

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 3, NO. 23(#76)WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER



A HEALTHIER YOU!

Join us for FREE health seminars. Do You Know Your Risks? June 11, 2015 from 9 am-11 am.

Jump start your summer with a variety of free screenings and valuable information from East Houston Regional Medical Center. All screenings and events are open to the public.

FREE Screenings: Sleep apnea, blood pressure, A1 (questionnaire), cholesterol & glucose, mental health education.

The event will take place at **WENDEL D. LEY FAMILY YMCA, 15055 WALLISVILLE RD., HOUSTON, TX. 77049.**

AARP informative meeting

AARP chapter 1160 will meet at the Alvin Baggett community building at 1302 Keene street in Galena Park on Monday June 15 at 1:30 PM. Speaker will be Sondra Ford of Trusted Senior Specialists. She will answer questions about medical insurance and what different companies offer and explain the government programs available for senior assistance. Refreshments will be served.

Summer Meals For Kids

Summer meals for kids will start on June 15 at 12:00 noon at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church located at 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, TX 77015

Children under the age of 18 and disable students under the age of 21. The program ends on August 15th.

Channelview ISD Top 10 graduates



Channelview High School held its graduation on Sunday, June 7 at Aldine ISD's M.O. Campbell Center. The CHS top 10 students are, from left (by rank), Valedictorian Matthew Yates, Salutatorian Kaliah Glenn, Adriana Aguirre, Erika Richey-Carson, Jay-ar Haro, Jocelyn Ramos, Mary Ontiveros, Destiny Adkins, Judy Bich-Tuyen Truong and Christina Grueso.

EXCLUSIVE NORTH CHANNEL STAR COVERAGE

Clinton receives Jordan Leadership Award

By Allan & Linda Jamail
For the North Channel Star

Houston, TX. June 4, 2015 – Texas Southern University presented a historic event with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton by bestowing on her the first Barbara Jordan Inaugural Gold Medallion for Public/Private Leadership Award.

The event was hosted by the Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy Research, The Thurgood Marshall School of Law, The Barbara Jordan Inaugural Gold Medallion Committee, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

Allan and Linda Jamail of Jacinto City were on the Barbara Jordan Inaugural Gold Medallion Committee who helped plan the event.

Before entering the building each of the four thousand plus attendees had to go through the Secret Service's security process of metal detectors and bomb sniffing dogs, Allan Jamail said.

Clinton the former first lady and wife of President Bill Clinton is an announced presidential candidate



Presenting the award left to right: Mrs. Rosemary McGowan (Jordan's sister) Dr. Thomas Freeman (Jordan's debate coach), Hillary Clinton, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee & TSU President Dr. John M. Rudley

NORTH CHANNEL STAR PHOTOS
BY ALLAN JAMAIL

seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party.

According to Allan Jamail this was to be a nonpartisan event, not a campaign event, and Secretary Hillary Clinton after receiving the award was to give a Policy Speech on Voting Rights. However Jamail says Clinton after praising the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan a former TSU student she then fired up her speech and went into an attack mode blaming some of her Republican rivals with the new laws which is making it more

difficult for minorities and college students to register and to vote.

She called for universal and automatic voter registration for all citizens reaching the age of 18 and a 20 day (or more) period of early voting in every state, before every election. Clinton's speech identified the work of protecting and expanding voting rights as a critical part of her campaign.

Clinton talked about the fact that African Americans consistently rank among the

accomplishments on the national and even international stages."

TSU Law School Dean Danyne Holley said "Awarding the first Medallion that bears Barbara Jordan's name to Hillary Clinton is fitting because this award is geared towards recognizing the life time contributions that an American woman has made to our national public life."

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton was selected as the inaugural recipient of this prestigious award because of her many works in her role as First Lady, United States Senator, and as Secretary of State. Her courage and determination as a young woman fighting for early child care and children's health care, to her work as a seasoned public servant fighting for human rights for girls and women around the world and her service to the most vulnerable in our society makes her deserving of the distinction in receiving the inaugural award.

Crystal Owens, incoming Student Government Association President said

See CLINTON, p. 3

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Dr. Grant personifies the value of education



Dr. Charles Grant, San Jacinto College graduate and former president of the North Campus, holds four college degrees and believes in the value of education. He recently started an organization that provides training and certification services for continuing and professional development educators. Photo credit: Rob Vanya, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department. See story, page 6



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Continued from Page 1



Brisket 1st-Dana Industrial, Fajitas 1st—Swamp DonkeyRibs 1st-War Pigs, 1st-Boss Hog Cookers, Open Dish 1st-Hammer Down with Crawfish Cornbread, Chicken Hula Hut Girls,

RODEO PARADE PHOTOS,

Continued from Page 1



Crosby 4-H Girls show Cougar pride



Futurer Rodeo Clown hold trophy for Cowpokes.



FINGER PICKEN Showmanship Winners



Crosby Middle School Dance/Cheer 2nd Float



Cowpokes Best Wagon



Crosby Middle School Athletics 3rd Float

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SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2nd & 4th THURSDAY San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

San Jacinto Pilot Club meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building.

2nd THURSDAY North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Senior Citizens hold a monthly dance the second Thursday of every month from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

MONDAYS Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

SATURDAY NIGHTS The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

JUNE North Channel Library events

- Saturday, June 13, 11-12:30 pm, Ask a Lawyer.
- Monday, June 15, 2:30 pm, Monday Movie Madness-Tickets required.
- Tuesday, June 16, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time; 4:30 pm, Teens-Art Project.
- Wednesday, June 17, 9:30 pm, Superhero Summit; 4:30 pm, Tween Superhero Booth Camo.
- Thursday, June 18, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 pm, Teens-TeenScene.
- Saturday, June 20, 10 am - 3 pm, Scrapbooking with Mia; 2 pm, Faithful Paws.
- COMPUTER CLASSES:**
- Free Email, Lecture, June 16, 10 am - 12 pm.
- Free Email, Practice, June 18, 10 am - 12 pm.
- Registration required.
- CLASSES DE COMPUTACION**
- Email gratis, Lectura, June 15, 1-3 pm.
- Email gratis, Práctica, June 17, 1-3 pm.
- Se requiere registraci3n.

Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

JUNE Galena Park Library events

- Friday, June 12, 3 pm, Movie Time.
 - Monday, June 15, 3 pm, Teen Time Ninjas in Training.
 - Wednesday, June 17, 10:15 am, Mecanografía; 11 am, Childrens' Story Time-Storybook Opera; 1:30 pm, Typing Basics.
 - Thursday, June 18, 11 am, Baby Time; 3 pm, Happy the Clown.
 - Friday, June 19, 3 pm, Movie Time.
 - Monday, June 22, 3 pm, Teen Time-Video game day.
 - Wednesday, June 24, 10:15 am, Internet Basic I; 11 am, Children's Story Time; 1:30 pm, Interbet Basics I.
 - Thursday, June 25, 11 am, Baby Time; 3 pm, Puppet Pizzazz.
 - Friday, June 26, 3 pm, Movie.
 - Monday, June 29, 3 pm, Teen Time-3D Comic Book.
- Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.
- The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

Channelview High School AVID students honored

Students in the Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program at Channelview High School program were honored during a special recognition breakfast recently.

The AVID program is a college preparatory program that was launched in the district's secondary schools in 2011. Founded in 1980 in San Diego, AVID is a system that helps students in the academic middle prepare for college. As part of the program, students take Pre AP, AP and/or Dual Credit courses.

The students who participated in the program all four years of high school received special engraved plaques in honor of their efforts.

In addition, students also take the four-year AVID elective course where they learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and specially



Channelview High School senior Alexis Gonzales was one of the many students presented a plaque for completing four years of the AVID program.

trained college tutors. During their junior year they go on a college tour and receive help with college applications.

Channelview High School Principal Cindi Ollis said she believes the AVID program is working. "As a result of this pro-

gram, we feel our students will be well prepared for college or a chosen career path upon graduation," she said.

The AVID program is offered at Aguirre Junior High, Alice Johnson Junior High and Channelview High School.

CHANNELVIEW ISD:

Endeavor students shine in spotlight at graduation



The senior class of Endeavor High School at Channelview ISD's Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center anxiously awaits their turn to walk across the state to receive their diplomas.

The students of Endeavor High School at Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center in Channelview ISD are now embarking on new futures after receiving their diplomas during graduation ceremonies at the Bill Neal Center on June 6.

More than 300 parents, relatives and friends were in attendance to support the 41 graduates that crossed the stage. Endeavor is the district's alternative high school program, designed for those students who excel in a non-

traditional high school setting.

"All of you have so much to give," Campbell Learning Center principal Mark Sims told the graduates. "Now, it's time for you to put your talents to work for the whole world to see."

Endeavor student representative Blanca Bustos shared some words with her classmates, encouraging them to "aim high and reach for the stars."

Channelview ISD Board of Trustee Joe

Frank Campbell also addressed the students. The school campus is named after Campbell.

"Set your goals high, but always remember that nothing great was ever achieved without hard work," he said.

After a slide show that featured the school year at Endeavor, diplomas were then given out by Campbell Learning Center Principal Mark Sims, Superintendent Greg Ollis and members of the district's Board of Trustees.

CLINTON,

Continued from page 1

"The Honorable Hillary Clinton is a beacon to inspire young women like myself, who are already in leadership roles, and those who aspire to become leaders. She inspires us to press on, and speak out with courage."

The Barbara Jordan Medallion Award will be an annual award and will be bestowed on a deserving woman anywhere in the world who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor in the public or private sector.

Contributions for this annual event can be made to the Barbara Jordan endowment fund through the Texas Southern University Foundation. The University's designated (501.c.3) tax exemption can be used. TSU contact person is LaRenee B. Snowden Assistant Dean, Student Programs & External Affairs (713) 313-6844 office.

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SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Board members sworn into office

Three members return for six-year terms



Mr. John Moon, Jr., Mr. Dan Mims, and Mr. Keith Sinor are administered the oath of office by attorney Daniel J. Snooks. Photo credit: Amanda Fenwick, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

PASADENA, Texas — Mr. John Moon, Jr., Mr. Dan Mims, and Mr. Keith Sinor were sworn in as members of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on Monday, June 1, 2015.

Positions 5, 6, and 7, held by Mr. Moon, Mr. Mims, and Mr. Sinor, respectively, were to be filled

in a May election. However, due to each position being unopposed, the election was cancelled in March. All three members were administered the oath of office by attorney Daniel J. Snooks.

To read biographies for the seven San Jacinto College Board of Trustees members, visit sanjac.edu/key-information/our-leadership/board-of-trustees.

Channelview High School seniors receive diplomas

The floor of the M.O. Campbell Center in Aldine was a sea of blue and gold as 421 seniors received their diplomas from Channelview High School during commencement ceremonies on June 7 in front of a full arena of proud parents and friends.

Keynote addresses were given by CHS salutatorian Kaliah Glenn and valedictorian Matthew Yates. Members of the senior class also wore red ribbon in memory of fellow classmate Ricardo "Rickey" Martinez, who passed away in April from a form of muscular disease. His brother, Gerardo Aguilar, and sister, Nataly Martinez, accepted Rickey's high school diploma on his behalf as his classmates gave him a standing ovation.

In addition, 13 seniors also received their Associate's Degree from San Jacinto College North as part of the Modified Early College Academy (MECA) program. Students who graduated with their Associate's Degrees were Yates, Kimberly Williams, Susan Higueros, Abraham Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Chelsea Page, Holly Richard, Christina Arellano, Leonard Collins III, Nathan Fowler, Jonathan Gonzales-Torres, Victoria Mata and Martin Puntos, Jr.

The graduation was video streamed live on the Web by Aldine ISD. For those who would like to view the video of this year's graduation, log on to www.alaine.k12.tx.us/graduation/index.cfm.

GALENA PARK ISD:

Local Teen Beauty Pageant state finalist

Sabria Price, a senior at North Shore Senior High School, is a state finalist in the National Miss Texas Pageant to be held June 19 - 21 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston, TX. The pageant involves girls ages 16 - 18. Price will be competing for the right to be named Miss Teen Texas and compete in the national pageant at Disneyland® in California. She has the chance to represent the great state of Texas for the entire year. Sabria is involved in her high school and community theatres, Honor Society, and the International Thespian Society. She enjoys reading, writing, painting, acting, modeling, attending church and working out.

National American Miss is dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging its future leaders. Each year the pageant awards thousands in scholarships and prizes to recognize and assist in the development of young ladies nationwide. All activities are



Sabria Price

age-appropriate and family-oriented. The National American Miss Pageant System is the largest in the nation. The focus of the organization is to create future leaders and to equip them with real world skills to make their dreams a reality. The program is based on inner beauty as well as poise and presentation, and offers an "All-American spirit of fun for family and friends." Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence and learning new skills.

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

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OPINION PAGE

MESSAGE FROM
REP. BRIAN BABIN



An opportunity to
restore Health
Care Freedom

Soon the U.S. Supreme Court will issue its highly anticipated ruling in King v. Burwell. If the Court rules against the President it will have a profound effect on Obamacare.

The law clearly states that subsidies to purchase health care insurance can only be granted "through an exchange established by the State." After 33 states – including Texas – chose not to establish an exchange, the Obama Administration unilaterally rewrote the law to hand out tens of billions of dollars in subsidies to those who lived in states without exchanges and signed up through a federal-exchange plan.

The law is clear and the Administration overstepped its prerogative. Under the U.S. Constitution, laws are written by the legislative branch of government, not the President.

The Court will most likely strike down the Administration's unlawful actions, and when they do, it will give the people's body – the U.S. Congress – the opportunity to provide much-needed relief to millions of Americans.

Just this past week, the Department of Health and Human Services reported that next year Americans will once again see double digit increases in their Obamacare health care premiums.

I hear daily from many of those I have the privilege of representing who want their health care freedom restored so they can buy an affordable plan that meets their needs. This includes a constituent from Chambers County who recently wrote to express her need for relief from Obamacare and her almost \$600 per month premium that has "a \$12,000 deductible before it will pay anything."

A resident of Jasper wrote about how her granddaughter cannot afford an Obamacare health plan and is now being forced to pay a tax penalty. Tom from Newton County shared how he is now being forced to pay more for the same coverage. One of my own family members recently told me that their health care premium is now their largest monthly bill.

It's more than just relief from the high costs of insurance that the American people want. Carolyn shared with me how the law has resulted in her work hours being cut from 40 hours a week to 25 hours a week. That affects take-home pay and the ability to provide for her family.

Should the Supreme Court strike down the Administration's unilateral actions, Congress must use this opportunity to build an off-ramp from this disastrous law for Tom, Carolyn, Sarah and millions of other Americans who want relief.

We must restore patient-centered health care, and empower Americans with the ability to choose an affordable plan that meets their needs. The American people have clearly spoken and they don't want a Washington-driven system.

States should be granted a complete opt out of Obamacare. We should repeal the costly insurance mandates and strengthen provisions that protect individuals and their families. This includes repealing the individual and employer mandates – while protecting Americans from having their health insurance cancelled when they get sick. We should also grant Americans refundable tax credits so they can purchase affordable state-regulated insurance.

As a health care provider myself for 38 years, I have seen firsthand how Obamacare undermines the doctor-patient relationship. It's costing us jobs and take-home pay, and has resulted in millions of Americans losing the health care they had and wanted to keep; exactly the opposite of what President Obama promised us.

The American people are fed up with this terrible law – its higher costs, broken promises and being told what they need. With Obamacare facing a lethal blow, Congress must use this opportunity to lead the American people towards patient-focused care rather than government-directed care.



Governor decides fates of
bills passed by Legislature

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott has until June 21 to give bills recently passed by the Texas Legislature his final consideration before signing them, letting them take effect without his signature or vetoing them.

By June 1, the last day of the Legislature's 84th regular session, some 819 House bills and 504 Senate bills earned final passed, plus two House Joint Resolutions and five Senate Joint Resolutions. Unlike bills, which are subject to gubernatorial veto, the voters of Texas will find the seven joint resolutions appearing as proposed constitutional amendments on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot.

By June 4, Abbott had signed 340 bills into law and these vetoed two: HB 225, relating to the prescription and dispensation of "opioid antagonist" drugs; and SB 359, relating to the emergency detention of a person with mental illness. Here are 10 examples of signed, approved bills:

HB 4, establishing a new \$130 million "High Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program" to be provided free of tuition and fees to qualifying students.

HB 505, prohibiting the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from adopting any rule that would limit the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school or in a given semester or academic year.

HB 593, requiring the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to establish a statewide comprehensive education and training program on canine encounters and canine behavior.

HB 903, requiring the comptroller to adjust the state's "rainy day fund" investment portfolio periodically by putting some funds into higher-returning instruments to ensure that the balance of the fund is sufficient to meet cash flow requirements.

HB 1740, improving community access to rabies vaccination services.

STATE CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



Health agency chief
to resign

Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Dr. Kyle Janek on June 5 announced his decision to step down from his position effective July 1 "to make way for new leadership as the agency prepares for major reorganization." Janek was appointed head of the agency in 2012 by then-governor Rick Perry.

With a budget of \$74 billion and more than 56,000 employees, the agency came under fire following publication of a series of investigative reports by the Austin American-Statesman that exposed a lucrative no-bid contract with a computer software firm executed by high-ranking personnel at the agency. Oversight at the agency was a topic of Sunset Commission hearings held at the Capitol in April.

Gov. Abbott, in a June 5 announcement, said Chris Traylor, chief deputy commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, will succeed Janek, and Charles Smith, current deputy for child support at the Texas Office of the Attorney General, will be Traylor's successor.

Rick Perry starts
presidential run

Former governor Rick Perry, who served the state's chief executive from 2001 to 2015, launched his second run in hopes of securing the Republican nomination for president in an Addison, Texas, aircraft hangar on June 4.

Using a C-130 cargo plane as a backdrop, Perry, who served as a U.S. Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War era, was joined in the announcement by military veterans as he talked about his upbringing and recounted his leadership experience.

Lawmakers won't
seek reelection

Last week, five state representatives and one state senator announced their intentions not to seek reelection in 2016.

The state representatives include: House County Affairs Committee Vice Chair Joe Farias, D-San Antonio; House Education Committee Chair Jimmy Don Aycock, R-Killeen; House Select Committee on Emerging Issues in Law Enforcement Chair Allen Fletcher, R-Tomball; and House Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Sylvester Turner, D-Houston. Turner is a candidate for mayor of Houston. The senator is Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee Chair Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay.

TEXAS
With Russell
A. Graves

The Marfa
Lights

Highway 67 east of Marfa is a desolate piece of highway - especially at night. After a dinner in Alpine, I head west out of town towards the Presidio County seat of Marfa.

Marfa proper is an interesting place. After clearing the mountains that flank Alpine, I am soon on a giant desert grassland and can see the lights of Marfa glowing in the midsection of the flat plain. In the town, art galleries abound and I see pieces from funky to functional hanging on the walls of the numerous art houses.

At the center of town is the immense and ornate Presidio County Courthouse whose influences look, to me, like a cross between western practicality and Victorian opulence. In the courthouse's shadow lies the fabled Paisano Hotel. Back in the 1950's the hotel served as the headquarters for the film Giant and provided hospitality for Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, and James Dean.

The town is fun and eclectic and adding to it's oddity is a viewing platform ten miles east of the town. While I reflect on what Marfa proper offers, I am drawn to stop at the dimly lit platform. I was at this spot about thirty years ago and again about ten years ago but this time I get to share the phenomenon with my wife and kids.

On the platform, there's an electric energy in the air. Throngs of visitors have stopped and like us, peer across the desert waiting to see small orbs of light appear in the distance. In less than five minutes, the desert doesn't disappoint.

To the southwest, over the Chianti Mountains, an orb appears about one degree above the horizon. At first it's white and pulsates at an unpredictable frequency. Soon, however, the colors morph from white to red and then orange and fades in and out unpredictably as it wanes and waxes in intensity yet stays stationary in its position.

Soon the single light shares the desert stage with about a half dozen other orbs that appear and disappear at random. While most share the same three hues as the first light a couple of times I see green orbs glowing faintly in the distance.

Everyone on the platform sees the lights and are amazed by them but no one here can explain why they occur. It seems that that's a conundrum that fifty years in the making.

The first published accounts of the lights were in 1957 and anecdotally claim that reports of the lights date back to the 1800's. Research suggests that the lights are mirage-like apparitions that reflect distant light sources but one researcher claims that while many of the lights have a plausible explanation, the origin of a percentage of them remains unclear.

The lights rose to public consciousness when the television series Unsolved Mysteries featured a segment on the phenomena. Thirty years after I first saw them, they are again rising to my collective conscious. Explanation or not, I am in awe to see the lights seemingly appear out of thin air and my wife and kids feel the same.

The mystery lights just made some new fans.

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

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LIFESTYLE

GCCISD hosts Retiree and Teacher of the Year Gala

Goose Creek CISD recognized 15 retirees and 28 Campus Teachers of the Year as well as the recipient of the James Becker Thomson Award for excellence in special education at a recent gala at Ross S. Sterling High School. The theme was “Celebrate Yourself – ie,” and the event included a video featuring the retirees and the presentation of a commemorative clock to each retiree.

“Congratulations to our retiring employees,” said Randal O’Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. “We hope that retirement brings you time to relax, enjoy your family and friends, participate in the activities you love and maybe take a few selfies along the way.”

Dr. Tom Kelchner, director of special education, presented a bronze figurine of children holding up stars to Stacy Saxon, Life Skills teacher at Ross S. Sterling High School, as the recipient of the 40th annual James Becker Thomson Award. This award, given by Dr. Richard Thomson in honor of his brother Jamie, who received support from special education teachers, is given to a special education teacher in Goose Creek CISD each year for making a difference in the lives of students.



Britney Samperi (left) and Yvonne Silva (right) of Community Resource Credit Union present iPads to the Goose Creek CISD District Teachers of the Year, Robert Chambliss from Robert E. Lee High School and Dolores Serrano from George W. Carver Elementary, at the recent Retiree and Teacher of the Year Gala at Ross S. Sterling High School. CRCU also donated the programs for the event.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Dolores Serrano, fifth grade math teacher at George Washington Carver Elementary School, received the District Elementary Teacher of the Year title, while Robert Chambliss, AP Macroeconomics, AP Government and Politics and Economics teacher at Robert E. Lee High School, was honored as District Secondary Teacher of the Year. Both were presented with engraved plaques. They will represent Goose Creek CISD in the Region 4 Teacher of the Year contest.

Yvonne Silva and Britney Samperi from Community Resource Credit Union, longtime

supporter of Goose Creek CISD, presented Serrano and Chambliss with iPads.

Campus Teachers of the Year were presented with star awards.

“Congratulations to our Campus and District Teachers of the Year,” said O’Brien. “We are proud of your accomplishments and proud that you have chosen to make your mark here in Goose Creek.”

A reception in the Commons followed the presentations, allowing friends and family time to visit with the retirees, sign their guest books and congratulate the Teachers of the Year.

Button machine unbuttons opportunities at Stratford Library



HARRIS COUNTY STRATFORD LIBRARY in Highlands has a new branch librarian, Mandy Sheffield at left, and a new button making machine, thanks to Raymond Gonzalez of the Highlands Rotary Club, and Martha Aiken of Friends of the Stratford Library. Martha Aiken also has the new shirt displaying Friends support. The library plans on using the button machine for library promotions, and teaching and art projects for children and adults in their classes. The public is invited to come to the library, and make use of the new machine too.

Joshua Rhodes of Crosby earns Academic Honor

ATCHINSON, KS (06/05/2015)(readMedia)-- Benedictine College has recognized those students who have distinguished themselves academically during the last semester. Joshua Rhodes of Crosby was recently named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2015 semester, which ended in May. Rhodes is the child of Mr Brady Rhodes.

To achieve the honor, a student must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours and

a grade point average of 3.5 or above per semester. Of the 1,854 students on campus for the 2014-2015 academic year, 504 made the Dean's List for the Spring 2015 semester.

Founded in 1858, Benedictine College is a Catholic, Benedictine, residential, liberal arts college located on the bluffs above the Missouri River in Atchison, Kansas. The school is proud to have been named one of

America's Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report as well as one of the top Catholic colleges in the nation by First Things magazine and the Newman Guide. It prides itself on outstanding academics, extraordinary faith life, strong athletic programs, and an exceptional sense of community and belonging. It has a mission to educate men and women within a community of faith and scholarship.

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HCDE Head Start receives grant for pre-k literacy program at J.D. Walker Center in Baytown

Officials from Bechtel Oil Gas & Chemical and Linde Engineering visit the Head Start J.D. Walker Center in Baytown to deliver two \$2,500 checks to support child literacy. The matching donations will fund reading programs at the center. (left bottom) Tony Bocca, Health, Safety, Security, Environmental Manager, Bechtel Oil, Gas and Chemicals, Inc.; Wayne Goldsworthy, site director, Linde Engineering North America Inc.; Kevin Hinks, site manager, ExxonMobil NAGOR Project; and Stephan Sorg, commercial manager, Linde Engineering North America Inc. (left top) J.D. Walker students June Reed, Anijah Hunter and Adrian Limas.

Thank you cards, hugs and songs of celebration were plentiful as pre-k students and staff at Harris County Department of Education J.D. Walker Head Start in Baytown gathered to thank Bechtel Oil Gas & Chemical for a \$2,500 donation and a matching \$2,500 donation from Linde Engineering to support literacy. The ceremony included a check presented by Bechtel Oil Gas & Chemical and Linde Engineering officials on May 21, from 1- 2 p.m., at J.D. Walker Head Start, 7316-A Wade Rd.

Bechtel Oil Gas & Chemical is a global engineering, project management and construction company. It is headquartered in San Francisco with an office located in Houston. Linde Engineering, headquartered in Germany, is a worldwide technology partner for plant engineering and construction.

Funds from the donation to HCDE Head Start J.D. Walker will support a male role model literacy project called SuperMENTors

Read by supplying books to the program. The donation also supports book purchases for a family reading program called Read and Rise.

“Bechtel and Linde are family companies grounded in hard work, integrity and trust and we thank them for their community support which will fuel our reading program,” said Head Start Director Venetia Peacock. “We all know how important reading to children is, especially in their formative years.”

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Leviticus 19:32

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Galena Park Swim Lessons

Galena Park will have swim lessons for 2015 for ages 5 and up. Classes are Tuesday through Saturday. Class 1: 9 am - 10 am Class 2: 10 am - 11 am Session 1: June 9 - July 20 Session 2: July 7 - July 18 Session 3: July 21 - Aug. 1 Cost per session: \$30 - child, \$40 - 2 children, \$50 - 3 children, \$60 - 4 children (Children must be siblings to receive discount.) Registration at Alvin Baggett Building, 1302 Keene St. Call 713-674-1741 for more information.

Summer Fun

Kids ages 5-12 are invited to join fun this summer at the Alvin D. Baggett Community Center in Galena Park.

The program consists of: arts/crafts, reading time, swimming, movies. Games and activities both inside and outside. Summer Fun begins June 8, 2015 and ends August 14, 2015. Cost is \$25 per week/per child. Time is Monday - Friday 10 am - 2 pm.

Register at Alvin D. Baggett Community Building, 1302 Keene St. Call 713-674-1741 for more information.

Galena Park Pool Time

Galena Park Swimming Pool opening day is June 9, 2015. \$4 per person. Open to the public 11 am - 9 pm Tuesday to Sunday. Senior Citizens: 8 am - 9 am. Swim Lessons: 9 am - 11 am. Pool will close on August 14 and will only open again for Labor Day Weekend, Sep. 5, 6 & 7.



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San Jac Certified: Dr. Grant personifies the value of education

HOUSTON – Dr. Charles Grant, San Jacinto College graduate and former president of the North Campus, holds four college degrees and is a firm believer in the value of education.

In fact, he has spent almost all of his 35 professional years in the field of education. For San Jacinto College, Grant served as a professor and administrator for 25 years before changing careers. He then worked for three years as education and special projects liaison for Harris County Pct. 2 before joining the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce as its president and CEO. Dr. Grant returned to the education field, launching his own organization – Continuing Education Association International (CEAI), an association that provides training and certification services for continuing and professional development educators.

"I launched CEAI because I feel there is a real need to improve the quality of continuing education worldwide," commented Grant, who worked at San Jacinto College from 1983 to 2008. "Most continuing education teachers are proficient in their career fields, but many have little or no formal training as educators. It's one thing to know a subject, but it's another thing to be able to convey and impart that knowledge to students." During his tenure at San Jacinto College, Grant served as a director

of continuing education, and later as a dean of continuing education. The College's continuing education division is now called the Continuing and Professional Development division to more accurately reflect its wide range of training and education services.

Grant is not only a former employee of San Jacinto College, he is a San Jac Certified alumnus, having earned an associate degree in general studies in 1967. He then earned a bachelor's degree in business from Stephen F. Austin State University, a master's degree in education administration and supervision from Sam Houston State University, and a PhD in higher education from Texas A&M University.

Grant avidly supports San Jac Certified, a campaign that encourages students to complete what they start by earning associate degrees, or one-year technical or occupational certificates. "Becoming San Jac Certified, earning that certificate or degree, proves to yourself and to a potential employer that you have what it takes to stick to it," he said. "There are also practical benefits to becoming San Jac Certified. It leads to a seamless transfer to a university. And sometimes, in certain career fields, an occupational certificate or an associate degree from San Jacinto College can lead to a job that offers better pay than a job that requires a four-year degree."

Grant says it's more important than ever for people of all ages to attend college. "Thirty years ago a person could find a good job with just a high school diploma, or even sometimes without graduating from high school," he said. "But in today's global economy, many companies will only hire people who have at least a two-year college degree. People need college training to compete in today's job market and the competition caused by the global economy is becoming even more intense."

Reflecting on his career success, Grant points to his years as a student at San Jacinto College as an important foundation. "I believe I would not have had the success I had on the university level, and then later in the business world if it had not been for the solid education I received at San Jacinto College," he remarked. "I had great professors. The thing I remember most is the individual and personal instruction. The professors were always accessible and helpful."

As a way of providing support, Grant recently became a member of the San Jacinto College Alumni Association, where he now serves as co-chair of the advisory committee. "I decided to get involved with the alumni association as a way of giving back," he commented. "San Jacinto College means that much to me. It has been the key to success."

ASK DIAMOND JIM

JEWELRY FACTS



Jewels and other decorative items are old as the human race itself.



•Diamonds were first discovered in India, over 2400 years ago. The biggest modern supplier of diamonds is South America.

•Tradition of giving fiancée engagement ring was introduced by Maximilian of Austria in 1477. He gave his soon-to-be wife Mary of Burgundy masterfully crafted ring as a promise of marriage.

•75% of American brides receives engagement ring made out from gold and diamonds.

•Egypt and Mesopotamia were the first two ancient civilizations that started organized production of jewelry. Their accomplishments in advancement of metallurgy and gem collecting played important role for development of jewelry in every civilization that came after them.

•The largest diamond that was ever found is "The Cullinan". It weighs staggering 1.3 pounds.

•Throughout the history, jewelry went through many changes brought by rise and fall of many civilizations and fashion changes.

•Some of the most notable fashion styles that affected jewelry production are Victorian, Romanticism, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Renaissance, and many more.

•First jewels were made from any readily available material near settlements of our ancestors.

•Arrival of metal age enabled creation of first artistic jewelry.

•The most important quality of emerald, sapphire and ruby is their color clarity.

•Only one in a million of mined diamonds ends up in jewelry.

•Amber is fossilized tree sap that is at least 30 million years old.

•Obsidian is a natural glass that is formed during volcanic eruptions.

•Famous jewelry material Black Jet that was popularized during the reign of Queen Victoria is made from fossilized coal formed over 180 million years ago.

•First synthetic diamonds appeared during 1950s.

•Most pearls made today are cultured, or man-made. This process is done by inserting a small shell into oyster, who then painstakingly covers it with pearl material over a minimum of three years.

•In ancient times term Sapphire described all blue stones. Similarly, all yellow stones were called Topaz.

•United States is world's biggest consumer of diamonds.

•Diamonds are all over 3 billion years old, and they formed from carbon that was heated and compressed into diamond form at the depth of 100 miles below the surface of the earth.

•Gold is one of the most popular jewelry raw materials because of its shine, longevity and softness.

•Silver was used as a jewelry material for over 6 thousand years.

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

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals.

See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

SHELDON ISD

Graduates vandalized C. E. King high school

HOUSTON, Texas – Several graduates from C.E. King High School vandalized their school.

The incident happened last day of May, Harris County Contable Precinct 3 said. Eleven recent gradu-

ates damaged the exterior of their high school with spray paint, drawings showed sexual symbols, contables said. The students also tossed toilet paper around.

Other damages include the school's camera system

and the electric locks on the doors. Precinct 3 estimates about \$15,000 in repairs for the cameras and door locks.

The police department filled charges against all 11 graduates on June 4.

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