Let’s Rodeo! Parade, Trail Riders kick it off

North Channel Chamber of Commerce

Monday opening ceremonies led by a Grand Prize winner, Larry Moore, and the closing mat led to the start of the parade. Events leading up to the Parade included Trail Riders arriving at Memorial Park, a Parade parade, a Barbecue cook-off, and a Boots & Socks contest with more than 800 entrants.

The overall champion in the Boots & Socks contest was Operation BBQ Relief. The top trail riding group was Texas Independent Trails, led by Brett Averett.

The Grand Marshal for the parade was Texas Quicksilver, Delbert Watson, riding a horse for the last time. Over 30 Trail Riders and Over 50 groups participated in the event.

The rodeo parade included the traditional “Hoodoo” float, took place on Saturday morning of rodeo weekend.

North Channel Chamber of Commerce will host its Monthly Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at San Jacinto College N., 5800 Uvalde Rd.

Women’s Care Center opens in East Houston

HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast, formerly Bayshore Medical Center, celebrated the opening of its first Women’s Care Center during ceremonies on Feb. 13. The new Women’s Care Center will offer a variety of services, including prenatal and postnatal care, well-women exams, well-woman exams, OB/Prenatal care, and family planning.

The clinic is expected to open to the public by the end of February.

See Women’s Care Center, Page 8

Congresswoman Garcia holds community meeting

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia provides her account of the state of affairs in Washington, D.C. to attendees at her first Community Meeting since being elected in November. Photo by Allan Jamail

The Congresswoman expressed disappointment that President Trump’s immigration policy that border separating very young immigrant children from their parents and in one place 140 kids are kept confined in a small room using “tough issues” that Congress wouldn’t apply a solution to. Garcia said that she didn’t see the point in working with legislators to build a wall that would prevent a shoot-down of future generations of children who can’t get their way on an issue that Congress wouldn’t agree to support them.

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North Shore Mustangs advance to Basketball Regional Semifinals

February 26 – In a low-scoring close game with two of the top ten senior players, the North Shore Mustangs defeated the Pearland Dawson Eagles. Junior Mustang #10 Keiman Benitez’s Mustangs will advance to the Regional Semifinals against the Fort Bend Elkins Knights (Mission City).

The Mustangs have an overall record of 23 wins and 5 losses. The Knights won the season three months ago and are expected to win over North Shore 65 to 56.

The game will be played on a neutral site on Friday, March 1st at 6 PM at the Berry Center of Northwest Houston. Please call 713-573-1111.

North Shore Mustangs vs. Pearland Dawson High School:

Lady Mustangs lose to San Marcos

February 26 – The Lady Mustangs lost to the San Marcos Rattlers 56 to 27.

The Lady Mustangs were led by Senior Capers scoring 2 points and Sophomore Capers scoring 5 points.

Game photo by Allan Jamail

Artist's Showcase

Meet AXL, p3; Diamond Jim, p6; Baytown Hospital p8
World Heritage Student Exchange Program has qualified the Elkins family as a host family for Chiara from Germany. Chiara will be attending Crosby High School for the upcoming school year. Chiara has met all the academic and character qualifications necessary to be accepted as an exchange student by World Heritage and the Elkins family is eagerly awaiting her arrival in August.

World Heritage, a highly respected, nonprofit, public-benefit organization, is dedicated to fostering cultural enrichment and intercultural understanding through youth exchange programs. World Heritage provides students from Europe, Asia, and the Americas the opportunity to spend an exchange experience in the U.S.A. Anyone interested in hosting a student or wishing to obtain more information should contact Jennifer Rhoad at (952) 446-6077, who is the Southern Area Coordinator for World Heritage, or call toll-free 1-800-888-9040 or visit World Heritage’s website at www.whhosts.com.

Crosby Family will host an exchange student next school year

Elkins family is eagerly awaiting the arrival of Chiara, a German exchange student, for the upcoming school year. Chiara has met all the academic and character qualifications necessary to be accepted as an exchange student by World Heritage and the Elkins family is eagerly awaiting her arrival in August.

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Crosby-Huffman Chamber recognizes leaders

CROSBY-MERIDIAN-HUFFMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**Community News**

**Judge Stephens holds Boys Rock 2 Life Skills Camp**

On Sat. Feb. 9 Judge Joe Stephens of Justice of the Peace Court 3-1 hosted his free Boys Rock 2 Life Skills Camp at North Forrest HS. The event welcomed all young men between the grade levels of 7th-12th. Boys Rock 2 is a camp designed to promote positive life skills and community cohesiveness. The young men had the opportunity to meet with local organizations and received information to help them navigate through their futures endeavors. Some of the highlights of the event included a visit from Mayor Sylvester Turner as well as a congress woman Sheila Jackson Lee. Several dedicated community speakers helped to motivate and inspire the young men throughout the day’s events. Judge Stephens ended the day by encouraging the kids to shot for the moon and even if the miss they will still hit the stars.

**Galena Park ISD crowns French Spelling Bee Winner**

On February 22, the top high school competitors gathered together to see who would become the 2018-2019 GPISD French Spelling Bee Champion.

Eighteen students competed through many rounds of competition. Yashley Romero of Galena Park High School was crowned the French Spelling Bee winner! In second place, Adriana Lopez of Galena Park High School and in third place, Cassandra Hernandez of Galena Park High School.

Congratulations, Yashley, Adriana and Cassandra!

**Galena Park ISD crowns French Spelling Bee Winner**

**Jacinto City Night Market Kick-off March 9**

By Allan Jamail

The City of Jacinto City’s Market by Night will kick-off their second year of the Market for the 2019 season. The 2019 season will begin on Saturday, March 9th, from 5 PM to 9 PM and following every 2nd Saturday.

According to Market Chairwoman – Rebecca Mier at the Market they’ll be lots of vendors, live music and curbside food vendors.

Jacinto City is committed to providing a local venue to help create and foster a healthy community through providing the community with direct access to local producers. As well as offering support to local manufacturers, farmers, artists and entrepreneurs.

Local residents with backyard gardens with seasonal produce from their garden may participate in a community booth at no charge, there’s limited booth spaces available.

Available will be fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, honey sales, natural skin care products and quality hand-crafted arts will also be available.

Chairwoman Mier said, “come out and see what we have been up to lately, please take the time to come out this ‘market season’; we would love to see you there! We’ll be located at Jacinto City Town Center plaza located at 1025 Oates Rd. Jacinto City, TX 77029.”

Gardeners and anyone interested in being a vendor must contact Market Chairwoman – Rebecca Mier, email: Marketdays@jacintocity-tx.gov or call (713)-674-8424 or (832) 554-6905. The Market guidelines can be found at www.jacintocity-tx.gov.

**Community Annual Health Fair impacts the Channelview Community**

The Channelview Independent School District hosted the 10th Annual Community Health Fair on February 18, 2019. The goal of the Annual Health Fair was to provide the Channelview Community and staff with resources and education on relevant health topics. Activities included a blood drive, free blood pressure checks, free blood glucose checks, and free flu shots. A total of 48 vendors supported the Health Fair by providing literature and resources to community members. The culminating activity for this memorable event was the Channelview Independent School District Color Run! The Channelview Independent School District strives to provide outreach programs that educate the community on important issues that families are faced with daily,” said Nurse Laura King. “We are incredibly grateful for our vendors who support our vision to empower the Channelview Community.

**Annual Community Health Fair participants were greeted by Grimace, courtesy of McDonald’s and McKinney Restaurant Management, Incorporated.**

**Connections**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**MUSTANG STATE CHAMPS ENTREPRENEURS**

**RED TOP BARBECUE**

**MUSTANGS YOU ARE THE CHAMPIONS**

A Sweetheart Deal DINNER FOR TWO – $39 2-Meat Entree with Sides 2-Drinks (wine, beer, non-alcoholic) Dessert and Carnations

Dine In or Take Out (without alcoholic beverage)


SENATE BILL WOULD RAISE PAY FOR ALL TEACHERS

The proposed formula would tie teacher salaries to how many students a school district has and how much the state spends per student. The idea is that districts with more students and higher costs would get more money for teacher salaries. The Senate bill also includes a provision that would allow districts to use some of their state funding to pay for teacher salaries.

The Senate Finance Committee approved the bill on a 13-0 vote on Feb. 11. The committee recommended that the bill be sent to the full Senate for consideration.

Commissioner Garcia introduces Paid Family Leave Measure

The Texas Commission on Human Rights voted unanimously to approve a new policy that will allow state employees to take up to six weeks of unpaid family leave per year. The policy will go into effect on March 15, 2020.

The new policy is part of Governor Greg Abbott's paid family leave initiative. The governor announced the policy in January of this year.

"This is a new chapter in the history of Texas," Commissioner Garcia said. "This is an important step forward in making sure that our state employees have the same protections and benefits that all Texans do."
Dual Language Two-Way Program to Be Piloted in GCCISD

Geese Creek CISD will pilot a Dual Language Two-Way Program for qualifying students who will be in kindergarten during the 2019-2020 school year. While the program will be held at Bar- lon and Carver next year, any current GCCISD pre- kindergarteners are eligible. If your child is a current GCCISD pre-kindergarten student who demonstrates fluency in one language, either English or Spanish, starting in kindergar- ten, please attend the informational meetings to hear more about the program and how the oppor- tunity to ask questions. A light dinner will be served.

The first meeting took place last Tuesday, Febru- ary 26, in the Harlem Ele- mentary Cafeteria. 5311 17th St., Baytown, TX 77521. The second meeting will be Thursday, February 28, at 5:30 p.m. in the Carv- er Elementary Cafeteria, 650 S. Peart St., Baytown, TX 77520.

Benefits of the Dual Language Two-Way Program include high levels of academic achievement and literacy in both languages, increased cultural sensitiv- ity and empathy, increased confidence and self-esteem and increased future marketability. The goal of the program is to prepare students to gradu- ate college and become biliterate and bicultural.

“We are pleased to offer this opportunity for stu- dents in Goose Creek CISD,” said Pilar Moreno-Recio, director of the ESL/ELL Program. For more information, please contact the Bi- lingual/ELL Department at 281-797-3172 or email pilarmorenorecio@gccisd.net.

Pre-kindergarten students at Harlem Elementary (from left) Miss Madina, Ameere Stevenson, Kyshalee Soto and Ian Rojo enjoy a fun activity.

Jail Break Run features Cop Lovers and heart

The Get Go From Lee College and back.

OBITUARIES

Lawrence Ray McClelland

Lawrence Ray McClelland, 60, of Wallisville, passed away on Saturday, February 9, 2019. He was predeceased by his father, Lawrence Ray McClelland, Sr. and sister-in-law Anna (also known as Daddy Mac, Uncle Ray, Union Land’s Farmhands, and as a suspend- ed crane operator at Armet- Bo, a law firm in Galena Park. Growing up in a military family, he learned to put smiles on faces. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He worked as a truck driv- er for Kellogg in KI Campo and as a suspend- ed crane operator at Armet- Bo in Galena Park. Growing up in a military family, he learned to put smiles on faces.
San Jacinto College’s Maritime program receives national Bellwether Award

San Jacinto College was named the 2019 Bellwether Award recipient, awarded by the Community College Voluntary Association. Focused on local, Dr. Alaila Yener, Associate Vice Chancellor of Continuing Professional Development, Dr. Brenda Hudson, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Brenda Hudson, Vice Chancellor of the Maritime Technology and Training Center, and Dan Hens, Board of Trustees Chair. Photo credit: San Jacinto College.

HOUTON — San Jacinto College’s Maritime program was named the 2019 Bellwether Award recipient, awarded by the Community College Voluntary Association. Focused on local, Dr. Alaila Yener, Associate Vice Chancellor of Continuing Professional Development, Dr. Brenda Hudson, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Brenda Hudson, Vice Chancellor of the Maritime Technology and Training Center, and Dan Hens, Board of Trustees Chair.

"We are thrilled to win the prestigious Bellwether Award," said Dr. Alaila Yener, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives. "We compared for this honor from across the country that are all striving to opportunities for their students and leveraging advantages for employees in their region. San Jacinto College is proud to be the educational provider for mariners beginning their career as well as those returning. The college is committed to our students and having our program recognized nationally is testament to our commitment to our mission."

The Bellwether Awards are an integral part of the Community College Future’s Array — sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Florida — focusing on cutting-edge practices that other colleges might find worthy of replicating. The awards are widely regarded as the nation’s most competitive and prestigious recognition for community colleges, and as presented annually to colleges with outstanding and innovative programs or services, workforce development, institutional programs and services, and planning governance and finance.

Selected from a competitive, nationally recognized field of hundreds of applicants, San Jacinto College’s Maritime program ranks the top 10 in workforce development, integrated public and/or private strategic alliances and partnerships that promote community and economic development by producing workers. "All of San Jacinto College’s Maritime program has played an instrumental part in the nation’s continuing to develop mariners," said John Stauffer, Associate Vice Chancellor of the Maritime Technology and Training Center. "One goal at San Jacinto College Maritime is to provide a solution for a shortage of mariners in the Gulf Coast Region. We are accomplishing that through strong partnerships with our community partners to provide the skilled workforce needed to build a stronger regional economy. Winning this prestigious award was a total team effort."

San Jacinto College’s Maritime Technology and Training Center is home to more than 75 USC-approved courses and three first and only associate degree programs in maritime transportation. Led by uniquely qualified staff of USC-approved Ship Captain, Chief Engineer, Marine and Merchant Marine Officers, these dedicated mariners have more than 20 years of industry experience combined and are committed to shaping the maritime leaders of tomorrow.

Diamond Jim: "A Diamond’s Value & The 4 C’s...Color"”

COLOR: The most valuable diamonds are completely colorless. These diamonds are known as "white" diamonds in jewelry industry parlance. White diamonds are rare, but most possess a slightly yellow or light brown and are sometimes colorless, including yellow, blue, and red diamonds. The less color, the more desirable it becomes. Color can be dramatically more valuable. The "Exactly Perfect of Hope" displays a spectacular array of naturally colored diamonds, including red and orange diamonds. Red diamonds occur in a variety of colors — steel gray, white, blue, yellow, orange, red, green, pink to purple, violet, brown and black. Colored diamonds contain structural defects that cause the coloration. Diamonds are scientifically known as being the most isotropic purest substances. The second most isotropic substance is water.

White diamonds are rare, if you think of "white" industry parlance. "White" diamonds in jewelry are colorless with no hue, or color. Such a diamond is so incredibly rare that even most jewelers will never see one in person during their entire career. The value of a diamond can be affected by chemical impurities and structural defects in the crystal lattice. Depending on the hue and the intensity of a diamond’s coloration, a diamond color can either detract from or enhance its value. For example, most "white" diamonds are discounted in price when more colorless has a detectable, white, intense pink diamonds or blue diamonds (such as the Hope Diamond) can be dramatically more valuable. The "Exact Perfect of Hope" displays a spectacular array of naturally colored diamonds, including red and orange diamonds. Red diamonds occur in a variety of colors — steel gray, white, blue, yellow, orange, red, green, pink to purple, violet, brown and black. Colored diamonds contain structural defects that cause the coloration. Diamonds are scientifically known as being the most isotropic purest substances. The second most isotropic substance is water.

Well educated jewelers with years of experience can usually determine diamond color within the 1 grade. At a professional gemological laboratory such as GIA (Gemological Institute of America), diamonds are color graded in a special light controlled room. Light is used by comparing the subject diamond is either grade controlled stones called "Master Stones". But what color rating is associated with your diamond, enjoy knowing that you have something very special as no two diamonds are exactly the same.

We’re an annual Pantone Jewelers. You’ll find this information helpful to your quest for diamond knowledge. Thank you for reading.

Diamond Jim

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, ascertain, diamond, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelery industry, email jdmills@pineforestjewelry.com
HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast opens Women’s Care Center in East Houston

Community milestone clinic negates “longer and better” in new location, closing post-Harvey gap in women’s health services

Feb. 12, 2019, Pasadena, Texas – Hospital Corporation of America’s (HCA) Houston Healthcare Southeast, in HCA Houston Healthcare affiliated hospital, today opened a third Women’s Care Center occupying 14,865 square feet at 148 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX 77502. The new facility replaces the hospital’s previous clinic at 13311 I-10 East Freeway, which it closed due to Hurricane Harvey damage. Designed specifically as a women’s care clinic, the facility has more than 7,000 square feet larger than the original location, including updated waiting, lab and triage areas for improved patient comfort and care. Additionally, the clinic is twice the size of the original location and offers seven exam rooms, up from six, and additional stations for patients and staff.

HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast already operates two other Women’s Care Centers – one at the Pasadena hospital, occupying 6,713 square feet – and with the addition of this third clinic, serves as a first assist to their surgeon. “It’s a big belief in our model – there is a huge demand for midwife care, in addition to other services such as breastfeeding assistance, and postpartum care – and we’re thrilled to be able to offer these services in a clinic setting, while referring patients to our hospital for Holistic patient needs.”

About HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast’s Women’s Care Centers

Established in 2007, HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast’s Women’s Care Centers provide a variety of other services including: nutrition counseling, lactation support, breastfeeding assistance. All support staff are bilingual and connected to resources, including help applying for Medicaid or CHIP assistance. All support staff are bilingual and connected to resources, including help applying for Medicaid or CHIP assistance.

HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast’s new Women’s Care Center provides a variety of other services including: nutrition counseling, lactation support, breastfeeding assistance, postpartum care and general gynecology.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sylvia Garcia meets,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Community Pleasantville community, Denver Harbor community, I-10 West to McCarty Bayou and the I-10 East Freeway Corridor along the feeder (both north and south) to Uvalde Road.

“While there is a sense of discomfort that occurs due to the damage, it ultimately connected to resources, including help applying for Medicaid or CHIP assistance.”

Linda Kasianowitz, Outreach Manager for the Houston Barrio Board, said the Board has made progress with the planned $5 million for new bike and bike trails with new parks on many of the North Channel area.


NS Rotary hosts Mustang champions & coach Kay

Marta Pilar Fontaine an epitome with the Texas Department of Transportation and progress is being made on the new sidewalk project north of I-10 East Freeway from Normandy to Nola Court. The饲东 (along the feeder (both north and south) to Uvalde Road).

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INroducing our new outpatient center

At Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, we continue to expand our services to meet the needs of our growing community. Our new planned-outpatient ambulatory center provides comprehensive services in one convenient location, including:

- Breast Care Center – Mammography and Bone Density
- Center for Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
- Clinical Training Center
- Imaging Services – MRI, CT, X-ray and Ultrasound
- Laboratory Services
- Occupational Health Clinic
- Outpatient Surgery Center
- Physical and Occupational Therapy, including an Outdoor Sports Medicine Field
- Primary Care Clinic

Call 281.428.2273 or visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown to schedule an appointment.