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

Jacinto City Night Market set for Saturday, Sept. 14

The Jacinto City Night Market will hold another session this Saturday, September 14 from 5pm to 9pm at the TownCenter on Chalenger Drive.

Visitors can expect many vendors showing crafts, jewelry, baked goods, artwork, library books, perfume, candles, and much more.

In addition, there will be music by a guitarist, and a first class food truck with many special items.

Market Director Rebecca Mier has put together a unique and special event, and said that with the weather cooling off, many more people are expected to attend.

Jacinto City Night Market is held every second Saturday of the month.

Rotary Washer Tournament

Saturday, September 14 from 2pm - 6pm the Highlands Rotary Club will hold their 13th Annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament. At Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street, Highlands 77562.

Awards and Prize Money for the first 3 places. \$50 entry fee. 832-465-8620

Harris County Clerk's Office to open in North Shore Sept. 18

The Harris County Clerk, Diane Trautman, will open a permanent office in the Courthouse Annex on Wallisville, starting Sept. 18 with a ribbon cutting at 2pm.

The convenience of a North Shore office has long been sought by residents, who need services such as marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, and other real property records.

Grant will allow expansion of East Harris County bus service

Service to include Channelview, Cloverleaf, and Sheldon and connect with La Porte, McNair, Highlands, Crosby and Baytown

Public meetings set for input from riders

Harris County Transit Services has received a \$3.8 million dollar Community Development Disaster Recovery Block Grant (CDBG-DR) to expand its fixed route bus service to some of the communities hardest hit by floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey.

Five new routes are proposed to specifically serve individuals in areas damaged by Hurricane Harvey. They will serve the communities of Channelview, Cloverleaf and Sheldon

with approximately 70 miles of additional service for a three-year period. Service start-up will require public meetings take place first. The public is asked to participate and voice their needs.

Two of the three planned public meetings have been set as follows:

- Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Leon Grayson Empowerment Center, 13828 Corpus Christi Street, Houston TX 77015
- Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 6:00 PM to

See Transit Service, Page 3



Harris County Transit bus.

Jacinto City's food distribution day brings out hundreds

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – On August 23rd hundreds of area residents came monthly on the fourth Friday to get free food at Jacinto City's distribution point at the city's Town Hall located at 1025 Oates Road.

Adele Brady, Director of Marketing and Communications at Houston Food Bank (HFB), said their nonprofit organization supplies the food to their Jacinto City Community Partner and a network of 1,500 other Community Partners. "Last year we provided access to 104 million nutritious meals in 18 counties in southeast Texas that included food pantries, soup kitchens, social service providers, and schools," Brady said.

Mayra Loera, Capacity and Operations Manager for the HFB encourages anyone interested in set-



Volunteers Oziel Salinas and his wife Irasema Salinas, Keep Jacinto City Clean Vice-President and Lupe Gomez handing out free food.

ting up a new distribution point as a Community Partner or to receive food assistance help can visit info@houstonfoodbank.org.

Cybelle Cerda, HFB Capacity and Operations Coordinator was at Jacinto City Friday, she merely asked recipients to provide their name and zip code, "I don't ask for identification nor do I check for eligibil-

ty. We make about 38 distributions each month like this," she said.

Lon Squyres, City Manager for Jacinto City said, "the city doesn't pay for the food given away nor do we charge the HFB for using our building."

See Food Distribution, page 8

Manuel Escalante new Principal at GPISD' Woodland Acres Middle School

By Allan Jamail

The Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) announced for the 2019-2020 school year Manuel Escalante as the new principal at Woodland Acres Middle School.

Serving as Assistant Principal with Escalante is, Lakeisha Washington and Diego Merino and Sandra C. Andrade-Reed, Counselor.

Principal Escalante has 20 years of experience as an administrator and educator. He's been selected as Teacher of the Year, State finalist for the HEB Principal of the Year award and numerous other recognitions.

Escalante said, "I served as an educator in the Channelview School District for sixteen years and four years in the Laredo School District. My last two years there I served as the principal of JC Martin



Photo by Allan Jamail
Manuel Escalante, Woodland Acres Middle School Principal welcomes parents and visitors to the school.

Jr. Elementary School in which the school became one of only thirteen schools to receive the prestigious 2019 National Blue Ribbon nomination for exceptional performance in closing the achievement gaps."

Principal Escalante has a bachelor's degree from

See Escalante, Page 6

Sheldon ISD celebrates opening of new stadium



School Officials and community members at ribbon cutting of new Sheldon ISD stadium.

Sheldon ISD celebrated its second ribbon cutting in two weeks as the new Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium was officially unveiled to the entire community on Wednesday.

Superintendent King Davis thanked everyone

for coming out to celebrate this special occasion, which was part of a \$285 million bond package voters approved in May 2016.

"This wonderful new 10,000-seat stadium will start a new chapter for our coaches, athletes and fans,"

Davis added.

Latricia Archie, Sheldon ISD School Board President, was also excited to talk about the new facility.

See New Stadium, Page 3

San Jacinto Pilot Club installs new leadership

The San Jacinto Pilot Club installed their new officers for the 2019-2020 Pilot year in June. Co-Pilot Jerry Fallin was the installing officer for the evening's banquet, held at Iguana Joe's in Crosby.

Officers for the 2019-2020 year, which begins July 1 are: Julie Fallin, President; Joan Van Fleet and Carolyn Roberts, Co-Secretary; and Karen Westbrooks, Treasurer. We wish all these officers the very best of luck this Pilot year.

The San Jacinto Pilot Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Amegy Bank building on I-10 (near Federal Rd.). Membership is open to men and women in the community.

San Jacinto Pilot Club is a part of Pilot International, a 501(c)3 organization which is a community-based volunteer service



San Jacinto Pilot Club's recent officer installation. Pictured in the photo (L-R): Karen Westbrooks, Julie Fallin, Joan Van Fleet, Carolyn Roberts.

organization founded in 1921 in Macon, GA on the principles of "Friendship and Service." The name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day who represented leadership and guidance. Pilots Clubs are found across the U.S., the Bahamas, Japan, Liberia and South Africa. Pilots carry out their mission to "Do

More, Care More and Be More" by providing financial and hands-on support for national and local initiatives in keeping with its causes of youth development & leadership; brain safety & fitness; and caring for families in times of need.

For more information visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com

Texas Renaissance Festival King and Queen proclaim a celebration for 45th Festival Anniversary

2019 Festival Opens Oct. 5 with New Entertainment, Popular Attractions and Nine Themed Weekends

HOUSTON, Aug. 27, 2019 (GLOBE NEWS-WIRE) -- The Texas Renaissance Festival's King and Queen have issued a decree that the 45th season of the nation's largest and most acclaimed Renaissance-themed event will be more entertaining than ever. Located 50 miles from Houston, this year's Texas Renaissance Festival opens Oct. 5 and runs nine weekends, in addition to Thanksgiving Friday through Dec. 1. Revelers will delight in food and drink from around the world, 19 stages of entertainment and music acts, and games and rides for patrons of all ages. Hundreds of vendors from across the country will also sell their wares on the festival grounds.

The 45th season will feature nine themed weekends, including Oktoberfest, 1001 Dreams, Barbarian Invasion, Pirate Adventure, All Hallows Eve, Heroes and Villains, Highland Fling and Celtic Christmas. A special themed weekend on Nov. 2-3, Return to the Renaissance, celebrates the festival's 45th anniversary and takes a nostalgic look back at the festival's beginnings.

Festivalgoers can join in the merriment of new entertainment this season with Opal and Jade, a bawdy singing sister act, and Full Armored Combat, where knights battle each other for glory in full suits of medieval armor with weaponry. Returning to the stage at the Cloisters and the Green is the Celtic musical family the Dublin Harpers.

New games added this year include the Cliffhangers Challenge, which tests participants' strength and endurance, while DaVinci Arcade focuses on intelligence with science-based period games.

Eight new vendors will be onsite, including food vendor Lion's Share Tapas. Dragon and Unicorn Coffee will offer hand-roasted



coffee beans and cold brews. Locally based Blazn Brazen Galleries' metal sculptures will also be on display. Handmade daggers, swords, pole-arms and pole-axes from Creations, children's swords and costumes from Khalid Medieval, and hand-crafted, Texas stone oil lamps from Candlelight Rocks will also make their debut at the festival this year. Rounding out the new vendors are the Flying Hun, showcasing Asian-inspired archery, and The Holiday Shoppe, featuring hand-made Christmas décor.

Several new attractions that premiered last year will return, including a pub crawl, where revelers can join a guided tour through the festival village while enjoying unique beer or ciders at each stop. Other offerings include: The 1574 Founder's Club, an exclusive concierge club available for season and day memberships; Tea and Strumpets for twice-daily tea service and wine-based cocktails; full-service spirits at the Barbarian Inn; and Great Scot Scotch Tastings.

"We are thrilled to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Texas Renaissance Festival this season," said Joe Bailey, CEO and General Manager, Texas Renaissance Festival. "We look forward to continuing the magical enchantment that can only be found within the gates of the festival."

The King and Queen invite lords and ladies of the realm to purchase a Royal Season Pass to commemorate the 45th festival anniversary. The pass includes admission to all 19 days of the festival, preferred parking access, a free souvenir program, free admission to the festival's After Dark venue for

adults 21 and older, and discounts for camping and the Dragonslayer gift shop. The Royal Season Pass is available online until Sept. 30, 2019 for \$299.95 plus taxes and fees.

Reduced priced tickets for this year's festival are available in advance at Costco and Groupon. Tickets are also available online at TexRenFest.com and at the gate for \$34 per person for ages 13 and older and \$17 per person for ages five to 12. Children under four are always free, while children under 12 are admitted free to the festival every Sunday. General parking is free. Paid parking options include preferred parking for \$15 in advance plus processing fees or \$20 at the gate and valet parking for \$25 in advance plus processing fees or \$35 at the gate.

About Texas Renaissance Festival

The Texas Renaissance Festival is the nation's largest and most acclaimed Renaissance-themed event. Established in 1974, the event attracts more than half a million visitors each year to its 55-acre recreation of a 16th century European village. This immersive experience features world-renowned live entertainment, works by master artists and craftspeople, award-winning food and drink, hand-powered rides and games, and more than 100 interactive characters during its nine themed weekends from Oct. 5 through Dec. 1, 2019. The festival and adjacent Fields of New Market Campground are located in Todd Mission, Texas, 50 miles northwest of downtown Houston. For more information, visit TexRenFest.com.

I Believe in Jesus; Now What?

Great question. Believing in Jesus is not the end, but the beginning of the Christian life. These are some basics:

1. Find a good church and attend every Sunday. Get to know the people.
2. Get baptized. Believer's baptism by immersion is a picture of your salvation and a testimony of your stand for Christ.
3. Read a chapter in the Bible every day. A good place to begin is in the Gospel of John. Get a good English translation like the NKJV.
4. Pray. About big things, little things. God wants to hear from His children.
5. Give to the Lord and His church.
6. Tell others about Jesus. Keep Jesus first in your life.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. -Jesus; Matthew 6:33

You are invited to Northside every Sunday at 11am & 6pm. Services last about an hour, dress is casual.
-David R. Brumbelow, Northside Baptist Church, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. nsbchighlands.org

Humane Education books presented to GCCISD



Stephanie Long (middle), district leader volunteer for The Humane Society of the United States, presents 35 books, "The Life of Gus – The Dog with the Big Head," by Sandee Roquemore-Maxwell, to Christi Leath (left), director of advanced academics and special projects, and Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, for Goose Creek CISD elementary campuses. The book is based on the true story of Gus, the street dog from Houston who is now the ambassador for strays worldwide. It is their hope that teaching children about being kind to others and to animals will lead to taking that kindness and compassion with them into their adult years. Roquemore-Maxwell also is working with an illustrator to create coloring books for distribution primarily in areas where pet owners do not have access to care for their pets. Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

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--Jeremiah 17:14

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TxDOT: PLAN A SOBER RIDE THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND

TxDOT warns drivers about consequences of drinking and driving

HOUSTON – On past Labor Day weekends, hundreds of impaired crashes have occurred in Texas, resulting in fatalities on our roads. As many Texans make travel plans to celebrate the remaining days of summer, the Texas Department of Transportation’s “Plan While You Can” campaign reminds them to make a plan for a sober ride before the festivities begin.

“The long weekend should be an opportunity to enjoy extra time with family and friends, rather than experience a senseless and preventable tragedy that ruins the lives of everyone involved because of drinking and driving,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “If you

plan to drink alcohol this weekend, please plan ahead for a sober ride. It can save lives.”

During last year’s Labor Day holiday weekend* in Texas, there were 328 crashes involving drivers who were driving under the influence of alcohol. Those crashes killed eight people and seriously injured another 25.

The “Plan While You Can” campaign includes a statewide tour featuring the “Plan to Win” virtual reality game where participants are part of an immersive trivia game. The experience poses questions related to drinking and driving and also demonstrates the consequences of impaired driving. Players avoid “jail” by answering

questions correctly, and winners progress to a waiting virtual taxi to receive a safe and sober ride. The experience will visit 11 Texas cities through September.

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. Find alternatives to drinking alcohol 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
- In addition to the penalties for drunk driving, as

of Sept. 1, 2019, the consequences for leaving the scene of a crash resulting in the death of a person will be increased. A conviction could lead to up to 120 days of community supervision.

“Plan While You Can” is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while on the road, such as going the speed limit, wearing a seatbelt, never drinking and driving or texting and driving. November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths.

GPISD Board recognizes Patti Bell and the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region



Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized Patti Bell of ‘Dream It. Do It’ Southeast Texas and the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region at the August Board Meeting. Ms. Bell was honored for her outstanding support and commitment to the promotion and continuous improvement of GPISD’s Career & Technical Education (CTE) program.

Ms. Bell has supported the GPISD Manufacturing and Distribution & Logistics program by actively participating as a member on the CTE Advisory Committee, attending multiple student career fairs, serving as a guest speaker on career panels and in the classrooms. She has also hosted events that educate

our staff on the opportunities available to students in the manufacturing, petrochemical, logistics, and other related industries along the Houston Ship Channel. Ms. Bell provides a wealth of information to our staff and students related to our regional economy that assists the department in making decisions which impact students. As a result of her passion for leading and serving, Ms. Bell has positively impacted many students’ perception of manufacturing, influencing them to take advantage of careers and education in high-skill, high-growth, and often best-paying industries across the Gulf Coast region.

Thank you, Ms. Bell!

Parent Volunteer Recognized by Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees

During the August Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park I.S.D. recognized Renee Cantu for being an exceptional volunteer at North Shore Elementary, Cobb Sixth Grade Campus and North Shore Senior High.

Mrs. Cantu is a valued parent volunteer who is eager to assist with any and every task at every campus her children attend, and even those they no longer attend! She has continued her volunteer work in the PTA at North Shore Elementary even after her children no longer attend school there. At



Cobb and North Shore Senior High, she has helped

with band activities and has assisted with whatever

tasks need to be completed. Mrs. Cantu also assisted with the Brighter Bites program at North Shore Elementary, which provides free produce to our students and their families. She has set up tables, bagged the produce, sorted it for distribution and delivered the produce to classroom teachers for their students to take home.

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank Mrs. Cantu for giving her time and effort to North Shore Elementary, Cobb and North Shore Senior High.

Transit Service,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

8:00 PM, Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview, Texas 77530

Harris County Transit bus routes have served the East Harris County Community since 2007 with the launching of the Baytown Park and Ride and routes in Baytown. Harris County Transit Services addresses the needs of Harris County residents outside of the METRO service area. The proposed new routes will expand Harris County Transit by an estimated 53 percent. Routes are expected to begin in early 2020.

New Stadium,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I have lived in the Sheldon community all my life,” Archie said, “and words cannot express how excited I am that many of our athletes will now have an opportunity to compete in this new stadium.”

Other speakers at Wednesday’s event included Board Member Ken Coleman who, at the time of the project’s construction, was the school board president. Also, C. E. King High School Principal Dr. Keith Brooks and Sheldon ISD Athletic Director Derek Fitzhenry addressed the crowd.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony was the high school’s “Meet the Panthers” event where students and student athletes were recognized.

Lastly, the evening was capped off by a showing of the timeless sports classic, “Rudy,” on the stadium’s new videoboard.

Davis said the district will have its third and final ribbon cutting of the school year in January 2020 when the new C. E. King High School has been officially turned over to district personnel.



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OPINION PAGE

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by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty – About Medicare and Social Security

Dear Rusty: I know that when a person turns 65 he or she must enroll in Medicare. I have been informed that the charge for this would be deducted from the Social Security benefit, if it has been claimed. Otherwise, this will be another payment for my medical care, in addition to my existing coverage. Please explain the relationship between the two programs and considerations in timing the claim for the SSA benefit. Signed: Frugal Senior

Dear Frugal Senior: If you are already collecting Social Security benefits you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare about 3 months prior to your 65th birthday but, if not, enrollment can be done by contacting Social Security directly. You must enroll in Medicare at age 65, unless you have other “creditable” healthcare coverage (such as from an employer) or you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty for enrolling after expiration of your initial enrollment period (your “IEP”). Your “IEP” is a seven-month window which starts 3 months before the month you turn 65 and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65. You should check with your employer to make sure your existing coverage is “creditable” and, if it is, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as that other coverage ends and thus avoid a late enrollment penalty for not enrolling in Medicare Part B during your IEP. When your employer coverage ends, you’ll enter a “special enrollment period” during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B (and Part D, which is prescription drug coverage) without incurring a late enrollment penalty.

Medicare Part A (hospitalization coverage) is free if you are also eligible for Social Security benefits (you don’t have to be collecting SS, only eligible). Medicare Part B provides coverage for doctors and outpatient services and there is a premium associated with it (\$135.50 for 2019). If you have other creditable coverage you can avoid paying the Part B premium by not enrolling during your IEP. If your existing plan also provides creditable prescription drug coverage, you can also defer enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan until your employer coverage ends,

at which time you will have 63 days to take a Part D plan without incurring a late enrollment penalty. FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect SS benefits after you are 65 years old, and since Part A is free for anyone eligible for Social Security, there is little reason to not enroll in Part A at age 65 (unless you have a Health Savings Account (HSA), in which case there are special rules to consider).

Although you enroll in Medicare via Social Security, they are two very separate and distinct programs. Normally, if you are collecting Social Security benefits your Medicare Part B premium is automatically deducted from your Social Security benefit. But if you wish to delay collecting Social Security and want to enroll in Medicare Part B, you can do so and request alternate Medicare Part B premium payment arrangements, for which there are several options.

As for the timing of your claim for Social Security benefits, you should evaluate your need for the money, your current health and your expected longevity. If you don’t need the money now and expect to live to at least average life expectancy (about 87 for women and 84 for men) then delaying your claim for SS as long as possible will yield you the highest monthly benefit amount as well as the most in lifetime SS benefits. For each year you delay claiming Social Security beyond your full retirement age you’ll get an additional 8% on your monthly benefit, and you could get as much as 32% more (depending on your FRA) at age 70. Age 70 is when your benefit would reach maximum so you shouldn’t wait beyond age 70 to claim Social Security.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website or email us.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Not Popular

I was not popular in high school. Everyone says this. I now realize that no one—not even the most popular person in high school—self-identifies as popular. Lately I’ve been getting a lot of Facebook friend requests from people I scarcely knew in high school. I have a 40th class reunion coming up next year and I’ve been getting friend requests from people who, I am quite sure, would not have recognized me walking down the hall in high school. In their defense, I was part of a very large class and I think the divisions and subdivisions were almost necessary to find any sense of belonging in my high school. But I still think it’s odd to receive requests from folks who, I am quite sure, were convinced I was not cool forty years ago.

It’s almost made me wonder if I’ve become popular—at long last.

I guess this is possible. I’ve always been kind of a late bloomer. Neither of my parents would say they were popular (I think, objectively, that was probably true) so we had no family template for it.

My younger sister was not especially popular either. When her daughter, Isabelle, started junior high and was immediately invited to parties by students her age and older, my sister called me, in alarm. “My daughter is popular!” my sister told me. “I have no idea how to deal with this!”

Unlike Isabelle, I never understood the rules in high school: how we were supposed to know intuitively what to do and what to wear and what music to listen to. My friends in high school tended to be the geeky ones. We avoided class assemblies by ducking into an unused janitor’s closet. (It was a big school. It was a big closet.)

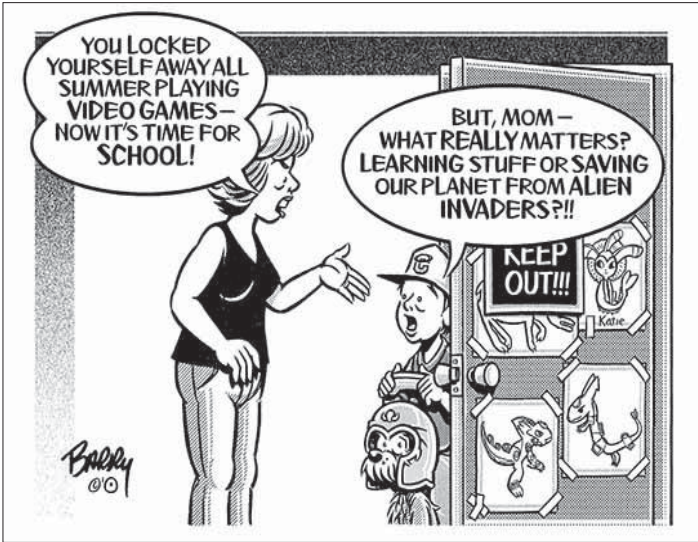
I remember I wore red unions suits with skirts and long silk scarves to class. I listened to ten-year-old music when I wasn’t listening to my parents’ public radio station. I wasn’t invited to dances, but I don’t ever recall feeling sorry for myself. It was just how things were and I knew—even then—high school would not last forever.

But today, the popular folks don’t seem any different from anyone else. They have jobs and families and the occasional troubles. The super-buff football player is a little less buff these days. The cheerleader with a dozen prom options now just looks like someone’s mom—or grandma.

And those geeky friends of mine seem to be doing just fine. Most of them turned out to be good at computers or higher education or something that wasn’t very cool in high school. It’s fun to see the interesting lives they are now leading.

I’m awfully glad we are not destined to be the person we were at seventeen for the rest of our lives. I’m also glad I can still be evolving forty years later. But it is still odd to think, all these years later, of the seemingly impermeable divide that used to exist between the popular folks and the rest of us.

My husband, Peter, wasn’t a popular kid either. He was skinny and didn’t play sports and looked young for his age. His sisters were beautiful and athletic with a constantly revolving set of suitors. Peter was the youngest and says it didn’t hurt to have popular older sisters. They kind of looked out for him and he is still grateful for that. He mentioned this one day to his sister, Lori. “Oh no!” Lori protested. “I wasn’t popular!” “Uh huh,” I thought. Point proven. Till next time, Carrie



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

New Texas Safety Commission meets for the first time

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Aug. 22 hosted the first meeting of the Texas Safety Commission, pulling together a group of lawmakers, educators, advocates, community leaders and public safety experts.

Created Aug. 19 by the governor, the commission is tasked with developing “an immediate action plan to provide community healing, combat the rise of extremist groups and hateful ideologies, keep guns out of the hands of deranged individuals, and combat domestic terrorism in Texas.”

“It is imperative that Texas develop solutions that not only make our state a better place, but most importantly a safer place. Our starting point began today, with the process of exploring all avenues and reviewing all facts to determine how we can prevent another tragedy like the shooting in El Paso from occurring again,” Abbott said.

“I am grateful for the insight and expertise of those who participated in the Texas Safety Commission meeting today, and I look forward to our continued work as we pursue ideas that will keep Texas safe,” he added.

Present for the first meeting were: Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen; El Paso-area lawmakers Sen. Jose Rodriguez and Reps. Mary Gonzales, Cesar Blanco, Joe Moody and Art Fierro. Also, Senate State Affairs Committee Chair and Senate President Pro Tem Joan Huffman of Houston; Rep. Phil King of Weatherford; Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw, and many other key state employees and private citizens.

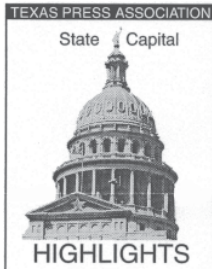
CYBER ATTACK HITS CITIES

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) on Aug. 20 announced that 22 local governmental entities across Texas were victims of an Aug. 16 “ransomware attack.” The department said evidence points to a “single threat actor.”

A host of state and federal agencies are investigating the attack. State of Texas systems and networks were not impacted, according to the DIR.

To enhance cybersecurity, the DIR is recommending that public and private organizations:

- Keep software patches and antivirus tools up to date;
- Create strong unique passwords that are



- changed regularly;
- Enable multi-factor authentication, especially for remote logins;
 - Modernize legacy systems and ensure software is as current as possible;
 - Limit the granting of administrative access; and
 - Perform regular, automated backups and keep the backups segregated.

HUGHS IS SECRETARY OF STATE

Ruth Ruggero Hughes, chair of the Texas Workforce Commission for the past year, is Texas’s new secretary of state, Gov. Abbott announced Aug. 19.

The appointment took effect immediately. The office became vacant when the Texas Senate did not confirm the appointment of David Whitley, who served as secretary of state from Dec. 17, 2018, to May 27, 2019.

In her new post, Hughes serves as chief election officer for Texas, assisting county election officials and ensuring the uniform application and interpretation of election laws throughout Texas. The secretary of state’s office is the repository for certain business and commercial records and publishes government rules and regulations and

commissions notaries public. The secretary also serves as keeper of the state seal and attester to the governor’s signature on official documents.

In her new role, Hughes also will serve as senior advisor and liaison to the Governor for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs and as chief international protocol officer for Texas.

TEXAS NOTES SOLD QUICKLY

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 21 announced that the sale of \$8 billion in Texas Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes received a net interest rate of 1.34 percent.

The Comptroller’s office received 67 bids worth \$22.77 billion, 2.85 times the amount offered for sale. Notes sold on Aug. 21 will be repaid on Aug. 27, 2020, Hegar said.

Money from the sale of the notes is used to help fund expenditures such as public-school payments made early in the fiscal year, before the arrival of tax revenues later in the year.

Anti-litter effort begins
The Texas Department of Transportation on Aug. 20 announced that its “Don’t mess with Texas®” campaign and Buc-ee’s, a convenience store chain, are teaming up to fight litter in the Lone Star State.

Billboards along major travel routes are already reminding drivers to keep trash inside their cars until it can be properly disposed of at Buc-ee’s stores across Texas.

Those who litter can face a fine starting at \$500 and up to \$2,000, TxDOT said.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Gov. Abbott releases report highlighting progress on school safety initiatives in Texas

AUSTIN - August 27, 2019 – Governor Greg Abbott released the Texas School Safety Update report highlighting the progress made to keep students and teachers safe at school. The report provides an update on efforts by the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and state agencies to implement recommendations made in the School Safety Action Plan released on May 30, 2018 and the subsequent update in August 2018.

"Because the safety of our students in Texas classrooms today is a top priority, I made school safety an emergency item in the 86th Legislative Session — and state leaders took substantial steps to deliver on this priority," said Governor Abbott. "I am grateful for the bi-partisan efforts of legislators that led to significant improvements in enhancing the safety of Texas schools, expanding students' access to mental health resources, and increasing support for teachers facing classroom challenges. As we look to the possibilities that a new school year may bring, school administrators, parents, teachers, and lawmakers must continue the conversation on school safety and continue to make the effort to keep our students safe in an affirming environment that strives for excellence and growth."

Summary of the report: Preventing Threats In Advance

- The Mental Health First Aid program experienced a 37% increase in the number of public school district employees and school resource officers trained in fiscal year (FY) 2018 compared to FY 2017, and over 10,000 school personnel were trained in FY 2019.
- Since August 2018, the Texas State School Safety Center (TxSSC) has held seven threat assessment workshops with 425 participants, and will host seven more workshops this August.

- The 2020-21 state budget provides \$5 million to Texas Tech Health Sciences Center for the Telemedicine Intervention Triage and Referral (TWITR) Project, a model for identifying students at risk for committing school violence and intervening with those students before acts of violence occur.

- Senate Bill 11 provides districts with \$100 million in funding for school based mental health centers, the hiring of counselors, and other mental health needs, and provides \$99 million in funding for the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium.

- Seven federally funded fusion centers have been established in Texas, which coordinate with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to identify, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal and terrorist acts.

- Since the inception of the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) iWatch Texas App, there have been over 8,879 downloads. This app is a tool for citizens to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal, terrorist, or school safety-related threats.

Making Schools Safer and Agency Response

- There are 162 in Texas schools providing office space to DPS officers, and 265 DPS troopers are stationed in Texas schools.
- Texas increased the number of school marshals by 325% in the last year, and House Bill 1374 removed the restriction on the number of school marshals that can be appointed per campus.
- Under Senate Bill 11, school districts have access to \$100 million for infrastructure improvements over the next biennium, including but not limited to campus-wide active shooter alarm systems, vehicle barriers, and metal detectors at school entrances.
- Since June 2018, TxSSC

has delivered 17 workshops to over 600 participants on school safety planning. Additionally, 603 school employees have received Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Method training, and 156 Texas high school students have been trained in emergency response and preparedness.

- Senate Bill 11 requires school districts that receive a bomb threat or terroristic threat to notify parents, and requires a district's emergency plan to include immediate notification of parents when a threat occurs.

- TxSSC has worked with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to provide over seven different kinds of safety training to 4,321 people since May 2018.

- The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has been awarded \$2 million in federal grants for schools to implement threat assessment and mental health training programs.

The passage of House Bill 1, Senate Bill 11, and Senate Bill 500 have led to nearly \$339 million in school safety funding for various agencies and entities, including HHSC, TEA, Texas State University, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Additionally, the Department of Public Safety has released a detailed breakdown of their statewide school safety initiative actions over the past year. Highlights of the document include:

- DPS has made over 10,000 school visits since June 2018.
- 91% of DPS commissioned personnel have been trained in active shooter response.
- 56% of DPS commissioned personnel have completed Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training, which has provided skills and equipment utilized to save the lives of no less than 15 people in 2019.

★

HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS



Famed surgeon Dr. Agris tells of his work at Rotary

HIGHLANDS – Dr. Joe Agris is world renowned for his work repairing cleft lips and other abnormalities in children in underdeveloped countries.

In Houston, he is known for being part of the team with TV Personality Marvin Zindler as they travelled the globe providing this service for free.

Agris gave a talk at last week's Highlands



Rotary president Sheila McDonald presents a check to the Agris-Zindler Childrens fund.

Rotary luncheon, about his surgical work, and also about his "adventures" in the areas around Pakistan and Afghanistan. His stories are detailed in four books he has written, including one where he tells of meeting and treating the infamous Osama bin Laden.

Rotarians were enthralled with the tales, as Agris is quite a storyteller.

Rotary's annual Washer Tournament set Sep. 14

HIGHLANDS – The Rotary Club is all set to hold their 13th annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament, on Saturday, September 14th.

The event is open to the public, as well as all Rotarians. It will be held at Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street. 2 person teams must register by 1:30 that day, and the cost to play is \$50. Awards include trophies and cash prizes, and competition is fierce.

Rotary is also looking for sponsors, individuals or companies. Sponsorships vary from \$100 to \$500.

Monies raised by the tournament go to the Rotary International Foundation, to be used for fighting polio, and half of the money is returned for a community project.



Champion washer throwers compete each year for the honor of winning, plus a cash prize to the top 3 teams. Almost 50 teams, or 100 throwers, competed in the all-day tourney. The public is welcome to enter. You must be present by 1:30 on Saturday before the tournament.



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 will hold two (2) public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 4.87 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds the lower of the rollback tax rate or the effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The FIRST PUBLIC HEARING will be held on September 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., at Crosby Fire Station No. 2, 123 Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, Texas 77532.

The SECOND PUBLIC HEARING will be held on September 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., at Crosby Fire Station No. 2, 123 Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, Texas 77532.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Bob Boyles, Raymond St. Julian, Sr., Randy Foster, Derek Elkins and Kevin Pipes
AGAINST: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 last year was \$139,199 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.04833 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$67.27 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 this year is \$144,168 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.04768 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$68.74 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.05000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$72.08 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

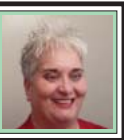


Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for September?"

SAPPHIRE
When hearing the word Sapphire many people immediately envision a stunning violet-blue gemstone because the word “Sapphire” is Greek for blue. For centuries, the Sapphire has been referred to as the ultimate blue gemstone. Since Ancient times the Blue Sapphire represented a promise of honesty, loyalty, purity and trust. To keep with this tradition Sapphires are one of the most popular engagement gemstones today.
Sapphire is found in many parts of the world, but the most prized Sapphires are from Myanmar (Burma), Kashmir and Sri Lanka. Sapphires with highly saturated violet-blue color and “velvety” or “sleepy” transparency are more rare than other sapphire colors. The purer the blue of the Sapphire, the greater the price. However, many people find that the darker hues of Sapphire can be just as appealing.
Sapphires are not only blue, they come in almost every color of the rainbow:

pink, yellow, orange, peach, and violet colors. The most sought-after color fancy Sapphire is the rare and beautiful Padparadscha: a pink-orange corundum with a distinctive salmon color reminiscent of a tropical sunset. These ultra-rare, ultra-expensive stones are among the most coveted gems in the world.
Really, the only color you won’t find termed a “Sapphire” is red, because red sapphire is called Ruby. For a more in-depth look a Sapphires, Diamonds and other gem stones, visit is online at PineforestJewelry.com.
Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” 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.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Consistently Committed

As I look around, I see many former students from San Jacinto College North in the community. Some graduated and transferred to a four year institution and went on to reach success. Some students graduated with their Associate degree and went into the work force. Some students entered and had to take remedial classes before they could move on to credit classes. Some of those individuals who came in to enroll ended up discouraged after taking placement tests and never enrolled in classes.
Along the way, these individuals had a variety of backgrounds and a larger variety of dreams. Each one of these people who came in contact with my former coworker, Theresa, saw a smile.
For the past 25 years one of the most consistent sights at the North Campus, has been the beautiful smile of Theresa Harris Powell. She started her journey in the Admissions Office and later transferred to the Testing Office. She moved over to the Human Resources Office for a couple of years but her heart was to come back to the campus. And when she arrived, she landed exactly where she needed to be, in the Health Sciences Division. She worked with a diverse group of instructors, administrators, fellow staff members and students from every walk of life.
Theresa brought joy into every office and into every situation. As students an encouraging word, there was Theresa. During the time that I worked with

her, both parents passed away and at both Homegoing Celebrations, you could tell where she got the loving spirit. She always had the support of her sisters as well as her husband when she faced what others would have considered “dark days” due to her journey with cancer. She had the courage to share her story with others several times at Cancer Awareness events on campus. Coworkers and students alike would be mesmerized by her strength. She never let the illness overcome her attitude.
She and her husband continued to work hard and prepare for their only child to go to college. When others would talk about the financial struggles or the hardships of parenting, you never heard anything negative from Theresa. Again, she was an encourager to everyone. Her faith saw her through multiple reorganizations at the college and countless changes in coworkers. Theresa remained the hard working team member who smiled and would remind you that God was in control.
This is a bittersweet week. Theresa is being honored on August 29 with a Retirement Reception. Such a great loss of wisdom, courage and support to the campus, yet such a well-deserved blessing to be able to retire and spend the future enjoying her family and continuing to serve God with every ounce of love. Congratulations Theresa, you deserve every blessing that comes your way.

San Jacinto Pilot Club Selects Club Ambassador

At their August meeting, the San Jacinto Pilot Club honored the Pilot Ambassador for their club. They selected Julie Fallin, President, as their Ambassador this year. To celebrate Founders’ Month, clubs honor one or more members by designating her/him as the Pilot International Club Ambassador. This candidate should:

- Be active in an assigned role within the club.
 - Promote and support Pilot International and its activities.
 - Be active in a project that addresses one of Pilot International’s core areas of service focus: Anchor Clubs (Youth Development & Leadership), Brain Safety & Fitness, and/or Caring for Families in Times of Need.
 - Be faithful in attending meetings and give generously of his/her time to assist with service projects and fundraising activities.
- The San Jacinto Pilot Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Amegy Bank building on I-10 (near Federal Rd.). Membership is open to men and women in the community.



OBITUARIES

Rosemary Elaine Bauer

Rosemary Elaine Bauer, 60, passed on from this life on August 23, 2019.
She was born on July 30, 1959 in Chilton, Wisconsin to parents Orville and Louisa (Knaus) Meier. Rosemary loved her family dearly, especially her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and family dogs. She enjoyed spending time in the kitchen baking and cooking. She liked the festive holiday seasons, specifically Halloween and Christmas, due to all the involvement of the kids in her life. Rosemary could also be found spending time outdoors fishing, traveling, and taking pictures.
She is preceded in death by her father; husband, Wayne Albert Bauer, Sr.; and daughter, Wenona Martinez. She is lovingly survived by her mother; children, Westley and Danna Bauer, Winette and Jonathan McLean, Whitney and Freddy Rodriguez, Wayne and Kim Bauer, Jr., Wanda Bauer; son-in-law, Ramon Martinez; siblings, Gerald and Jan Meier, Jean Tinnell, June Geiser, Janice and Gale Lemke, Raymond Meier, Mary Janssen, Betty and Steve Beuchel, Bonnie and Grant Mortimer; grandchildren, Maribel Martinez, Westley and Angel Bauer, Jr., Destiny and Anthony Vazquez, William Bauer, Melissa Martinez, Desiree Bauer, Ramon Martinez, Jr., Johnathan McLean II, Windalynn McLean,



Cameron Martinez, Marissa Martinez, Nathan McLean, Colt McLean, Nicholas Bauer, Michael and Ashleigh Bauer, Jacob and Ann Walters, Emma Rose Kramarczyk, Lucas and Tanisha Hildebrand; and great-grandchildren, Issac Vazquez, Demi Nelson, Evy Bauer, Nathaniel Nelson, Jr., Bentley Hopp, Aria Lynn Hildebrand, as well as numerous extended family members and friends.
The family invites you to join them for a visitation on Friday, August 30, 2019 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services officiated by Pastor Donald Sims will take place Saturday, August 31, 2019 at 11:30 A.M in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Graveside services will immediately follow at San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery at 1:00 under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Escalante,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas in Mathematics and English and a Masters degree from the University of Houston in Education Leadership.
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 477623; Estate of OTIS OTHA HORTON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on August 16, 2019.

LORA KATHLEEN NELSON

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this August 23, 2019

Weston Cotten

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 477403; Estate of WILMA JEANETTE STUTTE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on August, 19 2019.

KAREN JEANETTE STUTTE CORNELIUS

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this August 23, 2019

Weston Cotten

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

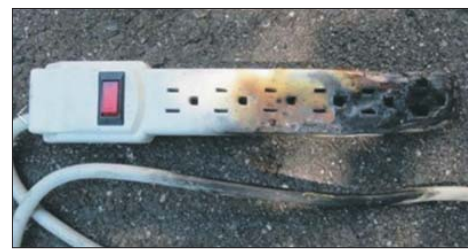
The Houston Food Bank is the largest food bank in the United States in size and distribution. They have an app people can download to find a pantry near them, as well as a helpline they can call, 832-369-9390 and a webpage: www.houstonfoodbank.org/find-help.



Photo by Allan Jamail

Hundreds line up in the sweltering hot weather to receive food at Jacinto City's Town Hall distribution point.

HOME FIRE WARNING



By Allan Jamail

Fire department is warning people not to plug too many things into a multi-plug receptacle. Also space heaters should never be plugged into an extension cord, they can reach a staggering 600 degrees Fahrenheit which will overload and overheat the electrical cord.

Galena Park ISD hosts Annual District Immunization Day



Noe Esparza, GPISD board trustee; Yuroba Harris, representative for Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia; Dr. Mechelle Epps, assistant superintendent for student support services; and Dr. Angi Williams, superintendent of schools.

On Saturday, August 17, Galena Park I.S.D. and Harris Health System hosted the Annual District Immunization Day at North Shore Senior High School.

The halls of North Shore Senior High were filled with over 450 students

who received over 1,200 immunizations in preparation for the first day of school. Students also received backpacks filled with school supplies donated by the North Shore Rotary Club.

"We bring all of our District partners to work to-

gether to make sure every child, not just those in Galena Park I.S.D., are ready to go back to school," Dr. Mechelle Epps, assistant superintendent for student support services.

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this event a success.

Galena Park ISD Board recognizes the North Shore High School Accounting Team and Computer Applications Team



In May, the North Shore Senior High School Accounting Team and Computer Applications Team competed in the 2019 UIL State Academic Meet. We would like to congratulate the North Shore Senior High School Accounting Team for placing 2nd overall in the UIL State Academic Meet. Oscar Rovira placed 6th, Christian Lozano placed 9th and Wilmer Avila placed 18th. Casey Johnson is the accounting team sponsor. We would also like to congratulate the Computer Applications students, Andrea Rodriguez for placing 2nd, Alexis Junco for placing 4th and Laisha Rocha Garcia for placing 12th. Cheryl Green-Sandle is the computer applications team sponsor.

Thank you to each of these students and their sponsors for their efforts, hard work and dedication.

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