

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

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



### Easter Services and Easter Egg Hunt

Celebrate Easter at the South Drive Baptist Church. Sunday, April 1st, Worship Service at 10:30 am. Located at 15229 South Drive, off Dell Dale in Channelview.

The Easter Egg Hunt will follow immediately after the service.

### Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 2018  
5:45 - light dinner.  
6:15- business starts.  
Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m.

At Alvin Baggett Recreation Building in the conference room by the south door, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

Host plant: Gulf Coast Authority. On display, emergency equipment from the plants and Mutual Aid.

### New Hours at the Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 6 pm - 9 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

## Water level in Lake Houston lowered *Flood Control Measure*

With heavy storms predicted, and flooding throughout the San Jacinto River watershed, authorities this week ordered a permanent reduction in the level of water in Lake Houston.

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin announced that after a meeting held Monday with Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, the daily pooling level of Lake Houston will be reduced from 42.5 feet to 40 feet, effective immediately. Last night, Houston Public Works Director,

Carol Haddock, directed the Coastal Water Authority to start lowering the level of Lake Houston in advance of Wednesday's predicted storms. Council Member Martin has confirmed that all gates at Lake Houston are open and the level of Lake Houston is anticipated to reach the desired 40 foot mark by Wednesday evening.

Once the lake is lowered to 40 feet it is the City of Houston's plan to adjust the spillway gates to maintain a level of 40 feet moving forward on a long-term

basis. This will address the immediate concerns of the Lake Houston Community, including Kingwood, Humble, Atascocita, and Huffman. This lower lake level will continue to be observed while the City works with area partners to address siltation and other coordination efforts with Lake Conroe. The City of Houston will continue to monitor and evaluate water demand, weather patterns and other mitigation activities.

**See Lake Houston Water Level, Page 3**

## Rep. Hernandez calls for Special Committee on Gun Violence

HOUSTON - March 27, 2018 - State Representative Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) sent the following letter to Speaker Joe Straus calling for the establishment of a Special Committee on Gun Violence.



Speaker Straus,  
I am grateful for your continued commitment to address the greatest needs facing our state. In light of the horrific tragedy that occurred at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, subsequent efforts by that state's legislature to provide concrete policy responses to prevent further tragedies, and the countless preventable shootings that have led to the loss of hundreds of lives across our country over the last several years, I request the establishment of a Special Committee on Gun Violence.

Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Kind regards,  
Ana Hernandez  
State Representative, District 143

## Thousands of students rally for stricter gun controls

### Mayor Turner forms commission to end gun violence

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner marched in solidarity with thousands of young people Saturday who participated in the March for Our Lives Rally in Tranquility Park across from Houston city hall.

During the rally, Mayor Turner announced the creation of the Mayor's Commission to End Gun Violence which will focus on researching and recommending solutions at a local level.

"Enough is enough. Make America safe again," Mayor Turner said in his remarks to the crowd. "Let's end the gun violence



and get assault weapons out of the hands of people who do not need them."

Young people across the country held similar events today to demand safer schools, an end to mass shootings and better gun control.

**See RALLY, page 8**

LEFT: Mayor Sylvester Turner, center, with Police Chief Art Acaveda at left, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, join thousands of students in Houston's downtown and Tranquility Park last Saturday, to voice their opinion that Congress needs to pass strong gun control legislation, and end the senseless killing of children in the nation's schools.

## FAMILIES OF FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

### Thin Blue Line Project: K-9 Training for comfort dogs

Danny McWilliams, a Baytown Police Officer, told the Highlands Rotary Club about a special project he is involved with.

McWilliams has been interested in dogs since he was a boy growing up in Highlands. As a boy he had a Brittany Spaniel named Sport, and in later years worked as a veterinarian's technician. This experience led to his involvement with police dogs, after becoming an officer.

McWilliams has been a police officer for over 27 years, and is a certified K-9 Handler. Trained at the USK (Unlimited facility in Louisiana, he was in charge of the Baytown K-9 program for over 6 years. During that time, as a Handler he coordinated the Department's K-9 training program. He trained dogs and Handlers in narcotics, explosive detection, tracking, and suspect apprehension. During this time he had a dog named Fideaux, who is retired with him as a family pet.



Baytown Police Officer Danny McWilliams talks about his Thin Blue Line Project, Comfort Dogs for families of fallen officers.

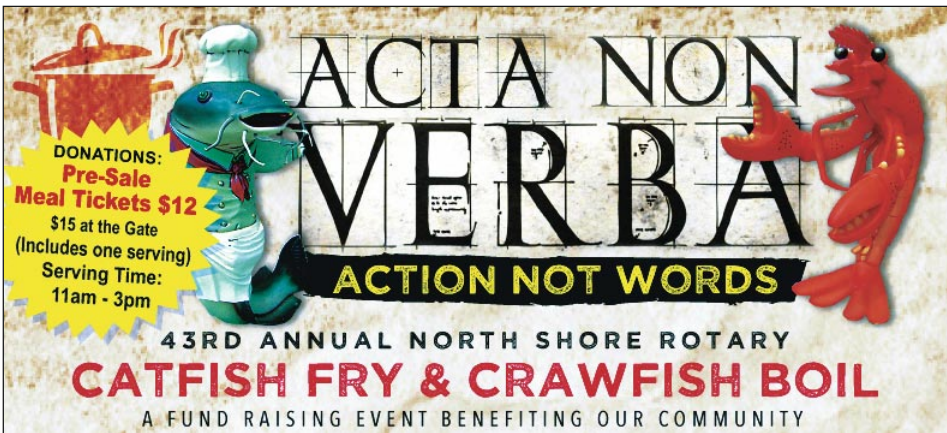
McWilliams became concerned about the number of police officers killed in the line of duty, which now number over 2800 throughout the nation. Working on his own, using his training and experience, he decided to start a

program of providing "comfort" dogs for the families of those deceased officers. His first dog was a chocolate Labrador Retriever, named Preston.

**See K-9 Training, Page 8**

## NORTH SHORE ROTARY

### Rotarians selling tickets to the Annual Fish Fry and Raffle



Members of the North Shore Rotary are getting ready to have their annual Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil, along with the Raffle Drawing for 20 prizes including a new Toyota car or Pickup truck.

Chairman of the event is Bill Bowes, Sr. who is also the president-elect of the club.

The Fish Fry is actually sponsored by the North Shore Rotary Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit.

The event will be held Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the North Shore Rotary

Pavilion, behind the courthouse at 14350 Wallisville Road.

Raffle tickets cost \$100, and the winner of the top prize gets his (or her) choice of a new Toyota sedan or pickup truck, courtesy of Community Toyota in Baytown. There are also 19 other valuable prizes. Meal only tickets can be purchased for \$12 presale, or \$15 at the gate.

Serving of the Fish Fry will be from 11am to 3pm, or until the great food runs out. Come early, come hungry. Besides great comara-

derie, there will be silent and live auctions for the audience. Proceeds from the Fish Fry fund community projects.

Corporate sponsors for the event include Community Toyota, Bestway Oilfield, Blue Northern A/C, Channelview ISD Education Foundation, Crawfish Shack, Galena Park Education Foundation, North Channel Area Foundation, and San Jacinto College Foundation, as well as 13 other corporate sponsors.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Steak selection for high stakes



29 registrants select their steak for the Steak Cook-off Association (SCA) sanctioned Rock'n C Steak Cook-Off last Saturday first place could win \$1,000 and points toward the Pelican Point Chase and eligibility to win an invitation to the SCA World Championship. Entry for steaks was \$150 a \$25 fee could begin Appetizer cooking and kids ages 4 and up cooked pork chops just right inside the Crosby Fairgrounds.

## Crosby High School Band Member Selected as Texas All-State Musician

Demetrius Sheats Jr., a member of the Crosby High School Symphonic Band, recently performed with the Texas All-State 5A Symphonic Band in San Antonio. This was held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center as part of the 2018 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic & Convention. He was chosen for this prestigious honor through a competitive process held this year across the state at District, Region, and Area levels. Demetrius is a trumpet student of Joni Churak-Simpson and is a band



member under the direction of Kevin Knight and Michael Lehw. Being selected as an All-State member is the highest individual honor a Texas music student can

receive. There are 1,780 students selected through a process that begins with over 70,000 students from around the state vying for the honor of performing in one of 15 ensembles. Only the top 2.5% of musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians. These All-State students participate in three days of rehearsals directed by nationally-recognized conductors during the TMEA Clinic. Their performances for thousands of attendees bring this extraordinary convention to a close.

## Campus Crime Stoppers wins



The Goose Creek CISD Campus Crime Stoppers program received a plaque for the Greatest Dollar Recovery and Most Cases Cleared for student population 10,001-15,000 (junior and high schools) at the recent 23rd Annual Campus Crime Stoppers Conference in Houston. Twenty cases were cleared, \$365 in narcotics was recovered and Campus Crime Stoppers gave out a total of \$1,825 in rewards for 2016-2017. Twenty-six students and sponsors from Goose Creek Memorial High School, Robert E. Lee High School, Ross S. Sterling High School, Cedar Bayou Junior School, Gentry Junior School and Horace Mann Junior School attended the three-day conference. Pictured are (front, from left) Shonda James, GCM; Yesenia Chavez, GCM; Brenda Rodriguez, REL; Gabriella Ybarra, RSS; (middle, from left) Zoey Hennington, REL; Robert Sorenson, CBJ; Yajaira Meza, HMJ; Alexis Puentes, HMJ; Alizae Nunez, GCM; Destiny Saurer, CBJ; Michele George, GJS, Joselyn Alvarado, RSS; (back, from left) Jody Roberts, RSS; Enrique DeLeon, REL; David Garza, HMJ; Peggy Cayton, CBJ; Matthew Authement, GJS; Joanna Guerrero, RSS; Lauren Cloud, GCM, Brianna Herrera, RSS; Steve Denton, RSS; Leanne Leslie, GJS; Roxie Brown, CBJ; Kathryn Hoffpauir, GJS and Officer Randell Morris from the Baytown Police Department.

## Human remains found in Huffman

HUFFMAN - Houston police are awaiting autopsy results on remains found at 10611 F.M.1960 about 10:10 a.m. last Saturday, March 24. According to HPD Homicide Division detectives, HPD Marine Patrol officers were flagged down by witnesses regarding a suspicious black trash bag found by volunteers picking up trash along a bridge near lake Houston. Officers saw what appeared to be human

hair in the bag. HPD homicide investigators responded to the scene and confirmed human remains in an advanced state of decomposition inside the bag. The identity of the remains are pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

## Highlands Chamber elects new president



At their last luncheon, the Highlands Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce elected Eddie Williams as president. Williams is director of the Marselius-Williams Resource Center in Highlands.

## Maximum Tax Savings



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Activities at North Shore Rotary Club



North Shore Rotary donated to the North Shore Little League Challenger program. This league allows children and youths with disabilities to play baseball. Volunteers help each player participate making this a rewarding community project. About 100 kids, and 100 adults participate in this program. The Little League season opened at North Channel Park the weekend of March 3rd. The Challenger Division of Little League is a program designed for mentally and physically challenged boys and girls, to help them enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment that is structured to their abilities, to help them develop social skills and build self-esteem. The participants range in age from 4 to 18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school. These children have the opportunity to experience the joys of being a member of a team.

Ubiquitous and Past District Governor Bob Gebhard gave a program on the Rotary Council on Legislation. The talk focused on how, every three years, the Council meets to consider new rules to run the worldwide club membership activities. Gebhard also gave the talk to other clubs, including the Highlands club.



## Galena Park ISD warned about politicking by Attorney General

Attorney General Ken Paxton has sent a “cease and desist” letter to five school districts in Texas, including the Galena Park ISD. They are accused by Paxton of “unlawful electioneering” and advised to stop the activity. The reprimand was triggered by the actions of Principal Joe Coleman, who allegedly sent a copy of a campaign letter from Lt. Governor Scott Milder. In his email, he stated that “we need to support Scott Milder.” Coleman later admitted he “probably broke some type of rule.” Educators have been trying to turn out voters this year, to gain greater support for public education. Galena Park ISD did not respond to a request from the North Channel Star for a statement on their position regarding this matter.

## Baby suffers gunshot in holdup on East Freeway

Police report that during a robbery on the East Freeway at Uvalde, gunfire injured a 9-month-old baby, resulting in a wound to the chest. Another man was shot in the face. The robbery occurred last Sunday evening at 9 pm. The assailants were three men who are now being sought by authorities. The baby was taken to a hospital, and is in stable condition. The man shot in the face was transported to Ben Taub hospital. Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers, 713-222-TIPS.

## Lake Houston Water level,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tuesday Harris County Commissioner's Court will vote to authorize requests for qualifications (RFQ) for engineering and other services to identify watershed-wide flood risks, evaluate food mitigation strategies that address those risks and develop recommendations to enhance the flood warning system and action plans used by the emergency managers in the San Jacinto River Basin from its headwaters in Lake Houston across Harris County Precincts 1, 2, and 4. Harris County will be working with the San Jacinto River Authority as well as other municipalities to accomplish this task which was a part of Governor Greg Abbott's charges for the region. Additionally, Harris County will also be requesting authorization for RFQs for engineering, environmental permitting, and other services in support of dredging the West Fork of the San Jacinto River from IH-59 to Lake Houston Parkway. This was another of Governor Abbott's charges during his visit to the Kingwood Area. All parties are committed to working together to swiftly move the dredging project forward in preparation for this year's hurricane season. Council Member Martin has been working diligently over the last few weeks to make sure the efforts of dredging are not short lived. The visit of Texas Land Commissioner,

George P. Bush, and continued communication with the Governor's office have allowed the city to partner with the Aggregate Production Operators (APO) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The continued interest and participation of statewide leaders helps local efforts by assisting in identifying red tape and providing solutions to these obstacles. Next Tuesday, April 3, a visit from Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick is planned, who has expressed an interest in touring the San Jacinto Watershed by air and water. These state partnerships allow us the opportunity to closely evaluate existing regulations for sand mining as well as the ability to increase the strength of these existing policies. The regional APOs have stepped up to the table and want to be a part of the solution. Texas Senator Brandon Creighton and Texas State Representative Dan Huberty continue to be champions for stricter sand mining regulations to protect our watershed. The problem of flooding within the San Jacinto Watershed is a difficult one to tackle due to the size of the watershed and many jurisdictions involved but Council Member Martin is creating relationships where none have existed before and knows that working together will get us further along the path to a long term solution.

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# OPINION PAGE

## PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

### Should you stay in your home or move during retirement?

(NAPSI)—The choice about where to live in retirement is one of the most crucial decisions that a senior makes. It's not just a major financial consideration, it's also a highly emotional issue as a retiree's home is often the anchor to their golden years.

“One needs to think about where to live, how long to stay there, and whether to move later in retirement,” writes Wade Pfau, Ph.D., professor of retirement income at The American College, and contributor to Forbes.com. “There are plenty of justifications for either staying put or moving early in retirement.”

There are a few important questions that a senior should ask before deciding whether to stay in their home or to relocate during retirement:

1. Are you making accurate comparisons?

If you stay in your home, you may need to make improvements or renovations in the future to accommodate changing needs. If you move to a new home, you may incur expenses associated with fix-up costs and moving expenses. Make sure you are considering total costs in either scenario.

2. Are you open to renting?

“It can be hard for retirees who have spent their lives building equity in their homes—and being taught about the virtues of homeownership—to become renters,” reported The Wall Street Journal. “But renting a home in a city before buying can give retirees a chance to really know if it's the place they want to spend retirement.” Moreover, the cost of ownership in many locations actually exceeds the cost of renting, so it may be prudent to consider this option for both short- and long-term possibilities.

3. Where will you have access to important services?

Every consumer looks into the quality of

restaurants, supermarkets and other day-to-day retail offerings when scouting out a possible new residential location. Seniors must be especially concerned about practical considerations such as the number of nearby physicians who accept Medicare, convenient transportation for those who are unable to drive, and community centers with special programs for seniors.

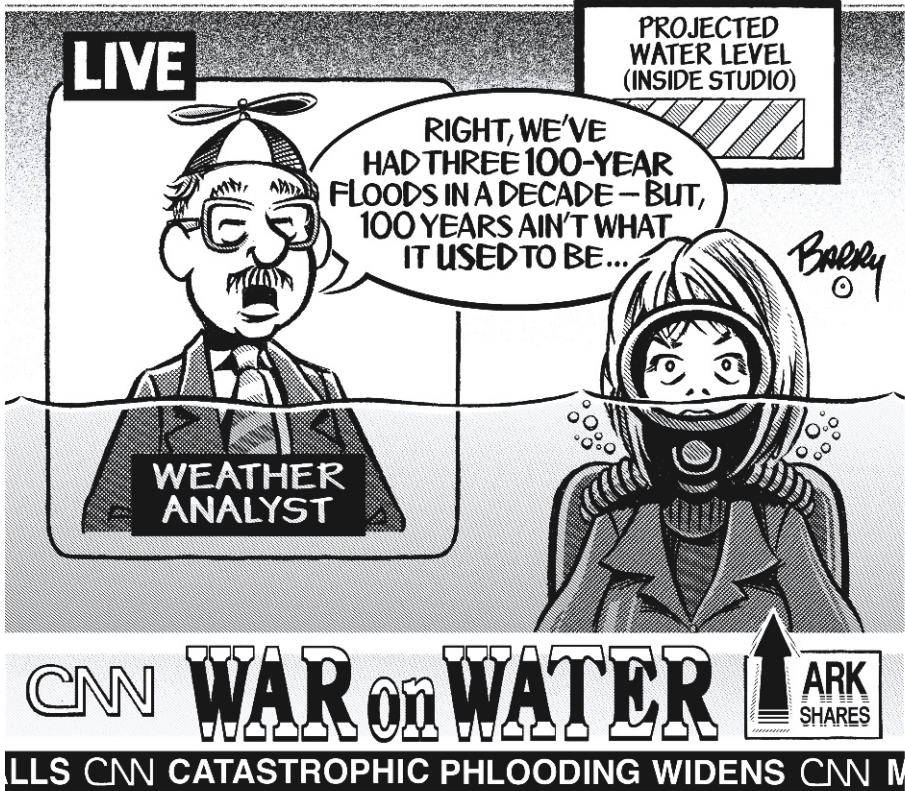
4. Would you prefer to age in place or have a change of scenery?

Many people dream about moving to some exotic location for their golden years, but the truth is that 85 percent of retirees stay in the area where they raised their families, according to Realtor.com. Think seriously about whether you're willing to trade your current community for a new one, weighing the pros and cons of aging in place versus charting a new course.

Whether you choose to stay in your home or move during retirement, it will be important to have ample cash on hand that can fund renovations of your existing home or the purchase of a new one. Many seniors are surprised to learn that one potential asset for generating immediate cash is a life insurance policy.

A life insurance policy is considered your personal property and—as such—you have the right to sell that policy any time you like. When a consumer sells a policy in a “life settlement” transaction, the policy owner receives a cash payment and the purchaser of the policy assumes all future premium payments—then receives the death benefit upon the death of the insured. Candidates for life settlements are typically aged 70 years or older, with a life insurance policy that has a death benefit of at least \$100,000.

To learn more about life settlements, visit [www.LISA.org](http://www.LISA.org) or call the LISA office today at (888) 672-3917.



### Bombing suspect ends own life as officers approach him

AUSTIN — The primary suspect in a string of terrorist-style bombings died in his pickup truck on March 21.

Mark Anthony Conditt, 23, of Pflugerville, detonated explosive devices in his truck on an Interstate 35 access road in Round Rock as two law enforcement officers approached the vehicle on foot. One officer was injured in the explosion. The other officer reportedly fired a rifle at the suspect.

Intensive search and surveillance operations began on March 2, when a bomb later traced to Conditt exploded and killed an Austin man who picked up what appeared to be a normal package delivered to his residence. Similar packages exploded in the Austin area on March 12, one killing a teen and injuring his mother, and another injuring a 75-year-old woman. On March 18, two men were injured by a tripwire-triggered improvised explosive device in Austin.

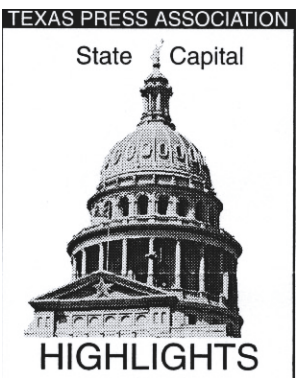
On March 19, two days before Conditt was tracked down, Gov. Greg Abbott announced the release of \$265,500 in emergency funding for the Austin Police Department and the Texas Ranger Bomb Response Team to purchase seven portable x-ray systems for use in bomb detection and responding to suspicious package investigations.

Abbott said his office has provided nearly \$1 million over the last two years to enhance the capabilities of the Austin police department's bomb squad. He said the grants provided for purchases of bomb disposal robots, robotic arms and bomb suits that allow technicians to approach potentially explosive devices and render them harmless.

On March 20, the day before Conditt's death, the Texas Department of Public Safety reminded Texans to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity or suspicious packages to authorities. The DPS stressed that Texans should not approach any unknown or suspicious packages or items, to keep a safe distance and then to notify the authorities by calling 911.

**Big crowd joins march**  
An estimated 20,000 people participated in the Austin “March for Our Lives” event on March 24. Similar marches were held some 900 cities around the globe. At the main march, in Washing-

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



ton, D.C., participants memorialized the mass shooting at high school in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, and other mass shootings, such as the ones at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in 2010, and Sutherland Springs, Texas, in 2017.

Marchers and speakers at these events mainly called for an end to mass shootings through federal, state and local gun law reforms.

#### Jobs added in February

The Texas Workforce Commission on March 23 announced that the Lone Star State's economy added 40,500 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in February, marking 20 consecutive months of employment growth.

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.0 percent in February and remains below the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1 percent.

Industries noted for adding jobs in February included professional and business services, 13,200 positions; followed by trade, transportation and utilities, 11,800 jobs; and mining and logging, 6,500 positions.

#### TxDOT: Buckle up, teens

The Texas Department of Transportation on March 19 posted a message urging teen-agers to “always buckle up.”

The message is part of TxDOT's annual “Teen Click It or Ticket” campaign, conducted in partnership with high school students, to urge young drivers and their passengers to wear their seat belts every time they're in a vehicle.

“In Texas, 42 percent of all teenagers killed in traffic crashes in 2016 weren't buckled up,” said TxDOT Executive Direc-

tor James Bass. “We know seat belts save lives, but only if motorists use them. We want to make sure this message gets through to teens, and no one knows how to reach teens better than other teens.”

According to statistics compiled by TxDOT, in Texas in 2016, one in five vehicle crashes involved a teen driver. Of the 269 teen drivers and passengers killed in crashes that year, 114 were unbuckled.

#### AG asks program review

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on March 22 sent a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar asking him to reverse the Obama administration's exclusion of Texas from programs that provide family planning and related preventive health services to low-income women across the state.

Paxton wrote that in 2013 the Obama administration removed Texas from the eligible list of Title X program recipients because it refused to provide taxpayer funds to abortion providers.

“A precursor to participation in federal programs should not be an uncompromising commitment to abortion providers. The freedom of conscience should never be demoted to second-class status among our civil liberties,” Paxton added.

★  
**MESSAGE FROM**  
  
**REP. BRIAN BABIN**

### Babin votes NO on Omnibus Spending Bill

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX-36) released the following statement today after voting NO on the FY18 Omnibus spending bill:

“Without question, the two greatest accomplishments of the United States Senate since President Trump took office have been confirming Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court and passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. What did these two accomplishments have in common? They both were achieved by sidestepping the Senate “filibuster” and allowing the majority to rule. However, because the Senate refuses to change its rules for equally important legislation, like bills that fund the federal government or deal with national security, monstrosities like this Omnibus spending bill are what we end up getting.

“The American people did not elect Donald J. Trump as President just to see his agenda thwarted by Chuck Schumer and at least eight of his Democrat colleagues, but that's what will continue happening until Senate Republicans have the courage to change their broken, arcane rules - which they can do right now with just 51 votes. While there were some good things in this bill that I supported, including excellent levels of funding for our military and NASA, on balance it included too many misguided policies and too much misdirected spending for me to vote for it.”

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Michael Eric Parker

Michael Eric Parker 65, of Crosby, Texas passed away on March 16, 2018. Michael was born on December 14, 1952 in Houston, Texas to Henry Everett and Henrietta Parker.

Michael worked as an electrician in the petrochemical industry and in his free time he enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching westerns, gardening, tinkering with things, BBQing and spending time with his family and friends. Michael was a very witty, funny and caring man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Billy Parker; brother, Sam Parker. Michael is survived by his wife, Kay Lynn Parker of Crosby; son, Shane Parker of Crosby; wife Staci of Crosby; son, Lance Parker of Highlands; son, Chase Parker of



Kemah; grandson, Landon Parker of Crosby; granddaughter, Hailey Parker of Crosby; nephews, Mitch Parke, Sammy Parker; nieces, Debra Kuhen, Jeannie Richards, Dianna Parker, Angie Doskocil; and many other relatives and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 5pm-8pm. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 2pm at 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)

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Ask rain from the Lord at the time of the spring rain, the Lord who makes the storm clouds; and He will give them showers of rain, vegetation in the field to each man.

ZECHARIAH 10:1

THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH

Resurrection

Dr. Mark Trice

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines resurrection, in part, as "rising again." It continues to discuss resurrection from the dead, but these first three words are intriguing.

With Easter coming, we're obviously thinking about The Resurrection, that moment Jesus was restored to life after giving the devil "what for" in Hell. Too often, even those who call themselves Christians merely equate resurrection with that one Sunday of the year when we feel like we really to have to go to church if only to satisfy our mothers. It ought not be that way. Resurrection is important!

In case it's not obvious, we live in a world that daily challenges our walk with the Lord. If it's not the people who surround us, it's the schedules we have to keep. If it's not others making mistakes that hurt us, it's us making mistakes that hurt others. If it's not an underestimated hurricane destroying our homes, it's our jobs suddenly ending. If it's not...

Here is reality: Living the life of a Christian is more than simply saying, "I'm saved." To live as a Christian, one who is "Christ like," requires work. It takes learning what God expects of us and doing it. It means being willing to sacrifice what we want in order to serve God's Kingdom. We

really were made for a different kingdom, and living for that realm in our current world is not easy. Too often, we fail at it. Too often we fall.

When we fall, we have a choice. Do we stay in the muck and mire? Do we opt to abide by the standards of the world in which we're really only temporary residents? Do we settle for merely existing, or do we choose LIFE, choose to rise again? I hope and pray that, when you fall, you cry out to God for resurrection, for a renewal of His Spirit within you. You can't do it on your own. You have to reach out to Him, repent of your sins, and let Him pull you out of the pit into which you've fallen.

Psalm 145:14 tells us that He upholds those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down. He knows we're going to fall. That doesn't mean we're total failures. It doesn't mean we're hopeless. It just means we're in need of resurrection. As we come into the Easter season, I encourage you to consider your relationship with Him, to search your heart and rid it of anything that stands between you and the loving arms of your Father in Heaven. Let Him breathe new life into you and raise you up higher than you've ever been.

Maranatha!: "Rejoice, the Lord is coming soon!"  
#MaranathaChurch  
#IglesiaMaranatha

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Highlands Sunrise service

Highlands Ministerial Alliance invites the community to Resurrection Sunday Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 1st at 7 am at the Community Center Highlands Park, 604 Highland Woods Dr, Highlands, TX 77562.

3D Printing Opportunities: Stratford Library Highlands

Have you ever wanted to get your hands on a 3D printer? Stratford Library in Highlands will have a 3D printer on-site April 4th – April 9th. Gather your friends, your troop, or your class and sign up for a session to see how a design comes to life. Free for all ages! Reservations are limited. Give us a call for more info! 832-927-5400. Stratford Library is located 2 blocks behind Foodtown at 509 Stratford St. in Highlands, TX 77562.

Annual Czech SpringFest

Sunday, April 8, 2018 - 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
SPJST Lodge #88, 1435 Beall St at 15th St in the Heights.  
Kovanda's Czech Band (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)  
Texas Legacy Czech Band - (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)  
Guest Artist, Marcela Hrabovska, demonstrating the art of Decorating Eggs with Straw and Other Materials. She will have many items for sale.  
Traditional Czech Sunday Dinner - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Adults - \$10.00 - Children under 11 - \$7.00 Soup & Sausage with Sauerkraut served at 1:00 p.m.  
Kolache Eating Contest. Cultural Exhibits, Silent Auction, Country Store & Vendors.  
Admission - \$8.00 - Children under 11 Free  
Sponsor: Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Harris County Chapter. Benefiting the CHSHCC Library & Archives. For more info, call 713-349-0500 or e-mail [chsheritage20@att.net](mailto:chsheritage20@att.net)

Blood Pressure / Sugar Check

Tuesday, April 17 at 9 a.m. Keeping a healthy lifestyle means keeping blood pressure and blood sugar check in at May Community Center, 2100 Wolf Roaf, Huffman 77336. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs please call 713-274-2434.

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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,  
but wisdom is found in  
those who take advice.

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and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

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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: "How do you identify a genuine Diamond vs. a Cubic Zirconia?"



Diamonds are supposed to be a girl's best friend. But you can rest assured about its authenticity only after you have conducted a few tests. Most CZs of good quality are amazingly similar in shape, size, and color. Some tests that can tell the difference between CZ's and diamonds are the scratch, the transparency, the fog, the weight, the dot, UV or black light, and the stamp test. The Scratch Test for testing diamonds is the oldest and most traditional. However, this test though being used often is not as accurate or reliable as once imagined. Everybody knows that a genuine diamond will scratch glass while an imitation cannot, and therefore takes it to be a good sign of its authenticity. However, as modern technology has proved of late, there is high quality cubic zirconia that can also scratch glass. Hence this method falls short. The reason why many hesitate to use the Scratch Test is that in case the diamond is genuine, subjecting it to the test may cause damage and lower its value. The Transparency Test requires you to place the stone being tested on a newspaper. If you are able to read the print clearly, it proves that the stone is a fake because a CZ is transparent. Diamonds on the other hand do not allow you to read the print clearly as they are not transparent. For the Fog Test you have to hold the stone in your hand and breathe over it to fog it. If the stone gets instantly clear and the heat is dispersed instantaneously, it means that the stone is a genuine diamond (diamonds do not hold heat), but if the stone remains foggy it proves that the stone is a CZ. If you have a carat or gram scale, you can conduct the Weight Test. To ascertain whether the diamond is real or not, purchase a similar CZ that has the same size, color, dimensions and shape. Place the stones side by

side on the scale. The CZ is almost 50% heavier than the real diamond. One of the easiest and simplest tests to conduct is the Dot Test. Diamonds reflect light through its top surface or the "table" whereas CZs reflect light in a very different manner because they are transparent. Draw a small dot on a white piece of paper and place the stone on the dot, face down. If it is genuine, you will only see a much distorted version of the dot as the diamond is not clear. The CZ will show a clear dot. For The UV or black light test place the diamond under the UV light. Some diamonds will show a blue fluorescence. 99% of imitation stones and CZs do not show fluorescent blue. Finally, to find out if your diamond is really a cubic zirconium, it pays to focus on the type of "stamp", if it has one on the inside of the jewelry setting. If the stamp indicates that the stone is set in platinum or genuine gold it will have the words 10K, 14K, 18K, etc. written which tells you that the chances of the stone being genuine are good. Make sure to also look for the letters CZ which tells you that the stone in the center is a cubic zirconia and not a diamond.

For the most accurate answer come to Pineforest Jewelry and ask one of our master jewelers to tell you if it is a Diamond or CZ.

*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 [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

# Something about the Arts

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



those who work with Communities in Schools while others were stopping at the photo booth to make memories.

The evening was a success on many levels due to the collaboration between Communities in Schools and San Jacinto College. Young children created artwork on white bags and older children danced with a Ballet Folkloria group. Parents took lots of pictures and little hands wanted to touch guitars. Many of the parents began to inquire about summer programs available for their children, some even asked about how they would enroll in classes for the summer or the fall semester. Many of the college students who were performing, had invited their


friends and classmates to learn about the music programs.

Artwork was on display in the Galeria del Norte~ from the various programs and smiles were seen everywhere. As the children attended events in the various breakout rooms, they earned tickets and at the end of the night, prize drawings were held. Families left the campus happy and curious about learning more.

Long before the successful night, one very dedicated and involved gentleman from High Point, North Carolina started planning and sharing his vision with others. Connections were made and dreams became reality. If you were a guest at the event or


even a volunteer, you no doubt heard "Welcome" and "Thank you for coming tonight" from him. He seemed to be EVERYWHERE. This incredible man is Dr Randy Snyder who was been with San Jacinto College over 20 years and has continued to encourage and educate those interested in music, speech, fine arts and education.

Many of the community know him because of the countless performances he has provided over the years at banquets for the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, North Shore Rotary Club and tours he has brought to area middle schools while promoting music. He and his wife Ana, former educator with Galena Park ISD are proud parents of three amazing young men. The entire family is gifted with talent and they make it all look easy. Something about Arts makes people happy. Definitely being about Dr Snyder makes people happy. If you have questions about the Fine Arts programs, contact him at San Jacinto College North. You will be glad you did.



and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Luke 24:46-47 ESV



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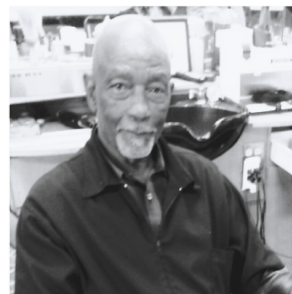


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~Zig Ziglar

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Por la presente se da aviso que el equipo de votación E-Slate que se usará en la Elección General que se llevará a cabo el 5 de mayo de 2018, se probará el 16 de abril de 2018 a las 11:00 a.m. en el ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Galena Park con dirección en la Calle Clinton, No. 2000 Galena Park, TX 77547 para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para las carreras de alcalde y comisionado.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Old clothes

5 Chantilly, for one

9 Wicked

12 Persian Gulf nation

13 History chapters

14 Wish otherwise

15 Options list

16 Shopping area

17 Raw rock

18 Long story

19 Japanese sash

20 Trade

21 Operate

23 Barrister's abbr.

25 Tools for duels

28 Poinsettia family

32 Downright

33 Wouldn't shut up

34 Trojan War hero

36 Siesta cover

37 Whatever amount

38 Victory sign

39 Put something over on

42 Shelter

44 Arp's style

48 Likely

49 Elliptical

50 Physical

51 Dog's doc

52 Rapid

53 Choir voice

54 Tokyo's old name

55 Start the pot

56 Welsh emblem

DOWN

1 Optician's selection

2 Vicinity

3 Jets or Sharks

4 One of a daily trio

5 Slot machine losers

6 Spirited horse

7 Tooth decay

8 "Guinness Book" suffix

9 Forehead

10 Emanation

11 Profound

20 Roosevelt program

22 City-related

24 Binge

25 Health resort

26 Hearty brew

27 Burger holder

29 Genetic abbr.

30 Red-staters' org.

31 Away from WSW

35 Forest-related

36 Slim and trim

39 Most popular, for short

40 Pundit's column

41 "Beetle Bailey" dog

43 Sunrise site

45 Wheelbase terminus

46 Birth certificate info

47 Uncontrolled

49 Son-gun link

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# K-9 Training,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His Thin Blue Line program, just starting, finds families with a need to get the dogs. Preston went to a family in Michigan, and after transporting the dog on a plane, McWilliams spent three days acclimating the family with the dog.

McWilliams has now formalized the program with a 501c3 designation, and is looking for financial support. Dogs cost from \$500 to \$2500, and cost upwards of \$15,000 to train. Families do not pay for a dog, it is donated. If you wish to help, you can contact him at EastexK9.com, or 281-846-5003.



PRESTON, the first dog trained in the Thin Blue Line program.

# New courses at San Jacinto College taking drone training to new heights

PASADENA, Texas – Drones, they’ve played a secret weapon in military defense and were recently used to maneuver around hard-to-reach areas to find people during Hurricane Harvey. In recognizing the increased need for drones in the public and private sectors, San Jacinto College will offer small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) drone flight training classes this spring.

“Technology advances change, and the commercial and industrial uses for drone technology are evolving,” said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor of strategic initiatives, workforce, community and diversity at San Jacinto College. “One lesson learned from Hurricane Harvey was that drones could be used to inspect the conditions at petrochemical plant sites during the immediate aftermath of the flooding when employee access to the site was limited by high water or by safety concerns. The professional use of drones requires a refined skillset, and we are rapidly discovering new ways to use drone technology to grow or improve business operations.”

The classes, set to begin later this spring, will include how to safely fly a drone with 18 contact hours and how to prepare for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification exam for small unmanned aircraft systems. The classes will be taught by David Robichaux, a pilot and retired air traffic controller with the FAA.

Very few places in the country are offering this type of training, according to Dr. Janis Fowler, director of the San Jacinto College Aerospace Academy.

“Drones can be challenging to fly,” said Fowler, adding that one of the largest industries using drones right now is real estate. The agriculture industry is also using drones to map fields using sensors to detect crops with disease and drought. “If you’re going to invest in a drone, you must know the restrictions about its use in an urban area.”

Class participants will receive a drone, simulator and a workbook. For more information, email janis.fowler@sjcd.edu.



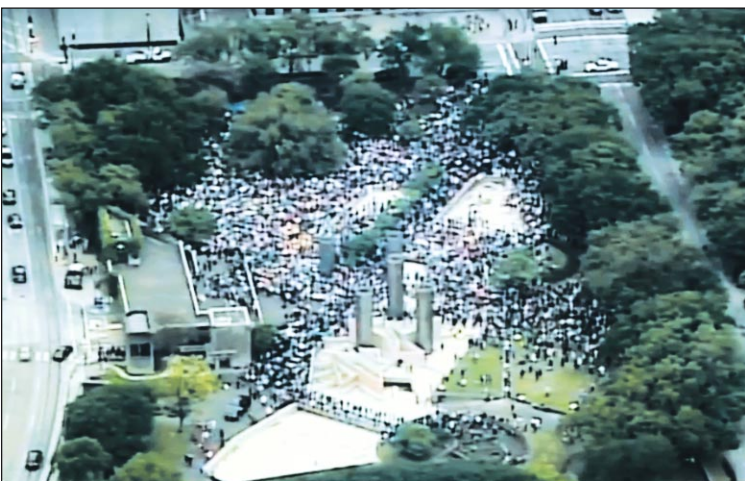
San Jacinto College will begin sUAS drone flight training classes this spring. Photo credit: Jeannie Peng Mansyur, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations and government affairs department.

# March for Life Rally,

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Organizers of the local March for Our Lives Rally invited Mayor Turner to participate during a conference call he had with student leaders several weeks ago. The mayor said he was inspired by the young people’s movement and decided to create the commission to help support their platform.

“Students are not leaders for tomorrow, they are leading right now,” said the mayor as he spoke during the rally. “This is a defining moment for our city, our state, and our country. When I look out at the crowd and see what students have done in leading this rally, it gives us a



THOUSANDS of young protesters held a rally for Gun Controls, in Downtown Houston and Tranquility Park, last Saturday.

great deal of hope.”

After the speeches ended, the mayor locked arms with students and marched in unison for several blocks in downtown Houston. The mayor said he left the event with a

sense of optimism.

In the coming weeks, Mayor Turner will announce his appointees to the Commission on Gun Violence and release more details about the commission’s goals.

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