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CHANNEL CHATTER

C.P.A. CLASS #1

Citizen's Police Academy Class #1 at John Phelps Court-house, 101 S. Richey Pasadena, Texas 77506. August 27th - Oc-tober 29th, 2014. From 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Wednesday Evenings. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and reside in Pre-cinct 2 (A thorough background check will be conducted on each applicant). Cost: Free. This Pilot class will be limited to the first 40 qualified applicants. Ap-plications may be picked up at either Constable Pct. 2 office, 101 South Richey Suite C Pasa-dena, Texas 77506, 713-477-2766 or at 10851 Scarsdale Houston, Texas 77089, 281-481-9789. Applications must be turned in no later than August 20th, 2014. For more informa-tion please contact: Sgt. Cindy Vara Leija 713-477-2766

Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP meeting

GALENA PARK-JACINTO CITY COMMUNITY-INDUSTRY PARTNER-SHIP (CIP) meeting is THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014. 5:45 p.m. – light dinner; 6:15—business starts and adjourn by 8:15 p.m. At Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park. Host plant: SunEdison

Annual Report on CIP Plant Emissions will be presented:

- CIP plants subject to reporting emissions to state and/or federal regulatory agencies have provided data on their 2013 emissions, which have been compiled to show to-tals as well as trends since 2008 as well as explanations for change from 2012 to 2013.Contact Diane Sheridan at 281-326-5253 for res-ervations by Friday, Aug. 29 at noon.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are on 1st Thursdays at Alvin Baggett Community Center. Dinner at 5:45. Business 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.

GALENA MANOR

Green holds Town Hall Meeting in GP

GALENA PARK – Con-gressman Gene Green met with several dozen of his con-stituents and residents of the area last Monday night, in a scheduled Town Hall session.

The meeting was held in the Churchill Community Build-ing, which Civic Club presi-dent Taggy Hall noted “this is the first time a town hall meet-ing has been held at our com-munity center.”

Green’s talk was in two phases. First, he explained to the group what services he sponsors on a regular basis in his 29th District. Many of them are aimed at seniors, veterans, and college bound students.

Secondly, he discussed some legislative issues that Congress is dealing with at present, and also commented

on difficult world conditions, especially in the Middle East.

The most immediate event he is sponsoring is a Senior Citizens Forum, on Wednes-day of this week, and an Im-munization event for school-age children on Satur-day at North Shore 9th grade school. He expects thousands of students to get their free shots prior to school, he said.

Although he is sponsoring a job fair, he joked that some-times more companies show up than eligible job seekers, due to what he termed “the best economy I have seen in my lifetime.” He mentioned the training available at local community colleges, prepara-tion for well paying jobs in the industrial sector and refineries, with salaries from \$75,000 and up.



CONGRESSMAN GENE GREEN talks about his legislative program at the Town Hall Meeting in Galena Manor, and also about programs he sponsors in the community, such as Senior Citizens Forum, Immunization Day, Town Hall meetings, Job Fairs, Paying for College Workshop, and Service Academy workshops. At left is Galena Manor Civic Club president Mrs. Taggy Hall.

On September 15 he will sponsor a Paying for College workshop at North Shore High School. It will also be Academy Night for those interested in at-tending the Military Academies.

For the veterans in the audience, Green introduces Marlene Clowers, his staff member who works with veterans and the VA hospital services. He said that a new law allows veterans to get private medical service if they live more than 40 miles from a VA hospital, but he also said he has not seen

See TOWN HALL, p. 8

Free Innoculations for school-aged kids this Saturday

HOUSTON – Congressman Gene Green invites students and families to kick off the new school year with a discus-sion about children’s health and free immunizations.

Services will be available for school-aged children in the 29th Congressional District at Oleson Elementary, J.R. Harris Elementary, and North Shore Ninth Grade Campus.

“This event helps raise awareness about children’s health issues, and gets chil-dren started out on the right foot for the upcoming school year,” Green said. “We like to see healthy and happy kids.”

Green said that last year, over 3000 kids received their free shots in the Galena Park

school district alone.

The event takes place this Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- North Shore Ninth Grade Campus, Galena Park ISD13501 Holly Park Drive, Houston, Texas 77015
- Oleson Elementary School, Aldine ISD, 12345 Vickery Street, Houston, Tex-as 77039
- J.R. Harris Elementary School, Houston ISD801 Broadway Street, Houston, Texas 77012

Families are invited to join a discussion about health and receive free immunizations for children. Parents must bring a copy of their child’s immu-



School Kids getting their shots at the inoculation clinic last year.

nization records.

Congressman Green thanked the fol-lowing groups and or-ganizations for helping make this event a suc-cess: Harris Health System, Texas Chil-dren’s Hospital Mobile Clinic Outreach Pro-gram, Aldine Health Center, Aldine In-depend-ent School Dis-trict, Galena Park Independent School District, Houston In-depend-ent School Dis-trict, LyondellBasell, and Rotary Interna-tional District 5890.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Taggy Hall wants to win \$25K for Precint2gether

GALENA PARK – Taggy Hall wants your vote, and she is not afraid to ask for it, at com-munity meetings and chamber events. She is the president of the Galena Manor Civic Club, which meets monthly at the Churchill Community Center on Hunter Street in Galena Manor.

But she is also a community activist, and she sees an opportunity to help the Precinct 2 or-ganization for seniors, Precinct2gether.

She is competing with four other women, in a contest to get the most votes and win a prize of \$25,000 from TexanPlus, a local Medicare Advantage health plan organization that has teamed with the Astros baseball club to sponsor this competition. Whichever of the five women gets the most votes between now and Sept. 12 will win the prize, and her designat-ed charity will get the money.

Taggy wants you to vote at www.texaspluschampions.com/vote.html. You can vote once every day until the deadline.

Eronia “Taggy” Hall consid-ers teaching her life’s passion. So after retiring from the Hous-ton Independent School District after 34 years of service, there was perhaps no better way to spend her golden years than



MRS. ERONIA “TAGGY” HALL

teaching seniors. And that’s pre-cisely what she did.

Taggy, the embodiment of the modern active senior citizen is energetic, optimistic and driv-en, and she’s teaching others around her the importance of staying active and involved in their communities. All while fol-lowing her vision to build a bet-ter community in Galena Park and beyond.

Retired in 1994, Taggy immediately started seeing things within her communi-ty that needed to be done, and she got in-volved in them to en-sure they got done. For the past 20 years, she’s continued that approach and has been leading the way on public improve-ment projects around Galena Park as well as leading aerobics classes for seniors, planning senior activi-ties such as monthly luncheons, trips and social gatherings.

“As people age, they have less oppor-tunities to interact with others, so this keeps people engaged and ac-tive,” Taggy said. “A lot of these seniors look forward to going to these centers and participating in the activities. They do arts, crafts, stay active, and they find friendship. They’ve worked hard providing for their fami-lies, and now they deserve to have fun.”

Taggy teaches an aerobics class designed for people above

See TAGGY HALL, page 8

ENVIRONMENTAL / SAFETY CONCERN:

Local resident reports on hazardous community problem



An 18-wheeler truck with hazardous cargo parks within 30 feet of children’s swimming pool. The pool can be observed at the back right side.

Submitted photo

Dear Editor North Channel Star:

I would like to inform you of a safety and health concern that our entire neighborhood is fighting about with the City of Houston. They have almost completed the construction of a Stripe truck stop in our neighborhood. We as a neigh-borhood were not consulted or informed of this business until after construction had

started. We have over 500 fam-ily homes in our neighborhood. I have contacted every one of them and nobody approves of this truck stop. There are many concerns including but not limited to increase in crime rate, increase in drug trafficking, prostitution, Air pollution, noise pollution, flooding and mostly traffic safety.

According to the Air Alli-ance Houston, our area has an

increased cancer risk due to particulates from trucks and ships. Having a truck stop within 30 feet of where chil-dren play is no help. When it rains the people near the truck stop have water within a few inches of flooding their homes. The increased cemented area will increase this threat. Trucks will be parked within

See HAZARDOUS PROBLEM, page 8

LIFESTYLE

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OBITUARIES

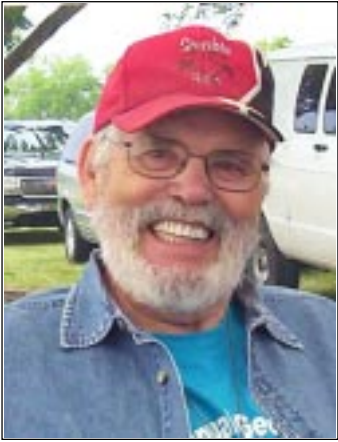
George Edward Watt

George Edward Watt, 77, of Houston, passed from this life on August 18, 2014. George was born July 12, 1937 in Alto, Texas to parents, Joe Bailey & Wilba Mae Watt.

He served his country in the U.S. Army and worked as a processing technician until retiring from GB BioSciences, formerly ISK Bio Sciences. Mr. Watt was very active in the Channelview Senior Citizens and headed up the Annual George Watt Chili Fundraiser Competition and was a member of the elite Smokin 44's Cook Team.

He is preceded in death by his parents and by his beloved wife of almost 50 years, Fran Watt; by his daughter-in-law, Stephanie Watt and by sister, Joan Watt Beard.

He is survived by son, Thomas Edward Watt & wife, Jenny; by daughter, Dana Watt & husband, Tom Collette and adopted daughter, Barbara Butler; by grandchildren, Christopher Watt, Samantha Watt, David Watt, Fredrick, Shawn, Seth & Jillian; by great-granddaughter, Fayth Watt; by brother, James Perry,



as well as other family and many dear friends. Visitation will be Tuesday evening from 5-8:00 pm. at Carter's with services celebrating his life 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in Carter's Chapel. Interment will follow in San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Family suggests that in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the Channelview Senior Citizens or the Channelview Flukinger Center.

George Lee Michell Condray

George Lee Michell Condray, 94 of Crosby, Texas passed away Sunday, August 17, 2014. George was born December 4, 1919 to Woodsy and Mary Louise (Broussard) Michell in Orange, Texas.

George worked as an office clerk for many years and in her free time she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, playing dominoes, cards, golf and traveling. George was a classy, loving and caring woman who had very strong values, and she will be missed by all who knew her.

George is preceded in death by her parents and husband, James. B. Condray. She is survived by her daughters, Diane "Mickey" Glover and husband Noland, Sharon Carter and husband Ron and Sandra Ford; son, Reggie Condray and wife Jenny; 10 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held Tuesday, August 19, from 5-8 pm at



Sterling White Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Sterling White Funeral Home with the interment following at Sterling White cemetery.

Services are entrusted to Sterling -White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Road, Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

John Joseph Zadrapa

John Joseph Zadrapa, 88, of Crosby went to be with the Lord on Friday, August 15, 2014. John was born in Crosby, Texas to Joseph John Zadrapa and Pauline Rehorek Zadrapa on November 15, 1925. He was the next to the youngest of thirteen children and was preceded in death by his parents and eleven siblings.

He is survived by his wife of fifty four years, Emma Dale Zadrapa of Crosby, and sister, Rosalee Franta of Baytown, Texas. He is also survived by his daughters, Vicki Adcock of Longview, Sherry Morton and husband Robert of Crosby, Christy Roeder and husband, Stephen of Dayton, son John Cecil Zadrapa of Crosby, grandchildren, Jonathan Roeder and wife Vanessa, Christopher Roeder, Abbey Moore and husband David, Casey Morton and wife Brandy, six great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

John grew up in Crosby and joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. He retired from Merichem Chemical Company with 32 years of service. John attended Vinelife Christian Fellowship in Huffman and was a member of the Crosby Historical Association and American Legion in Crosby. He was an avid nature lover with the exception of his ongoing war with squirrels.

A visitation was held Tues-



day, August 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Earthman Funeral Home in Baytown, Texas. The funeral service was held Wednesday, August 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Earthman's followed by a graveside service at Sterling-White Cemetery in Highlands.

The pallbearers were Robert Morton, Casey Morton, David Moore, Stephen Roeder, Jonathan Roeder, and Christopher Roeder. Honorary pallbearers were members of the American Legion in Crosby.

Donations in memory of John may be made to the American Heart Association.

To view the online obituary and post a tribute to the family, visit earthmanbaytown.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Earthman Funeral Home, 3919 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX 77521; (281) 422-8181.

Lone Star Republicans
August meeting

Lone Star Republicans will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday August 21, 2014 at the Crosby Church from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. A social will be held at 6:30 p.m., with regular meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Crosby Church

is located at 5725 U.S. 90, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Speakers for the evening will be: Harris County Republican Party Chairman Paul Simpson and Liberty County Republican Party Chairman Ken Coleman.

Coach Ron Kramer to be
honored at Sultis Stadium

Goose Creek CISD and the community will honor the late Ron Kramer, former head football coach at Robert E. Lee High School and GCCISD athletic director, by dedicating the playing field at Sultis Stadium at the Memorial Sports Complex at Lee High School to him. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. before the junior varsity Lee vs. Sterling football game on August 28 at Sultis Stadium.

Under Coach Kramer's 16-year command as head coach, the REL Ganders garnered 109 wins, 54 losses, one district co-championship, four



Ron Kramer

district championships, five trips to bi-district playoffs, two trips to regional playoffs, and one trip to state quarterfinals. Ninety-six of his student athletes were selected as All-District, three played on the South All-Star Team, four were named All-State, six were recognized as Outstanding Backs, and one was chosen as All-American. Coach Kramer served Goose Creek CISD from 1959 – 1991. He

was a member of the Baytown Rotary Club and served as a director of the Baytown Teachers Credit Union. Coach Kramer died in 2005 at the age of 68.

Merla Kramer, Kramer's wife, taught in GCCISD for 38 years, serving at Horace Mann Junior School, Robert E. Lee High School and Goose Creek Memorial High School. She retired in 2013. The family will be present for the celebration.

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faith. Have courage and be
strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Pride only breeds quarrels, but
wisdom is found in those who
take advice. Proverbs 13:25

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Crosby ISD's Harvey Augustine III named
2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year

By Dr. Robert Tatman

Great teaching and great learning does not happen by accident, and no one knows this better than Harvey Augustine. His countless hours of work and energy have led to being recently named the 2014-2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Region 4 Education Service Center. Through countless hours of planning, instruction, guidance, and myriad of teacher responsibilities, Augustine has changed students' lives by teaching in a way that impacts the hearts and minds of his students.

This was a significant accomplishment and a professional milestone for Mr. Augustine who received this honor for teaching math at Newport Elementary School. Chosen from elementary school teachers from approximately 50 Harris County school districts, Augustine's award was well-deserved and a recognition of the value and importance of his work in education.

Christy CoVan, principal of Newport Elementary, noted that Augustine's effectiveness rises from the fact that his teaching is not just about academics, but about teaching students dignity, respect, and pride both in themselves and others.

Harvey Augustine III

Augustine will advance as Region 4's Elementary Teacher of the Year candidates as a finalist for the 2015 Texas Teacher of the Year honor. The Texas Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA).

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in the Lord; the needy will rejoice
in the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah 29: 10

I can do everything through him
who gives me strength.
Phillipians 4:13

All of them were filled with the
Holy Spirit and began to speak
in other tongues as the Spirit
enabled them. Acts 2:4

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OPINION PAGE

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TOUCH OF LIFE

By Don Springer



Enjoying life

Just had myself one fine weekend, especially Sunday. Our adult Sunday school class isn't meeting for a couple of weeks so I took advantage of that extra time with extra zzzzzz's. Went to church as usual and then met my girlfriend for a Sunday afternoon dinner and some time at home where she helped me with a couple of problems.

Then we spent an enjoyable late afternoon and evening listening to one of the local bands in concert. The local Gospel Brass Band was in town for its annual concert on the lawn of one of our churches. I know I have told you about this band previously but I do enjoy their concerts each year. The band was formed some 25 years ago, has about 25 brass players, and has been coming here for at least the past 15 years for an outdoor lawn concert.

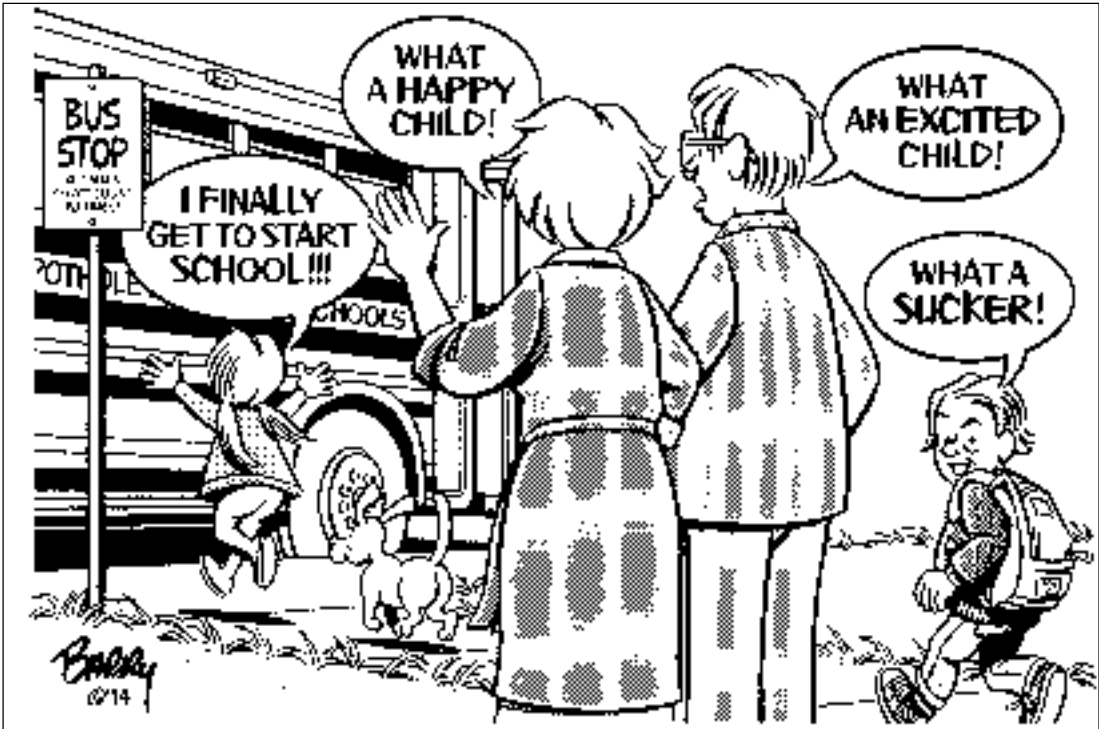
Bring your own lawn chairs, a happy smile and enjoy the music the advertisement says. I always do. In addition to being a good concert it is always free and free is good! This band had its roots in the Salvation Army headquarters in Charleston and still holds its practices there. They have a great brass sound for gospel, jazz and marches and always do each and every piece well.

I enjoy good music of that ilk and when one adds to it a summer evening outdoors it just adds to my pleasure. I am a rather nostalgic old fool and a scene as I just described takes me back many years to the drawings of Norman Rockwell that appeared frequently in the Saturday Evening Post. There are times when the program has to be moved inside due to rain and that takes away some of my enjoyment and certainly the vision.

Once every town, especially the small ones, all had a downtown bandstand where the locals joined in the summer to listen to the their neighbor's talent play a variety of musical favorites. There isn't much I enjoy more on a lazy summer afternoon than a band and music for all ages.

I always have to remind myself that in most cases the men and women playing in these bands receive no pay for these engagements—only their own pleasure of playing and the delight of those listening. I knew some of players in this band and know the oldest is 86 years young and still plays in at least two area bands. The youngest was introduced to the crowd by the director. He is a very talented baritone player that is still in middle school.

This was my second Sunday afternoon this year to participate in such an event and I will attend more if the opportunity prevails. This one was even more enjoyable as the members of the church had a free ice cream social following the concert. Chocolate is my favorite and a received a good portion. I was offered seconds but those of you who know me are well aware I didn't need the first.



Grand jury indicts governor on 2 counts

AUSTIN — A Travis County grand jury on Aug. 15 indicted Gov. Rick Perry on two felony counts: abuse of official capacity and coercion of a public servant.

Count I alleges Perry, on or about June 14, 2013, intended to harm Rosemary Lehmborg, Travis County district attorney and chief of the state's Public Integrity Unit, by intentionally or knowingly misusing public property in withholding funding approved by the Texas Legislature for the operation of the Public Integrity Unit.

Count II alleges Perry by means of coercion and in his official capacity as a public servant threatened to veto legislation funding the Public Integrity Unit unless Lehmborg resigned as district attorney.

Lehmborg was arrested for drunken driving in April 2013. She served a short jail sentence, publicly apologized, underwent counseling and returned to her elected post as district attorney and chief of the Public Integrity Unit, a division of the district attorney's office that investigates and prosecutes criminal activity involving state government and state government officials.

Lehmborg refused to resign. Perry reacted with a line-item veto of the funding approved for the Public Integrity Unit (\$7.5 million) in the state's 2014-2015 general appropriations bill, SB 1. Perry explained the veto this way: "Despite the otherwise good work the Public Integrity Unit's employees, I cannot in good conscience support continued State funding for an office with statewide jurisdiction at a time when the person charged with ultimate responsibility of that unit has lost the public's confidence . This unit is in no other way held accountable to state taxpayers, except through the State budgetary process. I therefore object to and disapprove of this appropriation."

Mary Anne Wiley, general counsel for Perry, issued a statement saying, "The veto in question was made in accordance with the veto authority afforded to every governor under the Texas Constitution. We will continue to aggressively defend the governor's lawful and constitutional action, and believe we will ultimately prevail."

Panel votes for censure

The House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations on Aug. 11 met and voted 6-1 to admonish and censure University of Texas System Board of Regents member Wallace L. Hall Jr. of Dallas "for misconduct, incompetency in the performance of official duties, or behavior unbecoming a nominee for and holder of a state office." State Rep. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, voted against the action.

Hall, who was appointed as a

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



regent by Gov. Perry in 2011, reportedly has been conducting an independent investigation of UT's fundraising and other activities. Allegations against Hall are detailed in a motion 28 pages in length.

The motion also directs two of members of the committee, state Reps. Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, and Trey Martinez-Fischer, D-San Antonio, to monitor the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, The University of Texas System and The University of Texas System component institutions.

Notes get highest ratings

State Comptroller Susan Combs on Aug. 12 announced Wall Street's three biggest credit rating agencies have given their highest ratings to Texas' 2014 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes. These annual, one-year notes, Combs explained, are sold to help fund school payments and manage cash flow between the start of the fiscal year and the arrival of tax revenue later in the year. Combs said the ratings reflect confidence in Texas and its economic growth. The state's sale of \$5.4 billion in Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes will be conducted Aug. 26 with repayment scheduled Aug. 31, 2015, she added.

Economy adds jobs in July

Texas Workforce Commission on Aug. 15 announced the state's economy added 46,600 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in the month of July and the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in July, while the national unemployment rate was 6.2 percent.

Texas employers have added 396,200 jobs over the last year, a

TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

The Swift Fox - Part 1

North of Dalhart there isn't much to stop the wind. A vast prairie cleaves horizontally into an even bigger sky. If you get past the row crops and out to the big ranch country, you'll find a wild land that's remained virtually unchanged. Short grasses carpet the prairie and yuccas point their green barbed leaves towards the heavens, waiting for rain to fall. While rains do fall intermittently, the band of Texas landscape that runs along the state's long western edge gets barely over a foot of rain annually.

The semi arid country sits below the foothills of the Rocky Mountain range to the west. Eons of sediment washed down from mountains to create the Great Plains and its the same mountains that influence the region's weather. As clouds gather over the mountains, moisture is wrung from them. The result is a north to south running dry slot that encompasses about a quarter of the Texas landscape.

This patch of semi-arid ground is suited for many plant and animal species that are unique to this part of Texas. It's a place where the density of people per square mile is scant and trees are perhaps as rare. Prairie dogs, while not as plentiful as historical records indicate, are still numerous. Their incessant burrowing crates habitat that supports numerous other high plains species like pronghorn antelope and a variety of reptiles and invertebrates. The prairie dogs themselves are a meal for animals higher up on the food chain.

As the sun rose across the immense prairie, my pal Chad and I were creeping through the shortgrass along a ranch road in his Ford F-250. Chad is an outfitter and a couple of months before to the opening day of the pronghorn season, we were scouting for big males in which his clients would invariably hunt.

From our vantage point, emptiness was all around. East to west there was prairie, an old barbed wire fence immediately outside the passenger side door, the rutted ranch road in which we parked, a prairie dog town, and more undulating prairie as far as we could see. Across the prairie dog colony - perhaps 400 yards away - we watch a small band of half dozen pronghorn antelopes skirt the town's margins.

As we glassed the antelope, my binoculars began to wander as I watched prairie dogs skitter about the town. Running from burrow to burrow they weren't as concerned with the pronghorns as we were. It was business as usual in dog town. Except for one thing: about one hundred yards from the truck I saw what I thought were baby coyotes.

"Look," I told Chad. "Look at those coyotes!"

From a personal standpoint, I thought the find was significant as I'd never seen as many baby coyotes in one spot. When I put the binoculars to my eyes, I knew my snap identification was wrong.

"Those are foxes," I told Chad. "Swift Foxes." Until 1995, swift foxes were thought to be all but extirpated in Texas. Now, I am staring at five of them who are staring right back.

Camera on the window, I snapped a few shots and then did all I knew to do: I squeaked at it like I was calling a dog. When the sound traveled across the town, a male, lying next to the others stood up with his ears perked.

I squeaked again and he ran towards the truck. Bounding across the prairie dog town, he stopped short fifteen yards from the truck. One of the rarest mammals found in Texas is a mere 45 feet away and posing for my camera.

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PAGE

Change is in the air for Texans, UT, and college football as 2014 season nears

“Change” is definitely the word in these parts when it comes to the 2014 football season.

Houston Texans fans got the change they asked for when long-time head coach Gary Kubiak was fired last December and replaced by former Penn State, and Bill Belichick acolyte, Bill O’Brien in January. University of Texas fans got the change they clamored for when Mack Brown stepped down after 16 years leading the Longhorns and was replaced by former Louisville head football coach Charlie Strong.

And college football fans finally got the change they had been asking for when the highly unpopular Bowl Championship Series (BCS) was done away with and the College Football Playoff was born. The new system will pit the top four rated teams chosen by a selection committee made up of individuals with coaching experience, student-athletes, collegiate administrators and current athletic directors. The committee will choose the top four teams for the playoff, rank them (1-4) and assign them to the semifinal games. The selection committee will choose the four national semifinalists based on strength of schedule, head-to-head results, comparison of results against common opponents and other factors.

This year’s semifinal games will be held on Jan. 1 and will be the Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl. The No. 1 and No. 4 seed will meet in the Rose Bowl, while the No. 2 and No. 3 seed will meet in the Sugar Bowl. Each year, the national semifinals will rotate among those two bowls and the Fiesta, Orange, Cotton and Peach bowls in coming years.

The inaugural national championship game will be played on Monday, Jan. 12 at AT&T Stadium (formerly known as Jerry World). Read on to see who yours truly thinks will be the four teams to be this year’s semifinalists and the overall national champion, along with a number of other predictions.


While University of Texas fans are hoping their team will be making the trek to Arlington for the national title game, they might be getting a bit ahead of themselves. The ‘Horns still

have some holes in their team, but I have a feeling UT fans will like what they see from their new head coach. The no-nonsense Strong laid down the law right off the bat and dismissed seven players from the team during the spring and summer for violating team rules. I have a feeling Texas will be a more disciplined team in 2014 and will be much better on defense. The key to how far they go will center on quarterback David Ash, who missed a majority of the 2013 season with a concussion. He followed that injury up by breaking his foot during spring drills, but has been cleared for the upcoming season. The 6-4 Ash has talent and speed and if healthy would be a huge plus for the UT offense, which should field a strong running game led by the powerful Malcolm Brown and the speedy and elusive Johnathan Gray, who is coming off an Achilles injury but has also been cleared to play this season.

Texas should be in the Big 12 mix, but it appears Oklahoma and Baylor are the class of the league heading into the season. Bob Stoops’ Sooners finished off the 2013 season in impressive season by blasting Alabama 45-31 in the Sugar Bowl. The Sugar Bowl was a coming out party for quarterback Trevor Knight and he should be ready for a big season in 2014. The offense is loaded and so is the defense as nine starters return this year.

Scoring won’t be a problem for Art Briles’ Baylor Bears, who won the Big 12 last year and return a pretty fair signal caller in Bryce Petty, who set a school passing record last season. He has plenty of weapons to call on once again, but the big question in Waco will be how much improved will the Baylor defense be? That unit was exposed in the Fiesta Bowl by Central Florida and the Bears will face much better offenses than CFU with the likes of OU, Texas Tech, Oklahoma State and Texas on their schedule.

Not only will Baylor be looking to win a second straight league title, but they will also be opening a new stadium, named after former Houston Astros owner, and major Baylor contributor Drayton McLane Jr.



KEENEY’S KORNER

By Mike Keeney

Please read below for how one person thinks the major conferences will shake out this year.

Turning our attention to the NFL, fans of the Texans and Cowboys could be in for another long year. The Texans are starting over (once again!) with a new head coach and quarterback and sorry, but when a team pins its hopes on a journeyman to lead the way at quarterback, that’s not the best of news. Matt Schaub wore out his welcome and was traded to Oakland during the offseason and the Texans signed Ryan Fitzpatrick, a 10-year vet who has made stops in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Buffalo and Tennessee to less than stellar reviews. The Harvard grad has thrown 106 touchdowns during his career and 93 interceptions. If the Texans are going to be a factor in the AFC South race, Fitzpatrick is going to have to be a good game manager and count on a healthy Arian Foster to pick up the slack in the running game. As of this writing, Foster has missed most of training camp for a second straight year, this time dealing with a hamstring injury. O’Brien will need a healthy Foster and Andre Johnson to take pressure off of Fitzpatrick. I’m not holding my breath.

Defensively, the Texans should be stout up front with J.J. Watt and rookie Jadeveon Clowney bringing the heat on opposing quarterbacks, but the secondary is still questionable and no amount of pressure can make up for a lack of coverage on the back end of a defense. It would also help is linebacker Brian Cushing returns to form after suffering another leg injury

last season.

The one thing going for the Texans is they play in a weak division. Indianapolis is definitely the class of the division, but they will be playing a more difficult schedule this year than the Texans. The Colts also have some questions in the offensive line and defensively, they will be without 2013 sack leader Robert Mathis for the first four games of the season because he violated the league’s substance abuse policy. Despite those shortcomings, the Colts are still the class of the division, but if Houston can take care of business when they play Jacksonville and Tennessee and split with the Colts, they could be vying for a Wild Card spot as the 2014 season winds down.

Up north on I-45, the Dallas Cowboys should have one of the better offenses in the NFC, but the defense was the worst in the NFL last year and lost key players in DeMarcus Ware and Jason Hatcher in free agency. Tony Romo and his offensive mates are going to have to outscore folks to give the Cowboys a chance to win, and with Romo coming off back surgery, he could be one hard hit away from going down again this season. The Cowboys have built one of the better offensive lines in the league, so don’t be surprised if they run the ball a lot more this year to take pressure off of Romo and keep their defense on the bench. DeMarco Murray had his coming out party a year ago and proved he can carry the running load and head coach Jason Garrett has also assembled quality depth at the

position to keep Murray fresh.

Like the Texans, the Cowboys don’t play in the toughest division, but they do play in the toughest conference. If they hope to earn a playoff spot, they most likely will need to win their division, because the NFC West and South are loaded. Should the Cowboys record another 8-8 or worse season, it might be time for owner Jerry Jones to think about making a change at head coach. We shall see.

While questions abound with both NFL teams in Texas, a new season awaits, which is always exciting. I’m looking forward to once again put my picks out there for you to view and to agree or disagree with, and having said that, let’s take a look at what one person thinks will transpire in the college game and NFL during the 2014 season.

quarterback under center, there’s plenty of talent around to help ease the transition.

BIG 12 CHAMPION: Oklahoma - Big Game Bob knows the Sooner faithful are growing impatient, but he’s got a loaded team and gets the job done this season.

NATIONAL SEMIFINALS ROSE BOWL - Florida State over Oregon - In a dual of outstanding quarterbacks, Jameis Winston out duels Mariota in what should be a classic.

SUGAR BOWL - Alabama over Oklahoma - In a rematch of last year’s Sugar Bowl, Saban gets revenge, and the Crimson Tide play for another national title.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Alabama over Florida State - Like I said before, the Crimson Tide don’t stay down very long. ‘Bama’s defense and running game will be too much for the Seminoles in this one.

NFL

AFC
AFC EAST - New England
AFC SOUTH - Indianapolis
AFC NORTH - Cincinnati
AFC WEST - Denver
WILD CARDS - Baltimore and San Diego

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Denver over Cincinnati - Peyton Manning and an improved defense win a second straight AFC title.

NFC
NFC EAST - Philadelphia
NFC SOUTH - New Orleans
NFC NORTH - Green Bay
NFC WEST - Seattle
WILD CARDS - San Francisco and Chicago
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - Green Bay over San Francisco
SUPER BOWL - Denver over Green Bay - Manning wins second Lombardi to match little brother Eli and rides off in the sunset.

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GALENA PARK ISD

Football players receive custom mouth guards

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 2.6 million children are treated in emergency care centers for sports and recreation related injuries each year. A survey taken by the American Association of Orthodontists found that 67% of parents admitted their children do not wear mouth guards during organized sports. Furthermore, most student athletes who do wear mouth protection opt for “boil and bite” mouth guards from sporting goods stores, which do not provide the protection that custom made guards offer.

As a result, South Texas Dental (STxD) teamed up with



Ray Medellin, a senior Yellow Jacket, has an impression made of his teeth - the first step in getting a custom made mouth guard for the upcoming football season.



Dentists, football players, coaches and more came together to celebrate the free custom mouth guards provided by South Texas Dental, Stern Empire Dental Laboratory, and the JC/GP Rotary.

the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club and Stern Empire Dental Laboratory (SEDL) to help ensure Galena Park High School football players do not contribute to this disturbing statistic.

On the morning of Saturday, August 16, a team of dentists from South Texas Dental

fitted 150 varsity and junior varsity football players with custom-made mouthpieces. In addition to being more comfortable and allowing for better breathing, the precise nature of custom fit mouth guards offers improved protection since they disperse the force of impact more effective-

ly than store-bought types. However, at approximately \$150, the cost of the custom guards is prohibitive, which is why South Texas Dental partnered with Stern Empire Dental Laboratory.

In this multi step process, STxD provided materials and

Diamond Jim... I went to Arkansas and found some Quartz Crystals and wanted to know how to clean them



I have some unusual ones. I'm going to bring some in to show you. *Vickie Schmittou*

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Vickie,

Although the quartz crystals may have been fun to locate, they are going to be relatively worthless. If these came from one of the “mining” trips for tourists, then I will tell you that normally the “mines” are “salted”... meaning that these stones have been scattered around for you to find... just for fun... and to make your experience exhilarating! Geodes and beautiful crystalline structures found within are plentiful and many are very beautiful... albeit, relatively worthless. True gemstones are rare... and generally valuable. Furthermore, the real value is always added to the stone only after it has been expertly cut to discover the inherent beauty and color of the stone. Cutting costs money. If you cut worthless

stones, then you have lost money. I might mention here that these quartz crystals are generally described as “unusual” because nature finds it difficult to exactly reproduce mineral crystals, basically because it is nearly impossible to replicate the same concentration of elements in the same mixture of elements, with the same heat, pressure, and time required to create the same crystal. Therefore, they are all different and “unusual”. Unusual does not make them valuable except in the eyes of the beholder. In addition, quartz crystals are generally very inexpensive, if not worthless. These include amethyst, citrine, etc. However, higher quality stones, such as amethyst mined from a particular swamp mine in Brazil can be relatively expensive. I made

my wife a complete set of stones from this particular mine. And the color is incredible! But you will never find this quality lying on the ground in Arkansas. So, generally speaking, although you might like the stones and have some sentimental attachment to them, the chances are that they are not worth anything, and really not worth cutting. The value is in the experience you had.

That having been said... we can certainly place the stones in an ultrasonic cleaner and steam for you. J See you soon.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

dentists to create the molds of the athletes' mouths. SEDL will take the molds and create cement casts on which the actual mouth guards will be created. Sterilization, vacuum sealing, mixing, trimming and polishing are all part of the process to create the best mouth guards for the Yellow Jackets. Of course, while football injuries are often part of the game, parents and coaches can rest a little easier knowing the athletes mouths are better protected thanks to the generosity of South Texas Dental, Stern Empire Dental Laboratory and the JC/GP Rotary Club.

AUDITIONS,

Continued from page 3

in the community and enrollment at San Jacinto College is not required. Materials need not be prepared in advance, and anyone auditioning should dress to move.

Fifty male and female actors, ages 10 and older are needed. “Anyone interested in acting, with little or no experience, or those who are seasoned professionals can audition for the show,” commented Dr. Jerry Ivins, Central Campus theatre department chair.

Rehearsals for the show begin Monday, Sept. 8 and run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. The performance opens on Oct. 15 and runs through Oct. 19.

In “Little Shop of Horrors,” depression is just status quo for the residents of Skid Row, until flower shop clerk Seymour Krelborn discovers a strange and unusual plant of unknown origin. The show has reportedly been “devouring the hearts of theater-goers for over 30 years,” and is one of the longest running off-Broadway musicals ever.



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Sheldon ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication, Business Management and Administration, Education and Training, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality and Tourism, Human Services, Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics. Admission to these programs is based in open enrollment. It is the policy of Sheldon ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. It is the policy of Sheldon ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Sheldon ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, J.R. Webster, at 11411 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000 and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, J.R. Webster, 11411 C.E. King Parkway, Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

Sheldon ISD Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales (Career and Technical Education Programs)

Sheldon ISD ofrece programas vocacionales en Agricultura, Alimentación, y Recursos Naturales, Arte, Tecnología A/V y Comunicación, Administración de Empresas, Educación y Entrenamiento, Finanzas, Ciencias de la Salud, Hospitalidad y Turismo, Servicios Humanos, Leyes, Seguridad Pública, Correccionales y Seguridad, Manufactura, Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas, Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en inscripción abierta. Es norma de Sheldon ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Es norma de Sheldon ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Sheldon ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, J.R. Webster en 11411 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, J.R. Webster en 11411 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044, 281-727-2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

Crosby Independent School District
Invitation for Bids
Sale of 23.918 Acres of Land

The Crosby Independent School District (CISD) is soliciting sealed bids from interested parties for the sale of a tract of land containing 23.918 acres, such property being described as Block 1, Restricted Reserve B of Newport Elementary, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded under Film Code 526050 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas SAVE AND EXCEPT land dedicated to public for cut back corner as shown on the plat. The property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of North Diamondhead Boulevard and FM 2100 (Crosby-Huffman Road) in Crosby, Texas. The bid documents may be picked up weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. beginning July 10, 2014 at the CISD Superintendent's office at 706 Runneburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532. Interested parties also may contact Fred Fargo at 713-455-0246 to obtain a copy of the bid package.

All bids should be completed in accordance with the bid instructions, sealed and returned to the Superintendent's Office on or before 5:00 p.m. (local time) on August 18, 2014 and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. CISD reserves the right to reject any or all bids for the above-described property. Any questions about the property should be directed to Maureen Singleton at 713-554-6750.

LEGAL NOTICE

Crosby Independent School District
Invitation for Bids
Sale of 2.4 Acres of Land

The Crosby Independent School District (CISD) is soliciting sealed bids from interested parties for the sale of a tract of land containing 2.4 acres out of the Restricted Reserve "A", in Block 1 of Newport Elementary, an addition in Harris County, Texas according to the plat recorded under Film Code No. 526050 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas such property being located at the northwest corner of N. Diamondhead Boulevard and FM 2100 (Crosby-Huffman Road) in Crosby, Harris County, Texas. The bid documents may be picked up weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. beginning July 10, 2014 at the CISD Superintendent's office at 706 Runneburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532. Interested parties also may contact Fred Fargo at 713-455-0246 to obtain a copy of the bid package.

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HAZARDOUS PROBLEM,

Continued from page 1



Trucks coming out the parking lot often need two lanes to exit parking lot blocking residents acces to street when light is on green.
Submitted photo.

20 feet of back yards with their motors running all night. This cannot be helpful to these working people trying to get a good night's sleep, I do not believe that any air, noise pollution or flooding study was performed before the city approved this construction.

The most hazardous problem is going to be with traffic safety. Dorwayne is the only Houston entrance and exit for our neighborhood. It is the only entrance for residents, visitors, school buses, ambulances and fire trucks. Federal road has become the main entrance to GreensPort and a area already over congested with truck traffic. The traffic light at Federal and Dorwayne is set for truck traffic. There is only time for a few cars to exit onto Federal when the light turns green. When there is an 18 wheel truck trying to exit it is the only vehicle able to make it on green. During the school year cars are backed up for 2 blocks trying to exit onto Federal. Often when exiting vehicles have a green light they still cannot exit due to 18 wheel trucks blocking the intersection and in a hurry to get to Greensport. Exiting vehicles have to be very careful exiting because it is frequent that 18 wheel trucks run the red light. One elderly lady told me that it took 25 minutes for her and her daughter to get onto Federal Road while trying to make a doctor's appointment.

Stripe designed their truck stop to use the residential street Dorwayne as their main truck entrance instead of Federal Road which is a commercial route. The Mayor of Houston places the blame for this on City Engineer Richard Smith (832-394-9137). I have contacted Mr. Smith multiple time and left a call back number. He refuses to call me back and discuss the situation. She also told me that the Assistant

City Safety director would look into the problem. I asked him to contact me before filing his report but he also failed to contact me.

It is getting apparent that the City of Houston has made a blunder in allowing a truck stop to be built in this neighborhood. Everyone is passing the buck and no one wants to take the responsibility for this project. They also will not do anything to correct the problem for fear of legal repercussions from Stripe.

Sincerely,
Natahel
AARP President Chapter 1160
Former USAF pilot, Captain
and Vietnam Veteran
Aerospace Engineer and Texas A&M graduate
32 degree and Scottish Rite Mason
Former GPHS Band Booster President
Former Jacicto City Little League Vice-President

Profile: TAGGY HALL

Continued from Page 1



THE COMPETITORS for the TexanPlus Championship.

the age of 50, but most of the attendees are in their 80s, and very active. The class meets four times a week and Taggy attends and leads every one – which adds up to more than 250 hours volunteered, just with the aerobics class. In addition to her work with the aerobics class, she also keeps the group active with the Senior Olympics and even competitive line dancing.

According to the National Center on Aging, older adults who participate in senior center programs can improve overall well-being, and Taggy is certainly doing that. She works with organizations like the Galena Manor Civic Club, and with Harris County's second precinct community outreach program, Precinct2gether, which offers opportunities to everyone in the area, of all ages.

Taggy's philanthropic work doesn't just impact seniors, but touches the community's youth as well. In her eyes, creating more interaction between children and seniors in Galena Park creates a stronger community.

“Our youth can learn a lot from the seniors. They go to seniors for advice when they need it,” said Taggy. “And the youth are very helpful to our seniors as well, doing little things around the house for them. It's a good combination.”

Even at 76, Taggy shows no signs of slowing down. She's working with Precinct2gether to get more equipment for the local community center, which would include fitness equipment for the seniors, and fund other programming that creates senior fellowship and a tight-knit community. Her inspiration is undoubtedly her mother, who worked with children in the community until her passing.

“I emulate my mother. I saw her do these things, as well as others within the community,” she said. “And I thought I'd like to lead a life filled with service one day if I had a chance. And I have that chance now.”

TOWN HALL

Continued from Page 1

this service implemented yet by the VA.

When Green turned to national and world events, he was questioned from a Lyndon LaRouche follower, asking if Obama needs to seek Congressional approval prior to engaging in fighting in the Middle East. Green said that this has already happened, by conferring with Congressional leaders in the last few days.

When questioned about reducing air pollution and environmental toxins in our environment, he carefully pointed out that improvement had been accomplished by industry, and a “balance” was

necessary between a clean environment and maintaining a strong employment situation.

He suggested that the current air pollution problem was primarily exhaust from heavy diesel trucks, on the East Loop and Clinton Drive, and that this needed dealt with. He noted that in 2005 he helped get an allocation for \$15 million to rebuild Clinton Drive, but the City of Houston had diverted the money to other purposes.

As for Cancer rates in Galena Park, he said that zip code studies by the state have not shown any more cancer in this area than other parts of Harris County away from the refineries.



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