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Bay Area voters head to the polls Saturday

MARY ALYS CHERRY
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Bay Area residents will head to the polls Saturday, May 12, to elect a number of officials, Clear Creek School Board trustees and to cast ballots on the Harris County WCID # 50 Board and the Houston WCID # 12 Board.

It's time to listen up, or you may get confused. In most cases, voters will be able to cast ballots at two different polling places as city elections will be held at various locations including city halls and the school district elections at various locations.

Ballots will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In some cities will not hold elections. League City has postponed its election until November and Nassau Bay Taylor Lake Village candidates have no opponents. In most all cities will be conducting their city hall elections. An exception is Clear Lake which has its election at the Clear Lake Community Clubhouse designated as the polling place for the municipal election, and voters will vote for three seats on the Clear Lake County WCID Board and a Kemah Voter Service Center fee increase at the Kemah Fire

Department fee increase at the fire station.

Voting for the Harris County WCID # 50 Board will take place at the WCID office, 1122 Cedar Lane in El Lago, where Russ Gartman, Mario Runco, J.L. Restivo, Ralph Toennies and Jon Vernon are vying for seats.

CCISD POLLING PLACES

Voters can cast their ballots for the CCISD trustees at a number of places:

- At-Large Position A**
- Amr Abouleish, MD
- Charles Pond
- Harris County**
- Precincts #0090, #0333, #0377, #0415, #0692, #0703, #0290 at Robinson Elementary • 451 Kirby Drive • Seabrook
- Precincts #0907, #0091, #0391, #0746, #0748, #1040, #0750, #0416, #0174 at Space Center Intermediate • 17400 Saturn Lane • Houston
- Precincts #307 at Nassau Bay City Hall • 18100 Upper Bay Road • Nassau Bay
- Precincts #0473, #0568, #0699, #0715, #0744, #0745, #1037, #0732, #0728, #1040, #0750 at Ward Elementary • 1440 Bouldercrest • Houston
- Precincts #0092, #0306, #0718, #0721, #0724, #0174 at Clear Lake 9th Grade Cen-

KEELS & WHEELS, GRAND MARSHAL BOBBY UNSER DELIGHTS CROWD AT POPULAR ANNUAL BAY AREA CELEBRATION



Bobby Unser, who is the 2012 Grand Marshal met with visitors and signed autographs during the show.

Perry pushes legislators to keep Texas on 'right track'

By **FLORIAN MARTIN**
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Texas is the best state when it comes to business development but the Legislature has to continue to make sure it stays that way, Gov. Rick Perry said at a luncheon at the Clear Lake Hilton Monday, May 7.

Perry spoke in front of about 300 Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership members, including many elected officials, to talk about his Texas Budget Compact, which he announced last month.

The compact supports a constitutional limit to spending to the growth of population and inflation, opposes any tax increases, supports a permanent tax exemption for small businesses, demands preserving a strong Rainy Day Fund and proposes cutting unnecessary government programs and agencies.

Speaking in front of exclusively fellow Republican lawmakers, such as State Reps. Larry Taylor, Ken Legler and John Davis, and State Sen. Mike Jackson, Perry admitted that he may be preaching to the choir but said it is important for Texas not to get lazy.

"We got to look into ways how we can maintain our lead," Perry said, and that is by following his budget

Photos by KAR B HLAVA



Photo by ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH/For The Citizen

West Marine Assistant Manager Michael Valeasquez (left) and General Manager Nolan Vander-Haagen (center).



Photo by JIM MOLONY/The Citizen

A wide variety of boating equipment and supplies, fishing tackle, clothing and more can be found in the expanded West Marine store, at 25,000 square feet the largest marine supply store in Texas.



Photo by JIM MOLONY/The Citizen

General manager and Clear Lake resident Nolan Vander-Haagen details the features of the store's boating supply area.

West Marine launches flagship store in Kemah

By JIM MOLONY
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West Marine held grand opening festivities for the first flagship store in Texas over the weekend as more than one thousand people showed up during three days of events at the 25,000-square foot store.

"We wanted to make sure that we cater to everybody that owns a boat or enjoys boating, fishing and being on the water," Nolan Vander-Haagen, General Manager and Clear Lake resident said. "We will offer everything needed, in terms of fishing gear, engine parts, clothing -- whatever makes for a great

day of boating and fishing, whether on Galveston Bay or the Gulf of Mexico."

The store, the largest of its kind in the state, features a 2,500-square foot fishing section with a fishing shack for local anglers. The focus is on saltwater fishing, both in-shore and offshore. An impressive array of reels, rods and tackle greet visitors as they enter the main entrance.

"This is something the customers have expressed an interest in, and we had the space, so it just made sense to do it," Vander-Haagen said of adding the fishing lines.

An on-site sailboat rigging shop with an expanded sail-

boat hardware department is on site as well as an engine parts counter staffed by specialists. A wide variety of kayaks and inflatable boats are available.

The store has an expanded line of shoes and clothing to fit the boating crowd. Everything from sunglasses to high heel boating shoes can be found in the clothing section.

There are 125 live units in the electronics section, giving

customers an opportunity to try out the latest in boating electronics gear in a hands on setting.

Adding so many lines and additional floor space West Marine needed to add more employees.

"We went from 12-15 to 30 associates," Geoff Eisenberg, President and CEO, said.

That crew brings a lot of experience to bear. Vander-Haagen has been with West Marine for more than 18

years. The 30 associates have more than 330 years of combined boating, fishing and sailing experience with more than 50,000 nautical miles to their credit.

West Marine is located at 1401 Marina Bay Drive in Kemah.

The store is one of four flagship stores opened by West Marine this year. The others are in Honolulu, Hawaii, Old Saybrook, Conn. and Fort Myers, Fla. Overall Watsonville, Calif.-based West Marine has 310 stores worldwide.

Jesse Farley has been serving the Bay Area for over 25 years!

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