

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 20MAY 14, 2014www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

Colorful Ads on Page 8

- PineForest Jewelry
- North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry & Crawfish
- Pecan Street Academy
- Houston Community College
- Market Street Feed

North Channel Job Fair, May 19

Congressman Green invites Texans to the 12th Annual North Channel Job Fair next Monday, May 19th at San Jacinto College North-Monument Room, 5800 Uvalde, Houston, TX 77049 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

"We're glad to host this event every year," Green said. "It's a great way to connect people with good, quality employers. It's also an opportunity for them to learn about different openings, and a good starting place for young people looking for summer jobs."

This job fair is being held in conjunction with Workforce Solutions-North Shore and the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from 40 local businesses will be participating and will be hiring full-time, part-time and summer employees. Participating employers include: City of Houston, Boasso America Corporation, CVS-Caremark, Southwest Shipyard, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, Mission Foods, Gulf Stream Marine, Allied Barton, LG Hospitality, Unites States Steel, Houston Area Plumbing Joint Apprenticeship, Enterprise Products, HISD, Harris County Education Department, Hydrochem, YMCA, Harris County Juvenile Probation and more.

Participants should dress professionally, and be prepared with resumes.

ELECTIONS IN GALENA PARK, JACINTO CITY

Moya, Thibodeaux in Mayoral run-off

Jacinto City incumbents return to Council

A close race for Mayor in Galena Park was the highlight of this year's city elections, in both Galena Park and Jacinto City. As shown in the box to the right, Esmeralda Moya led a field of four candidates with 260 votes, but that was not enough to avoid a run-off for the position with Joseph Thibodeaux. The city will decide at their council meeting on May 20th when the run-off will be held, and where voting will take place.

In other races, incumbent



ESMERALDA MOYA



JOSEPH THIBODEAUX

Councilman Danny Simms was returned to office, and newcomers Lois Killough, and Mericela Serna won seats at the GP council table. Position #4 had 3 candidates, none of which had a majority, so that will result in a run-off between the top two candidates, Juan Flores, Jr. and Martha Flores. It was notable that Killough garnered the most votes of any candidate by far, with 394 cast in her favor.

See ELECTIONS, page 2

ELECTION RESULTS

GALENA PARK:
MAYOR
Esmeralda Moya, 260
Joe E. Thibodeaux, 217
R.C. Bob Clowers, 190
Cruz Hinojosa, 68

COUNCIL POSITION 1
Joe. A. De La Torre, 328
Danny "Bevo" Simms, 340

COUNCIL POSITION 2
Lois Killough, 394
Zenaida Granados, 280

COUNCIL POSITION 3
Maricela Serna, 351
Veronica Garcia, 306

COUNCIL POSITION 4
Juan Luis Flores, Jr., 287
Martha Flores, 262
Mark Groba, 151

JACINTO CITY:
COUNCIL POSITION 1
Jimmy (JJ) Rivas, 327
Diego Lopez, 66

COUNCIL POSITION 2
Gregg Robinson, 235
LaGloria J. Sephus, 179

COUNCIL POSITION 3
Allen Lee, 210
Ray Morlock, 207

NORTH SHORE ROTARY

Annual Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil this Saturday

Rotary will hold Fish Fry, Raffle new car

NORTH SHORE – For the 39th year, the Rotary Club of North Shore will hold a fish fry and raffle, their major fundraiser for the year. This event will take place Saturday, May 17th at the North Shore Rotary pavilion, 14350 Wallisville Road, next to the courthouse annex.

Money raised from this event is used for many community projects, including scholarships and other worthy



ROTARIAN JIM MILLS, displays a Toyota Avalon from Community Toyota in Baytown, one of two choices as a prize in the Raffle.

projects. It is expected that several hundred thousand dollars will be raised.

The Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil is under the chairmanship of Rotarian Allatia Harris, who is also the president elect for next year.

This event is also under the overall leadership of the club president, Matt Davis, with all club members participating.

Tickets are available at two levels: a \$100 donation includes a chance in the raffle for a new car or pick-up truck and two fish dinners or twenty other prizes, and a \$10 ticket will get a fish dinner and lots of friends.

Prizes include a Las Vegas Hotel stay, a half side of beef, a restaurant or sports package, a Kindle Fire, digital camera, \$500 savings bond, and more. There will also be a live auction, and a silent auction with a lot of valuable items available.

The event is open to the public, and encouraged to attend, for a good fish dinner and a chance to win a big prize.

Kinder Morgan's new plant a "Game Changer"

GALENA PARK TO RECEIVE \$1.4 MILLION IN TAX REVENUE ANNUALLY, NEW JOBS

GALENA PARK – At the May meeting of the CIP, or Community-Industry Partnership, attendees learned of a huge new plant being constructed at the east edge of Galena Park, by Kinder Morgan, known as a Condensate Processing Facility.

Plant Manager Derrick Bockius told the details of the

plant, and showed slides of the site and the equipment.

He said that the new "Splitter" would cost \$370 million to build, and generate hundreds of temporary construction jobs and 23 full time positions. This is in addition to the 400+ employees that now work for Kinder-Morgan in the Galena Park area. Given industry standards, the community can expect another 150 jobs to be created in support of this plant by other businesses.

Tax revenue paid by Kinder-Morgan for this plant will have an enormous impact on



VIEW OF THE NEW KINDER-MORGAN SPLITTER PLANT, looking south toward Clinton Drive at the top of the photo. Condensate processing facilities are under construction at bottom of photo, taken in March.

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Problem: How to transport a 200' long tube through Galena Park to the plant site

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The original route and schedule that was announced to the public has been changed.

For logistic and scheduling reasons, Kinder-Morgan now plans on transporting the T-102 Column over Galena Park streets on Sunday, May 18, according to Derrick Bockius, KM superintendent.

Originally, the route was to be totally overland on streets, a circuitous route that started at the fabrication plant on Clinton Drive, then Market Street, McCarty, and back to Clinton.

Now the Column will be loaded onto a barge close to the old KBR property starting Tuesday, May 13, and moved by water to the Woodhouse dock in Galena Park.

From the Woodhouse dock, the last leg will be back on a trailer as seen in this drawing, and hauled down Clinton Drive to the plant site, on Sunday morning May 18. This will be quite a sight for the public, with a minimum disruption of traffic.

CROSS-SECTION shows the T-102 Column is 20 feet wide, and 25 feet tall on its truck carrier.

THE T-102 COLUMN is the main component of the new plant. It was fabricated at H&C on Clinton Drive, and will be transported to the plant site at 403 Clinton Drive on this 238 foot long truck, with 44 axles, weighing 939,000 pounds.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Alligator struck in Channelview by deputy



Dead alligator in the middle of the road after deputy's car hits him.



Deputy's car ends in a bayou. A Harris County Deputy was on patrol and began chasing suspected drug offenders but the suspects got away when the deputy's vehicle struck a 10 foot 8 inches alligator in Channelview on April 29. The deputy's patrol vehicle was declared a total loss by the insurance company because of the water damage after the vehicle drove into a bayou.

NEW PLANT IN GALENA PARK, Continued from page 1

local government. Bockius said that they estimate property tax revenue to the City of Galena Park at \$1.4 million annually, and \$2 million to the school district. Another \$900,000 would be paid to Harris County.

Kinder-Morgan currently has several large terminal operations in Galena Park or the immediate area. A pipeline is being built that will bring more crude to the area for processing.

Bockius said that there is an immediate need for new hires, citing 3 operators, 1 coverage operator for nights, and a supervisor. Jobs are posted online at www.kindermorgan.com, or www.indeed.com. Bockius also recommended interested applicants should consider taking a Petroleum Technician course of study at San Jacinto College. He said that he had received 2000 applications, all had been considered and reviewed, and only a few were qualified for the type of work involved.

The new plant site covers 67 acres, and will eventually hold 17 storage tanks. Production of the plant will be 1000 barrels a day at capacity. It is expected to be in operation by October 2014.

The amount of revenue to be paid in property taxes will have a major impact on small government entities such as City of Galena Park and Galena Park ISD.

Kinder-Morgan claims they are a good neighbor, with safety as a primary concern, according to Kent Miller, Director of Operations. He said that three water trucks and a street sweeper have been kept busy on Clinton Drive, since construction started, keeping the street as clean as possible.

ELECTION Continued from page 1

A total of 746 votes were cast, and Early Voting in person accounted for 339 ballots, Early Voting by mail accounted for 64 ballots, and on Election Day 136 voted at Baggett Center and 207 voted at City Hall. The run-off will not only be for the Mayor's position, but also for Council seat #4, between Martha Flores, and Juan Flores, Jr. Martha Flores received 262 votes, and Juan Flores Jr. got 287 votes. A third candidate for this seat, Mark Groba received 151 but will not be in the run-off.

Jacinto City Results

In Jacinto City, all the incumbent councilmen received the majority of the votes, and therefore were returned to office. Voting was as follows:

Council Position #1, Jimmy Rivas 327 vs. Diego Lopez, 66 votes; Council Position #2, Greg Robinson 235 votes vs. LaGloria Sephus, 179 votes; Council Position #3, Allen Lee 210 votes vs. Ray Morlock, 207 votes.

The total vote count for each position is interesting to note, because Lee only won by 3 votes. In fact, 417 votes were cast for Position #3, 414 votes cast for Position #2, and 393 votes cast for Position #1. In other words, if the 3 people who didn't vote for Position #2 also had not voted for Position #3, it might have resulted in a tie or some other result.



Outstanding students recognized

The San Jacinto College North Campus recently held a ceremony to recognize outstanding students based on academic excellence and other exemplary qualities. Honored students include, from left, first row: Tania Escalante (medical assisting), Amanda Jonas (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), Zadayra Tapia (engineering design graphics), Roxana Gutierrez (pastry arts), Janet Dominguez (health information management), Karen Sandoval (economics), Jessica Blount (culinary arts), and Emilia Harrera (biology); second row: Magdalena Chavez (Spanish Club), Alyssa Linares (engineering), Jaquelyn Sierra (medical assisting), Samantha Dodson (pharmacy), Kendra Howard (women's basketball), Sarah Davis (women's basketball), Nicole Perez (cosmetology), and CaTara Jackson (student organization leader); back row: Arnoldo Bacharelis Avalos (international business and logistics), Christian Banda (First Year Experience), Darby Macha (robotics), Troy Lyden (welding), Mary Valladares (robotics), Myron Crawford (Men of Honor), Cassandra Vega (paralegal), Sondra Thannehill Smith (mental health), Chelsea Martinez (cosmetology), and Jeremy Penny (Emerging Leader award). Photo credit: Rob Vanya, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

North Shore HS to host first TEDx event

North Shore Senior High School is proud to host their first ever TEDxYouth@NSSH event on Tuesday May 20, 2014 from 8:00 am - 2:30 pm in the North Shore Senior High School auditorium. This inaugural event will showcase a diverse and dynamic range of speakers, young and old, coming together around the theme of problems and solutions, however big or small.

A TEDx event is a local gathering where live TED-like talks and videos previously recorded at Both Channels Will Match Depth of Houston

Ship Channel and Accommodate Larger Ships TED conferences are shared with the community. TEDx events are fully planned and coordinated independently, on a community-by-community basis. The content and design of each TEDx event is unique and developed independently, but all of them have features in common.

One of the largest high schools in the nation, North Shore Senior High has a built in population of problem solvers, tackling a broad array of

issues from local to global. This event will allow students, staff and the community to participate in a day of discoveries. Come join in the conversation and learn how you too can change the world one talk at a time.

Attendance is strictly limited to 100 attendees. Please visit www.ted.com/tedx/events/11452 event page for more information and apply to attend.

All talks will be recorded and posted to the official TEDx YouTube channel after the event.

Shooting outside nightclub leaves one dead

An argument between two men led to a fatal shooting outside an east Houston nightclub.

According to Houston Police, the two men were arguing outside Club Sofia located at 1325 Sheffield, near Market Street last Friday, May 9, around 6:30 am, just after the club had closed.

After the security guard stopped the confrontation, the two men were on separate ways, but one of them got into a dark-colored honda and drove through the parking lot hitting one man and struck another. Then, the driver got out of his car, walked to the man he struck, said a few words and fired around six gunshots at him, Houston Police Officials said. The fire man sped away on the honda.

The other man hit by the driver was taken to LBJ hospital and his condition is unknown.

Officials said it is unclear what may caused the argument.

Authorities closed the nightclub for one week to avoid more confrontations.

Three CHS students named Jones Scholars

The Houston Endowment announced that three Channelview High School students have been selected as Jones Scholars.

Channelview's Okarys Bonilla, Cinthia Martinez and Daisy Montes de Oca join the community of more than 10,800 students who have been named Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Scholars in the 55 years since the program was established by the Houston Endowment.

"This is a very prestigious honor," said Cindi Ollis, principal of Channelview High School. "The selection process is very rigorous and it takes a special type of student to be selected. These girls are very committed to academics and are of fine character. They serve as role models to others."

Seniors attending most Harris County public schools can apply to become a Jones Scholar. Candidates were nominated by a representative at CHS, and a Rotary Club of Houston committee made the final selection based on academic achievement, economic need, leadership skills, community service and character.

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SCHOOLS, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CAPLE Meeting
Community Advisory Panel to Lyondell and Equistar (CAPLE) meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2014. Visitors are welcome. Topics: Plant Water Use, Reuse, Recycling, and Drought Contingency Plans from 6:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and social time 5:45 pm- 6:15 pm. LyondellBasell Service Center, 2502 Sheldon Rd. in Channelview. For details or to RSVP, contact the CAPLE facilitator at dbsfacilitator@gmail.com.

MAY 15, THURSDAY
San Jacinto College Foundation gala

San Jacinto College Foundation "Building a Brighter Future" gala, set for Friday, May 16, 2014, in the San Jacinto College South Campus allied health and science building, 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. For more information, call 281-998-6104.

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.

MAY
North Channel Library events

-Thursday, May 15, Lego Play, 4:30 pm and Bluebonnet Storytime, 6 pm.
-Saturday, May 17, Faithful Paws, 3 pm.
-Tuesday, May 20, Toddler time, 10:30 am; Traveling Naturalist preschool program, 1:30 pm
-Wednesday, May 21, Strings Attached, 4 pm
-Thursday, May 22, Baby Time, 10:30 am.
15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other programs/classes.

MAY
Galena Park Library events

-Thursday, May 15, 3:30 pm Movie Family Night.
-Tuesday, May 20, Typing Basics, 1 pm; Mecanografia, 4 pm.
-Wednesday, May 21, Children's Story Time, 11 am; Little of Japan Origami fun, 4 pm.
-Thursday, May 22, Baby Time, 11 am.
The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547. You may call 713-450-0982 for more information on other programs.

MONDAY
AARP Chapter
AARP Chapter #1160 Houston/ Northshore meets every 3rd Monday at Alvin Bagget Community Center, 1304 Keene Street Galena Park from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

PRECINCT2GETHER
Over 400 participate in Senior Olympics games



NORTH SHORE ROTARY was one of the major sponsors of the Senior Olympics, held last week at a number of Harris County Pct. 2 community centers. Rotary paid for all the tee shirts that were worn by the participants. The photo above was taken at the final Awards ceremony in the North Shore Rotary Pavilion last Friday. Other sponsors included Cigna-Healthsprings and Remington Park.

Harris County Precinct 2 held their annual Seniors Olympics during the week of April 28 through May 2, involving all the senior centers in the district. Over 400 seniors participated through the week at various games, both physical and mental. The program is one of many that Commissioner Jack Morman holds just for seniors in his precinct. The overall name for the senior program is Precinct2gether.

Activities spanned the area from Heritage Hall in Jacinto City, to Walker on the east and Barrett and Crosby on the Northeast. Teams even came from Baytown and beyond. Games played included Horseshoes, golf putting, volleyball, basketball shooting, dart baseball, walking relay, dance contest, balloon bust, "88" dominoes, skipbo, bean bag baseball, frisbee toss, straight dominoes, "42", bean bag toss, crafts, water balloon toss, spelling bee, hula hoop, bunco, and bridge.

An awards ceremony was held Friday morning. The event was under the direction of Helen Berrott/Tims, and other Pct. 2 staff including Chara Bowie, Shelly Cooper, and Di Casey, as well as the community center directors. This event was extremely successful in entertaining the seniors, and bringing them together from various centers in a spirit of friendship and friendly competitiveness.



PRECINCT2GETHER COORDINATOR STACEY BUSH, center, helps kick off the start of the Senior Olympics which ran all last week, involving over 400 seniors from seven different Senior Centers.



HUNDREDS of Seniors participated all week long in the various games of the Senior Olympics.



AWARD WINNERS with their trophy, just one of 19 categories of games with winning teams.

North Shore Elementary Teacher Named ESL Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Angela Shearin on being named English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher of the Year by the Houston Area Association for Bilingual Education (HAABE) on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Shearin is a third grade ESL teacher at North Shore Elementary and is very well respected on her campus. She was also selected as North Shore Elementary's 2013-14 teacher of the year.

Esmeralda Perez, North Shore Elementary Principal, said, "We are very proud of her amazing connection with her students and the dedication she shows to education and our school!~Way to go, Mrs. Shearin!"

Shearin received her associates degree from San Jacinto College North and is a 2006 graduate of the University of Houston - Clear Lake. She began her career in Galena Park ISD as a substitute teacher and then paraprofessional, where she worked with small groups and individual students. Her first full-time teaching position came at Cloverleaf Elementary, and she was named that campus's rookie teacher of the year.

Her commitment to the education and growth of her students is evident in her portfolio submitted for the award committee. Shearin stated, "I love my profession and I enjoy working with children. They make me happy and complete my life. I love seeing my students flourish and reach their goals. I live through them. I love learning with them and seeing them transform into independent learners. The parents are awesome and very supportive of what I do in my classroom. I am here to take my students on a journey they will never forget. I am their cheerleader and #1 fan."

The Houston Area Association for Bilingual Education is an organization designed to promote language and cultural diversity through excellence in teaching and professional collaboration. Veronica Martinez, GPISD Director of Early Childhood & Elementary Bilingual, said, "Not surprisingly, we had a great response from our campuses in selecting one bilingual and one ESL teacher who demonstrates outstanding service, leadership and professionalism in their classroom."

Shearin was selected to represent Galena Park in the HAABE teacher of the year award competition by a district committee.



Angela Shearin with her class shows her plaque where she is recognized as North Shore Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year.

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The McDonald Observatory

TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

It's remarkably dark on top of Mount Locke as well it should be. At 6,800 feet above sea level, the air is clear and thin. When I was there in June, the temperatures were brisk. So much so, many of the people sitting in the dark in the broad, outdoor amphitheater wore sweaters or hoodies to insulate themselves against the cool mountain air.

"Believe it or not, you are on the University of Texas Campus," boasts the tour leader as he introduces the McDonald Observatory complex before he begins a half hour talk on the planets, constellations, and the universe at large.

Even though its dark, I can see a trio of domed observatories further up the mountain. Located near Fort Davis, Texas, the McDonald Observatory has been contributing to the astronomical knowledge base since bachelor banker William Johnson McDonald of Paris, Texas bequeathed \$850,000 after his death in 1926. Constructed in the early 1930's, the astronomy campus was built initially in the hopes that a better understanding of the heavens would improve weather forecasting thus helping farmers plan their work.

Nearly eighty years later, the observatory and scientists from all over the world convene on the mountaintop to study the infinite mysteries of the universe. To help them with their job is an 82-inch, a 36-inch, and 107-inch reflector telescopes. Along with the traditional telescopes, the observatory also has a 30-inch lunar laser rangefinder.

The newest telescope is the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET). Constructed in 1994, the specialized

telescope breaks down light into component wavelengths in a process known as spectroscopy.

From just outside the visitor's center where I sit with my family, the big telescopes are prominent - even in the dark. While I listen to the program leader I notice that to the northeast, the HET beams a green laser up to the stars. Almost instantaneously, the speaker notices the beam and tells the crowd that the telescope uses lasers for precise aiming.

Throughout the program, me and about fifty others sit on rock benches and crane our necks skyward as the speaker talks about the location of various planets and constellations. Soon, though, we are released over to a small telescope park where we'll spend the next hour or so looking at the wonders in the sky.

Through one of the telescopes we see a ring nebulae that looks like a stellar donut. In another is a star cluster by which thousands of stars are packed together and are gravitationally bound. The most awe inspiring sight for me was seeing Saturn, complete with its rings and multiple moons. I don't know why I was so captivated by Saturn. Perhaps it's because Earth's neighbor or maybe it is the celestial body in which I am most familiar. Either way, I stand way too long staring in the telescope's eyepiece.

"Let's go, daddy," insists my nine year old daughter as she tugs my t-shirt and beckons me to the next telescope. Her and my son are excited to see the wonders of the universe and my wife and I are glad to oblige their curiosity. Just like my parents did for me.

IF GRADUATION CREATES AN EMPTY NEST AT HOME, HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH IT?

Buddy
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MAE HEMM
"What a nice sewing room my girl's bedroom will make!"



LUCKY MANN
"I'm not losing a son - I'm gaining a man cave!"



BEA WILDURD
"Imagine - life without his socks and underwear to pick up!"



KENT FIGGER
"Empty?! My oldest is 30 - an' still hasn't moved out!"

Decision upholds prayer in public meetings

AUSTIN — Governmental bodies' right to begin meetings with a prayer — so long as the prayer does not favor a particular religious denomination — was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision rendered May 5.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott reacted to the decision in Town of Greece, New York v. Galloway et al. "I am pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court has once again upheld the longstanding and constitutionally protected right of governmental bodies to begin their meetings with prayer," Abbott said.

Texas was one of 23 states that joined in a brief arguing against a circuit court of appeals decision declaring unconstitutional a New York local governmental body's tradition of opening its public meetings with a prayer.

Sales tax revenue increases
Comptroller Susan Combs on May 7 said state sales tax revenue in April was \$2.27 billion, up 5.6 percent compared to April 2013. Combs, who said this marks 49 consecutive months of growth in sales tax collections, will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their May local sales tax allocations totaling \$716 million, up 7.1 percent compared to May 2013.

In other news, Combs announced on April 29 the launch of an online database detailing public school construction costs since 2007.

The Texas Public Schools Construction database, found through the www.texastransparency.org, "will help Texans prepare to vote in the upcoming local bond elections, which feature a total of \$6.7 billion of proposed bond debt on the ballot, 92 percent of which is proposed by local school boards," Combs' office said.

Drought disaster continues
Gov. Rick Perry on May 9 renewed for 30 days the Emergency Disaster Proclamation he originally issued on July 5, 2011, certifying that exceptional drought conditions posed a threat of imminent disaster in specified counties in Texas.

The renewal, which means "all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the state of disaster," applies to 173 of the state's 254 counties.

Horse patrol unit starts
Texas Department of Public Safety on April 29 announced the official start of a mounted horse patrol unit.

Cynthia Leon, chair of the Texas Public Safety Commission which oversees the DPS, said "Texas' majestic Capitol Complex draws more than one million guests each year, in addition to the thousands of state and civilian workers who report there for work on any given day. This new law enforcement capability throughout the Capitol Complex will prove to be a valuable resource in keeping the public safe."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



TEA submits plan to feds
Texas Education Agency on April 28 announced it submitted specific details of a new teacher evaluation and support system to the U.S. Department of Education.

Part of Texas' waiver from specific provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 depends on the state's submitting an alternative plan for a teacher evaluation and support system. Texas' plan will be piloted in as many as 72 school districts and charters in the 2014-2015 school year.

Education Commissioner Michael Williams said, "The Teacher Evaluation and Support System is designed to be a more effective evaluative tool to support the most important adult in Texas education — the teacher at the front of every child's classroom." "We have heard from Texas teachers that the current evaluation system (in place since 1997)

used by 86 percent of our school districts is outdated and provides little value in regard to meaningful professional feedback and growth," Williams said.

AG's office investigates
Identity thieves reportedly have posed as employees of the Texas Attorney General's Office to steal the identities of targeted individuals — particularly individuals who have applied for a short-term loan.

A criminal investigation has been opened, the Texas Attorney General's Office announced May 5, adding, "Under no circumstances does a representative of the Office of the Attorney General solicit payments from Texans to pay off a short-term loan or grant immediately — nor does the Attorney General's Office issue arrest warrants for this purpose. Any person who claims to be from the Attorney General's Office and demands immediate fees to resolve the resident's short-term debt or prevent an arrest for that debt is an imposter."

'Click It' campaign is set
Texas Department of Transportation's 13th annual "Click It or Ticket" campaign will run May 19 to June 1.

In 2013, there were 943 fatalities and 5,383 serious injuries in Texas resulting from crashes in which drivers or passengers were not wearing seat belts, TxDOT reported.

Motorists who don't buckle up in compliance with state seat belt laws face fines and court costs up to \$200.

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TOUCH OF LIFE

By Don Springer



"Do Everything Day"

Saturday, May 10 was a "do everything day" in my hometown. If anyone was sitting at home with "nothing to do" they just weren't looking. First, May 10 was Founder's Day for this town of about 10,000 and we had more than a dozen organizations and individuals holding events all over town that was good family entertainment.

In addition there were more than a half-dozen churches and social organizations within the city having lawn and rummage sales. It appeared to me a good crowd was drawn to the Founder's Day activities and all of the lawn and rummage sales.

Some of the churches had people at the doors of potential purchasers lined up 30 or more minutes before starting time. I happened to be a member of one of those churches having a rummage sale, sponsored by the women of the church. Of course this was mostly a woman's thing but a few of us of the lesser sex were drafted to help with the gofer and lifting chores.

My instructions were to be at church at 8 a. m. and I arrived at 7:45 a. m. Before I got out of the parking lot member Lyn Traube met me and gave me my first job. From here on she will be referred to as Sgt. Traube. Later I heard a reference to Sgt. Smither's (Carolyn) barking orders in the fellowship hall.


Most healthy churches have a Sgt. Traube and a Sgt. Smithers on their roles—perhaps even a few more. Our two work together on a number of projects in our church and are super workers. I spent some time in the army a few years back (many years back really). Now I know where the noncoms of that day got their training—the Traube-Smithers School of Barking Orders. We love 'em!

Mostly I was helping in selling hot dogs but occasionally assisted ladies load their cars with purchases. I was carrying some cushions for one lady and while walking to the car she said, "I hope they fit." I replied "no problem" before I heard this was her fourth rummage sale of the day and she had plans for one more.

We got to the car and I noted the problem. The cushions were soft so we got them in the car and she was on her way. As she entered the car she said, "When I get home I'm going to leave a note of my car for my husband to unload the stuff then take my kids to Mother's until he gets over the unloading, complaining and saying, 'What are going to do with this stuff? The money I spent will also be among his rages.'" I'm wondering if she went home that night.

There were a lot of smiles around the City that Saturday so I guess everyone was having a good time with the festivities. Our ladies sold a lot of stuff but there was still a lot left. They worked for weeks on this event and their time vs. income will be low even if they do very well. Last I heard they were planning to do it all again this Saturday as it is designated as the City-wide lawn sale day. Yes, a few of us men have been where we will find Sgts. Traube and Smothers holding forth again! Want to buy a hot dog? Ain't life fun?

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



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Culinary arts competition
Ross S. Sterling High School senior Taylor Smith, displays the trophy she won for winning first place in district in the Culinary Arts Competition. Smith is under the direction of Tina Andrade, Culinary Arts teacher at Stuart Career Center.

★
LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Power Up and Stay On Path
We recently visited the new home of one of our church members. The most amazing and amusing thing in their home is a battery-powered, robotic vacu-

um cleaner. Barbara named it "Rosie." Sensors were set up around the house to help map out the cleaning path and keep her from unwanted areas. When Rosie starts getting low on power, she knows to go dock herself and get recharged.
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

★
OBITUARIES

Gentry "Dale" Rosser

Gentry "Dale" Rosser, age 76 of Highlands, was born September 6, 1937 to Woodrow and Bertie Rosser in Goose Creek, Texas. On May 11, 2014, the "Cowboy" rode out of sight into Glory. He was surrounded by loving family.
A treasured husband, wonderful father, and adored "Poppy", Dale was also an avid fisherman, a NASCAR fan, and a dedicated gardener. He worked for many years as a civil supervisor, but also had adventures as a tugboat Captain, a heavy equipment operator and even trained Arabian horses.

He was a devoted Christian, a talented story-teller, a dog-lover, enjoyed western novels, RV traveling, and had a life-long love affair with hot peppers and Tabasco.
He is now reunited with his parents and one son, Michael Ray.

Dale leaves treasured memories to his loving wife of fifty years, Bettye Rosser; his children: son Mark Miller and wife Tammy, daughter Lisa Vickers and husband Stephen, daughter Tinker Hall and husband Chuck, daughter Sharlon Perry, and son Beau Rosser and wife Davida; his faithful fur-baby Trudy (Baby Girl); 18 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren; his sister, Peggy Moore, and numerous other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014, from 5-8 p.m. at Earthman Funeral Home in Baytown. Funeral services will be held May 15, 2014, at 10 a.m. at Second Baptist Church in Highlands, 400 E. Wallisville. Dale will be laid to rest at Memory Gardens in Baytown.



Yard of the Month

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce would like to Congratulate Crosby Church both Crosby and Huffman locations for being awarded our May "Yards of the Month". We appreciate the time and effort put into helping our towns look amazing for all who visit. Hats off to Crosby Church. Thank You from CHCC!



St. Jude's Thaddeus Parish annual bazaar

St. Jude's Thaddeus Parish Catholic Church will celebrate their annual bazaar this coming Sunday, May 18 from 11 am to 5 pm. Enjor BBQ beef and sausage dinners served in the gym with delicious homemade desserts. Mexican dinners and hot dogs are also on the menu. Moonwalk, games and outdoor booths will entertain the young people. Bingo will be held in the Marian

Hall, and live and silent auctions with Lynn Spell as auctioneer will be held in the gym. A raffle of 10 great prizes will close the day's festivities at 5 pm.
Father Maynard Parangan, Pastor and parishioners invite the community to come enjoy the day at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 800. S. Main, Highlands. 281-843-2422

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SPORTS

GALENA PARK ISD
Flying High - Roach takes the triple jump gold medal

“State Champion” - a title countless athletes and coaches pursue but relative few ever attain. On May 10, 2014, however, Kerwin Roach clinched his second state championship of the year. Following the celebrations and notoriety of winning the Class 5A basketball state championship in March, Roach took gold at the UIL Track & Field State Championships held at the University of Texas in Austin, and set a personal record jump of 50' 2.25" in the process.

Explaining his good fortune in the athletic arenas, Roach simply states, “I’m a winner. I compete every day and listen to my dad and my coach. My family pushes me and I’m better for it.”

A junior at North Shore, Roach looks forward to repeating his success next year. With a strong work ethic and extensive support system, he might just set his sights on the triple jump state record of 51' 11.75" set in 2002 by Jaimoy Bryant of Jasper.



Kerwin Roach triple jumps to his second state championship of the year while the Frank Erwin Center, site of the Class 5A basketball championship his team won in March, rests quietly in the background.

Anthoula Kelly jumps to state championship

On Friday, May 9, 2014, Galena Park High School's Anthoula Kelly became the Class 4A long jump state champion at the UIL Track & Field State Championships. Held at the University of Texas in Austin, TX, Kelly entered the meet with the second longest jump from the Regional meet, 5 1/4" short of Brett Winnegan of Pearland Dawson.

Since both athletes compete in the same district, they have built a rivalry throughout the season. But Kelly was always on the losing end of the battle. “I haven’t beaten him a single time this whole year,” Kelly said. “But I wanted this really bad,” he added.

Just before his second jump of the finals, Kelly's coach gave him a pep talk. “If you believe, just let everything out. Believe in yourself. I believe in you,” Coach Price told him. Let it out he did, jumping a personal best 24' 10" to clinch the top title, out jumping his Dawson rival by nearly a foot.

Peaking at the perfect time, Anthoula Kelly was ecstatic to finally win, and claim a gold medal in the process. “I’m feeling awesome



Anthoula Kelly wins gold medal at state championship.

right now. This feels like a whole new beginning,” he said.

Kelly is committed to attend Fresno State University and play defensive back for their football team. He is certainly open to participating in track & field as well.

Channelview ISD Foundation Steps-4-Education Fun Run/Walk strides to success

The skies were clear, temperatures were mild and close to 100 walkers and runners of all ages laced up their shoes for a good cause as part of the first-ever Channelview ISD Education Foundation Steps-4-Education Fun Run and Walk at the district's administrative and athletic complex on April 26.

“It was a great day,” said Foundation Executive Director Mark Kramer. “The weather couldn’t have been more perfect and everyone had a good time. The Foundation wants to make this event a new Channelview tradition - and we are already discussing ways to make the event bigger and better next year.”

Proceeds from the Fun Run will go directly to the CISD Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit corporation that provides innovative teaching grants to district educators and scholarships to deserving students. After the registration fees were turned in, along with donations and sponsorships, a grand total of \$6,153 was raised.

“Our community, our employees and our business partners are very supportive of the Foundation's efforts in helping to build brighter futures for our students,” said Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis. “With the funds we’ve raised through this event, along with the annual support of our corporate donors, we will be able to provide even more grants to teachers - which translates into

more innovative learning opportunities for students.”

In the past two years, the CISD Education Foundation has given out \$40,000 in grants to the district's teachers.

The Steps-4-Education Fun Run Walk sponsors included Dow Emergency Center, North Shore Rotary Club, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, United Community Credit Union, Harris County Insurance Specialists, Woodforest National Bank, LB Marketing Solutions, Kroger and the Lone Star Durango Foundation.

Elementary and junior high students participated in a 1K to kick off the Fun Run event. Immediately after the conclusion of the 1K, the 5K participants started their event near Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium on a course that wound its way around the athletic complex, Channelview High School and Kolarik Ninth Grade Campus, and then ended near the front of the stadium.

Trophies and plaques were given to the top three finishers in the 1K and 5K divisions. First place finisher in the 1K was Diego Perez of Crenshaw Elementary, while second place went to Brooklyn Gordon of Brown Elementary. Kaleb Brown of Brown Elementary finished in third.

In the 5K event, Junior Mitchell captured the top finish, while Jose Figueroa was second. Lily Barcenas finished in third.

“We are very appreciative to our participants and our corporate sponsors for their support of this year's event,” said Chris



Winners of the Youth 1K were, Diego Perez (first place), Brooklyn Gordon (second place) and Kaleb Brown (not pictured).



Winners of the 5K were, from left, Lily Barcenas (third place), Jose Figueroa (second place) and Junior Mitchell (first place). Presenting the awards were Foundation Directors Jimmy Smith, Pete Brady, Foundation President Chris Love and Foundation Member Mario Anderson.

Love, CISD Foundation President. “I also want to thank the hard work of the members of our

Foundation board of directors who spent months planning this event - and helping it to become a reality.”



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