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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Northshore senior High School student charged with reckless arson

Harris County, Texas -- The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, with the assistance of Precinct 3 Constable's Office, charged and arrested Justin Carter, 17, with reckless arson after he ignited a firework inside the Northshore Senior High School at dismissal on Jan. 8. Several students were injured with scrapes, scratches, and bruises when attempting to exit the building.

"This is the second fireworks incident in a week at an educational institution in unincorporated Harris County," said Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "We take improper use of fireworks seriously and will continue to work with the Harris County District Attorney's Office to pursue charges for these dangerous incidents. Fireworks are explosive devices, and when not used appropriately, fireworks can cause harm and are dangerous."

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office Investigations Division is responsible for fire, arson, and explosion investigations in unincorporated Harris County.



Congresswoman Garcia appointed to Impeachment Managers



House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi, center in pink, introduces the Congresspersons that will serve as Impeachment Managers during the trial set to start next week in the Senate. L to R, Hakeem Jeffries, Sylvia Garcia, Jerry Nadler, Pelosi, Adam Schiff, Val Demings, Zoe Lofgren, and Jason Crow.

WASHINGTON-- Sylvia Garcia, Congresswoman representing the 29th District of Texas, including much of the North and East sides of Harris County, has been appointed one of seven Impeachment Managers for the upcoming trial of President Trump in the Senate.

The selection was made by House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who took care to have a diverse group of managers. The seven Democratic Congresspersons, most with attorney training and courtroom experience, will act as prosecutors in the ensuing trial which starts next Tuesday in the Senate.

Garcia was elected to the House in 2018, filling the seat previously held by Gene Green.

Mustangs survive Deer Park with buzzer shot, 53- 51



Mustang Team celebrates grabbing and hugging #13 Randy Woodard for his quick action by tipping the ball into the basket as the game ending buzzer sounded.

Photo by Allan Jamail
See Basketball Team, Page 8

North Shore Mustangs honored at January's Board of Trustees Meeting



The Galena Park I.S.D Board of Trustees recognized the North Shore Senior High Football team at the January Board Meeting. The North Shore Mustangs defeated the Duncanville Panthers 31-17 to be named the UIL Class 6A Division I State Champions. North Shore won its fourth state championship and have earned back-to-back state titles.

The Mustangs were represented at the Board meeting by the senior team members, senior trainers, senior managers/video crew and the coaching staff. Galena Park I.S.D. will be hosting a community pep rally honoring the North Shore Mustangs on Saturday, February 1 at 3 p.m. at the Galena Park I.S.D. Stadium.

COMMUNITY EVENT

Tickets now available for Rotary Chili Feast on Feb. 1st



Highlands Rotarians display a new silver Chevrolet Equinox SUV that is one of the 16 prizes ticket holders can win at the 45th Annual Rotary Chili Feast. The event will be held at St. Jude's Social Hall at 808 S. Main Street in Highlands, on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Winner of the Raffle will have a choice of 3 vehicles from Turner Chevrolet, a Colorado Pick-up, a Chevy Camaro, or the Equinox shown above, with Jacob Perez from Turner. Tickets are \$7 for chili only, or \$100 for a chance to win the big prizes. Tickets are on sale from all Rotarians, or call 281-426-3558 or 713-252-8000. Only 700 tickets are sold, so winning odds are quite good.

TRAFFIC ALERTS


Westbound side of the I-10 bridge reopens to traffic



TxDOT has re-opened the westbound side of the I-10 Bridge over the San Jacinto river, which was damaged by a barge strike last September during the tropical storm Imelda. The entry ramp from Crosby-Lynchburg Road was also reopened. All 3 eastbound lanes are scheduled to return to normal after realignment work is completed next weekend. TxDOT contractors had to build new support columns under the bridge to replace those damaged due to the barge strike.

★

LETTERS
FROM THE
CONSTABLE



By Pct. 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton

Welcome 2020

The Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office, a Texas law enforcement agency recognized through the International Chiefs of Police-Texas Best Practices Recognition Program, welcomes 2020. Another year is behind us. As we enter 2020, we reflect on this past year and move towards greater accomplishments. In 2019, we moved to create the program CASA (Constable Assisting Senior Adults). CASA caters to our Spanish speaking community and is the counterpart to the R U OK program. Since CASA's creation in July, the program has over 100 participants and R U OK has over 300 participants. These programs cater to the senior citizens in our community. Other community services include almost 6000 contacts made in the Meet the Officer/Citizen efforts.

Patrol accomplishments include over 11,000 neighborhood and contract checks, as well as 700 vacation watch checks, ensuring proactive patrol of the community. With 204

vehicles reported stolen, 187 stolen vehicles were recovered. Our patrol division operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 356 days a year to protect our communities. They also provide excellent performance in managing calls, traffic incidents and ensuring the safety of others.

Precinct 3 continues to progress with training. In addition to mandatory state requirement, leadership training, continues on a monthly basis in order to ensure the highest quality training for our deputies and supervisors. Additional training includes in excess of over 20,000 hours of police and tactical training.

The past year brought the creation of a new assessment program for supervisory promotions. The school resources officers participated in active shooter training regularly to ensure the continued protection of our children and the schools they attend.

The Crime Interdiction Unit (CIU) exhibits progressive success in seizures and arrests. Through numerous hours of covert surveillance, the unit recovered 78 weapons, 68 pounds of heroin and over 200 pounds of methamphetamine. Recovery of other narcotics include cocaine, heroin, crack and marijuana. Over 150 search and arrest warrants were executed in the quest of keeping members of the community safe.

The Warrants Division took in over eight-hundred thousand dollars, which is a three hundred percent (300%) increase from the previous year.

Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office continues to work for the betterment of the community it serves. As we reflect on 2019, and move towards a new year, you have our commitment to continue to serve you with the highest integrity and professionalism in this new year. Welcome 2020!

Commissioner Adrian Garcia on Gov. Abbott decision to deny refugees

Garcia also plans to participate in Press Conference Tuesday Morning at Catholic Charities

Harris County, TX—Late in the afternoon Friday Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that Texas would become the first state in the U.S. to reject any additional refugees under President Trump's policy to allow individual states to determine whether to continue to accept them. Using the excuse that, in his opinion, the Federal Government's lack of Immigration Reform is to blame, Abbott is placing D.C. orthodoxy ahead of our shared Texas values -- by arguing that Texas "Texas cannot consent," to refugee resettlement this fiscal year, he said.

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia condemns the decision by the Governor and issues the following statement:

"Harris County has a long and storied history of accepting refugees into our community. Refugees living here have contributed in countless ways and have helped our county become the diverse, vibrant place in which we love to live and work. This cruel decision by Governor Abbott to make Texas the only state in the union to deny refugees from resettling here is not only disappointing; it does not represent who we are as Texans."

"Texas is a can-do state. We call on the Governor to reconsider this reprehensible decision."

"I also echo the words of Pope Francis, who said recently of refugees, 'we cannot



Commissioner Adrian Garcia

not remain insensitive, our hearts saddened, before the misery of so many innocent people. We must not fail to weep. We must not fail to respond.' I ask that the Governor reflect on the Pope's comments during his next attendance at Mass."

Goose Creek CTE Department hosts 8th annual Career Night

Goose Creek CISD Career and Technical Education Department will host its 8th Annual Career Night Thursday, January 16, 2020, from 6-8 p.m. at Goose Creek Memorial High School. Open to all students, parents and community members, this event is designed to provide Baytown youth with an opportunity to meet professionals from a variety of career fields as well as representatives from

high school, post-secondary education programs and technical schools to help students and parents learn the pathway to a successful career of their choice, all in one location! This is also our biggest event to showcase GC-CISD CTE programs as well. Come out and join us!

Transportation will be provided to Goose Creek Memorial High School for students and parents from Ross S. Sterling High

School and Robert E. Lee High School. Buses will leave RSS and REL at 5:30 p.m. and return to the schools at 8 p.m.

Community members, business and industry representatives, and district employees may sign up to volunteer and participate by registering at <http://www.gcisd.net/cte>.

See Annual Career Night, Page 5



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park I.S.D. host luncheon for GPISD students with top SAT/ACT scores

On January 9, Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) high school students were recognized at the GPISD Administration Building with a luncheon for earning top scores on their SAT and ACT tests.

All students who earned a 1300 or higher on the SAT and a 27 or higher on the ACT were invited to the luncheon. Dr. Angi Williams, Superintendent of Schools, and Elizabeth Lalor, Deputy Superintendent for Educational Support and School Administration, congratulated and recognized the students for their accomplishments. Dr. Mechelle Epps, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, and Robert Seibert, Coordinator for Advanced Academics, presented them with certificates and a token of appreciation for their hard work.

Many of the students shared their chosen university and career goals. Galena Park I.S.D. wishes all of these wonderful students continued success in their future endeavors!



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Are you interested in partnering with Galena Park I.S.D. Full Day Pre-K?

Galena Park I.S.D. is now accepting proposals from preschool providers seeking to participate in G.P.I.S.D.'s Public Pre-K Partnerships for eligible Pre-K students. Participating families will receive high-quality, full-day prekindergarten education services and comprehensive, wrap-around supports to be provided by Childcare Partnership preschools that submit successful proposals and are chosen to participate by G.P.I.S.D. Childcare Partnership preschools will be reimbursed at a contracted rate for providing care to classrooms of children in the G.P.I.S.D. program. The current proposal for partnership is open to preschool providers that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Texas Rising Star Program Provider with a Three-Star Certification or Higher;
- Nationally Accredited;
- Texas School Ready Participant;
- Head Start Program Provider; or
- Meet the Requirements Under TEC SEC 29.1532

Proposals for partnership must be received by Friday, January 31, 2020 at 12:00 noon. To receive an application, interested childcare entities should contact:

Dr. Mechelle Epps
Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services
832-386-1033
mepps@galenaparkisd.com
RFP 19-008 Prekindergarten Partnerships



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Can My Husband use the “Restricted Application?”

Dear Rusty: My question is about the “restricted application for spousal benefits only” I saw referenced in an article. I will turn 66 in February and have applied for my “full retirement benefit” and will continue to work full time. My husband turned 66 this month and has not yet applied for his benefits. According to the Social Security paperwork sent to us, I will receive about \$1900 a month and my husband, who is self-employed, would only receive \$500 to \$600. If my husband claimed “spousal benefits only” using the restricted application, would I still receive my \$1900 and he would receive 50% of that for an estimated total of \$2850? Doesn’t seem to make sense to me! As you can see, we must be in denial of our age and are not knowledgeable about Social Security!! Signed: Inquisitive Senior

Dear Inquisitive: Based on the amounts you quoted in your email (which I assume were recent estimates from the Social Security Administration), your husband should claim his own benefits this month and then claim his normal spousal benefit in February when your benefits start. Since your husband has already reached his full retirement age of 66, his spousal benefit will be the full 50% of the benefit you are entitled to when you reach your full retirement age in February.

Although your husband qualifies for and can submit a “restricted application for spousal benefits only” (as described in the article you read), there is little reason for him to do so because his own benefit, even if he delays claiming it until he is 70, will be less than his spousal benefit from your record. Instead, since his spousal benefit from you will be the highest amount he will ever be eligible for, he can just claim his own benefit first and then claim his regular spousal benefit to begin when your Social Security retirement benefit starts.

Here’s why:

If your husband’s current benefit at his full retirement age (FRA) would be \$600 and he’s not yet collecting, he could earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at a rate of 0.667 per month of delay (8% per year of delay). That will mean his own benefit would be 32% more at age 70 then he is now eligible for at his FRA, which means his maximum benefit on his own earnings record will be \$792/month (\$600 plus 32%).

The only reason to file the restricted application (for which he is eligible only because he was born before January 2, 1954) is to let his own benefit grow while he collects a spousal benefit, so he can switch to his own higher benefit later. But since his spousal benefit from you will be about \$950 - more than the maximum benefit he can get from his own record at age 70 - his most prudent choice would be to simply claim his own benefit now and apply for his normal spousal benefit to start when your SS benefit starts in February. No need for him to file the restricted application because his own benefit will never be higher than his spousal benefit. And just for complete clarity, your husband collecting his spousal benefit from you will not affect your own Social Security retirement benefit in any way.

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THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

“Unexpected Cowboy”

I want to start out by making it clear that I have nothing against cowboys.

One of the new developments in my life is that I recently got a manager, Bob, to book performances of my writing. I’ve never had a manager before, so I didn’t know what to expect. But Bob is a wonderful fellow. He says he thinks of the folks he represents as family—which is something a lot of people say, but I get the feeling Bob actually means it. So, I was eager to keep Bob happy. But then he suggested I perform with a cowboy.

“Carrie, I know this is a crazy idea, but I want you to think about it!” Bob said.

“I will,” I said (wondering, as I said it, if I actually would).

Actually, I like cowboy culture a lot. But I don’t know a thing about it. I don’t write cowboy poetry. I don’t know how to use a lariat. (I only have the vaguest idea what a lariat is, to be perfectly honest.) I have a couple pair of cowboy boots, but the last time I was on a horse was a several decades ago. Simply put, I have no cowboy credentials. So, when Bob suggested I perform with a cowboy singer, I was more than skeptical—I thought it was a dumb idea.

But then I remembered this promise I’d made not to say, “no.”

You see, most of my life I’ve followed the prevailing advice that says a person should have specific and detailed goals. But then my life fell apart. After both my husband and my company dumped me, I realized that I actually knew very little about who I was or what it was I wanted out of life going forward.

I tried to start over again: I tried to create the kind of detailed dreams I had dreamt when I was in my twenties, but then a few things happened to change my mind.

First, I noticed that most of the really interesting things that were happening to me had not happened because I planned them. They happened by chance.

The second thing was that I realized there wasn’t a lot of time. Whatever it was that I still wanted to do in my life, I would be well-advised to get going because I’d been running the meter for a while by now.

The third thing was that I met my best girlfriend, Angel, who served as my unpaid life coach and constantly reminded me how important it was to say, “yes,” even when “no” was much easier to say—perhaps especially then.

The fourth thing that happened was that Angel died.

Angel died too young and she died only after a colossal fight—because there was still so much she wanted to do. It was then I realized—that the micromanaging style I’d used to plan my life had outrun its usefulness. It was time to let my dreams evolve. It was time to go with the current. It was time to simply say, “yes” to the universe and be prepared for the ride.

So, that’s what I’ve been trying to do... with occasional success. I like to know what’s going to happen next, so this is a huge challenge for me. Then—just when I think I’m sort of getting the hang of it—my manager, Bob, suggests I perform with a cowboy. I can hear Angel laughing now.

I’ll be performing next week in New York City with a cowboy. Wish me luck.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Governor’s domestic terrorism task force meets at Capitol

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott last week convened the quarterly meeting of his Domestic Terrorism Task Force at the state Capitol.

“We must work together to develop meaningful solutions to fully eradicate domestic terrorism in the Lone Star State,” Abbott said in explaining the purpose of the meeting. “Just as domestic terrorism takes many forms, this task force is committed to developing comprehensive and evolving defense strategies to ensure a safe and secure future for every Texan,” Abbott added.

Abbott’s office said the task force analyzed prevention strategies against domestic terrorism in the form of cyber attacks and discussed the importance of good “cyber hygiene.”

Task force members include Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and other high-ranking state, county and federal officials.

DPS releases reports

On Jan. 7, the Texas Department of Public Safety released two reports: the 58-page “Assessing the Mass Attacks Threat to Texas” and the 49-page “Texas Domestic Terrorism Threat Assessment.”

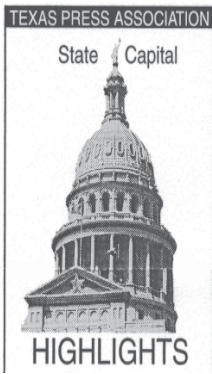
In releasing the documents, DPS Director Steven McCraw said it is critical to evaluate public safety vulnerabilities. To further its mission in preventing acts of violence and terrorism, the DPS is urging Texans to report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement or through the iWatchTexas program, a system that captures and connects potential criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats.

Both reports are available online at dps.texas.gov/news.htm.

Disaster is declared

Drought conditions have caused a state of disaster in 17 Texas counties, Gov. Greg Abbott declared on Jan. 3. The declaration applies to the

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



of work, while about 5% of the injuries required employees to lose 31 days or more of work.

The median time off for injured retail workers in Texas was five days. “There are more retail workers in the state getting injured than employees in construction, transportation or even on factory floors,” said Chris D’Amura, director of workplace safety at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers’ Compensation.

“We’re seeing a lot of retail workers with sprains, strains, tears and overexertion. According to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the longer workdays, expanded schedules and irregular shifts can negatively affect the mental and physical health of retail workers,” D’Amura said.

“When you add less sleep and more crowd stress, it’s not surprising we start seeing more accidents. Falls from ladders, slips on floors and trips over boxes and equipment were cited among the most common causes of injuries in the retail industry. Overexertion due to lifting, lowering and repetitive motion is also a high cause of injury in retail,” D’Amura added.

Paxton reacts to ruling

State Attorney General Paxton on Jan. 6 welcomed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruling that parties protesting the relocation of Confederate monuments at the University of Texas do not have standing to pursue their lawsuit.

“This case was correctly dismissed months ago for lack of standing, and we are pleased that the Fifth Circuit agreed with our arguments and affirmed the district court’s decision,” Paxton said. “As the court recognized, the plaintiffs had no legal injury from the university’s decision to move property on its campus.”

The bronze statues of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston and John Reagan were moved in 2015 and 2017 to the Briscoe Center for American History on the university campus, where the figures are part of an educational display.

counties of Bandera, Bell, Blanco, Burnet, Karnes, Kendall, Kinney, Llano, Maverick, McCulloch, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Williamson, Zapata, and Zavala.

Significantly low rainfall and prolonged dry conditions continue to increase the threat of wildfire and pose an imminent threat to public health, property, and the economy.

In the declaration, the governor authorizes the use of all necessary available resources of state government and its political subdivisions.

Injury statistics posted

The Texas Department of Insurance on Jan. 3 referred to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data showing there are more workers in shopping malls and retail outlets that get sick and injured than in any other private industry sector in Texas.

An estimated 33,200 retail workers in Texas suffered a job-related illness or injury in 2018, as compared to 12,300 in construction, 17,700 in transportation and 20,400 in manufacturing, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

About 25% of these injuries required Texas retail workers to lose a day

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Local store donates supplies to Goose Creek CISD

Huffman ISD students prepare for 2020 HLSR Art Show



Fifth-graders at Bowie Elementary (from left) Kendra Gonzalez, Ja Shawn Laday, Genesis Hernandez Palma and Xavier Alaniz open a box of topper erasers donated by Walmart IDC 7042.

By Susan Passmore

Students are always in need of school supplies, so Walmart Import Distribution Center 7042 recently donated 283,772 items to Goose Creek CISD schools through the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

efforts with Erika Foster, Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation director. The first donation in November included topper erasers, mechanical pencils, zip binders, three-ring white binders and scissors. Highlighters and assorted notebooks comprised the second donation in December.

picked up the items and delivered them to campuses. All elementary schools received a pallet of topper erasers, and the other items were distributed to different campuses. “We appreciate Walmart IDC 7042 for helping us surprise our students before the Christmas break so they were ready to start off being successful in the classroom in 2020,” Foster said.

Huffman ISD students of all ages are busy finishing up Rodeo Art entries. For many years, the school has participated in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program and this year is no exception. Participants range from Pre-K through 12th grade. The program is designed to encourage the

education and appreciation of our Western heritage. Students create Western-themed art entries that include paintings, drawings and sculpture. This year’s district Rodeo Art Show & Open House theme is “Once Upon A Time in the Wild

Wild West.” The event is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2020 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Huffman Elementary School, room 319. All family members and friends can celebrate these winning works along with the student artists. Winning entries will be on display at Reliant Center.



Setup has begun for the 2020 Huffman ISD Rodeo Art Show coming up on Thursday, January 16, 2020. This year’s theme is “Once Upon a Time in the Wild Wild West” the poster is being displayed by local supporters including Huffman Café, Los Compadres, Marsala’s Italian Café and Huddle House.



Travis Elementary students are excited about the supplies their school received from Walmart IDC 7042 right before the Christmas break.

Annual Career Night,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



Ian DeTorne, now an eighth-grader at Baytown Junior School, tries out a riot shield and baton last year while discussing career options with representatives (from left) Stacey LeBlanc, senior warden; Officer Robyn Lacy and Captain Bruce Katchmark from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at Goose Creek CISD’s 7th Annual Career Night, held at Robert E. Lee High School. The 8th Annual Career Night is scheduled for January 16, 2020, at Goose Creek Memorial High School and is open to the public. Photo by Susan Passmore

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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Let's Celebrate

What an exciting week! Earlier this week as LSU won the national championship over Clemson, if you were in the North Channel Community, you may have even felt the ground shake. North Shore Alumnus Eric Monroe and K'Lavon Chaisson were a part of the winning LSU team and the pride that our community has for them is awesome. These young men like so many of the students in our area, had to overcome numerous obstacles yet they kept their eyes on the prize. And it paid off! Supporters such as Denise and Oscar Taylor, owners of Bonfire Wings have been keeping up with these young men for several years as have others from North Shore, such as Chris and Cory Redding.

It has almost become a ritual now that as registration opens up for the Annual Cory Redding 3D Football Camp, that those of us who are a part of the planning team, start praying over every registration and speaking life into those young students. When one of them makes it to the North Shore football team, we start a more intense prayer time, covering the youth in prayer. As they sign for colleges, we start following them on an even closer watch.

This year, Cory is hoping to bring in any of the athletes who have

participated over the years in his camp and then moved on to college or professional ball to return and speak to the attendees. Parents are encouraged to keep an eye out for when registration starts. The past two camps have filled within four weeks. Mark your calendars, as it will be the Saturday following Father's Day and Registration should open just after the Super Bowl.

In addition to these two young men, it is time to get together and celebrate the State Championship North Shore Mustangs on Saturday, February 1. The Community Pep Rally will be held at 3 p.m. at the Galena Park ISD Football Stadium and the event is open to everyone. This will be a celebration to recognize the hard work and diligence of all who worked together to bring home Back2Back State Championships. Many more details to follow in the weeks ahead.

And as promised last week, we have a planning meeting coming up on Sunday, January 19 as well as a second one for Sunday, January 26. Both meetings will be at Panera Bread on Wallisville at 6 p.m. Anyone working on community projects who already have dates set for events this year, is invited to attend and help plan the community calendar. See you there.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

"Why should I keep my fork?"



There was a young man who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as he was getting his things 'in order,' he contacted his Priest and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wishes.

He told him which songs he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what outfit he wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Priest was preparing to leave when the young man suddenly remembered something very important to him.

"There's one more thing," he said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the Priest's reply.

"This is very important," the young man continued.

"I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Priest stood looking at the young man, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young man asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Priest.

The young man explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork."

"It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'"

The man went on, "Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'"

The Priest's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young man good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see him before his death.

But, he also knew that the young man had a better grasp of heaven than he did. He had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people

twice his age, with twice as much experience and knowledge.

He KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young man's casket and they saw the suit he was wearing and the fork placed in his right hand. Over and over, the Priest heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Priest told the people of the conversation he had with the young man shortly before he died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to him.

He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed.

Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share. Being friends with someone is not an opportunity, but a sweet responsibility. Share this story with everyone you consider as a FRIEND... and I'll bet this will be something they will remember, every time they pick up a fork!

And just remember ... keep your fork! The BEST is yet to come!

"Although I did not write this story, the thought of cherishing the relationships of family and friends is very near and dear to my heart. Please, take a moment this week to be loving to someone who isn't expecting it...be kind to someone who perhaps does not deserve it...and be generous to someone who is in need. For giving (and forgiving) is its own reward. I wish you Peace my friends". Diamond Jim

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.

More Texas youth to receive mental health services, remain with families

Health and Human Services Commission and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services are helping more children and youth receive mental health residential treatment services and remain in the custody of their parents or guardians through an increase in availability of residential treatment center beds.

"Supporting families and connecting children with intensive mental health services is at the heart of what this program is about," said Trina Ita, HHSC associate commissioner of Behavioral Health Services. "This additional funding will expand access to mental health care for Texas youth and help keep families together."

With an additional \$2.5 million from the 86th Texas Legislature and Governor Greg Abbott, HHSC is increasing the number of beds at residential treatment centers for children and youth with severe emotional disturbance. The increase brings the number available statewide to 50, up from 40.

"The investments we make in mental health services are critical to ensuring positive outcomes for Texas children," said Sen. Jane Nelson. "As chair of Senate Finance, I am encouraged the Legislature's \$2.5 million investment this session is helping more Texas children access the mental health services they need to lead healthy lives."

A collaboration between HHSC and DFPS, the Children's Mental Health Residential Treatment Center Relinquishment Avoidance Project, helps parents maintain custody of their children in their effort to receive needed treatment services.

The project, established in 2013, is a successful alternative to parents legally relinquishing custody of their children to Child Protective Services. It provides care to children and youth with severe emotional disturbance who need intensive residential treatment services without placing them in foster care. This helps keep the child with their family due to the improvement of family relationships and ability of the caregiver to support and care for their child.

Increasing RTC bed availability is a key goal of the agency's strategy to help people access behavioral health services, as outlined in HHS' business plan, Blueprint for a Healthy Texas. HHS anticipates serving an additional 19 children and adolescents in FY 2020. The RTC Relinquishment Avoidance Project served 31 children and youth in FY 2019.

Children and youth receive room and board; intensive mental health services that include group, individual and family therapy; and educational and recreational activities. Meanwhile, parents or guardians receive family case management, family partner services and skills training from their local mental health authority.

"This is a terrific program, and will get these children, from very young to teenagers, the kind of help they need," said Kristene Blackstone, associate commissioner for Child Protective Services at DFPS. "It also eliminates the stress on parents that comes with being involved with CPS and the courts. That worry is no longer there."



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Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction; February 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2007-20313; TRACT 1: LT 26 BLK 6 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836250000026; Property Address: 0 Water Oak Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 and TRACT 2: LT 27 BLK 6 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836250000027; Property Address: 0 Water Oak Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 Opening Bid: \$16,000.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information

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NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR PLACE ON EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #14 GENERAL BALLOT

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THÔNG BÁO DEADLINE ĐÁP DNG FILE CHO NƠI TRÊN D CH V KH N C P # 14, BALLOT CHUNG

Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #14 Board of Directors General Election ballot may be filed during the following: Se notifica por le presente que las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de la Eleccion General de la Junta de Directores del DISTRICITO de SERVICIO EMERGENCIA #14 (ESD #14) Thông báo đư c đưa ra r ng các ng đ ng cho m t v trí trong QU N D CH V KH N C P # 14 Ban giám đ c B u c t ng tuy n c có th đư c n p trong th i gian sau:

Filing Dates and Times: Fechase y horarios para presentar la solicitud: Ngày n p đon và th i gian: Ngày và gi n p h thư:

Start Date: January 15, 2020 End Date: February 14, 2020

Primer día: 15 de enero de 2020 Ultimo Día: 14 de febrero de 2020

Ngày b t đ u: 15 January 2020 Ngày k t thúc: 14 February 2020

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The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

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Proposal forms may be found on the Barbers Hill ISD website. Questions on accessing the RFP may be directed to Kim Kunk at 281-576-2221.

Sealed proposals are to be returned to the BHISD Administration Building on or before 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with proposers as deemed advisable or necessary.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 479952; Estate of ZIGRIDA AUZINS VANSICKLE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2020.

KENEETH ELMARS VANSICKLE II

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this January 9, 2020.

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Basketball Team,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By Allan Jamail

January 10, 2020 the Mustangs defeated the Deer Park Deer 53 to 51 at Deer Park. They have 3 wins and no losses in district record and are tied for first with Beaumont United in 6A Region III District 21. Both teams will play each other two times before the season ends.

The Mustangs led at the end of the first quarter 17 – 10, but the Deer fought back tying the game 27 – 27 at halftime. At the close of the third quarter the Deer led 42 to 39. During the fourth quarter the lead changed numerous times, with less than 6 seconds on the clock, tied 51 – 51 it appeared the game was headed for overtime. Mustang #0 Joshua Cooper drove to the basket and made a failed layup with 2 seconds left, as the ball rolled away from basket, teammate #13 Randy Woodard went up and tip the ball back towards the hoop and it went in as the buzzer sounded giving the Mustangs the win, 53-51.

Mustangs Randy Woodard was the leading scorer with 18 points, followed by Joshua Cooper with 12, Jaron Jefferson had 11, Kose Egbule with 9, Jakari Marshall had 3.



#10 Mustang Jaron Jefferson weaves between 2 defenders for a 2 point layup.

GPISD Recognizes Board of Trustees During Board Appreciation Month



BOARD OF TRUSTEES: First Row: Jeff Miller, Vice President; Ramon Garza, President; Adrian Stephens, Secretary. Second Row: Wilfred J. Broussard, Jr., Trustee; Norma Hernandez, Trustee; Wanda Heath Johnson, Trustee; Noe Esparza, Trustee
Each January is designated Board Appreciation Month in the state of Texas. This month-long celebration of Board service cannot begin to adequately spotlight the excellent efforts of the Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Public service is essential to provide needed advocacy and representation of citizens throughout our state and nation. In Galena Park I.S.D., we are blessed with a dedicated Board of Trustees who serve the interests of students, educators, employers and taxpayers in the communities that make up our school district. The Board tirelessly serves in numerous ways, including monthly meetings, ceremonial duties, approval of policies and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.



#13 Mustang Randy Woodard 6'-6" makes a reverse layup shot.

Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees recognize MacArthur elementary parent



During the January Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park I.S.D. recognized Maria Delano for being an exceptional parent volunteer. Ms. Delano has volunteered at MacArthur Elementary for five years. This year alone, she has volunteered almost 50 hours. Ms. Delano helps any way she can and greets everyone with a warm smile. She truly enjoys helping others. Galena Park I.S.D. would like to thank Ms. Delano for giving her time and effort to MacArthur Elementary.

GPISD Board of Trustees recognize Community Bank of Texas



The Galena Park I.S.D. (GPISD) Board of Trustees recognized Community Bank of Texas, represented by Brandi Gregg, Executive Vice President, at the January Board Meeting. Ms. Gregg was honored for her outstanding support and commitment to the promotion and continuous improvement of GPISD's Career & Technical Education (CTE) program. Community Bank of Texas is a long-standing partner of GPISD with a presence on the Education Foundation Board and they are a constant support of our students. Recently, Community Bank of Texas partnered with the CTE department to sponsor the first-ever CTE University for district eighth graders. Students will travel from their home campus to the GPISD Agriculture facility where they will experience program areas afforded to students with in the district. Additionally, many other business partners will be on-hand to provide a career perspective to students. Community Bank is the presenting sponsor of this event. Thank you, Ms. Gregg and Community Bank of Texas!

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Crosby, Texas
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2020 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, STK#LL106357. MSRP: \$58,805, \$2,510 dealer discount, 5,500 Factory rebate, \$2,000 Gm financing, \$1,000 Bonus cash, \$39,795 Final Price, plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150. With approved credit Must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 1/31/20 0% APR financing for 72 months with approved credit. \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed, APR in lue of rebates. 2019 Chevy Blazer, STK#KS695099. MSRP: \$48,915, \$2,416 dealer discount, 2,000 Factory rebate, \$750 Conquest rebate, must own 2006 or newer non-GM model. \$43,749 Final Price. 2020 Chevy Trax, STK#LL109029. MSRP: \$23,055, \$627 dealer discount, \$3,000 Factory rebate, \$750 Conquest cash must own 2006 or newer non-gm vehicle, \$750 DPA through GM Financial, \$17,928. Final Price, plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150. With approved credit. Must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 1/31/20.