

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Gene Green Town Hall Meeting

•Tuesday, August 29, 6:30 p.m., North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church, 444 Maxey Rd., Houston, TX 77013.

### Judge Joe Stephens Teen Court

Judge Joe Stephens has set Teen Court for Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Teen court will be held in the courtroom located at 14350 Wallisville Road, Houston, TX 77049

All students are invited to attend. Students interested in participating as attorneys need to arrive by 5:30 to prepare for trial. Feel free to invite your friends to attend with you or pass this information on to anyone who may be interested in participating.

### State Rep. Hernandez Birthday Party

State Representative - District 143 will celebrate her birthday on Thursday, August 31, 2017 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at Cadillac Bar located at 1802 Shepherd, Houston, TX 77007.

### Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017. 6th Annual Report on Emissions from CIP Plants and Air Quality Update. Chemistry 101 Lesson on Benzene 5:45 - light dinner. 6:15-business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m. at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

## Rotarians, Gene Green host Back2School Immunizations

Students in North Channel were headed back to school this week and last, but not before they got their immunization shots. Congressman Gene Green, with the help of several Rotary clubs, Walgreens, and others, held three clinics last Saturday for free shots. These were in North Houston, Galena Park, and Southeast Houston.

School started for Channelview students last week on Wednesday, August 16, for Sheldon students on August 22, and Galena Park students August 23. Furr High School will start on Monday, August 28.

Green was extremely busy this August, which is Congress' break. He has completed four Town Hall meetings, and will hold another at North Shore Community Fellowship Church, 444 Maxey Road, on Tuesday night, August



Congressman Green and Rotary District 5890 Governor Bill Palko, center, are joined at Galena Park High School by other Rotarians, who donated backpacks, medical and school personnel at the free immunization clinic last Saturday. In the background, hundreds of students attended the event.

29 at 6:30 p.m. He also held a Senior Citizens Forum on Tuesday in Aldine.

In October, he will host

a Paying for College Workshop and Academy Day, and a Northside/Aldine Job Fair. Green's Eastside of-

ice is at 11811 I-10 East, Suite 430, and can be reached at 713-330-0761.



Congressman Green speaks to the large number of students at the Back2School event at Galena Park High School.



Rotarian Maria Rodriguez says these shots don't hurt... much.

## U.S. Marine receives 2nd Lt. commission



Congressman Gene Green, middle, presents a Congressional Resolution honoring 2nd Lieutenant Jovahny Monterrubio, left center; with them are Marines L - R: Lt. Patrie, Capt. Adam Sanchez, 2nd Lt. Jovahny Monterrubio, Congressman Green, Gunnery Sgt. Crawford, Staff Sgt. Collins Foster and Sgt. Guzman. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - August 21, 2017 - A U.S. Marine received his commissioning as Second Lieutenant at the

San Jacinto College North Campus at a presentation ceremony last Monday.

The United States Marines Commissioned Marine Corps Second Lieutenant Jovahny

Monterrubio, a graduate of San Jacinto College and the University of Houston. Monterrubio chose the Monument Room of the Slovacek Student Center for the ceremony. Family,

friends, former co-workers and classmates were present to witness the presentation.

Congressman Gene Green presented a Congressional Resolution honoring Monterrubio.

Green said, "May this day begin a further achievement in ideals of citizenship in your community and for your country."

## PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

## HPD Captain Gregory Fremin receives Congressional recognition



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL

L-R: Lt. Adrian Rodriguez, Capt. Gregory Fremin, Congressman Green, Capt. Colin Weatherly, Officer Anthony Waddy and Officer Kenneth Miles at the presentation of the Congressional Certificate to Captain Gregory Fremin.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - August 21, 2017 - Congressman Gene Green recognized Captain Fremin for all his years of service.

The recognition took place at the Houston Police Department (HPD) East Freeway Storefront where Congressman Gene Green

held his Northeast Neighborhood Safety Meeting last Monday.

Congressman Green presented HPD's Captain Gregory Fremin with a Congressional Certificate commending him for his valuable service to the Northeast Division of the 29th Congressional District.

"I am honored to

present this certificate for your commitment to serving the community as a public servant which is greatly appreciated," said Congressman Green.

Captain Fremin is transferring to HPD's Police Academy after years of overseeing the Northeast Command Station on the East Freeway.

"I was greatly honored

and privileged to have served as the Captain of the Northeast Division for these last 5 years. The partnerships and trust that this community has forged with HPD truly sets a national standard for what Police Community Relationships should be in this great nation, and I'm very proud to have been a part of it," Captain Fremin said.

## DISTINCTION

## Channelview ISD receives positive state accountability ratings

For the fifth consecutive year, the Channelview Independent School District and all of its campuses earned the approval rating of "Met Standard" under the state's accountability system.

Under the Texas Education Agency's State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) testing system, districts and schools are ranked either "Met Standard," "Met Alternative Standard" or "Improvement Required."

Campuses earning the Met Standard designation are Aguirre Junior High, Alice Johnson Junior High, Brown Elementary, Campbell Learning Center, Channelview High School, Cobb Elementary, Crenshaw Elementary, De Zavala Elementary, Hamblen Elementary, McMullan Elementary, Schochler Elementary and the Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center.

"I am proud of all of our campuses and the continued progress that they have shown year after year," Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis said. "Our teach-

ers, principals and staff do a outstanding job of working together to ensure the success of all students."

In determining district accountability ratings, TEA has established four measures that assess overall achievement and progress:

- Student Achievement (Measures whether all students across grade levels passed in all subjects)
- Student Progress (measures improvement for all students and all subgroups in reading, math and writing)
- Closing Performance Gaps (measures whether all economically-disadvantaged students and two lowest-performing ethnic groups met certain standards)
- Postsecondary Readiness (examines graduation rates and recommended or distinguished achievement diploma plans)

"Our educators have high expectations and a belief that all students can be successful," Ollis said. "The outstanding performance of our students shows there are great things happening in our district every day."



★ SPORTS & COMICS ★

KEENEY’S PREVIEW:  
Texans put hopes on  
unproven QB: Sooner state  
could dominate Big 12

Change is afoot in the NFL and in college football as the 2017 season approaches.

The Texans have made a dramatic change at quarterback as head coach Bill O’Brien will pin his team’s hopes on a quarterback who has all of two NFL starts (and zero touchdown passes) under his belt in **Tom Savage**. Savage appears to have the tools to play at the NFL level and has ideal size (6-4, 230 pounds), knows O’Brien’s complicated offense well and from what’s been written about him, is a hit with his teammates. Even with all those pluses, his lack of game experience has to raise concerns among Texans fans.

O’Brien and General Manager Rick Smith knew Brock Osweiler wasn’t the answer at QB, so in March, they traded him away, along with a second-round pick, to Cleveland. While they have confidence in Savage, the Houston brass traded up in the 2017 NFL Draft and selected Clemson’s **Deshaun Watson** with the No. 12 pick in the draft to provide insurance just in case the oft-injured Savage struggles or gets hurt during the season.

Watson had a stellar career at Clemson and led the Tigers to the national title last year by defeating defending national champ Alabama 35-31. Watson threw the game-winning touchdown with one second left to lead Clemson to the title. In back-to-back meetings against the Crimson Tide in the national title game, Watson led an offense that put up 75 points against the vaunted Alabama defense. He is a mobile QB who can hurt teams with his legs and his arm. He had a nice debut in his first pre-season game passing for 179 and rushing for a touchdown against Carolina. Granted, he was playing against a bunch of guys who probably won’t be around when the regular season begins, but he proved he has the talent to excel in the NFL, which has to make Texans fans feel good about the future.

Houston will be looking for its third straight AFC South title under O’Brien and will be challenged by an up-and-coming Tennessee Titans team that is led by third-year quarterback Marcus Mariota. The Titans have assembled a load of young talent and appear primed to be a real threat to the Texans’ stranglehold of the AFC South.

The Colts enter the season with a huge question mark as quarterback Andrew Luck is recovering from offseason shoulder surgery. Luck did not participate in training camp and has yet to throw. You can bet the Colts will take their time with their star QB to make sure he’s around for the long haul. Jacksonville signed a number of free agents during the offseason and had a nice draft, but the Jags must get better play from turnover-prone quarterback Blake Bortles if they hope to improve on the three wins they produced during the 2016 season.

The NFC East will once again be controlled by the New England Patriots, who have won two of the last three Super Bowls and appear to be the team to beat once again. The Patriots added a lot of talent during the offseason, acquiring speedy wide receiver Brandon Cooks from the Saints. Cooks will give NE QB Tom Brady with a deep threat that he hasn’t had since the Randy Moss days.

Cooks is just one more weapon for Brady to play with, which has to give AFC defensive coordinators nightmares. The Patriots also added running backs Rex Burkhead and Mike Gillislee, who will comprise Bill Belichick’s running back by committee rushing attack. Defensively, the Pats added cornerback Stephon Gilmore who along with Malcolm Butler may give NE the two best corners in the league. Talk about the rich getting richer!

The AFC West should be the most competitive division in the AFC. Kansas City, Oakland and Denver could be all playoff-caliber teams. The Raiders hope quarterback Derek Carr is fully recovered from the broken leg he sustained in Week 16 and that former Seahawks running back Marshon Lynch still has something left in the tank. Denver still has question marks at quarterback, but their outstanding defense will keep them in games while the offense figures things out. The Chiefs will be their steady selves under the direction of veteran head coach Andy Reid.

The AFC North should be the Steelers, but look for Baltimore to give them a run for the division title. Pittsburgh should have one of the most potent offenses in the league led by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, running back Le’Von Bell and wide receiver Antonio Brown. Bell sat out training camp after the Steelers put the franchise tag on him, but expect the all-purpose back to be ready to go by Week 1.

In the NFC, the Dallas Cowboys appeared to be the team to beat until the NFL suspended running back Ezekiel Elliott six games for domestic abuse. Elliott appealed the suspension, but you have to figure the Cowboys will lose the league’s top rusher and top rookie in 2016 for a minimum of four games. And the Cowboys first four games are at home against NFC East rival New York, road games at Denver and Arizona and a home game against the Rams. If the six game suspension is upheld, Elliott will also miss a home game against Green Bay and a road trip to San Francisco. Elliott’s absence will provide second-year quarterback Dak Prescott with the chance to step up and take over the offense and he has the tools to do so. Still, Elliott’s absence might be too much to hold off a Giants team that is solid on both sides of the ball.

Green Bay should be the team to beat in the NFC North, but will be challenged by Detroit and Minnesota.

The NFC West will once again be a two-team battle between an aging Seattle team and an aging Arizona team. The Cardinals will pin their hopes on running back David Johnson, who will attempt to duplicate his 2016 performance of more than 2,000 yards of all-purpose offensive yards.

In the NFC South, the Atlanta Falcons, the defending NFC champs, will be gunning for their second straight division title. Matt Ryan and Co. are still stinging from their Super Bowl LI loss to the Patriots, where they blew a 25-point lead in the second half. That should be motivation enough to stave off a young and talented Tampa Bay team for the division title. And don’t forget about the Carolina Panthers either. Two years ago, Cam Newton’s

Panthers won the NFC title and have made some nice additions in the offseason to help out Newton, most notably rookie running back Christian McCafferty out of Stanford. McCafferty is a dual threat as a runner and pass receiver and should give Newton a weapon he has never had in Carolina.

It should be an interesting season that will culminate on Feb. 4 in Minneapolis, the site of Super Bowl LII.

COLLEGE

There has also been a lot of change on the college landscape heading into the 2017 season. Tom Herman left the University of Houston to take over at the University of Texas with hopes of resurrecting that once proud program. In two years at UH, Herman led the Cougars to a 22-5 record. In 2015, he led the Cougs to a 13-1 season, a Peach Bowl victory over Florida State and a No. 6 national ranking at the end of the season. Herman is one of the best young coaches in the country who is motivated to turn UT into a once again dominant program. It may take a year or two, but I would not bet against the hard-working Herman. Look for UT to be much improved this season, but they might be a year away from contending for the Big 12 title.

That’s because the Big 12 might be dominated by the state of Oklahoma in 2017. The Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma State Cowboys look like the class of the league. OU was another program that went through a drastic change in the offseason when long-time head coach Bob Stoops announced his retirement. School officials tabbed 33-year-old Lincoln Riley as his replacement. Riley served as OU’s offensive coordinator last year and has been considered one of the top assistant coaches in the country. The Sooners are loaded on both sides of the ball and will be led by Heisman Trophy candidate Baker Mayfield (3,965 yards passing, 40 TDs in 2016). OSU has a pretty fair QB themselves in Mason Rudolph (4,091 yards, 28 TDs) and an electrifying wide receiver in James Washington (71 receptions, 1,380 yards, 10 TDs). OU and OSU meet in Stillwater on Nov. 4, which could be the first of two meetings this season. Remember, the Big 12 is bringing back its title game, which will be played on Dec. 2 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Don’t be surprised if the Sooners and Cowboys will be vying for the Big 12 title and a trip to the College Football Playoffs (CFP).

The Sugar Bowl and Rose Bowl will host the CFP semifinals on New Year’s Day, and the CFP title game will be held on Monday, Jan. 8 at the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

The SEC will once again be Alabama’s to lose. Head coach Nick Saban and his team are still smarting from their national title game loss to Clemson and while ‘Bama suffered a number of key players to the NFL, there is an abundance of talent still around in Tuscaloosa to make another SEC and national title run.

Alabama may depend on a deep offense to lead the way while a young defense finds its way. The Crimson Tide will be led by sophomore quarterback Jalen Hurts (2,780 yards passing, 23 TDs; 954 yards rushing, 13 TDs) and burley running back Bo Scarbrough (812 yards rushing, 11 TDs). Look for LSU and

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Moby-Dick's pursuer

5 Strange

8 Slight coloration

12 Disturb

13 Hawaiian neckwear

14 Reed instrument

15 Tunes

17 Diamond source

18 Court

19 Spring, for one

21 Unspoken "I dunno"

24 Leave suddenly

25 Henhouse

26 Became less harsh

30 Everything

31 Bisect

32 Commotion

33 Creator of 1-Across

35 "Phooey!"

36 Shoppe describer

37 Greedy one's cry

38 Wheedle

41 "A mouse!"

42 Enthusiastic

43 Rapid decline

48 Equestrian game

49 Type squares

50 Concept

51 Aware of

52 Regret

53 Retain

DOWN

1 Upper limb

2 Weeding tool

3 Have a bug

4 Explode

5 Hodgepodge

6 Cee follower

7 Turn to liquid

8 Beefsteak or plum

9 Sacred bird of Egypt

10 Taboo, to a child

11 Adolescent

16 Pooch

20 Model

21 Con game

22 Golf target

23 Hot dog holder

24 Southern lass

26 Seasickness

27 Friendly

28 Dutch cheese

29 Be too fond

31 Jack and Jill's terrain

34 Type of doll

35 Long-snouted antelope

37 Obtain

38 Crime boss

39 Shakes-peare's river

40 Leave at the altar

41 Different

44 Ostrich's cousin

45 Rhyming praise

46 Teensy

47 Siesta

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

8			4					6
		9	6		1			
	7				9		3	
1				5			6	
	8		6		2			7
		2			7	9		
	9			4		7		
		5	3				8	
2				8				4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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?

Trivia

test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the international radio code word for the letter "W"?

2. LITERATURE: What famous mystery novelist sometimes wrote under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott?

3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the tallest of the U.S. presidents?

4. LANGUAGE: What is a gerund?

5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of raccoons called?

6. HISTORY: The United States purchased Alaska from which country in 1867?

7. MEDICAL: What happens when someone experiences obdormition?

8. U.S. STATES: Which is the largest U.S. state by area?

9. GAMES: How many tiles are involved in the game of mahjong?

10. FAMOUS QUOTES: What 20th-century playwright once said, "I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me"?

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running back Derrius Grice (1,387 yards, 15 TDs) and Texas A&M to contend for the SEC West title with Alabama. In the East, look for Georgia and Florida to battle for the division title.

While the SEC may be the best conference in the nation, the Big 10 might have something to say about that this season. The Big 10 had three teams ranked in the AP's top 25 pre-season rankings (No. 3 Ohio State, No. 6 Penn State and No. 9 Michigan). The Big 10 East may rival the SEC West as the best division in college football. Ohio State, Penn State and Michigan all reside there, which should make for a very interesting division battle this fall. Penn State is led by quarterback Trace McSorley (3,614 yards, 29 TDs) and running back Saquon Barkley (1,496 yards, 18 TDs). The Buckeyes and Wolverines have two of the best coaches in the country in Urban Meyer and Jim Harbaugh.

The Pac 12 should also be loaded with talent at USC hopes its thrilling Rose Bowl victory last season over Penn State is a spring board to bigger and better things in 2017. After a slow start, the Trojans rallied for 10 wins behind quarterback Sam Darnold (3,086 yards passing, 31 TDs), who could very well be the No. 1 pick in the 2018 NFL Draft. Cross town rival UCLA also has a pretty fair signal caller in Josh Rosen, while the Washington Huskies will be led by quarterback Josh Browning. Washington State should contend with Washington for the North Division title led by strong armed-QB Luke Faulk (4,468 yards, 38 TDs) and innovative head coach Mike Leach.

In the ACC, look for Florida State to reclaim its perch atop a very talented conference. The Seminoles are loaded on both sides of the ball and if sophomore quarterback Deandre Francois (3,350 yards passing, 20 TDs)

takes the next step in his development, head coach Jimbo Fisher might not only have a conference champion on his hands, but a national title contender as well. Look for Clemson to fall off a bit with Watson's departure, but the Tigers will be very good on defense. Louisville will go as far as quarterback Lamar Jackson (3,543 yards, 31 TDs, 1,571 yards rushing, 21 TDs), the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner, takes them.

The 2017 college season is shaping up as one of the most competitive and exciting seasons in recent memory. So, without further ado, here are this year's mighty predictions!

NCAA
ACC
Atlantic – Florida State
Coastal – Miami
ACC Champion – Florida State
Big 10
East – Ohio State
West – Wisconsin
Big 10 Champion – Ohio State
Big 12
Oklahoma
Pac 12
North – Washington
South – USC

Pac 12 Champion – USC
SEC
East – Georgia
West – Alabama
SEC Champion – Alabama
NATIONAL SEMIFINALS
Sugar Bowl – Alabama over USC
Rose Bowl – Florida State over Ohio State
CFP Champion – Alabama
HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER – Sam Darnold, USC
NFL
AFC East – New England
AFC North – Pittsburgh
AFC South – Tennessee
AFC West – Oakland
AFC Wild Cards – Houston, Kansas City
AFC Title Game – New England over Oakland
NFC East – New York
NFC North – Green Bay
NFC South – Atlanta
NFC West – Seattle
NFC Wild Cards – Dallas, Tampa Bay
NFC Title Game – Green Bay over Dallas
Super Bowl LII – New England over Green Bay

E	T	O	D		F	E	H		S	A	O	T
N	I	G	V		L	I	V		W	R	E	D
A	T	R	A	V	E	L	C		V	E	H	A
D	A	E	H	A		S	A		E	A	O	C
				E	L	A	T		P	S	E	
M	A	E	B		I	R	E	S		I	E	T
O	O	G		Y	R	E	A	E		H	S	V
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N	E	L	V	E		R	E	A	E	I	E	L
O	G	E	O		L	E	M	E		N	O	X
P	E	L	A	P		R	A	P		V	A	N
												C

Solution time: 25 mins.  
Answers  
King Crossword



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## San Jacinto College receives national award for financial reporting

PASADENA, Texas — For the 10th consecutive year, San Jacinto College has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

"This achievement is the result of our fiscal affairs team's diligence in financial procedures and guidelines to ensure accuracy in reporting," said Bill Dickerson, San Jacinto College director of accounting and financial services.

The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. San Jacinto College first received the Distinguished Budget Award for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (CAFR Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum re-



Photo by Andrea Vasquez/SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College Accounting and financial services team.

quirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and

full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association

serving more than 17,600 government finance professionals throughout North America with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

## Dennis elected to leadership position for regional group

Channelview ISD school board trustee Steven Dennis has been elected as First Vice President of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards (GCAASB) for the 2017-2018 school year.

The GCAASB is a voluntary organization composed of more than 50 school boards in the greater Houston area. The organization provides education and information to local school boards, including legislative updates.

Dennis is currently Vice President of the Channelview ISD Board of Trustees. He has served on the Board for 22 years.

"The experience that Mr. Dennis has gained on the local Board of Trustees will benefit all of the stu-



Steven Dennis

dents, staffs, and schools in the Gulf Coast Area Association as it is combined on the Executive Board with the experience of trustees from 14 other school districts," said GCAASB Executive Secretary Joe Adams.

## Galena Park ISD provides Senior Gold Card

The GPISD Senior Gold Card provides residents 55 years of age or older with free admission all GPISD performing arts and athletic events (excluding playoffs or away games). Members also receive subscription to GPISD's fine arts and athletic newsletter, access to informative email blasts, and all athletic and fine arts calendars. Other benefits include a discount in the Lone Star Grill at the GPISD Administration Building.

The Gold Card is FREE to all qualifying members because you have made many contributions to our community and our schools over the years, and we want you to continue as active members of our community and in our schools.

To receive your Senior Gold Card, please bring a

valid driver's license or I.D. to either the GPISD Administration Building, located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd, or the GPISD Athletic Complex, located at 15025 Wallisville Rd., between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

You may also contact Elizabeth Vasquez at 832-386-1000 should you have questions, need additional assistance or additional information.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club Meeting

This newly chartered club meets on on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church. For more information, see the Facebook page entitled Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club or call 832-264-1565 / 832-289-4762.

### Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

### North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors holds a dance every Thursday from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

### The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at LyondellBasell on Sheldon Road at noon. For more information, please visit [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

### Trip Israel

Join Wayne & Patsy Moss on a trip to ISRAEL! March 2018. Call for more information. 281-447-4307.

### Volunteer Voter Registrar Training

Registered Voters in Harris County are encouraged to attend the upcoming Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar Training on Saturday, September 23 at 11 a.m.

The Training is being taught Harris County Tax Assessor Collector and Voter Registrar Anna Harris Bennett's staff at the North Channel Branch of Harris County Public Library. The event is hosted by East Houston Democrats. Participants must attend the entire 60 minute training in order to complete the training. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Britten at 281.782.6437.

[www.facebook.com/NorthChannelStar](http://www.facebook.com/NorthChannelStar)

## Pediatric Practice opened in East Houston community

Neonatologist Angel Munoz launches second WeeKare Pediatrics location

Angel Munoz, M.D. has opened a Pediatric Practice for the East Houston/Northshore/Channelview community.

Dr. Munoz is a Neonatologist, a medical doctor trained to handle the most complex and high-risk situations for newborns. As the first Neonatologist in the Lake Houston area, Dr. Munoz established a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in what was then called Northeast Medical Center Hospital in Humble, caring for more than 40,000 newborns since the NICU first opened in 1994.

WeeKare Pediatrics East Houston location, is located at Beltway 8 and Woodforest Blvd. This location is staffed by Pediatrician Reene Douglas, M.D., and Jennifer Taylor, PA-C,



a certified Physician Assistant specialized in Pediatrics.

Dr. Douglas is a graduate of the University of Cape Town Medical School in South Africa. She was Chief Resident in Pediatrics at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Returning to South Africa, she completed a master's degree in Pediatric infectious diseases and then worked for a USAID-funded program to provide health care for underprivileged children.

Jennifer Taylor is a native Houstonian and

board-certified Physician Assistant who earned her Master's degree at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Penn.

The East Houston clinic joins WeeKare Pediatrics Humble which was founded by Dr. Munoz in 2004. WeeKare Pediatrics is a comprehensive Pediatric medical care practice. The new East Houston office will provide comprehensive, compassionate medical care to young children, focusing on preventive care, immunization routine, well child examinations, and accident prevention education.

To contact Dr. Munoz or one of the WeeKare medical professionals, or to make an appointment at WeeKare Pediatrics in East Houston or in Humble, call 281.540.KIDS (5437).



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CLASSES STARTING SEPTEMBER 15 AND 25

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The San Jacinto College District is committed to equal opportunity for all students, employees, and applicants without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The following College official has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College's non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Human Resources, 4620 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77504; 281-991-2659; Sandra.Ramirez@sjcd.edu.

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# OPINION PAGE

## Ride Safe Bus safety tips for back-to-school

(Family Features) While school safety is of the utmost importance to parents, millions of school-age children begin and end their days with a bus ride. To provide some measures for parents to help increase safety going to and from the bus and during the ride, the National Association for Pupil Transportation offers these tips.

### Before the Bus Arrives

- Ensure backpacks are packed securely so papers and other items don't scatter as the bus approaches.

- Create a morning routine that puts kids at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pickup time. This helps avoid a last-minute rush, when safety lessons are easily forgotten, and ensures kids are safely in place for boarding.

- Encourage children to wear bright, contrasting colors so they can be seen easier by drivers.

- Walk young children to the bus stop or encourage kids to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.

- Instruct children to walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, advise them to stay out of the street, walk single-file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as possible.

- If kids must cross a street, driveway or alley, remind them to stop and look both ways before crossing.

- Verify that the bus stop location offers good visibility for the bus driver; if changes are needed, talk with nearby homeowners or school district officials to implement changes. Never let kids wait in a house or car, where the driver may miss seeing them approach the bus.

- Remind children that the bus stop is not a playground. Balls or other toys can roll into the street and horseplay could result in falling into the path of oncoming traffic.

- Instruct children to stay at least three steps away from the road and allow the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching it.

### On the Bus Ride

- When boarding the bus, items can get bumped and dropped. Caution children that before picking anything up, they should talk to the driver and follow instructions to safely retrieve their possessions.

- Teach safe riding habits: stay seated with head, hands and feet inside at all times; use a seatbelt (if available); keep bags and books out of the aisle and remain seated until the bus stops moving. Also instruct children to never throw things on the bus or out the windows and to never play with or block the emergency exits.

- Remind kids that yelling and other loud noises are off limits as they could distract the driver.

- If cell phones and other electronic devices are permitted, instruct children to mute the sound or use headphones so as not to create a distraction for the driver or other riders.

### Leaving the Bus

- Remind children to look before stepping off the bus. If they must cross the street, teach them to do so in front of the bus by taking five big steps from the front of the bus, making eye contact with the driver and waiting for the signal that it is safe to begin crossing.

- For parents who meet their kids at the bus stop, remember that in their excitement kids may dart

across the street. Eliminate the risk by waiting on the side of the street where kids exit the bus.

- Make the bus ride part of your daily "how was school?" discussion. Encourage kids to talk about the things they see and hear on the bus so you can discuss appropriate behaviors and, if necessary, report any concerns to school administrators.

### Discuss the Bus

Join the discussion (or start one) on school districts exploring a switch from diesel buses to cleaner alternatives by downloading resources including fact sheets, videos and more at [BetterOurBuses.com](#).

### A Safe Transportation Option

Beyond teaching safety precautions around the bus, there is another option to ensure kids are transported safely to and from school each day. Many school districts are moving away from noisy, pollution-inducing and expensive diesel buses in favor of buses powered by an alternate fuel, like propane, which offers numerous benefits for school districts and their students.

Safety: Jenna Bush Hager, a teacher, author, journalist and parent of two, has partnered with the Propane Education & Research Council to educate parents and school districts about the benefits of propane school buses.

School buses powered by propane offer numerous safety advantages. Propane school buses are quieter than diesel buses when operating, making it easier for drivers to hear both inside and outside the bus. This can have a direct impact on student behavior, and many districts have reported fewer disciplinary issues as a result. An interactive audio quiz detailing the difference between the types of buses can be found at [QuieterSchoolBuses.com](#).

"As a former teacher, I know parents often overlook how the ride to and from school can impact a child's performance in the classroom," Hager said. "A child's attitude or behavior before they arrive at school can set the tone for the whole day."

In addition, these buses meet rigorous U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and each is equipped with an automatic shut-off feature that prevents fuel flow to the engine when not running.

Another safety consideration is the health implications of older diesel buses. The shorter height of younger students can put them face-to-face with a black cloud of diesel smoke every school day. With propane buses, however, students aren't exposed to the harmful particulate matter in diesel exhaust, which is known to aggravate asthma and has been identified by the World Health Organization as a carcinogen. However, "low-NOx" propane engines are 75 percent cleaner than current federal emissions standards require.

Savings: Not only is propane consistently less expensive than diesel fuel, the buses themselves don't require the same expensive repairs and replacement parts that today's modern diesel buses demand. Saving money on transportation costs puts schools in a better position to appropriate budget toward meeting students' needs in the classroom and other areas, such as fine arts and athletic programs.



## Special session ends over impasse on property tax reform bill

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott gave legislators 20 must-pass items, but the lawmakers delivered only 12 bills to his desk during the first called session of the 85th Texas Legislature.

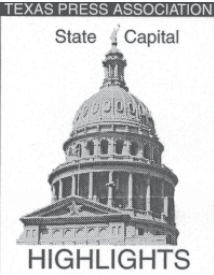
Both the House and Senate gavelled to final adjournment on Aug. 15, the 29th day of the 30-day session, after deadlines left negotiators without enough time to resolve differences in Senate Bill 1, the property tax reform bill. The House adjourned first, leaving the Senate to accept its substituted version of SB 1 or let it die. The Senate adjourned and the bill died.

Another measure that died was SB 3, the so-called bathroom bill. The legislation attempted to codify who does and who does not belong in restrooms, showers and changing facilities intended for use for a particular gender. SB 3 was promoted and supported by Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, but opponents testified that the legislation was unconstitutionally discriminatory and would have negative effects on the economy. The Senate passed SB 3 with all Republicans in favor and all but one Democrat against. When SB 3 moved to the House, Speaker Joe Straus, who sided with a list of prominent businesses that registered in opposition, kept it from advancing any farther.

The list of bills Abbott did sign into law includes:

- HB 7, to restrict municipal regulation of the removal of trees on private property;
- HB 13, to establish reporting requirements for certain physicians and health care facilities regarding abortion complications; authorizing a civil penalty;
- HB 21, to amend public school finance, and to increase funding for recruitment and retention of teachers and support of participants in the public school employees group insurance program;
- HB 30, to transfer certain appropriations to the Texas Education Agency

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



cies subject to the Texas Sunset Act; and

- SB 60, to repeal certain unnecessary contingency riders for the Texas Medical Board and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

### Maps violate voting law

A three-judge panel of the San Antonio-based U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas on Aug. 15 struck down two congressional district maps that were drawn by the Texas Legislature in 2011.

The panel, in *Perez v. Abbott*, unanimously ruled that District 35, represented by Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, and District 27, represented by Blake Farenthold, R-Corpus Christi, were drawn with discriminatory intent and are in violation of the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

The panel scheduled a Sept. 5 hearing to consider remedial plans, and ordered parties to the lawsuit, in preparation for the hearing, to consult with their experts and map-drawers and prepare statewide congressional plans that remedy the violations found in the district maps, yet minimize the effect on adjoining districts.

Also, the panel directed the parties to confer and address objections and concerns, to the extent possible, prior to the hearing. If both sides agree upon a remedial plan, they are required to notify the court, but the hearing will nevertheless proceed so the parties can present the plan on the record.

### TEA releases 2017 ratings

The Texas Education Agency on Aug. 15 released its 2017 state accountability ratings for more than 1,200 school districts and charters.

Districts, campuses and charters receive one of three ratings under the accountability system: Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard, or Improvement Required.

Nearly 95 percent of school districts and charters achieved the rating of Met Standard. The ratings include more than 8,700 campuses.

In addition, the number of individual campuses achieving either a rating of Met Standard or Met Alternative Standard increased again this year, while the number of campuses receiving a rating of Improvement Required continued to decline.

Ratings can be accessed at the web address, [tea.state.tx.us](#).

## DPS reminds drivers to help keep children safe as new school year begins

AUSTIN — As we embark on the new school year, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) cautions Texans to watch for children who are walking to and from school or waiting for buses. Drivers should be especially alert and careful around school buses — which make frequent stops — and always follow traffic laws regarding school buses and school zones. The start of the school year also generates an increase in overall traffic in many areas — an additional reason to make safe driving a priority.

"As school districts across Texas start classes in the coming days and weeks, drivers should slow down and be alert when school children and buses are present," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Obey school zone speed limits and stop for school buses when required. Individuals who disregard the law and illegally pass stopped school buses needlessly put children in harm's way — and face significant traffic fines."

The moments when students are entering or exiting a bus can be one of the most dangerous times during a child's trip on a school bus. Accordingly, DPS urges drivers to slow down and pay close attention in school zones, since children may unexpectedly step into a roadway without checking for oncoming traffic.

State law requires that approaching drivers stop when a bus is stopped and operating a visual signal — either red flashing lights or a stop sign. Drivers should not proceed until the school bus resumes motion; the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed; or the visual signal is no longer activated. A driver does not have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if it is on a highway with roadways separated by an intervening space or physical barrier. (If a highway is divided only by a left-turning lane, the roadways are not considered separated, and drivers must stop for school buses.)

As a reminder, school buses, by law, must stop at all railroad crossings.

Drivers who illegally pass school buses face fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense, and potential criminal charges if they cause serious bodily injury to another. For individuals convicted of this offense more than once, the law allows the individual's driver license to be suspended for up to six months. (A ticket for illegally passing a school bus cannot be dismissed through defensive driving.).

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REICHHOLD LLC 2, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 77738, which would authorize continued operation of a Polyester and Coating Resins Manufacturing Facility located at 1503 Haden Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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LIFESTYLE

CRCU gives tablet prize to teachers of both ISD's

Friendly Ford gives to less fortunate



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CREDIT UNION noting that every teacher needs a new i-pad tablet gave one each to a Crosby and Huffman teacher. Above Brandy Killough, the new Crosby Middle School Band Teacher receives a tablet from Britney Sampri, Business Development Officer. Demica Espree, Crosby Branch Manager bestow's Roger Watson a new teacher of Building Trades at Hargrave High the treasured devise.



The owner of Friendly Ford in Crosby, Fred Salinas presented Dr. Keith Moore a \$1,000 check for Operation Backpack a feature of the schools to provide needed school supplies to those of less means. Salinas said, "I look forward to the New Educator's Luncheon every year. A wide swarth of business people, residents and all the teachers of Crosby as well as Huffman. This is our way of giving back, it is for a good cause especially as it involves young students that one day will give back to the community."



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Psalms: 46:1

★

OBITUARIES


William "Bill" Allen Thompson



death by his father; sister, Roxanne Thompson Hozdish. He is lovingly survived by his mother, Mary Bierbaum; brother, Wendell Bierbaum and wife Terri; sister, Margo Bierbaum Davis and husband Jeff; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. A celebration of Bill's life will be held at 2:00 p.m on August 26th at the Greens Bayou VFW Post 9296.

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Jeffery Scott Clark



open harms. He is survived by his wife Jessica Taylor Clark and their 2 young daughters. His parents Louvin & Laurel Clark and his sister Sabrina Clark all who reside in Houston. Several aunts, uncles and cousins. He attended Channelview High School. He will be remembered for his smile, sense of humor and his love for music, playing guitar and singing. He will be missed by all. There will be no funeral services.

Calvary Church of the Nazarene Groundbreaking

The community is invited this Sunday, August 27, 2017 for a groundbreaking for the Calvary Church of the Nazarene, 3:00 p.m. at 20707 Crosby Freeway, besides Tractor Supply.

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ROMANS 8:18

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1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.

Leviticus 19:32



# ASK THE EXPERT



## Diamond Jim: "Have you ever heard of a man named Moe Berg"?

Here's some history few ever knew. When baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Moe Berg was included. Although he played with 5 major league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player, but was regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. In fact Casey Stengel once said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball." When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them, and many people wondered why he went with the team

**Moe Berg and Babe Ruth**  
The answer was simple: Moe Berg was a United States spy

working undercover with the OSS forerunner to the CIA . Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese - Moe Berg had two loves: baseball and spying. In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ball-player ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc. Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo..

**Catcher Moe Berg**  
Berg's father, Bernard Berg, a pharmacist in Newark, New Jersey, taught his son Hebrew and Yiddish. Moe, against his wishes, began playing baseball on the street aged four. His father disapproved and never once watched his son play. In

### ASK DIAMOND JIM

Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers every day. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit.

**Tito's partisans**  
During World War II, he was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that

Marshall Tito's forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians. The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year. Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground and located a secret heavy water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid that destroyed the plant. There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Berg (under the code name "Remus") was

sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill. If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe, sitting in the front row, determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal, so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech and walked him back to his hotel. Werner Heisenberg himself blocked the Nazis from acquiring an atomic bomb. Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher." Most of Germanys leading physicists had been Jewish and

had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States . After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom...Americas highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept, as he couldn't tell people about his exploits. After his death, his sister accepted the Medal and it hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown .

Moe Berg - March 2,1902----- May 29, 1972  
Note: Moe Berg's baseball card is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington DC.

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Prescription price comparison above is valid as of May 5, 2015. All trademarks (TM) rights associated with the brand name products in this ad belong to their respective owners. \*Generic drugs are carefully regulated medications that have the same active ingredients as the original brand name drug, but are generally cheaper in price.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 77738

APPLICATION REICHHOLD LLC 2, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 77738, which would authorize continued operation of a Polyester and Coating Resins Manufacturing Facility located at 1503 Haden Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.76635&lng=-95.17881&zoom=13&type=r>. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on August 2, 2017. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Harris County Public Library – North Channel Branch, 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of the following authorizations or changes to authorized facilities related to this permit: amendments and permits by rule. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published.**

After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process. After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING** You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15 day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

**MAILING LIST** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from REICHHOLD LLC 2, 1503 Haden Road, Houston, Texas 77015-6455 or by calling Mr. Elliot Townsend, KJ Environmental Management, Inc., at (940) 387-0805.

Notice Issuance Date: August 9, 2017

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## U.S. House of Representatives passes National Defense Authorization Act

Legislation would designate SanJac, other two year colleges as Maritime Centers of Excellence

PASADENA, Texas – The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that authorizes \$696 billion in defense spending in fiscal year 2018. This includes the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act, H.R. 2286, sponsored by Reps. Gene Green (D-TX) and Rob Wittman (R-VA) to provide assistance and designate San Jacinto College and other selected community and technical colleges and workforce training centers as "Centers of Excellence."

The provision, introduced in May as an amendment to the NDAA, will advance the capabilities of two-year community and technical colleges to assist the federal government and industry in securing the talent pipeline for

domestic maritime industry jobs. Rep. Green said this furthers the efforts in training and providing people with the skills it takes to fill the gap in the maritime workforce.

"In our district, we have a surplus of maritime jobs and not enough people with the skills and training to fill them," Rep. Green said in a prepared statement. "The industry is continuing to invest and grow along the Port of Houston, and we want to make sure that our constituents have the opportunity to take these high skilled jobs. This bipartisan legislation will help bridge the gap. It's good for our local community, it's good for our businesses, and it's good for the American economy."

Unless action is taken to expand the availability of domestic maritime workforce technical training, the continued



Photo by Jeannie Peng Mansyur, San Jacinto College.

The Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act will provide assistance and designate San Jacinto College and other selected community and technical colleges and workforce training centers as "Centers of Excellence."

lack of federal government focus on training, a large percentage of the workforce nearing retirement, technological advancements and the expansion of the Panama Canal are all factors that will

compound the domestic maritime workforce shortage in the years ahead.

As Centers of Excellence, two-year colleges will be able to expand their capacity to train

domestic maritime workers by admitting more students, training faculty, expanding facilities, creating new maritime career pathways from associate degree to baccalaureate degree

programs, and awarding credit for prior learning experience, including military service. Over the years, the federal government has designated and funded numerous Centers of Excellence at four-year universities – primarily to advance federal research and development goals. Historically, Centers of Excellence programs have not benefited two-year colleges. The Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act is unique and precedent-setting in that it is limited to community and technical colleges.

The San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus offers a full calendar of USCG-approved maritime courses. For more information and to register, visit sanjac.edu/maritime.

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