

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 17

APRIL 23, 2014

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

The New 2015 KIA K900

This issue features a remarkable new car, the 2015 Kia K900 at Community Kia, Baytown. See color ad on page 8.



North Channel Senior Olympics

The 2014 North Channel Senior Olympics is taking place the week of April 28 - May 2.

-MONDAY, April 28, 8:45 am Opening Ceremonies at Jacinto City/Milton Lusk Gym. Day ends at 1 pm with dart baseball.

-TUESDAY, April 29, 8:45 am Walking Relay, 10:30 am Dance Contest at North Shore Rotary Pavilion. Day ends at 1 pm with a Skipdo.

-WEDNESDAY, April 30, 9 am Bean Bag Baseball; 10:30 am Frisbee Toss at Barret/Riley Community Center. Straight Dominos, 1 pm at JD Walker Community Center.

-THURSDAY, May 1, 8:45 am Bean Bag Toss; 9:15 am Water Ballon Toss at Ramsey Community Center; 9:45 am Spelling Bee (gazebo area) behind Ramsey Community Center; 10:30 am Hula Hopp at Flukinger Community Center.

-FRIDAY, May 2, 9 am Award Announcements at North Shore Rotary Pavilion.

The North Channel Senior Olympics registration is closed but non-participants may purchase tickets to any day in advance. Call 713-675-4487.

North Shore Mustangs, Coach Green at NS Rotary

NORTH CHANNEL – Rotarians feted the coaches and team of the North Shore High School at their luncheon on Thursday, April 17 at the Holiday Inn on I-10. The Mustang basketball team won the State 5A championship this year.

Present at the celebration were all the team members, coaches, staff, North Shore High School principal Dr. Joe Coleman, Athletic Director Vince Sebo, and Galena Park ISD superintendent Angi Williams, who is also a Rotarian.

AD Sebo opened the program, talking about the success that GPISD has had across all their sports teams. He said that the main quality a player and a team needs to win is “attitude, know that you are going to win.”

He said that you must be passionate about your sport, and “Act with character-- don’t



(l/r): David Green - Head Coach, Jarrey Foster, Kerwin Roach, Brandon Etienne, Dr. Angi Williams - Superintendent of Schools, Brandon Green, Jalin Hart, Kenneth Coleman - Assistant Coach, Dr. Joe Coleman - Principal North Shore Senior High School.

Photo Courtesy Jonathan Frey/GPISD

be the character.”

Head Coach David Green inspired the members of Rotary by detailing stories from the North Shore Mustangs path to the state championship.

He had won 93 games in the last 3 seasons, he noted. But he gave credit to the district, especially Superintendent Williams. “You need a boss that knows what it takes to be successful.”

He also said that the players bought into the coaches, putting everything else aside, so that they could win.

His message to the players had been “Get on the Bus” and realize that it took a team effort, not individual performances.

As far as the final game, he said they won because they played harder, especially on defense, and stole more balls that led to easy lay-ups.

GP Candidates Forum April 25 at Baggett Ctr.

Public invited to attend

A Municipal Election will take place in Galena Park on May 10th, for the offices of Mayor and City Council.

The North Channel STAR in cooperation with the Galena Park-Jacinto City Rotary Club, will host a Candidates Forum on Friday night, April 25 at 6 pm. in the Baggett Center, to introduce the candidates to the public, who are invited to attend.

All candidates have been invited, but to date not all have accepted and indicated they would attend. They will have an opportunity to speak on whatever they wish, and to present their history and qual-

ifications. There will be a panel, made up of Bob Bartel, Ernesto Parades, and Gilbert Hoffman, to pose questions to each candidate. In addition questions from the audience will be written on cards, and asked of the candidates.

Candidates for Mayor of Galena Park are Robert Clowers, Cruz Hinojosa, Esmeralda Moya, and Joseph Thibodeaux.

Candidates for City Council of Galena Park are:

Position 1, Water & Sewer: Joe DeLaToree, Danny Simms

Position 2, Police & Fire: Zenaida Granado, Lois Kil-lough

Position 3, Parks & Recreation: Veronica Garcia, Ma-

ricela Serna

Position 4, Street & Bridge: Juan Flores, Martha Flores, Mark Groba.

All are welcome. Contact the North Channel Star for more information, 281-328-9605.

Jacinto City Election

There will also be a City Council election in Jacinto City on May 10th. Candidates are as follows: Position 1, Jimmy Rivas, Diego Lopez; Position 2, Gregg Robinson, LaGloria Sephus; Position 3, Allen Lee, Raymond Morlock. Early voting in both elections starts April 28th, and finishes May 6th.

VOTING INFORMATION

Early voting starts April 28, Election Day May 10

GALENA PARK

EARLY VOTING

Location: City Hall, 2000 Clinton Drive

April 28, 29 - 7 am to 7 pm

April 30, May 1,2,5,6 - 8 am to 5 pm

GENERAL ELECTION

May 10 - 7 am to 7 pm

Location:

Pct. 081 - Baggett Comm. Ctr., 1302 Keene Street

Pct. 208, 857, 860 - City Hall, 2000 Clinton Drive

JACINTO CITY

EARLY VOTING

Location: City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive

April 28, 29, 30, May 1, 2 - 8 am to 5 pm

May 5,6 - 7 am to 7 pm

GENERAL ELECTION

May 10 - 7 am to 7 pm

Location:

Pct. 163, 229 - Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Single parents have a resource in Tyra Chapa

SHELDON – She has come a long way since they days when she and her kids were homeless. This single mother of four now has a substantial job and career, a good home for her kids, and heads an organization that offers help to others that have had similar difficult paths in their lives.

Mothers Raising Children Alone is an organization Tyra Chapa founded, and now has about fifty members. They meet at First Baptist Church of Sheldon now, and previously at the Harris County Pct. 2 Grayson Center in Channelview. They meet every 1st and 3rd Saturday, from noon to 2 p.m. and invite anyone interested to attend.

In spite of the name, members include dads, moms, and



Tyra Chapa at a recent Single Parent event at First Baptist Church.

grandparents. They are encouraged to bring their kids.

The organization is a sup-

port group, and helps in many

See SINGLE, page 8

NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER

Two luncheons provide insight into medical concerns

NORTH CHANNEL – Diabetes, and Aging. Two medical concerns for all of us.

The North Channel Chamber had two outstanding authorities on these subjects, at their last two monthly luncheons.

On March 7, Dr. Maria Mejia, spoke on her work in Diabetes, and how we must all be aware of the dangers of the disease.

She said that diabetes can be caused by bad diet, lifestyle, stress, and lack of exercise.

“We are what we DO, we are what we EAT.”

The disease is hard to control, and it is necessary to change you lifestyle habits. Now over 25 million in the U.S. are affected by the disease, she said.

There are two basic types, and they have to do with how insuline, or blood sugar, interacts with the body. Insuline is necessary to release energy for living, she said. But in Type I diabetes, the Pancreas does not produce insuline. In Type II, the insuline does not interact properly with the body, destroying the pancreas’ productivity.

Symptoms of Diabetes are thirst, eating excessively, and



Dr. Maria Mejia, M.D.



Dr. James Semones

urinating frequently. Diabetes can lead to heart disease, hypertension, kidney failure, eye disease, affect the nervous system, and require amputation of limbs.

Diabetes can be treated with diet, exercise (which releases endorfins), and oral and injected medicines.

Dr. Mejia was raised in Venezuela, studied medicine there, and completed her specialty in Family Medicine at UTMB in Galveston. She now practices in North Shore.

Dr. James Semones spoke to the Chamber at their lun-

cheon on April 4, on the topic of Aging in America.

He said that Aging is the most important issue facing the U.S. In 1900, the lifespan was to the age of 47. Today, a lifespan will be 80 on average.

The population faces a “retirement crisis,” finding itself in need of retirement income or face poverty, and perhaps too frail to work but too poor to retire.

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See AGING, page 8



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Crosby students go to Art Show
Crosby Middle School 8th grade student attended the Art Show 2014 held at San Jacinto College North recently.



Austin PTO scholarships awarded
The recipients of the 2014 Stephen F. Austin PTO Scholarships were recently announced, and both winners returned to their former elementary campus to accept the awards provided through the efforts of the Parent-Teacher Organization. Pictured above are (l to r) SFA principal Laura Smith, Keller Thomas, Jason Sartor, and Kelly Benoit, PTO scholarship chairperson. Thomas and Sartor are both seniors at Ross S. Sterling High School.



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CROSBY'S HOME
TOWN HOME CARE

Cruz advances to SkillsUSA nationals

Two Goose Creek CISD students from Stuart Career Center placed in the State SkillsUSA competition in Corpus Christi, Texas. Raul Medrano, a sophomore from Ross S. Sterling High School, placed 3rd in the Automotive Refinishing Technology contest, and for the second year, Goose Creek Memorial High School's Josselyn Cruz brought home the 1st place medal for Collision Repair Technology. Cruz will advance to the National Collision Repair Conference in June in Kansas City, MO at the 50th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Although this seems like a challenging competition for a young lady, Cruz made it through the written exam the first day and felt fairly confident about the timed estimating, structure analysis, welding, sheet metal straightening and plastic repair competitions the next day. "I was kind of nervous, but I never really saw any of the students I was competing with until it was over," she said. "I heard that I had the highest scores in welding." Cruz attributes her teacher James Wheeler, collision repair and refinishing instructor at Stuart Career Center, and her former teacher Greg Thomas, now retired, with teaching her everything she



Goose Creek Memorial High School's Josselyn Cruz brought home the 1st place medal for Collision Repair Technology.

needed to know to be competitive at SkillsUSA. Along with medals and plaques, Cruz has amassed quite a sum of scholarship money—more than \$34,000—some designated for Universal Technical Institute in Houston and other scholarship money should she choose to attend WyoTech in Laramie, Wyoming. "The one big thing that went through my mind when they called her name (as the 1st place winner) was that she will once again get a chance to receive a \$50,000 scholarship from Universal Technical Institute as well as a lot of other tools of the trade," said Wheeler.

This summer after the national competition, Cruz will have to choose a school to attend, but right now she is still considering her options. "I could also go to Lee College for Logistics," said Cruz. "I want to do something I like. I want to wake up and feel like I'm not actually working." Cruz will be the only person representing the State of Texas in the Collision Repair Technology competition, but she says she will be prepared. "After competing at nationals, I have more knowledge about what you actually do at competition, so I won't have to guess about the next step. I'll know what to expect," Cruz said.

Sterling HS Marine Corps places 2nd in Color Guard category


The Sterling High School Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard, a coed squad, placed 2nd in the Male Color Guard category at the recent Humble Drill Meet at Kingwood Park High School. Cadet Gunnery Sergeant Jose Garcia was awarded the Best Male Color Guard Commander medal. Pictured are (l to r) Cadet Gilary Mercado, Cadet Martha Abrego, Cadet Daisy Grimaldo and Cadet Michael Eaton. The Female Color Guard also took 2nd place in Female Color Guard category. The Drill Team took 2nd place in the inspection category and 2nd in the regulation unarmed drill phase. The Physical Fitness Endurance Team won 1st place in its event. Col P.J. Ferral USMC (Ret), Senior Marine Instructor, leads the group.



Parking lot getting paved for American Legion



Efforts by Officers of the David H. McNerney American Legion 658 including Submariner Gerald Blankenship have enabled the paving of the parking lot of the legion hall this week in work that lasted from Wednesday to Wednesday to pour a level concrete parking lot.



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SCHOOLS, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 26, SATURDAY
Healthy Kids Day
Join the Wendel D. Ley Family YMCA Saturday, April 26 from 10 am to 1 pm for free immunizations, free health screenings, fitness fun, kid friendly games, summer program registration and bike safety. Event to take place at 15055 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049

APRIL
JC Heritage Hall
Senior Center events
-Thursday, April 24, JC City Council 6 pm.
-Friday, April 25, Bingo 11 am.
-Exercise class: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am.
-Ceramic class: Wednesdays 9 am.
Heritage Hall Senior Center, 1025 Oates Rd., Jacinto City, TX, 77029. Call 713-675-4487 for more information.

MAY 1, THURSDAY
Channelview
Information Session
Texas Connections Academy, a virtual public school, will have an information session on how virtual public school offered tuition-free on Thursday, May 1, 6:30pm-8:00pm at Holiday Inn Houston East- Channelview, 16311 E. Freeway Channelview, TX 77530.

MAY 10, SATURDAY
Jacinto City's Annual
Tire Round Up
On Saturday, May 10 from 8 am until 3 pm, City crews will pick up tires from residences. This is the only time during the year when tires will be picked up. There is a limit of 4 tires per address, no large truck tires and no rims of any sort. To insure pick-up, tires must be curbside by 8 am.
SATURDAYS NIGHTS
The Buckshot
Jamboree
Enjoy music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

APRIL
North Channel
Library events
-Thursday, April 24, 10:30 am Baby Time; 4:30 pm Lego Play.
-Friday, April 25, 1:30 pm Gardening basics.
15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs/classes.

APRIL
Galena Park
Library events
-Thursday, April 24, 11 am Baby Time.
1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547. 713-450-0982.



Channelview ISD April Students of the Month
Channelview ISD recently honored its April Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. Students were treated to lunch, along with a tour of the press box and field. The April Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Jessie Jovero (Alice Johnson Junior High), Kaliah Glenn (Channelview High School), Courtney O'Neal (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Makayla Williams (Aguirre Junior High), Xavier Garza (Kolarik Ninth Grade Campus) Pictured in front row, left, are Ezekiel Gallegos (Cobb Elementary), Jeri Aranda (Crenshaw Elementary), Elijah Owens (Schochler Elementary), Jamie Parra (McMullan Elementary), Aoloni Flores (Brown Elementary) and Juana Fuentes (De Zavala Elementary). Not pictured is Gabrielle Campbell from Hamblen Elementary.

Galena Park High School receives certification for STEM program

On April 3, 2014, Galena Park High School announced it has received national certification for its Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program that has been offered since 2008. This is the second time the school has gone through the national certification process to validate its program. PLTW, a nonprofit organization and the nation's leading provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education programs, offers a rigorous world-class curriculum that allows students to apply what they are learning in math and science class to real-life engineering and technology projects. PLTW also prides itself on high-quality professional development of its teachers and an engaged network of business, community and university partners to give students the fullest experience.

The national PLTW recognition program distinguishes schools for successfully demonstrating a commitment to PLTW's national standards. Additionally, certification as a PLTW school provides students with the opportunity to apply for college credit or receive college-level recognition at PLTW affiliate universities when they successfully complete select PLTW courses in high school. PLTW has more than 40 affiliate college and university partners, including University of Texas at Tyler in Texas. In order to remain competitive in the global economy, America needs approximately 400,000 STEM college graduates annually, according to a National Business Roundtable report. Currently, the U.S. is graduating only 265,000 annually. PLTW is providing students with the skills,



Team KAOS, the award winning robotics program at Galena Park High School, is an excellent example of a STEM program. Pictured (l/r): Astrid Cavazos and Diego Amezcua.

foundation, and a proven path to college and career success in STEM areas to increase the number of STEM graduates. Mr. Tony Gardea, principal of Galena Park High School said, "We are extremely proud to be PLTW certified and ecstatic that our students are eligible for college-level recognition, which may include college credit for select PLTW courses, scholarships and admissions preference." As part of the recognition process, Gardea and a team composed of teachers, staff, students, and members of the community submitted a self-assessment of the school's implementation of PLTW's Pathway To Engineering (PTE) program. A site visit by a PLTW trained team followed. PLTW's team met with teachers, school administrators, counselors, students, and members of the school's Partnership Team. A PLTW school's Partnership Team (sometimes referred to as an

Advisory Council) is comprised of teachers, counselors, administrators, post-secondary representatives, business and industry professionals, as well as other community members who actively support the PLTW program within a school. "Galena Park High School should be congratulated for demonstrating once again its commitment to PLTW's quality standards," said PLTW President and CEO Vince Bertram. "The real winners here, however, are Galena Park High School's students. Students benefit from PLTW's innovative, project-based curriculum that encourages creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking. We look forward to many more years of working together to prepare Galena Park High School students to become the most innovative and productive in the world." Paul Johnson, a PLTW Teacher added, "The beauty of PLTW courses is that our kids get to experience how a concept they learned in science applies to real-world projects, including robotics. Rather than sit passively and listen to a lecture, kids are building, developing, and creating. It's the kind of hands-on experience that will engage more students in science, technology, engineering and math-fields that they might otherwise never have considered."

San Jacinto College offers ESOL classes at nearby church

HOUSTON - To make education accessible and to serve changing demographics, the San Jacinto College North Campus recently began offering English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) community classes at Holy Trinity Methodist Church, located in North Shore about 3 miles from the College. "Most of the students are Latino who live within walking distance of the church, and many will walk to class because there may not be a second car in the home," commented Maria Williams, ESOL coordinator at the North Campus. "It's a community-based beginning class that teaches practical English with an eye toward improving language skills in everyday life." Students who complete the course earn one college credit. It is a four-week course that includes 16 hours of instruction. Students pay \$30 for each four-week class. The enrollment process is streamlined to allow waivers of Compass placement testing, new student orientation, high school diploma, General Education Development certification, or proof of meningitis vaccination. The College and the Methodist church are collaborating

to help remove language barriers and help Latinos become assimilated in the community. "If and when students in the new ESOL outreach classes request information about furthering their education, or want information about the church, college and church information will be provided," Williams said. "The church and the College agreed to focus on language acquisition, and not promote either church or college platforms as a rule." The San Jacinto College North Campus experienced the most dramatic increase in Latino student enrollment. In 2000 the Latino enrollment at the North Campus was 1,509 (30.6 percent). In 2013 the Latino enrollment at the North Campus was 3,989 (54.6 percent). The percentage change from 2000 to 2013 at the North Campus was 164.3 percent. All classes at San Jacinto College are taught in English. The College offers ESOL classes at all three campuses to help students with limited English proficiency to quickly become college ready. The San Jacinto College South Campus recently began an ESOL community outreach program in collaboration with Sagemont Church, which is located near the South Campus.

Channelview ISD offers Credit by Exam

The Channelview Independent School District offers students currently enrolled in kindergarten through 12 the opportunity to take Credit by Examination tests (CBE). Interested students can be registered now through May 2, 2014. Students and/or their parents should visit with their school counselor regarding registration and eligibility. The exams will be administered from June 9-June 12, 2014 or July 28-July 31. Two

sessions of testing per day will be offered with the first test starting at 9 a.m. and the second test starting at 1 p.m. Students must score 80 percent or better on exams to receive credit. Students have the opportunity to advance an entire grade level in elementary or junior high and students in high school can receive course credit. For more information, contact the counseling office at your child's campus.

Channelettes Spring Show set for April 24-26

The Channelview High School Channelettes will be hosting their annual Spring Show April 24-26 at 7 p.m. at the Channelview High School Auditorium. This year's Spring Show theme is "Celebration." Performers include the Channelettes, Channelette Junior Drill

Team, Channelette Dancing Parents, Channelette Alumni, Channelette Reserves, CHS Boys Dance Class, CHS Dance Classes, CHS Cheerleaders, the Famous Fumblettes, Kelly Coats and Kathleen Carsey. For more information, call 281-452-1450.



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MEDICARE COLUMN

By Toni King

Mom Needs VA Aid for Extra Help at Home

Dear Toni,

I have read your column with great interest for years knowing that one day this time would come. My mother is almost 88 years old and in dire need of help at home with everyday routines, such as bathing, dressing, toileting, shopping and meal preparation. My siblings and I have made every effort to be available to help our mother as much as possible. We know that it is her wish is to remain living in the town where she has lived most of her adult life and in her senior apartment with her beloved pets.

Our mother is a survivor spouse of a veteran and from what I have read in your column is eligible for financial help through the Aid and Attendant benefit from the VA. How do we begin this process for our mother? Can you give us contact information and an idea of how this works? Perhaps we can resolve this if we are able to bring in outside help for mom? We are most grateful for any advice you can offer...Worried in Katy

Dear Worried in Katy:

Many elderly need some help at home with everyday routines generally involving functional mobility and personal care, such as bathing, dressing, toileting, and meal preparation.

The VA has a wonderful program known as Aid and Attendance benefits and is explained completely on the VA website at benefits.va.gov

With the Aid and Attendant benefit a veteran, veteran's spouse or surviving spouse of a Veteran that is in need of additional care in 2014, may qualify for assistance and could receive \$1,759 per month to a veteran, \$1,130 per month for a surviving spouse or \$2,085 per month to a couple.

There is over 20 billion dollars of Aid and Attendance pension money available to Vets and to qualify a Vet must have...

-Been discharged from a branch of the United States Armed Forces under conditions that were not dishonorable.

-Served at least 1 day (does not have to be in combat) during war time and 90 days of continuous military service.

One must contact the VA regional office to locate your local office. A local service office can help guide you through applying for the benefits. It is now taking about 6 month or longer to receive your Aid and Attendance benefits.

Some of the documents that you need to apply for the benefits are:

-Veterans DD214

-VA Form 21-22 if Veteran's Service Organization is filing or 21-22a if individual is acting the claimant's representative. You may need 21-22a if you are filing for your mother.

-VA Form 21-4142: Authorization and Consent to Release Information

-VDVA Form 10: Letter from the Claimant's attending physician

-VA Form 21-2680: Physician Statement or VA Form 21-0779 Nursing Home Statement

-VA Form 21-8416: Medical Expenses incurred

Other documents which you will need are:

-Marriage or Death Certificate (Surviving Spouses only)

-Asset information (Bank statements)

-Verification of income

-Proof of Medical Premiums

-Voided check for Aid and Attendance Direct Deposit Visit the link to the VA site for all documents and income requirements that may be needed.

With you needing the additional help for your mother and your Dad being a Veteran that has served during "War" time, then you should not have trouble applying. If your Dad was a Veteran, but did not serve during "War" time, then you will not qualify for the benefits.

** My husband, Jim who is a Marine knows how the VA operates and said to contact your local VFW post and ask for their service officer. He can help apply for the Veteran or Veteran's spouse's benefits.



City of West receives additional grant

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry on April 16 granted a request by the city of West for an additional \$4.8 million in disaster grant assistance for recovery efforts in the West fertilizer plant explosion that occurred April 17, 2013.

Fifteen people were killed in the explosion, more than 160 were injured and more than 150 buildings were reported damaged or destroyed in the town of about 2,800 people, 20 miles north of Waco. Perry's office said the grant is to help the city of West repair and rebuild infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the blast and assist with other important projects in the affected area.

"Last year's tragedy touched the lives of every member of the West community and touched the hearts of all Texans," Gov. Perry said.

State Sen. Brian Birdwell, whose district includes West, said, "In reflecting on the year following this tragedy, I cannot help but feel pride in the incredible work of our local and state first responders, the continual leadership shown by Mayor (Tommy) Muska and his fellow city and county officials, and the resilience of the citizens of West. It is no surprise to see Texans pull together and rebuild like this."

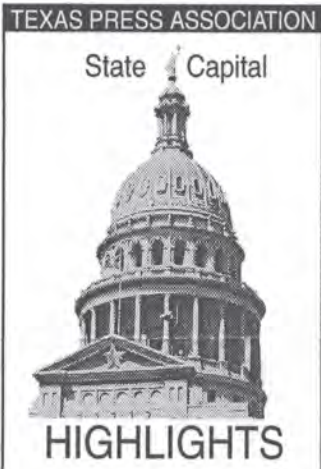
"Our hearts continue to reach out to the community of West and those affected by last year's tragedy," said state Rep. Kyle Kacal, whose district includes West. "We acknowledge with deep appreciation the tremendous response to the local rebuilding efforts and stand in solidarity as we continue to work towards the future of West."

State takes possession of ranch

Texas Department of Pub-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



agreed to vacate the property, the DPS reported.

Law enforcement personnel are working with the occupants of the ranch to take all reasonable actions to assist with their departure of the property, to preserve the property, and to successfully execute the court order, the DPS reported, adding that continuing activities on the property will include obtaining a court-ordered inventory of real property and protecting the remaining assets.

Ethnic studies books requested

The State Board of Education on April 11 called for new textbooks for Special Topics in Social Studies to include, but not be limited to, Mexican American Studies, African American Studies, Native American Studies and Asian American Studies, the Texas Education Agency reported.

The request for instructional material for these elective courses is included in a call-for-bids document known as Proclamation 2016, the Texas Education Agency said.

Report examines gang threat

An updated Texas Gang Threat Assessment was released to the public by the Texas Department of Public Safety on April 17.

According to the DPS, the assessment provides details about the state's approach to evaluating and classifying gangs in order to identify which organizations represent the most substantial threat.

The report reveals current gang membership across the state may exceed 100,000 individuals.

Trafficking panel appointed

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the state Senate, appointed seven senators to the Joint Interim Committee to Study Human Trafficking.

Established in 2011 and renewed by the Legislature last year, the panel will build on its previous work by studying ways to further combat human trafficking and identifying services available to its victims, Dewhurst said.

Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, will serve as co-chair. On the panel are Sens. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, and John Whitmire, D-Houston. House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, will name an equal number of House members to the joint committee.



LETTERS To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I wish to thank you for support of the East Harris County AARP TaxAide program. We get several new clients each year that tell me that they come to us as a result of seeing the public service ads in the Star-Courier. Your help is greatly appreciated.

David Oehler
Site Leader for Highlands' Stratford and the North Channel Harris County Libraries.

ASK THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

By Gregg Abbott



Things have changed in Texas

In recent months, there have been many news stories resulting from cases – both nationally and here in Texas – which focus on the failures within our justice system in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, particularly child sexual abuse, in the early 1980s and 90s. Like most Americans, I find myself heartbroken for the victims who did not receive the justice and healing they deserved, and equally troubled by instances involving wrongful convictions resulting from bad evidence, usually resulting from the compromised statement of a child victim or witness. However, I also find myself encouraged by the progress that has been made in the way that investigations are conducted and the modern day practices which have transformed this process.

Twenty years ago, it was not unusual for a child who had the courage to report abuse to endure interview after interview from well-meaning but often intimidating authority figures or untrained interviewers. As each interviewer pursued a different class of evidence necessary to build a case, it was not unusual for eager-to-please children to adapt their stories to unintentional cues from interviewers, resulting in conflicting accounts and compromised cases against alleged perpetrators. Likewise, interviewers often had little professional training and support on how children make disclosures and recall experiences as there was simply little research in the field.

In today's Texas, when abuse is reported to authorities, the child will enter a collaborative network of care led by the 68 children's advocacy centers (CACs) working throughout our state. CACs provide a neutral hub where the efforts of law enforcement, Child Protective Services, prosecution and the medical and mental health community are integrated and coordinated. At the core of their efforts is a unique tool called the forensic interview.

Created to overcome the well-intentioned yet harmful mistakes from the past, the forensic interview is conducted by experts specially trained in carefully researched techniques designed to elicit a coherent, non-leading, defensible account of the truth. Recorded on video, these interviews are utilized as evidence where they provide a consistent voice for the alleged victim throughout the legal process. There are currently over 100 professional interviewers employed at Texas CACs who undergo 40 hours of initial training prior to conducting their first interview, as well as ongoing peer review and annual continuing education. The positive impact on both the justice system and for these young victims has been nothing short of miraculous.

Despite our progress, there are still more than 40,000 Texas children who will enter a CAC this year due to alleged physical or sexual abuse, typically at the hands of a family member or friend. Fortunately, there are 68 CACs across Texas, leading the charge on accurately capturing their story and setting them on the path to justice and healing.

As we observe Child Abuse Awareness Month this April, I encourage all Texans to educate themselves on the warning signs of abuse so that children across our state will be heard when they courageously report. When the public knows that it's okay to report child abuse because the systems in place do in fact work fairly for all parties, we'll move one step closer towards eradicating crimes against children once and for all.

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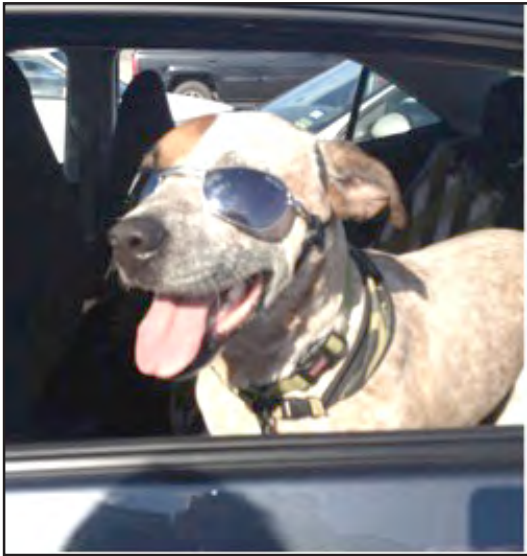


Celebrating STAAR testing
Crockett Elementary School faculty members (l to r) Veronica Nieto, family involvement coordinator; Julie DaSilva, counselor; Kim Scheidt, assistant principal and Susan Griffin, principal, pose for the camera at the photo booth during the recent Crockett Lock-In to motivate students to do their best on STAAR testing.

SPJST Lodge 91 San Jacinto hosts “Paws Across Texas”

Lodge 91, San Jacinto hosted the 5th Annual Paws Across Texas on April 17, 2013 at the Crosby Wal-Mart. The Crosby community was very generous donating a total of \$871 and 700lbs of dog and cat food. The food was given to Julie Wiggins owner of the Mad Cat Sanctuary and to Anne Curry operator of More than Angels Animal Rescue. All monetary donations will be disbursed on an as needed basis for the care of the animals sheltered.

A special thanks to Jack and Barbara Fitzgerald of Lonestar Signs and Graphics in Crosby for donating one of the Paws Across Texas signs for this event.



Pet Even Waylon (owner-Shelby Johnston) came out for the beautiful day.

19th Annual Czech SpringFest set for April 27

This year the festival Czech SpringFest will be held on Sunday April 27, 2014 starting at 11am til 7pm.

Located at SPJST Lodge #88, 1435 Beall St. Houston.

Entertainment by The Kovanda's Czech Band, and Chris Rybak Band.

Master artist Anna Burilova from Hodonin, Czech Republic will demonstrate decorating Perniks (gingerbread pastries).

Several Booths such as Country Store, Plants, Silent auction, Cultural booths and many Vendors selling their wares.

Traditional Czech Sunday Dinner served 11am til 2pm. Adults \$10, children under 11, \$7. Czech soup and sausage w/ sauerkraut served after 1pm.

Sponsored by the Harris County Chapter, of Czech Heritage Society of Texas

Come join the fun and help keep our library doors open. For more info call 713-349-0500 or visit our website www.txchshcc.com

Crosby Brethren Church annual Spring Fling this Sunday April 27

Crosby Brethren Church will be hosting its annual Spring Fling on Sunday, April 27, at the American Legion Hall from 11am- 2pm. Activities for the day include:

- Worship 9.30am including the singing group, Rendered Heart.
- Fish Dinner for \$10.00 will be serving 11am -2 pm.
- Live Auction that begins at Noon
- A raffle at 2pm with the opportunity to win a Beretta A300 12 Gauge Shot gun, 55 inch LCD TV, Husqvarna 22 inch self-propelled lawn mower and 2 \$100 gift cards.

This year's festival will also feature a Fish Dinner, authentic Czech kolaches and Children-Youth activities.

Proceeds from this year's festival will benefit local ministries: Churches United in Caring, Meal Ministry to shut-ins and seniors, and outreach to youth. It will also benefit a mission, Cade Lake Community Chapel in Burleson County and a family mission team in Burma among the Shan Dai people group.

Crosby Brethren Church has been blessed and seeks to be a blessing to others in the community, state and world. A meal, a kolach, a raffle ticket, an auction item donated or bought, will bless another life in Crosby, in Texas, and around the world.

Newport Garden Club to have flower show

April 25 Friday between 1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m., come by and see the Newport Garden Club flower show at Crosby United Methodist Church (Runnenburg & U.S. 90). There will be Floral designs of all kinds will be judged by accredited flower show judges.

Speaking of Eulogy

Christine Harper Visitation April 17, 7:00 p.m. Highlands 1st Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia. Brandon Brewer will speak the Eulogy.

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faith. Have courage and be
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1 Corinthians 16:13

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OBITUARIES

Gloria Florence Setliff

Gloria Florence Setliff, 91, passed away April 17, 2014 in Channelview, Texas.
Gloria was born in Rose, New York to parents Ernest and Nora Scott and worked as a beautician for many years. She enjoyed spending time with her family and sharing in the fellowship of her church family at South Drive Baptist Church. Gloria is preceded in death by her husband, Ellery Phligm Setliff and her brothers, Jerome and Glen Scott. Left to cherish her memory are her sons and daughters-in-law, Stephen L. and Charlotte Setliff, Ellery E. and Barbara Setliff; sister, Barbara Scott; grandchildren, Ellery, Melanie, Chad, Stephen, Spencer; nine great-grandchildren.
A Celebration of Gloria's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 26, 2014 at

South Drive Baptist Church,
15229 South Drive, Channelview, Texas.

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LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Good Medicine

We started the cows down the chute. Dad would catch them with the head gate at the end and I would give the cows their medicine. One very long-horned cow got through the head gate so quick that Dad caught her just in front of her back legs. I grabbed her around the head and was trying to hold her and told Dad to give her the medicine. However, Dad pulled a pair of nose clamps out of his pocket and put them on her. He pulled her head around to the side of the chute, wrapped the rope on the end of the nose clamps around a post, held it with one hand, and said, "Now you give her the medicine."
Stop wrestling with your sin. Jesus was put on a cross and buried in a borrowed tomb, but on the third day He arose. He put the "nose clamps" on death and the devil and became the cure for our sin.
"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

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Isaiah 29: 10

I can do everything through him
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Phillipians 4:13

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Selah, its meaning

The word *Selah* appears seventy-one times in the Psalms and three times in the book of Habakkuk. Its specific meaning is not known but it implies that the reader, or the one listening to one who is reading the Psalm, should pause, rest or stop and think of "this" or "that" - or whatever the writer was addressing. It is illuminating and inspiring when we actually apply it.

David was driven from his palace and people by his rebellious son, Absalom. When he saw his army and his advisors follow his son he wrote the third Psalm.

In his despair he wrote, "O Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me. Many are saying of me, 'God will not deliver him.'"

Then he paused, thought for a moment and said "*Selah!*" Which must have meant, "Wait a moment, David, and think of this." Think of what, we might ask. Being betrayed? Being pursued? Being driven from family and friends?

Of course not. But, then, what is he to think of?

And he answers his own question: "You, oh Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts my head high!"

David ran away from his son, Absalom. But in so doing he ran into the arms of the Almighty God. He found in Him his protection from persecution and his source of salvation. There is no one like the Lord! He is our comfort in times of conflict and protector when others pursue us.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lazarus in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Job 40:15-24, what animal is so named that some believe it to be a dinosaur? Tygimoloch, Levaraptor, Memphian, Behemoth?
3. Who was stoned, then burned after taking silver, gold and a garment from the destroyed Jericho? Joshua, Nathan, Achan, Shamgar?
4. In Mark 5, what was the name, for we are many, that Jesus cast out as evil spirits? Legion, Colony, Flock, Army?
5. According to the Proverbs, what type heart doeth good like a medicine? Warm, Beating, Merry, Young?
6. Shem, Ham and Japheth were the sons of? Moses, Noah, David, Solomon

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Behemoth; 3) Achan; 4) Legion; 5) Merry; 6) Noah

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim... What is considered good cell phone etiquette?

This is not a jewelry question, but a question that must be answered by everyone in the daily course of business. Frankly, there is absolutely no difference between the rudeness inherent in automatically answering a cell phone in the middle of a conversation with another person, and allowing someone to physically step between you and the person with whom you are having a conversation. The following is from Emily Post's Etipedia:

“Cell phones are great-they keep us in touch with friends and family and can be life savers in an emergency. But they can also be annoying if not used thoughtfully. Remember, it doesn't have to be on all the time and you don't always have to answer it immediately. Learn to use your phone's features like silent ring, vibrate and voicemail to handle the times when your phone would be bothering others if it rang and you answered it.

1. Be in control of your phone, don't let it control you!
2. Speak softly.
3. Be courteous to those you are with; turn off your phone if it will be interrupting a conversation or activity.
4. Watch your language, especially when others can overhear you.
5. Avoid talking about personal problems in a public place.
6. If it must be on and it could bother others, use the silent ring mode and move away to talk.
7. Don't make calls in a library, theater, church, or from your table in a restaurant.
8. Don't text during class or a meeting at your job.
9. Private info can be forwarded, so don't text it.
10. NEVER drive and use your phone at the same time.”

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Channelview baseball clinches playoff spot

Channelview's Andy Montelongo strokes a double during Falcons recent game against La Porte. The Falcon offense struck often in their win against Beaumont West Brook, which led to a playoff berth.
Photo by Mark Kramer, Channelview ISD

The Channelview Falcon baseball team clinched a spot in the playoffs with a convincing 8-2 victory over Beaumont West Brook last week.

Channelview's consecutive wins over Baytown Sterling and West Brook, plus North Shore's win over Sterling last Tuesday left the Falcons (6-5 district, 15-10 overall) in sole possession of the fourth postseason spot in District 21-5A.

The Falcons have made the playoffs two out of the past three years.

As of press time, the Falcons were scheduled to finish the regular season against Deer Park.

Channelview playoff information will be posted on the district's website, www.cvisd.org, as soon as it becomes available.

North Channel Relay for Life prepares for annual event May 2

It's time to grab your running or walking shoes and make a lasting footprint on finishing the fight against cancer at the North Channel Area Relay for Life on May 2.

The fun-filled event will start at 6 p.m. at the track of the North Shore High School Ninth Grade Campus on Woodforest near Uvalde. Local companies, area schools and other groups will set up tents for the all-night event. At the event, there will be food, special games and music as part of the lively atmosphere.

Members of the North Channel Area Relay for Life steering committee have been busy for months planning for the event. The committee is comprised of volunteers from the Channelview, Galena Park and Sheldon areas.

“Relay is the community coming together to celebrate our survivors, remember those that lost the battle and to fight back through raising funds for patient services and most importantly cancer research,” said Darcy Blackstock, event chair for North Channel Relay for Life.

In 2013, the event raised \$137,435 to go toward cancer research. The funds were raised through individual pledges and corporate donations. This year, hopes are high that the North Channel Relay will exceed that total.

“The more involved people become with this event, the more people become aware of services that are provided and even more funds can be raised,” said Shirley Mertz, Relay steering committee member. “Increased involvement is always a good cause for celebration.”

The event will begin with special introductions and presentations, followed by the opening lap of the evening - the Survivor's Lap.

“There are so many emotions you're feeling as you go around the track during the Survivor's Lap,” said Mark Kramer, a colon cancer survivor and North Channel steering committee member. “You think about all the treatments you've been through and other obstacles - and you see all the hundreds of people cheering for you, supporting you. It's very heartwarming - and it also motivates me to do even more for those who continue to fight this terrible disease.”

The Parade of Teams is then held, with some of them wearing “crazy” outfits to get in the spirit of fun for the evening.

Throughout the night, music from different groups is provided, along with a Disc Jockey - and it's not unusual to find groups of people dancing in the middle of the football field. Also, community members and others make laps around the track and also participate in different “themed” laps. Different games for the kids, including inflatable slides, are also situated on the football field.

Relay attendees will also have an opportunity to put bids in on many Silent Auction items that were donated for the event.

At dusk, the Luminaria Ceremony is held to remember those who valiantly fought the fight, those who continue to fight and those who have lost their battle with cancer. Guests at the Relay may purchase bags and design them in memory or in honor of a family member or friend and the bag is placed around the track. As the stadium lights go dark, candles inside the bag are lit for the ceremony.

“There are so many emotions during that one night,” Blackstock said. “The Luminaria ceremony reminds you of all of those that have fought and won and those who fought and were taken. It really hits home how horrible this disease is and just how many people are affected just in our small community.”

Special event chairpersons for Relay will also continue to lead those in attendance in a variety of fun activities throughout the night, including the “Fight Back” ceremony at midnight. Closing ceremonies are then held as time creeps toward 6 a.m.

Channelview ISD participants at 2013 North Channel Relay for Life.

“At the end, you are sometimes wet, cold, or hot, but more importantly you are filled with a sense of pride in knowing that you made a difference in the life of a cancer patient or your dollar raised

may be the funds that find the cure,” Blackstock said. “Words cannot adequately describe the emotions one experiences during the night but when the new dawn breaks you know you have had the time of your life.”

For more information on the North Channel Relay for Life, you may call 281-452-8080.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Attention Private Non-Profit Schools and Home Schoolers in the Sheldon Independent School District

Private Non-Profit Schools and home schoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with representatives from Sheldon Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Sheldon ISD. The meeting will be held in the Sheldon ISD Administration Building training room, 11411 C. E. King Parkway, Houston, Texas 77044 on Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sheldon ISD at (281) 727-2096 to request eligibility information.

King Crossword

—

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

—

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and a \$6 BBQ plate sale on Saturday, April 26th on campus (2615 E. Wallisville Rd. Highlands, TX 77562). The garage sale will be from 8:30AM-2:30 PM, BBQ plates will be available starting at 11:00 AM. All proceeds go to senior scholarships.

RENT/LEASE

TOWNHOUSE for rent on River, Tugboat Marina, 1330 Clear Lake Road. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, wood floors, rivve view. \$950 a month / \$1,150 fully furnished with cable. Call Tom at 713-301-8863.

17-2

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 United nations

5 Half (Pref.)

9 TV overseer (Abbr.)

12 Pearl Harbor site

13 Former mates

14 Carte lead-in

15 Honesty of purpose

17 Charged bit

18 Sudden rush of wind

19 Glossy alternative

21 Earth tone

24 Apiece

25 Hammer's target

26 As one

30 Web address

31 Melodic

32 Anger

33 Individuality

35 Error

36 Very dry, as champagne

37 Cock and bull

38 Figure of speech

40 Suitor

42 — canto

43 Nightstick

48 Ailing

49 Love god

DOWN

1 Cranberry territory

2 "7 Faces of Dr. —"

3 Discoverer's cry

4 Bat

5 Vast areas

6 Way out

7 Encountered

8 "Moby-Dick" narrator

9 Popular country singer

10 Coagulate

11 Walking stick

16 Bear hair

20 Performance

21 Burden

22 Give a darn

23 Backwoods dweller

24 "Sounds!"

26 Hit the horn

27 Yoko of music

28 Great Lake

29 Agents, for short

31 Hitched a ride

34 To and —

35 Pasta toppings

37 Has permission

38 Sacred

39 Egyptian bird

40 Farmer's home?

41 Rorschach picture

44 Differently

44 401(k)

45 alternative

45 Fond du —, Wis.

46 G8 member

47 Foundation

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SINGLE PARENTS,

Continued from page 1

ways. Working with the Light-house of Houston and Pasade-na, they have provided over 500 turkey dinners to families at Thanksgiving.

They also provide education with GED tutoring, and help single parents with food, cloth-ing, an emergency pantry, and job searches and resumes.

They get help with this from the church, and its pas-tor, Pastor Tim Flack.

Chapa's personal story is inspiring. At age 28, she de-cided homeless was not the way she wanted to live, and started her education at Alvin Community College. She re-ceived a Mental Health Certi-ficate there. She then received a Bachelor's degree from the College of Biblical Studies, and a Masters and soon a Doc-toral degree from Concordia University. She now works as a teacher in the Pasadena ISD.

Although still a single mom, she has successfully raised four kids, ages 8,9,15, and 16.

She encourages others who need help or want to partici-pate to contact her, at 832-292-5864 or on her facebook page: facebook.com/moth-ersraising childrenalone.

AGING,

Continued from page 1

world. China saves the most, 38%. Semones says it is essen-tial that we save for retire-ment, and based on statistics, this should be for a 19 year lifespan.

Dr. Semones, a professor of Sociology at San Jacinto Col-lege North, has partnered with Dr. Greg Getz of UH Downtown for 3 years to present a Symposium on Ag-ing, to foster awareness and education in this field.

On goal of the Symposium is to recruit more scholars in the field of aging, and to show them how it leads to many oth-er related careers.

Most of all, he works to avoid what he terms "The Sil-ver Tsunami."

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