

Here it is! The New Newspaper for the North Shore Communities. Take One

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 1, NO. 1

DECEMBER 4, 2013

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

Charles Grant retires from Chamber

Charles Grant, the president of the North Channel Chamber for the last 2 years, announced his retirement in August of this year. He also served 18 years on the Chamber board.



Grant said that this was his second retirement, having been president of the San Jacinto College North Campus for 10 years. Grant promises to keep busy with his new continuing education association, however, so we can look forward to his company and help in the future.

Debra Duncan headlines Gala

Television personality Debra Duncan, of KHOU Channel 11, will be the featured speaker at the North Channel Chamber Gala, to be held Saturday, January 25, 2014 at the Houston Marriott Hotel, 9100 Gulf Freeway at 6:30 pm. Call the chamber at 713-450-3600 for reservations and info.

Christmas Parade in Channelview Friday Dec. 13

The Christmas tradition of a Holiday Parade will continue this year, with fire departments and school units participating in a parade starting at 6 pm on Friday night, Dec. 13. The parade route is from Holly Park Drive, down Freepoint Street to the frontage road, and then a return to the starting point. Be sure to come early for a good seat, and dress warmly. The parade is sponsored by the North Channel Assistance Ministries.



Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the North Channel Star Newspaper

Greetings from your publisher, Gilbert Hoffman, and our dedicated staff at Grafikpress Corp. that publish community newspapers around the Houston area.

We are pleased to bring a new newspaper, the *North Channel Star*, to the North Shore communities of Channelview, Sheldon, Cloverleaf, Galena Park, and



Jacinto City. It has been over three years since you had your own newspaper that is interested in your stories, your schools, your businesses, your clubs, churches and organizations.

We have been publishing community newspapers since our first paper, the *Highlands*



STATE SENATOR SYLVIA GARCIA, and CONGRESSMAN GENE GREEN view pre-publication copies of the North Channel Star.



Star-Courier was purchased in 1994. We now publish five newspapers, including this new one.

The newspaper is an important member of the community, giving it a voice and help-

ing it to have an identity. It also serves commerce, and we welcome your advertising support. It is important that if we do a good job, you help us remain financially strong.

We all know that the news-

paper business has changed over the years, and you will be able to find our paper on the internet and your smart phone, at www.northchannelstar.com, as well as in print.

When we were considering the establishment of a newspaper for the North Channel area, a number of people asked us to proceed. This included business people such as Jim Mills of Pineforest Jewelry, Rotarians of the North Shore Club, Charles Grant and Margie Buentello of the North Channel Chamber, and quite a few others. We thank them for their encouragement and suggestions.

It is especially appropriate that we have the support of the Rotary Club, since the *Highlands Star* was started in 1955 after Alton Neatherlin and James Brazzil met with that Rotary Club and were encouraged to found a paper, and join the community.

VETERANS CELEBRATIONS IN NOVEMBER

Veterans Day falls on November 11 this year, and the month of November is filled with differ-



C.E. King High School Air Force Jr. Cadets ROTC honor Veterans at the North Channel Chamber event on Nov. 7, 2013.

ent celebrations and events to thank the service men and women for their contributions to our freedom and safety.

In North Channel these took the place of a Chamber Salute and Expo at Armenta's Banquet Hall on Nov. 7, and a ceremony by Channelview ISD held at Bill Neal Hall.

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3.

Freeport Street to be rebuilt by Pct. 2



ARTIST'S RENDERING shows Freeport Street and surrounding properties after completion of the reconstruction. Freeport will be three lanes, from I-10 to Holly Park, with curbs, sidewalks, and extensive new drainage lines.

By Gilbert Hoffman
North Channel STAR

Officials, community leaders and contractors gathered last Wednesday, Nov. 6th at the Leon Grayson Center on Corpus Christi Street, for a ceremonial groundbreaking to mark the beginning of a three-year project to reconstruct Freeport Street, and the storm sewer system along the street

and to either side.

According to Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman, this project will cost \$12.8 million dollars. The money is coming from the federal government, he said, as reimbursement for flooding damage after Hurricane Ike in 2008. The money will primarily be used to build new storm drainage that will alleviate future flooding. At the same time, this gives an

opportunity to reconstruct pavement along Freeport Street, resulting in a modern 3-lane road from I-10 to Holly Park Drive, with curbs and sidewalks that are not there now.

Morman said that Freeport will also get new sewers and paving from Woodforest to Uvalde, but will not be totally rebuilt in that section. However, the Cloverleaf area will



A ceremonial groundbreaking took place on Wednesday, Nov. 6th at the Grayson Community Center. Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman was on hand, 3rd from right, as well as contractors, engineers, and Rotary President Matt Davis, and Chamber representatives Wilfred Broussard, Jr. and Margie Buentello.

receive new overlay asphalt paving on selected streets. This work is part of the Pct. 2 BetterStreets 2 Neighborhoods program that Morman is conducting throughout the precinct.

Engineers for the street and sewer work is R. G. Miller Engineers, and Dannenbaum Engineering Corp. Contractor

for the work is Allgood Construction Co. Inc. County Engineer is Art Storey Jr., HCCSD Director is David B. Turkel, Pct. 2 Engineer is Jeremy Phillips.

Funding for the project is from the Texas General Land Office, and U.S. HUD. Completion is expected by 2016, according to Morman.

Galena Park FFA Show & Sale held Nov. 21

Galena Park FFA held their 2013 Livestock Show & Auction on Thursday, November 21 after two days of preparation and judging in the various categories.

The auction was preceded by a buyer's luncheon, both events held at the GPISD Ag Building on Holland Avenue. The show was under the direction of Vicki Johnson of GPISD Career and Technical Education Department, and Ag teachers and FFA advisors Stephanie Jones and Erika Espitia.

There were 37 lots registered for the sale, and the Grand Champion Steer sold for \$10,000 to Latour. This was less than last year. The FFA has about 85 active members and 11 junior members.

Complete results and pictures will be in the next issue of the North Channel Star.



Galena Park FFA Exhibitor Frankie Pena prepares to show his Grand Champion Steer, as Auctioneer Patrick Kelly starts the bidding.

North Shore out of play-offs with 9-7 defeat

Two powerful high school football teams met last Friday night at Tully Stadium, and battled to a close score at the end.

This was the Regional semifinals in Class 5A Division I Region III. The Cy-Fair Bobcats and the North Shore Mustangs came into the game with similar style of play -- an overpowering defense, and a strong running game.

North Shore was the favorite, ranked No. 4 and with a 12-0 record. They had only given up a total of nine points in their last four games. Cy-Fair entered with almost as good an 11-1 record.

However, the Bobcats came up with the important plays when it counted most. In the first quarter, running back Dillon Birden ran 75 yards for a touchdown, thrilling the Cy-Fair fans, and setting the pace for the rest of the game. His

total yardage was 216 yards on 29 carries. D. Tobler also carried for the Bobcats, with 5 carries for 29 yards.

Cy-Fair was also able to mount a good passing game, with quarterback C. Kopecky having 9 completions on 13 passes, for a total of 185 yards.

At the end of the first half, Cy-Fair led 6-0 on the strength of their long run in the first quarter.

However, in the third quarter North Shore made a strong comeback, with a 10 play drive that went 70 yards and resulted in a TD when quarterback Lawrance McCardwill threw a 15 yard screen pass to Kevian DeLeon, resulting in the Mustangs taking a 7-6 lead. McCardell completed 3 passes in the game on 10 attempts, for a gain of 30 yards.

See NS FOOTBALL, page 4

Coach Aymond attacked by parent

Galena Park ISD police and SBISD police reported that after the game on Friday night, the parent of a player allegedly came onto the field and physically attacked Coach David Aymond.

Manuel DeLeon, father of Mustang player Kevian DeLeon, allegedly jumped over the fence at Tully Field, grabbed the coach and threw him to the ground. DeLeon was said to be angry at the coach for not playing his son more.

A deputy constable and Spring Branch ISD officers restrained DeLeon and arrested him. Aymond said he was not hurt.

The DA filed charges of injury to an elder, and bond was set at \$5000.

SCHOOL NEWS

Channelview ISD October Students of the Month

Channelview ISD recently honored its October Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at the Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. Students were treated to lunch, along with a tour of the press box and field. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Jozeline Suarez (Harvey Brown Elementary), Juan Carreon (Aguirre Junior High), Ruben Escobedo (Channelview High School), Antonio Mendez (Alice Johnson Junior High), Armondo Elizondo (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center) and Karyna Moreno (Cobb Elementary). Pictured in front are, from left, Anna Durbin (McMullan Elementary), Alexis Brown (Crenshaw Elementary), Ruth Rangel (De Zavala Elementary), Valerie



Channelview ISD October students of the month

Villegas (Hamblen Elementary) and Jayden Jackson (Schochler Elementary). Not pictured is Danielle Hardy from Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center.

Channelview ISD receives grant to help at-risk students

Mental Health America of Greater Houston (MHA) recently awarded the Channelview Independent School District a \$25,000 grant to help provide services to at-risk students and their families.

The grant was awarded as part of MHA's School Behavioral Health Initiative (SBHI), which included school district personnel, behavioral health providers, child-serving and education-related agencies, and parents that joined together to develop and implement recommendations to improve the prevention, identification, and treatment of behavioral health issues among students.

Channelview ISD is using the grant funding to hire a second Harris County Community Youth Services (CYS) worker that will allow the expansion of early intervention

services to all grade levels.

"We are excited and most appreciative to Mental Health America for the gift of additional funding they have given to us," said Gloria Roach, Channelview ISD's director of special services. "With the addition of another CYS staff member, it will allow us the opportunity to provide even greater outreach to students and parents who are in need of special services and resources."

Earlier this year, the MHA's initiative issued 37 recommendations aimed at the Texas Legislature and other elected bodies, school districts, and community providers and agencies. As a result, Channelview ISD, Goose Creek ISD and Spring Branch ISD were chosen for grant funding based on their needs.

"We anticipate seeing

marked improvements in students' academic and behavioral outcomes as a result of the grants," said Susan Fordice, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Greater Houston. "We will use what we learn from these efforts to help other school districts do the same."

Founded in 1954 by Miss Ima Hogg, Mental Health America of Greater Houston is one of the area's oldest mental health education and advocacy organizations that works to enhance the mental health of all Houstonians and improve the lives of those with mental illnesses. For more information or to view the report, visit Mental Health America of Greater Houston at <http://www.mhahouston.org/schoolbased-behavioral-health-initiative/>

CISD Foundation donors making a difference in the lives of students and teachers

The donors to the Channelview ISD Foundation have helped make a difference in the lives of teachers and students over the past year.

Last year, the Foundation presented more than \$22,000 in Innovative Teaching Grants to educators in the district. Funds for grants are made possible through contributions from the community, individuals, the corporate sector, civic organizations, and businesses. Grants that have been presented over the past year have been used for innovative instruction in math, reading, robotics, science, social studies and technology.

The Channelview Independent School District Education Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) 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.

LyondellBasell is a Distinguished Donor to the Foundation, as they gave \$7,500 to the Foundation. Several organizations pledged to continue their strong support of the Foundation with monetary donations to the Foun-

ation this summer. Most recently, the North Shore Rotary Club donated to the Foundation for the second consecutive year with a \$2,500 gift, along with Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, United Community Credit Union and Woodforest National Bank.

In addition, Pete Dever-State Farm Insurance and Emergency Hospitals of Texas (owner of Dow Emergency of Wallisville Road) both contributed \$1,000 to the organization. RUS Industrial (Rig Up Services) and Leo A. Daly Architects have become a \$500 Foundation Partner.

"We are proud of the partnerships we have formed with our donors," said Mark Kramer, executive director of the Channelview ISD Education Foundation. "The generous gifts of our donors are helping our educators to guide students toward the pathways of success."



The Channelview Independent School District was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from Mental Health America of Greater Houston (MHA) to help provide services to at-risk students and their families. Celebrating the awarding of the grant are, from left, Greg Ollis, CISD superintendent; Gloria Roach, CISD director of special services; Andree Hincison Usanga, director of policy and government relations, Mental Health America of Greater Houston; Patrick Lacy, president of the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees and Monica Campbell, Channelview ISD CYS worker.



We welcome you!

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

The Channelview Independent School District congratulates the North Channel Star on the successful launch of our community's new local newspaper. We look forward to our partnership with you for years to come!

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VETERANS' CELEBRATIONS

North Channel Chamber Veterans' Celebration held with Rotary clubs



VETERANS FROM THE NORTH CHANNEL COMMUNITY are pictured at the Salute, receiving recognition and a back-pack of gifts as part of the North Channel Chamber event put on with the help of the North Shore and Galena Park Rotary Clubs, and major sponsors. Behind the veterans are the speakers for the day.

The North Channel Chamber of Commerce sponsored a "Salute to Our Community & Country" event on Thursday, November 7th at Armata's Banquet Hall on Sheldon Road in Channelview.

This event was combined with a Rotary Club Salute, a health fair, and a Business Expo, and was well attended by hundreds of chamber members, businesses, and veterans. Rotarians from the North Shore and Galena Park clubs also attended, and held a brief meeting for their members.

The Veterans Salute included presentation of the colors, gifts from the Rotary Clubs, and verbal recognition and salute to those attending that had been in military service.

Health organizations that were present for screenings and information included Kindred Hospital, Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital, Dow Emergency Center, and East Houston Regional Medical Center.

About 40 businesses had booths with displays of their products and services. The event lasted for about 4 hours, and was well received.



SERVICE FLAGS were presented for each of the Armed Services by members of the Channelview ROTC.



Veterans stand up as they are recognized by community.

Salute to service: Channelview ISD pays tribute to Veterans

Valor. Courage. Sacrifice. These three words describe efforts the men and women honored during the Channelview Independent School District's Veterans Day program held recently at the Bill Neal Center.

More than 200 people attended the community-wide event that was sponsored by the district and the Channelview High School Army ROTC and the Alice Johnson Junior High and Aguirre Junior High LOTC groups.

The event began with local veterans entering the arena with a Walk of Honor through crossed swords. CHS cadet Melissa Presa then read a poem about the meaning of Veterans Day, followed by the introduction of every military veteran in attendance at the ceremony.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Victor Herbin was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. In his career, he served in many capacities at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He also served in various positions in the education field, including being an adjunct professor at St. Phillips College and Houston Community College. He is a former ROTC instructor at Channelview High School and he developed a Leadership Officer Training Corps curriculum for middle school students in San Antonio ISD.

"Be proud of who you are and the job you've done," Herbin told the veterans in attendance. "Our country enjoys the freedoms we experience today because of you and we are forever grateful."

The bands and choirs from Aguirre, Alice Johnson and CHS all performed during the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with bagpipe player



Local veterans take the "Walk of Honor" during Channelview ISD's Veteran's Day Celebration recently.



The Channelview High School Color Guard and Rifle Team march in during the presentation of colors.

William Titus performing "Amazing Grace" and Autreyas Watson from the CHS Band playing TAPS.

"This was a great event and we had a great turnout from

the community," said Col. Sgt. Major Steve Dunbar, Aguirre Junior High LOTC director. "We appreciate the support of everyone that made this ceremony possible."



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OPINION PAGE

LETTERS To The Editor

*Congratulations on the Newspaper
We have needed one for years
-- comment on email*

Letters of Community Support:

FROM CHANNELVIEW ISD:
Dear Editor;

In the Channelview Independent School District, there are many stories of success happening on our campuses every day. Our Board of Trustees and I are extremely excited about the launch of the North Channel Star – so that we may exclusively share the highlights and achievements of our students and staff in a front of broad audience in publication that our community can call its own.

With growing enrollment of more than 8,900 and the completion of our Bond Program, we are thrilled about having a newspaper that will spotlight the programs and people that make our district successful.

I know that what will make the Star unique is that it will be a publication where people will be able to receive neighborhood news that they would not be able to receive anywhere else. From already seeing your staff at various events in our area already, I feel the North Channel Star is establishing a vested interest in the community it will serve.

On behalf of myself and the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees, we want to welcome you to the North Channel community. We look forward to a long and lasting partnership.

Sincerely,
Greg Ollis
Superintendent of Schools
Channelview Independent
School District

FROM THE PILOT CLUB:

The San Jacinto Pilot Club is very pleased that Grafikpress has chosen to publish a newspaper for the North Channel Area. We know that the residents and businesses who choose to make the North Channel area their home are as excited about this as we are.

This community supports our spaghetti dinner fundraisers, which was just held on November 5, so that we can, in turn, support our community through scholarships and donating funds to charities and organizations which need our help.

Just as we are committed to supporting our community, the North Channel Star has committed to supporting the community also.

GALENA PARK ISD Statement on attack of coach

"The North Shore Mustang football program has enjoyed great success under Coach Aymond. While the loss in the playoffs was disappointing, attacking a coach was in no way justified. It is regrettable this parent made such a poor decision. Coach Aymond is at work as usual today and will continue to prepare each and every athlete for success on and off the football field."



NORTH SHORE FOOTBALL, *Continued from page 1*

The Mustang lead did not last that long, however. The defensive battle continued through the rest of the second half, with the ball changing hands regularly.

Three minutes into the fourth quarter, the Bobcats' running back Dillon Birden struck again, with a 57 yard effort that helped set up a field goal attempt.

With about 8 minutes left in the game, the Bobcat's Braden Mann put his foot to

an 18 yard field goal attempt that was good, and gave the Cy-Fair team a 9-7 lead which was the final score.

Cy-Fair will go on to the next round of the play-offs, facing Pearland on December 7th. They will play at either Mercer Stadium or Rice Stadium. As an indication of how even the match was, each team had to punt 5 times, and was penalized almost the same yards.

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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READER OPINION!

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COMMISSIONER
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NORTH CHANNEL★STAR
to serve the communities in
the Pct. 2
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Jack Morman
Commissioner

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SPORTS & COMMUNITY WATCH

Tournament raises over \$21,000 for CISD student scholarships

The Channelview Independent School District Education Scholarship Foundation's 16th annual B.H. Hamblen Golf Tournament was a success once again as the event raised \$21,000 that will go toward scholarships for graduation Channelview High School seniors.

Since the tournament began, more than \$348,000 has been raised to benefit students.

Last year, the tournament committee awarded 41 scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating Channelview High School seniors.

"The scholarships that are provided with the funds raised from this event have created some great opportunities for our graduates," Channelview



Golf tournament participant

ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis said, "We are very appreciative to all of the volunteers

who have put in their time and effort to make this fund-raiser for our students a reality."

CHS debating duo qualifies for national event

Channelview High School debate team members Rachel Clark and Gabby Charlot qualified for the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions after finishing in the top spot in their category at the Spring Woods High School Debate Tournament.

"I am so extremely proud of these two girls," said Lindsay Heilig, CHS debate sponsor. "They have worked for months, even during their summer break to prepare for this - and now that preparation has paid off."

Clark and Charlot earned the Spring Woods championship in the duo interpretation category of the tournament. In capturing the top spot, they qualified for the Texas Forensic Association (TFA) state tournament in March, as well as earning a berth to the national event.

The Channelview duo represents more than 60 schools that have qualified for the national tournament, which will be held May 9-11 at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Mn.

"These two students represent some of the many success stories at Channelview High School," said CHS Principal Cindi Ollis. "I know they will continue to represent our school in an outstanding manner."



Gabby Charlot, left, and Rachel Clark proudly display their championship trophies from the Spring Woods High School Debate Tournament.

Murder suspect nabbed in Channelview

CHANNELVIEW - Johnathan "J Boy" Sanchez, 25, was arrested near the 11,300 block of Holly Park for Capital Murder on Sunday, Nov. 23 in connection with the execution style killing of three people and the shooting of two other young adults between 18 and 20 years old on November 20 on Sunbury Lane in west Harris County.

When deputies took him into custody he had a pistol on his person. He was found with others in a reputed gang dwelling garage watching a boxing match in the wee hours of the morning.

The Capital Murder charge is related to the deaths of Daniel Munoz, 17, Veronica Hernandez, 17,



Johnathan Sanchez, "J Boy" CAPTURED

and Alfaro Yosselm, 21. Investigators indicate all five victims were shot in the head execution-style. The

three victims died at the scene, while another woman and a man were rushed to Memorial Hermann Hospital by Life Flight helicopters.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force apprehended Sanchez. Investigators said the incident started on Wednesday after a neighbor called 911 after hearing back-to-back gunshots. There was no disturbance heard prior to the gunfire.

Sheriff Adrian Garcia said that one of the survivors gave a detailed statement.

Detectives say that Sanchez grew up in the area and has tattoos that say "Houstone" on his body.

Suspect wanted for attempted bank robbery at Woodforest Blvd.

The FBI Bank Robbery Task Force needs your help to identify the man who robbed a Houston bank on Sunday, November 24, 2013.

At about 3:50 p.m., a man entered the First Convenience Bank, 14710 Woodforest Boulevard, Houston, Texas, which is located inside a Kroger grocery store. The man made a demand for money, but prior to obtaining the money, he left the bank. No one



Suspect wanted

was physically hurt.

The robber is described as a Hispanic male, 5'4"-

5'6" tall, in his mid 20s, 160-180 pounds, with a light complexion and multiple tattoos on his chest.

Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and arrest of this robber, or any felony suspect. If you have information about this crime, please call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the Houston FBI office at 713-693-5000.

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CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

North Shore Rotary donations benefit community projects

The North Shore Rotary Club, with about 60 members, continues to be a driving force in the Community for projects of benefit to various other organizations and individuals.

Examples of this in recent months include donations to the Cody Stephens Foundation of \$6500 for pre-screening of high school athletes for heart defects; to the VA Hospital \$1200; to the San Jacinto College MECA scholarship programs \$11,000; to Pct. 2 for a new pedestrian bridge in North Shore Park, \$40,000; to the Galena Park Education Foundation, \$8600; to the Galena Park FFA for livestock purchases; to the Pilot Club \$2000 for their luncheon; and much more.

In a recent visit from the District Governor Bob Gebhard, the club was cited for extensive giving to the national Rotary Foundation. He said that since its inception, the club has donated \$580,000 to the Foundation. The foundation has a unique program wherein the donated money after three years is returned to the local club, for projects of their choosing.



North Shore Rotary Club president Matt Davis presents a check to Brett Hughes of the Galena Park Education Foundation for \$8600, supporting the scholarships and grants made by the foundation.



North Shore Rotary Club presents a check to Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman, second from left, toward the construction of a pedestrian bridge in North Shore Park on Wallisville Road. The bridge will connect two parts of the park making it much more accessible for families and sports groups. Participating with Morman are Rotarians Mike Williams, president Matt Davis, Alatia Harris, and Derrill Painter.

Cultural diversity celebrated at San Jacinto College international brunch

HOUSTON - Visitors literally got a taste of many cultures at the recent International Thanksgiving Brunch, hosted by the San Jacinto College North Campus English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, and held at the North Campus student center.

Some international food featured at the brunch included Bo Kho, a Vietnamese beef stew; Cuiapies, bread made with cheese and yucca starch that is popular in Bolivia; Pupusas, Salvadorian stuffed masa flatbread; Arroz Congris, a rice and bean dish popular in Cuba; Pollo en Joco, a spicy chicken dish popular among Mayans in Guatemala; Aguachile, a shrimp dish that originated in Sinaloa, Mexico; and Pad Prew Wan, a sweet-sour fish dinner from Thailand.

Nationalities represented by San Jacinto College students who attended the epicurean extravaganza include Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Cuba, Mexico, Thailand, and Vietnam.

As visitors sampled main dishes and desserts from around the world, a slideshow displayed scenes from a multitude of cultures.

San Jacinto College ESOL professor Lisa Smith said the brunch provided opportunities to celebrate the College's rich cultural diversity. "Sometimes we just need to be reminded that our country began as a nation of people coming from many different cultures seeking freedom from oppression and an opportunity to create a better life," Smith remarked. "That gives us a wonderful reason to celebrate our rich heritage. By accepting one another and learning from each other, we are learning more about ourselves and what makes our nation so incredibly unique."

Vietnamese student Tina Trang Khong enjoyed samples of food from many cultures as she visited with people from several ethnic backgrounds. For Khong, taking ESOL classes at San Jacinto College lead to practical benefits. "I heard that San Jacinto was a very good college, and I took the ESOL classes because I wanted to quickly improve my English skills," she commented. "When I first enrolled in ESOL, I could not speak any English. Now, I am able to communicate well enough so that I can help my husband in his business." Kohn's husband Jimmy Nguyen operates an import and export business, and she helps him with administrative services.

There are 423 students from 58 nations attending the three San Ja-



San Jacinto College's International Thanksgiving Brunch brought together students from many nationalities for a multicultural feast. At left, Maria Williams, coordinator of the North Campus English for Speakers of Other Languages program, served as hostess of the event. With her (from left) are ESOL students Dominga Silva (Mexico), Rungthip Taylor (Thailand), Tina Trang Khong (Vietnam), and Uyen Ngo, (Vietnam).

Photo by Rob Vanya, San Jacinto College

cinto College campuses on international visas, most of whom take ESOL classes. There are also hundreds of other students from outside the U.S. who attend classes at San Jacinto College either as part-time or full-time students who are not international visa students.

Accordingly, there are international counselors at all three San Jacinto College campuses who help students who attend on international visas with services such as educational planning, counseling, and registration assistance; assistance with require-

ments of immigration law and cross-cultural adjustment; processing of immigration documents related to passports, visas, employment authorization, changes in legal status, and transfer to and from other schools.

San Jacinto College offers ESOL classes at all three campuses. Through the program, people with very limited English skills can become proficient in the language in as little as two semesters. The program covers oral communication, reading, and writing skills to prepare students for college, careers, and the workplace.

San Jac College Happenings

- Dec. 4 •Holiday Choral Concert at 7:30 p.m., North Campus
- Dec. 7 •Women's Basketball Vs. Panola College at 4 p.m., North Campus
- Dec. 14 •North Campus Commencement (Student Olga Figueroa-Key Speaker) 9 am & 11 am at Galena Park HS.
- Dec. 16 Holiday Mini Term (3 week) begins at all campuses
- Dec. 20 •Women's Basketball Vs. Baton Rouge Community College at 5:30 p.m., North Campus
- Dec. 21 •Women's Basketball Vs. Texas Storm at 2 p.m., North Campus
- Jan. 6 •Registration payment deadline for all registrations for Spring 2014.
- Jan. 7-12 •Registration open and payment due on day of registration for Spring 2014, all campuses.
- Jan. 13 •Classes begin for Spring 2014 term, all campuses.

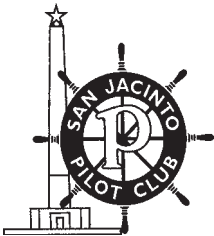
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LIFESTYLE & PEOPLE

Local girl competes for Miss Jr. Teen Houston

Bethany Luna, 14 year old, student at Northshore Middle School and officer of the Northshore Middle School Filles dance team was recently selected to compete in the 2014 Miss Jr. Teen Houston pageant competition that will take place in Houston on Sunday December 8, 2013. Bethany aspires to be a professional-successful model and attend Parsons The School for Designs in New York to pursue fashion design. Her passions and interests include; dancing, modeling, pageantry, and fashion.



Bethany Luna

Competition that will take place in Orlando, FL.

Bethany will be competing in Miss Jr. Teen division, one of four divisions that will have young ladies age of 7 through 19 competing in modeling routines, which include casual wear and formal wear. Most important, Bethany will display her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's Houston judging panel. Personality is the number one aspect that each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.

If Bethany were to win the title she would represent Houston and the surrounding communities at the National

Community businesses, organizations, and private individuals will assist Bethany in participating in this year's competition by coming an official sponsor to her. Through sponsorship, each contestant receives all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support which will allow Bethany to become a very confident and well-prepared contestant in this year's Houston pageant.

Any business, organization, or private individual who may be interested in becoming a sponsor to Bethany may contact the Miss Jr. Teen Houston pageant coordinator, at 1-877-403-6678.

Giving back to schools is labor of love for LyondellBasell employee and wife



LyondellBasell employee Jack Little and his wife Dianne were recently recognized by the Channelview ISD Administration and Board of Trustees for their generosity to students at Harvey Brown Elementary and Crenshaw Elementary. Since 2006, the Littles have purchased 100 empty backpacks from Wal-Mart and fill them full of school supplies to give to the students.

By Mark Kramer
CISD Public Relations Officer

Every August, Jack and Dianne Little make a habit of relocating their living room furniture.

No, they're not redecorating - but the space is being used as home base for making the start of the school year a little bit brighter for students at Harvey Brown Elementary School and

Crenshaw Elementary School. Since 2006, the Littles have supported LyondellBasell's "Operation Backpack" program. Jack is a longtime employee at the company's Channelview Complex. Out of their own wallets, the Little's purchase empty backpacks and school supplies from Wal-Mart to fill each backpack. Pallets of supplies are then loaded into the Little's truck.

"Once a year, we moved all of the furniture from our living room and it is transformed into a workspace," Jack says. "We recognized the needs of the children of our community and we wanted to help these kids get a good start to the school year."

The principals at both Brown and Crenshaw elementary schools are most appreciative of the Little's generosity.

"These are gifts that truly come from the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Little," said LaKeisha LeBlanc, Brown Elementary principal. "They are a blessing to so many of our kids."

Crenshaw Elementary Principal Audry Lane said, "It is a magical moment when you see the student's faces when they

receive their backpacks. Mr. and Mrs. Little's generosity is just overwhelming and we are so appreciative of all that they do for our students."

In recognition of the Littles' unselfish contributions to Brown and Crenshaw elementary schools, the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees presented Mr. Little with a plaque during the Board's regular meeting recently.

"This is what the spirit of giving is all about," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent. "Every year, Mr. and Mrs. Little take the time to make these children a priority. It is a generous gift that these students will never forget."

When asked about volunteering, Little said he encourages others in the community become involved in public schools.

"The principals, teachers, counselors and school staff are the ones providing the knowledge to the kids in our community that will allow them to be successful throughout their lifetime," Little said. "We always need to help in those efforts."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DEC 10 NC Chamber Holiday Open House

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to their Holiday Open House, Noon to 3 pm at their offices, 13301 I-10 Suite 100 inside the Woodforest Bank Building. Expect Great Food and Good Networking, and start the Holiday season off right. Come and bring a friend. Info 713-450-3600.

THURS. DEC 12 CISD Holiday Open House

The Channelview ISD will host its annual Christmas Open House and Wassail from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dec. 12 at the Joyce Hendrix Education Support Center, 888 Sheldon Road. The public is invited to this holiday event.

WED. DEC 18 Holiday Party at HPD Storefront

Gene Green invites the public to a Holiday Party, to meet the officers of HPD and thank them for their service this year. Refreshments provided. Info, 281-999-5879.

MON. JAN 6 Neighborhood Safety Meeting

Gene Green sponsors a Town Hall Meeting at the HPD East Freeway Storefront, I-10 East Freeway. 8:30 am. Public invited.

WED. JAN 22 Town Hall Meeting

Gene Green sponsors a Town Hall Meeting at the Harris County North Channel Branch Library, 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston 77049. 6:30 pm. Public invited.

Galena Park ISD will be closed for the Christmas Holidays starting Monday, December 23, 2013 through Monday, January 6, 2014. Friday, December 20, 2013 is an early dismissal day. Galena Park ISD will resume classes on Tuesday, January 7, 2014. GPISD wishes all a happy and safe holiday!

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K&T Western Wear, Sheldon Rd
Post Office, Sheldon Rd
Channelview High School, Sheldon Rd

North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd
Walmart, Wallisville @ Beltway 88
Food Fair, Sheldon Rd @ I-10
McDonald's, Sheldon Rd @ I-10
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281-328-9605 or northchannelstar@gmail.com.

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BUSINESS PAGE

Chevron Phillips Chemical donates to benefit students with equipment



Left to right: Van Wigginton, Provost, San Jacinto College; Jeff Parks, dean of industrial and applied technology, San Jacinto College; Stan Zisman, technical / EHS manager, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company; Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation; Lynn Irvine, business services manager, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company; Andy Woods, maintenance manager, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor, San Jacinto College; Mr. Dan Mims, chairman, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees. Photo credit: Amanda L. Booren, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

PASADENA, Texas – Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP's (Chevron Phillips Chemical) Pasadena Plastics Complex has donated \$78,500 to the San Jacinto College Foundation in support of student scholarships and equipment.

"This is a time of exciting growth in the chemical industry. We are pleased to support San Jacinto College in developing the skilled workforce of the future," said Lynn Irvine, business services manager at Chevron Phillips Chemical's Pasadena Plastics Complex.

The check for \$78,500 was presented to San Jacinto College at the October Board of Trustees meeting. The donation will be used

to create an endowment through the San Jacinto College Foundation, provide scholarships immediately for students, and for the purchase of equipment for the process technology and instrumentation programs.

"We are so excited about this relationship with Chevron Phillips Chemical," said Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation. "By providing scholarships and helping meet our equipment needs, Chevron Phillips Chemical is creating a legacy of support for San Jacinto College. They are helping our students realize their dreams."

About the San Jacinto College Foundation

The San Jacinto College Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to enhancing the level of student achievement and excellence at San Jacinto College. Our purpose is to receive gifts, bequests, and donations, and to raise private funds to benefit the people of East Harris County, Texas. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. For more information about the Foundation, or to make a donation, please visit

www.sanjacfoundation.org, or call 281-998-6104.



FINE JEWELRY

With Jim Mills

Diamond Jim... what is the difference between "karat" and "carat"?

Often the source of much confusion, the difference between a karat and carat is fairly easy to understand, but may be somewhat hard to remember. A karat is simply a unit of measurement to indicate the purity of a metal, usually gold. The term carat is used to note the weight of a precious stone, especially diamonds.

The term karat is necessary, especially for gold, simply because the nature of the metal means it must be made into an alloy. Pure gold, or 24K gold, is a very soft metal that is not

able to used practically as jewelry in its purest form. It would quickly become deformed and scratched. Therefore, jewelry makers must do something to fortify the metal. This task is accomplished by mixing gold with a harder metal.

The karat is responsible, in most cases, for determining the relative value of the gold piece. The difference in price between 10K, the lowest purity that gold can be and still be

considered gold, and 18K, the highest purity of gold jewelry commonly available, can be significant. Gold designated as 10 karat is less than half gold, while eighteen karat gold is 75 percent gold.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

Business professionals share insights during CHS Career Day

Channelview High School students got an inside look at a variety of different professions during its annual Career Day recently.

More than 60 presenters shared information about their careers, including educational experience and certifications, professional experience and other requirements. Some of the major presenters included employees from LyondellBasell, Austin Industrial, the Port of Houston Authority, Houston Methodist Athletic Training Services, Woodforest National Bank, Amegy Bank, Chevron Phillips, Texas Children's Hospital, Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, Bay-IBI Group Architects and the Channelview Volunteer Fire Department.

"Our students receive a great benefit from hearing



Jeff Creel, a safety supervisor for Austin Industrial, speaks to students about the construction and petrochemical fields during Channelview High School's Career Day.

from these professionals," said Mia Young, CISD's career and technical education director. "It helps students in making plans of how to pursue their future career fields."

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San Jacinto Pilot Club holds benefit luncheon

The San Jacinto Pilot Club held their 26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner last Saturday, Nov. 9th at the Baldry Community Center building on Corpus Christi.

Hundreds of North Shore friends of the club turned out, for a delicious luncheon and an opportunity to win the major raffle prize, which was a \$7500 roomful of furniture from Gallery Furniture. Terry Stevens was the lucky winner.

Major sponsors of the event included Gallery Furniture, North Shore Rotary Club, LyondellBasell, and about 40 other businesses and individuals. Julie Fallin, president of the club, made a special Thank You to all of them, for their help and support.

The Pilot Club nationally focuses on supporting brain disorders. Locally, projects that are supported include scholarships, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, Christmas baskets, Project Graduation, and many health and safety programs.



THE LIVE AUCTION was conducted by Auctioneer Steve Phelps, with the help of spotters Jerry Fallin and a Pilot Club member. Live Auction items included an Electric Scooter, seen in the photo, a 9' patio umbrella, a catered dinner for 10 by Outback Steakhouse, a black Beretta gun, a two night stay in an Inn in Blanco, Texas, theater tickets, a round of golf, a new Maytag built-in oven, a wooden park bench seen in the photo above, and much more. There was also a silent auction with many items.



MRS. TEXAS, LORI CONKLIN, was an honored guest at the Pilot Club 26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Seen with Mrs. Texas is Jerry Fallin.

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Congressman Gene Green meets with members of the Houston Police Department, TxDOT, Civic Clubs, and office staff at a recent Public Safety Meeting, held monthly at the HPD Storefront Office on I-10 East. Green displays a pre-publication copy of the North Channel STAR newspaper.

GENE GREEN

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