

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

View the ABC13 video of making our newspaper



https://abc13.com/society/meet-the-man-behind-the-crosby-star-courier-/5589062/

### Jacinto City U.M. Church 75th Anniversary

Jacinto City United Methodist Church 75th Anniversary celebration, Sunday, October 27th from 3 to 4 pm at 10730 Wiggins St. Jacinto City, TX. 77029.

### North Channel Chamber "SALUTES" set for Nov. 7

The North Channel Chamber will hold its 11th annual Salute to Veterans, current military personnel, and First Responders.

Also taking place will be a Business Expo and Health Fair. The event will be held at Armenta's Reception Hall in Channelview, 823 Sheldon Road, from 10am to 2pm.

Booths and Sponsorships are available, call the Chamber at 713-450-3600.

## Early Voting starts October 21

Constitutional Amendments, METRO bonds, HISD, MUDs

HARRIS COUNTY – Monday Oct. 21 is the first day of Early Voting in the General Election. East Harris County area residents will vote on 10 constitutional amendments, METRO's MetroNext bond issue in some areas, and a tax increase for ESD#60. Early voting continues through November 1, and

you may vote this year at any election location. The General Election is scheduled for November 5.

### METRO BOND ISSUE

Proposition A on the ballot would authorize a \$3.5 billion bond issue, to be used for METRO street improvements, mobility projects, and other facilities. Funds for this work

would come from the existing Sales Tax, and there would not be any additional taxes required. Projects included in this proposal are a new MetroRapid Bus System, more HOV lanes, and extension of the MetroRail system.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Texans will vote on 10

new Constitutional Amendments on November 5th. The issues addressed include a state income tax, creating a flood infrastructure fund, and funding for the Cancer Research and Prevention Institute of Texas. The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) conducts research on each amend-

ment to provide fair and unbiased information to Texas voters.

"The Texas Constitution is among the longest in the country. Since it was adopted in 1876, 498 amendments have been approved by Texas voters.

See Early Voting, Page 3

## Astronauts land in Galena Park School District



Photo by Allan Jamail

Standing left: Cloverleaf Principal Lee Brown, Crystal Guzmán & Jackie Fournier, Director of Math & Science Jacqueline Moreno (standing center) USA Astronaut Bruce Melnick

By Allan Jamail

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – Houston, Texas at the Galena Park School District's Administration Building astronauts gathered from the United States, France, Germany and Hungary for breakfast before departing to visit 12 schools in the district.

Participating astronauts

were, Jean Loup Chretien (accompanied by wife Florence) (France) Gerhard Thiele (Germany), Tim Kopra & Farkas Bertalan (Hungary) and Bruce Melnick & Mike Foreman (USA).

NC Star writer Allan Jamail joined the international group and school officials to document the historical event as they visited the schools, "it was very reward-

ing to see the excitement and high level of interest from the students aging from kindergarten to middle school teenagers, it was 8 hours well spent" Jamail said. "Students were allowed to ask questions, from them I learned bananas are a forbidden fruit to take into space, the aroma from it turns everything such as all other foods, cloths, paper-work etc into the smell of ba-

nanas. Instead of bread only tortillas are allowed because bread produces crumbs to freely float inside the space craft capsule. I even learned how they use the restroom, the kids asked and so the astronauts told them how to do #1 and #2 in a gravity free environment."

Each year the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) has five days of public programs celebrating the past,

present and future of human space exploration with 125 flown astronauts and cosmonauts from up to 38 nations, five international regions: USA, Russia, Asia, Europe and "at large" including Canada participating.

See Astronauts in Galena Park, Page 8

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL North Shore Mustangs crush Baytown Sterling Rangers 63-0

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park ISD Stadium – Friday, October 18, 2019 the North Shore Mustangs easily defeated the Baytown Sterling Rangers 63 – 0 remaining undefeated in district play.

The Mustangs offense kept the scoreboard lit up with 9 touchdowns (TD's), with 433 total yards. They had 231 rushing yards and 202 passing yards.

The 9 Mustang touchdowns were made by, Zion Antoine (1), Shadrach Banks (2), Marcus Cockrell 64 yard punt return TD & 55 yard interception TD



Photo by Allan Jamail

Marcus Cockrell, on the Mustangs Special Team with a 64 yard touchdown punt return.



Photo by Allan Jamail

Shadrach Banks, Mustang wide receiver hauls in a 22 yard Dematrius Davis pass for a touchdown.

(2), Dematrius Davis (1), Zach Evans, 62 yards TD (1), Zorhan Rideaux (1), Ismael Villafuerte (1). Kicker John Villalobos again was perfect making

all 9 extra point kicks. Coach Jon Kay's defense continues to give up few yards and points shutting

See NS Football Game, Page 8



Photo by Allan Jamail

Mustang Zach Evans, a 62 yard touchdown, easily out running the Ranger defenders.

## Channelview beats Beaumont United 28-25 for Homecoming



Jona Granger was named Homecoming Queen and Kariri Gesora was named Homecoming King for Channelview High School.

The Fighting Falcons move to 2-2 in district and 4-3 overall in a Homecoming win against the Beaumont United Timberwolves last week. The Falcons racked up 321 yards rushing, led by Alton Lott and Dreak Thomas who had a touchdown each and 165 and 87 yards respectively.

The defense accounted for 2 interceptions by Kechone Berryman and Trevin Chandler.

The Falcons take on the C E King Panthers Friday, October 25th at 7 pm, at the Sheldon ISD Stadium.

Channelview High School named its Homecoming King and Queen during the half-time of the football game against Beaumont United at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium last Friday. Kariri Gesora was named Homecoming King and Jona Granger was selected as Homecoming Queen.



Isaiah Hamilton chased down a United RB to prevent him from scoring.

## County Attorney Vince Ryan hosts symposium to address environmental disasters

At a conference hosted by County Attorney Vince Ryan last week, experts described the environmental challenges facing Harris County when storms like Hurricane Harvey strike the Texas coast, the home of hundreds of chemical companies and oil refineries.

The symposium titled "Environmental Disasters in Harris County," held on Oct. 10 featured scientists, lawyers, and other experts who discussed what government and industry were doing and could do to prevent the loss to life and property from flooding and severe weather events.

"Our office is willing to take the lead in protecting our community with respect to the environment," said County Attorney Ryan. "This symposium was a great effort to keep all parties focused, engaged, and up-to-date with the latest information and efforts by our office and other agencies."

Attorney Charles Irvine, lead counsel in a lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers, for flood damage to hundreds of homes located upstream of the Barker and Addicks Reservoirs in west Harris County, said the Corps knew that torrential rain storms regularly occurred in Harris County and that the areas upstream from the dams would flood. He described the devastating impact of flooding to homeowners.



County Attorney Vince Ryan welcomes the participants at the "Environmental Disasters in Harris County" symposium on Oct. 10.

Jim Blackburn, Co-Director of the SSPEED Center, Rice University, showed the catastrophic impact of a Hurricane Ike-type storm moving up the Ship Channel. He said it would be one of the worst environmental disasters ever to occur in the United States, jeopardizing over 200 chemical plants, shutting down refining capacity for six to 12 months, and placing the lives of 800,000 people at risk. He called for the construction of the Galveston Bay Park, a series of islands extending from Houston Point down the ship channel to Texas City, to provide protection from storm surge.

Arturo Blanco, Director, Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment, EPA Region 6, shared the EPA's environmental justice outreach and emergency response initiatives. Rodrigo Cantú, Environmental Justice Team, Lone Star Legal Aid, discussed protecting communities from environmental hazards — especially low-income, marginalized communities. Randy Palachek, Senior

Technical Expert, and Kirk Dean, Ph.D., Principal Scientists, Parsons, discussed dioxin contamination at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits.

Other presenters included Dr. Latrice Babin, Interim Director of Harris County Pollution Control Services, Anne Hutson, Assistant District Attorney, and Bethany Dwyer, Assistant County Attorney.

The symposium is part of the County Attorney's continued environmental protection efforts. Last week, County Attorney Ryan swore-in environmental attorney Clarissa Kay Bauer as an assistant county attorney to help with environmental cases against several large corporations, including ITC, KMCO, Valero and Exxon-Mobil.

"We can only effect the change necessary to protect our environment if we work together," said County Attorney Ryan. "We had a great turnout today, and we will continue to work with all interested agencies and organizations to keep the focus on our environment."

## Cody Stephens bill advances in Pennsylvania senate



Scott Stephens (in black hat) at a Rally in the capital building of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg for Peyton's Law (similar to Texas' Cody Law).

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A new bill is headed to the Pennsylvania Senate floor in honor of a King's College student who died of sudden cardiac arrest.

Senate Bill 836, or Peyton's Law, is based on legislation that was just enacted in Texas.

Julie Walker is a Penn State fan, but instead of cheering for a team, the crowd at the State Capitol in Harrisburg was cheering on Senate Bill 836, also known as Peyton's Law, in honor of Julie's daughter. She was 19 years old, studying to be a physician assistant at King's College in Wilkes-Barre when she died six years ago of sudden cardiac arrest, also known as SCA.

"The education committee just voted on Peyton's Law, and it is going to be

pushed to the Senate floor, so I realized there was no stress, no pressure, just a fun, incredible day," Walker said.

Peyton's law, sponsored by Senator Mike Regan of the Harrisburg area, expands on an act from 2012 that required information to be provided to student-athletes about SCA. The foundation says it's the number one killer of student-athletes in the U.S., and the number two medical cause of death of people under age 25.

Cardiac issues can be detected in an electrocardiogram, and this law would require notification of student-athletes and their parents that the test can be part of their standard physical.

It's modeled after a similar bill just passed in Tex-

as, shepherded through by the Stephens family, who lost their son Cody. Monday would have been his birthday.

"This is preventable. This is preventable by a simple ECG test, 86 percent of the cases of SCA can be detected with a five-minute, \$20 test that the Walker Foundation is giving," Scott Stephens said.

"Their hard work in Texas really streamlined the bill, made it more presentable. We took it, and I like to say Pennsylvania-ized it, got support from Republicans and Democrats," said Senator Mike Regan, (R) Cumberland County.

"We continue to give AEDs to the community, 49 states out of 50, and by December 2, we'll be in our 50th state. Let the beat go on," Rachel Moyer said.

### EXTREME AUTO SHOW

9am Vehicle Registration Begins  
\$15 pre-registration  
\$20 on-site registration  
Trophies For Each Class  
4pm Awards Ceremony

FREE  
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FAMILY FESTIVAL/CRAFT SHOW  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 10AM-4PM

- 40+ Vendors
- 50+ Autos
- Donor Coach - Blood Drive
- American Ninja Obstacle Course
- Craft Booths

- Concession Stands
- Free Kids Inflatables
- Free Children's Activities
- Free Game Booths
- And More!

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## WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #84 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2019 on November 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM at 15900 Bear Bayou Drive, Channelview, TX 77530. Your individual taxes may increase or 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.

**FOR** the proposal: Allen Hall, Hugo Arriaga, Edna Ponder, Tomas Fernandez, and Bud Mills

**AGAINST** the proposal: None

**PRESENT** and not voting: None

**ABSENT:** None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.60000/\$100	\$.60000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.00000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)	.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 148,995	\$ 158,896
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 148,995	\$ 158,896
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 893.97	\$ 953.37
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 59.40	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	6.64%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Channelview ISD raises awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder



Members of the Channelview High School Interact Club and the Math Club participated in the 2019 Autism Speaks Walk.

The Channelview ISD Special Services Department organized a team of students and district staff to participate in the Autism Speaks Walk event on October 19 at the University of Houston.

Students and sponsors from the CHS Interact Club and the CHS Math Club participated in the walk alongside CISD staff members. "Our goal is to bring awareness to autism and involve our students and staff members," said Nan Meharg, CISD Coordinator of Special Services. "Through participation in awareness campaigns, we are able to educate our community."

The Autism Speaks Walk is the largest fundraising event dedicated to improving the lives of people with Autism. For more



CISD Staff members Gloria Roach, Hawann Wilson, Nan Meharg, Bessie McPeters, and Ashton Johnson participated in the 2019 Autism Speaks Walk held on the campus of the University of Houston.

information, you may visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) or contact the CISD Special Services Department at 281-860-8006.

## Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees recognizes participants in the State of the District Video



Each year, Dr. Angi Williams, Galena Park I.S.D. superintendent of schools, presents a "State of the District" address to area business leaders, school district stakeholders and other community members. This year, the "State of the District" address was prepared in a newscast form with students from our schools serving as anchors and field reporters. During the October board meeting, Dr. Williams and the Board of Trustees recognized the following students for serving as anchors and field reporters in the 2019 State of the District video production: Jalyriah Stanton, North Shore Senior High; Nicole Zavala, Woodland Acres Middle School; Maria Cortes, Galena Park High School; Rodrigo Gutierrez, Galena Park Middle School; Gabriella Salazar, Galena Park Elementary; Jesus Perez, Cunningham Middle School; and Olivia Washington, Harvard Elementary. Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank these young leaders for narrating the "State of the District" address!

## San Jacinto Pilot Club Celebrates Pilot International Founder's Day

On October 16, 1921, Elizabeth Leonard and forty other businesswomen, who wanted to make a difference in their communities, came together to sign the original Pilot Charter. Two days later, those women met for the very first Pilot Club meeting.

Since that October day, 98 years ago, some changes have been made. Anchor Clubs, the youth division, and Compass Clubs, the young adult division, have been added. Also, men are now welcomed as members in clubs around the world. The one thing that has never changed is Pilot Club members, throughout



Pictured are: Karen Westbrooks, Barbara Wedemeyer, Julie Fallin, Carolyn Roberts, Renee Cooper, Lori Conger.

the world, continuing to serve their communities every day.

San Jacinto Pilot Club members came together to celebrate this Founder's

Day with a membership mixer October 16, 2019. More details of this local chapter can be found at [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

## Early Voting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

You decide which of the 10 proposed amendments will become part of the Texas Constitution," says LWVTX president Grace Chimene.

The League's Voters Guide is available online on the LWVTX website and Texas voters can review their ballot, make choices, and print out their choices from [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). The printed Voters Guide can be found at many Texas public libraries. Texas voters may take the printed Voters Guide, their VOTE411.org printed list, or their own notes into the polling booth. They may not use their phone in the polling place.

### Amendments to consider in this election:

-- Proposition 1 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow a municipal judge to be elected in more than one jurisdiction.

-- Proposition 2 (SJR 79) would allow the Water Development Board to issue general obligation bonds for the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). The outstanding bonds could not exceed \$200 million. The bonds would be used to develop water supply and sewer projects in economically depressed areas of the state. The EDAP assists water infrastructure projects when the median income of a region is less than 75% of the state's median income.

-- Proposition 3 would allow the Texas Legislature to give a temporary property tax exemption in a disaster area.

-- Proposition 4 would

prohibit the Texas Legislature from establishing a personal state income tax.

-- Proposition 5 would require the Legislature to allocate sales tax revenue from sporting goods sales to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission.

-- Proposition 6 would authorize the Legislature to double the maximum bond amount for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to \$6 billion.

-- Proposition 7 would double the amount of money that the General Land Office could distribute to the Available School Fund to \$600 million.

-- Proposition 8 would create a Flood Infrastructure Fund to assist in financing drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control products.

-- Proposition 9 would authorize the legislature to exempt precious metals held in a Texan precious metal depository to be ex-

empted from property taxes.

-- Proposition 10 would allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.

### CITY OF HOUSTON

For those residents that live in the City of Houston, there will also be an election of a Mayor, from a field of 12 candidates. The incumbent, Sylvester Turner, is running for reelection. Some of the well-known challengers are Bill King, Tony Buzbee, and Dwight Boykins.

The position of City Controller is also open, with incumbent Chris Brown vs. Orlando Sanchez.

City Council will vote on and elect 16 new members, some representing districts and some at-large.

City residents will also find four HISD trustee positions up for election, and Houston Community College will elect three trustees.

**RICHARD "RICK" GONZALES**  
**FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1**

RETIRED HOUSTON POLICE OFFICER  
30 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
INTERIM POLICE CHIEF - GALENA PARK 2018

HONEST  
EXPERIENCED  
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LEADERSHIP

A number of MUD districts, not in this area, are holding bond referendums and directors elections.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 5TH ELECTION

Last Day to Register to Vote for 11/5 Election: October 7

Early Voting: October 21 to November 1

Last Day to Request Vote by Mail Ballot: October 25

Vote by Mail Deadline: Must be received by November 5 at 7pm

Election Day: Nov. 5

### VOTER ID INFORMATION

In Texas, you are required to bring a valid form of ID with you to the polls. There are 7 forms of ID you can use: a Driver's License, a US passport, a US military photo ID, a Texas Personal Identification card, a photo US citizenship certificate, or a Texas Election Identification Certificate. If you do not have a photo ID or cannot reasonably obtain one,

you may still vote upon signing a form and presenting an original copy of your Voter Registration Card, certified birth certificate, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck

with your name and address on it.

For help on registering to vote, checking your registration status, or finding what's on your ballot, visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) or our voting webpage.

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**RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**

The North Channel Star is holding a drawing for **4 FREE TICKETS** (Any Sunday, ) to the **TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**

Just Fill Out and Submit this Coupon Ad to enter the drawing:

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Submit by mail or email at  
[northchannelstar@aol.com](mailto:northchannelstar@aol.com) OR  
North Channel STAR, 5906 Star Lane, Houston 77057

ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD. MULTIPLE ENTRIES WILL DISQUALIFY ALL OF THEM.

★ OPINION PAGE ★



# Social Security Matters

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

## Income Tax on Social Security vs. the Earnings Test

**Dear Rusty:** I retired from work this year (age 62) and I will receive my first social security benefits in September. Is there a special rule for the first year you retire that allows you to not pay taxes on your social security since you have earned no other income since you retired? Before I retired, I earned about \$50,000, which I know is more than the usual allowed income. Signed: Retired Senior

**Dear Retired Senior:** I'm afraid there is no such "first year" rule which exempts you from paying income tax on your Social Security benefits. When you file your Federal income taxes with the IRS you will need to claim your Social Security (SS) benefits as part of your income, and whether it is taxable will depend upon whether your "modified adjusted gross income" (MAGI) for the year exceeds \$25,000 (if you file single) or \$32,000 (if you file married-filing jointly). "MAGI" includes your taxable income from all sources (your "adjusted gross income" from your Federal income tax return), plus any tax-exempt interest you may have received, plus half of your annual Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds the above levels, then up to 50% of your Social Security benefits will become a part of your taxable income; or if you exceed \$34,000 (filing single) or \$44,000 (filing married-jointly) then up to 85% of your annual SS benefits will become taxable. If you don't exceed those levels your SS benefits aren't taxable as income.

However, I suspect you may be confusing income tax on your Social Security benefits with another rule - Social Security's "earnings test" which, if you have not yet reached your full retirement age, sets a limit on what you can earn without your benefit payments being affected. If you are collecting benefits before you have reached your full retire-

ment age and you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$17,640 for 2019) Social Security will withhold some of your benefits - \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If that is what you're referring to then, yes, there is a special rule for the first year you are collecting Social Security. That special first year rule says that if you claim benefits mid-year and you have not yet reached your full retirement age, you'll be subject to a monthly earnings test for the remainder of that year, rather than the annual test. So, if your benefits start in September, provided you don't earn more than \$1470 in September or any month thereafter in 2019 you won't lose any benefits. But if you do exceed that monthly limit, even by \$1, you won't be entitled to any SS benefits for that month. The monthly test is only in the calendar year you claim benefits - it goes away for you in 2020 and you'll be subject to the annual earnings test only for next year.

Please note that the earnings limits are considerably more if you are claiming in the year you will reach your full retirement age. If this were the year you will reach your full retirement age, the annual limit would be \$46,920 and the monthly limit would be \$3910 (these limits change annually). However, if you stay fully retired and don't return to work you will not need to worry about the Social Security earnings test but, depending on your "MAGI," you may need to pay income taxes on your Social Security benefits.

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.



## Terrorism prevention programs across Texas to receive funding

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Oct. 15 announced \$61.2 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funding to support state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and prepare for threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of Texans.

The awards, released primarily to cities and counties across Texas, include 264 projects under the State Homeland Security Program and 136 projects through the Urban Area Security Initiative.

"As governor, my top priority is keeping our communities safe," Abbott said in a news release. "These grants will ensure our communities have the resources they need to counter terrorism statewide and enhance security for all Texans. Our ongoing efforts to keep Texas safe would not be possible without our partnership with the federal government, and I thank them for their continued assistance."

Larger expenditures of grant monies would be applied as follows:

- \$24.3 million to provide equipment, training and exercise support for local, regional and state-level response teams such as SWAT, bomb, HAZMAT and search and rescue, and for other law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services personnel that serve communities across the state;

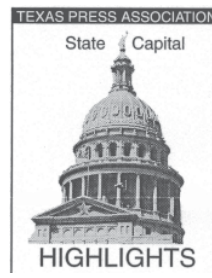
- \$13.4 million to support statewide planning and preparedness efforts that provide the foundation for effective homeland security capability development and implementation;

- \$8.3 million to sustain and enhance operational communications capabilities facilitating information sharing and coordination essential for the successful response to all types of threats and hazards; and

- \$3.2 million to support state and regional fusion centers promoting ongoing intelligence and information sharing capabilities and analysis, production and exchange of critical threat data between federal, state and lo-

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



### Research first, then vote

Ballots in the Nov. 5 election will include proposed constitutional amendments, special elections and local political subdivision elections, including those for mayor, city council, school board, municipal utility districts and other local entities.

Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs on Oct. 16 encouraged eligible voters to take advantage of the early voting period ahead of the election, which began on Oct. 21 and will end on Nov. 1.

Hughs, the state's chief election officer, also urged voters to research the candidates, amendments and measures that will appear on their ballots as they prepare to make their voices heard.

Voters with questions about how to cast a ballot in upcoming elections may call 1-800-252-VOTE.

### AG announces settlement

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Oct. 18 announced a \$117 million multistate settlement with Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Ethicon Inc. for deceptively marketing transvaginal surgical mesh devices.

Texas was joined in the lawsuit by 40 other states and the District of Columbia. The Lone Star State's share of the settlement is nearly \$9 million.

Transvaginal surgical mesh is a synthetic material that is surgically implanted through the vagina to support the pelvic organs of women who suffer from stress urinary incontinence or pelvic organ prolapse.

The settlement was reached after a multistate investigation, launched in 2012, found that the companies failed to adequately disclose the products' possible side effects.

### Jobless rate stays low

The Texas Workforce Commission on Oct. 18 announced that the Texas economy added 7,600 seasonally adjusted total non-farm positions in September and the unemployment rate held steady at 3.4 percent for the fourth month in a row.

The September unemployment rate matches the all-time record low first set in June, the lowest recorded unemployment rate since series tracking began in 1976.

Leading job growth in September was the professional and business services sector, which added 9,600 jobs. The construction sector followed, adding 7,200 jobs. Education and health services added another 1,800 jobs.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded August's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.0 percent, followed by the Amarillo MSA at 2.5. The Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan and Odessa MSAs each recorded the third-lowest rate at 2.6 percent.

### Effort promotes safety

Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways, and since that day, fatalities resulting from vehicle crashes on Texas roadways have numbered more than 65,000, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

In its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign, TxDOT is taking safety messages to community events in the oil-and-gas producing Permian Basin and Eagle Ford Shale regions, where driving-related fatalities are high. The campaign is part of #EndTheStreakTX, a social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while on the road.

## THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### "An Autumn Tale"

My parents live in a cabin deep in the north woods. I know this sounds like the start of a fairytale. Sometimes it seems a bit like one.

There are bear in the woods. Deer run in herds. The seasons are far more pronounced and extreme than those I am used to. After a day of glorious autumn sunshine on my bare arms, I woke in the middle of the night and saw, in the moonlight, that snow had covered the ground, turning the green grass white.

"It won't last," my mother assured everyone within earshot. "There's still a lot of nice fall days to come."

I knew she was right, but those snowflakes were a not-so-subtle reminder that summer was officially over and a very different season on its way. Autumn brings a sense of anticipation and a tiny dose of dread.

The weather turned dark and rainy. I went for a walk in a rain poncho I'd hauled around in a pouch for two years and never worn. The poncho was bright red, I discovered. I pulled the hood up over a broad brimmed hat and headed out.

I was walking down a narrow road in a light rain when I heard the pickup stop behind me. I turned around and saw a woman and a young girl in the truck.

"Maybe they're lost," I thought. I wouldn't be of much help if they were, a virtual stranger there myself. But I stopped as the woman rolled down her window. She looked at me for a moment.

"I thought you were someone I knew," she announced.

"Oh," I replied, temporarily at a loss for words.

"Would you like some apples?" she asked.

"Um... you have apples?" I thought perhaps she had picked the last of the season's fruit. I looked in the back of her truck. There was nothing there.

"Yes," she said. "I just bought some."

"What kind are they?" I was expecting she'd tell me they were McIntosh or Winesaps. It was apple season, after all.

"Walmart," she replied.

"Oh."

"Do you want some?" she asked again. "You can have the whole bag if you want!" I had no idea what the correct response was, but this seemed like it was pretty important to her.

"Um... sure, I'll take one," I decided. The truck was a double cab. She jumped out of the front and opened the backseat door.

"My daughter says you look like Little Red Riding Hood," she told me.

"I guess I do!" I agreed.

She reached into a bag and pulled out an apple. It was tiny and bright red. She handed it to me. Her nails were long and white and pointed. I looked at the bright yellow leaves on the wet pavement and her long white nails holding a shiny red apple. I suddenly felt a little nervous.

I took the unnaturally red apple.

"Thanks!"

"I used to walk here all the time," she told me. "I used to walk here every day!"

"Ah!" I responded, feeling seriously awkward.

The little girl was staring at me. I wondered if I was expected to eat the apple on the spot.

"Well, I better get on home!" I announced, tucking the apple in my pack.

"Bye-bye!" she said. The truck started up and they drove off.

When I got back to my parents' cabin, I told my mother what had happened. My mother looked at the bright red apple for a long moment.

"Maybe we should just keep that apple for decoration," my mother said.

Maybe we should.

Till next time,

Carrie

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**HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS**



**Rotary District Governor Gary Gillen visits Highlands**

Sheila McDonald, Highlands Rotary Club president, presents a check to District 5890 Governor Gary Gillen, in support of the Rotary Foundation. Gillen said that over the life of the club, they have donated \$211,000 to the Foundation.

Gillen emphasized the international nature of Rotary, with 1.2 million members worldwide. In 2022 the international convention will be held in Houston. The Rotary motto this year is "Rotary connects the World."



**Highlands VFD BBQ and Raffle**

The 72nd Annual Highlands VFD BBQ & Raffle, a fundraiser for the firefighters, was held last Saturday, Oct. 19 at Station 17. The money also funds the fire prevention programs at local schools.

A large crowd enjoyed the excellent food, games, and silent auction, as well as the raffle prizes.

PHOTO AT RIGHT: Ad-bisya Speaks pulls the raffle tickets. BOTTOM PHOTO: Children always have fun at the Bounce Castle, and slide.

Winners of the Raffle were:  
 - Carlton Adam, \$1000 gift card  
 - Debbie Pregeant, \$750 gift card  
 - Jeanette Young, \$500 gift card  
 - Roger Simmons, \$250 gift card  
 - Robert Mansfield, BBQ Pit Boss Pellet Smoker.

The Highlands Fire Department was founded in 1942. Harvey Little has been chief for 27 years. The department has 16 pieces of equipment, and runs EMS ambulance service 24/7/365.



**Historic Crosby Photo**



With the return of 2019 NFL season to our TV screens a few weeks ago, it seems timely to point out that the town of Crosby has had at least a couple of its high school graduates make it into the NFL. Playing for the NFL is a fairly rare achievement with only about 1700 professional players in any given season. In all, only about 24,000 players have ever played in the NFL, which isn't that many when you consider that the NFL began way back in 1920 as the American Professional Football Association. The first paid player was in 1892 in Pittsburgh. He signed a \$500 contract. Today the average salary is almost \$2 million per season.

**Pictured on the left is Leo Rucka.** He graduated from Crosby High School in 1950, and went on to play for Rice University. He was drafted in 1954 by the San Francisco 49ers. He was a backup center on the 1956 team, but his career was cut short when he was drafted to go to the Korean War after only five games in the NFL. The picture of him here is from his time in the service when he played football for the armed forces. He later played for the Canadian Football League, and was eventually inducted into the Rice Football Hall of Fame.

**Pictured on the right is Austin Walter.** He and his twin brother Aston graduated from Crosby High School in 2014. Like Leo, they both received scholarships to play for Rice University. Austin graduated last year and was invited to the San Francisco 49ers tryouts, and received a contact to join the summer training camp roster. He played in their final preseason game, and came close to scoring

a touchdown in his limited minutes near the end of the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, he did not make the 53-man roster for the regular season, but he caught the attention of the injury riddled New York Giants. They signed him to a contract a few days ago, on October 10th. He is now their third string running back (pictured here). He had a stand out career at Rice, where he led the country in all-purpose yards, and was only the fourth player in Rice's history to eclipse 4000 all-purpose yards.

Austin's twin brother Aston, had a number of injuries while at Rice. However, he was granted an additional year of eligibility because of them, and he is currently playing his final season for the Owls. He is finally healthy this season, and rushed for over 100 yards and two touchdowns in their game against Louisiana Tech in one of his best games as an Owl. We'll have to wait until next year to see if he also gets a chance at the NFL.

There may be other Crosby alumni who have made it to the NFL, that I am unaware of. 1978 alumni, Anthony Brock won a divisional championship with the USFL Houston Gamblers in 1984 as a defensive linebacker. There have also been a number of NFL cheerleaders from Crosby.

This is the ninth photo in a series, of historic photos of Crosby and the surrounding area in honor of its upcoming bicentennial. Over the next few weeks, we will hopefully present some more historic photos. Crosby was settled in 1823, making it one of the oldest settlements in Texas. Lifelong resident Jody Fuchs, is preparing a photographic history of the community in preparation for the upcoming event, and is looking for other old or interesting photos of the community. He is working with members of the Crosby Historical Society, Donna Davenport and Klaus Duda. In October, the Historical Society will hold a meeting, where Jody will present some of the 1000's of old photos that he has collected thus far in preparation of this project. The meeting is free and open to any interested persons, so please feel free to join us at 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 19th at the Crosby Brethren Church.

The book will cover the entire 200-year pictorial history of the town, as well as briefly covering the surrounding communities of Highlands, Huffman, Lynchburg, Barrett, Baytown, Liberty, etc. If you have any interesting photos or artifacts of the area or its residents from 1823 until the present, please contact the Crosby Historical Society at 281-731-7010.

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Heal me, LORD,  
 and I will be healed;  
 save me & I will be saved,  
 for you are the one I praise  
 --Jeremiah 17:14

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LOVE NEVER FAILS  
 I Corinthians 13:8

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What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later  
 ROMANS 8:18

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# ASK THE EXPERT

## Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan wins Million Dollar Judgment Against Smoke Shop

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan won a permanent injunction last week to stop the sale of illegal synthetic marijuana by a smoke shop located in east Harris County. The shop also agreed to pay one million dollars in penalties to Harris County, the City of Houston, and the State of Texas.

On Oct. 11th, 152nd District Court Judge Robert Schaffer signed a judgment against the owners of the store located at 12745 East Freeway prohibiting the shop's sale of synthetic marijuana, also known as "spice," and to pay the million dollar judgment amount.

The lawsuit was filed as a result of an undercover investigation by the Houston Police Department stemming from a string of kush-related overdoses in Hermann Park in June of that year. The investigation discovered three smoke shops operating as Spice Boutique owned by two brothers were selling synthetic marijuana and the owners were subsequently arrested.

During the course of the lawsuit, the Court signed Orders requiring the stores to hire licensed peace officers to provide security at the store along with other conditions to abate the criminal activity. As a result, the owners closed the stores located at 2574 S. Loop West, Houston, Texas, and 9896 Southwest Fwy, Houston, Texas.

"The sale of synthetic substances is illegal and has proven to be dangerous and deadly in some instances," said County Attorney Ryan. "Profiting from this illicit activity at the expense of public health and safety will not be tolerated in Harris County"

The Final Judgment required the Defendants to pay penalties for the sale of synthetic substances. County Attorney Ryan collected \$300,000 for the County, while \$500,000 went to the Office of the Attorney General of Texas and \$300,000 went to the City of Houston. A large portion of this money was paid to law enforcement.

The Harris County Attorney's Office established the nuisance abatement program to deal with businesses like Spice Boutique. The program has had success across the county with closures of illicit spas, game rooms and after-hours bars. Additionally, the County Attorney's Office has been successful in filing suit against apartment complexes where prostitution, narcotic offenses and aggravated crimes have taken place and often appointing a receiver to manage the properties until they clean up their act.

"These business operators know the law and they know what they're doing is illegal," said County Attorney Ryan. "We will continue our efforts to close illegal businesses and curb illicit activity."

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



### "What are Gems?"

#### Gems are Beautiful, Rare, and Durable

Almost all gems are minerals but, very few minerals are gems. To be a gem, a mineral must be beautiful, rare, and durable. When a gem is rare, it's hard to find and some gems are much harder to find than others.

#### Rough

Most rough gems are crystals and their shapes depend on their chemical structures. Aquamarine and emeralds come in hexagonal (six-sided) shapes, while diamonds and spinel are often octahedrons, for example. Not all rough gems are crystals - lapis lazuli is rock and amber is fossilized resin.

#### Cut and Polished

Gem crystals can be cut and polished into shiny gems. When a gem is cut, it is referred to as a fashioned gem. Skillful fashioning can show off a gem's luster or color.

#### A Few More Interesting "Gem" Facts

\* Gems are found in several places around the world. Brazil, India, Australia, and Madagascar are good sources of gems. Even the USA produces certain gems.

\* The state of Florida took on the Moonstone Gem as their state gem to tie in with their role in the lunar program which allowed men to walk on the moon.

\* The Thunderegg is Oregon's State Rock. This gem was said to have been made by the Thunder Spirits who lived in the craters where this gem is formed. The Sunstone is Oregon's official gemstone

\* In 1991 a single Garnet was discovered in Virginia weighing more than 2,800 carats. It was named the Rutherford Lady.

\* The largest Diamond discovered in the USA is the Uncle Sam Diamond. It originally weighed more than 40.23 carats. It was found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas.

\* The Dom Pedro which is the world's largest cut and polished Aquamarine stone weighs in at a little more than 10,000 carats and is a part of the Smithsonian's National Gem and Mineral Collection.

(credit goes to the Gemological Institute of America for some of the content in this column)

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

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)

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB



### Take the Time

In the day to day rush of life, do you take the time to notice those people who go the extra mile? Perhaps you stop in at the McDonald's on Uvalde in the morning on your way to drop your children off at school. The lady at the first window always takes the time to tell you to have a blessed day. The lady at the second window takes the time to wipe the soda off of the outside of the cups. If you then travel west on Woodforest towards Normandy, you most likely see a Harris County Constable truck and then you spot a beautiful smiling face directing children across the street to Green Valley Elementary. The deputy is taking the time to speak to each child as well as the parents who are walking their children to school.

You might be one of the many who stop in to drop off clothes at the dry cleaner or frequents a local barbershop or beauty shop, you know firsthand what customer service is all about. Then again there might be an office you only visit once a year, perhaps to renew your car registration and as you enter, you recognize a familiar face. There is something about a smile that takes away from the frustration of a long line.

There is something about when the temperature begins to drop that shifts our thinking towards the upcoming holiday season. We can either get frustrated that the retailers in the area seem to have Christmas decorations out even before Halloween arrives or we can take the time to see the excitement in the

eyes of the children in the stores. Perhaps as you shop, you notice that holidays bring out different emotions with different shoppers. There may be those older people who stop and look at displays and remember their youth. There may be a spouse of someone in the military who is looking at items and praying their loved one will be home for the holidays. There are probably those who are unemployed and hoping they find a job before their children start asking what Santa Claus is bringing. Take the time to notice the expressions and make time for conversation. You might be the only one who notices their expression today.

Too often we are focused on our own lives that we do not take the time to think about what others are going through. As the holiday season approaches, challenge yourself to notice at least five people this week who you can encourage. Make a list. Be intentional about writing down those five people as well as noticing five things that you love about your community. Think about five people you can send a handwritten thank you note for something they have done this year to make your life a little more special. Stop and reflect about five teachers who impacted your life. Maybe instead of money on that cup of coffee or dessert, you can take that time and money to send them a gift card or even stop and get an item for one of the many upcoming holiday toy drives. Take the time to be thankful and give of yourself this year.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for Construction of the 2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project to serve the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 in Harris County, Texas will be received at the office of Harris County MUD 50, 12900 Crosby-Lynchburg, Crosby, TX 77532, until 1:00 P.M. local time, November 14, 2019 and then publicly opened. A NON-MANDATORY BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at the office of Harris County MUD 50 on November 6, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. Each bid must be submitted in a 9" x 12" envelope and accompanied by Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, duly executed, in the amount of not less than five (5%) percent of the bid.

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 is proposing to rehabilitate a portion of the existing sanitary sewer collection system within the District and the adjoining service area. Project work consists of point repairs of existing sanitary sewers, grease removal, root removal, pipe bursting, cured-in-place pipe lining, manhole inflow protection dish installation, manhole rehabilitation, and manhole cover replacement. The scope also includes the replacement of a force main under an existing Harris County roadway. The project pavement demolition and reconstruction, storm water pollution prevention plan and traffic control plan will be performed as necessary.

This project is eligible for CWSRF funding; therefore, the following requirements apply:
• This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
• Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this IFB, RFQ, or any resulting contract.
• This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of P.L. 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. All iron and steel products for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repairs incorporated in these plans must be produced in the United States.
• Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.
• This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "fair share policy", which includes EPA-approved "fair share goals" for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA's policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to Minority Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms. Although EPA's policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate use of the six affirmative steps. The current fair share goals for the State of Texas are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, MBE, WBE. Rows include CONSTRUCTION, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, SERVICES.

• Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or handicap. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.
• Right to reject any and all bids.
• All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.
• Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivCastUSA.com; Search Harris County MUD No. 50 - 2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. Questions deadline is November 8th at 5:00 P.M. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, and plans for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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# Autronauts in Galena Park,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ASE this year in Texas on October 16th had its "COMMUNITY DAY", where all 125 flyers traveled to invited destinations throughout Texas, speaking to K-12 schools and universities, community groups, civic leaders and company employees about their missions, and the future of space exploration. This year's goal was to meet with 50,000 students to educate them and to inspire future explorers, scientists, engineers and civic leaders.

In order to visit so many schools in one day the astronauts were picked up early in the morning in Clear Lake near NASA and shuttled to the administration building in school vans. After a quick breakfast they were divided into four teams where the district's team leaders

escorted them around the district. Team Leaders were Jacqueline Moreno, Jacqueline Fournier, Robert Seibert, Tammy Merimon and Rebecca Boutte.

GPISD elementary schools visited were Cimarron, Cloverleaf, Galena Park, MacArthur, Normandy Crossing, Purple Sage, Sam Houston, Shirley J. Williamson, Tice, Woodland Acres and middle schools visited were North Shore and Woodland Acres.

In the middle of the day lunch was provided at various schools and the following students were awarded to eat with the astronauts from their participation in a class event qualifying them. Romeo Milan, Madilyn Hogg, Melanie Acosta, Aaron Guillory, Rafael Herrera, Camila Zamora, Sophia Viramontes, Noah Mendez, Elias Renteria, Deshon Stoneham, Xitzaly Reyes, Bentley Labossiere and Julie Silva.

Following is unedited statements from three team leaders:

**TAMMY MERIMON, DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCIENCE SPECIALIST:**

Galena Park Independent School District students had a rare opportunity to hear from former NASA Astronauts



Photo by Allan Jamail

North Shore Middle School students and faculty with Astronaut Mike Foreman (centered in back, blue shirt)



Photo by Allan Jamail

Adults Standing L - R: Sam Houston Elementary Principal Michelle Cavazos, USA Astronaut Bruce Melnick & Assistant Principal Hilda Nañez. Kneeling & sitting is students from kindergarten to 5th grade.

and Cosmonauts from around the world on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. This was all a part of the Association of Space Explorers community outreach day here in Houston Texas.

Specifically, I got to spend the day with Tim Kopra and Farkas Bertalan (Hungarian). These two men visited 3 of our campuses and presented to approximately five hundred students on this day. They had very interesting backgrounds that they shared with the students as well as their experiences in space. The students were engaged and very interested to know four main things. One, how do you eat in space? Two, how do you sleep in space? Three, how do you brush your teeth in space?

And four, how do you use the restroom in space? The astronauts answered these questions and many more. The students were amazed to learn that it only takes 8.5 minutes to get to the International Space Station, and that a space ship can orbit the earth every 90 minutes. Cosmonaut Farkas Bertalan stated that he flew around the Earth 144 times in 8 days and was able to see a sunset or sunrise every 45 minutes. They made the students laugh while creating a new curiosity for them to explore.

They talked about how they became astronauts and how the opportunities are much greater today to be able to go to space because of how space exploration is expanding and technology is

advancing very quickly. Mr. Kopra discussed the skills that the selection committees look for when selecting new recruits to the program. He told them that when learning Math, Reading, Science and History that they are adding tools to their tool box for use in the future. He went on to say that "the most important skill to learn in school is how to get along with other people." He said that being able to get along and work with people who are not like you is an essential skill and part of the process of getting into the space program. This supports the districts initiative for the 2019-2020 school year of integrating Social Emotional Learning into our educational practices.

Galena Park students as well as the teachers, staff and myself were very appreciative for the visit. The

knowledge gained and the curiosity that was created is invaluable.

**ROBERT SEIBERT, COORDINATOR OF ADVANCED ACADEMICS:**

Having the Planetary Congress meet in Houston and provide our students with the unique opportunity to meet an astronaut was an amazing experience for all. Our students and staff were in awe and were grateful for the time that they had to learn about each astronaut's experiences in space and ask questions. The astronauts were wonderful with the students and surely inspired some of them to pursue their passions.

**JACQUELINE MORENO, DIRECTOR FOR ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS AND**

**SCIENCE:**

Galena Park ISD hosted several Astronauts on Wednesday, October 16th. We had the privilege to take part in the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) Community Day. When we heard about the program we immediately knew we needed to get involved.

On this day, we had 4 teams which went out to visit with students on 11 campuses across our district. Students Kinder thru 8th grade had the opportunity to visit with these astronaut "flyers". They heard stories about their travels in space, how they became part of the space program and heard lessons of inspiration and perseverance.

The goal of the program was to share their personal flight experiences, share information about living in space, the challenges of returning to the moon and traveling to Mars. In addition, they shared support for space exploration and demonstrated how a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) background can make it all possible. In addition, the astronauts held question and answer sessions with our students.

The students were so excited to visit with "real live" astronauts. Something they may have only dreamed of or saw on TV. Thank you to all the astronauts who came out to visit us, you all are true celebrities in the eyes of many of our students here in Galena Park.

The astronauts visit to GPISD came about after Jacqueline Moreno, Director for elementary mathematics and science learned of it and went through the process to qualify the district to be one of the few schools in Texas to be accepted. "My passion is to bring experiences and opportunity to the kids of our neighborhood," Moreno said.

Assistant Superintendent Terri Moore and Leslie Luciano, Administrative Assistance to Moreno was helpful in providing information for this article.

Astronaut Mike Foreman is the mayor of Friendswood, Texas and NC Star writer Allan Jamail the former mayor of Jacinto City at the close of the day was able to share with each other their mayoral experiences.

# NS Football Game,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out the Rangers with no points allowed, holding them to minus 11 rushing and only 18 yards passing.

The 6A Region III District 21 champion will be decided when North Shore travels to Beaumont and plays the West Brook Bruins both undefeated 4-0 in district play. The game is on Thursday, October 24th @ 7 PM @ 5250 Bayou Willow Way -- Beaumont, Texas 77707.



Photo by Allan Jamail

Mustang Seniors leading the student cheering section. L - R: Thien Trinh, Agustin Banos, Jared Hunter & Hector Treviño

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