

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

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www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

GP-JC Rotary Annual Country Fair & Carnival

Galena Park Jacinto City Rotary Club is planning their Annual Country Fair & Carnival for this weekend, April 11, 12, and 13. Events start Friday night at 6 pm until midnight, Saturday 11 am until midnight, and Sunday 12 noon until 5 pm. Location is the Baggett Building and grounds, on Keene Street in Galena Park. Fun for the whole family is planned, with Food, Shopping, Rides, Games, Live Entertainment each day, a Kids Zone, and lots of vendor booths. Also included this year is a Health Fair, co-sponsored by Community Health Choice. This will include Screenings for BMI, Dental, Glucose, Mammograms, Spinal, Pregnancy Test, Blood Pressure, HIV/AIDS, Health Insurance information, and Application Assistance for CHIP and Medicaid. (Bring current check stubs, child's birth certificate, social security card.) This is a major fundraiser for the club, so go and have fun.

Jacinto City Events:

APRIL 12, 9 am to 3 pm -- Rabies Vaccination Clinic, 12202 Market Street (Public Works Facility). Tags only \$10, other services available.
APRIL 12, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, starting at 11:00 sharp. More info, call City of Jacinto City at 713-674-8424.

Sheriff holds Mega Public Safety Meeting

Listens to Questions from North Shore, Highlands

By GILBERT HOFFMAN
North Channel STAR

NORTH SHORE – Sheriff Adrian Garcia brought together about 30 law enforcement officers, to report on their efforts to reduce crime and “make Harris County the safest county in the nation” as voiced by District Attorney Devon Anderson.

The huge Town Hall meeting was held at North Shore High School, and was not in response to a particular crime event, but more of a county-wide effort to involve the citizenry in crime reduction techniques. Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman was a joint sponsor of the event, with the Sheriff.

About 250 people were in attendance, as well as another

50 law enforcement officers in addition to the ones that appeared on the stage with the Sheriff, and spoke about their particular roles in public safety.

Attending and speaking were Constables Ken Jones, Chris Diaz, and Phil Sandlin, County Commissioner Pct. 2 Jack Morman, County District Attorney Devon Anderson, and Galena Park ISD Police Chief Bryan Clements.

Each official in their turn explained the functions of their office, and the special initiatives they have taken to reduce crime or operate more efficiently.

Sheriff Garcia spoke about needing more deputies, and in fact with Morman's help he has been able to field 140 new patrol deputies. He has imple-



PUBLIC OFFICIALS took the stage at the sheriff's Safety Meeting, held last Tuesday evening at the North Shore High School auditorium. Included, at top right are Constable Ken Jones, Commissioner Jack Morman, GPISD Chief Bryan Clements, HCDA Devon Anderson. At top left is Sheriff Adrian Garcia, and others on both levels are his Deputies.

mented realtime communication with his patrols and investigators. He has sponsored youth Explorer troops to prepare young men and women for careers in law enforcement after public school.

District Attorney Devon Anderson spoke about her experience over 20 years prosecuting all types of crimes, and when her office takes the initiative to investigate and prosecute. Otherwise, she said,

most of her work is in support and reactive with other law enforcement agencies. However, she has established several types of special prosecuting

Continued on page 8

Woman survives after her car plunges into Lake Houston

SHELDON – A 60-year-old woman is alive after being trapped for 45 minutes in her car, which was submerged in Lake Houston Thursday morning, according to the Sheldon Fire Department.

According to the Fire Department, the accident happened around 9 a.m. near the Duessen Park Boat Ramp in North Shore after fishermen saw the maroon sedan go into the water.



A tow truck pulls out the red car from Lake Houston.

The fishermen called emergency responders, who were able to tow the car out of the lake with their boat.

Fire officials said the woman who had been driving the car then floated out of the window to the surface and gasped for air after being in the submerged car for about 45 minutes. The woman was talking when she was transported to a local hospital in stable condition. She was coherent but

not making sense when answering questions.

Investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office said the woman was able to survive due to some sort of pocket of trapped air in the car.

The incident is under investigation by the HPD's Lake Patrol. Investigators do not know why the woman drove the car off the boat ramp.

COMMUNITY FESTIVITIES

Channelview FFA sale and parade



Grand champion Steer, shown by Colton Taylor

CHANNELVIEW – The Channelview FFA club members held their 51st Annual Livestock Show last Saturday, April 5th, after a week of exhibiting their animals and having them judged.

Activities started on Tuesday, at the Allen Hall Fair Grounds on Wood Drive, and culminated on Saturday with a parade on Sheldon Road, a Chili Cook-off and judging, an

awards program, and finally the Auction Sale of their livestock. Net proceeds go to the students for scholarships and animal support.

A large number of exhibitors were included this year, with 88 lots put up for auction. Veteran auctioneer Lynn Spell kept the bidding lively, and brought good results for the exhibitors. The Sweetheart Cake, shown by Cyndee Beach,



Diva Dynasty float

Photos by Mark Kramer/CISD

was purchased by TJ's Kitchen for \$1000, and the Grand Champion Steer, exhibited by Colton Taylor, was purchased by Askev & Yates Remodeling for \$7000.

Other notable purchases were Grand Champion Hog, exhibited by Katie Carson and purchased by Tubular Services for \$4000; Grand Champion Goat, exhibited by Sydnee Beach and purchased by Tu-

tor Security Co. for \$1750; Grand Champion Rabbits, shown by Matthew Yates and purchased by Kenneth Wilis for \$2300; Grand Champion Lamb, shown by Skyler Webb, and purchased by Shoreline Construction for \$2300, Grand Champion Broilers, shown by Sydnee Beach and purchased by Tutor Security for \$1900;

See **FESTIVITIES**, page 8

GALENA PARK

Candidates Forum set for April 25

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.

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 qualifications. 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 Killough
Position 3, Parks & Recreation: Veronica Garcia, Maricela Serna

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

All are welcome. Contact the NC 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 will run for Positions 1, 2, and 3. Early voting in both elections starts April 28th, and finishes May 6th.



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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Donna Britt recognized for her support of History Day



Donna Britt (left) receives a plaque from Dr. Melissa Duarte, Goose Creek CISD's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, in appreciation of her support for and dedication to History Day at the recent Regional History Fair contest at Lee College.

Donna Britt, social studies department head/content specialist at Ross S. Sterling High School, was recognized at the recent Regional History Fair at Lee College with a plaque, presented to her by Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Goose Creek CISD, in appreciation of her support for and dedication to History Day.

According to Taunya Breaux, coordinator of social studies for Goose Creek CISD, Britt has kept the flame of History Fair alive during her years at RSS. To her credit, Britt was the second public school teacher ever to receive the prestigious Outstanding Leadership in Education award from the Texas State Historical Association, which is usually awarded to a college or university professor. She also received an award

from Humanities Texas for Outstanding History Teacher. Britt was presented with the Ottis Lock Award for History at Public School Level from the East Texas Historical Association, and she is one of only two teachers who received the David DeBoe Award from the Texas State Historical Association for Outstanding Contribution to National History Day. Britt was also named as one of ten finalists for the National History Day Outstanding Teacher Award.

Two Crosby FFA members catch at the Houston Rodeo calf scramble



Madison, middle, with Calf Scramble donor 3S Cookers.

Meagan and Madison daughters of Billy and Shannon Nash who are both members of the Crosby FFA ran in the HLSR on March 22 with a hope and dream as with thirty other young people to catch one of the fifteen calves and bring it back to the center of the arena.

Madison a freshman took off as soon as the hat dropped wanting to catch as soon as she could and win a belt buckle for first one back across line only to be the fourth one to cross the line back with her calf.

Meagan a junior had a harder time catching her calf and had to grab one by the tail and work her way up to put her halter on its head being dragged at one point. She took a lot of sand attached to her blue jeans with her. She learned she had the mystery calf which she won a beautiful watch that has the HLSR Logo on it.

Both girls were happy and explained how amazing they felt as they were taken to meet their Calf Scramble Donor and received their \$1500. Certificate to purchase a steer or



Megan with watch donor

heifer to show at the 2015 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

They have chosen to show Heifers at the 2015 HLSR. A record book of their experiences with their heifers along with reports and essays are required to receive the \$250.

Meagan and Madison are very active with their FFA and 4-H activities. They both showed Heifers at Austin, San Antonio and Houston Livestock and Rodeo. Meagan

placed 3rd at Austin and San Antonio and won her class at Houston winning a trophy.

Madison place 5th at Austin and San Antonio and 2nd at Houston.

Just starting the 2014 year both girls together have collected over four belt buckets and

one banners, with 4 trophy's just with their heifers. They both have a steer, pig and turkeys for Crosby Fair and hope to have their heifers ready to show also.

FM 2100 narrows

FM 2100 North and South from South Diamondhead to FM 1960 will narrow to one alternating lane until April 25 from 8:30 a.m. -

til 3:00 p.m. according to Texas Department of Transportation beginning this week.



KATHY LARAMORE JODIE ROANE
JENNY HINSON JACK NOONAN CLAUDIA LE BLANC

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Board members visit site of new GCCISD Elementary school



Aaron Kizer (left), Bañuelos Elementary School construction jobsite superintendent, and Ray Brown (right) senior project inspector, explain some details about the current phase of construction at Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary School to (front, l to r) Ken Martin, Board member; Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD superintendent; (back, l to r) Daniel Blackford, Board president; David Fluker, executive director of facilities management and Marie Flynn, area executive director for the Goose Creek Memorial High School feeder pattern, during recent campus visits by administrators and the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

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SCHOOLS, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS



Channelview ISD March students of the month

Channelview ISD recently honored its year of their 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 March Students of the Month include, from left, Hazel Benevides (Cobb Elementary), Ian Cuatiquiz (De Zavala Elementary), Christian Suarez (De Zavala Elementary-February honoree), Kairi Mitchell (Aguirre Junior High), Ricardo Martinez (Channelview High School), Miguel Anjel Martinez (Kolarik Ninth Grade Campus), Trinity Calvert (Alice Johnson Junior High) and Janelle Diaz (Hamblen Elementary). Pictured in front right Jayleen Garza (Crenshaw Elementary), Mauricio Montes (Brown Elementary) and Stephanie Flores (McMullan Elementary). Not pictured is Caren Martinez from Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center.

Galena Park HS Speech and Debate team earns prestigious honor



The Galena Park High School Speech and Debate Team - National Forensic League Charter Members: Front Row (L/R): Delmy Escobar, Danielle Galvan, Joanna Elizondo, Delia Gonzales, Naomi Marroquin, Jacob Moncivais. Back Row (L/R): Tony Gardea (GPHS Principal), Bailey Schatte, Raymond Medellin, Ammy DeLeon, Esai Ornelas, Robert Antimo, Elias Vega, and James Kingsmill (GPHS Speech and Debate Coach). Not pictured: Nevia Martinez.

On March 7, 2014, the Galena Park High School Speech and Debate Team received notification by the National Speech and Debate Association - National Forensic League and Debate Honor Society that they have been granted Charter Membership in the National Forensic League (NFL). This significant distinction is the highest school membership honor in the NFL. Once joining the National Speech and Debate Association - National Forensic League Speech and Debate Honor Society, schools have three years in which to work to attain the Charter Member status. This prestigious honor demonstrates hard work and dedication by the all of Galena Park High School Speech and Debate Team members.

The National Speech and Debate Association - National Forensic League Speech and Debate Honor Society is a non-partisan, not for profit educational honor society, established to train high school students in the forensic arts: debate, public speaking, and the interpretation of literature. The NFL believes that all students should be empowered to become effective communicators, ethical individuals, critical thinkers, and leaders in a democratic society. Currently over 93,000 high school students and over 7,000 high school teachers are building their linguistic, cognitive, leadership, and presentational skills as members. Since 1925, more than 1.3 million people have found their voice in the National Speech

and Debate Association - National Forensic League Speech and Debate Honor Society. The charter members for the Galena Park High School Chapter of the National Speech and Debate Association - National Forensic League Speech and Debate Honor Society, followed by their membership Degrees, are: Delmy Escobar - Distinction, Delia Gonzales - Excellence, Ammy DeLeon - Excellence, Danielle Galvan - Excellence, Elias Vega - Excellence, Raymond Medellin - Excellence, Jacob Moncivais - Excellence, Joanna Elizondo - Honor, Nevia Martinez - Honor, Naomi Marroquin - Honor, Bailey Schatte - Honor, Robert Antimo - Honor and James Kingsmill, Speech and Debate Coach - Distinction

Channelview Gulf Coast Educators FCU donates \$2,500 to Education Foundation



Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union recently donated \$2,500 to the Channelview ISD Education Foundation for the third consecutive year. Presenting the ceremonial check to Foundation Executive Director Mark Kramer, left, and CISD Board of Trustees President and Foundation member Steven Dennis and are Gulf Coast Educators marketing coordinator Marshall Bennett and Julia Arceneaux, business development manager.

Once again, the Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union has shown their commitment to helping provide Channelview ISD teachers with the resources they need. GCEFCU continued its strong support of the Channelview ISD Education Foundation with a \$2,500 donation to go toward Innovative Teaching Grants. Over the past three years, the credit union has contributed \$7,500 to the Foundation to assist educators. Gulf Coast Educators FCU is also a Founding Donor of the Channelview ISD Foundation.

The Channelview Independent School District Education Foundation is a independent 501c3 non-profit organization that has been created to support educational excellence that will enhance student achievement by providing funds for educational programs and activities which have either not been funded or have been under-funded by the normal operating budget. "Our partnership with Gulf Coast is also a friendship," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent. "They go the extra mile in supporting our teachers. We are most appreciative of their generous gifts of not only funding, but the resources and time that they provide for our educators."

Open House 2014 will showcase San Jacinto College

PASADENA, Texas - San Jacinto College will host Open House 2014 events at all three campuses, providing the public an opportunity to learn about the programs, services, and activities available at the College. The events are free and open to the public. Academic and technical programs, Continuing & Professional Development, Honors programs, dual credit options, student life activities, athletics, and student services will be showcased at Open House 2014. Faculty, staff, and students will be on hand to answer questions about enrollment, financial aid, and educational planning. Activities will include campus tours, presentations and resource fairs. One \$250 San Jacinto College scholarship will be awarded by drawing at each campus. Area high school students, veterans, and workforce professionals looking to attend college for the first time, re-

turn to college, upgrade job skills, or receive additional training are encouraged to attend Open House 2014 at their nearest San Jacinto College campus. The following are campus dates, times, and locations: •North Campus - Wednesday, April 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Welcome Center. The North Campus is located at 5800 Uvalde in Houston. •South Campus - Thursday, April 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Welcome Center. The South Campus is located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. •Central Campus - Wednesday, April 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Interactive Learning Center lobby. The Central Campus is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. For more information about Open House 2014, please visit www.sanjac.edu or call 281-998-6150.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL
North Channel Library events
-Saturday, April 12, 11-12:30 pm Ask a Lawyer
-Tuesday, April 15, 10:30 am Toddler Time; 1:30 pm Preschool story time.
-Wednesday, April 16, 4 pm Wii Game Day.
-Thursday, April 17, 10:30 am Baby Time. Library closes at 5 pm.
-Friday, April 18 - CLOSED
-Saturday, April 19, 10 am - 3 pm Scrapbooking with Mia; 3 pm Faithful Paws.
-Monday, April 21, 4:30 pm Board Game Day.
-Tuesday, April 22, 10:30 am Toddler Time; 1:30 pm Traveling Naturalist preschool program.
-Wednesday, April 23, 10 am Book Club; 4:30 pm World Book Night.
15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs/classes.

APRIL
Galena Park Library events
-Tuesday, April 15, 1 pm Inter-net Basics III; 4 pm Mecanografia.
-Wednesday, April 16, 11 am Children's Story Time; 4 pm Holiday Craft.
-Thursday, April 17, 11 am Baby Time; 3:30 pm Family Movie Time. Library closing at 5 pm.
-Tuesday, April 22, 1 pm File & Folder Mgmt I; 4 pm Practica de Primeros.
1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547. Call 713-450-0982 for more information on other programs.

FEBRUARY- APRIL
Free tax help for seniors
The Tax-Aide program sponsored by the IRS and AARP Foundation. The program is designed to assist taxpayers age 60 and over but will also assist low and moderate income filers. -North Channel Branch of Harris, County Public Library, Thursdays noon to 4 p.m. Services are ongoing until Tuesday, April 15th. Taxpayers should bring the following items with them: -Social Security cards for yourself and all dependents -A copy of last year's tax return -W-2 forms from each employer -Unemployment compensation statements -All 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc.) -Child care provider information -Receipts or cancelled checks if itemizing deductions -Some type of picture ID For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit www.arp.org/taxaide.

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TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

Ghost Towns in Texas

They may or may not appear on a modern, automobile-integrated GPS or a Google maps website but that are there nonetheless. If you drive enough through the vast openness of the Texas Rolling Plains, the High Plains, or the Permian Basin you see places where people used to live.

names as well. Granted at many of the places named, nothing exists - at least not anything that you can see from the public roadways. Sometimes in my quest I come up empty on finding compelling places but that's just part of the hunt. Each place, regardless of how many build-



Old store in Orla, Texas.

They are ghost towns but not in the popular sense that you see in old west mining towns. Texas ghost towns often just consists of clues: some subtle and some not so subtle. Maybe it's an old concrete foundation or it could be a scuttled cotton gin. Either way, the western part of the state is, regrettably, full of places where the people have vanished. In some of the places a smattering of people still hang on - not yet lured by the economic opportunities presented in nearby towns or faraway cities. People who, for a variety of reasons, still have a deep connection with the land.

When I travel, I have the modern conveniences to aid me in navigating to my destination but I always carry my Roads of Texas atlas. The atlas is an excruciatingly detailed compendium of every road in Texas. From the busiest interstate to the sleepest county road is documented in the atlas. Aside from the roads, the book documents place-

ings are still there, is a study in rural flight and always prompts me to learn more about a place's history, its maturity, and its ultimate demise.

Some places, like Orla, were never that big to begin with and only serve as a blip on our state's timeline. Others, however, seem to fade away when the local school closes and consolidates with another nearby, yet bigger, school. McCauley is one such place. After a tragic bus accident in the late 1970's took the life of several on the girl's basketball team, the school closed a few years later and the town is now just a shadow of what it once was.

Whatever the reason for a small town's fate, a glimpse into their past by examining the present is always a fascinating study. As long as there are open roads in Texas, I'll keep exploring and learning more about the historical tapestry that makes the backroads the state's most interesting roads.



TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie A. Farrar

About to retire

The Mrs. has brought home some information about her upcoming retirement so reckon it will be this sometime this summer. Yours truly has been retired now for 6 years and have had the best time of my life, not missing the bank and all that goes with it. The peace and quiet all day long with the exception of some music maybe with many pages turned in a good book. Numerous boxes of novels, fiction and western books have been accumulated during this time. Amazing that one never realized he would enjoy reading so much, love it!

Surely she will want to do some traveling and that is fine as long as it ain't June, July or August. For one thing during that time the price of petrol goes up to its highest thereby sticking it to me and you, John Q. Consumer. Get the grandkids to come here rather than us going to Baton Rouge too.

Plenty of room in this new house compared to the one built kitchen at the other house. Besides, last trip we made to Baton Rouge got the bright idea of taking the blow up air mattress that is like two mattresses on top one another. Anyway, being the first one in bed each night the mattress felt good compared to the fold out queen sofa with a mattress and springs where one sleeps in a hole.

Daughter-in-law being nice comes and turns on the ceiling fan that would blow ashes out of an ashtray if one was around and she likes a cool house at night. Glad to have the Mrs. and some covers when she came to bed as one felt like a side of beef hanging in a chilly room.

About three in the morning my system says turn over and one scooped over to the Mrs. back to get warm and it was warm too. She inched over and the air mattress began to indent where the two of us lay near the edge and to the floor we went when the mattress flipped up. She ended up on her glasses and broke them. Here we are laying in the floor, me on her and laughing at the episode. It wasn't funny because it was cold but it was funny.

At least she got a new pair of glasses out of it and wore my old ones until hers were ready.

Thankful for the recent rains, the suckers on the tomato plants have really sprouted and had to be pinched off. Got the fingers crossed and so far so good with the Early Girl Tomato Plants. Big leaves shade the tomatoes and the red dirt on top of the ground. Already have a jar of Duke Mayonnaise for the first couple of tomato samiches.

Charlie Farrar can be reached at: xuseg@yahoo.com

State responds to Fort Hood shooting

AUSTIN — A Fort Hood soldier brought a civilian semi-automatic pistol to the sprawling military post 60 miles north of the Capitol city on April 2 and opened fire, killing three fellow service members and wounding 16 others before turning the .45-caliber weapon on himself.

The suspect, Specialist Ivan Lopez, 34, died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound reportedly after a female military police officer confronted him.

Gov. Rick Perry, in a statement released the day of the shooting, said, "Today, Fort Hood was once again stricken by tragedy. As Texans, our first priority must be caring for the victims and their families. Fort Hood has proven its resilience before and will again. Texas will support those efforts in any way we can, with any resources necessary. The thoughts and prayers of all Texans are with everyone affected by this tragedy."

Attorney General Greg Abbott, on April 3, said he would send members of his Crime Victim Services Division to Fort Hood to work with victims of the attack and that victims may apply for reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses through the state Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

Abbott, the state's chief law enforcement officer, said: "Our hearts break for the wounded military men and women and the families of those who died. Few answers can be found in the days immediately after such a tragedy, but we pledge to assist in any way we can. Members of our military and Texans in the Fort Hood area have stared down adversity before and they will do it again."

An April 3 White House news release said "the Department of Defense has the lead on the investigation with support from federal partners including the FBI, as well as state and local law enforcement personnel."

'Obamacare' enrollment ends

With an official enrollment total and supporting information yet to come, a few hundred thousand Texans applied and obtained health insurance cov-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

erage under the U.S. Affordable Care Act before the March 31 enrollment deadline.

The Obama administration's national goal of gaining 7 million enrollees reportedly was met after months of technical problems with the healthcare.gov website created to process applications.

Still, an estimated one-fourth of the state's 26 million

12.7 percent African American, 3.6 percent Asian and 1.8 percent multiracial.

Safety campaign is launched

Texas Department of Transportation on April 2 urged motorists "to put away their mobile devices and other distractions, and pay attention to the road."

April, the agency said, marks National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the kickoff of TxDOT's annual "Talk, Text, Crash" public education campaign.

The Talk, Text, Crash campaign warns motorists about the dangers of distractions and urges them to avoid multitasking or engaging in non-driving activities until they arrive at their destination.

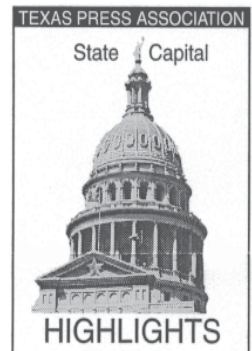
John Barton, TxDOT deputy executive director, said, "The statistics in Texas are sobering. One in five traffic crashes in Texas is caused by a distracted driver, and last year, 459 people were killed as a result. Those deaths were preventable..."

TxDOT gave examples of distractions, including: texting, checking email, eating and drinking, grooming, reading, programming a navigation system, watching a video, and adjusting a radio, CD player or other audio device.

Unemployment rate drops

Texas Workforce Commission on March 28 reported employers added 37,600 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in February and "those additions, coupled with a revised gain of 43,000 jobs in January, boosted annual growth to 314,200 jobs in Texas."

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in February, the commission reported, adding that the rate was down from 6.5 percent in February 2013, a full percentage point below the nation's February unemployment rate of 6.7 percent.



residents do not have health insurance but are eligible under "Obamacare," leaving Texas as among the least-covered states.

Statewide enrollment climbs

Public school enrollment in Texas reached 5,075,840 in 2012-2013 and "continues to surge, growing by 820,019 students or more than 19 percent over the past decade," the Texas Education Agency reported on April 1.

The 2012-2013 school year marked the first time that statewide enrollment officially topped five million, the agency said and from the 1987-1988 school year to the 2012-2013 school year enrollment grew 57.4 percent, or about 1.85 million students.

Pulling information from its new report, "Enrollment in Texas Public Schools 2012-2013," the agency noted the composition of the overall student body was 51.3 percent Hispanic, 30.0 percent white,

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

OBITUARIES

Lloyd George Polyard

Lloyd George Polyard, 78, of Crosby, TX, passed Apr 4, 2014 after a long illness at the Houston Methodist St. John's Hospital, Nassau Bay, Texas. He was born to the late George and Verna (Sass) Polyard, Feb 14, 1936, in Wabasha, MN.

Lloyd graduated from Wabasha High School. He entered the United States Army in 1954 serving for 25 years where he retired in 1979 reaching the rank of Sergeant First Class. Lloyd married Joanne Mary Herbst, of Lake City, MN, Sept. 14, 1957.

A member of American Legion Post 658 and Sacred Heart Catholic Church Crosby TX, he was very active in several service organizations in the Crosby area. He was an avid golfer for many years and loved to travel enjoying life in his retirement.

Lloyd is survived by three brothers, two sisters and five children: son and daughter-in-law Randy and Anne Bechel of Rochester MN, daughter and son-in-law Brenda and Martin Malkowski of West Plains MO, daughter and son-in-law Beth and Mike White of Slidell LA, daughter Lori Polyard of Stockton CA, and daughter and son-in-law Lea Ann and Doug Sorrell, of Huffman TX.

He has 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his son, Michael Joseph Polyard;



father George; mother Verna and one brother Wayne.

Services were held at Earthman Funeral Home, Baytown, TX, viewing was Tues Apr 08, 2014 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm, a Mass of Christian Burial was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Wed, Apr 09, 2014 at 11:00am, and graveside interment followed at Sterling-White Cemetery. Memorial donations in Lloyd's name may be made in lieu of flowers to St. Jude's Foundation.

To view the online obituary and post a tribute to the family, visit www.earthmanbaytown.com

Arrangements were under the direction of Earthman Funeral Home, 3919 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX 77521; (281) 422-8181.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

EPHESIANS 5:2

Woodcut of Christ by Hans Sebald Beham (1500-1550)

David Lee James

David Lee James passed away on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the age of 57.

David is lovingly remembered by the love of his life, Elizabeth Hudnall of 25 years; daughters Gina James, Stephanie Hudnall and Roxanne Hudnall; son Edward James; his 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; as well as loving nieces, nephews and other relatives.

David was born in Austin, Texas on September 13, 1955. After high school he continued on a career in the United States Marine Corps, serving two full terms as well as serving in Vietnam. After serving his terms in the Marine Corps he continued on a career in construction at Carousel Paint Co and Calypso Contractors where he retired to Midway Propane in Crystal Beach, TX and Lincoln Park Farms in Houston, TX.



David enjoyed hard work, cooking, fishing, hunting, riding his Harley Davidson and spending time with family.

Services for David will be graveside at Houston National Cemetery with marine honors on April 11, 2014 at 2:15 promptly. The farm family will be honoring our loss with dinner after services at the farm.

William "Louie" Lester Pogue Jr.

William "Louie" Lester Pogue Jr., age 83, of New Caney, peacefully went to be with the Lord surrounded by his loving wife and family, Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Louie was born November 29, 1930 in Liberty, TX to William and Hazel Pogue.

Louie is preceded in death by his parents; 3 brothers, Jackie, Ted, and Bobby Pogue; and sister Barbara Golden.

Louie is survived by his loving wife of 57 years and 10 months, Joyce Pogue; children, Belinda Gail Tittel and husband Kenny, Bill Pogue and wife Charlotte, Larry Pogue, Theresa Groneck and husband Paul, Paula McLean and husband Shane, Rodger Pogue and wife Shannon; two sisters, Faye Beeson, Betty Gray and husband Billy; 21 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren and three on the way; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Visitation will be Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at Rosewood Funeral Home, 2602 South Houston Ave. in Humble, TX, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. A celebration of Louie's life will be 12:00 PM Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at New Caney Family Worship Center. Interment will follow 2:30 PM at Magnolia Cemetery in Onalaska.

PASTOR'S NEWS VIEWS

By Tim Edwards

Code language

Educators in Texas speak and write in a code language of acronyms. STAAR is easily the most recognizable educational acronym, especially during this week of statewide testing. STAAR is the "State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness", the standardized test most recently mandated by the Texas Legislature. STAAR replaces the TAKS which replaced the TAAS and is based on the TEKS curriculum standards set by the TEA. If all these acronyms make sense to someone, they will also know the secret handshake and have a decoder ring as full members of the educational inner circle! The significance of STAAR and other assessments is to determine the knowledge level of students, and is also an evaluation of the effectiveness of the schools and teachers. Educators, parents, and even students recognize that academic readiness is a link to successful careers and is the foundation for a stable culture. Thus STAAR brings accountability for students, parents, faculty, and administration through testing on various academic disciplines.

Social Studies are one major category of STAAR alongside math, science, and reading skills. Social Studies is foundational to establishing a worldview which determines the social, political, economic, emotional, and even spiritual well-being of a specific culture. Therefore, knowledge of history sets the course for 21st century USA customs and mores as time goes forward. Social Studies, including World History and US History are a secular subject, but the underpinning of social studies is ultimately rooted in spiritual truth. History is HIS...Story, God's story. God has revealed Himself in creation and through the centuries in the events on planet earth. The parameters for setting an historical timeline are established with an understanding of origins. Origin of the universe and of humanity is either from a secular or Biblical worldview. A Biblical worldview is the recognition that the Source of all is God Himself. Paul addressed the great scholars of Athens and spoke truth to them at their regular assembly on Mars Hill. *The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, Acts 16:24-28.*

Thus history is HIS...Story. Jesus is literally the Power that created and now sustains the universe. Correct answers to the STAAR test or EOC (End of Course) Assessment are bubbled in on the scantron because of adequate study and preparation by students and faculty. God's Word proclaims HIS...Story of redemption, restoration, resurrection. Each "student" has opportunity now to receive His Answer, the Grace of the Cross and the Empty Tomb. The ultimate EOC (End of Course) Assessment is when Jesus returns. HIS...Story prophesies the future of God's revelation as well as His work through past centuries and current events. Celebrate HIS...Story as you commemorate Easter 2014!

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Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. Proverbs 13:25

Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

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Sylvia Louise Marlar

Sylvia Louise Marlar, 82, of Channelview, passed from this life on April 07, 2014. She was born January 07, 1932 in Aransas Pass, Texas to parents, Joseph Floyd and Bertha A. Gambill. She was preceded in death by her parents and by brothers & sisters, Samuel Gambill, Alice Gambill, Floyd Gambill and Esta Wilkinson; by daughter, Brenda Echols; and by her beloved husband of almost 51 years, Clarence Ray Marlar. She is survived by daughters, Betty Harlow & husband, Ronnie; and Beverly Garza & husband, A.G.; by grandchildren, Jennifer, Jeff, Ronald Ray, Stephanie; great-grandchildren, Brittany, Colbie Lynn & Christopher; and great-great-grandchild, Elliott; as well as several step-grandchildren and numerous step-great-grandchildren. A visitation will be held Friday, April 11, 2014 from 6-8:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church, 330 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Texas with services at the church 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12, 2014. She will be laid to rest following the services in San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Carter Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St., Houston, TX. 77015. 713-455-5100

Highlands Ministerial Alliance offers Easter Sunrise

The whole community is invited to a sunrise worship service on Easter, April 20 in Highlands, TX. This year the Highlands Ministerial Alliance has decided to host this at the San Jacinto Community Center at 604 Highlands Woods Drive. Such a beautiful park to gather as a community, sing praises to God, pray for our community, and hear a message by one of our community preachers! The service will start at 6:45 a.m. and last no more than one hour. There will be some seating, but bring a folding chair if you have one and meet at the area of the large pavilion.

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Isaiah 29: 10

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
Phillipians 4:13

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BUSINESS & EDUCATION NEWS

GALENA PARK ISD

North Shore senior high principal named HEB excellence in education finalist

Houston - Congratulations to Dr. Joe Coleman, Principal, North Shore Senior High School, on being named a finalist in the HEB Excellence in Education Award for 2014. Dr. Coleman was surprised on Wednesday, April 3rd by Dr. Angi Williams, Superintendent of Schools, Ken Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Support, other central administrators, and members of his own faculty, staff, as well as students. Along with flowers, balloons, and a cake, the award included a \$1,000 check for Dr. Coleman and \$2,500 for NSSHS. Dr. Coleman was unaware of the award being presented by HEB representative, Martha Barrera, so the shock of the reveal thrilled the auditorium full of students who gave him resounding cheers and applause.



Dr. Joe Coleman stands with H-E-Buddy and his administrative team. Pictured (L/R): H-E-B Buddy, Kimberly Martin, Julien Guillory, Dr. Joe Coleman, Brett Lalor, Dr. Dewayne McGary, Dr. Kareen Brown, and Ken Bush

During the ceremony, Dr. Williams commented, "GPISD is a family, and when one of our family members is recognized at the state level, we all rejoice. This is a wonderful opportunity to let those in our community, region, and state know that Galena Park is always about excellence." Directing her comments directly to the honoree, Dr. Williams said, "Dr. Coleman, having you receive this award here today makes us proud. There are so many good things going on in our schools every day, and I wish each story of success could be told."

HEB established the Excellence in Education Awards to honor educators, both teachers and administrators, and school districts in 2010. Each year, the organization gives

cash awards to semi-finalists, finalists, and winners totaling over \$800,000. Over the next month, H-E-B will continue to surprise a total of 40 finalists across the state, awarding \$95,000 to principals and teachers.

Ken Wallace also stated, "We are grateful for the vision HEB shares with educators and districts across the state

as they reward the tremendous efforts of those who care deeply for our most valuable resource: our students!"

Dr. Coleman, along with other principal finalists, will participate in a weekend of panel interviews this spring as prominent educators from around the state hear about his many career successes and his unflinching expectations for student achievement.

GALENA PARK ISD

Never too young to be a Knight

After a ceremonial ritual, chosen students are officially knighted in front an audience of their peers with delighted family members awaiting just out of sight, ready to greet and congratulate their new "knight" on a job well done - truly a moving experience for any grade school student.

The EarlyAct FirstKnight Program (EAFK) is currently being successfully implemented at Cloverleaf and North Shore Elementary Schools. EAFK is a groundbreaking character education program for elementary and middle schools from Knights of the Guild. Sponsored by The North Shore Rotary Club, EAFK motivates and teaches children of all backgrounds to become civil, service-oriented individuals during their most formative years.

"With the EarlyAct FirstKnight Program, I noticed that our students are displaying more signs of integrity and building character traits that will not only make our community better, but make our school better at the same time," said Mr. Lee Brown Principal of Cloverleaf Ele-

mentary School and North Shore Rotary member.

Every six weeks, students gather in the school's assembly area for the official knight- ing ceremony while proud parents and excited family members secretly assemble off stage.

The nominating teacher of the soon-to-be knighted student reads a prepared accolade which demonstrates the recipient's worthiness for nomination in a particular area of virtue that is being celebrated. There are ten virtues taught during the course of the year long program: Tolerance, Responsibility, Confidence, Perseverance, Discipline, Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Friendliness, and Service. Next, a tabard - a tunic worn by a knight over his armor - is placed over the shoulders of the recipient just before ascending to the stage where they are given a medallion marked with the particular discipline being celebrated that day. Once this is completed, the student is officially knighted while being recognized for his/her accomplishment in front of a gym full of



"I dub thee knight, champion, and member of the gallery," says Sir James Lehman during an EarlyAct FirstKnight ceremony.

silent peers, all hoping to be chosen next.

"I've been with the program for about eight years and the one thing I truly love about the program is to see the interaction between the faculty, the parents, and the kids. Some kids aren't always the best athletes and won't get an award for that or have the scholastic ability to make the honor roll, but they exemplify

really good character, and that's something this program emphasizes," said Sir James Lehman.

Early Act has a service project in which kids participate. Through this project last year our school raised \$4,000.00 for one of our students who had Leukemia," said Esmeralda Perez, Principal, North Shore Elementary School.

CHANNELVIEW

CHS, Kolarik libraries participate in 'Free Book' program



Through the collaborative efforts of Vickie Bookout, librarian at Kolarik Ninth Grade Center and Connie Knotts, marketing teacher at Channelview High School, over 100 students were able to receive a free book to take home. Ms. Knotts initiated the activity as one of the requirements in her current library science course she is taking at Sam Houston State University. Ms. Knotts collected books from CHS teachers and students, and Ms. Bookout applied for free books through First Book, which is an organization that gives free books to teachers to give out to students. Sampling the books are, from left, Bookout, Jose Garcia, Adilene Aguilar, Bianca Cruz and Knotts.

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Sheriff's Safety Meeting,

Continued from page 1

units, including human trafficking and capital murder cases. She urged citizens to contact her office when needed, at harriscountytexas.com.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman said that his role on commissioners' court is to help set and approve budgets for county offices, including the Sheriff. He noted that more money has been made available for law enforcement, and 140 new patrol officers have been added. He also said they will be used soon to enforce new regulations against illegal game rooms, noting that their fines and licenses will pay for this enforcement.

Constable Ken Jones mentioned his lifelong relation with North Shore, having been a resident for 31 years. He said his patrol officers have a response time of only 3 minutes, even though they cover a large area. He also has a Task Force, working with the Sheriff, that is charged with proactive crime prevention. So far they have accounted for 40 felons arrested since the inception of the unit. He said he has been more efficient by using contract deputies to supplement his force. He urged citizens to report crime they observe on his Facebook page, which he monitors every day.

Constable Phil Sandlin said his main responsibility is watching for Terrorism in port, bridge and highway facilities in his district, Pct. 8. He announced that his officers Tuesday had just arrested a woman in a traffic stop, with \$200,000 in drugs that were destined for distribution in Beaumont.

Constable Chris Diaz said he works with 8 municipalities in his district, meets with the public at civic clubs and other events, and urges citizens to use his website for reports. It is hecp2.com.

Galena Park ISD Chief Bryan Clements characterized his duties as different than the others, since all of his constituents are 18 years of age or younger, i.e. school students. He expands his staff by partnering closely with Pct. 2 and Pct. 3 constables, he said. His campus based police officers have special training every year for the special needs of a school environment, to make it safer.

Sheriff Garcia asked some of his other command officers

to explain their functions, including Assistant Chief Armando Tello, Deputy Chief Fred Brown, in charge of the jail inmates, and Dr. Seale, the medical director of his staff at the jail.

Tello spoke on his coordination with other agencies, Brown said that he is responsible for 9000 inmates at the jail, of which 400 new ones are processed every day, and Dr. Seale said he was in charge of a medical staff of 460 that provide all types of services to the inmates.

Sheriff Garcia said that his budget is over \$400 million, most of it in salaries, but that he has been able to reduce overtime in his 3 years in office from \$40 million to \$8 million. In a demonstration of how citizens can help thwart crime, he had his officers check cars in the parking lot during the meeting. Of 230 cars, 59 failed an inspection due to obvious object in view that could be stolen, or open windows and doors.

About two dozen people



Sheriff Garcia moderated the meeting, and called on his staff to answer and follow up on specific complaints. He emphasized that citizens can participate in crime reporting and reduction.

asked questions next, with topics ranging from illegal drugs sold to students (synthetic marijuana for smoking), to noise of barking dogs, concern about open carrying laws for guns, follow-up on crimes that have been reported, property that is overrun with trash and homeless people, prostitutes working some streets, toxic water in wells, DUI problems, gang activity and more.

Garcia closed by reminding all that the reason for the meeting is to hear how his office is performing, and how it can improve.



DURING THE QUESTION PERIOD, a number of residents of Highlands brought their concerns to the Sheriff's attention. Dickie Woods, above, wanted an update on the Storefront Sheriff's office planned for the Woodforest Bank building in Highlands. He learned that the bank's lawyers were reworking some terms, but would soon approve the contract. Behind him, Charles Breen praised the Sheriff for his effort to start a crime watch in Highlands, and said it was making a difference. Highlands residents Jackie Young (of TexansTogether) and her mother complained about the toxins in the well water, how it killed their animals and forced them to move. They admitted the Sheriff was not in charge of this pollution situation, but complained that state and federal authorities were allowing it to continue, and "that is a crime. That is murder."

COMMUNITY WATCH

JC Police looking for robbers

JACINTO CITY – Police are looking for two men involved in a store robbery.

Last Sunday morning, while a clerk was trying to unlock and open the Market Stop in Jacinto City, a man wearing a hoodie approached him from behind and pointed a gun to him. The suspect along with another man took a money bag the clerk was holding for the register and ran away.

The clerk called 911 from a neighboring business.

If you have any information about the suspects, call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

GP Bicyclist dies after hit by truck

GALENA PARK – A bicyclist was hit and killed Wednesday night while riding in Galena Park.

According to Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies, the victim was riding his bike southbound in the 200 block of N. Main Street around 8 pm when he failed to yield the right of way to a pickup truck as he entered the lane of traffic, hitting the right front corner of the truck. The bicyclist, Isidro Martinez Campos, was thrown from the bike. The bicycle was engaged in the truck's bumper.

The victim was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital by ambulance where he died from the injuries sustained in the accident.

The accident is still under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Galena Park police department.

FFA FESTIVITIES,

Continued from page 1



Channelview HS band at FFA parade

Grand Champion Horticulture, shown by Brandon Moore and purchased by Cedillo Tax Service for \$700; and Grand Champion FCCLA Cake, shown by Josette Zavala and purchased by Tutor Security for \$700.

Commenting on the day, CISD's Mark Kramer said: "Members of the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Club compete for scholar-

ship dollars through the show and auction of livestock projects. The FFA has been a part of the Channelview ISD educational landscape since the mid 1960s. Over the last 50 years, the FFA's livestock show has grown in both size and scope."

The North Channel STAR will publish full photos and sales results in a future issue.

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APRIL 9, 2014

PICK-UP LOCATIONS FOR THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR

NORTH SHORE

- North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg
- Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd
- San Jacinto College North, Student Center & Library
- Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd
- East Houston Hospital, I-10
- Foodtown, Uvalde Rd
- Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd
- YMCA, Wallisville Rd
- Fiesta Market, I-10
- HPD Substation, I-10
- Federal Road Barber Shop, Uvalde @ Halifax
- Panera Restaurant, Beltway 8 @ Wallisville
- CiCi's Pizza, Uvalde @ Woodforest
- Shipley's Donuts, Uvalde @ I-10 E
- Post Office, Mesa Road
- Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8
- Fuddrucker's, Normandy Rd
- Walgreens, Maxey Rd @ Woodforest
- Senator Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg
- North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd
- North Shore High School, at Wallisville Rd
- Walgreens, 15511 Wallisville Rd

CHANNELVIEW

- K&T Western Wear, Sheldon Rd
- Post Office, Sheldon Rd
- Channelview High School, Sheldon Rd
- Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
- Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd
- Food Fair, Sheldon Rd @ I-10
- Flukinger Comm Ctr, Lorenzo St

HOLIDAY INN, I-10 E

SHELDON

- Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg.
- C. E. King High School, Tidwell Rd
- Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest Parkway Feed, CE King Blvd
- Community Bank of Texas, Tidwell Road

CLOVERLEAF

- HC WCID #36, Hollywood St
- Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St
- Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest
- CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport
- Gatti's Pizza, Uvalde
- North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Freeport

JACINTO CITY

- City Hall, Main Street
- El Ahorro Market, Main Street
- Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd
- Capital Bank, I-10 E
- Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St
- State Rep Ana Hernandez office, Mercury Drive
- Sellers Brothers Market, Market St
- JC Police Dept., Market St
- Market Street Feed Store, Market St

GALENA PARK

- Baggett Community Center, Keene St
- Post Office, Clinton Drive
- Galena Park High School, Keene St
- Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive
- Galena Park Library, Keene St

If you would like to be a PICK-UP LOCATION, let us know. 281-328-9605 or northchannelstar@gmail.com.

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