



Legacy all shook up from Elvis party [3A]



St. Mark's stays perfect with win [11A]



Dallas gears up for glitzy fundraiser [1B]

Preston Hollow People

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ONE QUARTER

Spec Homes Signal Market Comeback

Builders confident that construction will pay off

BY WILLIAM JAMES GERLICH
Staff Writer

With the housing market still gaining momentum after a strong summer, builders are beginning to construct spec homes throughout the neighbor-

hood, including one on Preston Hollow's most coveted street: Strait Lane. With an asking price nearly four times that of any other new home in the area, the \$11.5 million house is being built by Sharif & Munir Custom

Homes. Company salesman Grady Yates said it is months away from completion, but he is beginning to look for a buyer. For background, a spec home is a house that a builder constructs with no particular buyer in mind,

based on speculation of what a potential buyer would want. "The spec market in higher-end neighborhoods like Preston Hollow is beginning to pick back up," Yates said. "If you look at Realtor.com, you'll see that

there's not a high spec-home inventory, partly because it has been very difficult for builders to get a loan from banks after the financial crisis of 2008, but since the housing market is getting stronger, it is beginning to get easier to secure financing." According to the Texas A&M Real Estate Center,

285 permits for single-family houses were issued in Dallas County in July. That's 24 percent more than July 2011. Yates said his company secured private financing from a previous customer to build the Strait Lane house. It is the only

See HOUSING, Page 12A

Hankins Gives Up Football Career

Parish graduate walks away due to concussions

BY CHUCK COX
Staff Writer

The promising career of former Parish Episcopal standout linebacker Rob Hankins came to an end this month when he decided to give up football. He is still recovering from a severe concussion he suffered last month, his second since enrolling at the University of Arizona.

"It's really tough, but it's to the point where right now I still have concussion symptoms and it's been about six weeks," Hankins said. "There are a whole bunch of deficits within my brain function. It could take up to a year before I get those fixed and back to normal. With one more blow to my head, there's no telling what the damage from that would be — it could be another year, two years, or it could be lifelong. I might not have the ability to concentrate the rest of my life. It's just not worth it."

Hankins (6-1, 217) was one of the top linebacking recruits in the nation after a stellar high-school career that included helping Parish win a Texas Association of Private and Parochial School Division II title in 2010. Last year, he made three starts and played in 10 games for Arizona before a concussion sidelined him late in the season. Hankins made 10 tackles.

"It's a blow to us in terms of our depth," Arizona defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Jeff Casteel said of losing Hankins. "Getting started out here, he's a young guy who played as a fresh-

See HANKINS, Page 12A

ESD alumna to work with current students on creating gift to school



PHOTO: JEN WHITE/GIRLWITHACAMERA.COM

After working with renowned glassblower Dale Chihuly, Episcopal School of Dallas graduate Carlyn Ray struck out on her own. An exhibit of her work opens Thursday at her alma mater.

Ray Fires Up For Show at Alma Mater

BY KARLEY OSBORN
Staff Writer

At 8 years old, Carlyn Ray saw her future as clearly as if she were looking at it through a windowpane. Her parents were the first to hear the news: She would grow up to be glassblower who worked with kids — a dream an athletic scholarship would help her to accomplish.

"You say, 'Okay, honey. Of course.' But she meant it," said Ray's mother, Cindi, who opened Preston Center's Carlyn Galerie in 1989. "She absolutely fell in love with [glassblowing]."

By 14, Ray was standing in line with her mother at the Dallas Museum of Art, waiting to meet glass master Dale Chihuly. After asking for Chihuly's autograph, Ray informed the world-

IF YOU GO

What: An exhibit of Carlyn Ray's blown glass at Episcopal School of Dallas, her alma mater

When: An opening reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday.

Where: The Jennifer & John Eagle Gallery in the Susan M. Frank Center for Arts & Humanities

RSVP: 214-353-5863

renowned artist that she wanted to be a glassblower. Chihuly suggested that when Ray was a bit older, she take a class at his school.

"I considered it a personal invite," Ray said with a smile.

Slowly, Ray's childhood vision

See RAY, Page 13A

Pedigo Has Rare Pedigree in DISD

National Merit status achieved by 14 in district

BY DAN KOLLER
Staff Writer

When the National Merit Scholarship Corp. announced its 16,000 semifinalists last week, 14 DISD students made the cut. Ten of those go to the School for the Talented and Gifted, the nation's top high school according to *U.S. News and World Report*. Three others attend the School for Science and Engineering, which was third in the magazine's rankings.

That leaves one semifinalist representing the 36 other high schools in

INSIDE

Area private schools have several semifinalists. Page 8A

DISD: Preston Hollow resident Sydney Pedigo, a senior at Hillcrest.

About 1.5 million juniors entered the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2011 PSAT. In advance of that test, Sydney took a Princeton Review course that she said prepared her for not only the PSAT but also the standard SAT.

"The course raised my SAT score by about 300 points, just from teaching me how to take the test," she said.

See PEDIGO, Page 12A

Retirement Doesn't Work For Matriarch



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS MCGATHEY

Preston Hollow resident Christine Chaney, 85, works the phones at the Chacon Autos sales office on East Northwest Highway.

Octogenarian works full-time at Chacon Autos

BY DAN KOLLER
Staff Writer

If you're looking for Christine Chaney, don't look too hard. Unless it's Sunday, you can always find her behind a desk at Chacon Autos.

"The only time she's not here is when she's getting her hair done," said Chacon salesman Duane

Rimmer. "And that's six days a week. Most of us work five days. She works harder than anybody else here."

That's a fine thing to say about any co-worker. It's another thing entirely when you consider that Chaney will celebrate her 86th birthday next week. While her friends enjoy retirement, the Preston Hollow resident keeps contributing to the success of the business co-founded by her late husband, William, in 1958.

See CHANEY, Page 12A



QUOTABLE

"For some, gay marriage is a political or religious issue. For us, it is a family issue."

— MICHELE VALDEZ (See Page 2A)

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PHOTOS: JEN WHITE/GIRLWITHACAMERA.COM

Although her volleyball skills helped her go to college, ESD graduate Carlyn Ray is following in her family's footsteps by pursuing art as a career. Her mother and sister run a Preston Center gallery.

Ray

Continued from Page 1A

began to solidify into reality. Volleyball garnered her a full athletic scholarship to William and Mary, where she majored in art and minored in psychology, and — unbeknownst to her landlord — kept a flameworking torch hidden in her apartment. At 22, Ray traveled to New Zealand to pursue her first glassblowing classes. She worked as a full-time employee for Chihuly and

assisted several international glass masters, spent a year blowing glass on a Mediterranean cruise ship, and until last November, worked upscale catering events in Austin to make ends meet.

Because of her efforts, Ray is now the owner of Carlyn Ray Designs. She is also in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) non-profit status for Austin Area Artist's Project, a facility that will offer programs in ceramic, metal, and glass with a focus on at-risk youth.

"She's totally undaunted," Cindi said.

Busy, too, thanks to the recent actualization of yet another dream: a collaborative project with her alma mater, Episcopal School of Dallas, which will culminate in the production of a glass chandelier.

"The process is just as important as the art, or more so," Ray said of the final "celebratory" installation piece.

To bring her expansive vision for the project to life, Ray worked with ESD art teacher Vikki Martin.

Together, Martin and her former student outlined the following program: Ray will speak to Middle and Upper School students during chapel and in science classes; ESD will run an exhibit of Ray's work through November; students will write statements about their dreams and ambitions on slips of paper; and finally, Ray and students in the fifth and 12th grades will incorporate these reflections into the creation of the chandelier, which is expected to hang in the school's

Stephen B. Swann Athletic and Wellness Center.

"The idea of this — working with kids — is spurred from my foundation that ESD gave me," Ray said. "Father Swann is retiring, which is kind of a pinnacle moment. It's reflecting on the past and moving toward the future for the school and for me."

Ray's mother said the ESD project boggles her mind.

"Every time I try to wrap my mind around it, I think, 'How can this get done?' But it will," Cindi said.

Ray's older sister Wendy Dunham — a jewelry maker who has helped manage Carlyn Galerie for 12 years — shares her mother's confidence in her younger sister's many endeavors.

"[Carlyn] has a heart of gold and the most crazy passion for what she does. That's why I know she's going to make it. She's going to be big," Durham said.

Even bigger, perhaps, than Ray's 8-year-old self could have imagined.

Email karley.osborn@peoplenewspapers.com

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