

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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VOLUME 6, NO. 10 (#214) THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS



### Texas Bar honors Rep. Ana Hernandez

By Allan Jamail

Austin, TX. – February 21, 2018 State Representative Ana E. Hernandez was recognized and elected into the Texas Bar Foundation



STATE REP. ANA HERNANDEZ  
Follows.  
The Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees stated, Hernandez was honored for her outstanding professional achievements and her demonstration and commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state of Texas. Her election is a mark of distinction and recognition of her contributions to the legal profession.

## POLITICAL ISSUES

### Galena Park candidate ballot request delayed

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – February 20, 2018 Jamal Humphries appearing at two consecutive council meetings voiced his dissatisfaction in the delay it took to get his name on the ballot.  
In early February Humphries a life-long resident of the city went to city hall to file for city Commissioner Position 2. Upon paying the filing fee and presenting his Texas photo ID and his Harris County Voter Certificate with his Galena Park address on them he was informed his name might not be allowed on the ballot unless he can provide a utility bill with his name and address on it because of a new ordinance requiring that.  
Humphries said he didn't have a utility bill with his name and address on it because he's 19 years old and living at his parent's home while going to college. He said he explained this to the clerk but again was told he needed a utility bill with his name on it. Humphries then told the clerk he'd have his mother come there and transfer her water bill into his name but was then told that would not comply with the new ordinance



Photo: Allan Jamail  
Jamal Humphries tells city council he feels discriminated against. He is now on the May ballot.

nance because the utility bill had to be in his name for a year prior to filing to run.  
Humphries then went and purchased his Galena Park high school grade transcripts with his name and address on it and presented it to the city and once again was told it wouldn't be accepted because he had to have a utility bill with

See Ballot, Page 8

### Election results: Sylvia Garcia wins big; Bates defeats Coffey Pelosi fires up Democrats



Sylvia Garcia and Congressman Gene Green at the campaign's East end headquarters, greet cheering supporters as the election results indicate she has won. Photo by A. Jamail

SENATOR SYLVIA GARCIA WINS BIG, AVOIDS PRIMARY RUNOFF  
U.S. House of Representatives leader Nancy Pelosi fires up Harris County Democrats

By Allan Jamail  
Election Day - March 6, 2018 Senator Sylvia Garcia crushed 6 opposing candidates vying for the 29th Congressional District seat being vacated by retiring Congressman Gene Green.  
Garica's win came after a recent visit to Houston by

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California. Pelosi is the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 114th Congress. From 2007 to 2011, Pelosi served as Speaker of the House, the  
See Election Results, page 3

### Former GP Police Chief arrested Charged with Sexual Assault

Edward J. Mata, 49, former police chief of the City of Galena Park, was booked into the Harris County jail on Tuesday, March 6.  
Mata has been charged with raping a woman at the Regency Inn motel in Galena Park in October of last year.  
Court documents detailed a vivid encounter between the two, with Mata forcing himself on her, and physically and sexually assaulting her.  
They ended up on a bed without clothes, after the incident, but the woman said she left after Mata fell asleep.  
Mata has told investigators that he met the woman through social events, and in October they began a friendship and flirting through text messages on their phones. Mata indicated that their tryst at the motel was a mutual meet-



EDWARD J. MATA  
ing, and that the sexual encounter was consensual. Court documents indicate the encounter was on October 29, 2017.  
After leaving the employment of Galena Park, Mata was employed by Constable Precinct 6 until the end of February. He also has been working part-time as a security officer. He was arrested at his home in Katy.

## Channelview dedicates new Fire Station



CHANNELVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT held an Open House on Tuesday, March 6 to dedicate their newest Fire Station #3 on Dell Dale Street. The building houses three functions: Administrative offices for CFD and ESD#50, Fire Department Equipment and personnel, and Ambulance Service. CFD now has two new stations. They recently completed a new building on Market Street.



RIBBON CUTTING PARTICIPANTS included the ESD#50 board members, North Channel Chamber, Judge Joe Stephens, and Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman. Channelview Fire Department has been in existence since 1949, and in 2012 the ESD (Emergency Service District) took over fiscal management of the department. There are over 70 firefighters and EMS personnel in the department. SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.

## GPISD STUDENTS

### Gentleman's Club of Woodland Acres Elementary helps character building



Photo by Allan Jamail  
L – R (top row) – Teacher, Bryan Vasquez, Jorge Chris Yanez, Johnathan Rodriguez, Kristofer Roque, Jesus Plancarte, Teacher, Dale Baca  
L – R (middle row) – Sebastian Trevino, Isac Flores, Brandon Hawes, Diego Lara, Christopher Logan Gore, Eleazar Vazquez  
L – R (bottom row) – Jancarlos Gutierrez, Rafael Flores, Bryan Aguilera, Diego Valdez, Daniel Bravo, Josue Garcia

By Allan Jamail  
Jacinto City, TX. – March 2 the GPISD

Woodland Acres Elementary Wildcats Gentleman's Club, an organization of students supported by

Principal Sandra Rodriguez and Assistant Principal  
See Gentleman's Club, Page 6



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Crosby Woman's killing of boyfriend under investigation

On March 1, around 11:52 a.m., Harris County Sheriff's Office District 3 Patrol units were sent to the 12,100 block of Myrtle Ave. in reference to a shooting.

HCSO Patrol units and HCESD#5, the ambulance service for Crosby, arrived and found an adult male in the backyard of the residence with a gunshot wound to the chest. He was determined to be dead.

The location had been the scene of a confrontation by a dating couple. Interrogation of the woman indicated she shot the man when the conversa-



tion became physical. She said a struggle for a handgun precipitated the shooting.

The incident has been referred to the Harris County Grand Jury for possible charges. The name of

the victim has not been released pending positive identification.

The Harris County Sheriff's Homicide Division is continuing the investigation.

## Judge Stephens holds "Boys Rock 2 life" camp

Judge Joe Stephens, in his courtroom setting, sees the need to reach out to young men to give them a different setting to address some of their nonacademic needs. Therefore, he is sponsoring a "Life Skills" camp for boys within his jurisdiction.

On February 17th he held a one-day fun packed workshop, that addressed topics such as appearance, handling money, social skills and more. Other topics included Dating, Etiquette, Substance Abuse, Men of Honor, Law Enforcement, Success through Accepting Responsibility, Social Skills, and Hygiene.

In commenting on his Boys Rock 2 Life Skills Camp, Judge Stephens said that mentoring youth early in life leads to positive youth development.

The camp was held at the Northshore Middle School. For information about future camps, contact Lunetta Mitchell at 832-388-7155 or email [boys\\_canrock2@gmail.com](mailto:boys_canrock2@gmail.com)



Mayor Turner was one of the featured mentors at the camp. Judge Stephens on the right.

## 'Plan While You Can' campaign aims to reduce crashes, save lives

AUSTIN – Each year in Texas, more than half of drivers involved in deadly drunk driving crashes are between the ages of 17 and 34. With many college students and young adults heading to Spring Break destinations in the coming weeks, the Texas Department of Transportation's "Plan While You Can" campaign reminds them to make a sober ride part of their festivities.

"Enjoy Spring Break, but do so responsibly," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "If you drink and drive, you run the very real risk of being killed or destroying your future and the lives of others. It's irresponsible and just not

worth it."

During last year's Spring Break in Texas, there were 410 crashes involving young drivers who were driving under the influence of alcohol. Those crashes killed 20 people and seriously injured another 48.

The "Plan While You Can" campaign includes a statewide tour featuring an interactive dodgeball game where participants try to avoid incoming "beach balls" as virtual drinks are added to the screen. As more drinks are added, participants experience how drinking can slow their reaction times as on-screen avatars begin

responding more slowly to their players' movements. The experience will visit eight Texas cities during March.

While drivers under the influence of alcohol risk killing or seriously injuring themselves or others, they also face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time and loss of their driver's license. Visit [SoberRides.org](http://SoberRides.org) to find alternatives to drinking and driving, such as:

- Designating a sober driver, or calling someone for a sober ride home.
- Contacting a cab or ride-share service.
- Using mass transit.
- Spending the night.



Judge Joe Stephens, center, with some of the mentors and instructors at the Boys Rock 2 Camp last Saturday.

### Maximum Tax Savings



Jenny Hinson, Theresa McDermott, Donna Haynes, Jodie Roane  
Jack Noonan

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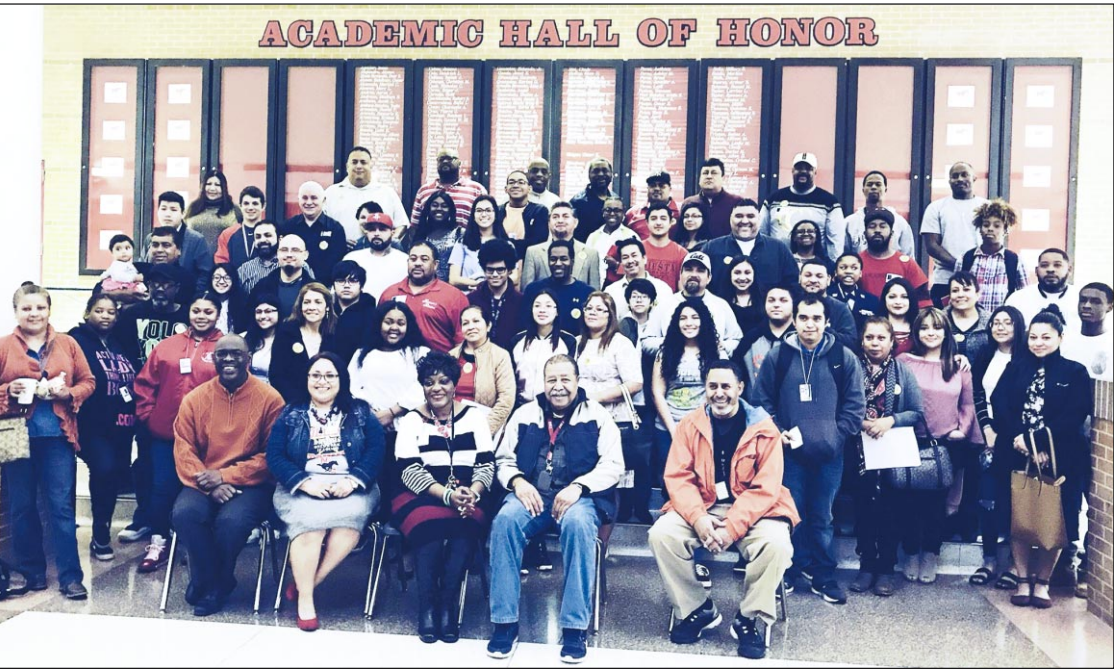
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park ISD hosts fathers fake your children to school day



On Tuesday, February 14, hundreds of Galena Park ISD dads participated in Galena Park ISD's Annual Fathers Take Your Children to School Day. All of the GPISD's schools treated dads to breakfast, a brief presentation and an opportunity to walk their child to their classroom. While taking their children to school, the dads and their children had the opportunity to enjoy breakfast together and talk with other dads and children. During breakfast, a brief presentation was given by school principals on ways they can volunteer at school events or be a chaperone on upcoming field trips. The fathers were also encouraged to take their children to school at least once a month. Fathers Take Your Children to School Day was established to encourage fathers to take a more active role in their children's lives and introduce them to their children's school community. GPISD would like to thank all the dads who took part in Fathers Take Your Children to School Day!

Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



SYLVIA GARCIA CAMPAIGNS at the Jacinto City Cafe on Market Street this week.



NANCY PELOSI MEETS WITH HOUSTON DEMOCRATS last week to campaign for voters to go to the polls.

first woman to do so in American history. Pelosi spoke at the Harris County Democratic Party's (HCDP) annual fundraiser to a record crowd. Chairwoman Lillie Schechter of the HCDP said this year's event set a fund raising record and an attendance record with over 3,500 Democrat activists. Vote results, Sylvia Garcia 63.22% (11,659 votes), Tahir Javed 20.70% (3,817 votes), Roel Garcia 6.60% (1,217 votes), Hector Morales 3.05% (562 votes), Augustine Reyes 2.84% (524 votes), Dominique

Garcia 2.56% (472 votes) and Pedro Valencia 1.04% (192 votes). Texas statewide Primary Election result changes since the 2014 mid-term election, Democrats had a 86% increase (+ 470,653 votes) compared to 16% increase (+207,095) for the Republicans. Sylvia Garcia was born in Palito Blanco, Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree in social work and political science from Texas Woman's University and a J.D. from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Garcia's career experi-

ence includes working as a social worker and a legal aid lawyer. She served as director and presiding judge of the Houston Municipal System. Garcia was elected city controller in Houston and the Harris County Commissioner's Court. She was elected Texas State Senate in 2013. Congressman Green, who ran against Garcia for the seat in 1992, threw his support behind the senator in the crowded Democratic race in Congressional District 29. "The reason I supported Sylvia is she's a legislator, and that's what a member of Congress should be. On the legislative side, its give and take, I have to compromise with my Democrats and obviously my Republican colleagues. She knows how to do that to be successful to represent this district in Washington," Green said. "Tonight, women spoke," Sylvia Garcia said, in her victory speech. "Tonight we voted and we voted loud and clear. And we said elections can't be bought, and what matters is people. So what matters is fighting on and someone being there willing to fight, willing to stand up, and willing to serve the people, and that's what I intend to do."

Allan Jamail, North Channel Star writer who's known Garcia since the early 80's when he was Mayor of Jacinto City and she was Houston's Presiding Municipal Court Judge noted that she served for an unprecedented five terms under two mayors. She's a fighter, eighth of 10 children with 5 brothers. She's told me, "as kids we fought, I learned early in life to fight for what you want," Garcia told Jamail. Another race of interest in the North Channel area is the Precinct 2 County Commissioners race. Republican Commissioner Jack Morman will face former Houston Councilman and Harris County Sheriff Democrat Adrian Garcia. Democratic Party Primary County Commissioner, Precinct 2, vote results, Adrian Garcia 65.13% (15,626 votes), Roger Garcia 16.68% (4,002 votes), Ken Melancon 11.45% (2,747 votes), and Daniel Box 6.74% (1,618 votes). Democratic Party Primary Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2 incumbent Don Coffey lost to Lucia Bates 52.36% (6,082 votes), and Don Coffey 47.64% (5,533 votes).

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

The Power of Love

Having lived in the North Channel Area since 1971, I have seen many people come and go. Businesses move locations or shut down. Nonprofit organizations have changes and we know all too well about families moving out of the area. Often, young people go off to college and never return to our neighborhoods. This week, I want to share with you about three amazing couples who have weathered many a storm but continue to make a huge difference in our community. Curt and Shelley Williams, Oscar and Denise Taylor as well as Sam and Alecia Gonzalez are each unique in this day, as they are successful leaders, successful parents and have all been married over 20 years. Curt and Shelley, married on June 11, 1988. Curt is the founder and Executive Director for Youth-Reach Houston as well as Youth-Reach Gulf Coast. Shelley oozes love for babies so it is no surprise that she is a doula, who has now been present with over 60 babies. They have 7 amazing children of their own and have served over 2400 young men since 1984. Many of these young men came within inches of heading to some type of juvenile incarcerations, yet instead ended up coming into a residential boys home where they were not only homeschooled but they learned many lessons outside of textbooks. The young men learned how to change a tire, how to tie a tie, how to mow a lawn, how to talk about issues and concerns instead of running from them or turning to drugs, and alcohol or physical altercations. These young boys learned about love, discipline and most importantly, they learned the Word of God. Unsurprisingly, a large number of the young men had never had a positive male role model in their lives before coming to Youth Reach Oscar and Denise Taylor, have been married over 24 years. They are the proud parents of

one daughter who is attending college, yet they continue to support many of the projects in our area school districts. They originally opened their business in North Shore with some partners in 1988 but after the partnership was dissolved, they changed the name to Bonfire Wings and the rest has been history. Rarely will you find a great community cause that they are not supporters of. If you have ever attended an event at the Galena Park ISD Athletic Stadium you have seen their business advertised on the scoreboard and in the athletic programs. Last year after Hurricane Harvey, they joined forces with others who belong to Safari Clubs International and raised funds for victims in our area. They personally hand delivered over \$50,000 in gift cards as well as 100 gift certificates for those families to come in and enjoy a meal for eight at Bonfire Wings. Each year, they are proud sponsors for the Cory Redding 3D Football Camp as well as many other events in the community. Sam and Alecia Gonzalez are certainly no strangers to our community either. They grew up in Jacinto City as well as North Shore. They married in 1982 and raised three children in our community. In spite of the downturns in the economy, their business has continued to thrive. They opened Muffler King in Jacinto City on May 1, 1990 and from the first day, they have put God first and continued to help less fortunate community members. In addition to their financial and emotional support that they have given over the past 28 years, they have counseled hundreds of youth, couples and small business owners. These three couples have two things in common--the love of God and the love of our community. And with the power of love, all things are possible.

Two women assaulted outside East Fwy. bar

Houston police are investigating the assault of two women in an East Harris County bar about 1:15 a.m. on Sunday, March 4. According to Houston Police officials, an altercation occurred inside a bar located in the 11000 block of East Freeway (I-10 E) and continued into the street after the bar had closed. A male suspect involved in the fight went into this truck, placed it into reverse and intentionally struck the two females, ages 23 and 22. He then fled the scene westbound on the service road. Paramedics arrived and transported the victims to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. One woman sustained an injury to her head and left leg and the other woman injured her right leg. Investigators were provided a name of a possible suspect and ask anyone with additional information to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

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# OPINION PAGE

## Arming teachers with mental health tools, not guns

The recent shooting at a Parkland, Florida high school has opened the conversation and has many of us struggling with what needs to happen to prevent another tragedy like this from happening again. For a young person to even have such thoughts and feelings is unimaginable. To have them actually follow through with these heinous acts is chilling. However, assigning teachers the responsibility to bear arms on campus as a means of protection for students and themselves is not the answer to address campus gun violence. The risks of “collateral damage” from armed teachers in a shootout could result in a more disastrous situation. While there is no single best solution to eliminate the risk of more tragedies, we believe that a compelling answer can be found in the early detection and prevention of mental health issues in our children.

In a nationwide State of Mental Health in America - Youth Data report for 2017, Mental Health America found that 11.25% of U.S. teens and pre-teens, aged 12-17, reported suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year. In Texas, 67.3% of young people with major depression did not receive any mental health treatment. That means that 6 out of 10 in this age group, who have depression and who are most at risk of suicidal thoughts, difficulty in school, and difficulty in relationships with others, do not get the treatment they need.

Clearly now, more than ever, it is important that, as a society, we take the mental health of school-age children seriously, and invest time, resources and awareness for prevention and early intervention. We cannot afford to test an “O.K. Corral” theory against the wellbeing of our children and the educators who work to teach, protect and serve them. Fighting gunfire with gunfire is not the answer.

Parents should be aware that our schools are at risk for this situation at any school, at any time. In the days since the Florida shooting, there have been at least five accounts of young people in the Houston area making threats against a school, outlining plans for on-campus violence, and even bringing a gun on campus, resulting in high alerts and school lockdowns.

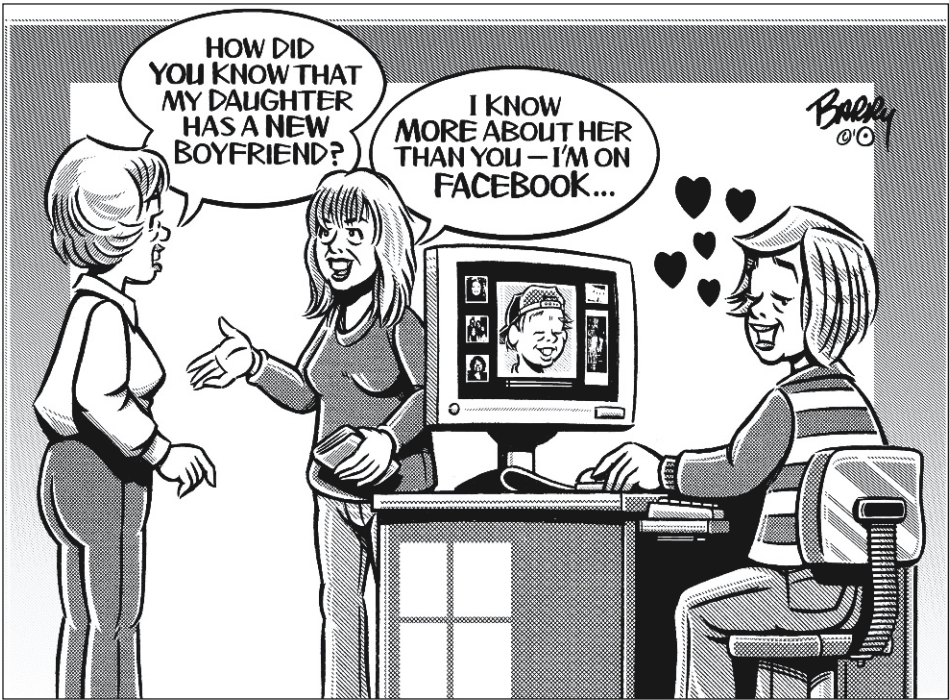
Instead of allotting funding to have teachers and other educators go through special gun training, why not change the system, making it mandatory and fiscally viable for all teachers, counselors, and others who work in a Texas school district, to learn to protect themselves and students by using an arsenal of early identification and prevention tools to identify, resource and refer young people with mental health concerns?

Significant strides have been made in some districts, but so much more needs to be done all over our state. We desperately need to adopt system-wide changes. Too many schools in our state are sorely under-resourced, when it comes to behavioral health issues, with some having no counselors and others only one counselor trained to recognize mental health concerns in young people. The research shows that expanding school counseling services in schools is associated with improvements in mental health and behavior, but also in student learning.

Children are living in troubled times, and unfortunately teachers and schools bear the brunt of many of these concerns. As part of the solution in our region, Mental Health America of Greater Houston, through its Center for School Behavioral Health, works collaboratively with 26 public and charter school districts and more than 80 child-serving organizations, institutions of higher learning, community stakeholders, advocacy groups, students and parents, to develop and implement projects and policies that promote the wellbeing of school-age children, prevent the downward trajectory of untreated behavioral health concerns, and appropriately address the needs of children with behavioral disorders, as well as the needs of children who have experienced trauma.

By working together with concerned state officials, we can better support our public education system to ensure that the behavioral health and wellbeing of all students and educators are addressed through early detection and prevention programs.

Alejandra Posada,  
M.Ed.  
Interim President and CEO  
Mental Health America of Greater Houston



## Abbott orders action to ensure safety at junior colleges

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott is calling for immediate action to ensure the safety of Texas’ junior college campuses following a Feb. 14 mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida.

Abbott’s order came in a Feb. 28 letter to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Raymund Paredes. He issued a similar order addressing the safety of all Texas schoolchildren a week earlier.

Abbott outlined steps to be taken by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“These are important first steps to ensuring that junior college districts are meeting all requirements and have the best information available to help keep their campuses safe,” Abbott said. “Texas will continue to evaluate and improve our approach to ensure our students are safe.”

A few among a longer list of Abbott’s suggestions to officials were these:

- Catalog, share and distribute campus safety information;
- Ensure that all public junior college districts are in compliance with statutorily required school safety audits and multi-hazard emergency operations plans; and
- Work with the Texas School Safety Center, the Department of Public Safety and the governor’s office to draft recommendations to the Texas Legislature on policy changes to keep students safe.

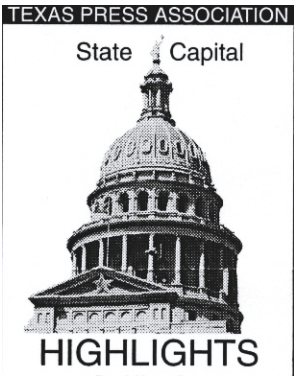
The Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University in San Marcos serves as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of safety and security information through research, training and technical assistance for K-12 schools and junior colleges.

### Paxton joins AG Sessions

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and the attorneys general of six other

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



states on Feb. 27 joined U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in Washington, D.C., as Sessions announced new steps the Department of Justice is taking to combat the nation’s opioid epidemic.

Sessions praised Paxton and the state attorneys general, saying, “Each of them has made combating opioid abuse a priority and has shown outstanding leadership.”

Some 64,000 fatal drug overdoses were reported across the nation in 2016. Of those, 2,831 opioid-related deaths were recorded in Texas.

Paxton said his office would “continue to do everything it can to protect Texans from the opioid crisis.”

In 2017, Paxton and a coalition of officials in 40 other states served investigative subpoenas and additional requests on eight companies that manufacture or distribute highly addictive painkillers. The goal is to collect enough information so that the multi-state coalition can evaluate whether manufacturers and distributors engaged in unlawful practices in the marketing, sale and distribution of opioids, Paxton said.

In other news, Paxton was joined by the attor-

neys general of 15 other states in a U.S. Supreme Court brief supporting President Trump’s proposed travel ban preventing entry into the United States by citizens of a list of countries identified by the State Department as locations of known terrorist organizations.

### Sales tax revenue is up

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.61 billion in February, an amount 8.6 percent greater than the amount reported in February 2017.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in February 2018 was up 10 percent compared to the same period a year ago, Hegar said. Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections, he added.

“Increased sales tax collections were spurred by business spending,” Hegar said. “Growth was especially notable in remittances from oil- and gas-related sectors as well as wholesale trade. But collections from retail trade, the sector most reflective of consumer spending, declined slightly from year-ago levels.”

### DPS offers safety tips

The Texas Department of Public Safety on March 2 urged Texans to obey all traffic laws and use extra caution when driving during the spring break period, which stretches over the next few weeks.

State troopers and local law enforcement in the coastal areas of Texas will be enhancing enforcement efforts, watching for speeders, drunken drivers and seat-belt violators.

The DPS offered these safe travel tips:

- Don’t drink and drive;
- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices;
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle;
- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated;
- Drive defensively;
- and
- Don’t drive fatigued.



## Elections Bring About Change

This morning as I was getting prepared for the day, I began to think about all of the changes I have experienced in the past year. Several loved ones passed away and many of the people I know welcomed new babies and new spouses. Hurricane Harvey brought much devastation to our lives and yet, the World Championship Houston Astros brought a celebration second to none to the city.

This past year brought about announcements from Senator Ted Poe and Congressman Gene Green concerning their decisions not to run for re-election. This will impact thousands of voters. With the March Primary Election just days from now, candidates are scrambling around looking for endorsements.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott introduced legislation which passed the Senate to eliminate “straight party voting”. Unless this is overturned, we may see some life-altering changes in our state. If voters to not take the time to research candidates and know which ones support their values, they may not bother to vote for a candidate and we could experience a shift like never before.

Perhaps the greatest change that needs to come from us, is to sit down and talk with young voters as well as those who only vote in Presidential Elections and explain the importance of researching and getting involved in campaigns. During every election, there are opportunities to work with candidates, to volunteer as Deputized Voter Registrars and to also get paid to be an Election Worker. Please take the time to share this with others. There are too many voters who do not even know the rich history that Harris County has concerning late elected leaders such as US Representative Barbara Jordan, Houston Councilman Judson Robinson, Jr and Congressman Mickey Leland. These individuals are the reason why so many others entered politics.

Today we have Senator Borris Miles, Senator Sylvia R. Garcia, State Representatives Senfronia Thompson, Ron Reynolds, Armando Walle, Harold Dutton, Jr and we certainly cannot forget our Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Sometimes people will ask me why it is important to vote....the answer is simple. Do you want people to represent you who have no idea of who you are or what matters to you? Do you want judges who cannot understand that not everyone has the same foundation? Do you want elected leaders lining their pockets with donations from big businesses who do not care about the community? Do you want to elect someone who understands what preservation is about and why it is important to US?

As we near Tuesday’s Primaries, take the time to stop and think about the changes YOU want to see in your community. Let those changes begin with you.

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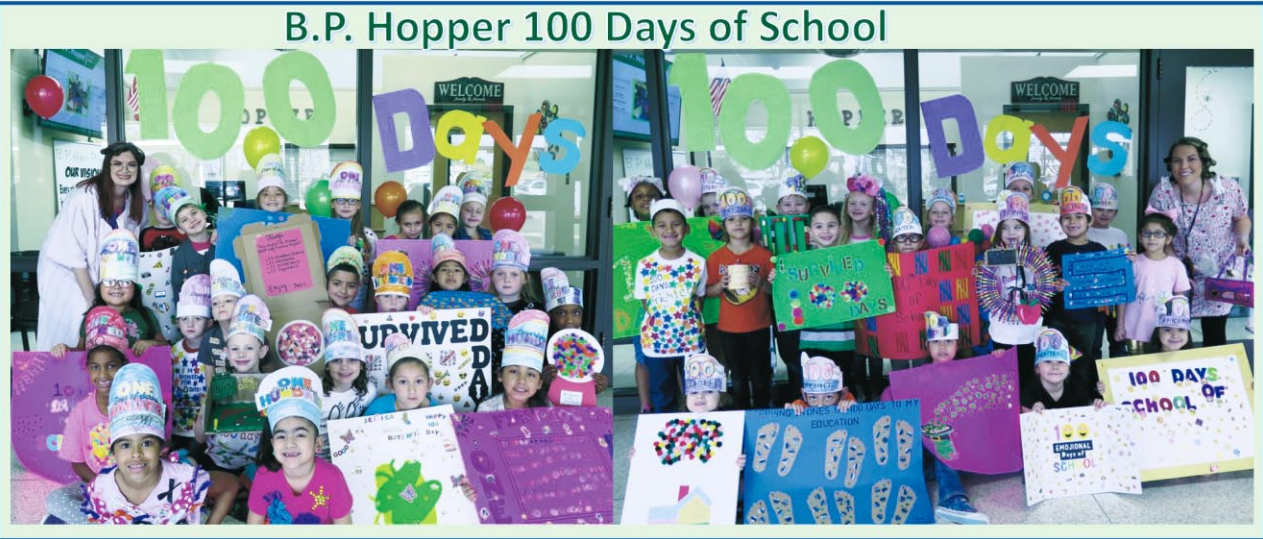
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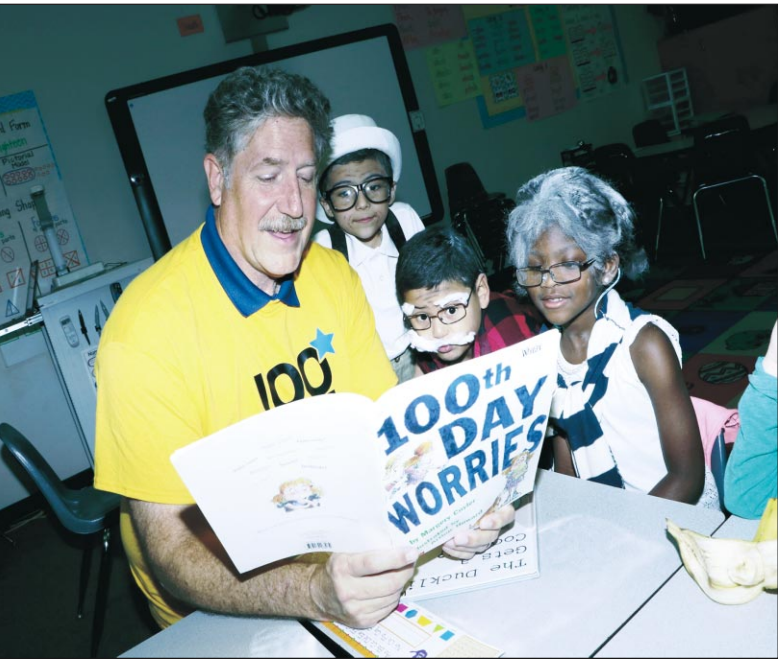


LIFESTYLE

100 days of school celebration



Students and staff at Hopper Primary celebrate the 100th day of the 2017-2018 school year.



Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, reads the book "100th Day Worries" by Margery Cuyler to Travis Elementary students (from left) Johnny Hinojosa, Jaime Guillen and Jade Ferguson, dressed as 100-year-old people, during GCCISD's 100th day of school.

Crosby Community Center presents a Hippy Hop Easter Egg Hunt

Children up to age nine are welcome to join in the fun-filled activities at Crosby Community Center Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Activities include crafts, a picture with the Easter bunny, train ride, treats, and hunting for goodies nestled in bright plastic eggs. Children are encouraged to bring an Easter basket. Space is limited, so register today by calling the Center at (281) 462-0543.

Easter Egg Hunt Schedule:  
9:30 a.m. Ages 3 and under  
10 a.m. Ages 4 through 6  
10:30 a.m. Ages 7 through 9

Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. Center hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs, please call (281) 462-0543.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Crosby Library Book Sale

The Friends of Crosby Library will have a book sale Friday, March 9, from 1 pm to 6 pm, and Saturday, March 10, 10 am to 5 pm. Choose from a variety of items including new and gently used books, cds, magazines, and movies, for sale at very low prices. Meet local author Donna Hechler Porter too! A portion of the revenue from sales of her books will also be donated to the library.

Book sale proceeds help support summer reading and other library programs throughout the year.

Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532. 281-328-3535

Special Spring Break Storytime: The Stormy Day

Join in a Special Storytime to help children and their families begin to talk about feelings & worries they may have after a hurricane. Information about Hurricane Assistance will be included for parents and guardians. Thursday, March 15, 2018 @ 11 AM. More information can be found online at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net), on our Facebook page: "Stratford Branch Library," or give us a call: 832-927-5400. Stratford Library is located 2 blocks behind Foodtown at 509 Stratford St. in Highlands, TX 77562.

Annual Kids on a Big Rig

Crosby Education Foundation is hosting the 2nd annual Kids on a Big Rig on Saturday, March 24th at Crosby Middle School from 10am-3pm. There will be large trucks, emergency vehicles, heavy equipment, classic cars, and more. Kids will be able to get up close and even climb into some vehicles! Petting zoo, face painting, a bounce house, and concessions. All funds raised by this event will help fund Innovative Teaching grants in Crosby ISD for the 2018-2019 school year.

Crosby Community Center Salad and Spud Luncheon

Salad and Spud Luncheon Featuring Donna B. Friday, March 23 at 11:30 a.m. Donna B will be playing all your favorite country hits at this luncheon! In addition to a great performance, enjoy salad, baked potato, garlic bread, dessert, tea, and coffee. Cost is \$5 per person and helps defray the cost of food. Advance registration is necessary by Tuesday, March 20. Sign up at Center, 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532 or by calling (281)462-0543.

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I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.  
**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

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Pride only breeds quarrels,  
but wisdom is found in  
those who take advice.

God is our refuge  
and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

**OBITUARIES**

**Lyle H. Renfrow**

Lyle H. Renfrow, age 68 of Cleveland, Texas, passed away Friday, February 23, 2018. He was born September 18, 1949 in Dixon, Illinois.

Lyle is survived by his sister Bettye McKennon and her husband James of Cleveland, Texas and his brother Tom Roark and his wife Dottie of Austin, Texas; also, many friends and dog PeeWee. He is preceded in death by his parents Dean H. Renfrow, Helen Callahan Roark, and Hill Roark; and his brothers Loyal Renfrow and Raymond Roark.

Lyle had mid-western roots, but he moved to Texas as a child and was ever a Texan at heart. He lived in many places around the country and the world, but he loved Texas and always returned, living mostly in Highlands or the nearby area. He was a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, enjoyed Texas wildlife and the Texas music scene of the 70s where he had a front row seat to many spontaneous jam sessions in Luckenback before it became widely known.

Lyle was a carpenter by trade, doing mostly remodel and cabinetry until he was no longer able. In later years he combined those skills with his artistic bent, building fun bird-houses, yard windmills, and odd wooden art projects.

He was a proud veteran who served in the US Army Signal Corp in Germany during the Viet Nam era. His passing will be honored at a later date with a memorial service at the Houston National Cemetery.

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**Gosh Tournament**

Photo by Erika Foster

Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation board members (from left) Steve Daniele; Jim Wadzinski, vice president of development, and David Frazier, vice president of finance, practice for the Foundation's Gosh Tournament, presented by Hotchkiss Disposal, March 24 at the Marsh Course at Kingwood Country Club. The event, which includes one team member fishing while the other three play golf, benefits the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, which has contributed more than \$830,000 to teachers in innovative teaching grants to enhance curriculum. In addition, the Foundation has recognized 120 teachers, nominated by their students for making a difference in their lives, at the Students Choice Awards Banquet. For available sponsorship opportunities, to register, or for more information, go to <http://www.gccisd.net/page/EducationFoundation>, or contact Erika Foster, Education Foundation director at 281-707-3610 or [erika.foster@gccisd.net](mailto:erika.foster@gccisd.net).

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to the glory He will  
reveal to us later  
ROMANS 8:18

All of them were filled with  
the Holy Spirit and began to  
speak in other tongues as the  
Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in  
the faith. Have courage  
and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

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



# ASK THE EXPERT

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Are southerners generally happier than people up north?"

Now that's a good question. Logic would dictate that people in the south have many reasons to be happy and perhaps happier than our friends up north. For example, we have shorter winters and less cold temperatures during the year, longer gardening opportunities for growing beautiful flowers and vegetables, good manners & decency, the best barbeque in the world, amazing places to hunt and fish, generally strong economies, and best of all...real "southern hospitality". In addition, the pace of our daily lives in the south and especially here in Texas seems to be less stressful. Due to our genuine compassion and sense of neighbor helping neighbor, we seem to take the time to stop and smell the roses more than others. This is, of course, my opinion and perception of life in the south.

Let's look at a recent survey conducted by the Bureau of Economic Research in cooperation with the CDC which ranks, in order, the "Ten Happiest" and "Ten Unhappiest" cities in the USA :

- Ten Happiest Cities
1. Lafayette, La.
  2. Houma, La.
  3. Shreveport-Bossier City, La.
  4. Baton Rouge, La.
  5. Alexandria, La.
  6. Rochester, Minn.

7. Corpus Christi, Texas
8. Lake Charles, La.
9. Nashville, Tenn.
10. Fort Walton Beach, Fl.

- Ten Unhappiest Cities
1. New York, N.Y.
  2. St. Joseph, Mo.
  3. South Bend, Ind.
  4. Erie, Pa
  5. Evansville, Ind.
  6. Toledo, Oh.
  7. Detroit, Mi.
  8. Jersey City, N.J.
  9. Gary, Ind.
  10. Scranton – Wilkes Barre – Hazelton, Pa.

Notice that every one of the top ten unhappiest cities is located in the northern half of our country. Seems to me that "us folks in the south" really are happier and perhaps even healthier than those living up north.

I hope this information helps you to further enjoy our southern way of life each and every day.

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

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## Gentleman's Club,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Alaide Zavala made a visit to the Jacinto Nursing and Rehabilitation facility.

Principal Sandra Rodriguez said, "Our Gentleman's Club was started last year and we are extremely proud of how it's come alive. Our sponsors have done a great job of instilling into our boys many valuable life lessons. The boys, in turn, have been positively impacted by what they've learned. You can see the maturity, care and compassion that has grown within them. I completely support this program and look forward to seeing the long term effects in our campus, district and overall community.

Teachers Bryan Vasquez and Dale Baca serve as role models for the students and they supervised the 16 students bused to visit the residents. Bryan Vasquez a Physical Education teacher at the campus said he started the Gentleman's Club in 2016 - 2017.

Vasquez said, "The Gentleman's Club is designed to encourage growth in

many areas such as academics, character, service, the importance of being a responsible citizen along with the value of volunteering in the community. The desired outcome is to help prepare young men, at an early age, for the challenges that high school students encounter and beyond school. We are excited to begin and plan more activities and experiences that will promote our purpose."

According to Vasquez this was the second time they've visited the health care facility. He said, "We can see the joy in the residents when we visit during Christmas time, taking gifts such as hand-made cards, mugs, socks, blankets, beanies and balloons."

Dale Baca said, "This was my first visit to the rehabilitation facility and seeing the boys interact with the residents makes me feel good, I'm very excited about working with my colleague Bryan Vasquez to help the boys become good citizens in the future."

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 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.

### Galena Park Senior Dance

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

### North Shore Senior Dance

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

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Amegy Bank on I-10, at noon. For more information, please visit [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

### Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club

This newly chartered club meets on on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church. For more information, see the Facebook page entitled Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club or call 832-264-1565 / 832-289-4762.

### Trip to Israel


Join Wayne & Patsy Moss on a trip to ISRAEL! March 2018. Call for more information. 281-447-4307.

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**~Zig Ziglar**

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The Barbers Hill Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at the Barbers Hill Independent School District Administration Building Conference Room, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Offerors" section of the proposal documents. The selection process will follow the requirement of the Texas Education Code Section 44.031. Specifications are available by request from the following address: Barbers Hill Independent School District, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580. 281-576-2221 x 1252. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

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TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with V.T.C.A., Water Code, §49.062, the Board of Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District has, on January 1, 2018, formally designated an office outside the boundaries of the District at the offices of Baker Williams Matthiesen LLP, 5005 Woodway, Suite 201, Houston, Texas 77056, which shall be used for the purpose of conducting the business of the District as is not required to be done within the District, and for the purpose of keeping District records. Said office is hereby declared to be a public place and open to the public.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Galena Park Mayor Moya responds to claims that City workers stole campaign signs

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. - February 25, 2018 a few days after mayoral candidate Juan Flores who's challenging incumbent Mayor Esmeralda Moya appeared before the City Commission accusing city employees of campaigning on city time and taking down his campaign signs Moya made available to the NC Star writer Allan Jamail her position on the issue in a open-letter to the city employees.

"Galena Park City employees were all wrongfully maligned and slandered at last week's City Commission meeting during the Public Comment session by one of the candidates (Juan Flores)

claiming that City Employees are tearing down his signs and engaging in politics while on City time. This is a serious accusation of a crime being committed by City employees...a FALSE accusation.

There is ZERO evidence to support this lie, and we all know it is false.

First let me say that you are a fine group of people who do your jobs very well,



ESMERALDA MOYA, GALENA PARK MAYOR

as evidenced by the smooth operations of the City. You are all to be applauded and thanked for that and for your good and honest service to the City and our community. No bully or liar can change that, regardless what they might say in public.

Second, I want all of you to know that I will defend you, privately and publicly, and will not allow these lies to go unchallenged. While politics has no place in City Hall, and we all strive to keep it out, sometimes it is necessary to stand up for the employees and I will always do that.

I urge you to ignore the slander from outside and do your job with even more dedication to excellence and WE WILL OVERCOME these lies and the turmoil they create.

IF HOWEVER, you become aware of any such misconduct by any City employee or if anyone attempts to influence or bring politics into the workplace please advise the City Secretary in writing immediately. We take this issue seriously and we also take false accusations against you seriously and will defend you with the truth.

Finally, despite the refusal of two members of the Commission, Silva and Broussard, to approve payment of City obligations and therefore they voted to SHUT DOWN our government last week; I will not allow that to occur. We will continue business as usual and have already made arrangements for a Special City Commission meeting to overcome this obstruction.

I want you all to know that despite the rumors and best efforts of those who would undermine the City we will never allow that. I have your back!"

## New Channelview Fire Station,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



FIRE STATION #3 has administrative offices and a museum at left, 4 apparatus bays in the center, and Fire Department offices and living quarters on the right.



THIS 1952 MACK FIRE TRUCK has been beautifully restored. It was one of the first fire engines that the CFD used, and now is a centerpiece for parades and the museum bay.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Sierra Ranch Storage at 8720 Sierra Ranch Dr., Houston, TX 77044 on March 26 at 10:00 am. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of the space of Kelly Saski: appliances, boxes, mattresses, gardening supplies, hammock stand, and miscellaneous furniture.

CHIEF RYAN THISTLE AND ADMINISTRATOR JIMMY SUMBERA welcomed guests, gave a history of the CFD, and opened the building for tours and BBQ.

OVER 100 GUESTS were present at the dedication and Open House on Tuesday, and enjoyed BBQ served by the firemen.

## Ballot,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his name and address on it.

Jamal Humphries wouldn't give up, so he then brought his US Selective Service form and his credit union bank statement to city hall, but for the third time he was told his name may not be allowed on the ballot because he still lacked a utility bill with his name and address on it.

The city council met on February 6th and Humphries expressed his frustration to the Mayor, Commissioners and City Attorney and told them of his three trips to city hall and all the documents he'd presented. He stated he had called the Texas Secretary of State (SOS) and was told as long as he was at least 18 years old and a citizen of the city that's all he needed in order to get on the ballot. After making his statement, no city official gave him a reply.

Humphries contacted NC Star writer Allan Jamail and asked him for help and told Jamail, "If you cannot get an assurance that my name will be on the ballot then I'm going to be forced to sue the city and I'm going to have a news conference on the steps of city hall explaining why I'm suing the city."

Jamail then obtained a copy of the city's charter and the city's ordinance and called the Texas Secretary of State (SOS) Election Division. After reading the ordinance to a SOS attorney, Jamail was told the city should not have an ordinance requiring a utility bill in a

person's name with their address listed in the city as a requirement to run for office. The SOS attorney said, "The only requirement to run for office is to be at least 18 years old and a resident of the city. You are not required to have to produce any document to prove residency. Whenever you list your address on the ballot application and sign your name attesting to the fact the information on the form to be accurate and true then that's all that's necessary."

The SOS attorney said the utility bill would be the weakest document used to establish residency if a document was legally allowed to be required. The attorney said, "My daughter is off to college and the utility bills is in my name, this surely would not allow me to use them to prove my address so I could run for office in that city where I do not live."

Furthermore the SOS attorney said, "The city should rescind that ordinance soon, if there's someone who read the utility bill requirement who had wanted to run for office but was misled by the requirement and didn't run because of it, they can sue the city and the election can be thrown out and a new election would be ordered."

At the end of the February 20th meeting City Attorney Robert Collins told Humphries his name will be on the ballot.

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