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

Casino Night Scholarship Fundraiser

CASINO NIGHT Friday, August 10, 2018 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Rd. @ Challenger 7, Jacinto City, 77029. Blanca@ncachamber.com for more information.

Annual Immunization Day

Congressman Gene Green will be hosting his Annual Immunization Day on Saturday, August 11, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at North Shore Senior High School (Galena Park ISD), 353 North Castlegory, Houston, TX 77049.

Parents are encouraged to bring their child's immunization record to ensure that all necessary shots are received.

Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 10-12

This year, the sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10-12. The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced below \$100 from sales tax, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.

North Shore Rotary August Programs

Here are our remaining programs for August:

- Aug 9**
Dr Balledares Chinandega Foundation
- Aug 16**
HS Football Coaches Luncheon
- Aug 23**
John Harris with Texans Radio Network
- Aug 30**
Associate Director of Johnson Space Ctr.

Jacinto City Council receives 'Flood Prevention Bond Project Proposal'

Early voting has begun on 2.5 Billion Bond Election

By Allan Jamail

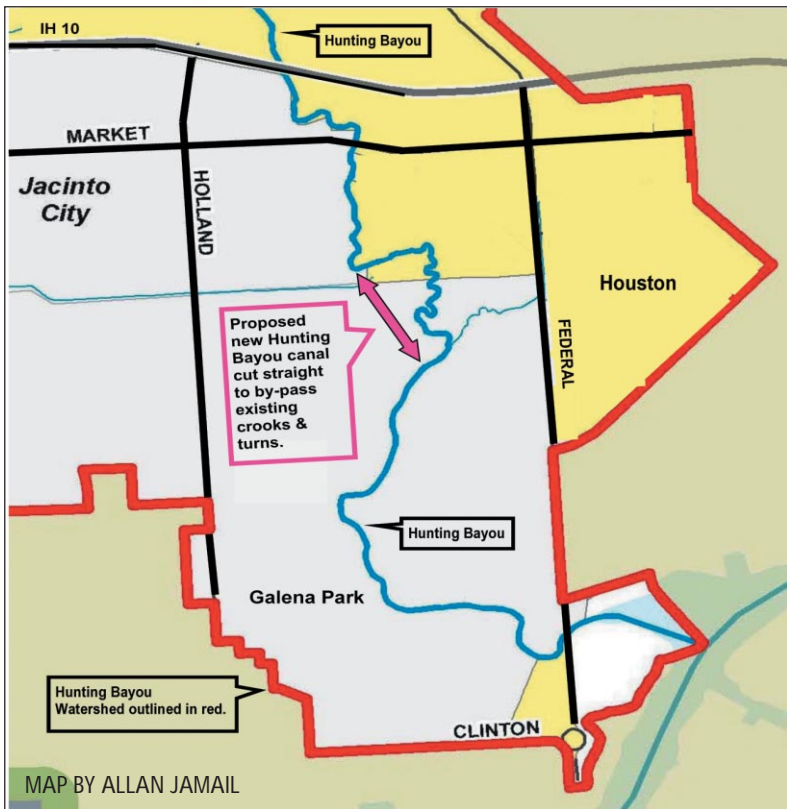
Jacinto City – On Thursday, July 26, 2018 City Manager Lon Squyres presented to City Council the flood prevention project he's been promoting for the city with the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) should the 2.5 billion Bond Election pass.

By implementing the HCFCD list of proposed projects for Hunting Bayou upstream of Jacinto City Squyres said it stands to reason that if those improvements are made it will cause an increase of water to flow downstream more than ever before, causing even more flooding in Jacinto City. Flood control projects are required by law to show zero

negative impact to upstream or downstream areas.

Squyres said, "I suggested that we look at the downstream area of Hunting Bayou for potential projects. I walked the banks of Hunting Bayou and I saw troubled areas that do not move flood water effectively. In particular, as the bayou reaches the southern border of Jacinto City, it takes an eastern turn then flows just south of Pyburn Elementary. From that point it winds and snakes back and forth making about a dozen changes in direction. At one point, the bayou forms an oxbow causing a complete reversal of the direction of the water flow. The area containing this snaking of the bayou is heavily wooded, there have never been any bayou channel improvements to my knowledge and it's not part of any regular maintenance program like most other bayous in Harris

See Flood Prevention Project, Page 8



Chamber Luncheon hears Ana Hernandez

The North Channel Chamber held their monthly luncheon last Friday, at the Jacinto City Town Center.

Featured speaker was State Legislator Ana Hernandez, who represents District 143. She is also a practicing attorney with the firm Soto and Hernandez.

Ms. Hernandez presentation was first about her life story, and then about issues she is concerned about that she will take to the next session of the State Legislature that starts in January 2019.

She said that she was born in Mexico, and raised in Pasadena. Her parents were undocumented, giving her a special interest in this issue. She was educated at the University of Houston, and the UT School of Law.



ANA HERNANDEZ PRESENTS JACINTO CITY POLICE CHIEF JOE AYALA WITH A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FROM THE STATE.

Ms. Hernandez was first elected in December 2005, and represents parts of Houston, Channelview, Galena Park and Jacinto City.

She serves on the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, Com-

See CHAMBER, page 8

Jacinto City Police nab Donut Store robbers

JACINTO CITY – The Jacinto City Police Department was able to chase and arrest five juveniles that had participated in a crime spree last week.

Chief Joe Ayala told the *North Channel Star* that a robbery of the Shipley Donut store at I-10 and Uvalde occurred at 4:00 am on Wednesday Morning, August 2nd, and officers from his department were alerted to the fleeing robbers by police radio. Although the store

was not open at the time, the robbers forced their way in because some personnel were working.

According to Ayala, a car with the perpetrators left Uvalde and headed west on I-10, where it was observed by officers from Jacinto City. The car exited onto Mercury Drive, and soon turned right on Rumar Lane. At this point, two units of the Jacinto City depart-

See POLICE ARREST, page 8



THIS SHIPLEY DONUT STORE ON UVALDE AT I-10 WAS ROBBED AT 4 A.M. AUG. 2.

Construction to begin on four new San Jacinto College learning facilities

2015 bond referendum projects well underway

PASADENA, Texas – Following voter approval of a \$425 million bond referendum in November 2015, progress on infrastructure updates and new facilities on each of the San Jacinto College campuses has begun, with four more buildings set for groundbreaking this fall.

"We are pleased with the progress being made to date on the 2015 bond referendum projects," said Bryan Jones, San Jacinto College associate vice chancellor for facilities services. "Much of the work has been focused on infrastructure and campus security, so residents and taxpayers in the District will begin to see structures taking shape on each of the campuses in the near future."

CENTRAL CAMPUS
On the Central Campus, the new 145,000 square foot Center for Petrochem-

ical, Energy, and Technology is taking shape on the edge of the campus along Fairmont Parkway. When it opens in 2019 it will be the premier petrochemical training facility for industry, designed by industry. The Center will house programs in process technology, instrumentation, electrical technology, non-destructive testing and craft trades. The Center will include adequate space to teach credit students and incumbent workers to meet the needs of the growing workforce and economy along the Texas Gulf Coast. An 8,000-square-foot exterior glycol process unit will be available to every program that trains in the building.

"From the beginning stages of planning, industry has had a seat at the table for the vision, the design and the curriculum of the Center," said Jim Griffin, associate vice chancellor



North Campus Cosmetology and Culinary Center Rendering

lor / senior vice president for the College's petrochemical training division. "This facility will ensure that San Jacinto College produces graduates with the right

skill sets to meet the workforce needs."

The total cost of the Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology is \$60 million.

Set to break ground this fall on the Central Campus is a new welcome center. The centralized location will provide students with 43,000-square-feet of easy

access to student and career resources. The new building will provide a spa-

See New Facilities, Page 6

COMMUNITY NEWS

August is Back to School Safety Month

(Houston, TX) – August is Back to School Safety Month and a good time to review your family’s safety and emergency plans. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) reminds parents that teaching their children how to stay safe before, during, and after school is crucial.

Although schools have emergency plans and hold drills throughout the year, parents should make sure that their children know their phone number, address and how to get in touch with them or another trusted adult in case of an emergency.

Traffic safety is also key to keeping children safe. Motorists are reminded that there are heavy fines for going over the speed limit and for texting or using handheld devices while driving through a

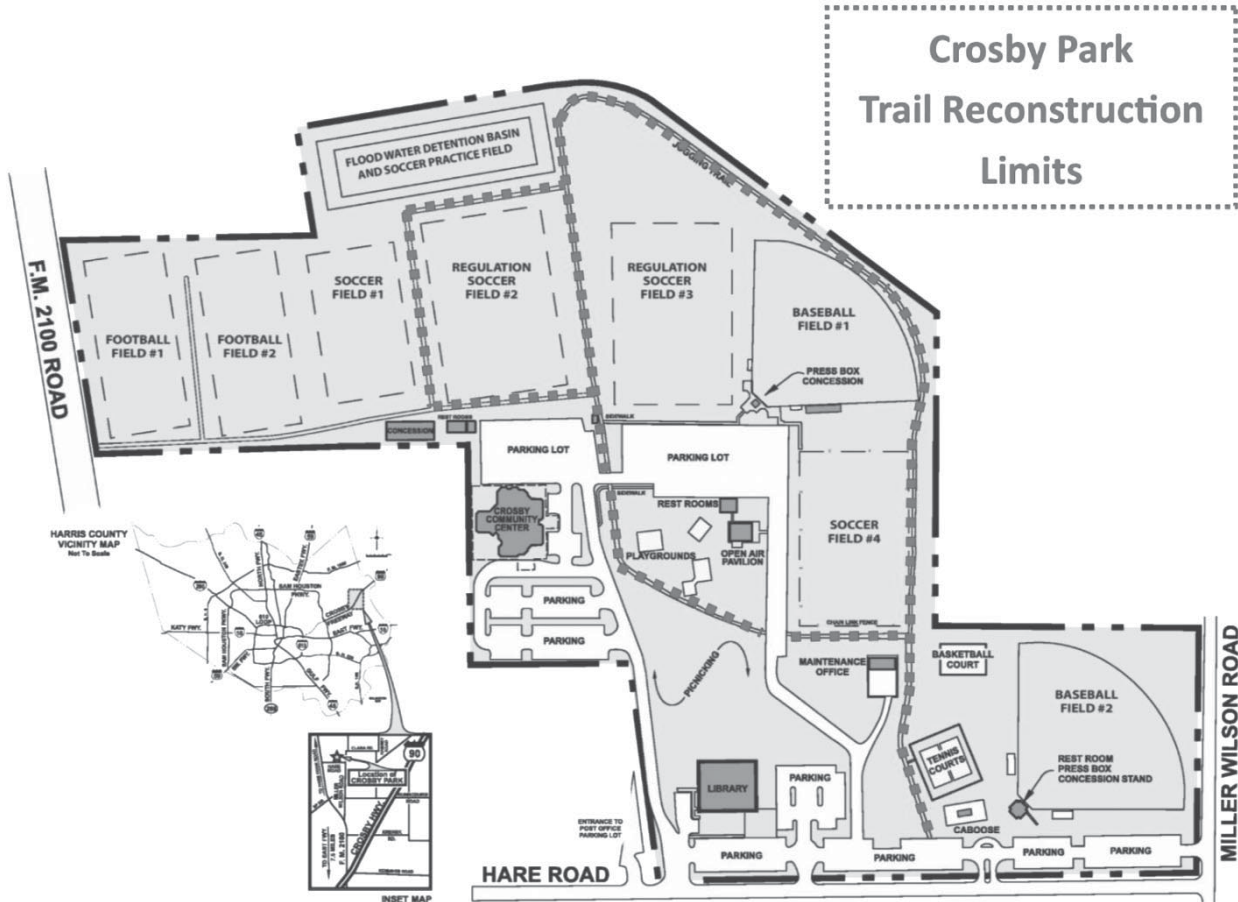
school zone.

State law mandates that drivers come to a complete stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped to pick up or drop off students. Children walking or riding their bikes should only cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.

After school, your children should feel safe at home. Post an emergency phone list where your children can see it. Include 9-1-1, your work and cell numbers, numbers for neighbors, and the numbers for anyone else who is nearby and trusted. Practice an emergency plan often so they know what to do in case of fire, injury, or other emergency.

Download the free ReadyHarris app from the App Store or Google Play for help creating a preparedness plan.

Trail improvements begins at Crosby Park



CROSBY, Texas – Commissioner Jack Morman has announced the start of trail reconstruction at Crosby Park for Monday, August 6th. The \$280,000 project includes reconstructing the nearly three-quarter mile asphalt trail to a concrete walkway.

Portions of the trail and all surrounding amenities will remain open for the duration of construction. Park goers are encouraged to take caution around the construction site and be mindful of directional signage for access points to amenities. Construction is

expected to be complete in late September of this year.

Crosby Park is located at 419 Hare Road, just north of Highway 90. It features various sports fields including football, soccer, and baseball, as well as a tennis and bas-


ketball courts. This park also has a pavilion available for rent, picnic areas with barbecue pits, and recently-upgraded playgrounds.

For more information, visit www.hcp2.com or like “Harris County Precinct 2” on Facebook.

THE ARMADILLOS HAVE EMERGED IN NASHVILLE

The Outlaw phenomenon produced powerful music and everlasting bonds between Nashville and Texas. Willie and Waylon, Bobby Bare, and Kris Kristofferson demanded and got greater creative freedom and the movement was *real*—not just a marketing term, but a creative flowering, a confluence of art and revelry, whiskey and poetry.

OUTLAWS & ARMADILLOS:
COUNTRY'S ROARING '70s



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Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor,
Association of Mature
American Citizens

Ask Rusty – File Early and Invest vs Wait to File

Dear Rusty: I read your article entitled “Doing a Breakdown Analy-

sis” and noted that the article was in response to a reader question about when to take Social Security Benefits. The writer commented “I’m in pretty good health and don’t really need the money right now.” The breakeven analysis you suggested is a great help in determining whether to claim early or wait to take Social Security benefits; however, and in light of your reader’s comment that “he did not need the money right now,” perhaps another element should be added to the breakeven analysis. That element is to roll the figures based on taking the money early and investing that money month after month for the 48 months in question. The end result should also help in determining an appropriate course of action. I was in the same position back in the mid 90’s and made out far better by taking the money early and investing it. In any event, it’s one more way to look at this issue. Signed: Faithful Reader

Dear Faithful: Thanks for your feedback. I certainly agree that there’s more than one way to look at the question of

when to take Social Security. And, yes, I’m quite familiar with the strategy of taking benefits early and investing them. But since I’m not a Financial Advisor and not qualified to give investment advice, I’m required to restrict my remarks to only the Social Security aspects relating to questions I’m asked. You might be interested to know, however, that many financial advisors today do not recommend taking Social Security benefits early, investing the money, and trying to earn more than the Social Security benefit growth they’ll realize by waiting. Unlike the investment opportunities of the 90’s, it’s pretty hard these days to beat the 6.7% annual growth in one’s Social Security benefit realized by waiting until full retirement age (FRA) to collect, as well as the 8% annual growth one realizes by waiting beyond full retirement age. And those higher benefits are paid for life, which is significant when considering that average life expectancy is now well into the 80’s and living into the 90’s is now relatively common. Another consideration when taking benefits earlier than

one’s full retirement age is that there is an annual earnings limit which, if exceeded, will result in Social Security withholding benefits, so a person’s intentions for continuing to work could have a financial impact and should be included as part of any financial analysis. And yet another is that Social Security benefits are taxable if certain income thresholds are exceeded, so taking benefits early when someone is still earning a large salary will increase their income tax liability. The point is, it’s never an easy or clear-cut decision as to when to start Social Security, and many factors such as those mentioned above need to be evaluated. And the breakeven analysis, which compares cumulative benefits at different claim-ages, should only be one piece of the puzzle.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA).



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sheldon ISD hosts Summer STEM Camp



7th and 9th grade STEM Academy students and staff

This past week Sheldon ISD hosted their second annual STEM Academy Summer Camp. The camp was attended by over one hundred students from grades 7 and 9. This school year the Sheldon STEM Academy will expand to grades 7, 8 and 9. Camp attendees consisted of the students that were new to the program. The camp included STEM activities where the students were charged with completing their first PBL (Project Based Learning) project while using the Engineering Design Process. 7th graders designed and built simple machines (Rube Goldberg) while 9th graders designed and built rollercoasters to exhibit their knowledge and understanding of using inclined planes, pulley systems, and energy transfer in motion. Within each of these projects was the integration of the 21st Century Skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

Another important component of the camp was the daily exposure to STEM career professionals. We believe that “if you can see it, you can be it” so exposure to real life STEM career professionals is an important part

of our program. On day 1, the students participated in a live Google Hangout with the crew on the Exploration Vessel Nautilus off the coast of Canada. The students heard from the crew members about their latest discoveries on the ocean floor and their work in using underwater robots to map the sea floor, as well as an opportunity to ask questions about their work and career choices. On day 2, students heard from D. Hubbard from Exxon Mobil who spoke about the importance of Cyber Security and on day 3 the students were able to hear from and interact with L. Gonzalez, training specialist from our business partner LyondellBasell who spoke about the importance of being ready for your future and all of the different career opportunities that exist at our neighboring LyondellBasell plant.

The last day of camp was followed up with an official Induction Ceremony where each student was able to receive their STEM pin as a symbol of their membership in the academy and the responsibility that comes with that membership. Following the ceremony, the students were able to

present their projects to their parents, members of the Sheldon ISD administration and special guest and partners from Generation Park and LyondellBasell.

Our goal in the Sheldon ISD STEM Academy is to prepare our students with the knowledge, 21st century skills and confidence that will be needed to be successful in the future workforce. Our students are full of potential and it is our job to provide them with the opportunities to get ready for the world that they will enter beyond high school. They will be ready for college, careers and LIFE!—Becky Zalesnik, Director of Innovative Programs

Special thanks to Ms. Clark, (Coordinator of Innovative Programs) for organizing the STEM Camp and all of the STEM teachers (Ms. Kemp, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Philip, Ms. Allen, Ms. Farrell, Ms. Capotorto, Ms. Montemayor, Ms. Vital, Mr. Maldonado, Ms. Moseley, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Walton, Ms. Rosales, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Arceneaux, Mr. Whitely and Ms. Turner) for their efforts that led to a successful STEM Camp.

Galena Park ISD to provide free meals to eligible students

Galena Park ISD is pleased to inform you the Galena Park Independent School District will be implementing a new option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) during the 2018-2019 school year.

Participating schools in the CEP are able to provide healthy break-

fasts and lunches each day at no charge for ALL students enrolled in the CEP schools. Parents with students at eligible schools will not have to complete an application for school meals.

2018-2019 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools in Galena Park ISD:

- All elementary campuses
- All middle school campuses
- Galena Park High

School

- North Shore 9th Grade Center
- North Shore 10th Grade Center
- North Shore Senior High School
- Zotz Education Center

If we can be of any further assistance or for more information, please contact the Student Nutrition Services Department at 832-386-1211.

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CHANNELVIEW ISD
Harvey Brown Elementary welcomes new Principal

Channelview, Texas – Mr. Troy Michaud has been named principal of Harvey Brown Elementary School for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Michaud began his teaching career in 2001 at Channelview High School as a Physics/Chemistry teacher. Mr. Michaud was named Teacher of the Year in 2009. He has served as Science Instructional Specialist and assistant principal at Channelview High School. Mr. Michaud earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Creighton University, and his Master of Education in Educational Administration from Concordia University.

Mr. Michaud has taken on additional roles over the past few years from summer



MICHAUD

school principal, to district TTESS trainer.

As principal, Mr. Michaud will be responsible for the campus improvement plan and execution as it relates to the written curriculum, and academic

achievement, instructional leadership, and the daily operations of the campus.

“I am excited to start the school year and wish to continue with our mission of challenging young minds to become extraordinary life-long learners. It is my belief that our school is the foundation by which children discover their talents and abilities, their freedom to make moral and ethical choices, and their appreciation for self-discipline and responsibility. This belief has been shaped through my own personal experiences and education. I was raised with mid-western rural values where hard work, persistence, and honesty was and still is expected.”

Channelview ISD welcomes new district administrators

Patricia Glaeser has been appointed as Director of Federal Programs for Channelview Independent School District. Ms. Glaeser has 14 years of experience in education and 5 years with Channelview ISD. She has served students and staff in the capacity of District Coordinator of School Improvement and District Coordinator of Student Assessment and Counseling.

Betzaida Pineda has joined Channelview ISD as Coordinator of Business Services. Ms. Pineda earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from The University of Texas at Austin and recently graduated with a Master of Science in 2018. Ms. Pineda is excited to contribute her skills and



knowledge in the business office and continue strengthening and improving our school district. She previously worked for the University of Houston as a budget and analysis officer.

LaKeisha LeBlanc, a 19 year veteran educator of Channelview Independent School District, has become the new Director of Communications. She brings to the position experience in community engagement, marketing and administrative leadership. Ms. LeBlanc is former principal of Harvey Brown Elementary, where she was named Principal of the Year in 2017. In this new role, LeBlanc will oversee marketing, communications and public relations for the district.

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— Robert L. Schwartz

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OPINION PAGE

Rep. Babin votes to extend flood insurance program

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Brian Babin (TX-36) released the following statement after the House passed the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2018 (S.1182), legislation that will keep the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) authorized through the upcoming hurricane season.

“I represent working coastal communities that were hit very hard by Hurricane Harvey – communities that are vital to our nation’s energy security. Coastal energy and petrochemical refining facilities like those I represent in TX-36 cannot function without a steady and reliable workforce, and



Rep. Babin

that workforce cannot exist without a stable housing market. I am grateful that my House colleagues saw the need to reauthorize this vital program, and I look forward to continuing our effort to reform the NFIP before it expires toward the end of the year.”

Dos and Don’ts: Bus Safety Rules for Your Child

Aug. 6, 2018 - The first day of school is quickly approaching and buses filled with excited students will soon be back on the roads. Parents are reminded that back-to-school readiness includes reviewing bus safety and etiquette.

Riding the school bus has longtime been considered the safest form of student transportation. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, American students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than with their own parents and guardians in cars.

As with all forms of transportation, dangers do exist. According to Harris County Department of Education’s Center for Safe and Secure Schools: The greatest danger is not riding on the bus, but rather getting on or off the bus. Young school children ages 5-7 are the most at risk for bus-related injury.

Parents and children should discuss bus safety together to help ensure a safe start to the new school year. Harris County Department of Education’s Center for Safe and Secure Schools offers the following bus safety tips to help ease the back-to-school transition:

- Talk to your kids about bus safety and respect. Ridership is a privilege. It can be taken away due to bad behavior, so check with your school district about established guidelines. Refer to the policy as “school bus behavior policy” and go over it with your child.
- Dress appropriately for the weather. Many buses are not air-conditioned.
- Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is set to arrive. Tardiness and other mishaps can lead to mistakes in safety measures. Examples might be running in front of the bus; running back to find something left on the bus; or bending over or bending down to retrieve something dropped while getting off the bus.
- Kids should follow the five giant steps rule: Be five giant steps back from where the bus actually stops until it comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door.
- Backpacks/bags need to be fully closed and

sized appropriately for the child to prevent safety hazards such as dragging straps.

- Always stay seated on the bus. Teach your child to stay in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop at your child’s destination.
- Show appreciation to the bus driver. Remind your kids to say thank you when they get off. Kindness and good manners go a long way.
- Railroad crossings require drivers to stop, to open the door and to make sure the coast is clear. Teach your kids to be extra quiet during these times.
- Go over your child’s bus routine. Describe the location and street where your child should get off.
- Don’t hang out of the window. Keep body parts inside the bus.
- For younger kids, write down their names, bus number, bus stop and where you may be reached and put that information inside their backpack. Help your children memorize your cell number; putting it to song can help.
- Bullying should never be tolerated. Talk to your child about bullying on the bus. Read your district’s school bus behavior policy to understand to whom you should report such behavior. It may be the driver, teacher, principal or someone else.

Each school district has school bus ridership rules and policies in place. Families are encouraged to navigate their school district’s website to locate and discuss the school bus rules with their children.

About Harris County Department of Education: HCDE provides special education, therapy services, early education, adult education and after-school programming. Services are funded by government grants, fees and a local property tax rate of \$.005195. For every dollar in local property tax collected, HCDE provides \$4.40 in services to the 25 Harris County school districts. HCDE also operates four campuses for students with profound special education needs and adjudicated youth who require a low student-teacher ratio and highly structured environment. One-hundred percent of students served on HCDE campuses are at-risk. The organization is governed by an elected board of seven trustees and has 1,060 employees and 33 facilities, including 15 Head Start centers. More info at www.hcde-texas.org.



Hurricane Harvey-affected campuses receive special evaluations

AUSTIN — Some 109 independent school districts and charters directly affected by Hurricane Harvey are eligible for special evaluation in this year’s state accountability system, the Texas Education Agency announced Aug. 1.

Based on data reported to the agency during the past school year, the affected districts and charters encompass some 1,188 eligible campuses.

Among the submitted data are the numbers of displaced students and teachers and the impact on local school facilities and instructional time.

Hurricane Harvey criteria announced in June represents a change to storm-related accountability adjustments when compared to prior storms in Texas due to the extraordinary magnitude and unique impact of the storm. The adjustments provide the necessary reprieve from accountability while also ensuring that student outcomes continue to be the focus in Texas, the TEA said.

Districts and charters were given several opportunities to submit information regarding students, teachers and facilities throughout the school year, the TEA said.

Gallego, Flores to face off

Former U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego of San Antonio and retired game warden Pete Flores of Pleasanton will face each other in a runoff for Senate District 19. A date for the runoff had not been set as of press time.

Gallego, a Democrat, beat state Rep. Roland Gutierrez of San Antonio for the right to face Flores, who easily outdistanced two other Republicans in the SD-19 special election on July 31.

Gallego, a lawyer, was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1990. He served 11 consecutive terms in the House until he was elected to Congress in 2012. He served one two-year term in Congress and in 2014 lost to Republican challenger Will Hurd, a Helotes lawyer, who is now running for his third straight two-year term as the representative for Texas Congressional District 23.

The winner of the Gallego-Flores runoff will fill the seat formerly held by Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, who resigned from office after he was convicted by a federal district court on 11 felony counts of fraud. Uresti was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Miller stops spraying

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on July 30 shut down a cattle fever tick spray box operation at a South Texas ranch.

The spray boxes apply a high-powered insecticide to combat ticks that may infect livestock with deadly Texas cattle fever. Miller said lack of ventilation in the confined spray box violates federally approved label requirements for the insecticide and that licensed applicators were not present at the inspection, as required by state and federal law.

The Cattle-Fever Tick Eradication Program is managed by the USDA and the Texas Animal Health Commission. The use of pesticides is regulated by the Texas Department of Agriculture, over which Miller presides.

The goal of the program is to limit the cattle fever tick to the eight-county quarantine zone along the border with Mexico, and ultimately to eradicate the pest from Texas entirely.

On Aug. 1, the Fort Worth-based Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association issued a statement critical of Miller’s action.

“We are very disappointed that Commissioner Miller made such a rash decision to take away this vital tool from Texas cattleraisers,” wrote the organization’s

president, Robert McKnight Jr. “His decision has a direct and immediate impact on cattle health, Texas ranchers and the entire U.S. cattle industry. His action could seriously endanger cattle welfare and prevent Texas ranchers from participating in commerce at a time when our industry is already facing hardships due to drought and other issues. We hope Commissioner Miller will reconsider his position that harms Texas cattle and cattle raisers.”

Revenue total increases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 2 announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.74 billion in July, 6.9 percent more than in July 2017.

“Sales tax receipts from almost all major economic sectors were up compared with last year,” Hegar said. “The most notable increases were from oil and gas mining and manufacturing sectors, followed by wholesale trade, restaurants and services. Recent tax collections have also been boosted by a tax amnesty, including more than \$39 million in delinquent state sales tax revenue, most of which was processed in July.”

Also, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in July 2018 was up 10.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

6 Ways to Prepare for a New School Year

(StatePoint) Want to ensure the transition from summer to school goes smoothly for your family? Check out these six tips.

1. Make a smooth transition. Been sleeping in all summer? Now’s the time to get your body back into the routine of early mornings. Start slowly, setting the alarm earlier until you reach the time you’ll be waking up for the school year. Parents can assist younger kids with this transition.

2. Get the right education tools. From highlighters to USB drives to loose-leaf paper, be sure you have a comprehensive list of all the school supplies and education tools you’ll need for a successful year ahead. As far as tech tools like graphing calculators are concerned, opt for those that are jam packed with all the latest features. For example, the Casio fx-CG50 offers the ability to draw three dimensional graphs, such as planes, cylinders and spheres, and view them from various angles in order to better analyze their shape. It also features a cross-section option and a special zoom function for in-depth analysis.

3. Organize your agenda. Make sure everyone is ready for the busy year ahead. Plan your children’s participation in after school activities. Then, display relevant items on a calendar where the whole family can see it to ensure no one misses a club meeting, rehearsal or team practice.

4. De-stress. The hectic back-to-school season can create tension and stress. Encourage hobbies that help students unwind as the school year gets back into full swing. For beginners of music, check out new tools that can make the learning process fun and easy, such as Casio’s LK-265 keyboard, which features an LCD display that shows both music notation and correct hand positioning.

5. Get healthy. Crowded classrooms are a good place to pick up germs. Keep kids healthy with a daily multivitamin, plenty of fresh fruits and veggies and lots of sleep. Regular exercise is also an immunity booster, so encourage kids to get active.

6. Adapt to new school resources. Families aren’t the only ones getting ready for back to school. Districts are incorporating the latest tech into classroom learning. Such tools include Casio LampFree Projectors, an eco-friendly technology that gives educators the ability to control the projector from a smartphone or tablet, expanding their ability to create and deliver dynamic lesson plans.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Travis Richard Stafford

Travis Richard Stafford, 82, passed away August 1, 2018 surrounded by his family in Houston, Texas. Travis, known to many as Richard, was born on May 5, 1936 to parents Travis Robert and Kitty (Lyons) Stafford in Prairie Hill, Texas. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force.

Richard worked most of his life as a traveling printer for newspapers and assisted numerous newspapers in several different cities. He married the love of his life, Connie and they enjoyed 50 years of friendship and marriage together. Richard, Connie, and their family lived in the Cloverleaf area for over 40 years. Together, they also owned and operated The Canary Club in Cloverleaf for 25 years where they made many life-long friends.

Richard was a family man and truly enjoyed spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents. Richard is lovingly survived by his wife, Connie Stafford; children, Kitty Prater and husband Derril, Terri Kyser and husband Brian, Jose Gonzales and wife Sheba, Stephen Stafford and



wife Sheryl; sisters, Kay Glover and Brenda Sharp; numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation Monday, August 6th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services officiated by Bro. Gene Talbot will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 7, 2018 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Interment with military honors will follow at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at Houston National Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

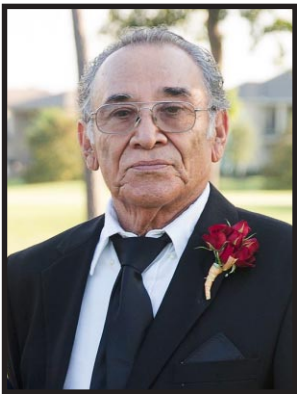
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Mr. Abraham Gonzalez Sr.

Mr. Abraham Gonzalez Sr., of Anahuac, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, born on July 9, 1939 in Rodriguez, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to the late Julia and the late Javier, passed away at age 79 on August 2, 2018 in Houston, Texas.

Abraham came to the United States as a son of a U.S citizen in 1966 to prepare for his life with his beautiful wife and young family. He was a Longshoreman at the Port of Houston for 42 years until retiring in 2010. Abraham was the beloved husband of Eva for 51 years. He was preceded in death by his son, Abraham, Jr.; and sisters, Ofelia, Enedina, and Maria de Jesus. Abraham is survived by his son, Paul; daughters, Brenda, Sussy, and Christina; sisters, Olivia, Gloria, Julia, and Rosario; grandchildren, Christian, Alberto, Pablo, Julian, and Dayanara; and great-grandchild, Alan.

Some of Abraham's hobbies were doting



over his grand children, a huge soccer and football fan. Abraham had a boisterous personality, with a big sense of humor and a prankster. He was loving and supportive of all those around him. He had a contagious smile and laugh that brought joy to everyone around him.

Friends and family can pay their respects at the visitation, on Wednesday, August 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at San Jacinto Funeral Home, 14659 East Freeway, Houston, Texas, 77015. A funeral service will take place on Thursday, August 9 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at San Jacinto Funeral Home. San Jacinto Memorial Park and Funeral Home is handling arrangements, 14659 East Freeway, Houston, (713) 453-7114.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood, and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever.

REVELATION 1:4-6

Christ the King statue in Swiebodzin, Poland

THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Fellowship Like Family

Have you ever watched westerns? I grew up watching them; I still enjoy watching them. There are a lot of things that are pretty consistent in those old shows and one image that stands out when you think about the old westerns is a group of cowboys gathered around a camp fire. They may have worked hard during the day, at times together and at other times spread far apart, but when the sun went down they would take time to gather for a meal and, as we in the church would put it, fellowship.

We don't often have campfires to gather around, these days, but the need for fellowship remains. The thing is, we don't have a definite end to the day like they did. Too often, we bring our work home with us in the evenings, and spend our weekends trying to cover the ground we couldn't hit during the week. We have to prioritize, and in doing so we often choose to eliminate the one thing that appears to be negotiable - fellowship.

But fellowship really isn't negotiable. We need this time with others, and they need quality time with us. As Christians, we should be both taking in and giving out. We should be imparting to others on a regular basis, encouraging one another to stand strong, to give God our best, to determine to walk

in victory no matter what the devil throws at us. As Christians, we should be receiving the same. I Thessalonians 5:11 (AMP) offers us a challenge... or, truly, gives us a command: "Therefore encourage and comfort one another and build up one another..." Do we obey? As Christians we're family, and we should fellowship like family - like family ought to fellowship. Right?

You have so much to give, more than you probably realize. I tell my congregation often that each one of them is a walking warehouse of seeds. All they have to do is be aware of the people around them and open their hands to give - of their time, their knowledge, their wisdom, and their physical assistance. Generally, you don't learn what someone needs until you've spent time with them, gotten to know them, and that happens most often either one-on-one or in small groups.

So, I encourage you. Gather around that virtual campfire - regularly - and spend quality time with those in your circle...and widen that circle. John 13:35 (AMP) tells us that, "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another."

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ROMANS 8:18

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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elderly and revere your God.
Leviticus 19:32

ASK THE EXPERT

Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for August?"



ASK DIAMOND JIM

We have a birthday present for those born in August: the stunning spinel has been added to your month's birthstone lineup! August now joins June and December as the only months represented by three gems. The original birthstone for August was Sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gem. Now spinel adds its multitude of color choices!

PERIDOT OVERVIEW

Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic faridat which means "gem," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word peridona, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites. Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gems. That's why this is one of few stones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present. Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Africa.



SARDONYX OVERVIEW

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped stone with white bands. Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony. The finest examples of sardonyx, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay and the United States.

SPINEL OVERVIEW
The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gems. Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It has also been found in

Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadzhikistan, Tanzania and the U.S.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com. If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

New Facilities,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cious, technologically-advanced facility for enrollment services, advising, financial aid, tutoring and other related services. The total cost for this building is \$16.6 million. The building is expected to open summer 2019.

NORTH CAMPUS

The San Jacinto College North Campus is set to break ground on a cosmetology / culinary arts center.

The official groundbreaking date is Friday, Sept. 21, 2018, at 8 a.m.

The 57,000-square-foot facility at a cost of \$22.3 million will house the College's culinary arts and North Campus cosmetology programs. The building will provide the latest in updated classrooms and state-of-the-art labs to enhance workforce training for students entering the cosmetology and culinary fields. The cosmetology / culinary arts center is scheduled to open fall 2019.

Last year the College opened the new Center for

Through the years, I have been blessed to meet many residents of the North Channel Area. And due to my involvement in numerous groups, I find my circle of influence to range from those who have lived here longer than me to those that are just moving to our community. There have been many opportunities for me to meet multiple generations of some of the families. One thing I have learned is that no two of us have the same foundation nor have traveled the same path. Yet each of us are important.

One of the young men I have met over the years is Chris Albright. He played basketball while at North Shore Senior High and developed a passion for younger athletes. Much of his "spare" time is focused on volunteering with a variety of youth athletic programs. And to say he enjoys training young athletes is an understatement.

The proof is in results. Recently, I saw he had posted some pictures from

one of the many events his children have participated in over the summer. When asked about what all his son Chris has been working on, you could feel the excitement as Dad shared with me the following results.

At 10 years old his son has participated in one Super Bowl with Houston Pride as well as three State Championships with the North Houston Panthers. This team is known as "Da Pack" and is ranked number 10 in the nation for their age division. He has accomplished 60 touchdowns in his young career. This season alone, Chis received 33 medals and is currently ranked as the number two hurdler in the city of Houston as well as number 21 in the nations. He has won medals in hurdles, shot put, turbo javelin, and both the 4x400 and 4x100 relays.

To say that he is a young man to watch is an understatement. To say that his father has been there and continues to guide is son as well as other young athletes is something to be proud of.

Our community has been blessed with many amazing parents who stand in the gap not only for their children but for others as well.

As I tried to think about when I first met Chris and his son, I realized it was that dad had registered his son for the Cory Redding Foundation 3D Football Camp. Suddenly, I started thinking and was wondering how many of the young men who are playing football this year for North Shore had also attended one of Cory's football camps. Immediately, I thought about Jordan Revels. He is a defensive end for the Mustangs and has been making his mark for the past several years. I can remember first meeting him and his dad, Freddie Revels, back in 2011 at Cory's Camp. He will certainly be one to watch this season and he too will be leaving a legacy in our community.

This week, look around. See who has left a legacy and who is leaving one today. Let me know who we should all know about.

While these improvements are not visible to the passerby, they continue to be worked on for an improved on-campus experience.

What soon will be visible to the community is the construction of two new buildings on the South Campus. The first is a 74,000-square-foot Center for Engineering and Technology. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, the need for engineers in all disciplines along the Texas Gulf Coast is expected to increase through 2024. In a January 2018 report from WalletHub.com, Houston was ranked 21st on the list of best cities in the U.S. for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) jobs.

The new Center for Engineering and Technology at San Jacinto College will house programs in engineering, engineering technology, biomedical equipment repair technology, engineering design graphics, electronics, and computer information technology. A groundbreaking for the \$27.7 million facility is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 5, 2018 at 8 a.m. The Center is expected to open in September 2019.

The demand for qualified engineers in the Houston region remains high. The Greater Houston Partnership says that among metro areas with at least 15,000 engineers, Houston has the fifth highest concentration of engineers in the United States. Overall, Houston metro has the third largest number of engineers in the country.

The San Jacinto College engineering program has seen a 108 percent enrollment increase since the 2015 semester. The College's associate degree allows students to seamlessly transfer to a university engineering program, and holds articulation agreements with the University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering, Texas Tech University and University of Texas at Tyler.

Also set for construction this fall at the South Campus is the cosmetology center. This is a \$15.8 million project for a new 39,300-square-foot facility that will provide the latest in updated classrooms and modern labs to enhance the workforce training for those interested in a cosmetology career. The building is anticipated to be completed late summer 2019.

"We are grateful to the voters and taxpayers in our district who approved the bond referendum in 2015," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "We are committed to providing the right space for learning for our students and we remain dedicated to being the leading workforce training partner for the region's growing economy and industries."

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August outdoor world tips from Bass Pro Shops

HOT WEATHER HIKING

If you plan on hiking in hot weather, freeze your water bottles the night before. In addition to hydration, the cold bottles held against your skin can help cool you down.

Sunscreen is a necessity – don't forget to apply it on your neck and ears. A floppy, wide brim hat protects the neck & ears much better than a baseball cap. Sunglasses are great for protecting your eyes from the sun.

Bring cooling towels to put around your neck and keep them wet. It's very refreshing to wipe your face, arms and legs with them when you start getting too hot.

Hot weather hiking takes a lot of energy and strength, so bring extra food. Don't be in a hurry. Take lots of breaks. Relax, have a sip of water or some food. Dip your feet in a creek or even take a swim.

Your feet might sweat more when it's hot. Wear a light pair of socks that wick away moisture and wear a pair of hiking socks on top.

It's always good in hot weather to take someone with you hiking and let others know where you are going and when you plan on returning in case of an emergency.

FISHING GEAR FOR KIDS

When you teach a kid to fish, try to avoid using adult tackle. Instead, use the best quality kid's gear you can find because it is usually designed for their hands and is more user-friendly.

Adult ultra-light spin casting combos are a good, durable choice for young anglers. They are easy for kids to hold and are relatively tangle free. Best of

all, they make even a small perch feel like a whopper to a kid.

Go with a combo with a soft tip which will be easier to cast. Make sure the reel handles 4-pound test line well and has a smooth drag. Start a kid right with decent, functional tackle – anything less performs poorly and invites discouragement.

When using a bobber for kids, keep in mind that for best results you want the bait to hang about halfway between the surface and the bottom. If you're not sure how deep the spot is, set the bobber for 4 feet. If the bobber rests on its side, the bait is on the bottom. Shorten the distance between the hook and the bobber.

ALWAYS BE READY TO GO CAMPING

You can always be ready to go camping if you stay prepared. Grab three large plastic storage bins from a local store. Keep air mattresses, pumps, pillows and tarps in one bin. In the second bin, pack up stoves, pots, pans, lanterns, hatchets, rope, saws and other camp tools.

Keep the third bin stocked with items you'd need for camp and kitchen, like a small bag of favorite spices, toilet paper, paper towels, camp soap, spare rope, a first aid kit and anything else you think you might need. Store a tent and sleeping bags in large plastic bags.

Label each bin with its contents. Keep these bins in the garage or storage shed so you'll always have your gear waiting when you're ready to go camping.

Have each family member fill a small backpack with essential clothing, and have them include

some warmer items for cooler nights and mornings. Make sure everyone has packed rain gear. The weather can be incredibly unpredictable at times.

With this preparation, you can easily go make family memories without all the stress and frustration of trying to find everything when you are ready to go camping.

BEGINNER BOW HUNTING TIPS

There are a few steps you can take to improve your skills as a beginner bow hunter. The first is to practice. Take some time to shoot at least a few quivers of arrows a week, every week, year around. Practice builds skill and confidence that you are taking an appropriate shot and can make the shot that you take.

Step two is to go into the woods with a plan that you believe and trust. Nothing is worse than moving from one location to another and jumping deer. Scout the area that you are going to hunt, pick stand locations that you feel will put you in a good place to succeed and stick with them.

The third way to improve your bow hunting skills is to hunt. While good information can be gathered from practicing, scouting, reading magazines and web articles, watching YouTube videos and talking to others, there is no substitute for the skills that hunting will provide you over time. The only way to learn to really learn is from the actual mistakes that you will make.

To stock up your camping bins stop by your local Bass Pro Shops or Cabela's store or go to www.basspro.com or www.cabelas.com.

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Jeanne Shipp, Patients ER founding partner (second from right) and Ashley Shibley, Patients ER marketing director (second from left), present a check for \$15,000 to Erika Foster (left), Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation director (left) and Ronnie Hotchkiss, GCCISD Education Foundation president-elect, as MVP Sponsors of the upcoming All Star Gala. The event will be held September 29 at Minute Maid Park, hosted by KHOU celebrities Chita Craft, meteorologist, and Jason Bristol, sports anchor. Sponsorships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 are still available, and individual tickets are \$200, with a \$50 discount for district employees. For more information, visit www.bit.ly/GCCISDAIAllStarGala or email Erika Foster at erika.foster@gccisd.net.



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LOST DOG

Missing Minister Male Chihuahua.

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Lost in Channelview area on May 18, 2018 from Vonnet St. and Tobe St. off of Woodforest Blvd, between Dell Dale and Sheldon Rd.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Flood Prevention Project,

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County. Because of this, flood debris tends to pile up in the area, farther restricting the flow of storm water. I proposed the possibility of a new diversion canal to be cut in order to allow the flow of both Turkey Run Gulley and Hunting Bayou to bypass the troubled area which would improve drainage for the Jacinto City area. The bayou's original path would remain in place to allow areas on the bayou's East side to drain."

The United States Army Corps of Engineers has announced funding for

four projects: Brays Bayou, Clear Creek, Hunting Bayou and White Oak Bayou. All four projects have significant local funding match requirements. If the bonds are approved, these projects could start immediately.

Harris county homeowners over 65 in homes under \$200,000 wouldn't pay any more in taxes for these bonds. The average homeowner of a \$200,000 home would see about a \$5 annual increase to the property taxes they pay to HCFCF beginning in 2020. In 2035 the owner of a

\$200,000 home—or \$166,000 after exemptions—would pay about \$50 more in property taxes.

Early voting began this week on August 8th through August 21st; Election Day is Saturday, August 25th. Early voting and Election Day voting times and locations can be found on the harrisvotes.com website.

To see the entire proposed flood prevention projects go to the HCFCF website, www.hcfcf.org/bond-program.

Happy 95th Birthday!!!



Long time resident of Jacinto City Concepcion Latrache, affectionately known as "Tita" celebrated her 95th Birthday with family and friends.

LifeFlight Rescue practices have changed

HOUSTON, Tx – One does not have to be very attentive to notice that sirens are blaring more and more. And what standards paramedics and EMT use to determine what to do in each case has to change with it.

When LifeFlight is called is now being strictly regulated.

According to the Medical Chief of HCESD#5 Christy Graves, "Medics are extensively trained in critical trauma triage criteria to determine if life flight is needed. The decision to launch an air ambulance is one that is closely monitored. Due to the necessity of the asset being in high demand as well as a lot of safety guidelines, medics follow a specific criteria set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In 2011 CDC revised the criteria with a panel of experts including Paramedics and Surgeons from across the nation. It had

not been upgraded since 1990. Many aren't aware that the first ambulance on scene is counting the number of patients and also checking off the criteria list simultaneously. This is a criteria they memorize and become very proficient in determining. Once the patient meets the 4 step check list an air ambulance is requested for speed, specialty care and blood. The four sections are: 1. Physiological 2. Anatomic 3. Mechanism of Injury 4. Special Consideration Patients.

There is no law rule or requirement for any ambulance to use a helicopter, only that they transport the patient to a trauma center that meets the injury score.

"We are evaluated every quarter by the Department of State Health. If we wrongfully utilize an air ambulance asset we are given warnings and will most likely be penalties. This helps to be sure one



Taking a patient by air or ground ambulance is now strictly regulated by new standards set by the fed and enforced by State Health Department.

system is not over utilizing a resource. It is a good check and balance. Every ambulance follows this criteria and signs an affidavit in agreement. This helps develop a national scope of practice that we can all use including those hospitals to which we

transport," Graves added.

According to Centers for Disease Control, "In the United States, injury is the leading cause of death for persons aged 1-44 years. In 2008, approximately 30 million injuries were serious enough to require the injured person to visit a

hospital emergency department (ED); 5.4 million (18%) of these injured patients were transported by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Since 1986, the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) has provided guidance for the

field triage process through its "Field Triage Decision Scheme." This guidance was updated with each version of the decision scheme (published in 1986, 1990, 1993, and 1999). In 2005, CDC, with financial support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, collaborated with ACS-COT to convene the initial meetings of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage (the Panel) to revise the decision scheme; the revised version was published in 2006 by ACS-COT (American College of Surgeons), Resources for the optimal care of the injured patient: 2006. Chicago, IL: American College of Surgeons; 2006. In 2009, CDC published a detailed description of the scientific rationale for revising the field triage criteria (CDC). Guidelines for field triage of injured patients: recommendations of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage."

Hernandez at Chamber,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mittee on Licensing, and Administrative Procedures, and the Committee on Redistricting. She is also on the Sunset Review Board, deciding which state agencies do not need to renew their existence.

Issues that she will champion at the legislature deal with Public Education reform, Immigration reform, job opportunities, Human Trafficking, Veterans needs including job training and counseling.

She noted that within her District is the Port of Houston, an important source for jobs for her constituents, and a generator

of economic business.

She also represents a community college, San Jacinto Community College, as well as several school districts.

She noted that the state has an office for Workforce Solutions, a generator of jobs also.

Ms. Hernandez presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Jacinto City Police Department, and its chief, Joe Ayala, who was not able to be present when the Chamber held their luncheon honoring local heroes and first responders.

Chamber president Margie Buentello was the

emcee for the luncheon, and took the opportunity to remind the audience of the Bill Palko Scholarship Fund Raiser, a Casino Night, to be held this Friday, August 10 from 7:00 to 11:00 pm at the Town Center.

Other upcoming events include a Block Party at the Rhodes School on Wallisville, Saturday August 11 from 9:00 am to Noon; a Ribbon Cutting at Sign Pros on the East Freeway Wednesday August 15 at 4:00 pm, and a Ribbon Cutting at the Rhodes School on Friday August 17 at 2:00 pm.

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Donut Shop Arrest,

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ment were in pursuit.

The chase wound through some local streets, and headed back east. Eventually, with the two police units close behind, the car with the robbers crashed over an embankment and stopped in the vicinity of Jacinto Port.

The car was disabled and the youthful robbers scattered and ran, but they were soon apprehended by the police.

Officers that were involved in the pursuit and arrest were Cpl. D. Mascari, and Officer D. Martinez. The five boys were

arrested and booked, and it turned out that one of them was from Jacinto City, and the others from the Fidelity neighborhood.

Earlier in the night, at 10:30 pm in Houston, they had carjacked the vehicle that they used in the robbery.

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