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CHANNEL CURRENTS

**North Shore Rotary FISH FRY
Saturday April 20**
North Shore Rotary will hold its 49th Annual Catfish Fry, Shrimp and Crawfish Boil. Serving from 11:00am to 3:00pm, at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville Road behind the Courthouse.
Also a Live and Silent Auction, and a Raffle to award a lucky ticket holder a new Toyota Tundra Pickup truck, or a Toyota Rav4 SUV, from Community Toyota*Honda*Kia. Raffle tickets \$100, Food Tickets \$15, available from all North Shore Rotarians.

UIL suspends two North Shore coaches for recruiting violations

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Former North Shore offensive coordinator Andrew Cameron faced the UIL Executive Committee last Tuesday to answer questions of impropriety in recruiting and admitted to the five-member overseers he had indeed attempted to recruit players to North Shore.

The punishment was swift and decisive. The coach was given the ultimate punishment resulting in a rare three-year banishment from all UIL activities. The committee



Coach Andrew Cameron



Coach Gaston Willie



Superintendent John Moore

them and understand the gravity of my errors.”

Cameron is accused of violating Section 51(a)(8), “Any covered school district personnel (all UIL contest sponsors), who by act or omission causes a student representative or a member school to do or fail to do any one or more of those actions or omissions listed below shall be in violation of the Constitution and Contest Rules.” Cameron violated Category A(8) which was recruiting and requires a more severe penalty.

Continued. See HARSH PENALTIES, Page 7

also recommended a two-game suspension at the beginning of district play for North Shore head coach Willie Gaston, who was not involved and unaware of Cameron’s activities, but the committee

felt like the buck stopped at his door for lack of oversight. Both votes were unanimous.

“I do come with sincere humility to acknowledge my mistakes that I made,” a contrite Cam-

eron told the committee. “This situation has completely uprooted my life. First and foremost, I apologize to my family...my friends and colleagues,” he said. “I am deeply remorseful to

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Jacinto City’s Joyce Raines retires with Send-off dinner event

By Allan Jamail

March 1 – March 31 – 2024 – Women’s History Month is a celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. My first Women’s History Month 2024 Honoree is Joyce (Adams) Raines of Jacinto City, Texas. Her birth name is Anneta Joyce Adams.

cide who should become City Secretary due to the late City Secretary Mae Smith’s retirement. Jamail suggested Joyce Raines and Griggs agreed. The rest is history, good history too. (read Jamail’s comments about Joyce further in this article)

Her retirement celebration party was held at Jacinto City’s Town Center. Approximately 100 attendees were served delicious beef and chicken fajitas’ catered by Gringo’s Mexican Restaurant. The dessert was a cake with blue and white icing depicting a replica of a cruise ship. Joyce is locally known for vacation cruises, several of her friends and coworkers who were present have joined her on cruises.

Former Constable and Mayor Chris Diaz was appointed by his wife Mayor Ana Diaz to emcee the party. After a word of prayer by Councilman Allen Lee the



Jacinto City’s Secretary Joyce Elaine (Adams) Raines retires with 38 years of service. The City held a Send-off dinner in her honor, with speeches and gifts from well-wishers. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Joyce Raines (right) receives retirement recognition Resolution from Linda Jamail, Community Liaison for State Rep. Ana Hernandez. She also received a certificate from Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. (Photo Allan Jamail)

Jacinto City, TX. ~ Friday, March 1, 2024 at 6 pm the City of Jacinto City held a retirement celebration party for Joyce Raines. She retired on December 31, 2023 from her City Secretary’s position which she had held for 36 years, her service span with the city covered 38 years. She was first employed with the city in 1985 as their Court/Traffic Clerk.

Two years later in 1987 then Mayor Allan Jamail and the late City Manager JoAnn Griggs had a lunch meeting to discuss and de-

open buffet food line began. Diaz called to the podium the names of former and current elected, appointed officials and friends of Raines who were in attendance to speak about Joyce. He recognized Linda Ja-

mail, Community Liaison for State Rep. Ana Hernandez and Prct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia’s Community Liaison Sandra Zamarripa. (read their comments and certificate wording further in this article)

All of the elected’s of the city were present, Mayor Ana Diaz, Council members Carmela Garcia, Mario Gonzales, Allen Lee, Jimmy (JJ) Rivas and Gregg Robinson. They each said basically the same thing...

congratulating and thanking Raines for her service to the city.

JC ELECTED’S COMMENTS: Lee said he most-

Continued. See JOYCE RAINES RETIREMENT, Page 2

Moss home in Channelview destroyed by Arson fire

By Jackie Medcalf

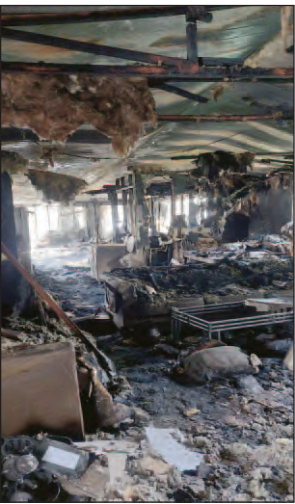
CHANNELVIEW – Greg Moss lost his home the first weekend in March to a house fire, which is being investigated as arson. The fire destroyed everything in his home and Greg could use your support as he rebuilds his life. His home is located in an area along the San Jacinto River known as the River Bottom and Greg’s business is also located on his property. He repairs boat engines and was at the local boat races when someone set fire to his home.

I am asking for people to support Greg and his dog during this difficult time as he is the kind of guy everyone should be so lucky to have in their community. The River Bottom is a place dogs are often dumped and I’ve watched Greg save countless dogs



ABOVE: Firemen from Highlands and Channelview battle the blaze at Moss’ home in San Jacinto River Estates.

RIGHT: The interior of the home was completely destroyed by the fire and all possessions lost.



and find them homes. Greg is a Veteran and he spends the holidays making meals for homeless and delivering them around Channelview.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-greg-recover-from-losing-his-home-to-arson?utm_campaign=to-sharesheet&utm_medium=copy-link&utm_source=customer

Sawyer Yards a Cornucopia of Art every Second Saturday

The Market at Sawyer Yards, an outdoor arts and crafts market, will make its return on Saturday, March 9th, running from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will take place in Art Alley at Sawyer Yards, conveniently located at 2101 Winter St., surrounded by The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Winter St., First Industrial and Silver Street Studios. Art Alley, once a bustling rail line serving the Mahatma Rice Company, has since been transformed into a vibrant hub for local artists.

Since its inception in May of 2016, The Market has been a staple on 2nd Saturdays, coinciding with Second Saturday Open Studios at Sawyer Yards. It has consistently offered patrons a dynamic outdoor

Continued. See SAWYER YARDS, Page 2



Joyce Raines Retirement,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Joyce Raines known for vacation cruises standing at the helm with the ship wheel at her March 1st retirement celebration party. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

ly remembers upon when first getting elected Joyce telling him to now start paying his water bill on time so he won't have to pay a late charge. Gonzales said he remembers Joyce helping him though some of the difficult experiences he was having after first being elected and she's made JC a better place to live. Robinson said Raines was a good friend and has done many good things for the city. Garcia spoke at length on how much help Joyce has been to the city and her and expressed her appreciation for all the city's events Joyce organized. She said Joyce will always be a part of the city's family. She praised Raines for being such a good person and said, "Don't change being the good person you are. Rivas said he's recognized Joyce as playing a valuable role in the city and thanked her for it.

Mayor Ana Diaz thanked and presented Raines an engraved retirement clock from the city and said Joyce has always been a big help with the annual city events such as the Christmas Parade, Santa on the Fire Truck and the Easter Egg Hunt.

City Manager Lon Squyres said he had two things to say about Joyce, one she hated computers and the mistake he felt she made when she moved out of the city. He said, "But she's now corrected that mistake and has moved back to JC."

Former JC Capital Bank President Al Gutierrez and his wife Deborah gave Joyce a beautiful flowered decorated traveling tumbler. Al retired just 6 months ago and he said to Joyce, "Take my advice now that you've retired and do not answer your phone or emails so you can enjoy your freedom."

Former Constable Gary Freeman who was present with his dear wife Mary told Raines she's been a good friend of his wife and him and they've appreciated her for being the good person she is.

Former Pct. 2 Justice of the Peace George Risner said he'll always be appreciative for the help she's given his JP court whenever they needed her resources for the his court. And he thanked her for being instrumental in the formation of the Galena Park & Jacinto City Go Texans Committee that's provided college scholarship funds for the local high school graduates.

Police Chief Joe Ayala gave Raines a retirement gift shaped like a big golden egg and a gift card. He said he's spent lots of time with her obtaining information for the police department and he told her she'll always be welcome to come by the police station to visit. He then read a Bible scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Cindy Miller, the former Heritage Hall Director said, "When I began my employment with Jacinto City in 2000, Joyce's family and mine had already crossed paths years before. My parents were from the same town of Saltillo, Tennessee as Joyce's and her sister Jean's family."

"Both Joyce and her sister Jean were a tremendous help to me when I started at Heritage Hall. I am truly grateful and thankful for

the bond we share because of our family's roots and the friendship we've built working together on city activities. She's talented in so many areas and one of the hardest workers I have ever known. I cherish you, the guidance, encouragement, and the knowledge you have given me, I wish you the very best," Miller concluded.

Linda Jamail presented and read the following resolution from Rep. Ana Hernandez.

WHEREAS, Joyce Raines retired as the city secretary of Jacinto City in December 2023, drawing to a close a notable career with the municipality that spanned more than three and a half decades; and

WHEREAS, After moving to Jacinto City in 1959 from Tennessee, Ms. Raines became a member of local government in 1985, when she began working as the municipal court clerk; two years later in 1987 she was appointed city secretary, and her responsibilities included serving as the custodian of records, keeping the minutes at city council meetings, handling open records request, and overseeing the local city elections as the Election Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of her tenure, Ms. Raines also played an integral role in coordinating special events, such as the Christmas Parade, Santa on the Fire Truck, and Toys for Tots as well as several other city functions; and

WHEREAS, The dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public service demonstrated by Joyce Raines have greatly benefited the residents of Jacinto City and earned her the respect and admiration of her peers, and she may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as she embarks on the next exciting chapter of her life.

Adrian Garcia's Community Liaison Sandra Zamarripa presented Raines a Certificate of Appreciation from Garcia. Zamarripa said, I've not work very long with the county but when I first met Joyce and learned of her long tenure with the city it inspired me. I was so impressed with her dedication and work ethics it really charged me to try to obtain that same commitment with my job as she's done all these years. She's been so nice and helpful to me and I'll always strive to maintain our friendship.

Former Mayor Chris Diaz thanked Raines for her service and thanked everyone who helped with Joyce's party. He said, "In regards to my being one of the mayors when Joyce was city secretary I was like the problem child and or black sheep of the bunch that's worked with her."

Former Mayor Mike Blasingame was present but when Diaz called him to come up to say a word about Joyce he wouldn't get up and come forward to the podium as all the others had. He remained seated in the back as said some unintelligible words.

Former Mayor Allan Jamail said: When Joyce and her sister and brother-in-law Jean and Damus Garey came to Texas and helped make Jacinto City a better place to live in 1959 from Tennessee it reminded him of others like Davy Crockett and his 30 fellow Tennesseans came from Tennessee

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson

When Tragedy Strikes

"Hey Sis, this is Melody. Can you call me?" It seemed like an uncomplicated text yet within several hours, it had blossomed into yet another Eastside miracle. Melody Burr is not only an amazing employee of Galena Park ISD but in her spare time, she is a Comedian who is out to make the world a much better place.

A former student had reached out to her was asking if she would share the information on a GoFundMe that was organized to help pay for his mother's funeral expenses. She took that request and not only forwarded the information to as many contacts as possible but took it a little farther.

Within two days, she had connected with several women in the community and the ground was set for an opportunity for many more to come out and support the family of Desiree Guerrero who had recently passed away due to a lengthy battle with Lupus. Suddenly a father found himself not only grieving the loss of his wife but planning the funeral and starting the process to the "new normal." He and their children have funeral planning and expenses as well as learning to live with Desiree. There will be grief counseling and many adjustments for the family.

But thanks to the community connectors, Crystal Jackson from the Hampton Inn (14120 Karissa Ct., Houston 77049) was able to reserve the banquet room so that on Sunday, March 10th beginning at 4 p.m., the community will be able to enjoy a Comedy Night with "Mel with the Details and MC Yielded." Admission will be whatever the attendees choose to donate. Several others have offered to donate drinks and snacks that will be sold so that the funds will be donated to the family as well. Others immediately began lifting the family in prayer and asking how they could help.

Somehow, when tragedy strikes in the North Channel Area, this is what we do. We move forward to help how we can and bring resources to help our neighbors. If you would like more information on how to help, please contact me at charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com

At the time of the writing, the family has been given information on providing a low-cost funeral that will meet the needs of the family as reasonably as possible. School Counselors have stepped in to provide grief counseling and they are working to be sure the children can move forward with as few obstacles as possible. In the months ahead, as childcare is needed, or information on summer programs and back to school supply distributions, the family will be kept informed.

We have all heard that it takes a village and once again, I am saying that there is no better village that I would want to be a part of than the North Channel Area.

Sawyer Yards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

experience complementing the serene atmosphere of the indoor art studios.

As the market approaches its 8th anniversary milestone, attendees are encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming markets on April 13th and May 11th. The May 11th event will hold special significance as it commemorates the 8th anniversary and marks the final market at this location.

Visitors can expect to discover a diverse array of handcrafted ceramics, woodwork, fiber art, leath-

er goods, and folk creations. Additionally, a variety of delectable treats will be available from packaged food vendors, ranging from cheesecake and chocolates to jams, jellies, and convenient Indian cuisine to-go. As always, a food truck will be stationed on-site.

For those seeking further information and a sneak peek of the full roster of exhibitors, the market's website, <https://sawyerstreetmarket.com/>, has all the details.

in 1839 to help defend the Alamo and which this led to Texas getting its independence from Mexico.

He said it was fitting to honor Joyce today because women's history month started today on March 1st ... he said had this event been a few days later it would have been on his 80th birthday of March 20th.

Jamail said he first met Joyce 39 years ago in 1985 when she became the city's Court Clerk.

Two years later in 1987 when he was mayor she became city secretary, a position she held for 37 years until retiring, proving us to be right.

He continued, "one day Joyce brought her daughter Nikki as a small child into my Mayor's office... she had a red ribbon in her hair, I can still see her now. Joyce always put ribbons in Nikki's hair as a child. Now Nikki has given Joyce 2 granddaughters, Jordyn & Kelsey."

Jamail said Raines worked with seven mayors and three city managers. She always treated each of the different mayor's with the same respect as the others. She never meddled in politics and kept her mind on her job which she's done very well.

Former Mayor Jamail

said most any event in the city in the past 37 years has Joyce fingerprints on them, maybe she's not always out front where you could see her but behind the scene she touched those events in some way. She was my and others go-to. If you wanted to know anything going on or coming up in JC... you went to Joyce.

Jamail also said Kathy Greiner (city's bookkeeper) and Joyce were his Gold Dust Twins (GDT), they worked as a team. Gold Dust Twins refers to anyone there's 2 people who have like interests and work with one another to achieve their interest and goal.

My one word to describe Joyce is loyalty... loyalty comes in different types..... not everyone can demonstrate loyalty... there's loyalty with your co-workers, loyalty with friends, loyalty within your family loyalty to your employer etc... Joyce has been the true example of loyalty... she's been a blessing to Jacinto City and was very loyal to it.

He concluded by asking the mayor and council to consider making a Joyce Raines Day in the city. Just six months ago they made an Al Gutierrez Day for his service to his bank. Joyce deserves that same recognition for her service to the city.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What Can You tell us about Pearls?”



Pearl Education

Welcome to the world of pearls. With the tremendous variety of pearls on the market today, pearls are considered the least understood of all gemstones. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the different types of pearls, pearl grading, their history, and recommendations for care before you make a new pearl purchase.

Types of Pearls

Akoya Pearls

For nearly 100 years, akoya pearls grown off the coast of Japan have been the classic pearl of choice. When one pictures a round strand of white pearls, they are usually thinking of akoya.

Although rare baroque shapes and natural colors like silver-blue and gold do exist, akoya pearls are best known for their perfectly round shape and sharp, reflective luster.

While exceptions do exist, most akoya pearls produced today range in sizes from 4 to 10 mm.

If you are looking for a classic strand of round, white pearls, you are probably looking for a strand of akoya pearls.

Freshwater Pearls

The most affordable pearls sold today, freshwater pearls are known for baroque shapes, white and pastel body colors and softer luster than akoya (except in the case of rare metallics).

With natural pastel colors and shapes that range from perfectly round to free-form baroque, freshwater pearls offer a widest range of options.

Common sizes range from 5 mm to 12 mm, but recent advances have led to the development of round and baroque pearls as large as 20 mm.

If you are looking for an affordable piece or something more fashion-forward with unique combinations of colors and shapes, shop freshwater pearls.

Tahitian Pearls

Tahitian pearls grown in French Polynesia are the only naturally dark pearls. Although often referred to as black, Tahitian pearls come in a rainbow of exotic colors. Round Tahitian pearls are quite rare but other fun shapes like drops, baroques and ovals are highly-sought and still considered very valuable. If you are looking for a naturally dark pearls that go well with almost any style, Tahitian pearls may be your best choice.

Pearl Care

Pearls are the world's only organic gemstone, and therefore, tend to be quite delicate. Proper care of your pearl jewelry is essential to ensure your investment will last a lifetime. Personal care products, such as perfume or hairspray, can severely damage the luster and beauty of a pearl.

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

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. 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.

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P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

Explosive Growth in Crosby & East Harris County

Historical Society details coming growth at quarterly meeting

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Growth in East Harris County, and especially Crosby is not new. Explosive growth, however, is and community leaders are trying to brace the residents for the growth that will change the town forever. At their first quarterly meeting of the year, the Crosby Historical Society hosted Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson, Crosby MUD board member Donna Davenport, and area realtor Velma Ellison who all confirmed to the 250-plus attending the meeting that the small town many of them grew up in will soon be forever changed. In 1970, the census showed Crosby population at 3,868. In 2020, the town has grown almost 10 times that at 32,606. The growth that is coming over the next decade is sure to double the size of the town, according to Jody Fuchs, who presented the information on behalf of the Crosby Historical Society.

Fuchs detailed both large and small developments, Patterson focused on the larger ones that would change the demographics and attendance for Crosby ISD.

“We (the district) have met with 15 of the new developments that are coming and we’re future casting 10,000 new homes with an additional 5,000



Hundreds attended a meeting last month about the Future of Crosby.

new students in the next 10 years,” she confirmed.

Every two years, the University Interscholastic League in Austin does a realignment of all the districts to ensure fair play against schools of similar size. On February 1, they released the newest realignment that keeps Crosby in the large 5A division.

“The next step up is 6A and I believe that at the next realignment (in 2026) Crosby will move up into the largest school division of 6A,” she said. Realignment is based off of student enrollment.

Home prices have almost doubled since 2013 when an average home was listed at \$142,142. In 2023, the

latest figures show the average selling price at \$281,509.

Currently, the district educates students at one high school (9-12 grade), one middle school (6-8 grade), four elementary schools (1-5), and Crosby Kindergarten.

“The high school is expanding by adding a

wing to the building that was built in 2015. I won’t say cheap because it’s going to be nice, but with a frugal mind, thinking about the dollars,” the superintendent said.

Patterson said they are looking towards needs and not necessarily ‘wants.’

“We looked at the floor plan of the high school and you know that we have beautiful open spaces, and small group instruction. It’s flex space, but because we’re concerned about bottom dollar and we need classrooms, we made the decision to turn those into four new classrooms to buy us a little more time,” she explained.

Continued. See LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, Page 6

Lee College - Celebrating 90 Years

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
Longtime Employees Reflect on Lee College’s Transformations

In 1934, history unfolded in remarkable ways. While the criminal exploits of Bonnie and Clyde echoed through the nation, the Federal Communications Commission was established, and baseball icon Babe Ruth marked a milestone with his 700th home run.

During these notable events of 1934, Lee Junior College emerged in Goose Creek, Texas with a vision to pioneer academic and technical excellence for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds. That fall, the school welcomed its inaugural class of 177 students and embarked on a mission that would echo through the decades.

Fast forward 90 years, and Lee College stands as a testament to its founders’ dreams. Breaking records and transforming lives, the institution has become a cornerstone of education in southeast Texas.

Lee College employee Jim Campisi recalls the day he set foot on campus. It was March 8, 1990. He was the college’s first full-time security officer, and in his mind, he was going to give Lee College two years and move on. That was 34 years ago.

Campisi, who is the longest serving full-time staff member at Lee, left his security post after a few years and moved to Shipping and Receiving, where he remains to this day. He’s also a proud alumnus – having received an associate degree in business management with honors.

During his career at the school, Campisi says the biggest change he’s seen was the evolution and integration of technology.



“When I started, we didn’t have computers at our desks,” he recalled with a chuckle. “When you wanted to set up a meeting or send a message, you would have to type out a memo, take it to the mailroom and wait for it to be collected and for a response. Who would have thought that now we can walk around campus and check our emails on our phones?”

As you can imagine, the campus also looked vastly different. There were half as many buildings as there are now.

“What we all know today as John Britt Hall was the Social Sciences Building,” Campisi explained. “Tucker Hall didn’t exist, and now that’s an older building. The fountain that is behind Rundell Hall used to be a parking lot for that building.”

Mike Spletter came to Lee College in April 2002 as a student activities coordinator. The Wisconsin native was brought to Baytown to help convert the old library into a new Student Center. For him, there’s no question October 23, 2004, the day of the ribbon cutting for the first iteration of the Student Center, was his favorite moment as an employee.

Nineteen years later, Spletter, who is now the student engagement manager, would experience another transformative moment — the ribbon cutting for the second renovation of the Student Center. That took place in November 2023 and was made possible by a generous \$5 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Former athletic director Karen Guthmiller’s favorite moment was in 2003 when the new Sports Complex opened. She and her coaches were excited to show off the beautiful new home for athletics, which also hosted playoff games and University Interscholastic League (UIL) tournaments that continue today.

“Our motto was, ‘We are the front door of Lee College,’” she emphasized. “We did so many amazing things to promote and raise money to support our athletic teams – such as hosting golf tournaments. We held summer camps for kids to bring them to campus and show them athletics is a valuable part of Lee College. We also created the Positive Partner program to promote businesses that would purchase signage in our arena, which was always packed with parents and people from the community.”

“I thought I would be here for three years, but there was something about this college that has kept me here since 1993,” Guthmiller continued. “Lee College is a place where you can continually grow and improve.”

“Lee College has always been student-focused, putting students first,” Spletter added.

“You don’t stay in one company for this many years,” Campisi shared. “It’s been like family here. I think because I see the value in education and how we impact the lives of so many people.”

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

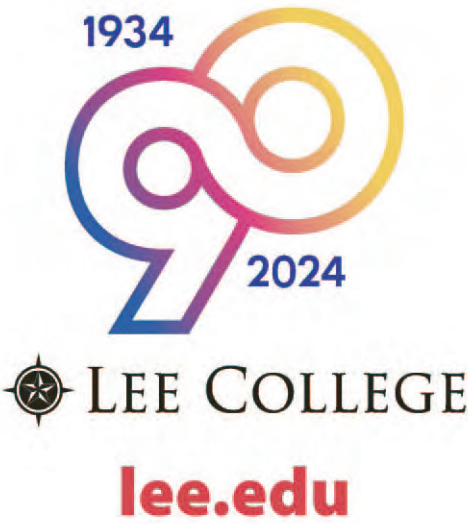


On February 24, 1934, residents in Goose Creek, Texas went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly to establish a new local college. When the doors opened on September 3 and registration was complete, 177 students enrolled in classes, exceeding the expected 150.

90 years later, we are still exceeding expectations.

For nine decades Lee College has served our communities in southeast Texas as a beacon for transforming lives through higher education. The power of a college education to elevate careers and families is our legacy, and we invite you to join our Lee College family.

At 90, we are just getting started.



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About Galena Park ISD

The Galena Park Independent School District was established in 1929 with one common school in the city of Clinton, TX. When the City of Clinton was renamed Galena Park for the Galena-Signal Oil Company in 1930, so was the school district.

Today, the district includes the Cities of Galena Park & Jacinto City, a small portion of the City of Houston and several unincorporated communities in East Harris County such as Home Owned Estates, Hidden Forest, Cloverleaf, Woodforest, Pine Trails and New Forest.

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14705 WOODFOREST BLVD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77015

832-386-1000

communications@galenaparkisd.com

www.galenaparkisd.com

Looking to the Future,

CONTINUED

They're about 75 percent in the design phase and the plans are almost done. She predicted that in March 2024 the board would be seeking construction bids with an eye on actual construction beginning in June this year with a scheduled completion date of November 2025.

Since the bond failed, the district is scrambling to find creative ways to pay for HVAC issues that would have been addressed by the bond.

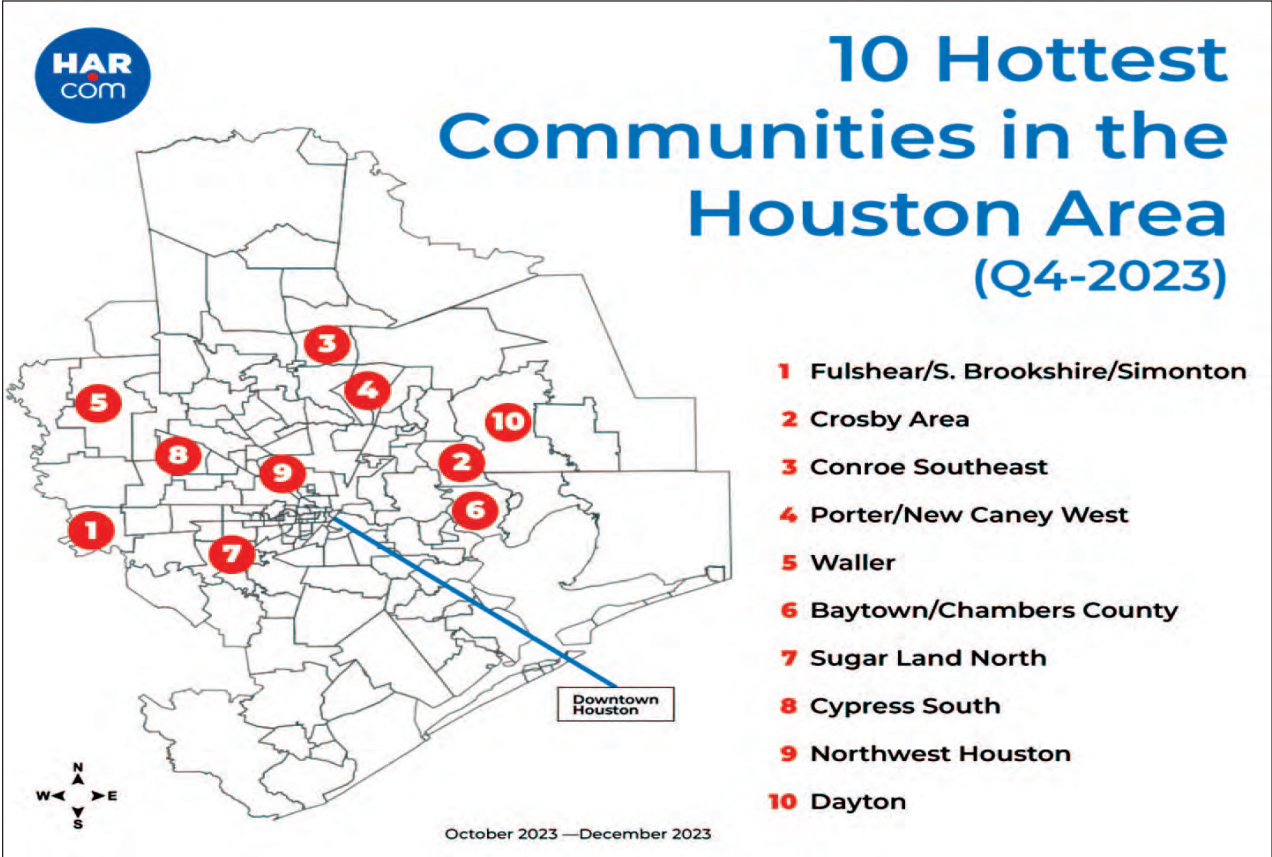
"We have some HVAC equipment in the district that is more than 20 years old. The older it gets, the more likely that it will just stop working and then we're in trouble," she said.

The students are coming. Last May, the district ended the school year with an enrollment of 6,693 students. As of Feb. 7, 2024, there are 6,865, an addition of 172 students. That means at least eight additional staff, several more bus routes, and more students in the cafeterias across the district.

The overcrowding is already noticeable with the middle school whose capacity is 1,525. They are over capacity at 1567 and growing. The high school was built for 1,925 students and currently house 2,008.

"Crosby property values, new homes are selling about as fast as they can build them," said Velma Ellison, owner of Alliance Realtors in Crosby. "We have a very healthy real estate market. The resales continue to maintain good value and they are also selling well. Commercial properties are thriving, and land values continue to appreciate. There are currently 365 homes for sale in Crosby as of this past week. Of those, 217 are single family homes, 19 are country homes and acreage, 84 parcels of land are for sale, and 40 are rentals.

Ellison reported that 667 single family homes were sold in the last year alone, 290 of them being new homes, the remainder as resales or pre-owned



homes.

In the final presentation, Donna Davenport reminded everyone that Crosby Municipal Utility District was established in 1965 and was one of the very first rural MUD districts.

"This means that our infrastructure, water and sewer lines, lift stations, and equipment at our plants are also 59 years old," she said.

Over the years, the MUD district has converted to smart meters allowing them to read the meters from the office.

"It also sees when there are leaks and other issues, we can address much faster," she said.

Over the years, many residents complained

that the MUD district wasn't getting any new restaurants, businesses, or grocery stores because of no water and sewer lines.

"We cannot speculate with your tax money," Davenport explained. We can't just go out and build lines. When they come to us, they ask to be annexed by our engineer who does a feasibility study. Then, if we can, we annex them and supply them with water and sewer," she said.

The developers pay for the build out since it means they can install fire hydrants and having them will lower their insurance rates.

A list of all the new developments coming is available on the video of the meeting on the Crosby Historical Society Facebook page.

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2023-24

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UIL Imposes Harsh Penalties on North Shore Coaches for Recruiting Violations,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He was also in violation of Section 52b, “Failing to comply with the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules” while attempting to recruit via X (formerly Twitter) a student from the Spring Dekaney program. The violation came to light when Dekaney head coach Anthony Williams, instead of contacting UIL, posted a copy of the Tweet from Cameron to his player. The district also received information that Cameron was also talking to a student from Cy Falls in the Cypress Fairbanks ISD.

“I accept full responsibility ... and I apologize to Galena Park North Shore. All they did was trust me to be a leader in their program, and I failed them,” he continued.

Cameron, who grew up in a family of educators and came from Waco to work at North Shore, said he was taught better than this.

“Neither the staff nor the kids at North Shore should be penalized for my own actions. I humbly ask for your guys’ forgiveness, and I’m eager to demonstrate my growth,” he said. “That’s why I resigned from North Shore because ultimately it was me and my doing...coming from very

terrible mistakes and weak moments that I had,” the coach explained.

The mea culpa, however, was not enough to deter the committee from handing down a harsh punishment.

Mike Motheral (Lubbock), who chairs the UIL State Executive Committee which is appointed by the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, had a pointed question for Cameron.

“You’ve alluded to mistakes you’ve made so are you admitting to the fact that you reached out to kids to try and recruit them to your school?” he asked.

“Yes sir,” Cameron responded.

The committee also praised the district for its intense investigation that followed.

“We unfortunately have to deal with these on occasions and I don’t think I can remember a school district who has gone to the links that you folks have trying to ferret out all the information and get to the bottom of this circumstance...kudos to you for jumping on top of this thing and being very, very specific and very detailed in everything that that you have done,” Chairman Motheral said.

GPISD assistant athletic director Kae Walker detailed a meeting with Cameron on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 6, where Cameron was given the option to be placed on administrative leave or resign. Cameron chose resignation, but GPISD did not stop there.

“We felt like it was very important for us to go and do a thorough process to make sure nothing like this was going on throughout the entire North Shore football program,” Walker said.

The investigation began with interviews with every assistant coach, Gaston, former NS football coach Jon Kay, and a dive into mobility rates at the feeder schools Cunningham and North Shore Middle Schools, and the Ninth-Grade campus.

“There was nothing there that alerted us of anything. We live in an area with a ton of apartment complexes,” he said that accounted for 177 new enrollees at the Ninth-Grade campus of 1,100 students and matched up with a 10 percent mobility rate.

“The next step that we did was track every single kid that played from the seventh grade until varsity,” Walker said.

The Mustang varsity

fielded 80 players last year. Sixty of those kids came from Cunningham and North Shore Middle School attending from the seventh grade through the varsity roster. Fifteen enrolled as incoming freshmen or sophomores and played underclassmen football leaving five to account for.

“Two of those kids were actually enrolled in Cunningham or North Shore Middle School and went to another high school and then returned back with the same address they were using as middle school students,” the assistant AD said. Of the final three, one was a move in from Louisiana, another from Cy Ridge, and the final student from Clear Springs. All three played on junior varsity and were moved up at the end of the year as the Mustangs went into the playoffs, something that’s typical with most teams.

“We believe that this was an isolated incident that really doesn’t reflect how we do things at Galena Park ISD,” he said.

He also reminded the committee that despite Cameron’s attempts, he was unsuccessful.

There was an attempt by one committee member to sanction the entire program with a one-year

probation, but he was quickly shut down by three committee members killing any proposition. North Shore never benefitted from any recruiting efforts by Cameron.

The Executive Committee did not make it clear whether the coach could participate in the practices leading up to the two district games he will serve a suspension. Dr. John Moore, superintendent, said he has asked for clarification.

The schedule indicates that North Shore will play Kingwood and Humble the first two games of district, one of them likely at Turner Stadium in Humble.

“We will name an interim coach when Willie has to serve the suspension and we’ll meet with the coaches prior to that to make sure they have everything that they need,” Moore said.

Moore credits GPISD’s success on the field and in the classroom because of stability.

“I have known Willie Gaston and Kae Walker since they were 11 years old. I have supreme confidence in those two young men. They are our future, and I was very proud of how they handled themselves in the meeting,” he said.

To ward off any other incident of this nature, Moore said they planned on adding a couple of more steps in the Previous Athletic Participation Form process.

“The process we’ve been following is setup for us by UIL and we’ve been following it all along. There’s been no red flags and no issues,” he said.

Moore said his former coach got out of line and knew it was wrong.

“We had a young guy move into a position and wasn’t ready for it,” he said.

“Hundreds of people, including staff, students, and community, have worked thousands of hours to build the North Shore High School football program into a successful team with impeccable integrity,” a statement from the district read.

“As a school district, we are thoroughly embarrassed by the former coach’s actions, and we have never experienced anything like this before. The North Shore football program is one of the most successful football teams across the country, having played in five of the last six Class 6A Division I state championships and won four titles since 2015 in UIL’s largest classification.”

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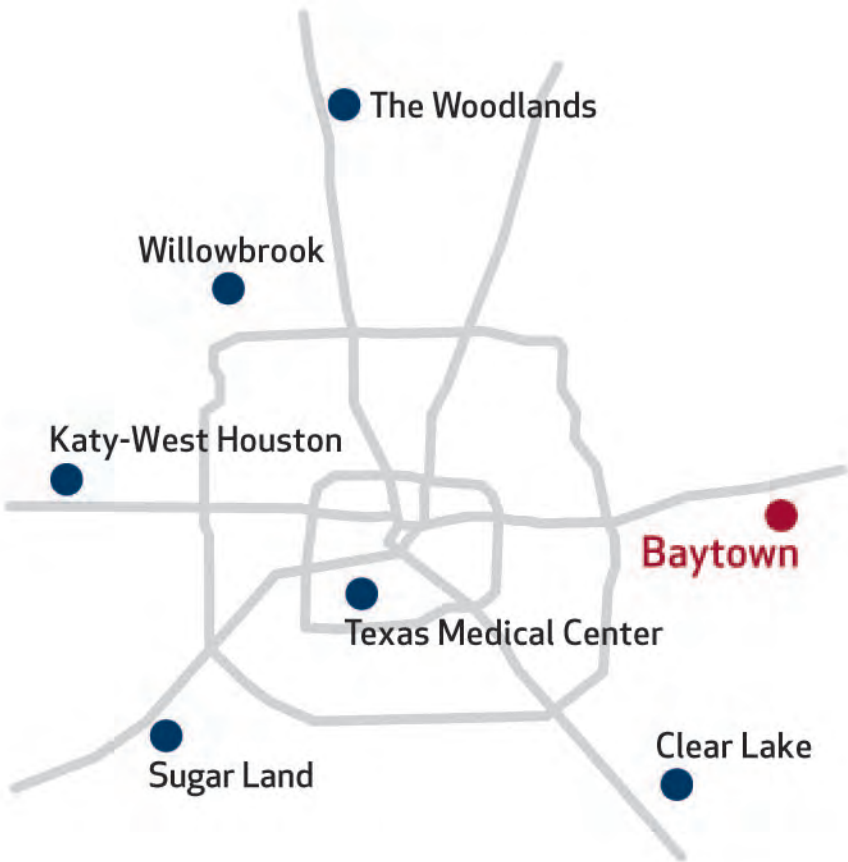
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