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CHANNEL CURRENTS

North Channel Luncheon

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its August Luncheon Friday, August 2 at 11:30 am at the Jacinto City Town-center, 1025 Oats Road at the corner of Challenger 7 Road.

The program will be Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

Reservations, contact Blanca Beltran at 713-450-3600 or blanca@ncachamber.com. Lunch is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members.

YMCA Operation Backpack

You can donate Backpacks and School Supplies, July 9 through August 9. Drop off backpacks and school supplies at your local YMCA, or the North Channel Luncheon this Friday, August 1.

You can also donate money online at: ymcaoperationbackpack.org.

Needed supplies include pens, pencil sharpener, 12 inch ruler, pocket folders, glue bottle or stick, new backpack, eraser, children's scissors, spiral notebooks, composition notebook, crayons or markers, and looseleaf ruled notebook paper.

Jacinto City Night Market set for Saturday, Aug. 10

The Jacinto City Night Market will hold another session this Saturday, August 10 from 5pm to 9pm at the Town-Center on Challenger Drive. The open air venue, partially covered, provides a pleasant environment for shopping and people watching on summer evenings.

Visitors can expect many vendors showing crafts, jewelry, baked goods, artwork, library books, perfume, candles, and much more.

In addition, there will be music by a guitarist, and a first class food truck with many special items.

Market Director Rebecca Mier has put together a unique and special event, and said that with the weather cooling off, many more people are expected to attend.

Jacinto City Night Market is held every second Saturday of the month.

See more PHOTOS of Night Market on page 8

Free Youth Heart Screenings Sat. August 10

Youth Heart Screening Saturday, August 10 from 10am to 3pm. C. E. King High School. Free for all school districts. These heart screenings of high school students can detect early heart problems and save lives.

Sponsored by North Shore Rotary, Cody Stephens Foundation, and Sheldon ISD.

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Amegy Bank on I-10, at noon. New members are welcome. Please visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com.

Demolition of old Jacinto City Police Station makes way for the new JCPD building

Down with the Old, Up with the new Jacinto City Police Station

Jacinto City, TX. – Monday morning July 29, 2019 marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new era in time for Jacinto City's history, especially the police department's history.

After two years of construction the city's police force has finally begun using their new two-story police station located at 10429 Market Street Road, behind the old police station.

Current and former city officials gathered to witness the demolishing of the 70 year old police station that's had fewer than 10 police chiefs run the department. As the demolishing began some present started going down memo-



10429 Market Street Road, JTB Demolition workers demolishing Jacinto City's 70 year old police station. A new two-story facility has been built there that's now in operation by the city's police force. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

ry lane about some of the well kept humorous secrets of times past at the police station.

Mayor Ana Diaz said, "I'm glad to see we're nearing the completion of the new police station which will provide better police protection for the citizens.

And our police officers will benefit too by having a larger working space, removing the dangers they've faced from the overcrowded conditions when processing those brought into the police station."

City Manager Lon Squyres said, "Our new police station has been operating for about six weeks now. The demolition of the old station will provide room for plenty of parking and a "Safe Trade" area for our citizens. It was a lit-



L – R: Former Mayor and Chief of Police Allan Jamail with Police Chief Joe Ayala standing at the podium in the new Officers Briefing Room. Chief Ayala gave Allan and his wife Linda Jamail a tour of the new police station. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

tle surreal to watch it being torn down; there are a lot of memories within those walls."

Police Chief Joe Ayala said, See **POLICE STATION**, page 3

Pct. 3 Constable race finds Eagleton, Jones, Florus already registered

Ken Jones seeks old position

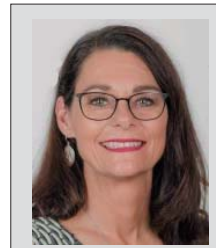
HARRIS COUNTY – By far the most contentious local, primary race in 2016 was the race for the Democratic candidate for Precinct 3 Constable. Now we find the incumbent Constable facing his old boss, and the wife of his last Republican opponent. While there is plenty of time for others to also run, these three have already selected a responsible financial treasurer to seek campaign finances for office.



Sherman Eagleton



Ken Jones



Deborah Florus

The race will be held November 5, 2020. The official deadline for filing isn't until Dec. 9 of 2019 for the Democratic Party. The Democratic party spokesperson indicates that they

do not know who will run as yet and the Harris County Clerk of Court has no listing as to who might run.

As rumor would have it, eleven people are running

for the office but no official record indicates this or whom those candidates might be.

Still with certainty, we can say that Harris County Precinct 3 Constable

Sherman Eagleton is running, the former Constable, Ken Jones is running and Deborah Florus is running and each has named an election treasurer. All three have long histories in law enforcement. Eagleton and Jones have held the office and Deborah Florus is a Harris County Sheriff's Deputy and wife of Dan Webb, the last Republican Candidate for Precinct 3 Constable and formerly with the Department of Public Safety.

In the last Democratic Primary Run-Off elec-

See **CONSTABLE RACE**, page 8

Renowned Attorney Mike Ramsey dead at 79

HOUSTON - Long-time Houston-area defense attorney Michael Ramsey died at the age of 79 on July 28, 2019.

Ramsey was known nationally as a top Defense Attorney, but lived and grew up in the Channelview area. He also maintained a cabin in East Texas, where he often retreated to work on his difficult high profile cases. Ramsey had a lengthy career in the Houston area and represented big names such as Ken Lay during the Enron scandal and Robert Durst during his murder trial in Galveston.

Local realtor Frank Nadolney was a friend who knew him well. He talks about his loyalty to the North Shore area, even as he became nationally



MICHAEL RAMSEY

known.

"He liked to retreat to his cabin in East Texas to work on cases away from the pressures of the big city," Nadolney relates.

"He never really sought the spotlight. His presence was understated and underestimated. He was a lawyer's lawyer," fellow attorney Dan Cogdell said after Ramsey's death.

Ramsey is survived by his wife, Sharon, and his son.

Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 9 thru Aug. 11

(AUSTIN) — Whether you're in need of notebooks, rulers or running shoes, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on those and other items during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend.

"As Texas families begin the process of replacing their beach towels with lunch boxes, the sales tax holiday is the perfect opportunity to save some money on supplies families need before the school bell rings," Hegar said. "As a



father of three, I know how these expenses can add up."

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

Shoppers this year will save an estimated \$102.2 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Bush Airport to Receive \$5.4M Federal Grant

WASHINGTON – The George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston was awarded a \$5,425,470 federal grant to implement noise mitigation measures for residents nearby, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn announced today. The funding comes through the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

“Texas’ population grows with each passing day, and as more people travel in and out of our state, it’s important our infrastructure is able to meet the demand without interfering with Texans’ quality of life” said Sen. Cornyn. “I’m proud that President Trump has made the Houston area a priority, and I look forward to seeing the impact this grant will have on our great state.”

This is in addition to the \$15,000,000 grant Sen. Cornyn announced in June to reconstruct a taxiway at George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



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Evening of Live Entertainment At the 18th Annual Precinct 4 Opry

The Holla Band Brings Live Rock, Folk, and Country Music to Humble

Harris County Precinct 4 Encore! invites the community to enjoy three hours of live rock, folk, and country music during the 18th annual Precinct 4 Opry Friday, Aug. 16, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway in Humble.

Musicians Michael and Ginny Hix return with The Holla Band and other special guests to bring uniquely dynamic, high-energy performances featuring pop, rock, and country hits from the past. Michael Hix has been compared to entertainers like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Dean Martin, Johnny Carson, Steve Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. Ginny Hix sings traditional country music with hints of swing, blues, and jazz.

Tickets for the Precinct 4 Opry are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Transportation from 10 locations will be provided by Harris County Precinct 4 Encore for individuals above 50. For more information or to register online, visit www.hcp4.net/encore/events

House Passes Babin’s Alabama-Coushatta Fairness Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement after the House of Representatives unanimously passed the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Settlement Act (H.R. 759) on Wednesday evening.

“We have worked tirelessly for more than a year to pass H.R. 759 in the House of Representatives,” said Babin. “I’m proud to have sponsored this piece of legislation that will put to rest years of uncertainty and turmoil experienced by the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribe of Texas. This has always been a fairness issue, plain and simple. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta deserve to have the same opportunity to run a Class II gaming facility as the Kickapoo – who have had this right for decades. The Naskila Gaming facility provides hundreds of jobs and adds \$140 million to the local economy each year. I am proud of this accomplishment, and am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to get this bill signed into law.”

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CRIME WATCH

Local Man Sent to Prison for Aiming Laser Pointer at an Aircraft

HOUSTON - A 20-year-old Houston man has been ordered to federal prison after admitting to pointing a green laser light at an Airbus AS350 B2 helicopter while it was in the air, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick. Bryan Aldana pleaded guilty Monday, April 22, 2019.

Today, U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes handed Aldana a 48-month sentence to be immediately followed by three years of supervised release. In handing down the sentence, the court noted Aldana’s irresponsible behavior shows he did not give thought to the people flying the aircraft and to the people on the ground. “The world is about responsibilities to other people,” said Hughes.

On June 23, 2018, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) agents were flying a the helicopter on routine law enforcement patrol. At approximately 9:00 p.m., they were headed in the north-west direction along highway US-290 when agents observed a flash of green light coming from the left side of the aircraft. At the time, they were at approximately 1000 feet elevation and traveling at a speed of 70-80 knots.

The pilot reversed the aircraft back to the southeast direction and was illuminated again by the green laser, which was powerful enough to light up the entire cockpit. The light caused a glare in the pilot’s eyes and obstructed his vision, forcing him to turn his head and maneuver the Airbus away from it. The pilot also had to close and shield his eyes from the flashing green laser inside the cockpit.

The investigation led to the source of the light at a business near the intersection of Hollister and Pitner Roads in Houston. Aldema was soon identified with the help of the Houston Police Department (HPD) and the store’s security cameras.

Video recordings show Aldana aiming a green laser up in the sky several times and a green laser pointer at the helicopter while sitting in a chair next to a silver sedan. He was also seen placing the green laser device through the opening of the silver sedan window on to the backseat.

Officers seized the laser and submitted it to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientist to be examined. The scientist concluded the laser pointer is a Class IIIB laser system and produced a “laser beam” which could result in serious and possibly permanent retinal damage.

Previously released on bond, Aldana appeared before Judge Hughes June 28, 2019, at which time the court found he had violated the terms of his release and ordered Aldana into custody. He will remain there pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in the near future.

The FBI, HPD and DPS conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Porto is prosecuting the case.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Police Station,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Many good memories were established here and now a new building to better serve the needs of our Community. It was a long time coming, as we had outgrown the old and unsafe structure. We thank our Community, Congressional, and City Leaders for the support and guidance towards our new Police Department.”

Councilman Allen Lee who is the police department's liaison to the Mayor and City Council expressed his happiness in seeing the achievement nearing completion.

Former Mayor and Chief of Police Allan Jamail said, “While I and other's lobbied many years for this new police station, today I had mixed emotions. Seeing the City's first and only police station of so many years disappear in a flash from where it's always stood-out so prominently on our city's main thoroughfare gave me a bit of sadness. Even though outdated, anytime an important and vital facility of a community vanishes before your eyes you can't help but have mixed emotions. On the other hand I'm so happy for Chief Ayala and our police department's personnel. God knows they deserve a safe and modern facility, I'm appreciative to City Manager Squyres and the elected officials for making so many of our dreams come true.”

CRIME WATCH

FBI seeks “Bandit Shark” for Bank Robbery

Up to \$5,000 Cash Reward

(HOUSTON, TX) - The FBI Violent Crime Task Force needs the public's help identifying and locating a man dubbed the “Bandit Shark” who robbed a First Convenience Bank on Monday in east Harris County. Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information which leads to the identification and arrest of the robber.



The robbery occurred at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019, at the First Convenience Bank located at 12620 Woodforest Boulevard.

The shark hoodie-wearing suspect entered the bank, approached a teller, and handed over a threatening note demanding cash. He fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of money. No one was physically hurt during the robbery.

The robber is described as a black male in his mid to late 20s, approximately 5'11" tall, with a thin mustache and a skinny build. During the robbery, he wore a black “shark” hoodie, black shorts, and black flip flops with white socks.

Photographs of the bank robbery suspect are attached. They can also be found on Twitter @FBI-Houston.

Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of this robber. If you have any information, please call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the FBI Houston Field Office at (713) 693-5000. Tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers through their website, www.crimestoppers.org, or the Houston Crime Stoppers mobile phone app which can be downloaded for both iPhone and Android devices. All tipsters remain anonymous.

Fatal shooting on Maxey Road

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 666 Maxey Road about 1:40 a.m. on Sunday (July 28).

The victim, 19, was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. His identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant C. Duncan and Detective B. Roberts reported:

According to a witness, the victim was arguing with the suspect, described only as a Hispanic male, when the suspect began shooting in the direction of the victim. The victim was struck at least once. The suspect fled the scene.

Anyone with information on this case or the identity of the suspect is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Top cities in Texas for Immigrant owned Businesses

Every year, thousands move to the U.S. in hopes of achieving the American Dream. To explore the state of entrepreneurship among immigrants living in the U.S., my team analyzed data from the American Community Survey. From thriving industries to the fastest growing metro areas, here's what we learned:

Naturalized citizens are 2x more likely to work for their own incorporated businesses; businesses owned by naturalized citizens increased by over 70% between 2000-2017

El Paso (28%), Houston (22.5%), and Odessa (22.5%) are among the top

metropolitan areas with the largest proportion of naturalized business owners

The top industries naturalized business owners work within include construction (#1), restaurant/food service (#2), real estate (#3), and physician offices (#4)

With more than 1 in 10 businesses owned by naturalized citizens, your readers will be intrigued to learn the largest metro areas in Texas! If interested, please feel free to use our study! We just ask that you cite ‘FundRocket’ as the source and include the link to our study in your coverage.

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice of Public Sale Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Sierra Ranch Storage located at 8720 Sierra Ranch Drive Houston, TX 77044 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The auction will take place online at selfstorageauction.com. The bidding will begin at 9am Thursday, July 25 and will end on Friday, August 9th @ 10:00am CST. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup is temporarily required. Seller does reserve the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale up until payment is made. CASH ONLY SALE!

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OPINION

By MICHAEL SKELLY

Make I-45 Better Coalition

The Real Debate over I-45 Finally Begins

After almost 5 ? hours of public commentary (65 people spoke) and debate on Friday, the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council approved \$100 million in funding for Segment 2 of the I-45 expansion from I-10 to I-610.

More than a hundred of you (wow!) showed up to the meeting, and 59 of you spoke eloquently against the funding. As one resident said, "There is nothing innovative about bulldozing through low income communities." Local figure Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale called the NHHIP (I-45 expansion) "the \$7 billion boondoggle." Many more cited TxDOT's own estimates of number of displaced residents; displaced businesses and jobs; and worse air quality as major reasons to delay funding.

Progress While this may not be the outcome we wanted, we've made definitive progress along the way. For starters, this vote was all over the news, and the project is now known as "the controversial I-45 expansion project." Spreading the word to more residents makes a huge difference!

Thank you to every one of you who has written to an elected official, attended a meeting, or spoken to your neighbors about the I-45 expansion.

We're making waves due to our collective effort, but we need to keep the pressure on.

Other wins we've earned:

\$1.5 million in funding for community engagement, which we will monitor to ensure the process is transparent and impacts the current design

\$50 million for transportation-related projects along the I-45 corridor to address adverse impacts of the expansion including but not limited to mobility, safety, and air quality

quarterly reporting by TxDOT on community engagement and response

a threat by City of Houston officials to kill the project if it doesn't get better

upcoming community outreach by the City of Houston with Huitt-Zollars engineers and UH-Community Design Research Center

much more press and community awareness about the project and its consequences for people living alongside it

more awareness and discomfort by Houston City and Harris County officials

What is H-GAC? / What Was This Vote For? This vote was by a committee of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, a group made up of representatives from Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Montgomery and other surrounding counties to plan transportation projects in our region. Not surprisingly, these surrounding county officials don't care much about Houston's neighborhoods, air

quality, or flooding, so it's not a great shock that they'd support a project whose impact is borne by Houston residents.

This is far from the final word on this project as the Federal permitting studies are many months away from completion.

Elected Officials' Responses

Against funding: Of note, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo fearlessly was the only member to vote against the \$100M for the I-45 project, after she was denied her proposal to delay the funding vote until January 2020. We applaud Judge Hidalgo's bold move standing up for the people of Harris and Houston.

Numerous other elected officials sent in letters against funding the project this month and called for the vote to be delayed.

Neutral: Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia was the only to abstain.

Pro funding: Although he is not on the voting council, Mayor Sylvester Turner sent in a letter of support for this week's \$100M of funding.

Houston Council Member David Robinson (At Large) voted in favor of advancing the project.

Houston Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum (District K) voted in favor.

METRO Chair Carrin Patman voted in favor

Briscoe Cain joins Criminal Justice Reform Caucus

On Friday, July 19th, Representative Cain announced founding membership in the newly formed House Criminal Justice Reform Caucus. "The bipartisan makeup of this caucus shows the widespread support for criminal justice reform not only in the Legislature, but across the State of Texas. I'm excited to be a part of this

group, because the issues we will address are not partisan, they are those of human dignity and I look forward to making sure that we find solutions that can improve the lives of every Texan who comes in contact with our criminal justice system." The caucus will initially be co-chaired by Representative Joe

Moody (D-El Paso), speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, and Representative Jeff Leach (R-Plano), who serves as chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence. Its other founding members are a bipartisan group that reads like a Who's Who of the Texas Legislature:

Chair Senfronia Thompson (D – Houston)
Chair Garnet Coleman (D – Houston)
Chair James White (R – Hillister)
Chair Nicole Collier (D – Fort Worth)
Chair Dade Phelan (R – Beaumont)
Rep. Briscoe Cain (R – Deer Park)
Rep. Todd Hunter (R – Corpus Christi)
Rep. Matt Krause (R – Fort Worth)
Rep. Ina Minjarez (D – San Antonio)
Rep. Jessica González (D – Dallas)

"I'm sad to say that for all our other successes, the 86th Legislature was a failure for criminal justice reform," Moody said. "Misinformation and a lack of issue-specific guidance on the floor stopped a lot of commonsense, crucially needed bills. The new caucus is committed to making sure that never happens again."



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Paxton lauds ruling against preclearance for redistricting maps

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton applauded a federal court ruling allowing the state to proceed with redistricting legislation without asking the federal government's permission.

The July 24 ruling by a three-judge federal court rejected plaintiffs' petition to require the state to obtain permission from the U.S. Department of Justice or a federal court before redistricting legislation could take effect.

After the San Antonio-based panel ruled on the ongoing voting rights case, *Perez v. Abbott*, Paxton said, "This court ruling is a win for our Constitution and the right of Texans to govern themselves."

Paxton called the plaintiffs' request for "bail-in" — that is, requiring proposed changes to voting laws and redistricting plans to be "precleared" by the Department of Justice — a "baseless challenge."

The plaintiffs originally brought suit over redistricting plans Texas lawmakers adopted in 2011, claiming that plans were passed by the Republican-dominated Legislature to dilute the voting power of minorities. The Legislature repealed those plans in 2013 and adopted largely court-drawn plans. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 confirmed that the Legislature in 2013 fixed defects plaintiffs alleged to have existed in the 2011 plans.

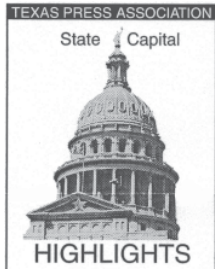
Furthermore, notably, the high court in June ruled 5-4 that federal courts have no oversight role when redistricting lines are drawn to favor a political party.

BALLOT ORDER IS DRAWN

Texas Deputy Secretary of State Joe Esparza on July 23 drew the ballot order for 10 propositions, the proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution that will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

At least two-thirds of the members of both the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives approved each proposed constitutional amendment for Texans to vote on.

They will appear on the ballot in the following order:



—Prop. 1: "The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time."

—Prop. 2: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas."

—Prop. 3: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster."

—Prop. 4: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."

—Prop. 5: "The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."

—Prop. 6: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."

—Prop. 7: "The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund."

—Prop. 8: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects."

—Prop. 9: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metals depository located in this state."

—Prop. 10: "The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances."

VOTER REGISTRATION URGED

After the proposed constitutional amendment drawing ceremony on July 23, Deputy Secretary of State Esparza reminded all eligible Texans to register to vote in the November constitutional amendment election.

"The future of Texas is and will always be in the hands of Texans. This fall, voters will have the opportunity to directly impact the Texas Constitution, and I strongly encourage all eligible Texans to register to vote so that they can actively participate in shaping the future of the Lone Star State," Esparza said.

Texans will have the opportunity to approve the amendments with a majority vote.

For more information and resources for voting in Texas, visit VoteTexas.gov.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY IS SET

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week reminded shoppers they can save money on a number of items during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

★

ATTORNEY'S CORNER

By Attorney Weston Cotten



A Belated New Years Resolution?

You may be taking care of elderly parents now or looking at that possibility in the near future. According to a report from USA TODAY, ABC News, Gallup Poll, 41% of baby boomers are helping take care of elderly parents by providing personal help or financial assistance or both.

If financial planning and long term care planning have not been done previous to the need for care, the burden falls on the caregiving family member. Decisions about how care will be paid for, who will be responsible for managing the estate as well as how the long term care will be given can cause stress and contention among family members.

It is best for parents and all family members to be involved in planning for future financial needs. The financial resources being used today could change drastically with the occurrence of a stroke, illness or onset of dementia.

In order to plan financially for long term care, you need to know what the costs are now and what they will be in the future.

Every year MetLife does a survey of long term care costs. Their 2010 survey shows that the average daily rate for private nursing home is \$229 which is up from \$219 in 2009. Assisted living monthly base rate cost rose from \$3131 in 2009 to \$3,293 in 2010. Home health aids average \$21 an hour.

"According to some sources, 60% of us will need long term care sometime during our lives.

You are three times (3x) more likely to become disabled, or severely impaired, than to die. It is important for all of us to prepare for that day when we will need to help loved ones with elder care or we will need elder care for ourselves."

"It is simply a fact of life that we prepare financially for unexpected disasters by covering our homes, automobiles and health with insurance policies and to provide funding for our retirement. But no other life event can be as devastating to our lifestyle, finances and security as needing long term care.

It drastically alters or completely eliminates the three principal retirement dreams of elderly Americans, which are:

1. Remaining independent in the home without intervention from others
2. Maintaining good health and receiving adequate health care
3. Having enough money for everyday needs and not outliving assets and income

Yet, it is our experience that the majority of the American pub-

lic does not plan for the devastating crisis of needing elder care. This lack of planning also has an adverse effect on the older person's family, with sacrifices made in time, money, family lifestyles and even affecting the family's or caregiver's medical and emotional health."

National Care Planning Council " The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning"

Because of changing demographics and potential changes in government funding, the current generation — more-than-ever — needs to plan for long term care.

If you have spent time helping a parent or loved one cope with a disability resulting from aging, you know the frustration of balancing what you feel they need to do and what they want to do. Communication is strained at times, because after all, you are the child and they the parent, yet physically and mentally the rolls have changed. When you make directives, assignments and arrangements in advance of needing elder care, then everyone involved can follow the prearranged care plan.

As an example, Jefferson Simpson wrote in his care plan that if dementia or Alzheimer's inhibited his mental abilities to communicate or recognize his surroundings, he wished to be in a respectable facility and only asked that he be visited and brought chocolates.

To his children this request seemed silly at the time, but when his mental capacities did diminish, the instructions were there. No one had to wonder if they should try to take care of Father Jefferson at home and how they would do it. Without guilt or question they placed him in a respectable facility that took care of his needs. All they had to

do was make loving visits, and of course they brought chocolates.

In order for Jefferson's simple request to happen, he had made financial, legal and personal long term care plans years before.

1. What do you want your children or friends to do on your behalf?

2. When it comes time for them to help, what if you can't say what you want because of a physical or mental disability? This is where a written long term care plan comes into effect.

3. Do you have a financial plan or long term care insurance? Retirement savings can disappear quickly when used for care services.

4. Where is your paperwork; insurance policies, living will, medical directives, Armed Services discharge or disability papers? Is there someone designated to know the location?

5. What are the legal documents that are needed for power of attorney, estate planning and disbursement of assets? When do they have to be completed?

6. What types of care services and facilities are available and what are the costs?

7. What will government programs pay for and how do you qualify?

There is a lot you can do now to put together a plan for your own long term care. You may have limited resources in the future or health problems that will inhibit your ability to take care of things you could do now.

For example, Billy and Bobbie want to be able to stay in their home as they age. In order to do this, when they were in their 40's they took out a long term care insurance policy that will pay for home care if it is needed. The policy will also pay for nursing home costs as a care option. With tak-

Forgiveness, Hope, Eternal Life

Jesus, God the Son, died on the cross for our sins and rose again, so that we could be made right with God. If we confess our sins and believe in Jesus – We will be forgiven, saved, have eternal life. Jesus Christ loves you!

God's Word, the Bible, says:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23 NKJV

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. -John 3:16

God, be merciful to me a sinner! -Luke 18:13

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. -Acts 16:31

To sum up: Repent, Believe, Jesus Saves.

We invite you to Northside to learn more about God's love and salvation. Join us each Sunday at 11am; 6pm.

-David R. Brumbelow, pastor, Northside Baptist Church, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. nsbchighlands.org

ing the policy at a younger age and in good health the monthly payments are low. Extra funds can now be put away for retirement without worries of having to deplete savings for care costs. Or consider Sarah's following experience:

After taking care of her own parents for many years, Sarah realized the importance of making a plan and preparations for herself in advance . She saw all of her parents' assets dissipated in order for her father to qualify for Medicaid nursing home coverage. She didn't want the same thing to happen to her. She took the time to create her own plan on paper— expressing her wishes for her own care. A trip to her attorney provided all the legal documents and estate planning she wanted to be in place to insure care for her and an inheritance for her children.

There is much to learn about long term care and there are a lot

of new services and programs available to draw from.

The National Care Planning Council has gathered together an overall review of government and private long term care services both on the Council website, www.longtermcarelink.net and in their book The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning.

The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning provides comprehensive information about long term care planning. The design also allows you to record personal information, family agreements and directions on 20 planning sheets at the back of the book. Using this book as a single-source repository for information and directions makes it much easier for you or your care coordinator to carry out your wishes when the need for care occurs.

If it is too late for long term care planning, it is not too late to salvage some of the parent's estate if a plan is put in place upon

learning of the loved one's need for long term care in a skilled nursing facility (nursing home). Discussion with a skilled long term care attorney can result in savings to the well spouse, or for the children.

Don't rely on friends or for that matter the Department of Human Services. They manage the funding for Medicaid in the nursing home and are notoriously frugal in handing out benefits to which your loved one may be entitled with the proper planning, or proper guidance.

No matter the timing, it is important to discuss your situation with a competent professional immediately upon realizing that long term care, either in home, or in a skilled facility, is on the horizon.

The sooner the better.

Feel free to call the office of Weston Cotten, Attorney at Law, with any questions you may have, or visit www.westoncotten.com.

Legal Disclaimer: Unless otherwise indicated, the author is not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (Translation, I have not taken and passed a test in any area of legal speciality, but am licensed to practice law before all Texas State and County Courts and several Federal Courts).

The principal office of Weston Cotten, PC is 1500 E. Wallisville Road, Highlands, Texas 77562, office phone is 281-421-4050. The content of this article and any referenced pages or websites, has been written or located for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Legal advice of any nature should be sought from legal counsel. This information is not intended to create, and receipt of it does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship.

CHURCH LISTINGS

CROSBY, HIGHLANDS, HUFFMAN, BAYTOWN

ANGLICAN CHURCH

• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby. 832-661-9693.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands. 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516

• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170

• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409

• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.

• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.

• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551

• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org

• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448

• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.

• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518

• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT

• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705

• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614

• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION

• LifePoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, TX. 77523. ☐281-576-5452.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

• Pentecostals of Crosby, 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX ☐77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

CHANNELVIEW, JACINTO CITY, GALENA PARK, HOUSTON

• Second Street Church of Christ, 15821 2nd. Street, Channelview, TX. 77530.

www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST

• New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082

• Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.

• Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

• St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.

• First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

• Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern

• Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

• South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

• First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.

• Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

• First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woofle St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC

• St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.

• Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• 2nd. St. Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. -281-452-4049.

• Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-7129.

• Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

• St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

• Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

• Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

• Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.

• Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

For corrections or new listings, call 281-266-3444.

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Deputy Constable Cedilla retires



Harris County Constable Precinct 3 Sherman Eagleton and Judge Joe Stephens joined in on the Retirement Celebration of Deputy Alma Cedilla. After 24 years of serving in law enforcement in the North Channel Community, Alma plans to spend time at Disneyland with loved ones before returning to her home in Channelview to enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

Constable Race,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion, Sherman Eagleton defeated Michael Pappillion handily. Jasen Rabalais was knocked out of the race by 36 votes behind Pappillion. He was Jones' unofficial surrogate candidate but it would be fair to say made some mistakes during the campaign in spite of spending the most to win. Rabalais contended without proving that illegal votes were cast in the election that knocked him out of running.

While much of Crosby voted Republican, the main race was in the Democratic Primary and voters had to vote in one primary or the other but no one can vote in

both. The two parties, that were once the Democratic-Republican Party against the Whigs, have made sure that their partizan politics is dominant.

Anyone campaigning this year must however must keep in mind that Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's District is the third largest in population and second in landmass and a very diversified set of demographics.

During his time in office, Eagleton has initiated reforms, increased standards and initiated programs to outreach to the elderly but dropped bad check collections, a civil matter.

SCENES FROM THE JACINTO CITY NIGHT MARKET

The Jacinto City Night Market will hold another session this Saturday, August 10 from 5pm to 9pm at the TownCenter on Challenger Drive. The open air venue, partially covered, provides a pleasant environment for shopping and people watching on summer evenings.

Visitors can expect many vendors showing crafts, jewelry, baked goods, artwork, library books, perfume, candles, and much more. Vendors have also shown honey, blankets, face painting, cedar furniture, Essential Oils, cotton candy, bird houses, fudge, bath soaps, BBQ sauce, plants, pet accessories, games, decorative wreaths, hair bows,

artistic shirts, cupcakes, jams and jellies, and more. In addition, there will be music by guitarist, and a first class food truck with many special items. Market Director Rebecca Mier has put together a unique and special event, and said that with the weather cooling off, many more people are expected to attend. Helping her are

Christal Rodriguez, Market Manager, and Geri Burkett, Social Media Manager. Jacinto City Night Market is held every second Saturday of the month. There photos are from last month's Night Market on July 13th. New vendors are always welcome. Call Christal at 713-674-8424 for information.



Rebecca Mier chats with the staff of the Jacinto City library.



Sliders and more from the TailGate food truck.



Read a North Channel STAR while you buy your cupcakes and baked goods. At Thankful.



Acoustic Guitar music by Ryan Guidry



Rudy Mier checks out the Beverage Boutique for fruit based special beverages.



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