NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 41

OCTOBER 8, 2014

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

Pilot Club holds Spaghetti Dinner

The 27th annual SJPC spaghetti dinner is Saturday, Octo-

2014 from 11 am to 3 pm at Baldree Building, 13828 Corpus

Christi. Dinner tickets \$10, raffle \$25. tickets www.SanJacintoPilot.com for more information and details. See also AD on page 3.

North Shore Rotary Memorial

The 2014 North Shore Rotary Mark Mulloy Memorial will be Thursday October 30th at Red Wolf Run Golf Course in Huffman.

In the last 5 years North Shore Rotary has donated over a million dollars back to the North Channel Community through their fundraising efforts. Come and help Rotary so they can help our community.

Contact Matt Davis at 281-682-1703 with any ques-

Domestic Violence awareness month

1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence during their lifetime.

Please join Rep. Ana Hernandez for a discussion on domestic violence on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

The "To STOP the vio-lence, STOP the silence" discussion will take place at Jacinto City Town Center located at 1025 Oates Road. Jacinto City, TX., 77029 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

For more information on thi event, please call 713-675-8596

LOVE SHOULD NOT HURT!

Renaissance Festival opens on October 11

New events blend with traditional fun & mirth

TODD MISSION - The 40th Annual Texas Renaissance Festival will open next weekend, starting on Saturday, Oct. 11. The festival is the nation's largest Renaissance theme park, open every Saturday, Sunday and thanksgiving from Friday, Oct. 11 through Nov. 30th.

In addition, students and teachers may come for the 10th Annual School Days, Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 4 and 5.

Each weekend, the Texas Renaissance Festival makes merry with a special theme: Oktoberfest, 1001 Dreams, All Hallows Eve, Pirate Adventure, Roman Baccanal, Barbarian Invasion Highland Fling, and a 3 day Celt ic Christmas. Each weekend offers unique entertainment, special contests, and food events tied to the theme.
Find out how to have a little

fun on the weekends from Octo-ber 11 until November 30 at

21778 FM 1774 in Todd Mission

Texas.
Stroll down the tree-lined, cobblestone paths of New Market Village, our 55-acre authentic recreation of a 16th Century English Township and experience the wonder of our magical festival including:

Hundreds of costumed per-formers showcased in over 200

daily performances.
• Over 400 shops offering unique items from the world's

best artists and craftspeople.

• The finest food, drink, wine, ales, and beers representing cui-sine from all over the world.

· Games of skill and human powered rides to amuse the young and young at heart. Royal Fireworks are held each

Festival evening at dusk. The celebration continues each

See Renaissance Festival, p. 6



CHANNELVIEW 2014 Homecoming King & Queen



Channelview High School named its Homecoming King and Queen during the halftime of their football game against Beaumont West Brook at Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium last Friday. Autreyas Watson was named Homecoming King and Wendy Romero was selected as Homecoming Queen. The Falcon football team suffered their first loss in a heartbreaker, 48-42. They face Beltway 8 rival North Shore at 7 p.m. Friday night at Galena Park ISD Stadium

See more photos, page 8

North Channel Chamber hears Port Authority Talk by Guenther

ber got an inside look at the importance of the Port of Houston, from its CEO Roger Guenther, at their luncheon last Friday.

The ship channel is celebrating its Centennial, having been founded in the year 1914. Guenther has been the CEO for less than a year, but he ac-tually has worked for the Port for over 25 years, he said. He was a native of Baytown originally, and very familiar with activities along the coast.

Guenther said that the purpose of the POHA is to facilitate commerce, and to create jobs. It is a government entity,

having been set up 100 years ago by the state of Texas. Although it has always been busy since its inception, now several factors have spurred additional growth and the need for expansion. These include the shale gas developments throughout Texas and the southwest, population growth in Texas, and the planned opening of the Pana-



Port of Houston CEO Roger Guenther, left, updated the Chamber on recent activities and future goals of the Port. He was introduced by Chamber Chair Greg Ollis, right

moved from 2014 to 2016.

These factors will be met with dredging of the channel to make it wider and deeper for the Panama Canal ships, and will also require land im-provements to handle more

cargo.
Shipments through the Port now include a large number of

polyethelene resin pellets for export to countries who make plastic products from them.

Guenther said that as they expand, they are working to reduce air polution and respect the surrounding commu-

A new Maritime Academy is training students for many new jobs in the industry

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Stephens Memorial hosts hopes, efforts to save lives

 $CROSBY\,-\,The\,\,Cody$ Stephens Memorial Foundation "Go Big or Go Home" Banquet and Auction brought together the best of east Harris County in optimism and efforts to save the lives of young

athletes. About 450 people attended the banquet and among these were represented most of the organizations and groups that are involved in one way or the other in improving life locally. The Cody Stephens Memorial Foundation is about saving young ath-lete's lives by testing for Sudden Death (S.D.) or Sudden Cardiac Arrest due to heart conditions. The foundation and others are promoting testing called an E.C.G. and having that test reviewed by a cardiologist. The Foun

See Stephens, Continued on Page 6



Martha Lopez Anderson of ParentHeartWatch.org, Scott Stephens, Melody Setphens, Wilton C. Schexnayder, Connie Schexnayder, Auctioneer Bill Busby, Kay and Richard Schexnayder of Oilwell Tubular Consultants, the top buyers and corporate sponsors for the second year in a row

Galena Park observes National Night Out

Galena Park held a National Night Out party on Tuesday night, and hundreds of folks turned out to meet their neighbors and have a pleasant

evening.
The event was held at 1407 Holland, in front of the Shafii Event Center, and was sponsored by the Galena Oaks Subdivision, with help from Cruz Hinojosa, Raul Rodriguez, Juan Flores, and Lulac Council 4703

Activities that were present and enjoyed by all included displays from the GP Fire Department, GP Police Department, Lulac 4703, GPHS Interact Rotary Club, GPHS Lulac Youth Council, and

Activities included free food and popcorn, Moon Walk, Face Painting by airbrush, Live Cartoon Characters, SER Jobs for Progress, Voter Registration, and at least two bands.

The event was held from 5:30 to 7:30, and judging from the success, will be a regular event in the future.



From GP ISD, Ken Wallace, Maria Rodriguez, & Angi Williams



Raul Rodriguez & Cruz Hinojosa



A hug for a big red friend

COMMUNITY NEWS

16th Jared Jamail **Tournament winners**



Winners of the Jared Jamail Memorial Golf Tournament with the Jamails are the team of Parrinson, Hallum, Taylor and Taylor with a score of 38.5



Second place overall in the Jared Jamail Golf Tournament are the guys from Turner Chevrolet, www.turnerchevroletcrosby.com, David Mendez, Fred Ramsey,



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A tourney for **Crosby youth**

The golf tournament has in the last 15 tournament plays enabled the foundation to do-nated to Crosby High School \$237,500.00.

According to Pam Jamail Johnson "What an amazing community we have here in Crosby. The Jared Jamail Memorial Golf Classic held its 16th Annual tournament Saturday and what a success it was. We are truly blessed to have this continued support from our family and friends for all these years. This year tour-nament was by far the largest tournament held in many years with 160 golfers! I hope the teams that I had to turn down in playing this year will come back to us next year. Many thanks to all our golfers (some who traveled long distance to attend), those who donated, our sponsors and volunteers. I know we all made Jared so proud of what we accomplished Saturday! With your help we will be able to continue to educate our youths with our scholarships.

Huffman blaze leads to charges

charged with criminal trespass after a local house burst into flames.

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office charged Patrick Malley, 33, alleging that he did not have permis-

sion to stay in the house. Huffman Volunteer Fire Department responded at about 8:00 a.m., Oct. 3 to a house fire at 187 Cypress St.

They were joined by Crosby Volunteer Fire Department and it was said that the house was "totally involved" especially after a flash when flames reached the garage.

A Deputy with the Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office apprehended Malley walking near the house as it blazed. The deputy turned Malley over to

According to Harris County Fire Marshal's investiga-Malley tors, interviewed. Allegedly he told them that he was staying at the house that he knew was vacant and went to sleep with a candle burn-

Malley allegedly told investigators he had fought with his girlfriend, went fishing in the San Jacinto River and was staying overnight at the house to avoid returning

In addition to the criminal tresspassing charges, Malley faces four outstanding warrants from Pasadena.

According to the Acting Chief Investigator Hensley, the house was a "total loss.

Crosby ISD earns state's highest fiscal accountability rating

By Dr. Robert Tatman

 ${\bf Crosby\ Independent\ School}$ District officials announced that the district received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achieve-ment rating is the states highest, demonstrating the quality of Crosby ISD's financial management and reporting sys-

This is the 12th year of Schools FIRST (Financial Ac-countability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school dis-tricts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Tex-as' school finance system. "We are very pleased with

Crosby ISD's Schools FIRST rating," said Crosby ISD Superintendent Keith Moore, "as it shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers dollars. This rating shows that Crosby's schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively

and efficiently."
The Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Tex as school districts, with the highest being "Su-perior Achievement," "Substandard Achievement." The disc.

ment." The district appreciates the commitment to excellence characterized by the business office under Carla Merka's leadership. Such



Dr. Robert Tatman, Director of Federal followed by "Above-Standard Achievement," "Standard Achievement," "Standard Achievement and General Ac

dedication and attention to detail exemplifies the district's resourceful effort to provide all students with the best educa-



Hours: Tues.- Sat. 10-8 Sun. 1-7 Closed Monday

Old Fashioned Turkey Shoot \$10 a Chance for a Ham
Best of 6 shooters our Ammo
NOV. 22 High Noon Until 4 Bring Shotgun 12, 20 or 400 gague or borrow ours Classes and Events each Thursday Concealed Handgun License Classes

1st& 3rd Thursday Lone Star Shooting Assoc. Learning action and advanced shooting 6:30–8p 1st Thursday Women on Draw Practical Practices for women's defence 2-4 p.m.

taught by NRA Woman of the Year Instructor Donna Vandermolen

Liass 2nd Thursday 6:15-8:15 NRA Winchester Youth Program 10-17 y.o. Teaches right from the start.

etai 4th Thursday 6-8 p.m. A GIRL & A GUN CLUB, for women N.R.A. Training Call 281-328-2800 5911 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532 North of R.R. Tracks & across from Crawfish Shak (281) 328-2800 http://highnoongunrange.com



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER North Channel Library events

-Thursday, Oct. 9, 10:30 am, Baby time; 4:30 pm, Gulf Coast Sculpts -Saturday, Oct. 11, 11-12:30 pm, Ask a Lawver

-Monday, Oct. 13, 4:30 pm, Monday Movie Madness.
-Tuesday, Oct. 14, 10:30 am,
Toddler time; 1:30 pm, Preschool story time; 4:30 pm, Teens-dream Journals.

-Thursday, Oct. 16, 10:30 am, Baby time; 4:30 pm, Teens-scrabble tile necklaces

COMPUTER CLASSES
-Intermediate Word, Lecture, Oct. 14, 10-12 pm. -Intermediate Word, Practice, Oct. 16, 10-12 pm. -Introduction to Power Point, Lecture, Oct. 21, 10-12 pm. -Introduction to Power Point, Practice, Oct. 23, 10-12 pm.

Registration required.

<u>CLASES DE COMPUTACION</u>
-Intermedio Word, Lectura, Oct.

-Intermedio Word, Práctica, Oct. 15, 1-3 pm.

Se require registración. Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other classes.

OCTOBER Galena Park Library events

-Monday, Oct. 13, 4 pm, Guld -Morioday, Oct. 13, 4 pm, Guid Coast Sculpture Making. -Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1 pm Archivos y Carpetas I; 4 pm, File & Folder Mgmt I.

-Wednesday, Oct. 15, 11 am Children's Story Time; 4 pm, Teen Time.

-Thursday, Oct. 16, 11 am, Baby Time; 3:30 pm, Family Movie

Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX.

SATURDAY NIGHTS The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Satutday 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.

Oct. 17 & 18 Galena Park BBQ Benefit

Friday 17 and Saturday 18, 2014 starting at 11 am each dday. 1401 Holland Avenue (next to Dairy Queen). BBQ plates at \$10 For tickets call 713-471-6119.

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

North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Senior Citizens hold a monthly dance the second Thursday of every month from 1 4 pm in the Baldree Building-Grayson Center, Corpus Christi street. They have live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person

Gilbert Hoffman

Lewis Spearman

Pedro Hernandez

Julieta Paita Luis Hernande:

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appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher, errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to: northchannelstar@gmail.com

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Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP features "Plant Show and Tell"

In an ongoing effort to learn what the plant members of the Galena Park-Jacinto City Community-Industry Partner-ship (CIP) make or do, CIP community members scheduled a "Plant Show and Tell" for its October 2 meeting. CIP plants make chemicals

or fertilizer, treat industrial wastewater, receive ships of cement and transfer it to cus-tomers' trucks, or store bulk liquids for other companies.

The next regular meeting of the CIP will be Thursday, Jan-uary 8 from 5:45 – 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Community Center in Galena Park. The public is welcome to join members to learn about Galveston Bay Foundation plans to create a report card on the bay and to offer their suggestions for what topics it should cover and how to make it easy for people to use. Contact facilita-tor Diane Sheridan at 281-326-5253 for details



Galena Park residents (left to right) Angie Martinez, Sylvia Haley, and Galena Park High School student Sydney Martinez have just visited the Pasadena Refining booth staffed by Ciro Ribeiro and Spencer Sevy. Empty gas cans on the table let attendees know that the refinery makes gasoline for cars and trucks as well as other fuels.



GPHS student Jamail Humphrey is joined by Green Earth Fuels' Brandon Gagliano (left) after watching Mark Tarrien (right) of that Clinton Drive plant show how feedstock like restaurant grease can

San Jacinto College to host psychology expo

HOUSTON - San Jacinto College North's psychology department will host a psychology expo to allow students to showcase class projects and to provide information about psychological

topics.

The expo will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, and Thursday, Oct. 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., each day. The event will be held in the Monument Room, located on the second floor of the Slovacek Student Center, 5800 Uvalde Road.

The event is free and open to the public. Tri-fold posters created by San Jacinto College students will be on display at the expo. There will be more than 100 projects on display and the student projects are based on current research. Poster topics include mental illness; substance abuse; and, sexual orientation and family issues such as divorce and its affect on children. Some students have incorporated service learning into their project, volunteering at community-based agencies. First, second and third place awards will be presented to students based on creativi-

> .Editor & Publisher . Advertising Director

..Circulation/Mail Director

ty, content and overall pre-

Darla Rocha, San Jacinto College psychology professor and North Campus behavioral and social sciences department chair, said students look forward to sharing what they have learned with others. "The expo gives students opportunities to showcase psychological topics while demonstrating creative skills," she said. "The event also educates and informs others about important psychological issues that relate to everyday life."

There will be a table with information about psychology and mental health professions. Instructors will be available to provide information about psychology and mental health degrees and certificates. San Jacinto College offers psychology courses at all three campus

ton and Kroger.

"We want to thank Cox Media and Kroger for their

NORTH SHORE ROTARY: Judge Parrott speaks on his career

North Shore Rotary Club was both entertained and educated by a talk from Justice of the Peace Mike Parrott at their regular luncheon meeting last Thursday.

Parrott recounted how he was a native of the area, having grown up in Galena Park, and starred in their football team. Later he attended the University of Houston.
Prior to running for office,

he served for 18 years under Pct. 2 Commissioner Jim Fon-

teno, as parks director.

In 1993 he ran for office, and was elected as JP. He is one of 16 JP's in Harris County, but his court is now fourth largest, has heard 50,000 cases per year, and collected \$60 million in fees and fines for the county in 22 years in office.

Parrott told of the serious cases, and some of the humorous ones, too.

He has performed over 10,000 weddings, including one he agreed to dress in a

the couple. He also presided over a wedding where groom was in a coffin to start.

Parrott's most famou case was a sodomy case between two homosexual males, that

and opened up gay relation-ships. Several books have been written on this case.

Many of the cases Parrott presides over are small claims, and he noted that the limit on these has been raised to \$10,000. In spite of conjecture that this would create more work for JP courts, he said that hasn't happened.



Parrott's big interest has always been youth, and he revived Teen Court for area high schools, where students partic ipate as court officials and

help him with the case.
Parrott noted his long relationship with Rotary, having a Paul Harris Fellowship be-stowed by both the North Shore and Highlands clubs.

"Stuff the Bus" supply drive benefits Channelview ISD



Crenshaw Elementary students proudly display some of the school supplies they received through the "Stuff the Bus" school supply campaign, sponsored by Houston area Kroger stores. Celebrating with the students, back row, from left are Greg Johnstone, Channelview Kroger manager and Channelview ISD Board of Trustees member; Kim Bull, Crenshaw assistant principal; Danielle Murphy-Conella; Kroger representative and Audry Lane, Crenshaw principal.

Channelview ISD received over \$35,000 in school supplies through the Stuff the School Bus school supply campaign sponsored by Cox Media Group Hous-

During the three week school supply drive held in August, Kroger stores in the Houston area sold school supply kits containing basic school supplies such as paper, pencils, and markers. This year, Channelview was selected as one of five recipient districts. Over 4,000 kits will be distributed to elementary students across the district.

support of our district," said Mark Kramer, public relations officer for Channelview ISD. "This generous donation will go a long way toward helping many of our students.





OPINION PAGE

MEDICARE COLUMN

By Toni King

How Do I Enroll in Medicare when Working Past 65?

I'm 69, retiring from my job soon and never enrolled in Part B because I was working with great company benefits. I don't want to make a mistake and am not sure what I need to do. Can you advise me of the steps I need to take to prepare for this life changing transition....Signed Sam from Richmond.

Hi Sam:

Don't Worry Sam this is a very simple process!!

Before you leave your job and group health plan, I advise my clients to apply for Part B for your Medicare benefits to begin when you leave your job.

On page 22 of the 2014 Medicare and You handbook it states that you will have 8 months to enroll in Medicare Part B without receiving a Part B penalty once your employment or health coverage ends. Most do not realize that if you choose this option that you will have none of the benefits that Medicare Part B (medical)

For that very reason, I always advise my clients to apply for Medicare Part B when you are leaving your company and have both of your Medicare Parts A and B start when your employment and company group health

It takes time for Medicare Part B to be effective. You do not want to put enrolling off until the last minute.

1)First you must contact Social Security at 1/800-772/ 1213 and advise them that you are past 65, leaving your employer with true company benefits and would like to apply for Medicare Part A (if you have not already enrolled in Part A) and Medicare Part

2)You would like to enroll with a Special Enrollment Period or SEP.

3)Social Security will fill out and mail to you forms SSA Form L-564 and CMS Form 40B for you to take to your employer/HR office to sign off on and verify the end of employment and your health care coverage

a) SSA Form L-564 must be completed by the HR office of employer or employers if you have had more than one since turning 65, to verify the end of employment and health care coverage.

 $b)CMS\ Form\ 40B$ you fill out stating the date that you wish to enroll in Medicare Part B. You can submit this form up to 3 months before the end of your work or employer coverage to have your Part B effective when your coverage ends. Important: you must have this form submitted before your ending date in order to not have a gap in coverage.

4) Both of these forms must be received by Social Security before you can sign up for a Medicare Supple-ment, Medicare Advantage Plan (Medicare Part C) or a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Medicare Part D).

5) Talk with your doctor's office to verify which type of plan that your doctor advises will be the best choice for your Medicare and healthcare needs; whether it is Original Medicare with a Medicare Supplement and a standalone Medicare Part D prescription drug plan or a Part C Medicare Advantage

Retiring and enrolling in Medicare can be simple when you follow the "Toni Says" stress free way!

Toni King is the author of the new Medicare Survival Guide®, which is a simple guide explaining Medicare. Email questions to www.tonisays.com/ask-toni or call 832/519-TONI (8664).



Frontrunning candidates appear in debate forums

AUSTIN — Texans interested in who their next governor and lieutenant governor will be witnessed major party candidates for those offices engage in live, one-hour broad cast debates last week.

Fellow state Sens. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, and Dan Patrick, R-Houston, opponents in the race for lieutenant governor, faced off in Austin on Sept. 29. Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, and Republican Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott competed on stage in Dallas on Sept. 30, each striving to succeed longtime Gov. Rick Perry as the state's chief executive.

All four candidates held to traditional party lines on such bellwether topics as health care, transportation, education and border security.



Republicans Patrick and Abbott identified themselves as anti-abortion and pro-border security while Democrats Van de Putte and Davis spoke in support of legislative solutions to expand women's access to health services, foster a less fear-based treatment of border issues and bolster a public education system weakened by \$5.4 billion funding cut last session. On the topic of taxation, Patrick floated his idea that the adoption of a one- or two-penny state

sales tax increase would reduce local property taxes by a corresponding amount.

Election Day is Nov. 4, with early voting set for the week of Oct. 24-31.

Ebola case is confirmed The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state's public health laboratory in Austin on Sept. 30 confirmed Dallas hospital patient Thomas Eric Duncan tested positive for the disease, Ebola.

Duncan, who traveled from West Africa to Dallas on a commercial airline flight, was admitted into isolation on Sept. 29 at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

Early symptoms of Ebola include sudden fever, fatigue and headache. Symptoms may appear anywhere from two to 21 days after exposure. Spread through direct contact with blood, secretions or other bodily fluids or exposure to contaminated objects such as needles, Ebola is said not to be contagious until symptoms

Officials urged health care providers to ask patients who have fever about recent travel to Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria. According to the Associated Press, the

disease Ebola is capitalized because it is named after the Ebola River in the African na-

Court upholds abortion

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last week ruled a Texas law regulating abortion procedures, providers and facilities does not violate the Constitutional rights of wom-

House Bill 2, passed in during the second called session of the Texas Legislature in July 2013, contains two provisions that were at stake in the case, Whole Women's Health, and others v. David Lakey, M.D., Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, and others.

The plaintiffs had sought declaratory relief and permanent injunctions against the enforcement of (1) the requirement that any physician performing an abortion must have active admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the location where the abortion is performed; and (2) that all abortion clinics existing on or after Sept. 1, 2014, comply with the same minimum standards required of ambulatory surgical centers.

Fund moves to top spot

Education Commissioner Michael Williams and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson announced Sept. 30 that the Permanent School Fund reached a record high value in 2014 that made it the largest educational endow-

ment in the United States. On June 30, the fund surpassed Harvard University's

\$36.4 billion endowment. Created by the state in 1854 with an initial \$2 million investment, the Permanent School Fund stood at \$37.7 billion in market value as of June

Some \$30.6 billion of the fund is managed by the State Board of Education and \$7.1 billion by the School Land Board. Day-to-day oversight of the fund is handled by staff at the Texas Education Agency and the General Land Office.

Williams and Patterson attributed the robustness of the fund to effective financial management and increased oil and gas operations on Permanent School Fund lands.

Drought conditions re-

Gov. Perry's office on Oct. 3 announced the renewal of the emergency disaster proclamation the governor originally signed in July 2011, certifying that exceptional drought conditions posed a threat of imminent disaster in specified counties in Texas

This month, the proclamation applies to 113 of the state's 254 counties. The proclamation directs that "all necessary measures, both public and private" as authorized by state law "be implemented to meet that threat" and "all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the state of disaster.'

HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPT.

BBQ Annual And

Saturday October 18, 2014

From 11am to 5pm

Highlands Fire Dept. Sta. 17

ON OCTOBER 18, 2014 FROM 11am to 5pm.

123 San Jacinto St.

Raffle Tickets are \$2 each

\$500 Visa/Master Card

\$1,000 Visa/Master Card \$750 Visa/MasterCard

BBQ Plates are \$10 each

Plates include: beef, sausage beans, potato salad, and all the fixings

\$250 Visa/Master Card THE HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO INVITE YOU TO

During the annual BBQ, several activities will take place:

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER AT 123 SAN JACINTO, HIGHLANDS, TX.

Some of the best tasting BBO of course, a raffle with great prizes, and don't forget the silent auction. You will surely

find an item you just don't want to leave without. Items go to the highest bidder at the closing of the auction (4pm). So come join us and have a great time and once again thank you for supporting

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department







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LIFESTYLE



David William Minx, Sr



David William Minx, Sr., 34, of Houston, passed from this life on September 28, 2014, following a tragic acci-

David was born July 26, 1980 in Houston, Texas. He is lovingly survived by his wife of 17 years, Amber Gail Tur-ney; by son, David William Minx, Jr.; by parents, Larry & Joan Barnes; grandmother, Barbara Kay Minx; by brothers, Larry Dean "Bubba" Barnes, Jr. and Chad Steven Barnes and sister, Stacey Kay Barnes; as well as by nieces nephews, other family and many, many friends.

A visitation and service will be held Thursday, October 2, 2014 at Carter Funeral Chapel with visitation starting at 11:00 a.m. and services starting at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter Funeral Home

CARTER FUNERAL HOME 13701 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015 713-455-5100



Story Time at the Library

Anahuac kids recently enjoyed storytime. This special time for children and their caregivers is an informal introduction to books and the library, featuring stories, crafts, music, and more. Library storytimes are exciting and fun-filled, yet also provide important learning experiences for young

Celebrating Freedom Week

pre-kindergarten classes at Hopper Primary School display their creations, "One Flag, One Land, One Heart, One Hand." The projects are based on what they learned $about\ Freedom\ Week.$ Students learned what each color in the flag symbolizes, hand painted the American Eagle, and were able to understand what the Statue of Liberty represents. Pictured are (back, from left Phoebe White, Connor Gresham, Makayla Rodriguez, (front, from

left)Alex Pacheco, Krislyn Morse and Braydon Lara.



Lake Houston **United Methodist to** host pumpkin patch



Each year, church volunteers unload over one-thousand pumpkins in preparation for the LHUMC Pumpkin Patch

Lake Houston United Methodist Church in Huffman is home to a very large Pumpkin Patch throughout the month of October every

Folks come from all over to pick out their perfect holiday pumpkins of all sizes from out of over one-thousand pumpkins. Starting October 6, the Pumpkin Patch is open daily (M-F 3pm-dusk, Sat. 9am-dusk, Sun. noon-dusk) throughout the month.

LHUMC will also host a day full of fun and entertainment at their annual Fall Festival on

Saturday, October 18 from 10am-3pm. Bring the familv as there's lots to do for kids and grownups alike. There will be rides, inflatables, face painting, vendor booths, silent auction, pie baking contest, DJ, BBQ, kettle corn and more! Everyone is invited to visit the Pumpkin Patch and to come have fun at the Fall Festival.

Lake Houston UMC is located at 23606 FM 2100 in Huffman. For more information, donations and boothavailability, contact the church office at 281-324-1541.

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Crosby alumni Travis Fincher to be featured on TV



marching band in 2007

Travis Fincher, a 2007 Crosby High School graduate to appear

He and his band has been given recently a reality TV show, "Chasin' Crazy", about their journey as a young band trying to make it in Nashville. And it will premier on TV network Great American Country (GAC) this

Saturday, October 11, 2014. Here are some updates from Fincher before he made it to the

"Upon graduating, I was accepted into the civil engineering program within the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston.

After a few semesters, I realized that music had always been my true passion. I began working a day job while dropping back to an associates degree program at San Jac North Community Col- $\begin{array}{c} \text{lege. After saving up some money} \\ \text{over the next few semesters, I} \\ \text{made the move to Nashville, Ten-} \end{array}$ nessee in August 2010 to pursue my dream of playing music for a my aream or playing music for a living. I was a freelance drummer for about 3 years, even landing a gig on the ABC TV show "Nash-ville", playing drums for characville", playing drums for characters Will and Gunnar. Through that, I was recognized by some fellow musicians in town and approach about joining a country/ rock band, Chasin' Crazy, which I joined early in 2013." Travis is now 25 years old.



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CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

Galena Park ISD hosts annual Ministers luncheon



Led by Choir Director Mr. Adam Bendorf, the North Shore Senior High School choir treated the ministers to some entertaining song selections

On Friday, October 3, 2014, Galena Park ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Angi Williams welcomed area pastors and church leaders to the annual Ministers Luncheon, which allows respected mem-bers of the community an opportunity to interact with each other as well as district lead-ers. Dr. Williams discussed the District has with local organizations, such as area churches, and applauded the roles they play in enhancing the community's quality of life. Those in attendance were also given time to ask questions or share concerns about issues facing both the community and schools.

Responding to a question

about testing, GPISD Board of Trustees Member Stephens encouraged the ministers to continue to be informed on issues which impact education and other non-profit organizations, urging each minister and educator present to contact area and state leg-islators to make their voices

North Shore SHS student lauded by national merit program

Senvo Ahadize, a senior at North Shore Senior High School, is one of only 16,000 high school students in the nation to be named a 2015 National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist. He will now continue to compete for a portion of the \$33 million of National Merit Scholarships that will be offered in Spring 2015.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, semi-finalists and their high schools must submit a detailed scholarship application in which they provide informa-tion about the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and honors and awards received.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a non-profit organization that was established in 1955. Its scholarships are underwritten by its own funds and approximately 500 business organiza-tions and higher education institutions that share its goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and en-couraging the pursuit of academic excellence.



Senyo Ahadize named 2015 National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist

Renaissance Festival,

Continued from page 1

Saturday evening at King Midaqs' Masquerade Ball, a night of legendary revelry held in a new, magical venue outside the Festival gates. Join an unprecedented evening of magic, mystery and imagination.

Raise a tankard as we open the festival in true Oktoberfest style Oct. 11&12. Journey to Bavaria and the Black Forest as the air echoes with traditional German music and dancing.

Dance a polka, feast on Bratwurst and sauerkraut, quench your thirst with a stein of beer and join in the fun by entering into one of the three German themed contests.

Magical fantasies come to life

as wizards, elves and faeries en-chant the streets of New Market Village spreading joy throughout the shire Oct. 18and19 for 1001 Dreams. Become part of the enchanting celebrations by participating in the Fantasy Scavenger Hunt, show off your magical finery in the Fantasy Costume Contest, and test your tastebuds in the Dragon Wing Eating Contest.

October 25 and 26 ghouls, goblins and spooks abound as all things creepy emerge from the mists to pay homage to our Queen on Halloween. All will delight in His Majesty's Annually Decreed Tricks or Treats outing. Admire the carved Jack-o'-lanterns that glitter in the moonlight, bedeck-

ing the village shoppes and enter the costume contest to win a fab-

This is the 40th Annual Texas Renaissance Festival.

Set sail for a swashbuckling weekend Nov. 1&2 as the crew of the Pride of Bedlam invade the shire with their piratical shenanigans. For Pirate Weekend visit the Pirates' Cove for the finest in treasure and booty, quench yer thirst and sing songs of the sea at the Sea Devil Tavern, and try yer luck by entering any of our Pi-rate Contests. YAR, ye bilge water swilling land lubbers! There is best dressed pirate and talk

like a pirate contests. Friends, Romans, Country man. Toga! Toga! Toga! Join the Italian Court in an extravagant Roman Bacchanal Nov. 8 & 9. When in Rome, do as the Romans: seek wisdom from the oracle of Delphi, toss a Bocce Ball, enjoy a Pasta Eating Contest and show off your Centurion physique or Venus-like beauty in the world's largest Toga contest. Veni, Vidi,

Uggh! You! Weakling! Join in the Barbarian Invasion Nov. 15 & 16! The Barbarian King, and his band of barbarian buddies try to prove themselves civilized citizens of the realm. Compete in rowdy contests of barbaric fashion: Worst Dressed Barbarian, Barbarian Battle Cry, and prove your love of meat at the Turkey Leg Eating Contest. Time to gather your hoard and raid the

The Queen of Scotland beckons all of ye to throw on your best kilt

and join the fun Nov. 22 & 23 for the Highlands Fling. Imbibe in one of the many ales or indulge in a Scotch egg, enjoy the energetic pipes and drums of Tartan-ic for a rocking highland good time, and Lads and Lasses should put their best knees forward and enter the Bonnie Knees Contest

and the Highland dance contest. The festivities conclude as thoughts turn to Christmas and the gates open for a three day weekend following the Thanks-giving Holiday. A Celtic Christmas is Nov. 28 through 30. Shoppes shine with Christmas décor and the sounds of the season are heard throughout the village. Join in the festivities with a yuletide scavenger hunt, hot spiced mead and a visit with Fa-

ther Christmas.
Within walking distance to the festival front gates, the Fields of New Market Campground features two convenience tores, water stations with potable water, permanent and portable re-strooms, as well as easily accessible trash dumpsters. Spaces for RVs, tents and campers are available on the first come, first serve camping area, is also available for guests who prefer a more serene experience after 10:00 p.m. At only \$20 per vehicle, with the purchase of Texas Renaissance Festival admission tickets

These new campgrounds offer a communal bonfire, live music and performances by many of the festival artisans occur each night to enhance the social experience throughout the weekend

Diamond Jim... I want a custom piece of jewelry. I'm stuck on the process and terminology. Where do I begin?

This is the first of three columns regarding custom jewel-

There are three distinct phases of making a custom piece of jewelry. The first is the design. Second is the rough casting. And third is the assembly, setting, polish-ing, and finishing.

Years ago, if someone want-ed a custom piece of jewelry designed, there was only one way to do so. First, the design was drawn by hand. Then the piece was fabricated by the hand of a craftsman... much as a blacksmith would create objects from metal. There are still many beautiful and complicated pieces that are made in this manner; however, they become fewer and fewer with

ASK DIAMOND JIM

each passing day. Today we create the vast majority of custom designs by CAD. The term "CAD" is the acronym for "computer aided design". As customers desire more and more input into their original and personal designs, it becomes much easier for the cus-tom jeweler to allow them this luxury by providing CAD services. The CAD allows the jeweler to make changes to the design prior to the actual manufacturing. This allows for 100% satisfaction by the customer BEFORE the design is ever brought to life. At the completion of the CAD approval, the CAD remains only dig-

ital information stored in the computer. The next step is the transfer of this information to a computer-driven lathe which carves out the wax in minute detail. The wax will be used to "cast" the piece of jewelry. I'll cover casting in next week's column.

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

See more at:

www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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

North Shore Rotary donates to Channelview ISD Foundation

The North Shore Rotary Club recently presented the Channelview ISD Education Foundation with a donation for \$3,000. Accepting the donation from Rotary Club President Allatia Harris (center) was, from left, Foundation President Chris Love, Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis and Foundation Executive Director Mark



Stephens

Continued from Page 1

dation has helped numerous schools throughout Texas fund the testing and has enlisted the help of hospitals and cardiologists in making the test more affordable.

During the event, Scott Stephens, father of Cody, displayed the new E.C.G. devise that can be used to perform the test. It is now about as big as the new I-tablets that people use for computer work mobilely now. It once was wheeled in within a cart about 4 feet high.

What began as a effort to get more testing done in local schools for S.D. has become an effort to have the test performed statewide to save more than the eight lives that can be verified since the ex-

tra testing has been begun.
In attendance were not only were Dan Huberty, R., and Wayne Smith, R., local Texas House Representatives but also Kathy Grant and David Courreges lobbyists that undertook getting Texas legislation passed pro-bono for the Foundation to have mandatory E.C.G. testing throughout the state. Unable to attend but back ing the bill is Representative Sylvester Turner.

According to Stephens if the bill remains unchanged from the one that was not passed last time is "athletes that are first year and third year participants would get an E.C.G. testing along with their sports physical. No state has this testing yet but we'd be the first and the others would follow.



The Stephens Clan stands with a young lady whose life was saved by the test. Amy Williamson of Goose Creek Consolidated ISD has recently recovered from heart surgery.

Stephens expects opposition to the "Cody Bill" this year. The American Heart Association is not in favor of mandatory testing for S.D. The Heart Association expressed fears that others would not do the testing correctly in a recent article. They favor individual testing sporatically at the cur-

The entire event was filed with the shotgun card raffle, the seven of diamonds was pulled first it as one by Cody's money loaned him by his grandfather) but his father requied him to not accept the win then the six of spades was pulled next. All familiar with the event know that Cody Stephens' football number was 76. The live auction pulled in \$76,000 in total. The top auction sale was a Cody Stephens #76 football jersey to David Mendez of Turner Chevrolet for \$4000.

In other events, the Silent Auc tion or Table Sales was \$20,000 Corporate sponsorship came to \$9.000. Sponsorships from Crawfish Shak and Oil Well Tubular helped make that mark.

Martha Lopez Anderson of ParentHeartWatch.org came from Orlando, Florida "To see how they do it in Crosby, Texas."

Her organization is the national organization of parents that have lost children sudden cardiac arrest and promotes awareness of testing and treatment of ath-

letes.
"East Houston Regional Hospital is now screening the area for free, now 5 other hospitals are involved, Memorial Hospital is getting involved in a big way. Stephens concluded, I'm hoping I can get the Rural Hospital Association involved screening throughout the state, screening areas that are hard to reach.

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With the weather permitting, The Beach City Citizens Collection Sta-

tion located at 5121 Lawrence Rd will be closed on Oct. 14th & 15th in

order to re-grade the driveways and to improve drainage at the facility.

The Eagle Drive Citizens Collection Station located at 10610 Eagle

Drive will be open during this period should residents need to utilize

Chambers County Public Notice:

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Beach City Residents

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

THE BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR:

2014 or 2015 Toyota Tundra Double Cab Truck with Propane Retrofit Proposal forms may be picked up in the Administration Building. Proposals are to be returned to Becky McManus, Asst. Supt. of Finance, no later than 2:30 p.m., October 17, 2014.

For more information phone: (281) 576-2221, ext. 1200

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For additional information in this matter, please contact the Solid Waste

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CROSBY ISD'S

State Financial Accountability Rating

Crosby ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm, Monday, October 20, 2014 in the Operations Center, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Crosby ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system for the fiscal year ending August 31,

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The Harris County Emergency Services District #14 will hold a meeting at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, 123 San Jacinto, 2nd Floor (elevator is available) Highlands, TX 77562 at 12 noon, on Monday, October 20, 2014, to consider adopting a tax rate for tax year 2014. The proposed tax rate is 0.0500 per \$100 of value.

No change in the tax rate is

The ESD#14 tax rate has not increased since the inception of ESD #14 in 1999. The proposed tax rate for the 2014 tax year is the same rate of 0.0500 per \$ 100 the value that has always been in place for ESD#14 since its formation.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010104001

APPLICATION. Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, 125 San Jacinto Street, Highlands, Texas 77562, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010104001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0023311) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 2,350,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 611 Avenue E, Highlands, in Harris County, Texas 77562. The discharge route is from the plant site to Whites Lake; thence to the San Jacinto River Tidal. TCEQ received this application on July 21, 2014. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 Office, 125 San Jacinto Street, Highlands, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.811111&Ing=-95.065277&zoom=13&type=1

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you v the facility in a way no non to the we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All written public comments and requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/comments.html. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about TCEQ can be found at our web site at

urther information may also be obtained from Harris County Water Control District No. 1 at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Mark Hayran, LJA Engineering, Inc., at (713) 450-1300.

Issuance Date: September 12, 2014

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SPORTS

C.E. King High School competition gym close to completion



New competition gym to be open in November

By: Ashley Shibley, SISD

Sheldon ISD will soon open the doors to a new 50,000square foot competition gym. The gym will allow C.E. King

High School to host many ath-

letic events and tournaments. The facility will hold 1,800 spectators

The building features classrooms, a training and rehabilitation area, athletic facilities, a visitor locker room, an exer-

cise area, drill team facilities. and a locker room for officials.

The gym is the last project

to be completed from the bond that passed in 2006 to improve facilities. Sheldon ISD plans to open the gym in November.

Channelview Homecoming Parade



Many student and community groups participated in the Channelview High School Homecoming Parade on Oct. 2. Members of the Channelview Band and local youth football programs were among the participants in the annual event.



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Texans can make statement against Colts: Charlie Strong gets first taste of UT-OU rivalry

The Texans will be given national the Indianapolis Colts on Thursday ing AFC South champions will provide head coach Bill O'Brien's team a chance to prove to the nation that this isn't the same team that lost 14 straight games a year ago and is a team that is a serious contender for the division crown and a playoff

While the Texans are a bit improved from a year ago, they still have flaws. Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick is pretty much the journeyman most people thought he was. He hasn't been horrible, but he hasn't been great. He'll need to step up his game because the Colts do have a big edge at that position with Andrew Luck, who threw four touchdowns in wins over the Jaguars and Titans before Indy played Baltimore last

The offensive line has also struggled and must improve going forward. If the line can't create space for running back Arian Foster, that's going to make Fitzpatrick a sitting duck. Indianapolis' defense isn't the '85 Bears, but they have enough players who can cause problems. If the Texans can get Foster unleashed, that should open up things in the passing

While Luck had big games against the Jags and Titans, he'll be facing a much better defense on Thursday night when J.J. Watt and Co. line up against him. Watt turned in a spectacular 80-yard interception return for a touchdown two weeks ago in Houston's 23-17 victory over Buffalo and you just know he'll want to turn in another quality outing in front of a national TV audience.

While the Texans take on the Colts, the Texas Longhorns and Oklahoma Sooners will renew their heated rivalry on Saturday in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. This will be first-year head coach Charlie Strong's inaugural OU-UT game, but I'm sure he's been schooled in the history of the rivalry and the significance of the

While OU and UT go at it in the Cotton Bowl, the Pac 12 will feature one of the top games of the college weekend when Oregon visits UCLA

Before we take a look at that game and a host of others, let's review last week's record. Another 9-3 week upped the season record to a very respectable 41-19 (68%), Now let's take a look at what this weekend

Texas vs. Oklahoma: As stated above, UT head football coach Charlie Strong gets his first taste of the OU-UT rivalry and he has a tall task in his first visit to the Cotton Bowl when his Longhorns take on an OU team that is loaded on both sides of the ball. Two weeks ago, the 'Horns opened Big 12 Conference play with a 23-0 pasting of lowly Kansas, which cost former KU head coach Charlie Weiss his job. The Texas defense will have its hands full with a Sooner offense that has three running backs who can produce and a quarterback in Trevor Knight who in his first four games threw for 1,065 yards and four touchdowns. UT's sophomore quarterback Tyrone Swoopes is showing promise, but he'll be facing pressure takes on a big, fast and quick OU defense. I think UT hangs around in this one, but look for the more experienced Sooners to pull away late for the win. My pick, Oklahoma 33, Texas

Mississippi at Texas A&M: The Aggies return home for the first time in three weeks to face a Mississippi team that will be playing its first chal-lenging road contest and is coming off a physical matchup against Ala bama. The Rebels have plenty of young talent, especially on defense, and are led by a veteran quarterback in Bo Wallace. The Aggies should have received a wake up call two weeks ago against Arkansas when they rallied from a 28-14 deficit in the fourth quarter and rallied for a 35-28 overtime win. Quarterback Kenny Hill got off to a slow start, but rallied late in the game to throw three touchdown passes en route to the victory. He'll face an Ole Miss defense that loves to bring pressure, so it might behoove the Aggies to get the running game going to take some pressure off of Hill. The Ags will be tested once again (hey, it the SEC, what else would you expect?), but look for them to pull out another win as they build momentum for their Oct 18 visit to Alabama. My pick, Texas A&M 34, Mississippi 29

TCU at Baylor: Gary Patterson's Horned Frogs appear vastly improved





from last year's team, especially on defense. That's good because the Frogs will face one of the best offens es in the country when they visit Waco to take on the Baylor Bears on Saturday. In TCU's first three games, the defense allowed just 21 points, while the offense put up big numbers against inferior opponents. TCU definitely takes a step up in class when they take on the No. 7-ranked Bears and their high-scoring offense. Two weeks ago, Baylor scored five rushing touchdowns in their 49-28 win at Iowa State, proving they aren't just a passing team. Look for quarterback Bryce Petty to return the Bears to their passing ways on Saturday as he attacks the TCU secondary and should have success doing so. TCU's defense should keep them in this for a bit, but Baylor's overwhelming offense will wear them down in the second half as they look to remain unbeaten. My pick, Baylor 41, TCU

Oregon at UCLA: A big one in the Pac 12 pits the Ducks against the Bruins. Oregon hasn't been its dominating self this year, but they have the talent to turn things on at the drop of a hat. Quarterback Marcus Mariota has been his usual dominating self passing for 1,135 yards with 13 touchdowns (through his first four games) and is one of the leaders to win the Heisman Trophy. UCLA quar terback Brett Hundley struggled early on this season and missed most of the game against Texas with a shoulder injury, but he rebounded in grand fashion two weeks ago when he led the Bruins to a 62-27 pasting of Ari zona State by passing for 355 yards and four touchdowns in the route of the Sun Devils. While the UCLA offense struggled prior to the ASU game, the defense has been stout and I think that unit makes the differ ence in this one as the Ducks' national title hopes suffer a big blow on Saturday. My pick, UCLA 36, Oregon

Indianapolis at Houston: Jim Nantz and Phil Sims bring Thursday Night Football to Houston as the Texans host the Colts in a key AFC South contest. The Texans won three of their first four heading into their game against Dallas last week, while the Colts were riding a two-game winning streak heading into their game against Baltimore after dropping their first two games of the sea son. Indy QB Andrew Luck has been on fire in the early going and entered the Baltimore game with 13 touch-downs in his first four games. The Houston defense will need J.J. Watt to bring the heat to fluster Luck and disrupt his timing with his receivers. The Colts don't have a strong running game, so look for the defense to concentrate on Luck. That might be easier said than done. The Houston-area product is hard to bring down because of his strength and has good escape ability. He's mobile enough to also make plays with his legs. What the Texans will need is a running game that can chew up the clock and keep Luck off the field. That might be asking a bit considering how bad the running game was two weeks ago against Buffalo (the Texans rushed for a paltry 37 yards in that game) The Texans are doing just enough to win games, but they will face a second tough test on a short week against the Colts. Until the running game improves, the Texans are going to find it tough to win against quality opponents such as the Colts. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Houston 20

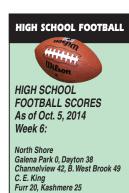
Chicago at Atlanta: If you are a fan of the passing game, then this game should be right up your rally. Chicago's Jay Cutler and Atlanta's Matt Ryan are two of the league's top passers (despite the fact both of their teams lost two weeks ago) and they each have a number of weapons to throw to. This should be a fun game to watch without much defense. Cutler struggled two weeks ago in a 38-17 loss at home to Green Bay, while Ryan was also flustered on the road in a 41-28 loss at Minnesota. I think both of them light it up on Sunday in the Georgia Dome. First team to 40 wins it. My pick, Atlanta 42, Chicago

Dallas at Seattle: We'll learn a lot more about the Cowboys after their game against the defending Super

Bowl champions. Two weeks ago, Dallas played one of its best games in recent memory when they routed the Saints 38-17 on Sunday Night Football. Jason Garrett's team exor cised a ton of demons from their past in that one as they turned the tables on a New Orleans team that has owned them over the past few years. This week, they face their sternest test of the season when they play in one of the most hostile environments in sports. Tony Romo and his offense will also face a tough test against a stout Seattle defense. The Seahawks haven't been as dominate on defense as they were a year ago, but it only takes one game for them to turn it back on and they'd like nothing more than to do it against the Cowboys. Look for Dallas to again rely on the running game. It's worked so far, so why get away from it? DeMarco Murray has been a beast and if he can get off to a good start, that might quiet the Seattle crowd and have the defense on its heels. Defensively, the Cowboys will face a tough task in slowing down the Seattle running back Marshon Lynch. Once Lynch gets it going, quarterback Russell Wilson will be able to use play action to hit some big plays down field. I think the Cowboys compete in this one, but look for Seattle to pull it out late thanks to Wilson. My pick, Seattle 26, Dallas 23

New York Giants at Philadelphia: A big one in the NFC East has the suddenly resurgent Giants visiting the Eagles. After losing their first two games, the Giants looked like world beaters against the Texans and Redskins as quarterback Eli Manning overcame his early-season turnover woes with solid back-to-back performances. The Eagles won their first three games before losing 26-21 two weeks ago at San Francisco in a game where their high-powered of-fense struggled. The running game was nonexistent and if Philly can't get LeSean McCoy untracked, then they are going to continue to struggle on offense. Something tells me McCoy gets it going in prime time on Sunday night as the Eagles get rolling again on offense. My pick, Philadelphia 33, New York Giants 25

San Francisco at St. Louis: The floundering 49ers picked up what might have been a season-saving victory two weeks ago against the Eagles. SF trailed 21-10 at one point in the game, but the defense shut down the high-powered Philly offense which inspired the 49er offense in the second half as Jim Harbough's team rallied for an important victory. Harbough knows his team can't afford to slip up on Monday night against a very beatable St. Louis squad, which has been decimated by injuries. The Rams have given the 49ers fits over the last couple of seasons, but look for a very focused San Francisco team in this one as the 49ers look to get on a roll and get back in the NFC West race. My pick, San Francisco 27, St. Louis 13



Atascocita 14, The Woodlands 24

Humble 14, New Caney 28 Kingwood 24, Summer Creek 46 Kingwood Park 20, Crosby 24

North Forest 17, Madison 37

Barbers Hill 42. Porter 12 Crosby 24, Kingwood Park 20 Dayton 38, Galena Park 0 GC Memorial 20, PN-Grove 47 Huffman 55, Silsbee 21 B. Sterling 27, La Porte 16 B. Lee 14, Vidor 27