’re excited to partner with the Texas A&M Maritime Academy in hosting these discussions and look forward to this national maritime event.”

San Jacinto College will host the first day on June 5 at the Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus in La Porte, Texas. The Texas A&M Maritime Academy will host the second day on June 6 at its Galveston, Texas, campus. In addition to guest speakers, the conference will in-

clude panel discussions on the topics of innovative workforce programs, college alignments with the maritime industry, and the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence program.

In 2017, U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives voted to approve Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence legislation as part of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The legislation authorizes federal support for two-year community and technical colleges, allowing the colleges to expand their capacity to train domestic maritime workers by admitting more students, training faculty, expanding facilities, creating new maritime career pathways from associate degree to baccalaureate degree programs, and awarding credit for prior learning experience, including military service.

The Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Gene Green and co-sponsored by Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36), Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22), and Rep. Ted Poe (TX-2). The Senate version of the legislation was co-sponsored by Texas Sen. John Cornyn.

To register for the Shared Quarters Maritime Conference and to find out more about presenters and details, visit sanjac.edu/shared-quarters-national-maritime-workforce-conference.

GP Commissioners,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On a unanimous vote of approval the Commission approved Resolution R05-2018 accepting the results of the May 5th General Election.

Re-elected for a new two year term is, Mayor Esmeralda Moya, Commissioners Rodney Chersky and Barry Ponder. Newly elected Commissioners to begin their first term to serve are Zenaida Granados and Veronica Garcia.

Jamal Humphries a candidate who lost in his race against Rodney Chersky made a public comment. Humphries said, “I’m not crying about the results of the election nor are these sour grapes but, I want to point out the fact there were four voters who voted in the election that wasn’t on the Harris County’s approved voters list. I don’t know how this could have happened, but I’m concerned about it and will be monitoring future elections for irregularities”.

There was a standing room only attendance so

the Mayor adjourned the meeting and invited everyone to come out front of city hall to witness the swearing-in and oath of office to the Commission by Justice of the Peace George Risner.

After the swearing-in ceremony Mayor Moya said, “On this day, we gather because we have chosen progress over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.”

“The City of Galena Park is a community where citizens work hand in hand. We the people of Galena Park are the keepers of this legacy. We the people of Galena Park have the responsibility to protect it and to demand a greater effort, greater cooperation and understanding from each other. We must inherit these values to our children and the children of our children who will continue with the work we have started today.”

“Building a city that works for all of us will require all of us to do the

work. Our success depends on our honesty, hard work, loyalty – the quiet virtues and forces of progress in our city.”

“My fellow citizens, I am honored to accept this great responsibility as Mayor of the City of Galena Park. I am humbled by the enormous work ahead and ready to stand hand in hand with you to guide this City forward.”

Each of the four Commissioners thanked those in attendance and pledged to work for the betterment of the city.

Commissioner Ponder who received the same high vote total as the mayor said, “I thank everyone for their support and regardless if you voted for all of us or not, we’ll work for you and respect you. What I’m asking for most of all is your prayers.” Ponder mentioned their campaign slogan of Moya Team or Team Moya but he declared to the 150 enthusiastic spectators THIS IS YOUR TEAM.

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OPINION PAGE

How to stop a ‘Silent Killer’

(NAPSI)—High blood pressure is often silent—showing no signs or symptoms—but it’s not invisible. Survivors are speaking out to show the real impact of high blood pressure, and a new campaign from the Ad Council, American Heart Association and American Medical Association provides resources to help you and your doctor create a treatment plan that works for you.

Survivors William, Jill, Francisco, Allyson and others show you what high blood pressure looks like while telling their stories at LowerYourHBP.org to encourage you to get your blood pressure under control before it’s too late.

Understanding High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure is any level of blood pressure above 130/80. Its consequences include heart attack, stroke, heart failure, kidney disease, vision loss, sexual dysfunction and peripheral artery disease. According to the American Heart Association, 46 percent of Americans have high blood pressure, but only about half of them have it under control.

Committing To A Plan

Once you know you have high blood pressure, you can manage it very effectively through changes in eating habits, physical activity, and, when needed, medication. The best way to avoid the consequences of high blood pressure is to talk to your doctor and commit to a treatment plan that

works for your life. Here are some questions to answer in preparation for your doctor visit:

- How have you been feeling?
- Is anything preventing you from sticking to your current plan?
- Any changes in your blood pressure?
- Any side effects from any medication or symptoms?
- How do you treat your side effects and/or symptoms?
- What questions or concerns do you have for your doctor?

Overcoming Everyday Hurdles

If your treatment plan feels overwhelming, your doctor can help you create a more achievable plan. The most effective plan is the one you actually follow. You can use the guide at LowerYourHBP.org to start the right conversation with your doctor.

If a hectic schedule, the cost of medication, or your habits are keeping you from sticking to your treatment, talk to your doctor about ways to overcome these barriers. Be clear about your concerns and get all the answers you need.

Learn More

You can find important facts, stats and tips and see the campaign’s videos online at www.LowerYourHBP.org. There, you can also find helpful tools as you work with your doctor to create or get a treatment plan to bring your blood pressure under control.

You can save yourself from the “silent killer.”

Fiscal Notes: Transportation Infrastructure

(AUSTIN) May 15, 2018 — In the May issue of Fiscal Notes, released today, the Comptroller’s office examines the funding and needs associated with the roads, rail lines, airports and seaports that connect the Texas economy with customers and suppliers around the world.

With the Texas population expected to double by 2050, the Texas Department of Transportation estimates Texas will require about \$21 billion annually to keep the state’s various transportation modes in a good state of repair.

“We’ve got nearly 314,000 miles of roads and highways, more than 10,400 miles of rail lines, nearly 400 airports and 21 seaports,” Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. “Maintaining and expanding this infrastructure is a tremendous task, yet the expenditure may be necessary if we want to remain prosperous.”

May Fiscal Notes also looks at state government employee turnover. Texas’ fast-growing economy means state agencies are competing for talent in one of the tightest job markets in the nation. This issue is felt most acutely as agencies try to attract and retain employees working in highly stressful environments like those of the Juvenile Justice Department and the Department of State Health Services.

Fiscal Notes is available online and also can be received by subscribing via the Comptroller’s website.

Fiscal Notes helps promote and further explain the Comptroller’s constitutional responsibility to monitor the state’s economy and estimate state government revenues. It has been published since 1975, featuring in-depth analysis concerning state finances and original research by subject-matter experts in the Comptroller’s office.



Paxton requests federal funding for women’s health program

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton last week asked two federal agencies to move quickly to fund the state’s Healthy Texas Women program.

The program was cut off from Medicaid funding by the Obama administration in 2012 after the Texas Legislature enacted a law preventing taxpayer money from going to abortion providers.

In a May 7 letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Paxton said the addition of some \$30 million a year in federal dollars would increase access to family planning and preventative health services for low-income women across the state who are not covered by traditional Medicaid in Texas.

Paxton sent the letter at the request of Gov. Greg Abbott and on behalf of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. He wrote that allowing states to exclude providers who perform or promote abortion is consistent with federal policy.

Texas spends \$29 billion a year on Medicaid — more than one-fourth of the state’s annual budget — to serve some 4.3 million people. The state allocates another \$95 million annually to fund the Healthy Texas Women program, which has a current enrollment of 240,798 women, Paxton noted.

“States have discretion in implementing the Medicaid Act, including in setting qualifications for providers,” Paxton wrote. “Texas and the Healthy Texas Women program should not be penalized through the continued withholding of federal funds merely because Texas has exercised the authority that federal law has granted to it — namely, the authority to refuse to be a conduit for channeling taxpayer funds to abortion providers pursuant to state law.”

Forum honors women

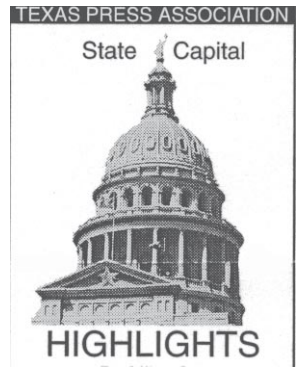
Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on May 7 highlighted Texas women in the workforce by hosting a roundtable discussion with a dozen women leaders who comprise the Texas Governor’s Commission for Women.

The panel was part of a briefing with the Governor’s Commission for Women to review Gov. Abbott’s priorities for the commission and to develop strategies to make Texas “the best state for women-owned businesses.”

The discussion addressed topics such as hardships women face in the workplace, women with families who pursue careers, ways to move more women into higher-paying jobs and women as entrepreneurs. The discussion is part of Hegar’s multi-stop “Good for Tex-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



as Tour: Women in the Workforce.”

More than 6 million women held jobs in Texas in 2017 and 938,000 women-owned businesses generated about \$134.2 million in sales, but further efforts are needed to eliminate barriers to women’s entrepreneurship and improve access to top-level positions, Hegar said.

May allocations are sent

Comptroller Hegar on May 9 announced his office would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$861.8 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of May.

The amount is 9.4 percent more than was distributed for the month of May 2017. Allocations are based on sales made in March by businesses that report tax monthly and sales made in January, February and March by quarterly filers.

Hurricane season coming

With the hurricane season less than one month away, Gov. Abbott and the Texas Department of Public Safety on May 7 urged

Texans to use Hurricane Preparedness Week to learn how to protect themselves and their families from hurricanes and tropical storms. Hurricane season starts June 1 and continues through Nov. 30.

The DPS posted of list of actions to take, such as:

- Assemble an emergency kit that includes essential documents, supplies and provisions;
- Review hurricane evacuation maps and select a route;
- Plan how family members and pets will evacuate safely;
- Consider special needs for individuals with disabilities and the elderly; and
- Stay informed about changing weather conditions.

Abbott honors the fallen

Gov. Greg Abbott on May 7 joined law enforcement officers from across the state for the 2018 Texas Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony to honor fallen Texas peace officers and their families.

During the ceremony, Abbott met with and presented medals to the families of officers who died in the line of duty. The ceremony included the laying of a memorial wreath and a 21-gun salute.

Last year, during the 85th session of the Texas Legislature, Abbott signed House Bill 3647, legislation that established the Texas Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony as an annual event. This year’s ceremony was the first to be conducted since the law was passed.

Where does school money go? Not to teachers, study shows

(NAPSI)—There are a little over 3 million teachers in America’s public schools and for the majority of them, interacting with children is the best part of the job. That’s just as well, since for too many, salary and working conditions are pretty poor.

In fact, for more than 20 years, teacher salaries have not even been keeping up with the cost of inflation. According to a recent report by Benjamin Scafidi, Ph.D., a professor of economics at Kennesaw State University, there’s been a great Teacher Salary Stagnation and between 1992 and 2014, real average salaries for public school teachers actually fell by 2 percent.

Where The Money Went

While spending on education has risen in many states, instead of increasing teacher salaries, the public schools added personnel at a rate almost four times that of student enrollment growth—and these new hires were disproportionately nonteachers.

If this increase in “other staff” had matched student enrollment growth, the schools would have saved almost \$35 billion a year. That could have meant an \$11,100 raise for every teacher or education savings accounts (ESAs) for more than 4 million students to offset tuition payments at private schools, to save for college, or to pay for other educational services, therapies, curricula and materials.

Essentially, taxpayers spent a lot more per student, but teachers didn’t see much of it. That may be one reason so many school systems have been seeing teacher strikes lately.

What Students Got

What’s more, this had no measurable positive effect on students. National Assessment of Educational Progress Long-Term Trend scores for 17-year-olds fell by three points in reading and are flat in mathematics since 1992.

What Can Be Done

Dr. Scafidi suggested states should expand school choice and create incentives for schools to compete for teacher talent and students.

How? By empowering parents to choose the best educational fit for their kids—and allowing the funding to follow them. This, Dr. Scafidi said, lets families, not bureaucrats, decide where and how school dollars are spent. And if schools aren’t paying teachers what they deserve, those teachers should be able to teach where they’ll be paid for their hard work.

Learn More

Dr. Scafidi’s research was published by EdChoice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing full and unencumbered educational choice as the best pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. To read the entire report, go to www.edchoice.org/StaffingSurge.

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OBITUARIES



Billy Howard Hamblen

Billy Howard Hamblen, 87, of Channelview, Texas, passed away of natural causes on May 9, 2018.

He was born on January 26, 1931 in Huntsville, Texas, son of the late Howard Bowden Hamblen and Macey Sublett Hamblen. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara Ann Pugh Hamblen; his two sons, Billy and Bobby; his daughter-in-law, Lisa; and his grandchildren, Ethan, Marisa, Macy, and Carson.

Billy graduated from Huntsville High School in 1949. After a short time at Sam Houston Teacher's College, he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as an aircraft mechanic from 1950 to 1954. After leaving the military, he returned to Huntsville and graduated in 1957 with a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University.

In September of 1957, Billy began his career in Channelview Independent School District as a coach and teacher. Early in his career as an educator, he

began pursuing his master's degree, which he completed in 1962. In August of the same year, he became the principal of DeZavala Elementary, where he served for five years before moving to Director of Special Services in 1967. Just a few short months later, he was named assistant superintendent. In the fall of 1974, Bill became the Superintendent of Channelview ISD. He spent the following 18 years in dedicated service to the community in this capacity before retiring in 1992. In honor of Mr. Hamblen's dedication to the school district and community, when a new school was built in 1996 for the 5th and 6th grades, the Board of Trustees named the newly constructed campus B. H. Hamblen Middle School. Several years later, it was renamed B. H. Hamblen Elementary.

Even after retirement, Mr. Hamblen's unrivaled passion for education led him to be an advocate for the local school district and community. An avid golfer, Billy was the namesake for the B.H. Hamblen Scholarship Golf Tournament held each year in October, and an active member the of the tournament committee. He attended all of the meetings and raised funds for student scholarships to benefit Channelview High School graduating seniors.

Beyond his commitment to improving and upholding high standards with the school community, Bil-

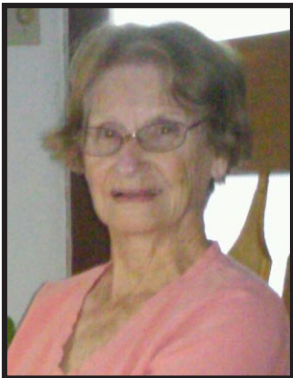
ly also served the community of Channelview in several capacities. He was a member of the board for the Harris County Water District No. 21 for over 20 years. He was also a long-time member of the board at the River Terrace Golf Course.

Channelview was home to Billy for over 60 years. He leaves behind a legacy of service and excellence in education. He had an intense integrity and an ability to find fairness in the most impossible situations. Friends have described him as "a giant of a man" and "one of a kind."

In the words of his grandchildren, Billy was a great man, legendary. He was always caring and humble, but he had spunk. He loved spend time with family, play golf, and serve his community, but most of all, he loved to laugh.

There will be a viewing on Thursday, May 17th, from 4 pm to 8 pm at Forest Park Funeral Home on Lawndale St. in Houston. The graveside service will be Friday, May 18th, at 10:30 am at Forest Park Cemetery. Also on May 18th, a celebration of Billy's life will take place at 4:00 pm at Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church in Channelview.

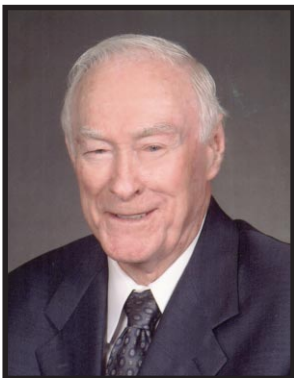
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of B. H. Hamblen to the Channelview ISD Education Foundation by mail or at www.cvisd.org//site/Default.aspx?PageID=7493 Please designate specifically "for B. H. Hamblen scholarships" in the company line.



Mary Frances Bierbaum

Mary Frances Bierbaum, 88, of Galena Park, Texas, passed into her heavenly home on May 8, 2018 in New Braunfels, Texas. Mary was born January 17, 1930 in Palacios, Texas to parents, Charles Russell and Mollie (Phillips) Gibson. She was preceded in death by her parents, by her beloved husband of 48 years, Kenneth L. Bierbaum; by son, William "Bill" Thompson and daughter, Roxanne Hozdish; as well as by 3 brothers and 4 sisters. She is survived by son, Wendell K. Bierbaum and wife, Teri; and daughter, Margo L. Davis and husband, Jeff; and by 6 grandchildren, Lacey, Wendell, II, Haylie, Karsen and Garrett; and by 2 great-grandchildren, Jordan and Tyler; as well as by other family and friends. A visitation and Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Carter-Conley Funeral Home with visitation starting at 11:00 am. and Celebration of Life Services starting at 12:00 Noon. She will be laid to rest in Earthman Resthaven Cemetery, 13102 North Freeway I-45 North, at 1:30 p.m. under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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



Ward Cornelius Cooper

Ward Cornelius Cooper, 92, went to be with our Lord and Savior on May 12, 2018. Ward was born in Mystic, Louisiana to Johnny and Minerva Cooper on June 3, 1925. So, he was just 3 weeks shy of his 93rd birthday. At the age of 17, and determined to join the fight in WWII, he forged his mother's name and enlisted in the Merchant Marines. Mr. Cooper spent a good deal of his adult life working in the oilfield industry, but in 1967, he started A-1 Fire Equipment in the Houston North Channel Area. He was also an avid hunter and fisherman. Ward Cooper was a loving, Christian husband and father who instilled a positive work ethic in his children. He was a 50-year member of the North Shore Masonic Lodge #1353 as well as the

Houston Scottish Rite & Shriners. Mr. Cooper is preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Cooper, and his son-in-law, Hank Hruza. He is survived by his son, Ron Cooper & daughter-in-law, Renee; daughter, Gail Grant & son-in-law, Charles; daughter, Pam Hruza; daughter, Mona Mae Nunn & son-in-law, Michael; step-son, Kevin Coggins & wife, Deidra; and stepdaughter, Kim Copaus & husband, Billy. Ward Cooper is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, his sweet puppy, Sadie Mae, and a host of family & friends who will miss his smile, storytelling and sharp wit. A visitation and celebration of life service will be held Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Carter Conley Funeral Home with visitation from 1-2:00 pm. and services at 2:00 p.m. He will be laid to rest in Sterling White Cemetery in Highlands, Texas at 3:30 p.m. under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy. — 2 CHRONICLES 36:15,16

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I Corinthians 13:8

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and strengh, a
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in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

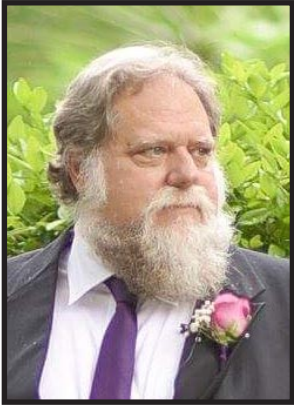
Bro. Scott Keaton
October 2, 1958 -
May 7, 2018

Scott left this life on Monday May 7, 2018 with his loving wife Sallie, daughter Rebecca and son Noah by his side at his home in Crosby, Tx, at the age of 59. He fought a long hard battle with cancer, he didnt lose though he gets to enjoy his eternal life in heaven with a new healthy body singing with Jesus... Though he will forever be missed here on earth by family and friends who loved him dearly.

Scott was born October 2, 1958 in Dallas, Tx (Farmers Branch) to Charles and Barbara (Bassman) Keaton. His family moved to Spring Branch..Houston, Tx when he was 6. He married Sallie the love of his life on June 3, 1978. They had two children together Rebecca Karin and Noah Aloysius. He loved his family dearly.

Scott was preceded in death by his mother Barbara Bassman Keaton, Mother in law Dolores Bass.

Scott is survived by his Father and step Mother Charles and Barbara Keaton of Livingston, TX,



Wife Sallie (Bass) , Son Noah Aloysius of Crosby, Daughter Rebecca Karin and her fiance Sasha Dela and son Joseph of Houston, Brother Stephen Keaton (Linda) of Richmond, MN, Sister Kathryn Arnold (Marcus) of Huffman, Brother in laws Roger Bass of Onalaska, Larry Bass (Ruth), Douglas Bass of Centerville, Sister in law Sharla Anderson. Nieces Gwendolyn Kraus (Adam), Cynthia Smith (Mike) , Stacey Krechmer (Danny), Shelley Arnst (Keith) , Sarah Jones (Larry) , Crystal Warner, Jessica Green, Hannah Keaton, Olivia Whitaker (David) Elizabeth , Madelyn and ,Genavieve Keaton, Nephews Benjamin Arnold, Anthony, Jacob and Charlie Keaton, Clint

(Amber) and James (Ashley) Bass, Preston Boyd...Numerous other special family members and friends, including his special friends his dog Amos and cat Mike.

Scott has spent the last few years volunteering as President of Churches United In Caring here in Crosby, he had heart for helping others...

His biggest accomplishment was his love of sharing Gods love with others until the very end.

We had a small private natural burial on our property in Center-ville, Tx on Tuesday afternoon with our dear friend Larry Koslovsky officiating.

We will be having a Memorial Service and light lunch after on Saturday May 19, 2018 at 10:00 am, Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st St. Crosby, TX 77532

Brother Robin Butler and Larry Koslovsky officiating.

Special thanks to Crosby Brethren for letting us use your facilities.

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ROMANS 8:18

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the Holy Spirit and began to
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Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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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

San Jacinto College named among 10 Finalists for 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence for Second Year

PASADENA, Texas – The Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence has once again named San Jacinto College as one of 10 finalists for the prestigious 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's preeminent recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges.

San Jacinto now enters the final stage of the competition for \$1 million in prize funds which will be awarded in March 2019 in Washington, D.C., to the winner and up to four finalists with distinction.

"We are honored to once again be named an Aspen Institute Top 10 finalist," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "The work that we do every day at San Jacinto College to help our students complete their higher education credential is critically important to our region. Our faculty, staff and administrators work tirelessly to help our students achieve their goals. I want to thank the Aspen Institute for recognizing San Jacinto College as one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation for 2019."

Awarded every two years since 2011 by the Aspen Institute, a Wash-

ington, D.C.-based educational and policy studies organization, the Prize recognizes institutions that achieve high student outcomes, and improve those outcomes. San Jacinto College is one of 10 finalists from an original pool of more than 1,100 public community colleges nationwide. Focused solely on student access and success, the Aspen Prize recognizes community colleges with exceptional achievements in four areas:

- Student learning;
- Certificate and degree completion while in community college and after transferring to a four-year institution;
- Employment and earnings rates after graduation; and
- Access for and success of minority and low-income students.

"Since winning the Rising Star award in 2017, San Jacinto College has kept getting better," said Joshua Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program. "Through distinctive efforts to coach faculty on improving learning practices, develop clearing degree pathways and maintain excellent connections to employers that offer good jobs, San

Jacinto College is rapidly improving the success rates of its very diverse student body."

San Jacinto College stands out as one of the nation's top community colleges for many reasons, including:

- A 33 percent increase in credentials awarded over the past five years.
- Five years after graduating, San Jacinto College's 2010 graduates earned 28 percent more than all other workers in the region.
- Innovative practices dedicated to improving student learning, such as permanent department chairs working closely with faculty members to assess learning techniques and improve course completion which are factors in faculty performance reviews.
- Development of clear pathways for every degree, aligned with local employer needs and projected job growth in health case, the petrochemical industry and other fields.

Community colleges today enroll about 40 percent of all U.S. undergraduates – 6 million students – who are working toward earning degrees and certificates. Improving student suc-

cess across the more than 1,100 community colleges in the U.S. is critical to national efforts to develop talent and enable individual social mobility because:

- Community colleges disproportionately enroll low-income and minority students enrolled in college today.
- Community college graduation rates remain flat, with fewer than 40 percent of all entering students earning a degree and/or transferring to a four-year college or university.
- A college degree today is more important than ever before. Recent research shows that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million require a college education.

The 10 Aspen Prize finalists have achieved strong and improving student success rates in very different contexts – they are from rural and urban areas, serve demographically different student bodies, and offer a varied mix of technical workforce and academic transfer programs. These 10 institutions offer proof that every community college can achieve higher levels of success for students while in college and after they graduate.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is Alexandrite?"



Often described by gem aficionados as "emerald by day, ruby by night," Alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia's Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it's now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.

Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities, is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Alexandrite's dramatic color change is sometimes described as "emerald by day, ruby by night." Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but this gem's transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called "the alexandrite effect."

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn't arise from the gem's pleochroism, but rather from the mineral's unusual light-absorbing properties. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chryso-

beryl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.

History

Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. Those first Alexandrite were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn't last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian Alexandrite. You'll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain Alexandrite. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone.

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, emailjimmills@pineforestjewelry.com.



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18-2

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice for Private Non-Profit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area.
Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a meeting for administrators of all Private Non-Profit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, and Special Education programs) will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018, at 1:00 pm at the Administration Building – Room M-104 located at 14705 Woodforest Boulevard. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028.

20-2

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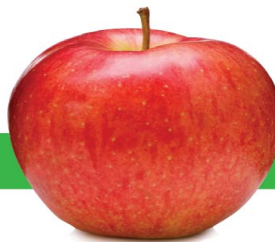
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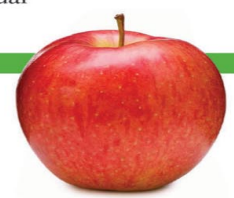
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COMMUNITY NEWS

LyondellBasell's Houston Refinery teams up with Astros foundation to support youth literacy program

HOUSTON – May 15, 2018 – Volunteers from the Houston Refinery of LyondellBasell, one of the world's largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies, recently distributed books to 100 classrooms in the Houston, Galena Park and Pasadena independent school districts to commemorate the Refinery's 100th anniversary celebrated this year. The "100 for 100" book campaign was coordinated through the Astros Foundation Literacy Bus.

"Our employees have an unwavering commitment to children and families in need," said Jerome Mauvigney, site manager of LyondellBasell's Houston Refinery. "Last year alone, the Refinery contributed more than \$200,000 and 4,000 volunteer hours to local organizations that advance our communities and have a meaningful impact on our neighbors."

The Astros Foundation Literacy Bus is a mobile interactive unit that encourages family reading in Houston-area communities. Books are distributed at no cost to children in grades K-5 at local schools, youth organizations, community centers and events, as well as baseball and softball parks renovated by the Astros Foundation as part of its Community Leaders program.

LyondellBasell joined the Astros Foundation's



LyondellBasell employee volunteers distributed books to 100 classrooms in the Houston, Galena Park and Pasadena independent school districts to commemorate the Refinery's 100th anniversary celebrated this year. The "100 for 100" book campaign was coordinated through the Astros Foundation Literacy Bus. Pictured are LyondellBasell employee volunteer Denise Jennings and students from Galena Park Elementary.

Community Leaders Program in 2017. The program has positively impacted more than 30,000 children throughout the Greater Houston area through baseball and softball programming, education-based initiatives and volunteer opportunities. Major League Baseball honored the Community Leaders program with the prestigious Allan H. Selig Award for

Philanthropic Excellence in 2017.

"Collaborating with corporate partners like LyondellBasell helps our mission of encouraging family reading in Houston-area communities," said Twila Carter, executive director of the Astros Foundation. "We appreciate the time and work volunteers put into helping us empower and educate our youth."

Galena Park ISD honors 2019 Rookie Teachers of the Year



Galena Park ISD would like to congratulate Kelly Colbert and Antonio Antoine for being named the 2019 GPISD Rookie Teachers of the Year! Ms. Colbert is a kindergarten teacher at Cloverleaf Elementary and Mr. Antoine is a 7th grade reading teacher at North Shore Middle School! Congratulations, Ms. Colbert and Mr. Antoine, GPISD is lucky to have you!

Officers of the Year Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

learned I could depend on him to take care of any assignment given.

Jacinto City Police Chief Joe Ayala named Patrolman Ali Kamali as his officer of the year, calling him a true public servant.

"His recognition comes due to his outstanding service to the community, he has a big heart and makes it a habit to check on the concerns of our elderly and at times he goes out of his way taking expenses out of his own pocket to make it better for someone in need," Ayala said.

Chief Ayala said, "Recently Officer Kamali responded to a call of an armed robbery at the CVS Pharmacy. Due to his quick response Officer Ka-

mali located the suspects boarding a vehicle. Kamali and other responding officers were able to apprehend six suspects. Again a week later, he with a team effort was involved in the apprehension of four more robbery suspects."

Bryan Clements, GP/JC Rotary Club President, recognized Harris County Deputy Constable Corporal Mark McGinnis of Precinct 2 as Officer of the Year. Clements said, "Corporal McGinnis a 22 year veteran of the Galena Park School District's contract deputy program, has a broad range of experience and has proven to be a valuable asset to the district.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclama-

tion which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to participate in a number of planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In the nation since the beginning of 2018 there have been 54 line of duty deaths. Causes of death: 9/11 related illness 3, Assault 1, Automobile crash 13, Drowned 1, Gunfire 27, Gunfire (Accidental) 1, Heart attack 3, Struck by vehicle 2, Vehicle pursuit 1, Vehicular assault 2.

Jacinto City Council,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing a two year term in staggered elections. Three of the five council members were on the ballot this year with the mayor and two council member positions are up for election in May of 2019.

The monthly salary and benefits for mayor and city council was unanimously approved with council members receiving \$350 in salary and \$225 for auto expense. The mayor's monthly salary is \$400 with \$300 auto expense. Councilman Allen Lee was approved as Mayor Pro Tem to act in the mayor's absence.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director said the city's 2017 Consumer Confidence Report met the US Environmental Protection

Agency's (EPA) safe water regulations. The city's main source of drinking water is purchased from the city of Houston coming from Lake Houston. The lake water is pumped to a water purification plant that treats and tests it to insure it meets the EPA guidelines before it's distributed to Jacinto City's consumers.

Citizens detecting an abnormal taste, color or odor in their water should contact Kyle Reed at 713-453-7411 or City Hall at 713-674-8424.

Lon Squyres, City Manager and Kathy Greiner, Assistant City Manager, both Investment Officers for the city reported investments for the first 6 months of the budget year

of, \$361,159.44 in the Enterprise Fund, \$392,632.42 in the Interest and Sinking Fund, \$6,646,964.57 in the General Fund for total investments as of April 1, 2018 of \$7,400,756.43.

Police Chief Joe Ayala reported 10 felony arrests in the past few weeks, including aggravated robbery and illegal narcotics.

The grand opening of the city's new swimming pool for citizens is scheduled for Saturday, May 26 th. The ribbon cutting will take place at 11:00 AM and there will be food and refreshments provided to citizens. Address: 10215 Challenger 7 Dr, Houston, TX 77029, Phone: (713) 673-7464.

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Although stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the U.S. and the leading cause of disability, many Americans cannot identify the symptoms or risk factors for stroke. Trudy Istre, board certified as a nurse practitioner by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, will discuss the signs and symptoms of stroke, as well as how to reduce your risk of stroke. The more you know, the better prepared you'll be to live a longer, healthier life.

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