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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Voter interest low in Election

HARRIS COUNTY – Very few voters bothered to go to the polls on Tuesday, election day. The lack of major issues or strong candidates kept the turnout down to about 10% of eligible voters.

Final vote counts were not available until Wednesday morning. Based on that information the results are as follows:

Constitutional Amendments all passed, except Proposition 1, allowing municipal judges to hold more than one office at a time. This is the County vote only, not statewide.

METRO's \$3.5 billion bond issue passed, with about 68% of the voters in favor of the measure, which would

See Election Results, Page 6

VFW 10462 BBQ

Bet with Vets, November 9, 2019. Noon until gone. BBQ plates: chicken, sausage, potatoe salad & beans. \$10 plate. VFW 823 Nadolney, Houston, TX 77015. All proceeds for VFW building maintenance.

Alzheimer Awareness Program

Thursday, November 14, 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo St. Channelview, TX. Call 713-274-2132 to RSVP. Visit Alz.org for more information.

Galena Park ISD Bus Accident injures three

No students were on the bus

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY – A stolen pick-up truck, being pursued by police, exited I-10 at the Mercury ramp and ran a red light, hitting a Galena Park ISD school bus headed south on Mercury Drive last Tuesday at about 11:00 am.

A HPD police officer said they were in hot pursuit of the stolen red pick-up on the 10 East Freeway going eastbound and the suspect was dangerously weaving in and out of traf-



A view of the accident scene shows the Galena Park ISD school bus disabled and crushed, sitting in the frontage road of I-10 East. It was struck by the red pick-up truck at right, which allegedly ran the red light at Mercury Drive while being pursued by HPD police as a stolen vehicle. MORE PHOTOS on page 8. (Photos by Allan Jamail)

fic at a high rate of speed.

He reportedly stole the truck which had the engine running, from a home mover on Spaulding Street. He drove around the neighborhood for several hours before police started the chase.

The suspect was allegedly a 15 year old high school student, according to authorities. He was taken to the emergency room and is currently listed in critical condition. No one else was in the red truck.

Two GPISD female employees were injured and taken to the emergency room for head injuries and neck injuries and listed as non-critical.

Galena Park ISD holds annual battle of the Pink Breast Cancer games



2019 Galena Park I.S.D Battle of the Pink contestants and cheerleaders. Photo by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail

On Friday, October 25, 2019 at the Galena Park I.S.D Administration Building approximately 200 of the district's employees and officials gathered for their 3rd Annual Battle of the Pink Team Building Activity. The event hosted by Communications Services Department is to fundraise for the American Cancer Society

and bring awareness to breast cancer.

Superintendent Dr. Angi Williams and school officials stayed neutral in the contest but cheered and applauded each of the six teams as they competed in the six different games for the highest team score. Dr. Williams said, "These teams take these contests serious and get highly emotional and competitive for the highest score. I'm thrilled we have

such a good spirited bunch participating in such as worthy life-saving cause as this."

The Annual Battle of the Pink festivities began with a week-long fundraiser, giving Administration Building employees the opportunity to empty their change jars and pockets of loose change—and it added up! Almost \$1500 was raised to donate to the American Cancer Society. Additionally, Administra-

tion Building departments competed against each other in a friendly competition on Friday afternoon to determine this year's Battle of the Pink Champions! Competitive events included Hut Hut for a Cure; Give Cancer a Toss, Pop for a Cure, Polar Opposites and Stomping Out Cancer. Fun was had by all!

While everyone was a winner just for participating, this year's first place teams were, Battle of the

Pink Winners - Team Tackle Breast Cancer (Business Services Department), Best Uniform - Pink Attude (Student Nutrition Department), Most Team Spirit - C&I Stros (Curriculum & Instruction Department) and Box Out Cancer Winner - C&I Stros (Curriculum & Instruction Department).

Elyse Rountree, GPISD Communications Specialist assisted with the story.

Galena Park students enjoy Robotic Build-It Day



Science Lab teacher Kaneice Washington (5th from left front) and the Robotics team at Galena Park Elementary are having fun building robots at the GPISD Robotics Build It Day. The students at Galena Park Elementary program use autonomous robots to solve real world problems such as underwater drilling, harvesting crops and repairing bridges. Through the robotics program the students in grades 3 through 5 build critical thinking and problem solving skills while exploring STEM careers.

Photo by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail

Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Galena Park North Shore Senior High 10th Grade Center the elementary schools in the district came out for the STEM/robotics program.

STEM is an educational program developed to prepare primary and secondary students for college

and graduate study in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In addition to subject-specific learning, STEM aims to foster inquiring minds, logical reasoning, and collaboration skills.

Read the following from Jacqueline Moreno, Director of Math & Science, she explained the program and days activities:

The purpose of GPISD's Elementary STEM/robotics program is to enrich students' lives by exposing them to the world of robotics, problem solving and critical thinking through math and science. Robotics provides students with

See Robotic Build-It Day, Page 3

North Shore Mustangs win over Beaumont United 42-14



#19 Shadrach Banks, junior wide receiver snatches a 31 yard pass and run play from quarterback Demetrius Davis for a Mustang touchdown. Photo by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park ISD Stadium – Friday, November 1, 2019 the North Shore Mustangs easily defeated the Beaumont United Timberwolves 42 to 14. At the game scouting players for awarding college scholarships was number one nationally ranked LSU Tigers coach Ed Orgeron. College coaches regularly visit high school games searching for talented players.

Coach Jon Kay's 8 – 1 Mustangs hasn't had much completion since they lost



#76 Mustang Fausto Castellon senior offensive lineman out front blocking, opening the way for #17 Syncere Green junior wide receiver on a 15 yard pass and run play from quarterback Demetrius Davis for a touchdown. Photo by Allan Jamail

See North Shore, Page 6

★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Judge Hidalgo, Sheriff Gonzalez announce measures to protect Harris County residents, reduce gun-related violence

Commissioners Court Considers Expansion of "Safe Surrender" Program to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence

Harris County, Texas - October 29, 2019, The expansion of a weapon-surrender program designed to protect victims of domestic violence was among several gun-safety initiatives announced by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Sheriff Ed Gonzalez Tuesday at Commissioners Court. The proposal would extend the "Safe Surrender" program to all 22 felony district courts.

The program, which was piloted in the 280th family court, requires those charged with domestic violence to surrender their weapons to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, which will test and safely store the weapons until the case is resolved. With 45 percent of domestic violence homicides occurring within 90 days of separation, the program seeks a measure of protection for victims and

their families during a vulnerable time period.

"Elected officials at the state and federal level have failed to meet their basic obligation to take meaningful action to protect us from gun violence," Judge Hidalgo said. "Here in Harris County, we won't sit idly by and do nothing as this epidemic continues to steal lives all around us. We know county government can be an agent for positive change, working around barriers and unfunded mandates to keep our communities safe. The measures we are announcing today are real, common-sense actions that will save lives and protect some of our most vulnerable residents, including victims of domestic violence and children."

"While action to address gun violence stalls at the state and federal level, I'm proud of the actions that Harris County is taking at the local level to protect vulnerable members of our community from gun-related domestic violence," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "We must always do what we can to prevent and re-

duce all forms of gun violence in our communities."

In addition to the expansion Safe Surrender program, Harris County officials are working together to address gun-related violence through the following initiatives:

- Expedited reporting of disqualifying convictions for firearms ownership: The Harris County District Clerk's Office will report convictions that disqualify people from owning firearms to the Department of Public Safety within five business days, faster than currently required by law.

- Gun lock distribution: Precinct One Constables are distributing gun locks at community service events.

- Task force: The Harris County Public Health Department has begun a task force on violence and injury prevention.

Harris County officials will return to Commissioners Court with an implementation plan and funding recommendations for the Safe Surrender program by the November 12, 2019 meeting.

Saturday FM 2100 Motorcycle crash turns fatal on Monday

CROSBY – A man was hit by an errant car on FM 2100 on Saturday night shortly after 9:15 p.m. just north of the Crosby Fairgrounds.

Local motorists were attempting to help the man as he lay in the street when Harris County Emergency Service District #5, the ambulance service for Crosby, arrived and called for lifeflight. It was the 17th lifeflight since Sept.1 a statistically high number for Crosby's population.



Locals attempt to help man with head trauma that was not wearing a helmet on a motorcycle when a crash occurred.

Monday morning, he was unplugged from life support as he showed no signs of life since his arrival at the hospital. His

name was released as Bobbie Kimbro, a popular man within parts of the Crosby community.

Harris County Sheriff's Traffic Enforcement Investigators are asking if anyone knows details of the accident or saw what happened that they call the Harris County Sheriff's Traffic Division at 713-274-7400.

Evidently, the car that struck Mr. Kimbro did not stop to render aid.

Veterans Affairs boosts adaptive sports programs

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Some of us have been waiting for this: The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded another \$14.8 million in grants that will go to veterans adaptive sports programs. These grants will go to 120 organizations that create and manage sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces. That's nearly double the funding from just a few years ago. The groups that receive these grants (at the local, regional and national levels) are in all 50 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, and will serve 11,000 participants.

To see what's going on, go online to www.va.gov/adaptivesports. Look for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for those with stroke, amputations, spinal injuries and more. For veterans age 55 and older, look for the Golden Age Games. If you like the snow and cold, check out the Winter Sports Clinic. Like golf? Take a look at the National Disabled Veterans T.E.E. (Train, Exposure, Experience) program.

If you hope to train for the Paralympics, go to www.teamusa.org. Your options are many: wheelchair tennis, archery, rowing, wheelchair rugby, track and field, equestrian, snowboarding, biathlon, cross-country skiing and many, many more.

To find sports in your area, put Sports Club

Finder in the search box at the va.gov site.

To see all of the organizations that received grants, go to www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/grant-program/ and click on the recipients list.

Don't miss the @Sports4Vets page on Twitter. You'll find lots of personal stories and videos by and about veterans. Surfing, cycling, rowing ... they're doing it all.

And for veterans who need new ways to deal with stress and anxiety, \$1.5 million is going to equine therapy, that is, working with horses and learning how it can open new doors to coping. (Did you know that biochemical changes occur in the brain while working with horses?) Watch the video at

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.8 Billion in October

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.82 billion in October, 7 percent more than in October 2018.

"Growth in state sales tax revenue was apparent across all major economic sectors," Hegar said. "The most notable growth was in receipts from the construction, wholesale trade and information services sectors."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in October 2019 was up 4.1 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

In October 2019, Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and

rental taxes — \$484.5 million, up 10.5 percent from October 2018;

- motor fuel taxes — \$311.8 million, up 4.6 percent from October 2018;

- natural gas production taxes — \$84.4 million, down 22.8 percent from October 2018; and

- oil production taxes — \$346.3 million, up 4.8 percent from October 2018.



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AWT9-1024

COMMUNITY NEWS

New cultural arts center helps East Harris County build resiliency in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey

HOUSTON, TX- NOVEMBER 4- In an ongoing focus to build resiliency post-Harvey, residents in unincorporated East Harris County will get a sneak peek at the first Cultural Arts Center the community has ever had.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 5:30-7:00 p.m. 13334 Wallisville Rd., Houston, Texas, 77049

The Harris County Cultural Arts Center is the home of The Harris County Cultural Arts Council. The Harris County Cultural Arts Council (HCCAC) was organized in January, 2018. HCCAC's mission is to strengthen families and improve the quality of life for residents in unincorporated east Harris County through arts and culture-based community engagement. Through the arts, HCCAC seek to build a stronger, healthier, more connected, and more resilient community.

HCCAC is the first and only organization of its kind in the area. It was birthed in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey as community leaders recognized the importance of building community resiliency to insure wholistic recovery not only from Harvey and other disasters like it, but also to foster and sustain strong communities and families and to foster and sustain strong economic growth within East Harris County.

HCCAC strives to be a strong, multi-faceted local arts advocate with priorities that include communi-

ty place-making, providing a venue to cultural organizations and professional artists, developing and advocating for cultural funding, enhancing arts education, providing services that build capacity and marketing East Harris County as a destination for cultural tourism.

HCCAC is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership-based corporation. As the sole agency in East Harris County for cultural development, we lead the way in nurturing, promoting and celebrating the arts and culture within the community.

Learn more about The Cultural Arts Council at www.HarrisCountyCAC.org. Like and Follow HCCAC on Facebook at facebook.com/harriscountycac

Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees Recognized LyondellBasell at the November Board Meeting

The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized LyondellBasell at the November Board Meeting. Representing LyondellBasell was Roger Holtzclaw and Pat Ficara. LyondellBasell was honored for dedicating their company-wide day of service to complete several projects at North Shore Senior High School (NSSHS).

LyondellBasell's donation included the manpower, furniture, rugs, lamps and paint to design and produce three tranquility rooms where teachers and students can go to relax and relieve stress during the school day. Staff from LyondellBasell also developed an outdoor garden space supporting the NSSHS Culinary Arts program and promotes farm to table education. Their final project was installing new tables and greenery to promote outdoor eating and a space for students and staff members to reset while eating their lunches. Thank you, LyondellBasell!!



Galena Park I.S.D. recognized two exceptional parent volunteer

During the November Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park I.S.D. recognized Elisa Gonzalez and Rosa Franco for being exceptional parent volunteers.

Ms. Gonzalez volunteers at Cunningham Middle School although her children no longer attend there. This school year, her children attend Cobb 6th Grade Campus and North Shore 9th Grade Center. Ms. Gonzalez displays compassion and is an inspiration to all students and teachers at Cunningham Middle School. She creates bulletin boards which display and captivate the minds of the students, and is always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs assistance.

Mrs. Franco has volunteered at Galena Park Middle School for many years. Although her youngest child attends Galena Park Elementary School and her oldest child attends Galena Park High School, she makes the time to volunteer at all three schools. Mrs. Franco serves as the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) parent at Galena Park Middle School. She also volunteers at the school's concession stand and helps in the front office.

Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank Ms. Gonzalez and Mrs. Franco for giving their time and effort to Cunningham Middle School and Galena Park Middle School.



GPISD Board of Trustees recognize the Galena Park High School Student Advisory Board

Galena Park I.S.D. recognized the Galena Park High School (GPHS) Principal's Student Advisory Board for their leadership, commitment and dedicated service to their school and community at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

The GPHS Student Advisory Board created QR codes to safely report anonymous tips/concerns to District officials or Crime Stoppers.

We would like to thank Francisco Barrientos, Churchill Couch, Leonel Gonzalez, Christen Lance, Lilyana Nieto, Daniel Rivera, Alexandra Saldana and Victoria Tovar from Galena Park High for their initiative in recognizing a need and addressing it in an innovative way. Great job, Yellow Jackets!



GPISD Board of Trustees recognize the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board



Galena Park I.S.D. recognized the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SAB) for their leadership, commitment and dedicated service to their school and community at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

The SAB is comprised of student representatives from each of the District's five high schools. The purpose of the SAB is to provide two-way communication between the Superintendent and the student representatives to discuss concerns and issues pertaining to student services.

We would like to thank John Michael Cantu, Dester Fagundo, Evelyn Garcia, Michael Garza, Alaizja Hunter, Jae'lee Jackson, Riley Johnson and Aldo Plascencia from Early College High School; Francisco Barrientos, Churchill Couch, Leonel Gonzalez, Christen Lance, Lilyana Nieto, Daniel Rivera, Alexandra Saldana and Victoria Tovar from Galena Park High School; Jasmin Jimenez and Joseph Molina from North Shore 9th Grade Center; Joel Gallegos and Caliehs Skinner from North Shore 10th Grade Center; Marcy Cardenas, Guadalupe Jimenez Puente; and Alexis Ocegüera and Kennedy Wiltz from North Shore Senior High for serving on the SAB!

Robotic Built-It Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opportunities to explore complex problems. Students work with their campus teams to research ways robotics can improve a system in the world. They then build robots and create scenarios and complete specific tasks designed to solve the real-world problems they researched. Fifteen of our elementary campuses participate in a STEM/Robotics afterschool club.

Today we had a total of 170 students and 60 teachers gather to celebrate our yearly robotics kick off with a great day of learning. Students attended with their campus team and spent time building their robots, researching ideas, networking with other students from different campuses across the district and exploring new possibilities.

This year we had the AI tech program from San Jacinto College participate by showcasing a voice activated robot. Also our high school team KAOS demonstrated their competition robot. These young groups of high school students mentor our elementary students by visiting with them about the possibilities of building new robots and guidance on existing projects.

In addition our Galena Park ISD technology department shared information with our students on virtual reality, augmented technology and 3-D apps. Teachers from the campus level, serve as Coaches, mentors and facilitators to students from their own campuses. Teams have an opportunity to participate in our district "Kick-Off" day, "Build-It" days and the district STEM/Robotics Showcase held towards the end of the year.

Teams often meet weekly on their campuses, during the school day, before school or afterschool. On our big showcase day, teams present their robots and demonstrate the real-world problem they solved as well as the research completed for the task. For all of their hard work, students receive participation certificates as well as coupons and goodies from local community partners. Our district robotics program is in alignment with the All-Earth Ecobot Challenge which is an elementary robotics competition open to all elementary

grade students in the Harris County area.

However, the purpose of our program is not competition; it's focused on learning and exploration. STEM and Robotics inspires young people to be science, math, and technology leaders by engaging them in an exciting mentor-based program that builds science, engineering, and technology skills, inspires innovation, and fosters well-rounded life capabilities including higher-order thinking, self-confidence, communication, and leadership. Through research and investigation, students advance their confidence in solving real-world problems.

Moreno said, "I absolutely love the kick-off day because the kids engage in a variety of activities from robots, drones, tech apps and building supplies. This day truly has something for everybody."

Assisting in the article were, Jacqueline Moreno, Tammy Merimon, Kaneice Washington and Paul Johnson.

See Robotics Photos, Page 8

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

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty – How Does My Husband’s Federal Pension Affect Benefits?

Dear Rusty: My husband retired at his full retirement age of 66. He qualified for Social Security but also qualified for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Being so, he falls under the Windfall Offset Provision, and subsequently had his Social Security benefit reduced from around \$900 to \$450. His full CSRS benefit is \$3,400. I have not claimed my Social Security benefit, but I expect it to be around \$2000 at my full retirement age of 66 in November. At my full retirement age could I collect half of his benefit and let mine grow until age 70? Or upon filing, am I forced to take my full benefit instead? If I can take half of his benefit, would it be half of his full benefit or half of the reduced benefit? Also, upon claiming my benefit, would my husband be entitled to claim half, and thus increase what he is currently receiving on his own benefit? In addition, upon my death, would my husband qualify for my full Social Security benefit or is he subject to offset by the Windfall Offset or Government Pension Offset? Signed: Confused About SS

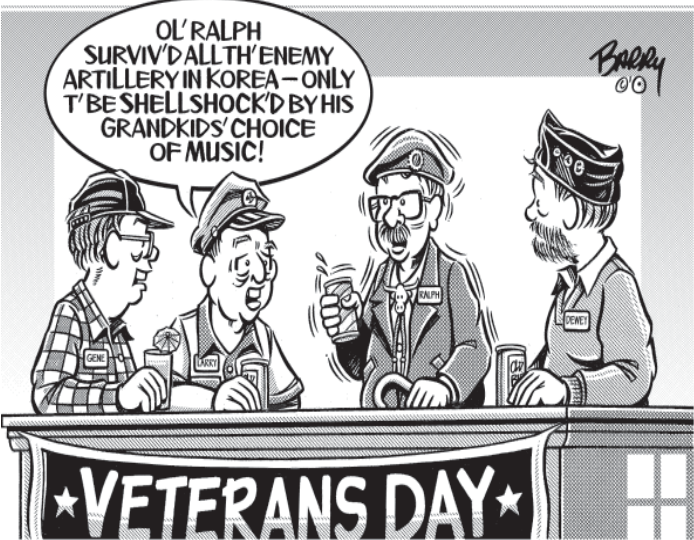
Dear Confused: Because of your husband's CSRS pension, his own Social Security benefit is reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and any spousal benefit he may be entitled to will be affected by the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Both WEP and GPO are provisions which affect anyone with a pension from employment which did not participate in the Social Security program.

GPO is the more severe of these two provisions, because it reduces any spousal (or survivor) benefit your husband might be entitled to by 2/3rds of his CSRS pension, which means that he will not be able to get a spousal benefit from you when you apply (2/3rds of his CSRS pension is more than he would get as a spousal benefit). You, on the other hand, will be eligible

(at your full retirement age, or "FRA," of 66) to file a "Restricted Application for Spousal Benefits Only," which will give you half of his WEP-reduced Social Security benefit (about \$225/month). You are eligible to use the restricted application because you were born before January 2, 1954 (those born after January 1, 1954 cannot use this option). By doing so, you can collect a spousal benefit from your husband while allowing your own SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year of delay (2/3rds of 1% per month of delay) up until you are 70 years of age, when your benefit amount will be 32% more than it would be at age 66. But when you claim your benefit at age 70 your husband's spousal benefit won't be based on your increased amount, but rather upon your FRA benefit amount of \$2000, which means he still won't get a spousal benefit due to the Government Pension Offset.

Finally, if you should predecease your husband, the GPO will also affect his survivor's benefit, which is based upon 100% of what you were receiving at your death (not on your FRA benefit). So, using the numbers you provided, if your FRA benefit would be about \$2000 your age 70 benefit will be about \$2640 (not including COLA increases). Since 2/3rds of your husband's CSRS pension is \$2268, he'd normally be entitled to the difference \$372 as his survivor's benefit. But since that amount is less than his own WEP-reduced SS benefit, he won't get a survivor's benefit. As you may be aware, the Federal CSRS plan has been replaced by the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) which participates in Social Security, so WEP and GPO do not apply to those who retire under FERS.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance.



Voters to decide on proposed amendments to state constitution

AUSTIN — The state's 10-day early voting period ran from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1 with Election Day on Nov. 5.

On the ballot are 10 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.

Secretary of State Ruth Hughs, the state's chief election officer, encouraged all eligible voters to fulfill their civic duty by voting. During the early voting period, Hughs said, "It is critical that all eligible Texans have the opportunity to help shape the direction of the Lone Star State."

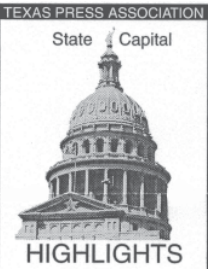
For more information on voting in Texas and a list of the proposed constitutional amendments, visit www.votetexas.gov.

Feds set hemp rules
Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on Oct. 29 announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's release of interim final rules for the U.S. Domestic Hemp Program.

The rules, part of the 2018 Farm Bill, serve as a framework for states like Texas that are planning to build an industrial hemp growing program. With federal guidelines in place, the Texas Department of Agriculture can now submit a state hemp plan to USDA for approval, Miller said. The rules can be found online at usda.gov. "This is the big leap forward we've all been waiting for," said Miller. "I want to make it clear – it is still not yet legal to grow industrial hemp in Texas. But we are one step closer to allowing farmers to get this exciting new crop in the ground."

Miller said he expects to submit the Texas plan for an industrial hemp

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



program in 30 days or less.

Harvey disaster continues
Gov. Greg Abbott on Oct. 28 extended the disaster proclamation he originally issued on Aug. 23, 2017, for counties affected by Hurricane Harvey that brought loss of life and damages estimated at more than \$125 billion.

In the proclamation, the governor authorized the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

Original counties named in the proclamation were: Aransas, Austin, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Liberty, Live Oak, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Waller, Wharton and Wilson.

Abbott later expanded the list to include the counties of: Angelina, Atascosa, Bastrop, Bexar, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Cameron, Comal, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Jasper, Kerr, Lee, Leon, Madison, Milam, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk,

Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Washington and Willacy.

Update: 'Vaping' cases
The Texas Department of State Health Services on Oct. 29 reported that 165 Texas cases of severe lung disease have been identified so far in people who report "vaping" before developing symptoms.

One case was reported to have resulted in death. State health officials are gathering more information on about 13 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in cases in Texas and 48 other states.

Patients range in age from 13 to 75 years old, with a median age of 22 years. About one-quarter of the people affected in Texas are minors. Three-quarters are male, and nine in 10 report vaping THC or marijuana, possibly in conjunction with other substances. Almost all were hospitalized, with many requiring intensive care.

TEA reports test results
The Texas Education Agency on Oct. 30 reported that Texas fourth graders taking the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress in mathematics improved from two years ago, outpacing the national average.

However, for eighth-grade students, mathematics scores declined slightly, dropping below the national average for the first time since 2003. Furthermore, eighth-grade reading scores showed the largest decline, mirroring a large decline across the nation. NAEP is a random sample test of reading and mathematics in fourth and eighth grades, overseen by the U.S. Department of Education and conducted every two years in every state.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

“Good Pear”

My husband, Peter, and I have settled into the little house we are calling home for a month in southern Spain. The house is old and quirky—but I've come to believe that all homes are quirky in their own way.

Whenever I spend time in another person's home, I realize there are a lot of different ways of doing things that would never have occurred to me.

When I was young, my family would drive to visit my great-grandmother. She had a neighbor named Mrs. Johnson (I never learned her first name). Mrs. Johnson had a pug and when I uncurled the pug's tail, he caught sight of it and chased it until he was exhausted. This was endlessly entertaining as an eight-year-old. But my other vivid memory of visiting Mrs. Johnson was the way she ate pears. Mrs. Johnson took the pear and banged it on the table—side to side and top to bottom—until the whole pear was soft.

"Why are you doing that?" I asked.

"Now you can eat the whole thing—just pull off the stem and spit out the seeds!" she told me. It turned out I'd been wasting a lot of good pear, but that stopped under Mrs. Johnson's tutelage.

"You shouldn't bother that old woman!" my great-grandmother scolded me after an afternoon of eating pears and watching the pug. It didn't occur to me until later that my great-grandmother was at least a decade older than Mrs. Johnson. (It didn't occur to me until much later yet that this might be my great-grandmother's way of saying she had missed me.)

While visiting my grandpa, I watched as he cut up his apple, removing the core and eating the apple in slices. I started cutting up my apples and never went back.

"He only did that because he had dentures!" my mother told me, years later. I have good teeth, but I still believe it's a better way to eat an apple.

I recently watched my cousin, Melissa, make a salad. She chopped up her lettuce like coleslaw.

"Why are you doing that?" I asked.

"It's easier to eat and mixes with the other stuff better," Melissa explained.

"Why haven't we always chopped up our lettuce?" Peter asked me, after it became our new way of doing things.

This is what I like most about travel. It is nice to see the sights, but it is the small things, the "why didn't I ever think of that?" things that interest me the most. Why don't we slice up tomatoes and cheese and have them for dinner? Why don't we buy olives in bulk? Why don't we have one long pillow instead of two short ones? Spending time in another home makes me examine things I would never look at twice. I see the familiar with fresh eyes. I take less for granted. Travel forces me to realize how little of my life I actually think about and how much is done on autopilot.

Returning home, I might do a few things differently but, more than anything, I am filled with a new appreciation for all I have—all the things in my life I have neglected to notice, all the sweetness I've taken for granted.

Yesterday I bought some fresh pears at the market. Cutting up a pear in my quirky little temporary home in Spain, I suddenly remembered Mrs. Johnson. I picked up the core and ate it. It was sweet and delicious.

"Mrs. Johnson was right," I thought, "I've been wasting a lot of good pear."

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Industrial Container Services - Tx, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for:

Issuance of Permit 158777

This application would authorize construction of a Drum Reclamation Facility located at 1402 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. This application is being processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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OBITUARIES

CROSBY, HIGHLANDS,
HUFFMAN, BAYTOWN

ANGLICAN CHURCH
• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.
APOSTOLIC CHURCH
• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands. 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516
• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170
• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST
• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409
• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470
• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723
• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223
• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary
• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.
• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.
• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650
• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637
• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern
• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd.,Crosby, 281-328-2564
• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551
• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888
• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchighlands.org
• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557
• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN
• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC
• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448
• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451
• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St. , Highlands, 281-843-2422
• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St.,Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST
• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496
• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742
• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD
• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518
• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL
• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT
• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310
• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705
• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315
• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000
• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN
• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST
• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616
• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614
• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION
• Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. 281-576-5452.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
• Pentecostals of Crosby502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX 77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

CHANNELVIEW, JACINTO CITY, GALENA PARK, HOUSTON

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

•Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST
•New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082
•Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.
•Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.
•St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.
•First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.
•Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern
•Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.
•South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.
•First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.
•Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houtson, TX. 77049.
•First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC
•St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.
•Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
•Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. 713-826-2884.
•Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.
•Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL
•St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS
•Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST
•Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.
•Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.
•Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

For corrections or new listings, call 713-266-3444

James Scott (Jim) Allen

James Scott (Jim) Allen, 74, passed away November 3rd in Cleburne, Texas. A lifelong resident of Baytown, Texas, James was born at the Lillie-Duke Hospital on July 30, 1945. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and The University of Houston with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He retired from Valmet/Telvent where he was the principal engineer for software development. He also served in the US Army and

was stationed in Germany during the Vietnam conflict.

James is survived by Katherine Sanders; daughter Nancy Sanders-Taylor and husband Kevin Taylor; sisters Katherine Scott, Candace Foster and husband Ross, and Elizabeth Barr; granddaughters Austyn Taylor, Merari Gonzalez, Abigail Salas and Katherine Nguyen; grandson Austin Nguyen; a host of nieces and nephews; and his loving companions, Butch and Sundance.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Delbert and Candice Evelyn

Allen. Special thanks go out to all of his caregivers, especially long-time caregiver and friend, Irma Trevino. Funeral services will be held at 10am on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Road in Highlands, Texas. Visitation will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019 from 5pm to 8pm.

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Cynthia “Cindy” Ann Roberts

Cynthia “Cindy” Ann Roberts, age 59, of Crosby, TX went to be with our Lord on October 24, 2019 with her Aunt and Cousin by her side.

Cindy is preceded in death by her brother R. Louis Sikora, Jr., her mother Martha Louise Yates Sikora, her father Rudolph Louis Sikora, and her husband, the love of her life, Donald Patrick Roberts.

Cindy was born in Baytown, TX on January 11, 1960 and graduated from Crosby High School in May 1978. She married, Donald Patrick Roberts on August 12, 1994. Cindy found her calling in 2006 teaching Yoga at the Crosby Community Center and May Community Center in Huffman, TX. She was a devoted Catholic, phenom-



enal Yoga Instructor and friend to her students, and loving “Aunt Pete” to her cousins’ children. She had a love for life, line dancing, and her dog Brownie. She enjoyed listening to Zach Brown Band and Jimmy Buffett and traveling to tropical locations. If Cindy wasn’t teaching Yoga, she was either in Livingston on her pink and black float, basking in the sun, enjoying the motions of the

water and Mother Nature or glued to a television watching the Texans or Astros play.

The family of Cynthia Ann Roberts wishes to thank the Yoga students of May Community Center and Crosby Community Center for their unconditional love for Cindy.

May your life be happy and blessed, Namaste.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (www.pva.org)

A Catholic Mass was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, followed by a burial at Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery on October 31, 2019.

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BIBLE
TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Daniel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first verse is "The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth"? 1 Sam-

uel, 1 Chronicles, 2 Peter, 3 John
3. From Exodus 25, what pure gold cover was placed on the Ark of the Covenant? Mercy seat, Mordecai lid, Mina top, Myrrhan mirror
4. What of Jesus' does Matthew 13:56 speak of? Brothers, Sisters, Parables, Apostles
5. Which prophet was famous for his vision of the

dry bones? Hosea, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Nathan
6. What was the first sin? Idolatry, Gluttony, The Fall, Covetousness

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 3 John; 3) Mercy seat; 4) Sisters; 5) Ezekiel; 6) The Fall

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com (c) 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

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ASK THE EXPERT

Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

expand bus and rail service, and build and repair more roads.

In the closely watched Houston mayor's race, incumbent Sylvester Turner was leading challengers, but did not have enough votes to avoid a run-off. Turner had 46%, Tony Buzbee 29%, and Bill King 14%.

City Controller Chris Brown, the incumbent, defeated the challenger Orlando Sanchez with 52% of the votes.

The ballot had a Newport MUD Proposition A, which would allow a \$70 million bond issue. This proposition

lost by a vote of 45% For, and 55% Against.

In Baytown, Council District 1 Laura Alvarado won with 51% of the vote, versus Mercedes Renteria. In Districts 2 and 3, incumbents Chris Presley and C. Johnson had no opposition.

In the Houston Community College System election of Trustees, Position 1 incumbent Dave Wilson lost to Monica Richart. Wilson had 32% of the vote, Richart 49%. In Position 2 Rhonda Skillern-Jones won with 45% of the vote.

North Shore,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the Katy Tigers in the opening season's first game 24 to 21. In that game Kay had several key players on the sideline with injuries unable to play. The 9 - 0 undefeated Tigers this season has scored 410 points while only allowing 75 points scored on them. MaxPreps has the Tigers ranked number one in Texas and Mustangs ranked 6th. The Mustangs has scored 399 points and allowed 115 points. It's looking like these two powerhouse teams will have to meet again before advancing deep into the playoffs. If the Mustangs can accomplish passing accuracy they should win in the rematch.

Beaumont United was

no match for the Mustangs offense that made 7 touchdowns, 4 rushing TD's and 3 passing TD's totaling 454 yards. But their defense gave up 289 yards, more than their normal amount. They had open receivers for 4 more would-be touchdowns but couldn't connect.

Nshore had a high number of 11 penalties costing them 75 yards.

The last regular season game before the playoffs begin is Friday, November 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM with North Shore visiting the Channelview Falcons - in a district rival game at Ray Maddy Stadium, 828 Sheldon Rd. Channelview, TX 77530. Channelview is 4 - 5 overall and district - 2 - 4.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "Do the "little things" still matter?"

Well folks, they do today more than ever before. If something as simple as a cashier counting back change from your purchase can give you a "WOW" experience then yes, the little things still matter. If watching a young 20 year old guy holding the door open for a 70 year old woman can be a "WOW" experience then yes, the little things still matter.

What was once the "rule" is now the "exception" and inversely, what was then the "exception" is now the "rule". When I was growing up, I would give up my seat for any woman, especially if she was older, had physical limitations, or had small children. When I was young, we were taught to count back change from a dollar, proper manners, effective forms of communication, how to balance a checkbook, and how to live within a budget. If we really wanted something, we had to work for it and earn it. I had jobs as early as 6 years old (no I'm not kidding, 6 years old) working with my father, as a dry cleaner, and I was proud for the effort it took for me to earn that dollar. Today I see 30 something year old's who do not work, don't want to work, and even refuse to work. They want money, cars, houses, to

go to the movies, and buy expensive cups of coffee yet they're unwilling to "earn" the money to purchase these things. The next time you pay for anything with cash, see if the cashier counts back your change.

Where can you go today where they always count back your change? Pineforest Jewelry...all day, every day. Where will people offer you something to drink for free? Pineforest Jewelry...all day, every day. Where will people go out of their way to give you a "WOW" experience? Pineforest Jewelry...all day, every day. YES! The little things still matter.

We'll see you soon.

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.

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



Homegrown and Giving Back

For more than 30 years our community has been blessed to have Kidztown Childcare which is owned by North Shore Graduate Janice Carter Wilson. In the beginning, Janice opened a location in Cloverleaf and within a few years had to relocate to the location on Longview as her business had boomed. Over time, they opened a second location on Uvalde Road. Throughout the years, she and her employees have become "family" to many in the community.

My own children not only were cared for by the Kidztown staff but even now as my youngest turned 27, she regularly receives messages on social media for the owners and the staff who worked there when she was a toddler. Over the years, the children who have attended Kidztown have developed lifelong friendships. There are parents in the community that I connected with in 1992 who I still see on a regular basis. The Wilsons have given love and support to many a family over the years and now, on December 6, they will add another layer of love.

When Janice was in high school, the first roller rink opened on Longview, ironically next door to where she would move her location two years later. Now the opportunity has presented itself for the family to purchase the skating rink and give back to the community even more. In talking with Janice, she stated "It is not about making money, it is about having a safe place with a Christian atmosphere where children and families can enjoy the skating rinks."

We all recognize that the community has grown and with growth

comes obstacles. Many people have left the community and feel as though it is not safe. In reality, there is crime everywhere. With the demands on law enforcement, it is hard to recruit qualified candidates for the local agencies. Yet if residents will take time to join with others and get involved, we can make a difference and take our community back.

There are more and more graduates returning to the community to give back and make a difference.

Recognizing the importance of being there and giving back to the youth, East Houston Basketball League was founded by a group of amazing young people, most graduates of area high schools. East Houston Basketball Association is a non-profit organization that provides a basketball program for youth from five to 13 years of age. Children in the Galena Park ISD area are encouraged to participate no matter what their skill level is. The founders, officers, coaches and volunteers work to teach, develop, organize and offer fundamental skills of the sport while instilling life-lessons and values such as character team work, discipline, respect and sportsmanship.

While the youth are learning, parents are encouraged to step up and be a part of the volunteer force which reaches hundreds each season. The bond felt with these children as well as the leaders is incredible. For parents wanting more information, please visit EastHoustonBBall.org or call 281.707.0448.

If we do not set the example like these two amazing groups, who will teach our children?

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*Using US and imported parts.

Bus Accident,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The front of the pick-up truck that struck the bus was completely destroyed by the impact. The teen-age driver allegedly stole the truck and was being pursued by police. He was critically hurt in the accident and transported to a local hospital. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



The Galena Park ISD school bus was headed south on Mercury Drive, and was struck in the intersection at the frontage road. The driver and an aide were injured and transported to a hospital, reportedly with non-life threatening injuries. Ambulances and EMTs from Houston and Jacinto City worked the scene, which is under investigation by the Houston Police Department. The frontage road, Mercury Drive, and the exit ramp were closed for several hours last Tuesday, around 12 noon, to aid in the rescue operation. (Photos by Allan Jamail)



Extensive damage to the bus can be seen, as the GPSID maintenance department hauls it away. (Photo by Gil Hoffman)

Jacinto City Heritage Hall Seniors Annual Halloween Contest & Party



Standing, L – R: Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, Irasema Salinas, Vice-Pres. Keep Jacinto City Clean Committee, Lucinni Bailar, UrsLogo, 3rd place Vivian Cole, 2nd place Evencia Gonzalez, 1st place Irma Orenday, Mayra Pompa, Angels Medical, Karen Smith-Gonzales, Administrator Partners In Primary Care, Cyrus Rahimi & Rodrigo P. De Luna, Angels Medical. Kneeling, L – R: Juanita Ibarra, Maria Espinoza, Heritage Hall Program Assistant, Gloria Montano, Summit Dental Center, Debbie Martinez, Heritage Hall Program Assistant & Roa Espinosa, United Healthcare. Photo by Allan Jamail

Robotics,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Adults standing left to right: Paul Johnson, Robotics high school teacher, Rebecca Boutte, Elementary Science Coordinator, Jacqueline Moreno, Director of Math & Science, Tammy Merimon, District Elementary Science Specialist (far right orange shirt) Galena Park High School senior Brandon Silva (standing right) shows an elementary student how to control this year's competition robot. Brandon is part of Team KAOS from the high school which attended this year's elementary schools robotics kick-off to help inspire and help out the students who were present at the event. Photo by Allan Jamail



Elementary students studying virtual reality simulation, quiver – augmented reality and merge cubes - augmented reality. Adults standing L – R: Cheryl Slaid, Tammy Merimon, District Elementary Science Specialist, Jacqueline Moreno, Director of Math & Science, Karen Tiffin, District Technology TIS and Michelle Young, program director of instructional technology. Photo by Allan Jamail



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