

# EDUCATION

Contact Michael A. Smith, michael.smith@galvnews.com

Monday, April 27, 2015 | The Daily News | Section B

## Inside Friendswood



Karolyn Gephart is director of communications for Friendswood ISD.

## Engineering programs continue to grow at FHS

Students interested in careers in engineering can experience some of its many facets through classes, open houses, and workshops in Friendswood ISD.

Friendswood ISD was the first school district in the county to offer engineering classes in its high school. The program continues to grow and FHS now has three full-time teachers offering many areas of engineering for the high school level student. Courses include engineering design, principles of engineering, digital electronics, civil engineering, architecture and new this school year, aerospace engineering.

Aerospace engineering students had a unique experience this year when they met for class at the FISD natatorium. As part of a unit on flight physiology, students had the opportunity to experience what it would be like to construct a basic airlock and then move through it in a weightless environment. This was accomplished underwater. Introduction to engi-

**See FISD | B3**

## Island education



Johnston Farrow is the communications specialist for Galveston ISD.

## A Bag's Life campaign a lesson in the 3 Rs

Starting on America Recycles Day in November 2014 and concluding on Earth Day on Wednesday, students across Galveston made a tremendous environmental impact. Schools from Galveston ISD, as well as private and charter schools, combined to collect and recycle more than 680,000 bags as part of A Bag's Life program. The initiative aims to teach children about the three Rs — reduce, reuse, recycle — during a fun competition with other schools. Clean Galveston, the nonprofit organization dedicated to the beau-

**See Island | B5**



Marissa Vasquez and Riley Harper, with the Texas City High School's Soundsations, rehearse the show choir's closing song of their performance for the Lone Star Invitational Show Choir competition in Fort Worth.

JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

## Talking about TCISD



Melissa Tortorici is the Director of Communications for Texas City ISD.

## TCHS students excel at State SkillsUSA contest

It's important for our country to have a skilled workforce. Texas City High School has several programs that teach skills to students so they can graduate from high school and begin careers using the skills they learned. SkillsUSA provides educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education in our nation's classrooms.

Texas City High School students participate in two levels of SkillsUSA competitions. They first compete at the district level and then earn the right to compete at the state level. Students excel at both levels annually. Our high school students compete in architectural drafting, cosmetology, engineering/robotics, forensic science and welding.

We sent students to the state competition last month after their success at the district level. At state, 43 students received superior

**See track | B3**

## Tip from a teacher

Mondays, The Daily News publishes a tip about learning and teaching. If you have a tip you'd like us to consider, send it to newsroom@galvnews.com. Please keep it short — no longer than 50 words.



## Communication is key to success

Communication is key in the success of any student. Keep an open line of communication between yourself and the teacher, so that you can be contacted easily with any concerns, and especially accomplishments. Email can become a useful tool for quick correspondence with busy schedules.

Rachael Stephenson teaches fifth-grade science at William H. Stewart Elementary in the Hitchcock Independent School District.

# Soundsations

The Texas City High School show choir to compete in the Lone Star Invitational Show Choir competition

By SHANNON DAUGHLTY

The Daily News

### » TEXAS CITY

Kierra Sam has always loved to perform — it's one of her passions.

"I feel comfortable in front of big crowds," the 18-year-old Texas City High School senior said smiling. "I have to be a television news broadcaster one day."

Sam started performing at a very young age in her great grandfather's church, she said.

So, when it came to putting in practice for her last dress rehearsal alongside her 39 other Texas City High School show choir teammates Wednesday, she couldn't contain her excitement.

On Friday, the Texas City High School show choir, Soundsations, traveled to Fort Worth to compete in the Lone Star Invitational Show Choir Competition at Keller Central High School.

Students who participate in the competition range from ninth to 12th grade.

The Lone Star Invitational is the only competition of its kind



Rico Hamilton directs the Soundsations as they rehearse for the Lone Star Invitational Show Choir competition.

in the state of Texas, said Rico Hamilton, one of the show choir's directors.

Schools from north, central and west Texas attend this event, as well as a few schools from Oklahoma, he said.

This is the first year that Texas City High School has sent a team to the show choir competition. The district will have the only show choir from Galveston County area attending the competition, district spokeswoman Melissa Tortorici said.

The 40 students who make up the Soundsations began working on their competition show in November, Hamilton said.

The show consists of seven musical numbers, all of which are choreographed with high energy dancing as well as "top-notch vocals," he said.

The songs are a mix of classical, contemporary and even some current hits. Wednesday the Soundsations performed several songs, two of which were Justin Timberlake's "Take Back the Night" and The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun."

Traveling with the choir and 10 Texas City High School band students are six state technicians who assist with props, costume changes and equipment.

The 20-minute show includes lighting, sound effects, instruments, vocals, solos and four costume changes, Hamilton said.

"The hardest part is probably the costume changes," 18-year-old Hanna Harper said. "We have to set everything up in our own spot before we go on stage so we can get back, change

**See choir | B3**

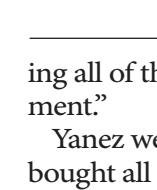
## Student's project helps family's business

Alan Yanez wanted to do something to help his family's landscaping business.

In his welding class at Dickinson High School, he learned how to cut and fit different pieces of steel and iron together for different projects. It was at that moment, he came up with the idea to build a trailer that could hold all of the equipment his family uses in their business.

"I was just thinking one day I really wanted to help my family with all of the new skills I had learned here in our welding class," Yanez said. "Mr. Cox told me that if I could buy the steel, we could build a trailer that would work for haul-

### Inside DISD



Robby Robertson is a Communications Specialist for Dickinson ISD.

ing all of the equipment."

Yanez went out and bought all of the steel for the project and the class started working on it last December.

He said it is really great to see how all of that steel is now a nice trailer.

"It (the steel) was all just laying here on the floor when we started," he said. "It is so cool to see it all put together and what it has made. I never thought we



Dickinson High School welding instructor Ricky Cox and welding students show off the completed trailer they built during class. COURTESY PHOTO

would get it finished. It took a long time to get the cuts made and all the different welds we did on it."

Career and Technology Instructor Ricky Cox said his class was really excited to help Yanez out on his project and that it was almost like it was their

own trailer. He said every day since they started the kids would come in excited about working on this project together.

"This group works so well together," Cox said. "I have built so many trailers in all of

**See DISD | B3**

# OPINION

Contact Kimberly Worner, kimberly.worner@galvnews.com

Monday, April 27, 2015 | The Daily News | B5

## We need a statewide solution for Uber and Lyft

### Guest column



Bill Hammond is CEO of the Texas Association of Business.

In the opening months of this year's legislative session in Texas, there's been ample debate about state versus local control.

When state or local leaders look to consider regulation of new technologies and services, we can all agree that they should be mindful of meeting consumers' needs, driving investment and creating jobs. That's good for every Texan.

Today, though, onerous and conflicting regulations are hobbling entrepreneurs, creating uncertainty in the marketplace, impeding innovation and — in the case of the debate over transportation network companies — reducing jobs and Texans' transportation options.

Fans of apps like Uber and Lyft may find that the rules governing their operations in one city differ dramatically from those in a community down the street or across the state. That not only creates unnecessary confusion for consumers and drivers who

use the apps but also chills and complicates efforts to bring this new technology — or other similar innovations or services — to more Texans across the state. And in some instances, it has forced these companies to cease operations in cities where they were already providing safe rides.

I've long been a proponent of forging compromise and pioneering solutions for many of our state's most vexing problems, and congested roadways are clearly high on that list. Transportation network companies are an important part of a larger effort to reform and transform the state's transportation system.

That's why it's time we brought clarity and consistency to regulations governing these new technologies.

Texas boasts a long-running tradition

of embracing public policy that encourages competition, increases consumer choice and expands economic opportunity. House Bill 2440 is consistent with this successful Texas model.

Transportation network companies' technology can — if we create the right statewide climate — be transformational for both urban and rural communities alike. We should work to ensure that technology reaches more Texans, not limit its ability to serve our state.

This new technology, as a recent Mothers Against Drunk Driving study found, offers Texans a great option for safe rides home and could help reduce drunken driving. Transportation network companies are also increasing efficiency by giving Texans access to a wider range of options for getting from home to work, to entertainment, to school, to church and every point in between.

HB 2440 is a way for Texans' locally elected state lawmakers to ensure that consistent, reasonable require-

ments and local concerns governing the technology are established and applied statewide.

We should embrace policy that creates clear standards for insurance and ensures that all current and future transportation network company technologies fully protect drivers and riders. Background check requirements are extensive and clearly defined in the proposed legislation as well.

The tech economy in Texas is vibrant and growing. It's an economic bright spot that's producing cutting-edge improvements in Texans' lives, from education to health care and energy production to transportation. Let's make sure that Texas continues to flourish when this dynamic sector presents us with a new innovation that is benefiting riders, drivers and the marketplace.

Over two dozen cities and states have adopted regulations that protect consumers, create jobs and provide much-needed transportation al-

ternatives. We can't afford to fall behind by creating an environment that limits choice and competition and risks stifling development of future technologies. By embracing clear policy at the state level govern-

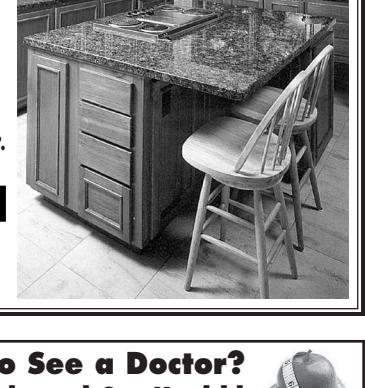
ing transportation network companies, we'll be taking local concerns and providing a strong and appropriate framework to ensure statewide access to an important part of our transportation system.

### SCHLITZBERGER GRANITE & MARBLE

Reasonable Prices!  
Call anytime for an estimate.

Granite Kitchen Countertops

832-343-1299



### Need to See a Doctor?

### Lose Weight and Get Healthy!

### Ask about our weight loss program

A Family Practice, Pediatric Care & PCP Clinic Near You!

Same day appointments!

Medicaid/Medicare & Most Insurances

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9am to 7pm, Friday 9am to 1pm  
Saturday 9am to 2pm

Texas City Clinics

8030 FM 1765 (Exit 12 on I-45)

Texas City, TX 77591

409-995-0765

### GALVESTON ARTIST RESIDENCY & GALLERY

2521 SHIPS MECHANIC ROW  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 11AM - 4PM



### BREATHING SHOULDN'T BE A CHORE.

Secondhand smoke hurts the young, the old and everyone in between. It's known to cause lung cancer, emphysema and heart disease. Children can develop asthma and pneumonia. The good news? It's preventable. Protect yourself and those around you from secondhand smoke. Share the air, not the smoke.

GALVESTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COALITION



YOU MAKE ME SICK

shareair

We have the right to breathe clean air.

www.ShareAir.org

**PASTA PERFETTO!**  
Authentic Italian Dishes  
*Amici*  
RISTORANTE ITALIANO  
(832) 569-5736  
709 W. Parkwood Dr. • Friendswood  
Mon-Sat 11-10 • Sun 11-9

## Looking for me? Gayle Smith

has moved to

**splash**  
HAIR DESIGNS

220 S. Hwy 3

League City

(281) 332-8404

Tues-Fri 10am-7pm • Sat. 10am-5pm

APRIL 2015  
NATIONAL CREDIT UNION YOUTH MONTH.  
**WILD ABOUT SAVINGS**  
AT THE CREDIT UNION

Visit any Coastal Community branch in April and help us celebrate National Credit Union Youth Month. You will go "WILD ABOUT SAVINGS" at Coastal Community. Open a FREE SAVINGS account or make a deposit into your existing account and receive a surprise and enter to WIN \$100!

Kids 2 - 10 can enter the coloring contest

to get a surprise and a chance to WIN \$100. And remember, COASTAL COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION membership is open to all your FAMILY MEMBERS and anyone who lives, works, worships or goes to school in Galveston County. Refer someone and enter to win our Make-A-Match drawing for \$250.

**COASTAL**  
COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2302 Church Street, Galveston, TX 77550

409-765-6067

69th Street & Stewart, Galveston, TX 77551

2600 FM 1764, La Marque, TX 77568

www.coastalcommunityfcu.org

NCUA  
National Credit Union Administration

### ISLAND

Continued from Page B1

tification of Galveston Island, partnered with the A Bag's Life organization and Trex, a composite decking company that specializes in products made from 100 percent recycled material, to kick off the campaign in 2014. Schools placed 330,000 more bags into recycling bins at campuses than the 350,000 total collected last year.

Congratulations to Parker Elementary and Crenshaw Elementary and Middle School for being named the big winners for 2015. Parker won for the most bags collected by a school with 148,000 collected. Crenshaw, with 150 students, won for the most bags collected per student with over 576 bags per student! Both schools win two park benches made from recycled plastic (provided by Clean Galveston and Trex) plus a flag naming them "Galveston's Greenest School 2015" AIM College and Career Preparatory won the big prize in 2014.

"This project is amazing," said Kristin Bingley, Special Education teacher at Parker Elementary, who organized



Congratulations to Parker Elementary and Crenshaw Elementary and Middle School for being named the big winners of A Bag's Life competition that encouraged local public, private and charter schools to recycle plastic grocery bags and other plastic material. Parker (pictured) won for the most bags collected by a school with 148,000.

the winning A Bag's Life drive at the school. "It really brought the school together. It gives kids something to be proud of and we've even used it as a motivational tool when teaching students about responsibility and helping others."

Schools went all in for the second year with many offering free dress to those students who brought in a certain amount of bags. Coastal Village Elementary, which collected 94,000 plastic bags, offered the class with the most bags a Popsicle party. Crenshaw joined forces with

the local grocery store to help collect bags on Bolivar Peninsula to earn top prize.

"The kids were pumped about it," Bingley said. "We passed out a flyer at the beginning of the year, and kids went home and told their parents about it. Every Monday, you'd see a spike because students would save their bags over the weekend."

This year also saw the expansion to private and charter schools to make A Bag's Life a truly island-wide (and Bolivar Peninsula) competition. Clean Galves-

ton awarded O'Connell Preparatory Academy \$250 to its library for the best decorated recycling box. Holy Family Catholic School, with only 114 students, gathered 28,000 bags alone.

It makes sense for schools on the Gulf Coast to teach lessons on recycling and environmental friendliness. Improperly disposed plastic is the cause of thousands of deaths among marine life each year. If there is one thing families in Galveston can rally around, it's keeping our home and our waterways clean.

**Commercial & Residential GOLDEN EAGLE AIR & HEAT**  
CALL ABOUT OUR SPRING RESIDENTIAL AIR CONDITIONING SPECIAL  
**\$69**  
**281-382-4050**  
Owner: Beau Smith  
30 yrs. Experience • TACLB7194E • goldeneaglehvac@gmail.com

**LIFE INSURANCE**  
Don't wait until it's too late.  
**Charles Rohden, Agent**  
**281-992-8181**  
17130 Townes Rd, Ste. A  
Friendswood  
crohden@comcast.net

