

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

SILVER PLATING CHATTER

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District announces bad weather make-up days

Under State Law, the Channelview Independent School District must make up for the missed instructional days on January 24, 2014 and January 28, 2014 that was caused by bad weather. In the 2013-2014 School District Calendar, February 17 and May 26 were designated as the dates the district could use for missed days.

Therefore, the district will use Monday, February 17, 2014 and Monday, May 26, 2014 as the district's make-up days for missed instructional time.

As previously noted, the first make-up day will occur soon. All students in Channelview ISD will be expected to report to school on Monday, February 17, 2014.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Marathon Woman: June Harris

By Gilbert Hoffman
North Channel Star

June Harris doesn't know when to quit. I met her for the first time at the Chamber Veterans Day EXPO, and she had just run the New York Marathon race. But this was her third try, and the only successful one. In 2011 she went to New York to run, but became sick and couldn't compete. So she went back in 2012, and then Hurricane Sandy hit, and the race was cancelled. So in 2013, she tried once again, and succeeded with a time of 4:53:46.

Harris is a devoted runner, having competed in 32 marathons and 6 ultras. This year she also ran the Houston Marathon for the 15th time, receiving a commemorative shirt for the accomplishment.

Harris started running marathons in 1999 in Houston, but has also run in Washington DC in the Marine Corps

Chamber hears of new canoe & Kayak launch

The Greens Bayou Corridor is a 45 mile long stretch of potentially beautiful natural parks and recreation facilities, and flood control protection for the future, according to the Chamber's February luncheon speaker, Jill Boullion, Executive Director of the GBCC.

Boullion said the length of the bayou is divided into four sections, and the South section runs from US90 to the Buffalo Bayou through the North Shore area. It serves a watershed of 212 sq. miles, with over 550,000 people living and depending upon it.

The Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition came about after the bad flooding of Tropical Storm Alison in June 2001, when a group of people including the Harris County Flood Control District decided a coordinated



JILL BOULLION Executive Director of the GBCC.



effort was needed to avoid future flooding, and at the same time develop the land along the bayou.

The mission of the GBCC is flood remediation, development of recreation facilities, economic development, and improvement in quality of life.

She said that in cooperation with the National Park Service, a Master Plan of Parks & Trails was completed in 2012, and many projects identified that are now being built.

In the North Channel area, the major feature will be a 6.5 acre park, Thomas Bell Foster Park, with a canoe & kayak launch ramp, parking and facilities. This will lead to a paddle trail on the bayou of 27 miles in length, from Galena Park to Greenspoint.

Also to be developed in the South Reach will be Brock Park and Strickland Park.

Boullion invited the audience and anyone interested to join her group and volunteer for work sessions in the parks. Call 281-874-2139 for information.



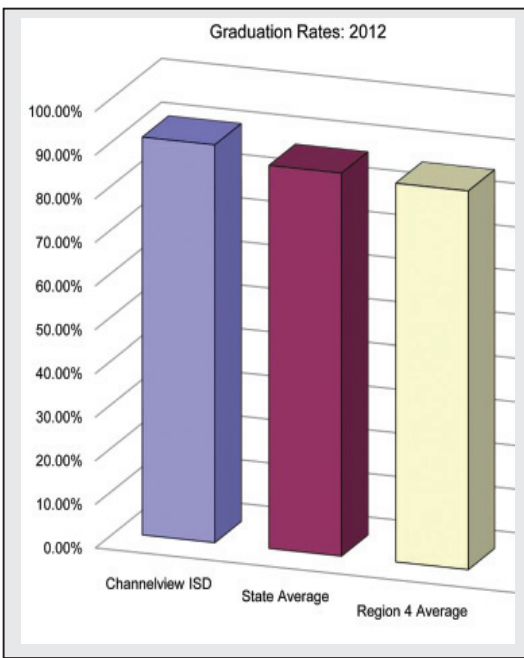
Map of Thomas Bell Foster Park shows the Canoe & Kayak launch site, with parking and ramps into the water. Also planned on this 4.5 acre site is an environment where San Jacinto College students can have projects to identify and remove invasive species, and inventory the plants that remain. KBR will provide \$150,000 over 5 years to help construct the park. The park is located off Normandy Road, but is not yet open to the public.

Channelview ISD Attendance and graduation rates gain

Graduation, attendance and academic achievement rates in the Channelview Independent School District are at exemplary levels, according to results from the Texas Academic Performance Report.

The graduation rate of Channelview High School students topped 91.1 percent, which is above the state average of 87.7 percent. District attendance rates also stood out at 96.8 percent, ahead of the state totals of 95.9 percent. As further evidence of the district's efforts to keep students in school, Channelview's dropout rate averaged 1.7 percent, as compared to the state average of 2.4 percent.

News of the high attendance and graduation rates shared the spotlight with the district's academic success as students achieved the Texas Education Agency's highest rating of "Met Standard" on the State of Texas Assessments for Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests.



Over the past seven years, Channelview's academic progress has shown an upward trend. During the final two years of the previous state accountability system, CISD was rated as a Texas Recognized District. In that time, attendance rates also continued to improve.

"Our teachers are finding innovative ways to reach our students and it is obviously showing in terms of student achievement and attendance," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent. "The constant improvement shows that students are extremely engaged in what they are learning - which gives them a sense of enthusiasm about coming to school."

The district has placed a strong emphasis on ensuring all students stay in school and graduate with their high school diploma. Some of the programs that are offered to students include online credit

recovery courses, various work-study programs and more Career and Technical Education offerings.

According to the Texas Education Agency reports and district data, the district's overall dropout rate remains around 1 percent - which is a positive turnaround from 2006, when the dropout rate was reported at 7.1 percent.

"It's a sign that programs like this, along with other efforts are working and more of our students are choosing to stay in school," Channelview High School Principal Cindi Ollis said.

School officials also track the progress of students so that they will be able to provide them with any assistance they might need.

"We closely monitor these students," Ms. Ollis said. "We are making special efforts to make sure they are successful."

CHANNELVIEW:

WOMAN STRANGLED BY BOYFRIEND

CHANNELVIEW, Texas - A man is accused of strangling his girlfriend, who was found dead in her Channelview home.

On Wednesday morning, February 5, deputies responded to a report of a death at 15425 North Brentwood in east Harris County. Upon their arrival they found the body of April Cobb inside the residence.

Cobb's three daughters awoke to find signs of a struggle and Cobb's body lying on the floor. Deputies say the mother of three had been strangled to death.

Her boyfriend, Jerry Fain, is now charged with the murder. Deputies did not reveal any information about Fain's arrest.

Fain is being held in the



Jerry Fain charged with murder for strangling his girlfriend

Harris County Jail without bond.

Friends say they are planning to hold a benefit on Feb. 15 to aid the Cobb family at Joe Koolz Rock'n Country Saloon in Crosby.



JUNE HARRIS, center, receives an award as the Chamber Foundation president, at the North Channel Chamber Gala on Jan. 25.

run 6 times, and last year ran in a marathon in Paris. Prior to 1999 she only ran 10K runs.

Her time this year in the Houston marathon was 4:56 and she noted that was not nearly as good as her best time, 4:37 several years ago.

To prepare for a marathon, which is 26.219 miles long, she goes into training starting in July through December, with paced running, and workouts in the gym 2 days a week. She also swims during this time.

Although running is an obvious passion for Harris, she also noted that it has the benefit of taking her to some exotic and beautiful scenes. As well as Paris, she mentioned that in 2008 she ran in China in a marathon known as the Great Wall race. It started in a small town about 3 hours outside Beijing, and continued on a route that took her up on the Great Wall twice, but otherwise on a road-way nearby. This year she is planning on a run in New Zealand, where she will run a full marathon and take 2 loops around Rotorouira Lake, a well known landmark.

When Harris is not running she has her own business, representing the Halo Branded Solutions company, and sells promotional products.

She also keeps busy with other activities, including having served the Galena Park ISD as a school board trustee, and school board president. She is a member of the San Jacinto Pilot Club in North Channel, and also the Bay City Road Runners, and affiliate of the national Road Runners organization.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rodeo Art and athletic students recognized



Athletic Recognitions

Athletic Director Jeff Riordan, Kyle Leal, Austin Walter, Astin Walter recognized for 1st team All-State RB, Carla Mills Windfont. Back row: Dan Kasprzak, Cullen Lee, Daniel Kasprzak, Chase Nix, Josh Blackburn recognized for 2nd team All-State OL Raelon Singleton - Honorable Mention All-State WR, and Dr. Keith Moore. Also, the following athletes received 2nd team Academic All-State Honors: Daniel Kasprzak, Kyle Leal, Chase Nix and Cullen Lee.



Rodeo Art Winners

Tristan Northrup (4th grade) “The Lonely Bull Cow” and Lilly Leman (4th grade) “Jackrabbit Country”. Back row: Crosby ISD Superintendent Dr. Keith Moore, Art & Writing teacher Kim Houser, Meagan Giering (12th grade) “Steppers Autum”, Art teacher Jeanne Thibodaux, and school board presindet Dan Kasprzak. Not pictured: Kale Milikan (9th grade) “Midwinter Night Dream”

Friendly Ford is Certified Elite




Lions Club Contest Winner

Director of Operations Chuck Murray, Crosby ISD Board Member JoAnn Crawford, Karly Murray- now competing internationally and Dr. Keith Moore.




On Monday, February 10th, Friendly Ford was recognized by Ford Motor Company for being the most improved Ford Dealer in their zone for Certified Pre Owned (CPO) sales during 2013. Mark Bills has increased the dealerships’ CPO inventory over the last year. “The benefit of a Ford Certified Pre Owned vehicle is that the vehicles go through a 172 point inspection by Ford Certified Technicians before being offered for sale. They also come with a 7year 100,00-mile Ford powertrain warranty and a 12 month 12,000-mile Ford limited warranty” said Bills.

Pictured are Mark Bills (Used Car Director at Friendly Ford) and Sean Jackson (Ford Motor Company Houston Zone C Manager)



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COMMUNITY NEWS

LETTERS
To The Editor

Readers Opinion:
I'm so proud that it's here, go man, go. I would like to see sports from area High Schools and maybe start school reporters. Also, please add local gossip columns.
Ron Bible

I like to read the police reports and chemical plant reports. Please add senior citizens upcoming events.
Sandra Santell

I like all the articles and I wish you all had started a community much sooner. Publish more robberies and murders happening in our neighbors. Thank you.
Please let us know if we may have neighbors delivery?
Mary O. Norman

Reply to the editor:
1. I LIKE: Having a neighborhood paper again, wish it was delivered to our homes. Sometime it is hard to get out to get one picked up. By the way, how often will it be printed? I have 1 2 4 editions and that is all.
2. I DON'T LIKE: Note to animal owners, Please do not turn your animals loose for the others in the neighborhood to care for. It is cold. How would you like to be left out in the cold with little or no fur.
3. PLEASE ADD THIS: Death notices, police update of occurrences in the area, add the current calendar for the upcoming events we may be interested in attending.
** NOTE** Please see our neighborhood a weekend of cleanup in our area. Abandoned autos, downed trees, rubbish in the drainage areas. Make it a voluntary neighborhood project.
NOTE 2 please make it a priority to check on our senior citizens, if you can volunteer to help with the yard cleanup, roof repairs, grass mowed, etc. Let it be known.
4. PLEASE CHANGE THIS: See the above.
5. HERE'S A NEWS TIP: I don't have any at this time but would like to be kept open for this and be annomously so there would be more that would inform.
Thanks again to be able to vent. Best wishes for a successful and long run.
BettyJordan

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Tue, Feb 18 ONLY • 10:00 - 5:00

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Scene at the Chamber Gala:
Random photos from a pleasant evening



Board Member for 6+ Years Vicki Giles



Ambassador of the Year Lucia Bates



Board Member of the Year Janet Allen



Volunteer of the Year John Moore



Lifetime Achievement Award Wayne Oquin



Business of the Year Woodforest National Bank



Angela, Deborah, Margie... the girls



Business of the Year #2 Kim Gonzales, Platinum CS

CISD RECEIVES
HIGH RATINGS
FOR FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY

The Channelview Independent School District's commitment to continued academic progress and cost-effective operations earned high ratings as part of the Texas Comptrollers' Office (FAST) Financial Allocation Study for Texas report.

Channelview ISD received 4.5 stars out of five under the ratings system. Each district and campus is assigned a FAST rating of one to five stars, indicating its success in combining cost-effective spending with the achievement of measurable student academic progress. The FAST study examines both academic progress and spending at Texas' school districts and individual school campuses.

"I am extremely proud of the academic progress of our students," said Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD superintendent. "The academic achievement in our district continues to increase despite the funding challenges facing the district and similar districts in our area and across the state."

"Our finance staff personally meets with each campus principal and department directors to discuss budget resources and priorities," Assistant Superintendent of Finance Kris Lynn said. "The information from those meetings is then presented to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees who work collaboratively to make decisions that are financially responsible and that meet the needs of the district's students, staff and community members."

Ollis added that campus principals and department administrators have learned to do more with less, keeping in mind never to do anything to compromise or sacrifice the quality of instruction in CISD's classrooms.

FAST information is available at www.fasttexas.org.

CHS Academic Team earns awards at Nederland competition



The Channelview High School UIL Academic Team had a good showing at the Nederland High School Bulldog Winter Academic Meet recently.

Alexis Gonzales earned a second place medal in the Social Studies category. The Social Studies team as a whole also had a runner-up finish. In the Ready Writing category, Abraham Elizarraras had a fourth place finish.

Raul Gonzalez placed fifth in the Computer Applications event, while Adrianna Daniels had a sixth place finish in the same competition.

CHS students also did well in the Science competitions, as Angel Zepeda took third place in the Biology event, while Dave Giang placed fourth and Belgian Tenorio finished fifth.

Giang also placed fifth in the Chemistry category and the Science team's overall scores led them to a third place spot.

READER OPINION!

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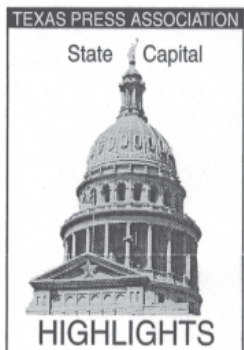
OPINION PAGE

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Permanent School Fund reaches new high

AUSTIN — Texas' 160-year-old Permanent School Fund had grown to \$29 billion, a record high value, in December 2013, the Texas Education Agency reported Feb. 6.



The fund was created by the state in 1854 with a \$2 million investment. Last year was a good one. In fiscal year 2013, which ended Aug. 31, the fund earned a return of 10.16 percent — the highest return earned by any major state of Texas investment fund. Recent strong returns also made the Permanent School Fund the best performing major state fund over a three-year period ending on Aug. 31, 2013, with a return of 11.07 percent.

How the fund helps at the local level:

- A distribution from the fund is made every year to help pay a portion of education costs in each school district. During the 2012-2013 biennium, the fund distributed more than \$2 billion to Texas public primary and secondary schools.

- The fund provides a guarantee for bonds issued by local school districts and this important support will soon be extended to charter schools, according to the education agency.

As a result of the fund maintaining the AAA bond rating through the global financial crisis, qualified districts are able to pay lower interest rates when issuing bonds.

At the end of 2013, the fund's assets guaranteed \$55.2 billion in school district bonds, providing a cost savings to 810 public school districts, the education agency stated.

Primary inches closer

Voters take to the polls to participate in the 2014 Primary Election on March 4, with early voting to be conducted Feb. 18 through Feb. 28.

Political action committees of every stripe are publicizing the names of candidates they support in the various races and campaign advertising pouring forth through various media in most markets. A convenient way to find lists of candidates and a 2014 Primary Election Voters Guide is through local offices of the League of Women Voters of Texas offices or at www.lwvtexas.org; also, voter information may be found at sos.state.tx.us, web home of Secretary of State Nandita Berry, the state's chief elections officer.

CVS policy is lauded

Texas Medical Association President Stephen L. Brotherton, M.D., responded to CVS Care-

mark's decision Feb. 5 to stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in its stores by Oct. 1, 2014.

"Texas physicians are thrilled by CVS Caremark's decision today to stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in its stores. We applaud CVS for taking such a bold and courageous step. We agree with CVS that preventing tobacco use will improve the health of Texans.

"Tobacco is directly responsible for the death of 24,000 Texans each year, more than homicide, HIV, suicide, influenza and pneumonia, accidents, and diabetes — combined. As physicians we see the short- and long-term consequences of tobacco for our patients and their families. Make no mistake about it — tobacco is harmful.

"Texas Medical Association now challenges Walgreens and other large pharmacies in Texas to follow the healthy example of CVS. It's the right thing to do."

Degree program lifts off

On Feb. 5, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board announced the launch of the Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Degree Program the governor's office described as "a low-cost, competency-based bachelor's degree for college students."

Last week the degree program was started at South Texas College and Texas A&M University-Commerce, institutions that collaborated with the Board to develop the program.

"In 2011, Gov. Perry called on Texas higher education to develop low-cost alternatives for earning a college degree," Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Raymund Paredes said. "The launch of this program answers that call and demonstrates to institutions around Texas and the nation that faculty-driven collaboration and the adoption of game-changing innovations in higher education delivery can create new, affordable pathways to degree attainment."

"Texas attracts world-class companies across a variety of industries, and today's evolving economy requires a skilled workforce prepared to meet the diverse needs of our employers," Perry said in a Feb. 5 statement.

Texas gets top ranking

For the year 2013, Texas was ranked as the top exporting state in the nation by the U.S. Census Bureau, making it the 12th consecutive year Texas has held this position, the governor's office announced.

Texas' export revenues for 2013 amounted to nearly \$280 billion, up more than 5 percent from the previous year and outpacing U.S. export growth.

"Texas continues to set a national example for economic success because of our commitment to the conservative fiscal principles that allow businesses to thrive," Gov. Perry said.




South Texas Deserves Better

I grew up in a small farming community in South Texas, and despite my love of Houston, some part of my heart will always remain in Palito Blanco. That is why Attorney General Greg Abbott's comments about South Texas and the border this week offend me, my family, and my many friends in South Texas.

The truth is that every election cycle I watch candidates take aim at the border and the vast majority of the time those comments are either false or completely out of context. My friends and family in South Texas and all along the border have lived through years of this kind of behavior, and it is time to stop allowing candidates to make these comments. Ya, no mas! Texas deserves better.

What Abbott should be proposing is ways to help local law enforcement with additional resources and training for sheriffs, constables, and police officers who are actually the ones faced with protecting the lives of the citizens along the border. If he wanted to stop corruption and help the economy, he should be

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OPINION
By Sen. Sylvia Garcia



talking about better funding the schools in South Texas, the vast majority of which are currently suing the state of Texas for consistently under and inequitably funding their schools. Greg Abbott is of course currently defending the state in that lawsuit. If he and members of his party want to help South Texas, I would hope it would be in ways that increase access to health care, since some parts of South Texas have the highest uninsured rates in the state. Unfortunately, those issues are rarely addressed in election years. Some of my colleagues would rather play the piñata politics of the past rather than put forth policies for the future.

I do not disagree that border security is important. It is absolutely important, but as elected officials, we are tasked with working together for the greater good of the people we

represent. If Greg Abbott wants to help secure the border, he should be working with the federal government to help support those border patrol officers currently working to secure the border. Instead, all we hear about is how he wakes up every morning and sues the federal government. I would rather see Greg Abbott and all our elected officials wake up every morning and embrace Texas' demographic changes and work with all Texans, not just Republican primary voters.

I may not live in South Texas anymore and I may not represent the wonderful people of South Texas, but it was its rich heritage of hard work, strong family values and belief in the American Dream that got me to where I am today. We are as proud of Texas as any other Texan. Greg Abbott you owe Texas an apology. Texas deserves better.

How a species went from obscure to a nuisance in a quarter century

The Pig Explosion - Part 1

Pulling through the gate of his northeast Texas ranch, Garry Mills instinctively knew what his eyes were about to tell him. Just a couple of weeks prior to our visit hundreds of native pecan trees on his place yielded a bumper crop of nuts this year and littered the ground with the brown and black nuggets.

Most years the trees yield a limited harvest - just enough for his family to pick a few and share the rest with close friends. This year, however, the trees became heavy with nuts and with a complimentary price spike, he thought he could make a little extra money with the harvest. Mills planned to pick the bounty with the help of contract labor using pecan harvesting equipment.

Before the mechanical pickers could arrive, pickers of a different sort beat him to the punch. Over the course of two nights a pack of wild pigs in untold numbers swept through his small patch of ground and ate nearly every pecan they could find.

"The pigs really wiped me out," he says with a bit

TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves



of expected trepidation. "I had expected to make a bit of money off these pecans but the hogs beat me to them."

Mills says that it's not the first time pigs have damaged his crops or ranch infrastructure. In fact, he says that the pigs are an ongoing problem.

"I am constantly dealing with some kind of damage that the pigs leave behind," he says referring to broken fences, busted up hay equipment, and rooted wheat fields where he grazes stocker cattle in the winter. "While I can't put a number on it, I know they are costing me money."

Mills isn't alone in his frustrations. Landowners and agriculturists across Texas are continually affected by the once domesticated strain of pigs.

The ubiquitous wild pig is now a staple across the Lone Star landscape. Domesticated pigs were introduced to the North American continent by Hernando de Soto during a period of expansive Spanish colonialism and conquests in the 1500's. When the Spanish arrived, the pig was already domesticated by Europeans and was brought the continent as a food source for the new inhabitants.

As the area that became the United States was colonized, settlers brought pigs with them and spread the livestock species throughout North America. Over the past 500 years, pigs were generally domesticated. In some cases however, a few pigs escaped or were turned loose and eventually reverted back to their wild ways - thus giving us the ancestors of the wild pigs we have today.

TOUCH OF LIFE

By Don Springer



Scout Sunday in Crosby

Sunday was Scout Sunday at Crosby Methodist Church and Troop 264, sponsored by the church, took part in the Service. Five of the Scouts received their God and Church Awards during the two Sunday morning Worship periods. This was probably Scout Sunday in many, many other churches around the country and I hope other scouts did as well as ours.

All of this gave me heart as it took me back a number of years when I was a member of a scout troop. I took advantage of the scouting opportunities, learned from my studies, and have always been proud of my five or six years as an active scout.

Those receiving awards Sunday included: Travis Koester, Patrick Peda, Cameron Glenn, Ethan Corral and Jonathan Malac. Each received the God and Church Award which is one of the awards under the God and Country banner. Those and other scouts took part in the Service and I must say they did a fine job in the several parts of the Service for which they were responsible.

I also want to mention a group that has great responsibility for these boys—that is the Scouters. The men and women give untold hours working with our scouts and assisting in their development into fine young men and are to be commended. If it were not for the scouters there would be no troop.

I spent a few years as a scouter myself in my earlier years and enjoyed the work I did. However, many troops had disbanded over the years, particularly in more recent years, because of the lack of leaders. I'm sure this is a great disappointment to the scouts, scout hopefuls and the sponsoring organization when there is no scout leadership.

I mentioned in an earlier sentence that these leaders give untold hours in this volunteer job and I know they do. One needs a love of youth and a love for the scouting activities to be active as a leader. These adults are seldom in the lime-light and I guess that is how it should be but they do deserve our thanks and respect for the work they do. Give your scouters a word of thanks occasionally.

If you have any interest in becoming involved as a scout leader let someone in the scout or sponsoring organization know. You will be put to use. There is always room for one more.

As those boys were receiving their awards I was taken back many years to the Sunday morning when I received my God and Country Award, the only one available at the time. It was a proud day in my life. As I counted back I realized that was 67 or 68 years ago. Man I'm getting old!

"I was also told Troop 264 just completed a food drive for the community and collected 1,065 pounds of food for the area needs. Good going guys!"

Such are the people, places or things that have touched my life in my home!

LIFESTYLE

★

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Jean McMan
February 4, 1929 – October 17, 2013

Elizabeth J. “Liz” McMan, 84, was called home to be with the Lord October 17, 2013 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. She was born outside Fordyce, AR and graduated from Fordyce High School. She has been in the Houston area for over 60 years where her late husband retired from Armco Steel. She is proceeded in death by her parents, her late husband, William “Bill” McMan and her eight siblings. Elizabeth is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-laws, Sherry & Bill King and Glenda & Brian Roddy. Grandchildren: Barry King, Eric, Katelyn, & Anna Roddy.



Great grandchildren: Kolby & Kyler King

There was a viewing at Howard Glendale Funeral Home and she was laid to rest on October 22, 2013 at Brookside Memorial Park Cemetery in a private graveside service.

★

LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Parental Controls


These days most electronic devices with access to the In-

ternet also have parental control options. This allows parents to help safeguard their children. I have heard parents say, “I don’t bother with those controls. I can trust my child.” My response is, “You may trust your child, but you can’t trust the devil not to bother your child!” “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1Peter 5:8)

Our roving columnist captures some familiar faces at Crosby Chamber EXPO, Highlands Rotary Chili Feast and Surrounding areas. Caution: YOU may be the next one in front of the camera!

★

WHO DAT?
Charlie Farrar's Candid Camera



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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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Crosby Community Center's February special events

Valentine's Day Dance
Friday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m. Invite your sweetheart or friend to this fun Valentine's Day celebration! Incredible Events will be here playing your favorite tunes to keep you on the dance floor. Make some memories in our special photo booth. Feast on chicken spaghetti, green garden salad, garlic bread, iced tea, and coffee. Sample our delicious dessert buffet made especially for you by the Crosby Center staff! Tickets are on sale now through Wednesday, February 12th for \$5 per person. Stop by the Center to sign up.

Scrapbooking Layout
Monday, February 17. at 10:30 a.m. Highlight your everyday memories with this perfect scrapbook page. Advance registration is necessary. A \$10 fee payable at registration covers the cost of supplies.

Salad and Spud Luncheon Featuring Gail Collins
Friday, February 28 at 11:30 a.m. The Center's salad and spud luncheon serves up a generous-sized, oven-baked potato with all the trimmings, fresh green salad, dessert, iced tea, and coffee. Cost is \$4 per person and helps defray the cost of the food. Advance registration is necessary by Tuesday, February 25th. Call the Center to reserve your space. Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. For more information, please call (281) 462-0543.

Valentine's Day Agenda

Valentine Day is celebrated each year with multiplied millions of expressions of affection and love. Husbands and wives schedule a date night or weekend together; sweethearts search for just the right gift to send to each other; children give homemade cards to parents and friends. All such gifts and statements of love are consistent with a Biblical worldview of love and family. The sad reality in 21st century USA is that the very foundations for traditional Valentines continue to be under siege. Cultural attacks on the family include potential legalization of same sex marriage in more states, blatant disregard for the Defense of Marriage legislation that is still the law of the land, and granting same sex benefits to couples by some secular and governmental employers. The irony is that more heterosexual couples choose to cohabit without marriage commitment, while same sex couples are lobbying to redefine marriage and family to accommodate their desires. There are many overt political issues in this cultural struggle as traditional Biblical definitions of love and family are attacked. There are also many subtle attacks as the gay rights agenda is championed in popular media. The recent interview with an All American football player from the University of Missouri is one such

★

PASTOR'S NEWS VIEWS
By Tim Edwards



example. The announcement that he has same-sex attraction is giving this Southeastern Conference (SEC) co-defensive player of the year huge notoriety. He is hailed in the media as courageous for his efforts to be the first openly gay player in the National Football League. It is ludicrous to treat any person as a hero just because he or she redefines sexuality by cultural standards and not scriptural truth. His sexual choice does not give him special status. It is responsible journalism and good football strategy to just discuss his football abilities and draft him to play defensive tackle in the NFL if he can compete at the next level. He is no hero- just another very good football player. There is no reason to discuss bedrooms; just determine if he has the talent to be in an NFL locker room and play on Sunday afternoons next fall. Those with same sex attraction and heterosexuals are constantly tempted by sexual sin. The temptation is not the sin, but acting on the temptation violates God's standards. Homosexual behavior is one of

many choices where people live by their own standards instead of accepting Biblical truth. Other sexual temptations include heterosexual sex without a marriage commitment, adultery, pornography. All these temptations are a battle, but can be overcome by persons who choose that their first love is Jesus Christ. The issues of love and marriage on Valentine's Day in the context of 21st century culture are far more complex than can be addressed in this brief News-Views article. The short-version of this Valentine's challenge for authentic love is defined by the 1st century Holy Spirit inspired love poem in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Christ-followers in ancient Corinth. *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres* 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

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

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Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.
Leviticus 19:32

Once more the humble will rejoice in the Lord; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah 29: 10

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SPORTS, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 12, WEDNESDAY
Dream of Doors
Celebrate Black History Month at The North Channel Branch Library! Express Children's Theatre presents Dream of Doors: Based on the lives of many historical figures who helped to open doors for those who came after them. Fully staged show! Wednesday, February 12 at 4:30 pm. North Channel Branch Library, 15741 Wallisville Road-Houston, TX 77049. 281-457-1631.

FEBRUARY
Galena Park Library events
-Thursday, February 13, 11:00 am Baby Time. 4:00 pm Valentine's Day Craft.
-Tuesday, February 18, 1:00 pm Microsoft Word Basics II
-Wednesday, February 19, 11:00 am Children's Story Time
-Thursday, February 20, 11:00 am Baby Time. 3:30 pm Family Movie Time.
1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547. Call 713-450-0982 for more information.

FEBRUARY
North Channel Library events
-Thursday, February 13, Baby Time at 10:30 am. AARP Tax Help from 12-4 pm. Lego play at 4:30 pm.
-Saturday, February 15, Scrapbooking with Mia from 10 am - 3 pm.
-Monday, February 17, Board Game Day at 4:30 pm.
-Tuesday, February 18, Toddler Time at 10:30 am; Traveling Naturalist Pre-school Program at 1:30 pm.
-Thursday, February 20, Baby Time at 10:30 am. AARP Tax Help from 12-4 pm. Bluebonnet storytime at 4:30 pm.
15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

FEBRUARY 20, THURSDAY
CAPLE Meeting
The next regular Community Advisory Panel to Lyondell and Equistar (CAPLE) meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, 2014. Lyondell-Basell will present its annual State of the Plant report, highlighting 2013's achievements and describing 2014's goals and plans. The meeting will be from 6:15 - 8:00 p.m. at the LyondellBasell Service Center. From 5:45 - 6:15, there is a light meal and social time. For details or to RSVP, contact the CAPLE facilitator at DBSheridan@aol.com.

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.)
-SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits
-1099R forms if you received a pension or annuity
-All forms indicating federal income tax paid
-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.

MARCH 3, MONDAY
Annual Galena Park-Jacinto City Rotary Club Golf Tournament
Scholarship Golf Tournament at Texaco Golf Club. 8 am registration and 9 am shotgun start. Registration \$100 per player includes breakfast and lunch and much more. For more detailed information, please contact Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club at 281-850-0064.

North Shore Rotary sponsors RYL student



RYL is the Rotary Youth Leadership Retreat, an annual event for sponsored students throughout the District 5890 Houston area. Seen above is Channelview High School student Kasey Avilez (in center, wearing glasses) with others from her retreat. Kasey spent the weekend in leadership training and friendship with the other RYL students. The Interact Club she belongs to at CHS is sponsored by the North Shore Rotary Club.



Channelview January students of the Month

Channelview ISD recently honored its November Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at the Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Top row, from left, Caleb Murray (Alice Johnson Junior High), Clayton Hutchins (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Ricardo Marta-Cruz (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Emily Hardy (Channelview High School), Estefhania Guerrero-Morales (Schochler Elementary) and Mia Rodriguez (Cobb Elementary). Pictured in front are, from left, Noel Marquez (McMullan Elementary), James Brooks (Aguirre Junior High), Xandra Rodriguez (De Zavala Elementary), Vanessa Nuncio (Brown Elementary), Letsy Pulido (Crenshaw Elementary) and Bryan Gonzalez (Hamblen Elementary).

FEBRUARY 12, 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
Fuddruckers, 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, 155111 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

CLOVERLEAF
HC MUD #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.

Panthers are 19-4A District Champions



Sheldon ISD, C.E. King High School Boys Basketball team will end the regular season as the 19-4A District Champions. The Panthers' first playoff game will be Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at Lee College Stadium against Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears. Tip-off is at 8:00 pm. Put on your school colors and come our and support the team. Go Panthers!!

Lady Falcons strong scoring attack fuels playoff victory over Pasadena

The Channelview High School Lady Falcons basketball team soared past Pasadena Dobie 67-34 to advanced to the second round of the playoffs at Lee College Arena in Baytown on Monday night. Channelview, the second place team in District 21-5A, improved its record to 18-4. The Lady Falcons will face Clear Springs at 7 p.m. on Friday at Deer Park High School.

The first quarter ended with the Lady Falcons holding on to a five-point lead. However, Channelview went on a 20-point run in the second quarter and never looked back in claiming the bi-district victory.

Taeler Deer led the Channelview scoring attack with 28 points. Marshall Hollins fired in 15 points, while Rene Causey contributed 12 points.

Galena Park ISD News Basketball Playoffs

The North Shore Lady Mustangs defeated Sam Rayburn 84-15 in the 5A Bi-District Round Girls Basketball Playoffs on Monday night. The next round of the playoffs will be announced shortly, check galenaparkisd.com/athletics for time and location. Don't miss seeing the 21-5A District Champions in action, they are amazing.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 427009; Estate of OTIS JOSEPH AUTIN Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2014.

Patricia Caughman a/k/a Patsy Caughman

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten 5223 Garth Rd. Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 6th day of February, 2014.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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25 Indian royal
27 Ship of the desert
29 "The Godfather" star
31 Christmas carol starter
35 Someone in the kitchen?
37 Therefore
38 Eagle's nest
41 Toothpaste type
43 Current measure, for short
44 Pharmaceu tical
45 Psychiatrist
47 "Material Girl" singer
49 Idaho's capital
52 Chowd down
53 _____relief
54 Showed again
55 Neither mate
56 Suitable
57 Cheer up
DOWN
1 Long March leader
2 Easy as _____
3 "Take a Bow" singer
4 First place
5 Letter line
6 Poolside structure
7 Explorer Tasman
8 Desk-calen-
9 Per _____ (yearly)
10 Right-hand page
11 Seventh-grader, usually
17 Brunch entree
19 Georgia city
21 Sphere
22 Series of skirmishes
24 Started
26 Rainbow component
28 "Real Time With Bill _____"
30 Gaming cube
32 "Hips Don't
Lie" singer
33 Belly
34 Mindreader's claim
36 Shocked
38 Madison Avenue employee
39 Lyric poet's Muse
40 Less courteous
42 Cuba _____ (cocktail)
45 Child's play
46 Yule refrain
48 Cagers' org.
50 Perched
51 Away from WSW

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NOTICE FOR CANDIDATES
HARRIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES
DISTRICT #14

To all interested persons:

Notice is hereby given that there are three positions on the Board of Emergency Services Commissioner os HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #14 scheduled for election on **May 10, 2014**

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 14 (ESD #14) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, operating under Chapter 775 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (H&S Code) and provides fire suppression and emergency medical and rescue services.

The ESD #14 board is a five member board. The board members serve staggered four (4) year terms. In this election three seats are up for election.

As provided in Chapter 775 , H&S Code, to be eligible for election to the ESD #14 Board, a person must be at least 18 years of age and reside within the boundaries of the District (See Section 141.001, Texas Election Code and Section 775.0355, H&S Code for additional eligibility requirements) A person interested in being a candidate must give a sworn application of intention to run for the Board. The general for of the application is set forth in Section 141..031 Texas Election Code and may be obtained from the Texas Secretary of State website. Prepared forms may also be obtained from the District Secretary, at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department located at 125 San Jacinto St., Highlands, TX 77562 or from District Council, Weston Cotten at 5223 Garth Road, Baytown, TX 77521, or by calling 281-421-5774 and requesting an application, or by e-mailing weston@westoncotten.com.

The Completed application must be received by the District Secretary located at 125 San jacinto, Highlands, TX 77562, or Weston Cotten at 5223 Garth Road, Baytown, TX 77521 **on or before February 28, 2014.**

The procedures and time requirements for a write in candidate for Commissioner are governed by Subchapter C, Chapter 146, Election Code

ALL APPLICANTS ARE REFERRED TO THE TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION FILING REQUIREMENTS UNDER TITLE 15, TEXAS ELECTION CODE

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Happy Valentine's Day February 14, 2014

Janet's Notebook

By Janet Thorpe



Chocolate, Oh How I Love Thee ...

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, all the Kitchen Crew can think about is chocolate. Well, to be honest, we're always thinking about chocolate. But at this time of year our chocolate senses are heightened.

From looking at recipes posted on Just A Pinch, it looks like everyone may love chocolate as much as we do.

Kathleen Taylor's Chocolate Molten Cakes are perfection. "Everyone loves these cakes! They are the bomb for a chocolate lover," says Kathleen. These moist, sinfully rich cakes are, well, awesome. They make for a wonderful presentation - whether it be a casual night in or a formal party menu. But do keep an eye on them as Kathleen recommends. You want all the gooey goodness.

Have you tried Jo Anne Sugimoto's Chocolate Mascarpone Brownies? This is one of those awesome desserts that you can have just a bite of and feel satisfied. Jo Anne says these are "a great twist on brownies, they are so decadent, you won't believe your taste buds!" She's right. With an intensely dark chocolate flavor, they are practically fudge-like in consistency. So rich, so creamy, so GOOD!

"These are somewhat time consuming, but oh so worth it," explains Teresa Jacobson. With just the right amount of chocolate and sweetness, her Raspberry Chocolate Bars are worth it! Personally, I love raspberry and chocolate together. If that's not your thing, feel free to get creative and change the flavor of the jam to suit your preferences. I bet strawberry would be delicious too.

"If you're a fan of dark chocolate, this recipe is for you,"

says Donna Stadler about her Dark Chocolate Truffle Cookies. I think dark chocolate is delicious, so these cookies are right up my alley. They are so nice ... and so naughty at the same time! Perfect for an indulgent moment when all you want is chocolate. I just love them.

What better way to show someone you love them, than sharing Donna Morales' Love in a Cookie Cup with them. "It is absolute, chocolate love in a cup," says Donna. Labor and flavor intensive! These are a cup full o' love for sure.

Lisa Cox's Mini Chocolate Raspberry Rum Cakes "are always a big hit with family and friends," says Lisa. The raspberry and rum flavors compliment the chocolate beautifully, with neither being overwhelming. Highly recommended!

Another recipe I highly recommend is Barbara Eaton's Double Chocolate Chipotle Chili Cake. "This turned out to be one of the most delicious cakes I have ever tasted," says Barbara. "It is not too 'hot' but the 'afterkick' is perfect." All I can say is wow. You will love this cake!

This Valentine's Day don't just tell someone you love them. Show how sweet you are on 'em by whipping up one of these delicious chocolaty recipes.



Raspberry Chocolate Bars

OPEN UP YOUR HEART AND YOUR HOME THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

This Valentine's Day weekend, four Houston area animal welfare organizations are teaming up to help thousands of homeless and deserving animals find permanent, loving, forever homes. The Houston Humane Society (HHS), Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP), HCPHES Veterinary Public Health, and the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HSP-CA) encourage Houstonians to open their hearts and their homes to a homeless animal this February. February 14th - 16th, each shelter will offer half off adoption fees for select pets to help homeless animals all over the Houston area find their true love. Adoption policies, costs, promotions, date of promotions, and shelter hours may vary. Make sure to contact each participating shelter for more information.


All four organizations have adorable, healthy pets of all breeds, colors, sizes and ages eagerly awaiting their new homes. We know people looking for a furry best friend are sure to find true, unconditional and lasting love when they open their hearts and give a homeless animal a second chance at life.

For more information please contact, Houston Humane Society, Monica Schmidt at 281-961-9225; Citizens for Animal Protection, JoAnne Jackson at 713-553-4468; HCPHES Veterinary Public Health, Colleen Hodges at 281-999-3191; Houston SPCA, Meera Nandlal at 832-473-5647

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