

Ranch Record

News for the Residents of Blackhorse Ranch

December 2020 • Volume 14, Issue 12



*The Silver Liners are
Ramping Back Up!*

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RANCH RECORD

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Willowbrook Methodist	281-477-1000

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Warner Elementary School	281-213-1645
Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School	281-897-4600
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Drivers License Info.	281-955-1100
Harris County Tax	713-224-1919

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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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THE SILVER LINERS RAMPING BACK UP

by Gwendolyn Loy Ware



Some 7 ½ years ago the “Classic Adults” group was formed at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, in Fairfield. The group of 55+ quickly grew from monthly luncheons with entertainment or a speaker to offering weekly men’s coffee group, field trips, and an energetic line dancing group! Line dancing is a form of dance that takes place with a group of participants lined up in rows and executing the same movements in a synchronized manner. Early efforts included learning the steps and dances for “The Unicorn” and “Tulsa Time”, and other beginner dances. As our skills improved, we advanced to more difficult dances like “The Charleston”, “The Waltz”, and “The Country Two-Step”. We chose the Silver Liners name for ourselves and started thinking we could entertain others.

Soon the Silver Liners were going out to Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities to cheer-up the residents. Bringing smiles to their faces, warmed our hearts. We were also asked to perform for Classic Adults holiday luncheons and for other parties. We soon felt the love we were spreading through the joy of music and dancing.

In 2019 we were asked to perform at the Annual Health Festival which was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Houston. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. Our presentation theme was “You are never too old to dance.”

Line dancing is a great form of exercise for older people because it provides a platform for you to be involved in a social environment, which is great for mental wellness. Our Silver Liners practice at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in the gymnasium on Thursday afternoons at 3:15 until 4:30 PM. Normal class attendance runs from 15 to 20, although we currently have 30 members on our roll. Good Shepherd is located at 20155 Cypresswood Drive in Fairfield.

Recently we have started a beginner’s class on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 until 11:00 AM in the theatre of the church. Our classes are open to all, men or women, regardless of their Church affiliation. Good times and fellowship with other Christians are had by all, as well as good exercise.

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Fairfield Welcomes a New Entrepreneur

by Jackie Devine



Fairfield has a brand new entrepreneur. Not only that, our high-flying promoter is a veteran, wife, mother of two, and a shrewd businesswoman with a cutting edge idea.

Two months ago, Holly Malakar opened the doors of Lonestar Liquidation Warehouse at 290 off Barker Cypress, down the road from the Hope Chest.

When Holly was on the hunt to identify a business that she could sink her experience and talent in, she was also looking for a way she could offer customers needed products at fair prices.

Plus, she wanted to help business-minded people increase their chances of success even in challenging economic times.

After conducting considerable marketing research and an extensive feasibility study, she concluded what the Cypress area needed was a full-fledged liquidation company. Also known as closeout liquidation or liquidation pallet companies, these firms purchase excess inventory from large retail chains and sell the goods at a discounted rate to their customers.

Lonestar Liquidation Warehouse buys truckloads of pallets of overstocked merchandise, box damaged, and returned items from major retailers. Customers buy a single pallet full of merchandise, which allows them to obtain products cheaper than their market price.

Unlike purchasing liquidated products online, LLW invites buyers to come and personally inspect the goods before purchasing. For individuals and many retailers, this is important as it gives them the option to touch and inspect the merchandise they wish to purchase.

Customers run the gamut from people working at flea markets to individuals looking for home appliances. For example, someone may be looking for a deep freezer. There may also be a mini-fridge, microwave, a vacuum on a pallet with a deep freezer. The person would buy the pallet for the deep freezer, sell the other items on it, and potentially get the deep freezer free. Or they could resell the entire pallet of merchandise, and make money on all the merchandise.

LLW sells the entire pallet at such a price that the customer could resell the merchandise and make a profit.

Holly recalls, "The day of Fairfield's Yard Sale was my opening day. A friend of mine bought one of my pallets and sold items at the garage sale. Others passed out flyers that day, and some of them came by and checked LLW out.

You can learn more about Lonestar Liquidation Warehouse by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/LonestarLiquidation>.

Voting With A Message *by Jackie Devine*

750 Harris County polls were operating on Election Day, and 122 were open during early voting, which ran from October 13 through October 30. This year, a number of people living in Cypress participated in the election process. A sampling of various ways included posting information on social media, placing a sign in their yard, or walking the block and campaigning.

For my contribution, as your editor, I choose to work the polls at John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center (JPLEEC). I wanted an up-close and personal way to meet and greet the voters and gain first-hand knowledge of how the political process works. Regardless of media spin, hopefully, what I encountered was not an anomaly or a statistical outlier of the voting process but an accurate representation of what is possible when people come together for the common cause of ensuring our nation's freedoms.

When our team assembled to set up the polling station at JPLEEC on Monday, October 12, we were complete strangers. The Presiding Judge Randi Houston introduced herself, as did Alternate Judge Mark Woodson.

First up to speak, Randi set the tone for all future activities, explaining, "I took on this job because I encountered a bad experience at a primary this year; the clerk kept saying if you have a complaint,

then call this number. I didn't want to complain because I have a business and know what it's like to deal with grievances. So I decided that I could help fix the situation by being part of the solution instead of the problem.

"After extensive research, I found that my skills fit perfectly with the clerk job description, so I volunteered. A few weeks later, I got a call saying they received my application. The interviewer told me that she wanted me to work in the PJ position and asked when I would be available. 'What is a PJ,' I asked. 'That sounds important.'

The lady said, "Oh, I'm sorry, it's a Presiding Judge, and yes, it is important."

Randi continued, "That little girl inside of me said, 'You've got this. You can do it.' But then, in real-time, I was like, 'Yes, you have it, but do you have the time to do this?'

"Although I didn't know what to expect, I knew this would be part of a historical event, and it was the perfect opportunity to witness how elections work.

"I figured that there would be a lot of Baby Boomers, Generation Xers, and Ys, as well as scores of the high school and college students who would be casting their very first ballot.

I felt this was my chance to help people have a positive and memorable voting experience."

Mark Woodson, the Alternate Judge, who became the Presiding Judge on Election Day, also a first-time poll worker, stepped forward and explained his position. He felt the upcoming election was a critical one, emphasizing that he wanted to do his part in ensuring that we are handing off an intact political system to the next generation.

He outlined the group expectation. It was to be a people-first, party last approach. Black, White, Brown, Democrat, Republican, or Independent, we were free to embrace our own opinions---however, not while we were serving the citizens of Harris County.

Each morning, we gathered for a team meeting to assess the previous events of the day, outline new information distributed through the county, review difficulties voters may have faced, bottlenecks witnessed in the voting process, and give kudos for jobs well done.

Both Randi and Mark operated from a top-down/bottom-up management style. All team members were expected to join in, pull their weight, and assist where needed. Every day all clerks switched positions thus requiring all to work (and think) together. Seamlessly we moved from one position to the other.

Voters were welcomed on the sidewalk outside the entrance and greeted once again in the lobby. We learned their names, applauded them for coming, and celebrated our first-time voters for their effort.

Clerks jumped at the chance to walk portable voting machines out to drive-up voters.

It was a common occurrence to overhear voters say, "That was so much fun, I'm going to vote here again next time."

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On the last day, I asked a number of my counterparts how they felt about the experience. Although they permitted me to quote them, I've left the names off their comments for safety reasons. A composite of their answers includes:

"We came together from different countries, cultures, backgrounds, and parts of the city to work together as a team to achieve one great goal, and that was to provide a safe environment that was efficient, fair, and inspirational. This team would be a good team to show to the rest of the state."

"I was wondering how we could function as a team with so little training. As it turned out, we shared our experiences, and that made us all stronger."

"We got together, shared our experiences, cross-trained, and learned how to work each position, laughed together, but got serious about our work when the time came."

In addition to natural-born citizens, our team represented Columbia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Hawaii. We reflected a variety of various ages and religions, differing levels of education, and diverse walks of life. As a team, we accomplished what our forefathers envisioned when our country was created. We performed as one nation, indivisible, and together we represented liberty and justice for all.

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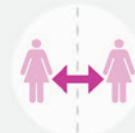
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