# SHEPHERD COMMUNITY NEWS

## Shepherd High Class of 2016 **Graduation Photos**

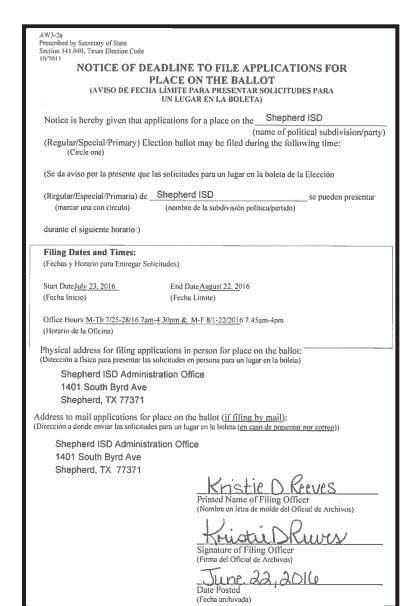
Lifetouch photographed the graduation ceremony of Shepherd High School on June 3rd. Visit <u>www.events.lifetouch.com</u> to sign up and receive notification when the proofs are online and ready to order. Approximately 10 days after the ceremony students and parents may view and order their images online at www.events.lifetouch.com.

Complimentary proofs mailed to Graduates. No obligation to purchase. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

## 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the City of Shepherd

"The City of Shepherd has been busy mailing out our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. Each of our water customers should have received a copy of this report. We also have these reports available for pick up at City Hall, at the Library and at the Senior Citizen Building. Every public water system is required to deliver this report to their customers. This report contains drinking water data form the 2015 calendar year and informs customers about the quality of their drinking water. This annual report is compiled from monthly lab results that are sent to the State of Texas.

The City of Shepherd is proud to present this report to our customers so that you can have confidence that the City is providing safe water to our customers. If you should have any question regarding this report please call City Hall during regular business hours."





## You're Invited to Join the East Texas Seed Exchange

We would like to invite everyone to join East Texas Seed Exchange located on facebook. It is a local seed exchange.

The mission is: Sharing, Caring, Growing, Giving.

The intent of EastTexas Seed Exchange group is to be able to share seeds while preserving and sharing seeds as well as heirloom seeds for generations to come. With the rising cost of foods/vegetables it is evermore important for generations to come to learn the importance of being able to grow food to provide for their families. Educating generations on the importance of growing, gardening, saving, providing as well as being frugal.

Seeds are collected, dried and cleaned, often with the same traditional methods as their original owners used- sifting the seeds through screens, drying and storing them in canning jars. Growing seeds that are known producers have withstood the test of time. Most heirloom seeds are known for their taste.

Starting in July we will start taking donations of seeds. I will be posting a form on facebook that needs to be completed with as much information as possible when you donate or exchange. We will have a drop box to be able to drop them in. At which time they will be filed under their common name. Twice a month we will post dates for anyone wanting to stop by and exchange seeds . You will be able to drop the seeds at anytime at the following location, but twice a month we will have a exchange date and time. The drop location address is 5055 FM 222 Coldspring, Texas 77331. You can also mail seeds to that address. I have already had a big response from various people who are very excited and interested. I look forward to seeing pictures and hearing your growing/gardening stories. Please like us on facebook so this will help get the word out. Thank you and have a blessed day. -Teresa Richard

## salute to our veterans

We as Americans spend our entire lives—living free! Always wondering if we ever truly made a difference in this old world in which we live. Just how do you think the world views us as a nation.

> I can tell you that our veteran's do not have that problem.

There is only two "defining forces" that ever offered to defend and die for you-one is "Jesus Christ" and the other is "the American Veterans". One died for your soul—and the other died for your freedom.

Both go hand in hand.

America was always founded by the love of God - and freedom. Because of their sacrifices, we can live and worship as we want to!

As free Americans. Salute our Veterans. Pray for our Veterans. Show them that you love them. God Bless America and God Bless our Veterans.

Written by Dorothy Pate Big Creek Missionary Baptist Church FM 2666

Pastor—Skip Clift.





This INDPENDENCE DAY I wish to commend and congratulate all the Independent Merchants in our neck of the woods and throughout our BREAT COUNTRY. Our Economy was established by the Small independent Businessman. It is our Local Merchants that keep the local economy alive.

Please PATRONIZE our local merchants and keep that money here because they don't need our money in New York, or wherever those Multi-National Conglomerates stash their wealth.

Hats off to: McClain's Grocery and their extremely hard working staff, Shepherd Auto Parts, JC Pharmacy, Special Thoughts Florist and Cleaners, Robert's Tires, Country Flowers, The Texas Grill, Happy Days and several more. Use your head, consider the cost of gas and the wear and tear on you car or truck before you drive to Cleveland or Livingston to save a dollar.

Also I would like to thank our FOREFATHERS for having the foresight to arm us with tools such as Our

**CONSTITUTION** and BILL OF RIGHTS to arrest the tyranny we are currently facing with our government today.

Please keep this a Happy J FOUTH CHANGE TO Don't drink and drive.

Report drunk drivers, the life you save could be a loved one.







Thank You, Ray Brinkley

Independence Day Extravaganza City of Shepherd & Chamber of Commerce

**Independence Day Extravaganza** Saturday, July 2nd, 2016

5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. **Shepherd Community Center** 

10251 HWY 150, Shepherd, TX 77371 There will be numerous vendors both inside and outside

of the community center selling jewelry, crafts, artwork, furniture, blinky toys, homemade soaps and lotions. There will also be assorted food vendors, games and activities for all ages, and much more.

The fireworks will begin at dark! So bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the festivities.

## Shepherd, Texas Native Serving Aboard U.S. Navy Destroyer



Petty Officer 3rd Class Gabriela Herrera of Shepherd, Texas, is a fire controlman aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroye operating out of Bath, Maine.

By U.S. Navy Chief Mass Communication Specialist Bill Steele

A 2012 Shepherd High School graduate and Shepherd, Texas native is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the guided missile destroyer, USS Rafael Peralta. Petty Officer 3rd Class Gabriela Herrera is a fire controlman aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer operating out of Bath, Maine. A Navy fire controlman is responsible for maintaining software that controls the ship's weapon's systems.

"Every day is a new learning experience and it's a great work environment here," said Herrera.

Currently under construction, Rafael Peralta measures approximately 500 feet and is powered by four gas turbines that allow the destroyer to achieve over 30 mph in open seas. Destroyers are tactical multi-mission surface combatants capable of conducting anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and ballistic missile defense, as well as humanitarian assistance. Fast, maneuverable, and technically advanced, destroyers provide the required warfighting expertise and operational flexibility to execute any tasking overseas.

"The men and women of Peralta are the best and brightest our great nation has to offer in defense of our ideals and way of life," said Cmdr. Brian Ribota, Commanding Officer of USS Rafael Peralta. "They are an impressive group of volunteer patriots who all citizens of this great nation should be proud of. It is an honor to stand the watch alongside them onboard this amazing ship built in the best shipyard in America, Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine."

With a crew of over 300 sailors, jobs are highly specialized and keep each part of the destroyer running smoothly, according to Navy officials. The jobs range from washing dishes and preparing meals to maintaining engines and handling weaponry.

"I love serving here because of the unique camaraderie and the honor of serving on a ship with a fantastic namesake," said Herrera.

Challenging living conditions build strong fellowship among the crew, Navy officials explained. The crew is highly motivated, and quickly adapt to changing conditions. It is a busy life of specialized work, watches, and drills. "Being in the Navy is being a part of something bigger than myself. No matter how small your job is, you are doing your part to serve your country; teamwork is important to get the mission accomplished successfully," said Herrera.

# State Board of Education Seeks Public Input Regarding Assessments and Accountability

The State Board of Education (SBOE) is issuing a survey in English and Spanish to seek public input about the state's current assessment and accountability programs and gather suggestions for future program development. The survey will be open online to all Texans through **June 30**.

From October 2015 to March 2016, SBOE members held nine Community Conversations meetings around the state, meeting with more than 500 citizens to gather comments about the state's student assessment and accountability systems. The online survey addresses the issues raised during the community meetings and allows for additional input from educators, parents, business people and students.

"Our constituents often talk to board members about testing and school ratings issues," said SBOE Chair Donna Bahorich. "I felt it was also important for board members to have in-depth discussions to learn what educators, parents, business people and others want from these two high profile programs. I believe our findings will be useful in shaping the next generation systems."

The information gathered from the survey and the Community Conversations will be compiled into a report and presented to the SBOE for its consideration at its July 19-22 meeting. Once adopted, the report will be provided to legislative leaders and the Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability.

The 15-member commission, created by the Texas Legislature, is to make recommendations for statutory changes to the state's assessment and accountability systems. The commission report is to be submitted to the governor and legislature by **Sept. 1.** 

The survey is available in English at <a href="http://www.surveygizmo.com/">http://www.surveygizmo.com/</a> s3/2762440/State-Assessments-and-Accountability-Survey and in Spanish at http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2851839/Encuesta-deevaluaciones-y-responsabilidad-educativa-del-estado.

Bahorich encourages Texans to share the link to the surveys to encourage widespread participation.

Comments gathered at each of the Community Conversations are available at <a href="http://tea.texas.gov/About\_TEA/Leadership/State\_Board">http://tea.texas.gov/About\_TEA/Leadership/State\_Board</a> of Education/SBOE Meetings/Community Conversations about Assessment and Accountability/.

For more information about the Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability, please visit <a href="http://tea.texas.">http://tea.texas.</a> gov/2804Commission.aspx.

# Did you know...

by Yvonne Ryba

On Thursday June 23, 'The Mason Jar' restaurant in Coldspring celebrates its membership in Coldspring Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting. I will be able to include photos of this event next week, since the event is not due to happen till the day after I sent this column to the publishers! However, I can say that this is a very welcome addition to the Courthouse Square with good food and very interesting decor.

Also in to be seen in Coldspring is the new metal roof on the Community Center beside the Courthouse. This was damaged in the recent storms and with great effort and a lot of help from the community, the building is beautiful and safe. In fact this roof will be good for generations to come. The managers, Darchele and Richard Vucinovich, have worked hard to make this happen. So has the Board of the Community Center which is a non- profit organization and which is now 61 years old. You can find out more about this wonderful asset to our community by going to the Facebook page, 'coldspringtxcommunitycenter' or looking them up on the Coldspring- San Jacinto County Chamber web site. You can also call (936) 628-6739 for more information. This is a good place for your family reunion, small wedding reception, birthday party or to have group meetings.

I looked into Shepherd Senior Citizens Resale shop the other day. They have a really good selection of clothes and household items. Of course, things go quickly so it is a good idea to look in regularly. Then, there is also the Children's and Community Center's Resale shop to explore. Both places are on Loop 424. If you can't find the jeans to fit you in one place, you may see them in the other! If you look into the Coldspring Senior Citizen's Resale shop, you will be amazed too at the variety of their items. All three places are manned by volunteers and are their to help those members of our community who are having difficult times.

Don't forget to come out to Shepherd's July 4th celebration. As I have already mentioned several times, this will be held on Saturday July 2. Fireworks and Laser Light Show will be around 9:00 p.m. when it is dark enough to appreciate it. Before that there will be vendors, games, food and drink and music. The American Legion will start the proceedings with a patriotic ceremony. Call (936) 628-3515 for more information.

Coldspring- San Jacinto County Chamber of Commerce is working hard to have the Membership Directory completed for printing. If you have not yet sent in your ad to be included, go to the web site or call the office, number below. Gayle Booth and Darchele Vucinovich, both members of the Board, have worked particularly hard on this project. The whole Board has worked on it to improve it for our membership. You will find this directory not only helpful, with businesses and services offered, but also informative. There are articles about the history of San Jacinto County, historical sites you will want to visit, and many family orientated places to explore, followed by maps of the area. The Chamber offers a mobile app to find shops, services and events. Scan the applicable QR code or visit our web page: www.coldspringtexas.org.

Director Bob Barragan offers business owners, and those who hope to start a business, a free consultation at the chamber nearest you. Bob directs the Small Business Development Center at Sam Houston state University.

Call the Chamber nearest you to set up your appointment.

**Coldspring-San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce** 31 N. Butler, Coldspring 77331 Call (936) 653-2184 www.coldspringtexas.org

> **Shepherd Chamber of Commerce** Mail to PO Box 520 Shepherd, 77371

Call (936) 628-3515 www.greatershepherdchamberofcommerce.org

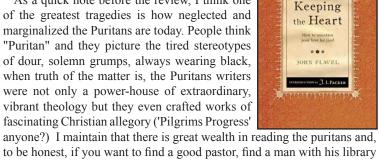




# 🎎 BOOK REVIEW BY ROB MARSH 🎎

# Keeping the Heart by John Flawel

As a quick note before the review, I think one of the greatest tragedies is how neglected and marginalized the Puritans are today. People think "Puritan" and they picture the tired stereotypes of dour, solemn grumps, always wearing black, when truth of the matter is, the Puritans writers were not only a power-house of extraordinary, vibrant theology but they even crafted works of



anyone?) I maintain that there is great wealth in reading the puritans and, to be honest, if you want to find a good pastor, find a man with his library stacked with Puritan works, folks like Owen and Edwards, and you're very likely to be well-fed from the pulpit each Sunday (A pastor with Joyce Meyers and Beth Moore books? Find a different church.)

Now to the review: "On Keeping the Heart" was written by Puritan John Flavel, based on the words of Prov. 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Flavel proceeds to share in detail practical Christian guidance for the believer to preserve their souls from sin and for maintaining a right communion with God. Honestly a review can't do justice to Flavel's work as the content is thorough, detailed and practical. For a book several hundred years old his words are just as insightful today as they were in his own time.

In terms of guarding the heart, there are various sections to this work that address topics such as our heart attitude when we gather for worship of God in public and in private, distractions and tormenting fears, our response in times of great and threatening dangers (sounds like our current political season), as well as guarding the heart in times of abuse and oppression from others, and in during trials of doubting and spiritual darkness. There's just so much for the believer to gain from Flavel's work, and again one should avoid the poisonous stereotypes of puritans such as Flavel, whose teaching is theologically rich, practical and beneficial.

free and in the public domain online.

## 'Keeping the Heart' is available in different formats on Amazon. It's also

### Senior Menu

MON 6/27: Beef Sausage Macaroni & Cheese, Cabbage, Cornbread,

TUE 6/28: Pork Loin, Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Creamed Spinach,

Rolls, Salad, Fruit WED 6/29: Stuffed Bell Peppers, Baked Potato & Trimmings, Northern

Beans, Cornbread, Salad, Fruit THUR 6/30: Chicken Strips, Cream Gravy, French Fries, Baked Beans,

Rolls, Salad, Fruit FRI 7/1: Sloppy Joe's, BLT Pasta Salad, Crackers, Tossed Salad, Watermelon Wedge

Second Tuesday Of Each Month Dessert Includes Birthday Cake Menu's Are Subject To Change Due To Availability Call (936) 628-3733 By 9:30 a.m. To Reserve A Meal

## Buy \$mart, Eat Well

### Firecracker Hot Dogs Ingredients

- 1 can refrigerated breadstick dough • 16 hot dogs (Bar-S on sale \$0.79!)
- 16 thick slices Colby cheese
- 16 wooden skewers
- Star cookie cutter (please note we do not carry this!)

#### Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Take a skewer and stick it all the way through the center of the hot dog length-wise, leaving about an inch and a half exposed out of the top of each hot dog. Take a piece of breadstick dough and wrap it around the hot dog in a spiral shape until you reach the top, leaving gaps in between each spiral. Repeat with the rest of the hot dogs and lay them on the baking sheet. • Bake hot dogs for about 20 minutes, or until the breadsticks are golden brown.
- While the hot dogs are baking, use a star cookie cutter to cut out stars approximately an inch in diameter. Let the hot dogs cool and then place 1 cheese star at the top of each hot dog in the part of the skewer that's sticking out of the top.
- Display the hot dogs using a styrofoam ball (optional) so they can stick straight up like firecrackers. Serve with ketchup and mustard.

Recipe found at. www.popsugar.com

## **Obituary**

## Tammy J. Taylor Varnado February 8, 1961 -June 19, 2016

Tammy J. Taylor Varnado, 55, of Cleveland, passed away Sunday, June 19, 2016, at the Kingwood Medical Center in Kingwood.

Memorial services were held at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 23, 2016, at the Dolen Baptist Church in Dolen community, with services concluding thereafter. Arrangements were under the direction of Pace-Stancil Funeral Home in Cleveland.

Tammy was born February 8, 1961 in Corpus Christi, to parents; J.R. and JoAnn Collard Taylor, and has been a resident of Cleveland for 16 years. She was a former beautician for Smart Styles and attended the Dolen Baptist Church. She also enjoyed riding motorcycles, her yardwork, decorating, and especially spending time with her family.

Mrs. Varnado is preceded in death by her parents, daughter: Amy McElroy, and brother: James Taylor. She is survived by her husband of 13 years: Byron Varnado of Cleveland, sons: Josh Taylor and Katy of San Antonio, Byron "Snap" Varnado, Jr. and Annastasia of Tarkington Prairie, Brandon Varnado and Tammy of Arkansas, and Brett Varnado and Amberly of New Caney, daughter: Ashley Kneisley and Andrew of Midland, brothers: T.J. Taylor and Sue of San Antonio and Buck Taylor and Rhonda of Angleton, sisters: Vickey Kelley and Carroll of Cleveland and Bonnie Cargyle and Gary of Angleton, 15 grandchildren with one on the way, and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

## Judy M. Blanton Smith



## March 31, 1951 - June 20, 2016

Judy M. Blanton Smith, 65, of Coldspring, went to be with her Lord Jesus Christ on Monday, June 20, 2016.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 24, 2016, at the Pace-Stancil Funeral Home Chapel in Coldspring with burial following at Evergreen Cemetery. Visitation was held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, June 23, at the funeral home. Services were under the direction of Pace-Stancil Funeral Home in Coldspring.

Born on March 31, 1951 in Houston, to parents: Bill Blanton and Vera Saddler Blanton, Judy was a former resident of Tarkington Prairie and has resided in Coldspring for the past eight years. A nurturing mother and grandmother, she also enjoyed reading her bible spending time with her grandchildren and working with flowers

Mrs. Smith is preceded in death by her parents and sons: James and Joseph Craig. She is survived by her daughters: Scooter Franklin and husband Jack of Coldspring and Julina Smith of Tarkington Prairie and fiancé David Chabert, son: John Craig of Iowa, grandchildren: J.J. Weems, Tiffany Willis and husband Nicholas, Kelly Weems, Megan Schneider and husband Logan, and Shayne Jones, one great-grandchild on the way: Haisley Schneider, and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

## Donald Ray Floria, Sr. February 8, 1962 - June 13, 2016

Donald Ray Floria, Sr., age 54 of Shepherd, Texas, passed away Monday, June 13, 2016. He was born February 8, 1962 in Pasadena, Texas to parents George Henry and Dorothy Floria. He is preceded in death by his father, George Henry Floria; and brother, Kenneth Dale Floria.

Survivors include his mother, Dorothy Floria; sons, Donald Floria, Jr., and Jonathan Floria, Sr.; sister, Brenda Sue Floria-Blue and husband William; adopted sister, Debbie Dixon; grandchildren, Jonathan Floria, Jr., Payton Zander Floria, Chloe Mae Floria and Orin Floria; nieces, Melissa Blue Salmon and husband Nate, Mist-E Blue, and Mariah Blue; nephew, Travis Floria; aunt, Marie Woods; cousin, Cootie Kyle; dog, BoDean; numerous other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, June 19, 2016 at Farley Chapel Cemetery, Shepherd, Texas.

## Community Classifieds

FOR SALE: 1993 GMC Pickup, stick shift, new inspection, can text picture, in Shepherd. Please call (479) 438-1533.

FOR SALE: Used parts—will barter or cash only! '55 Chevy parts, 2 door post; '55 Chevy hard top door chrome, 327 motor; 400 small black motor close to 500 h.p. complete m21-tranny-new guts. Please call (903) 512-0786. MOVING SALE & OPEN HOUSE: Furniture, odds & ends and nice clothes (sizes XS, S, M) Everything must go! Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 525 Shepherd Hills Rd.

Surplus Sale: SISD is having a Surplus Sale on July 11 & 12, 2016. The sale runs from 8:00am until 4:00pm, located at Shepherd Middle School. Bids open on July 14, 2016 @ 11:00am in the Administration Building. FOR RENT: 2BR/1BA in town, \$525.00 per month, first and last month up front. Need reference and background check.

### Lake Water Wheel Notice

Lake Water Wheel is a private neighborhood. This includes the pool. If you are not a property owner you should NOT be in the pool or using the pavilion. Security is on duty at night and trespassing charges will be pressed.

## Community Calendar

6/29: Bridge of hope community church "Community Fellowship Dinner", Shepherd Middle School, 7PM.

7/1: Friday Senior Resale Shop Bag Day

7/2: Independence Day Extravaganza; Community Center; Fireworks start at dark.

7/8: Bob Brannagan's monthly consultations with current or prospective business owners, 10am-noon/Chamber Office

7/9: Impact Work Shop; Impact Thrift Shop; 1300 S. Byrd Shepherd, TX

7/11: Monday City Council Meeting, 7pm/Community Center

7/12: 7pm First Station Auxiliary Meeting; 7PM

7/15: Friday Senior Resale Shop Bag Day

7/15: Food Truck; Headstart Coldspring, TX 9-11AM

7/18: School Board Meeting, 7pm

7/27: Bridge of hope community church "Community Fellowship Dinner", Shepherd Middle School, 7PM.

7/29: Food Truck; Shepherd Community Center 9-11AM

\*Every Monday & Tuesday: SISD Bilingual Parent Involvement, 6-8pm at middle school library.

# Church News

TO CALVARY MINISTRIES: A church that preaches the Message of the Cross. 793 Thomas Castleberry Rd. Shepherd (off of FM 1127) Sunday 9:30 a.m. SS Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening 6:30 p.m. Thursday 7:30 p.m. All Welcome!

SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH: Pastor's Aid Presenting a Talent Show on September 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Coldspring Jones Auditorium. Pre Sale Tickets: Adult Tickets \$15.00—12 and under

At the Door: Adult Tickets \$20.00—12 and under \$10.00 Lunch Included. Tickets going on sale June 24, 2016

Contestants Registration Fee: Adult \$15.00—12 and under \$5.00 Entry deadline is July 30, 2016.

Adult:

1st place: \$100.00

2nd place: Dinner for Two at Duke's in Cleveland

3rd place: Gift Basket Youth:

1st place: \$25.00

2nd place: Trophy

3rd place: McDonald's Gift Card Also drawing for door prizes and silent auctions.

We appreciate all talent, BUT keep in mind this is a Church Fundraiser For tickets or to register contact one of the Spring Hill Baptist Church Pastor Aid Members

Gussie Henry: 832-480-0548 Edna Allen Raye Helen Baines Bertha Jackson Irene Norsworthy Rosie Reed

# New Releases Coming to McClain's DVD Kiosk This Week



Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG) animation/family: Continuing his "legendary adventures of awesomeness", Po must face two hugely epic, but different threats: one supernatural and the other a little closer to his home. Starring (voices): Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, Dustin Hoffman



Eye in the Sky (R) drama/thriller: Col. Katherine Powell, a military officer in command of an operation to capture terrorists in Kenya, sees her mission escalate when a girl enters the kill zone triggering an international dispute over the implications of modern warfare. Starring: Helen Mirren, Aaron Paul, Alan Rickman



Whiskey Tango Foxtrot (R) biography/comedy: A journalist recounts her wartime coverage in Afghanistan. Starring: Tina Fey, Margot Robbie, Martin Freeman

McClain's does not maintain Cajun DVD movie kiosk and therefore cannot guarantee all movie releases

## **Business News**



2 1/2 miles South of Livingston Off 59 North Behind Truck Stop & Lone Star Charlie's Restaurant Open play, Leagues, Parties Pro Shop

Fun for the whole family! Bring this ad for a FREE GAME Friday or Saturday only! **Expires July 30, 2016** Fri-Sat Moonlight Glow Bowling 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.

For news or special events to be published in Shepherd Community News: Drop off your information/picture at McClain's, e-mail to mcclains.shepherdnews@gmail.com, or fax to (936) 628-2866. Information may not be taken over the telephone. Include contact information on your request to have something published.

Our deadline is 6 p.m. Tuesday for the following week.

