

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 3

JANUARY 15, 2014

www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Rodeo Season brings art shows, livestock auctions

The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo has announced its performers for the BIG Rodeo that starts on March 4th at Reliant Park in central Houston, and that is the signal for everyone to "block their hat and polish their boots!"

All of the area high schools will have their student rodeo art on display this month and next, and you will be amazed at the high quality of the work. Some of the best will go on to the HL&R for judging, and an opportunity to win a prize and get auctioned for a substantial amount of money, to be used by the students for scholarships.

You can see this art done by Galena Park students, at a RODEO ART SHOW this Thursday evening, from 5 pm to 7 pm at the North Shore Senior High School on Castlegory off Wallisville Road. This special public showing shouldn't be missed! Admission is free, and you will enjoy the show, I promise.

Speaking of Livestock Shows & Auctions, several schools and their FFA clubs are active with this event this month. Galena Park is featured in this issue of the NORTH CHANNEL STAR, but Sheldon held their FFA show last Thursday, and will be featured in an upcoming issue. After that, Channelview FFA holds their Pig & Cattle Jackpot Show & Showmanship event on Jan. 25th, along with a Fish Fry, and we will have that coverage in a future issue also.

### Debra Duncan headlines Chamber Gala

Television personality Deborah Duncan, of KHOU Channel 11, will be the featured speaker at the North Channel Chamber Gala, to be held Saturday, January 25, 2014 at the Houston Marriott Hotel, 9100 Gulf Freeway at 6:30 pm. Call the chamber at 713-450-3600 for reservations and info. Margie Buentello at the Chamber office said tickets are almost sold out! Call now.



## Galena Park FFA students hold successful Livestock Sale

### Building Character Through FFA

JACINTO CITY – The Galena Park ISD FFA – The National Future Farmers of America Organization – held its annual livestock show and auction at the District Ag Facility in Jacinto City on November 21st.

The proceeds from the event this school year raised an astonishing, record-setting \$89,827, up more than 10% from the previous highest year! This was directly attributable to the tremendous community and District support and generosity.

During the year, the participating students spend their own money purchasing the project animal and feeding and cleaning twice a day, often starting at 5 a.m. every morning of the week.

The annual auction raises money for students' future college expenses or next year's project. Vicki Johnson, Director of Career and Technology, stated, "These young men and women participate in an orga-



Top Buyer Swindoll



An exhibitor with his rabbit



An exhibitor



Grand Champion Steer

Photos credit: Jonathan Frey and T.J. Johnson

nization that has a very strong opportunity to learn leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. I truly admire the students for their hard work & dedication."

Students are required to have passing grades in order to show their projects and also be in good standing with the FFA. The students' yearlong dedication to their project is an outstanding testament to their responsibility, trustworthiness, money management and teamwork.

This year's Silver Sponsors included: Robert Seibert, Dixie & Swindoll Services; Dwayne DeGeorge - North Shore Glass; Lloyd & Linda Duncan - Underwood Self Storage; Sheila Swindoll - Swindoll Paint & Body; Oates Industries Inc.; Ana Luna Hernandez Campaign; Chiara Combs - Ideal Smiles Family Dentistry

Buckle Sponsors included: JA Davis Advertising; Wenona Martinez; Ana Duke; Susan Blevins; CD Williams State Farm; Dwayne DeGeorge - Northshore Glass Co.; Sonia Estrada; David Latham; Abner Fuentes

Gold Sponsors: Blanquita's Mexican Restaurant, Inc., and Platinum Sponsor: KNCS Services, LLC.

### Welcome week events

San Jacinto College is hosting a series of Welcome Back events during the week of January 13 - January 17. The following events will be hosted at the Central Campus, located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena; the South Campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston; and the North Campus, located at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston.

•Central Campus: Make your own button, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15; wax hands, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16

•South Campus: Wax hands, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15; make your own button, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16

•North Campus: Make a snow globe, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15; balloon and body art, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16; game room fun day, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17

### 'Young Frankenstein' Auditions

Thirty to 50 adult roles (ages 16 and older) will be cast in auditions for the San Jacinto College Central Theatre and Film department production of "Young Frankenstein." The auditions will take place Jan. 15 and 15, at 6 p.m., in Slocumb Auditorium on the San Jacinto College Central Campus located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. The auditions are open for anyone in the community and enrollment at San Jacinto College is not required. People participating in the auditions should come dressed to move, and do not need to bring any prepared material.

### Health Care Career Fair, Feb. 20

The San Jacinto College North Campus will host a Health Care Career Fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 20 in the Allied Health and Natural Sciences Building. From long-term care to nursing, rehabilitation, physical therapy, emergency medical services, and pharmacy, those who attend will receive opportunities to talk with a variety of local and national health care employers. The North Campus is located at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston.

Surrounded by monuments of history, industries and maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has been serving the citizens of East Harris County, Texas, for more than 50 years. The Achieving the Dream Leader College is committed to the goals and aspirations of a diverse population of 30,000 students in more than 200 degree and certificate options, including university transfer and career preparation. Students also benefit from the College's job training programs, renowned for meeting the needs of growing industries in the region. San Jacinto College graduates contribute nearly \$630 million each year to the Texas workforce. For more information visit www.sanjac.edu.

## North Shore Rotary presents \$40,000 to county for bridge in Park

Harris County Pct. 2 parks department plans to build a walking bridge between North Shore Rotary Park on Wallisville, and the Fonteno Park to the west. The cost of the project will be about \$300,000, and the North Shore Rotary Club donated \$40,000 to this project.

Accepting the check in the photo at right is Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman, second from left, with Rotary President Matt Davis holding the check in the center, along with other Rotarians from the club.

See related story on page 7



## New Voter Registration certificates in your mailbox

HOUSTON – Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan announced today that the new voter registration certificates are in the mail and reminds voters to review their information.

"My office has begun mailing voter registration certificates to 1,876,539 registered voters," said Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan. "The new voter registration certificates, which will be light orange in color, are expected to hit all mailboxes by the end of next week. It will reflect the voter's current name and address, just as it appears in the poll book when they go to vote."

New voter registration certificates are mailed out every two years and it gives



the public the opportunity to review their information and update it. The most common reasons voters need to update their voter registration are:

- Name Changes – due to marriage or divorce

- Moving to a different residence
- Deceased individual that was not reported
- Updating your information has never been easier

See REGISTRATION, page 8

## Meeting airs opinions on new game room regulations

By Lewis Spearman

The month of November, Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman conducted a public hearing to record the public's opinion on game rooms conducting gambling in unincorporated areas of Harris County.

The meeting was officiated by Robert Soard, First Assistant County Attorney, Precinct 3 Constable Ken Jones and Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman, and Majors from the Harris County Sheriff's Department and the Precinct 2 Commissioner were on hand to hear the comments and to make their own.

Some 20 residents spoke for regulation of the game rooms and four against regulation



Jessica Woods of Highlands was one of many who testified against the game rooms. Hundreds of interested citizens turned out at the Crosby Community Center for the Town Hall Meeting on new Game Room Regulations.

and another mostly between the options.

In December of 2012 Wayne Smith R. 128 Texas District proposed legislation that

would enable Harris County to strengthen the authority to enforce regulation of game

See GAME ROOMS, page 8





# GALENA PARK ISD 2013

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

## GRAND CHAMPIONS



**GRAND CHAMPION STEER**  
Exhibitor: FRANKIE PENA  
Buyer: SECONDARY PRINCIPALS



**GRAND CHAMPION SWINE**  
Exhibitor: ANAIDA VAZQUEZ  
Buyer: CHARLES SWINDOLL



**GRAND CHAMPION GOAT**  
Exhibitor: ANGELICA PECINA  
Buyer: GPISD ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS



**GRAND CHAMPION LAMB**  
Exhibitor: MARK MORATO  
Buyer: GPISD CABINET



**GRAND CHAMPION RABBIT**  
Exhibitor: WILLIAM BAUER  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



**GRAND CHAMPION BROILER**  
Exhibitor: MONICA VAZQUEZ  
Buyer: GPISD ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS



**GRAND CHAMPION FOOD**  
Exhibitor: ALAYNA CAIN MATHENY  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



**GRAND CHAMPION HORTICULTURE**  
Exhibitor: FRANZELY PENA  
Buyer: GPISD GROUNDS DEPARTMENT



**GRAND CHAMPION ART**  
Exhibitor: COZIE GARDNER  
Buyer: OATES INDUSTRIES, INC



**GRAND CHAMPION PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Exhibitor: KRYSTAL CHAVEZ  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



**GRAND CHAMPION FLORAL**  
Exhibitor: SARAI LEAL  
Buyer: GPISD CTE

## RESERVE CHAMPIONS



**RESERVE CHAMPION STEER**  
Exhibitor: BRANDON MILLER  
Buyer: NORTH SHORE ROTARY



**RESERVE CHAMPION SWINE**  
Exhibitor: MONICA VAZQUEZ  
Buyer: SMS PRECISION TECH



**RESERVE CHAMPION GOAT**  
Exhibitor: BROOKE COOEY  
Buyer: GPISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**RESERVE CHAMPION LAMB**  
Exhibitor: ALEX SILVA  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



**RESERVE CHAMPION RABBIT**  
Exhibitor: ARLETTY SAENZ  
Buyer: SECONDARY PRINCIPALS



**RESERVE CHAMPION BROILER**  
Exhibitor: BRANDON MILLER  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



**RESERVE CHAMPION FOOD**  
Exhibitor: CRYSTAL CHAVEZ  
Buyer: GPISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

#### Silver Sponsors

Robert Seibert  
Dixie & Swindoll Services  
Dwayne DeGeorge - North  
Shore Glass  
Lloyd & Linda Duncan -

Underwood Self Storage  
Sheila Swindoll - Swindoll Paint &  
Body  
Oates Industries Inc.  
Ana Hernandez Campaign  
Chiara Combs - Ideal Smiles Family  
Dentistry

#### Buckle Sponsors

JA Davis Advertising  
Wenona Martinez  
Ana Duke  
Susan Blevins  
CD Williams State Farm  
Dwayne DeGeorge - Northshore  
Glass Co.

Sonia Estrada  
David Latham  
Abner Fuentes  
**GOLD SPONSOR**  
Blanquita's Mexican Restaurant,  
Inc.  
**Platinum Sponsor**  
KNCS Services, LLC -

Photography by T.J. Johnson Photography

### CONGRATULATIONS! FFA WINNERS!



#### Market Street Feed Store

Feed - Fertilizer - Remedies

Phone:  
(713) 453-7269  
RANDY ARTER

12844 Market Street  
Houston, TX 77015  
Owner and Operator

### Congratulations Galena Park ISD FFA Winners!

from



**Ana E. Hernandez**  
State Representative  
District 143

1233 Mercury Dr.  
ana.hernandez@house.state.tx.us

Houston, TX 77029  
713-675-8596

### Congratulations FFA Winners! Galena Park ISD



**Carter Funeral Home**  
Family Owned and Operated  
- Families Serving Families -

13701 Corpus Christi Street  
Halfway between Uvalde and Freeport Street

**713-455-5100**



**UNITED** \*\*\*  
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

**Congratulations to all the Winners!**

United Community applauds all  
of the 2013 FFA Participants  
on a job well done.

WWW.UNITEDCCU.COM



# FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW

GALENA PARK ISD AGRICULTURAL CENTER • 2000 HOLLAND AVENUE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**RESERVE CHAMPION HORTICULTURE**  
Exhibitor: FRANKIE PENA  
Buyer: CHARLES SWINDOLL



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**RESERVE CHAMPION ART**  
Exhibitor: MEAGAN LEVY  
Buyer: OATES INDUSTRIES, INC



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**RESERVE CHAMPION PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Exhibitor: FRANZLY PENA  
Buyer: GPISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**RESERVE CHAMPION FLORAL**  
Exhibitor: ISELLE GARCIA  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**3RD PLACE STEER**  
Exhibitor: ANDREW DUKE  
Buyer: TAYLOR DUKE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**3RD PLACE SWINE**  
Exhibitor: MATHEW HARRIS  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**3RD PLACE GOAT**  
Exhibitor: ADRAIN LUNA  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**3RD PLACE LAMB**  
Exhibitor: REBECCA PIPITONE  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**3RD PLACE RABBIT**  
Exhibitor: ALICIA GARCIA  
Buyer: CHARLES SWINDOLL



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**3RD PLACE BROILER**  
Exhibitor: FRANCOIS EUGENE  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**4TH PLACE STEER**  
Exhibitor: SEAN GUAJARDO Buyers: CHARLES SWINDOLL, GERALD COBB, JOE HARWELL



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**4TH PLACE SWINE**  
Exhibitor: FRANCOIS EUGENE  
Buyer: SEASONS LEARNING ACADEMY



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**4TH PLACE GOAT**  
Exhibitor: JULYSSA VAZQUEZ  
Buyer: GPISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**4TH PLACE RABBIT**  
Exhibitor: JUSTIN WENNER  
Buyer: GPISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**4TH PLACE BROILER**  
Exhibitor: BLAKE WASSON  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**5TH PLACE STEER**  
Exhibitor: ALEX LUNA  
Buyer: VICO MFG



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**5TH PLACE SWINE**  
Exhibitor: EMILY GAINEY  
Buyer: VICO MFG



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**5TH PLACE RABBIT**  
Exhibitor: KORDELL PARRISH  
Buyer: GPISD CTE



GALENA PARK ISD  
2013 FFA Livestock Show  
**5TH PLACE BROILER**  
Exhibitor: VIVIANA FLORES  
Buyer: VICO MFG

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all that have supported and assisted the 2013 GPISD FFA Livestock Show.  
Sue Edwards, Show book producer,  
Stephanie Jones, AST, Heather Szostek, AST  
Melissa lane, AST, Erika Espittia, AST  
Vicki Johnson, CTE Director, Rutie Bass, CTE  
Coordinator, Ken Smith, CTE Coordinator  
Brandi Case, CTE Secretary  
Sunshine Contreras  
Dr Angi Williams, Superintendent  
Elizabeth Lalor, Executive Director for  
Educational Support  
GPISD Board of Trustees & Cabinet  
Kathy Bundy, Ramon Garza, Dawn Fisher,  
Joe Stephens, June Harris, Wilfred J.  
Broussard, Jr., Jeff Miller, and Wanda Heath  
Johnson  
Kenneth Wallace, Crystal Murray, Orphalinda  
Bazan, Arnold Ramirez,  
John Moore

*Congratulations to all Galena Park ISD FFA Winners!*

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS? TAKE THEM FISHING!  
815 Uvalde  
713-453-6341  
www.northshoremarine.com

*Congratulations Galena Park ISD FFA Winners!*

"Meeting Your Needs Since 1980"  
8:30am - 5:30pm M-F  
9:00am - 4:00pm Sat.  
Please visit our website: PARKWAYFEED.COM or email: pfeed@SBCglobal.net  
PARKWAY FEED AND TRADING CO.  
"No Substitute and Service"  
8221 C. E. King Pkwy. • Houston, TX  
(281) 458-8108

**CHRIS DIAZ**  
**Constable - Precinct 2**

OFFICE  
(713) 477-2766  
EMERGENCIES  
DIAL 911  
PATROL DISPATCH (713) 477-4070

**Scott Stephen S**  
**& Associates, Inc.**  
Real Estate Appraisals

**Congratulations Galena Park FFA Winners!**

12723 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, Texas 77015  
(713) 451-3600 • Fax (713) 451-3300  
email: sstephens@stephensappraisals.com  
www.scottstephensandassociates.com

**Capital Bank**

Neighbor to Neighbor Banking™

10304 I-10 East, Houston, TX 77029  
www.capitalbanktx.com • 713.675.2341

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GALENA PARK ISD FFA WINNERS!!**

**Judge Mike Parrott**  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
PRECINCT 3, POSITION 1  
14350 Wallisville Road  
Houston  
**713-450-2409**  
website: <http://www.jp.hctx.net/3-1/>



# OPINION PAGE

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

### Railroad Commission to hire seismologist

AUSTIN — After meeting with Azle residents in a town hall style meeting last week, Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter called for his agency, which regulates the oil and gas industry, to hire a seismologist.

Azle residents told Porter about the effects of earth

Department of Transportation, effective Jan. 17.

Bass succeeds Phil Wilson at the post. Wilson last fall was named general manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority. Bass has been serving as chief financial officer of Tx-DOT.

Governor swears Berry in On Jan. 7 Nandita Berry of Houston was sworn in by Gov. Perry as the 109th Texas Secretary of State.

"I am honored to be appointed by Gov. Perry and look forward to serving Texas as secretary of state," Berry said.

As secretary of state, Berry is one of six state officials who comprise the state's executive department of the state of Texas. Her duties now include serving as the chief election officer for the state, the governor's liaison on border and Mexican affairs, and Texas' chief protocol officer for state and international matters. And, the office manages the business and public filings for Texas.

Berry is a graduate of Mount Carmel College in Bangalore, India, a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center. Prior to her appointment, Secretary Berry was senior counsel at the Locke Lord law firm in Houston, and she was an in-house counsel for a Fortune 500 company.

Please resign, senators say State Sens. Rodney Ellis, Sylvia Garcia and John Whitmire, all Democrats from Houston, on Jan. 7 called on state Finance Commission Chair William J. White to voluntarily resign from office.

In asking for the resignation, the trio of senators called attention to a Dec. 29 story in the El Paso Times that included comments White made disparaging consumers of payday loans, and noted that White is vice president of Cash America, a payday loan company, a type of company that is regulated by the Finance Commission.

Ellis said White's comments "severely call into question his ability to put his outside employment aside and truly look out for Texas consumers."

Revenue increases again Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, the state's chief financial officer, on Jan. 8 announced that state sales tax revenue in December was \$2.25 billion, up 3.9 percent compared to December 2012. "Consumer spending in retail trade contributed to the latest gain in state sales tax collections," Combs said. "Other sectors such as telecommunications also contributed to the monthly growth, and state sales tax revenue has now increased for 45 consecutive months."

In her Jan. 8 announcement, Combs said she would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their January local sales tax allocations totaling \$573.5 million, up 8.1 percent compared to January 2013.



tremors felt at their homes and businesses, and their ongoing safety concerns over seismic activity that has increased locally along with an increase in oil and gas industry activities over the last several years.

"It is imperative that the commission remain engaged and involved in gathering more evidence and data into any possible causation between oil and gas activities and seismic events," Porter said in his Jan. 7 statement. "Commission rules and regulations must be based on sound science and proven facts. In order to do so, I propose the commission hire an in-house seismologist."

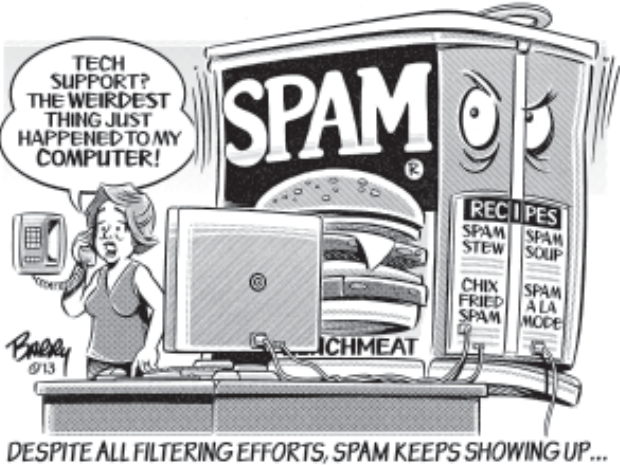
Perry makes proclamation January 2014 is Crime Stoppers Month in Texas. Gov. Rick Perry proclaimed Jan. 7. Every year, according to the proclamation, "the month of January is dedicated to raising awareness of Crime Stoppers' successes and inspiring more Texans to get involved."

Perry said anonymous tips have led to more than 180,000 arrests and \$1 billion in property recovered and narcotics seized since the beginning of Crime Stoppers programs in 1976.

Shoppers' app is promoted Texas Department of Agriculture on Jan. 6 announced an upgraded version of its free "GO TEXAN" application, a way for smartphone users to track their visits to wineries, farmers markets, pick-your-own farms, nurseries and florists, and share their experiences on social media.

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said, "This is an easy way for those who enjoy local products to support Texas businesses and track their visits, simply by pulling out their smartphone."

Interim director is named Texas Transportation Commission on Jan. 7 announced its selection of James Bass as interim executive director of the Texas



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Editor,**  
I just finished reading the North Channel Star's 1<sup>st</sup> edition and I am so happy you are giving the North Channel Area a voice! One that hasn't been heard for some time now. I wanted to thank you for including the Freeport Road Project article in the paper. It was a great article.  
Thank you,  
Dawn Harris

**Dear Editor,**  
The paper looks terrific! Congratulations on your first issue.  
Gretchen Knowles

**Dear North Channel Star Staff,**

Welcome to the Northshore area! We need you! Again, it is great to have this tool at our fingertips. May God richly bless your efforts.

Sincerely, Ken Durham,  
pastor, First Baptist Church of North Channel

### Chemical spill; water problem

#### TOUCH OF LIFE By Don Springer



This week I am writing about something I had no idea about a few days ago. That is the horrific water situation that has occurred back in my home city and nine counties in West Virginia. For a few days the national news was rife with the chemical spill that has made the water basically useless in that area of the Mountain State.

For the previous 13 years I have spent in Crosby that would have been of little personal grief to me as I was here and such an action would have been cleaned up long before I returned in early April. However, this year is different; my house is occupied while I am here as my daughter is living there this winter. Obviously I have talked with her several times in the past week and she says she is getting along fine living in a house where the water can only be used for flushing. I continue to be concerned about her. Washing, drinking, cleaning, cooking, etc. has to come from bottled water or some other source and with thousands having that need, water is scarce.

My daughter-in-law, Marta, spouse of my older son, Don, works in one of the major hospitals associated with the Area Medical Center. She was on break at work having a cup of coffee when the news broke. The hospital staff came into the break room, sounded the alarm and threw away all of the water and coffee. Unfortunately Marta had already had some of it and her mouth broke out in blisters a day or so late

Stores are out of water in many places and the National Guard is distributing water in large trucks to assist. How-

ever, the last I heard they only had sixteen trucks and that won't go far over a nine county area. I'm sure more help will come.

When I tell people where I live I always say St. Albans, but the truth is I live on the west bank of the Coal River which is outside of the city limits. That is working against us now as St. Albans has its own water supply out of the Coal River, not the Kanawha or Elk where most of the valley gets its water. It is not contaminated so it is life as usual there. There are one or two other communities like St. Albans but most of the 350,000 people in the area, like me, get water from the West Virginia-American Water Company and that entire service is impacted.

I'm feeling for my family, friends and other citizens in the Kanawha Valley but it isn't known as yet (to my knowledge) when all of this will be cleaned up. Some of the local news broadcasts in the Charleston area are saying the contaminated water from the coal cleaning source may have been leaking for days or weeks before it was discovered and the seriousness of the incident may be worse than first considered. I hope my entire fellow West Virginians are lucky enough for this all to be cleaned up, maybe before this column is printed but from what I am

hearing, I think not.

The local media is also full of early attempts to place blame and file legal claims but that is just scratching the surface. When the leak is corrected and the water safe for human consumption the screams of legal action will intensify. The company at fault is a relatively small firm and I'm sure its financial resources have already been exhausted. I don't know how wide-spread the ownership is for the firm but if any of the large coal companies are part owners the financial claims may spread like wildfire.

The State and/or local governments may not escape some of the responsibility either. I haven't seen any reports along this line. We West Virginians are going to hear about this for years on end.

(PS. Just as I finished this Don called and said they were going to start cleaning out the water lines tomorrow (Monday). Job will take a few days. Also he and Marta went to hotel in Parkersburg (80 miles north) to stay a day, get a shower etc.) He said after they checked in the hotel manager came by the room and gave him \$50 to take back and assist those in need. There are good people everywhere! God Bless them.)

Such are the people, places and things that have touched my life in my West Virginia home!

## A Commitment

### TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

This is a manifesto of sorts. A public declaration of my intentions for the coming year. Although I've never been much of a resolution maker, the older I get the more I make it a point to reset my goals each year and try to accomplish a short list of things that are most important to me.

A lot of people make new goals each year. Many revolve around things like to stop smoking or loose weight. My goals have always been experiential in nature: things I wanted to do or experience in the coming months.

#### Spend more time outside

During my entire adult life, I've never been much of a TV watcher nor have I wanted to spend much time indoors. There are a few shows I'll watch from time to time but I've never invested much time into watching television. Instead, I've always liked to read and research, work on my photography business, and spend time outdoors.

During the entire home construction process in

which I was the general contractor, I spent a ton of time inside the house in which we'd eventually move into.

Now that the new home in the country is nearing completion, my yard and the surrounding land is a blank canvas. I have big ideas as to what the yard will look like, how I'll manage my property for wildlife, and how my family and I will spend our time cooking, listening to music, and enjoying the outside space our new home offers.

#### Take my kids on a new adventure

My kids aren't world travelers but they've definitely seen a done a lot in their short lives. As a photographer and writer covering everything Texas, they've been with me all over the state and visited

most places of natural, cultural, and historical importance. They haven't been everywhere however. This year I resolve to take them on more adventures like canoeing down a Texas river or hiking in places where they were too young and inexperienced to hike before.

#### Meet new people

I can't tell you how many times that I've been somewhere and saw people doing interesting things and later lamenting on how I should have stopped and talked to them. I've seen bluegrass bands jamming or artists creating exciting work and just pass them by only later regretting not stopping. This year I resolve to stop and meet new people thereby enriching my life and my experience as a Texan.

### Achieving financial responsibility

AUSTIN, Texas—With the dawn of another January upon us and credit card statements beginning to reveal the full extent of the damage done with Christmas shopping, now is the time when many Americans get serious about living within their means for the year ahead. Unfortunately for many of us, the decisions of our past mean we have some cleaning up to do before we turn the corner of financial responsibility.

#### Avoid Immediate Drastic Changes

Before you can even begin to create a realistic budget for yourself, you need to know where, on what and how much you're currently spending. Take the time to look at your bank and credit card statements for the last regular month (don't use December—Christmas spending throws everything off) and take note of where your money goes. Adding up expenses in different areas will likely reveal frivolous spending that can be cut down or eliminated.

Once you identify these areas, it's tempting to make the resolution to completely stop spending money in those ways. However, if your frivolous spending habits are deeply rooted in your lifestyle, you might have to take moderate steps to reduce spending rather than eliminating it. Just as you can't go from couch potato to marathoner in a day, committing to a budget takes time, discipline and training. This means that you might have to phase in your budget over several months in order to achieve success.

#### Don't Forget Savings

It's hard to save when you're trying to cover current expenses and pay off existing debt. However, it's important to build up some savings to cover future financial catastrophes—which are sure to come sooner or later—and avoid the creation of additional future debt.

If possible, consolidate credit card debt at a zero percent or low interest rate that will allow you to prioritize saving in the short term and retire debt once you have \$500 to \$1,000 in your savings account for future unforeseen needs.

#### Find/Use the Right Tools

To successfully transition to living on a budget, you need to find the strategy and tools that you're most likely to use. For some, this might mean using cash envelopes. For others, the use of a mobile app to track expenses by department might be more appropriate. It's important to remember that budgeting is not "one size fits all," and there are tools available for every personality.

#### Don't Give Up

Unexpected expenses creep up. Your best estimates can turn out wrong. You won't be a budget guru your first month. It takes time to understand everything that crops up in the course of a typical budget month and to begin to understand how to deal with those variables. Despite these challenges, don't give up. Stick to it, be flexible and let your budget take on a life of its own that reflects your priorities and goals for a better 2014.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star★Courier

USPS 244-500

and the

Barbers Hill★Dayton PRESS

The Highlands Star Founded 1955  
The Crosby Courier Founded 1958

Consolidated with the Star 1961

SERVING HIGHLANDS, CROSBY, HUFFMAN  
AND NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman  
Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grallipress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grallistat@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER; Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Forest NEWS. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 55,000. Readership exceeds 110,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$25.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562.

News and Ad Phones.....281-328-9605  
FAX Line.....713-977-1188







Your AD will reach up to 120,000 readers in our FOUR newspapers, with a combined circulation of 55,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$15 for 20 words. A bargain!

## HELP WANTED

**LOCAL**  
Company in Highlands looking for Holiday help. Available positions include creating Floral Bouquets or Loading Delivery Vehicles. Please contact Young B. 832-474-9059 - ysbohle@gmail.com for further information

## HELP WANTED

## SERVICES

**Experienced  
Video  
Photographer  
specializes in  
Weddings,  
Birthdays,  
Conferences.  
Call Ari @  
832-630-4487**

www.  
starcourier  
news.com  
&  
www.  
northchannel  
star.com

[illegible]

## A black and white photograph showing a cow and a calf standing in a grassy field. The cow is on the left, facing left, and the calf is on the right, facing right. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is a simple, light-colored field.

**Females**  
Featuring Bred, Pairs, and Opens  
F1 Braford (many Tiger Stripes) • Brangus • Brahman  
Black Baldy • Brangus Baldy • Hereford • Other Crossbreds  
Sponsored by the DeWitt County Purebred Breeders Assoc. and the DeWitt County  
Beef and Forage Committee along with Anthony Nelardus, DeWitt Co. CEA-AG  
115 N. Gonzales, Suite E. Cuero, TX 77954 (361) 275-0816



Daily Express, a leader in Heavy Haul and Specialized Transportation, is in need of experienced Contractors to pull our step-deck and lowboy trailers hauling Machinery, Construction, fabricated and Agricultural loads to multiple destinations. We can also lease on Contractors with their own Step-deck or RGN's.

**\*\*Best FSC in the Industry\*\* No Trailer Rent, No Agents or Brokers, Free Base Plate, Paid Permits/Escorts and Advancement Opportunities! \*\***

Get on board with a proven leader today! Call Erik or Nicole at 1-800-669-6414 or apply at [www.dailyrecruiting.com](http://www.dailyrecruiting.com)

We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt call FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is [www.ftc.gov/btop/privacy/ClassifiedAdNetworks](http://www.ftc.gov/btop/privacy/ClassifiedAdNetworks).

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt consult their doctor. *Shirley M. Campbell, M.D.*, 1-800-875-2289; *Dr. Richard T. Thompson, M.D.*, 1-800-875-2289; *Dr. J. David Smith, M.D.*, 1-800-875-2289.

Extend your advertising reach with TexSCAN, your Statewide Classified Ad Network

## King Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14							15					
16				17		18				19		
20			21		22				23			
24				25		26		27				
			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39					40		41		42			
43				44				45		46		
47			48				49		50			
51							52					
	53						54					


print  
33 Abounded  
34 Seek  
restitution  
36 South

37 Mass figure  
38 Violinist Rie  
41 18-Down's  
    emblem  
44 Prophet  
45 Jamie of  
    "M\*A\*S\*H"  
48 Expert  
50 Chaps




## COMMUNITY CALENDAR


# Take 2








Did you miss the registration deadline  
for **Spring 2014?**

Don't worry, you can still **Take 2** with  
classes that begin Jan. 27, 2014.  
**Enroll today!**



 **SAN JACINTO  
COLLEGE**  
Your Goals. Your College.

**www.sanjac.edu**  
**281-998-6150**  
Connect with us on  
    

EOI



# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

## Channelview ISD recognizes Board Members

The month of January is School Board Recognition Month and the Channelview Independent School District is celebrating the countless contributions of these dedicated community leaders.

"Local school board members work tirelessly and devote hundreds of hours to lead our students to success. Setting aside time in January is one small way to celebrate their service to our community and say thanks for caring so much about the future of every child enrolled in our schools," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent.

The board members serving Channelview ISD include Board President Steven Dennis, Vice President E.B. Garcia, Secretary Patrick Lacy, Parliamentarian Keith Liggett and members J. Kyle Campbell, Greg Johnstone and Alex Ybarra.

"Our school board members are a vital link between the community and the classroom. They have a commitment to serve their community and ensure that all students are given every opportunity to excel through education. We appreciate our board members for giving of themselves and caring so much about every child enrolled in our schools," Ollis said.

## Channelview's Taeler Deer signs to play for Texas State



Channelview High School girls basketball player Taeler Deer recently signed a letter of intent for a full scholarship to play basketball for the Texas State University Lady Bobcats in San Marcos next fall. She will graduate from CHS in June. Deer, who is a four-year varsity letterman, leads the Lady Falcons in scoring with an average of 21 points per game.

FACEBOOK.COM/  
NORTH  
CHANNEL★STAR

NORTHCHANNEL  
STAR.COM

**NORTH CHANNEL★STAR**  
5906 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057  
(713) 977-2555 FAX (713) 977-1188  
email: northchannelstar@gmail.com  
website: www.northchannelstar.com

Gilbert Hoffman .....Editor & Publisher  
Mei-Ing Hoffman .....Associate Publisher  
Lewis Spearman .....Advertising Director  
Julieta Paita .....Staff Reporter  
Luis Hernandez .....Production  
Pedro Hernandez .....Circulation/Mail Director

Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to: northchannelstar@gmail.com

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association  
Member North Channel Chamber of Commerce  
Member Texas Press Association

## GAME ROOMS,

Continued from page 1

rooms at which gambling is being conducted. According to Constable Hickman, 135 search warrants have been served on illegal gambling operations doing business as game rooms. In the last 5 years in these illegal game rooms there have been over 100 aggravated robberies. In these same area and time there have been seven homicides. The dramatic rise in the number of game rooms has prompted Harris County as a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of its residents.

The regulations would give the county to investigate game rooms for violations of regulations.

Huffman resident Leslie Dean spoke first, she is President of the Harris County Emergency Services District #4, she favored the regulations as the game rooms often "create a hazard to the occupants as well as firefighters, and medics performing services at them. Dean laid out a cogent argument about the crowding, locked doors, lack of entries and safety issues with unregulated game rooms.

Next Attorney Steven Gates spoke opposed to regulation, indicating that regulations only serve to change the location of illegal facilities. He argued that regulations in the past have only served to exacerbate the problems. "There has not been one case of robberies solved by Houston Police Department from clear window regulation."

Personal stories of loved ones losing everything to game rooms were pronounced from many speakers in favor of reg-

ulation. Velma Ellison of Alliance Properties spoke of the impact of game rooms. Ministers from Huffman Baptist Church, Keenan Smith of Crosby Church, and Tim Edwards of First Baptist Church Highlands all offered compelling arguments for regulation of game rooms.

Constable Ken Jones gave a most dramatic statement regarding illegal activities (drugs, unfair gambling practices and robberies) that without the regulations his office could not interdict and therefore presented a menace to public health and safety.

## REGISTRATION,

Continued from page 1

with my office," said Mr. Sullivan.

"Just visit www.hctx.net, go to the Voter Registration tab and click on Name/Address Change link. We want to make it as easy as possible to update your information right from our optimized website."

Registered voters can also check our website to view their current voter registration information and contact the office if they have questions at 713-368-2000 or via e-mail: tax\_voters@hctx.net.

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan also serves as the Harris County Voter Registrar, which conducts voter registration activities and maintains a certified list of registered voters.

Learn more by visiting www.hctx.net.

# Chicks love this stuff





**www.PineforestJewelry.com**  
1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77015  
713.451.1321



## STERLING ~ WHITE

FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY  
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.  
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562  
(281) 426-3555  
WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM



### DO YOUR FAMILY A FAVOR!

**GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE GIFT OF PEACE OF MIND.  
PREPLAN YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS TODAY! !**

**WE ALL PLAN FOR THE "JUST IN CASE"**

- CAR INSURANCE "JUST IN CASE" WE HAVE AN ACCIDENT=
- HOME OWNERS' INSURANCE "JUST IN CASE" WE HAVE A FIRE
- COLLEGE FUND "JUST IN CASE" OUR KIDS GO TO COLLEGE

**DOESN'T IT MAKE GOOD SENSE TO PLAN FOR THE INEVITABLE?**  
**BEFORE WE DIE SHOULDN'T WE PROVIDE A PLAN FOR OUR FAMILIES TO FOLLOW?**

**PREPLANNING WILL:**

- PROVIDE THE MOST LOVING GIFT YOU CAN GIVE TO YOUR FAMILY
- STOP INFLATION BY FREEZING THE COST AT TODAY'S PRICES
- REFLECT YOUR EXPRESSED WISHES
- ALLOW YOU TO PREFUND ARRANGEMENTS AT TODAY'S PRICES
- OFFER PAYMENT PLANS THAT FIT YOUR BUDGET.

**GET A FREE EXPRESSED WISHES PLANNING GUIDE TODAY! NO OBLIGATION!**  
**CALL 281.426.3555 TODAY.**

**START YOUR CEMETERY PREARRANGEMENTS TODAY. PURCHASE TWO PLOTS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$250 DOWNPAYMENT AND \$40.00/MONTH\*  
Call 281.426.3555 FOR DETAILS.**

\*TWO SPACES in restricted area of Garden of Love for \$1995.00 plus Perpetual Care.  
10% down payment REQUIRED.

\*For additional information regarding preplanning go to [www.prepaidfunerals.texas.gov](http://www.prepaidfunerals.texas.gov)