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RANCH RECORD

News for the Residents of Blackhorse Ranch



A TEEN WITH A DREAM

by Yessenia Luna | Images by Coffman Photography

The Fairfield Community Gazette is honored that Yessenia shared her story with us. She composed this article. We believe that you will agree, she is a talented writer.

My name is Yessenia Luna, and I have Cerebral Palsy. On April 2, 1999, I was born dead due to negligence by the nurse who was responsible for taking care of my mom when she was in labor. The doctors brought me back to life, but the damage produced by my inability to breathe was incurable.

My life is very different from other people, especially kids my age. I do things differently, but I consider myself an average person who wants to be accepted and be successful.

Kids these days go out to parties and hang out with their friends, but I don't. In elementary school, I was the kid that everyone thought had superpowers. They wanted to hang out with me just because I was in an electric wheelchair. Now I feel that image has disappeared. As I've gotten older, I've realized that friends come and go. People don't need to have lots of friends to be happy.

Since I was three, I have attended regular classes. My mother believed I was intelligent, could understand everything going on around me, and that I had potential regardless of my disability.

When we moved to Texas, my parents told the teachers that I was in regular classes, but I guess they didn't believe them. The school authorities placed me in PPCD (Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities), so they could assess my capabilities.

When I was ready to go to kindergarten, they decided that I would go half a day, instead of the standard full-day, so I got behind. I can still remember the student teacher that was there; she told my mom



that I was smarter than some of the regular students and I should be in regular classes. My mom asked me if I wanted to skip a grade so that I wouldn't be behind. I told her that I had already made friends.

Becoming a fashion designer has been my dream since I was in elementary school. I have always loved being unique in

how I dressed and how I look. Art caught my attention at an early age, and it has been a tool that aids me to be creative and stimulates my imagination. As a child, I didn't see my disability as an obstacle to follow my dream of becoming a fashion designer.

Today, as a person who has a disability, I know that I will have obstacles to overcome, but I will never give up. The most important thing is for me to have hope.

I have always believed that any vocation that someone chooses can improve our society positively regardless what that career is.

My family has always been there for me. My parents have sacrificed time with their other children to be able to take me to physical therapy appointments and surgeries that would help me to be independent. My parents are the reason I'm the person I am: strong, brave, hardworking, and persistent. They have always fought against people that didn't want to give me a chance to show that I am capable and can do anything.

Having Cerebral Palsy is difficult but not impossible. I'm 19 now, and my goals are to be a fashion designer and a wheelchair model to represent people with disabilities. I have researched the field of fashion design to get an understanding of its purpose and how it can positively impact society. My goal as a fashion designer is to provide clothes for people who have disabilities and people in general.

The reason I want to design clothing for people with disabilities is, as a person with disabilities, I know what it feels like when a

(Continued on Page 3)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Ambulance	911
Harris County Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. Bus. Office	281-550-6663

AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center	281-897-3300
North Cypress Medical Center	281-477-0830
Willowbrook Methodist	281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD	281-897-4000
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Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School.....	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School.....	281-897-4600
Cypress Ranch High School	281-373-2300

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Drivers License Info.	281-955-1100
Harris County Tax	713-224-1919

UTILITIES

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Advertising Information

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ATTENTION PARENTS OF GRADUATING SENIORS!

We would like to recognize our graduating seniors by including a small picture and a few lines about where your child will be attending college. Please send your information to articles@peelinc.com (include the newsletter you would like to recognize them in, photo, name, etc).

Cy Fair Republican Women - Scholarships

Cy-Fair Republican Women will offer educational scholarships to two graduating high school women in the amount of \$1000 each. Basic requirements include U.S. Citizenship, Texas residency for at least two years, being registered to vote and planning to attend a Texas institution of higher learning. Funding will be made directly to the recipients' institutions. The application and all requirements are available online at www.cfrw.net. The deadline for the 2017 fall semester is April 30. Completed applications should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Cy-Fair Republican Women
Pat Baughman, Scholarship Committee
9111 Belton Bend Court Cypress, TX 77433
baughmantx@yahoo.com



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(Continued from Cover)



dress is too large or puffy to fit in a wheelchair. Or, how disappointing it is to have clothes you like turn out to be uncomfortable or way too big for your body. As a fashion designer, I will be able to create clothing for different body types and personalities.

In July, I will compete in the Ms. Wheelchair USA Pageant in Ohio. The mission of the competition is to promote glamour, self-confidence and community service, celebrating the accomplishments of women with disabilities. It gives participants the opportunity for women with disabilities to publicize their achievements, educate, and advocate for others while offering a platform for community service and public discussion.

I want to participate in Ms. Wheelchair USA because I want to show people that any individual can impact society positively regardless of their physical ability. With the title of Ms. Wheelchair USA, I will help people with special needs and who have low income to obtain the specialized equipment that will assist them in their daily lives.

I firmly believe that every individual who has a disability should be able to have special equipment despite their economic status. My goal is to provide funds and equipment for people in need, who have disabilities. I want to be the voice for these children around the world to help raise awareness and the provide support, tools, and resources they need to have an equal opportunity in life.



I had to apply before being able to compete. When I found out that I was Ms. Wheelchair Gulf Coast, I yelled because I never thought that I would be accepted. I have opened a GoFundMe account located at <https://www.gofundme.com/profile/yessenia-luna-dwdsx> to help raise money for my competition in Ohio!

Editor's note: Yessenia will graduate from CyRanch in June. While in high school, she has been involved in a variety of activities, attended numerous events, made scores of friends, and was even selected the 2017 CyRanch Homecoming Queen.

You can communicate with Yessenia through social media. Instagram: [yessenialuna_14](#) Twitter: [yessenia_luna14](#)

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There are Foster Parents, and then there are Professional Therapeutic Foster Parents. Professional Therapeutic Foster Parents understand that a child with a traumatic past needs consistency, nurturing, and above all, someone who will focus on the good and help work through the child's difficulties.

Teenage foster children are among the most underserved population in the foster care system, and Benchmark Family Services needs your help to change that. Fostering a teen is an opportunity that is unique, and can be truly rewarding if you are willing to accept the challenge. There is such great opportunity to instill character and values in their lives that they will be able to take with them as they are becoming an adult. They are in need of something stable in their life, and your home could be just what they need. Are you ready to accept the challenge?

In one month, our agency as a whole received 6,919 referrals for children in foster care who need a home. We were not able to accept and place 4,054 of those referrals because there wasn't a Benchmark home available for them. We currently serve over 2,300 youth across four states, and that number is growing. If you have what it takes to become a Professional Therapeutic Foster Parent, we need you! All that is required is the desire to help those in need, the tenacity to persevere, and to remember that it isn't about you... it's about the children. Help them work through their past and influence strong core values and other aspects of becoming a thriving member of the adult community; help make a difference!

Benchmark's mission is to work alongside referring agencies to provide stable and caring placements for youth in need of out-of-home care. We advocate for children by ensuring reasonable

opportunities for healthy physical, psychological and emotional growth and development in the most normal and least restrictive setting possible. To this end, Benchmark will provide and coordinate programs and services in cooperation with referring child welfare agencies. Benchmark is committed to the highest standards of childcare and professionalism.



At Benchmark Family Services, we pride ourselves on our customer service. We provide state of the art training to all of our foster families to prepare them to properly care for the children that will be in their home. We never want our families to feel like they are going through this alone; we understand how tough of a job this can be, and endless support is provided to all of our families 24/7. With Benchmark, you will have the support of a team of professional, caring staff who are working with your family and the children in your home every step of the way. By doing this, they will have the opportunity to understand not only the children and their needs, but your needs as a parent as well.

Our Houston office is located at 9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 615. If you are interested in becoming a therapeutic foster parent or would like more information, please call our local office at (713) 995-5118.

Our other Texas locations include Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, League City, Longview, Lubbock, McAllen, and San Antonio. If you would like to contact any of our other offices, you can reach us at 855-5FOSTER (855-536-7837), or visit our website at www.benchmarkfamilyservices.org for more information.





Cy-Fair Republican Women May Meeting

CFRW will meet on Tuesday, May 8th at 10:30 AM.

Hearthstone Country Club,
7615 Ameswood, Houston, TX 77095

Meeting is \$3 – Meeting with Lunch at Noon is \$23.

The candidates that will be in the Republican primary runoff have been invited to speak at the May meeting, as well as another interesting speaker. The primary runoff election date is May 22nd. Early voting starts May 14th. These are very important! Please vote and get out the vote! We will also have a representative from Cy-Hope speaking about their programs and mission. Cy-Hope serves the Cy-Fair community as a catalyst to bring needs and solutions together and bringing hope to at-risk children so they will grow into educated and productive citizens.

See the website for details and RSVP to www.cfrw.net by May 1st.



Micheline Hutson attending annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) held in Maryland, February 2018.

Several candidates attend our meetings regularly so come and get to know them.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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Computerized job search and resume preparation and printing are also available.



Cypress Texas Tea Party

The next meetings of the Cypress Texas Tea Party will be on:

Saturday, May 19, 2018 NOON - 2:00 PM

Saturday, June 9, 2018 NOON - 2:00 PM

The Cypress Texas Tea Party meets every three weeks on Saturday

Noon until 2:00 PM

at: Spring Creek BBQ

25831 Northwest Freeway

Cypress, Texas 77429

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/OoNjY>

A schedule of our meetings and confirmed speakers can be found at our website, www.cypresstexasteaparty.org

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