

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

VOLUME 5, NO. 30 (#184)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Commercial fire under investigation

At approximately 12:25 a.m. on July 30, Channelview Fire Department requested Harris County Fire Marshal's Office (HCFMO) investigators to assist with a commercial fire in the 1100 block of Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX.

Nine fire departments were on scene to assist Channelview Fire Department extinguishing the fire. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) were requested by HCFMO and were at the scene to assist with the fire investigation. The commercial building covers over 45,000 square feet and houses Cooler Graphics, a business that produces koozies and other promotional items. The origin and cause of the fire is under investigation.

### North Channel Ed. Foundation Casino Night

As a fund raiser, the North Channel Area Education Foundation will hold its annual "Casino Night" on Friday, August 11 from 7:00 pm to 11:00, at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road. Entitled "Gamble the Night Away, Deep in the Heart of Texas!" this promises to be the event of the year, with attendees experiencing Las Vegas in the North Channel.

The Foundation is looking for corporate sponsors, at \$600. Individual tickets are \$75, contact the Chamber for either.

By Linda Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – August 1, 2017 Mayor Esmeralda Moya at 6 PM called the meeting to order, and led the prayer and pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the July 18, 2017 meeting and the Accounts Payable through August 1 was unanimously approved.

The Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution R09-2017 a resolution ordering the meth-

od of notice to be issued for the joint city commission and zoning commission public hearing scheduled on September 5, 2017.

The Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution R10-2017 a resolution and order to establish procedures for the election for the legal sale of alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages.

The Commissioners unanimously approved Ordinance 2017-06 requiring city license for alcohol sales; requiring distance

and hour rules for alcohol sales; prohibiting public consumption and open containers; and setting penalty for violation.

The Commissioners unanimously approved the City of Galena Park's investment policy.

The Commissioners unanimously approved opening the seal bids for Phase 2 of the water lines and fire protection project with a pending decision to be made later.

The Commissioners

unanimously approved the full time employment of Alexis Alvarez as utility billing clerk for the water department.

At the close of the meeting citizens are allowed three minutes to make comments or ask questions to the Mayor and Commissioners.

Former Commissioner Robert Clowers questioned the procedure of opening the seal bids for Phase 2 of the water lines and fire protection project

without approving a motion to table them for further review and awarding the bid at another council meeting. Clowers also said he believes approving the ordinance 2017-06 requiring license for alcohol may be in conflict with the state law.

Cheryl Ponder a member of the Committee For A Better Galena Park invited everyone to the Open House of the Galena Park Food Bank after the council meeting.

## Galena Park prepares for election to allow alcohol sales

## Morman wants new EPA head Pruitt to put waste pits on "TOP TEN" priority list

HARRIS COUNTY – Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman waded into the battle to remove the toxic waste pits from the San Jacinto River, with a two page letter to the new EPA Administrator last Friday, asking for an expedited removal of the material.

In his letter, Morman states that "As long as the dioxin pits remain in place, they create an ongoing hazard that will leach into the River and Galveston Bay. The site poses a serious threat to the health of our residents and to the environment."

Morman referenced a new study that Pruitt commissioned, a Task Force that has made recommendations for expedited solutions to the nation's 1330 Superfund sites. Pruitt has said that he will create a "TOP TEN" list of sites with priority to be cleaned up and reused. The list will contain sites that have



Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman



EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

been on the NPS (National Priority List) for over 5 years. Morman requested that the San Jacinto River Waste Pits be placed on that list.

Further, he said "Removal is the only remedy that resolves the contamination in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits with fi-

nality, eliminating the future costs and potential harm associated with leaving the waste in place."

The EPA Dallas office is currently reviewing comments and technical reports, before issuing a final ROC (Record Of Decision). They plan to have this

ready by the end of 2017, unless Pruitt moves to shorten the schedule.

In the Task Force report, Pruitt is quoted as saying he has a "passion to clean up the country's worst pollution, as expeditiously and as thoroughly as possible."

The report lists five

goals for the EPA Superfund clean-up:

- Expediting Cleanup and Remediation
- Re-Investigating Responsible Party Cleanup and Reuse
- Encouraging Private Investment
- Promoting Redevelopment and Community Revitalization
- Engaging Partners and Stakeholders.

Morman's letter was widely distributed, going to the EPA, Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, U.S. Representatives Brian Babin, Gene Green, Randy Weber, and Ted Poe. Also EPA Regional Administrator Sam Coleman, and Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan.

The San Jacinto River Coalition and THEA, under the leadership of Jack-

See MORMAN on WASTE PITS, page 8

## GRAND OPENING

## Galena Park Food Pantry Open House



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL

Committee members and sponsors attend food pantry open house. L to R: Josephina Guereque, Jose Chavez, Betty Chavez, Lydia Moya, Cheryl Ponder, Jack Brown, Barry Ponder, Charles Lewis, Mayor Esmeralda Moya, - Robert Collins, Dorothy Harding and Sergio Moya, not pictured: Gary Freeman.

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – August 1, 2017 The Committee For A Better Galena Park after many months of remodeling the original food pantry building had their Open House.

On hand for the occasion were Mayor Moya and Commissioner Barry Pon-

der, city officials, committee members, sponsors and citizens.

Guests were given a tour and provided refreshments.

The food pantry located at 1702 3 RD Street will provide food to qualifying citizens. The Grand Opening is Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 10 AM. They'll be open on the first and third

Thursday from 10 AM to 1 PM., the second Saturday from 11 AM to 2 PM and the fourth Wednesday from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Citizens desiring the pantries goods must first complete and application where they'll be required to provide proof of residency and disclose their household income to determine if they qualify.

## COMMUNITY WATCH

## Jacinto City child predator arrested

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – Wednesday, July 26, 2017 Jacinto City Police Detective B. J. Silva took into custody ex-convict Juan Carlos Apodaca who's the suspect in a crime of "Displaying Harmful Material to a Minor."

According to Silva on Sunday July 23 a mother and 9 year old daughter were grocery shopping at the Seller's Bros. grocery store in Jacinto City when Apodaca without the mother's awareness began showing her daughter hard core pornography from his cell phone. The child became upset and told Apodaca to leave her alone but he persisted by playing the pornography in front of her eyes.

Detective Silva says after the mother complained to the police the stores security camera video was obtained for evidence. The news media aired the video Tuesday and Silva says within two hours after the

broadcast a helpful citizen watching called police providing the suspects name. Searching a law enforcement sexual offender's database using the name provided a photo matching Juan Carlos Apodaca was discovered along with his current Galena Park address.

Detective Silva said, "I remembered another similar incident months before at the same store where a male showed pornography to a child. When I reviewed the videos from that incident I discovered Apodaca was the same person."

On Wednesday Silva brought Apodaca to the police station where he admitted showing the pornography to the minor. He was fingerprinted, photographed, and transferred to the Harris County jail and within 48 hours he bonded out and is on the streets again. Citizens who learned of his quick release are worried that

See Arrest, page 8



photo by Allan Jamail

Jacinto City Police Detective B.J. Silva arrested ex-con Juan Carlos Apodaca for Displaying Harmful Material to a Minor.



photo by TX DPS

Juan Carlos Apodaca charged with Displaying Harmful Material to a minor.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Call nabs local burglary suspect



Saul Casas



Joseph Diaz



Michael Gonzalez

HOUSTON – Deputies arrested three youths on Tuesday in connection with a burglary in the 400 block of Harris near Corpus Christ St., at least one of the burglars was living in Highlands and was taken into custody there.

Many of the deputies involved in the burglary apprehension are from District 3, the station for Highlands, Crosby and Channelview including G.Nason, D.Cline, H.Mitchell, B.Murray and D.Peace.

The Sheriff's Office Media Relations Officer Thomas Gilliland indicates the three accused had allegedly kicked in the front door and entered the residence.

A neighbor seeing people within the residence when no one was supposed to be at home telephoned 911. Deputies knowing of previous activity nearby, rushed in and took two into custody that had fled into the neighborhood after they had established a perimeter.

The cooperation between the local public seeing something and saying something and law enforcement remains the most effective crime solving element available.

They discovered from witnesses that a red Camaro had pick up someone

from near the scene not long after the call was phoned to deputies. The car was found rolling onto the Battlebell Rd. area about that time.

The driver indicated that he had picked his passenger up from the scene but had no idea why he was called for the lift.

The arrested suspects are Michael Gonzales, Joseph Cain Diaz, and Saul Casas.

The latter being a Highlands resident, who maintained to law enforcement that he had never entered the building but that story conflicts with witness accounts that all three had been inside the building, carrying items out. He surrendered to deputies once he found out a warrant was being issued in his name to be picked up at his parent's house.



Suspected get away truck was impounded by deputies on July 25 on Harris Street.

Harris County ESD 5 recognizes Crosby ISD



Crosby Independent School District recognized Harris County Emergency Services District 5, the ambulance service for Barrett Station and Crosby including Crosby ISD, was recognized by that school district for outstanding service on Monday, June 19, when the Crosby ISD Trustees had their monthly board meeting. Karen Elkins and Randy Wooten received a framed certificate of recognition for excellent service directly from Superintendent Dr. Keith Moore as the trustees joined.

DPS urges Texans to use caution in summer heat

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety is warning Texas residents to be prepared for summertime temperatures, and to take precautions to stay safe as temperatures and heat indices hit 100 degrees and above in many parts of the state this time of year. Extreme temperatures increase the risk of heat-related injuries or deaths.

“Summertime heat is a fact of life in Texas, but the dangers from high temperatures are real and should not be taken lightly,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “Heat-related deaths and injuries are often preventable if residents take the necessary steps to educate and protect themselves – and their loved ones.”

Warmer weather places children at greater risk of injury or death if left unattended in a vehicle. Every year children die from heat-related injuries after being left in a vehicle or by entering a vehicle un-

noticed. A child should never be left unattended in a vehicle.

Temperatures inside a car can rise more than 20 degrees in only 10 minutes; and even with an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature inside a car can reach 110 degrees, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Leaving windows partially rolled down does not help. Young children are particularly at risk since their bodies heat up faster than an adult.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), extreme heat events or heat waves are one of the leading causes of extreme weather-related deaths in the United States. Periods of severe heat and high humidity tax the body's ability to cool itself and can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which can be fatal.

DPS offers the following tips for staying safe and managing the heat:

- Check on the elderly, sick or very young, especially if they don't have air conditioning.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine and alcohol during prolonged outdoor exposure. Start consuming water before you head outdoors; you may not realize you're dehydrated until it's too late.
- Pay attention to your body. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can develop quickly. If you start feeling ill, immediately find a shaded or cooler area and slowly drink fluids. Seek medical attention if necessary.
- Monitor weather radios and newscasts for information on current conditions and weather alerts in your area.

- Stay indoors as much as possible, and limit exposure to the sun. Consider indoor activities this summer at places like shopping malls, the library or other community facilities.
- Light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a hat are recommended during outdoor exposure.
- If possible, avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.
- Be extra careful when cooking outdoors, building campfires or driving off road to avoid igniting dry vegetation. Also, stay aware of burn bans in your area and always abide by restrictions on outside burning.
- Don't forget pet safety. Animals are also susceptible to heat-related injury or death – don't put your pets in these dangerous conditions.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## San Jacinto College Skills USA team competes at national competition

### 6 students bring home awards

HOUSTON, Texas – The San Jacinto College SkillsUSA team recently attended and competed in the 53rd annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) in Louisville, Kentucky.

Students from San Jac's North, Central and South campuses competed. Participants from the South Campus included Lizna Lalani, medical math; Kelci McClary-Davis, customer service; and Lorian Landrum, cosmetology. The participant from Central Campus was Cesar Hernandez, automotive service technology. Participants from the North Campus included Paula Avila, medical terminology; Sydney Olsen, esthetics; Ashley Nixon, model in esthetics

Several students brought home high ranking awards in multiple categories. Lalani placed sixth in medical math, McClary-Davis placed ninth in customer service, Landrum placed ninth in cosmetology, Hernandez placed 18th in automotive service technology in addition to winning a Snap on Skills



The San Jacinto College SkillsUSA team recently attended and competed in the 53rd annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Pictured, left to right: Debra Acuff, San Jacinto College department chair for business and professional services, chapter advisor; Diana Johnson, San Jacinto College medical assistant program director, advisor for medical terminology; Paula Avila, student; Simone Paisley, cosmetology instructor, advisor for esthetics; Sydney Olsen, student; and Ashley Nixon, student. Submitted photo.

Challenge and Mustang Cat Challenge, Avila placed fifth in medical terminology, and Olsen placed eighth in esthetics. Avila and Olsen both received Skill-Point awards for achieving a score of 80 percent or higher at the national level.

"I was so proud to have such a devoted and well-mannered team representing San Jacinto College. They were a delight to travel with and they truly gave their all, to get in the top 10 was just fantastic. We appreciate the College's support and look forward to more fun times in the future with our SkillsUSA chapter," said Pandora Freestone, San Jacinto College cosmetology instructor and SkillsUSA advisor.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills.

## Galena Park High School student receives SOCAPA scholarship

Alan Nunez, Galena Park High School student, was named a recipient of the SOCAPA (School of Creative and Performing Arts) scholarship. Nunez was selected from a list of candidates that expand from high schools across the country and will be attending classes and seminars at New York University - Brooklyn from July



30th-August 12th. While in New York, he will get the opportunity to learn advanced filmmaking techniques and screenwriting from college professors and industry professionals!

Nunez is a member of the Buzz Media Audio/Video program at Galena Park High School and has completed several short films

that were submitted to the SXSW Film Festival, UIL Film Competition and 10-Day Film Challenge.

### 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.

#### NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Published each Wednesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to: [northchannelstar@gmail.com](mailto:northchannelstar@gmail.com)

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#### CHANNELVIEW ISD:

## Evening registration, Meet the Teacher Nights planned

Campuses in the Channelview Independent School District have scheduled evening registrations and Meet the Teacher meetings before the first day of school on Aug. 16.

#### Aguirre Junior High

Evening Registration – 5:30 p.m., Aug. 9 (Sixth Grade), Aug. 10 (Seventh Grade) and Aug. 11 (Eighth Grade)

#### Alice Johnson Junior High

Evening Registration (Sixth-Eighth Grades) – 5:30-7:30 p.m., Aug. 8-10  
Meet the Teacher – 5:30-7:30 p.m., Aug. 10 (Sixth Grade) and Aug. 29 (Seventh and Eighth Grades)

#### Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center

Evening Registration – 5-7 p.m., Aug. 7-8  
Meet the Teacher – 8:30-10 a.m. (Morning Students), 12:30-2 p.m. (Afternoon Students), Aug. 15

#### Brown Elementary

Evening Registration – 4-6 p.m., Aug. 7-8  
Meet the Teacher – 4:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 14

#### Channelview High School/ Kolarik Ninth Grade Center

Registration Nights – 5-7 p.m., Aug. 9-10  
CHS/Kolarik Open House – 6-8 p.m., Aug. 14

#### Cobb Elementary

Evening Registration – 5-7 p.m., Aug. 10 and Aug. 15  
Meet the Teacher – 5:30-7:30 p.m., Aug. 9 (Kindergarten-Second Grades) and Aug. 10 (Third Grade-Fifth Grade)

#### Crenshaw Elementary

Evening Registration – 5-7 p.m., Aug. 8 and Aug. 10  
Meet the Teacher – 5-6 p.m., Aug. 11

#### DeZavala Elementary

Evening Registration – 4:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 3 and Aug. 15

Meet the Teacher – 5-7 p.m., Aug. 15

#### Hamblen Elementary

Evening Registration – 5-7 p.m., July 31 and Aug. 2  
Kindergarten Round-Up – 9-11 a.m., Aug. 7  
Meet the Teacher – 4-6 p.m., Aug. 14

#### McMullan Elementary

Evening Registration – 4-6 p.m., Aug. 2 and Aug. 8  
Meet the Teacher – 4 p.m., Aug. 14  
Parent Orientations and Title I training – 5-7 p.m., Aug. 22 (First Grade), 23 (Second Grade), 24 (Kindergarten), 29 (Third Grade) and 31 (Fourth and Fifth Grades)

#### Schochler Elementary

Evening Registration – 4-6 p.m., Aug. 2 and 8  
Meet the Teacher – 4:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 14.

## Driver arrested for leaving scene of serious motorcycle accident

NORTH CHANNEL – Police have charged Jose Guadalupe Mines, 35, with failure to stop and render aid, and intoxication assault after a collision on the East Freeway.

The accident ocured Sunday morning, about 12:55 in the 12000 block of I-10 East.

Witnesses said that Mines was driving at a high rate of speed, in a



JOSE GUADALUPE MINES

Dodge Magnum, and cut off the driver of the motorcycle. He collided with the cycle, and dragged it some distance.

He then headed back to the west, but witnesses followed him and when he stopped in a parking lot, they detained him.

The motorcycle driver was taken to an area hospital, and is reported to be in critical condition.

Fall classes begin

# AUGUST 28

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OPINION PAGE

Senate recesses  
after passing 18  
Bills (Plus Sunset)  
in 7 Days!

With 3 weeks to go, Texas Senate sets record pace in Special Session

AUSTIN – July 26, 2017 – When the Texas Senate recessed on Wednesday, July 26th, 18 bills (plus Senate Bill 20 and Senate Bill 60 - Sunset Bills) included on the Special Session proclamation by Gov. Greg Abbott had passed the Senate. Long time legislative veterans say there is no precedent in either chamber for the passage of 18 bills in seven days -- from referral to committee hearing to floor debate and final passage on third reading. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick made this statement following the Senate recess today:

The Texas Senate is committed to passing the conservative legislation the people of Texas elected them to pass and they arrived in Austin last week ready for work. In the past week, they have logged almost 57 hours in committee hearings and over 33 hours on the Senate Floor to pass 18 bills on the Special Session call. The senators are a true testament to what can be accomplished when you are determined to do what is best for Texas.

Every Texan can be proud of the work ethic, commitment and efficiency of the Texas Senate. These important bills all were fully vetted in committees that heard testimony from hundreds of Texans going late into the night. The full Senate was in session on several days past midnight to pass this important legislation. Every bill passed is listed below but I want to highlight three that are critically important:

**Senate Bill 1 -** Texans pay some of the highest property taxes in the nation and the high rates are forcing people out of their homes and hampering business growth. Senate Bill 1 includes a mandatory election when local entities increase property taxes by more than 4 percent.

**Senate Bill 3 - A** majority of Texans in both political parties and in every ethnic and demographic group believe that women and girls should have

privacy and safety in their restrooms, showers and locker rooms. Senate Bill 3 will ensure that they do.

Senate Bill 19 - Currently, over half the state budget goes to K-12 and higher education but only 32% of all revenue received by schools goes to teachers. Senate Bill 19 will provide a career bonus in 2018 of \$600 to teachers who have been teaching 6 to 10 years and \$1,000 to teachers who have been teaching 11 or more years. Senate Bill 19 also directs \$212 million to TRS Care to reduce out-of-pocket health-care costs for retired teachers.

•Senate Bill 20 & SB 60 - Sunset Schedule Bill

•Senate Bill 2 - School Choice for Children with Special Needs

•Senate Bill 8 - No Texan will be Forced to Pay for Anyone's Abortion Insurance

•Senate Bill 9 - Cap on State Spending

•Senate Bill 7 - No Taxpayer Dollars to Collect Union Dues

•Senate Bill 10 & SB 73 - Strengthen Reporting Requirements for Abortion Procedures

•Senate Bill 16 - Establish a School Finance Reform Commission

•Senate Bill 6 - Ending Forced Annexation

•Senate Bill 17 - Maintain the Maternal Mortality Task Force

•Senate Bill 4 - Expanding the Prohibition on Taxpayer Dollars for Abortion Providers

•Senate Bill 11 - Clarifying the Operation of "Do Not Resuscitate" Orders

•Senate Bill 5 - Preventing Mail-In Ballot Fraud

•Senate Bill 14 - Preventing Cities from Regulatory Overreach on Trees

•Senate Bill 13 - Speeding up the Local Government Permitting Process

•Senate Bill 15 - Making All Texting and Mobile Device Use Regulations Uniform



House, Senate have not  
yet engaged in back-and-forth  
on key bills

AUSTIN — Not a single bill had been agreed to by the state House and Senate as of July 28, exactly 10 days into the 30-day special session of the Texas Legislature.

Lawmakers have a tall order served up to them by Gov. Greg Abbott in the form of 20 must-resolve matters in the first called session of the 85th Texas Legislature. Something could be on Abbott's desk in short order if top-priority "sunset" legislation to ensure the continuation of the Texas Medical Board and several other health-care-related state oversight boards gains approval by both chambers. The Senate's version is SB 20 by Van Taylor, R-Plano; the House has produced two versions: HB 1 and HB 2, both by Larry Gonzales, R-Round Rock. There are enough differences in the bills to spark elongated floor debates, if lawmakers are so inclined.

Last week, both chambers moved beyond the as-yet unresolved sunset legislation. The House approved and forwarded two bills to the Senate: HB 7 by Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, legislation creating a tree planting credit to offset tree removal fees imposed by a municipality, and HB 13 by Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, creating reporting requirements for abortion providers about surgical complications.

A number of Senate bills have gained approval and now await consideration by the House. Those bills would, for example:

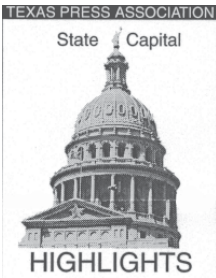
- Reform how local property tax rates are set and the tax programs administered;
- Revise school finance;
- Prevent the transfer of state funding to any healthcare provider that also performs abortions;
- Amend municipal annexation laws;
- Enable a constitutional limit on the rate of growth in appropriations; and
- Add new requirements for do-not-resuscitate orders.

Along with SB 3, the "bathroom bill" by Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham — legislation that cleared the Senate and now awaits consideration by the House — there are a number of bills with the potential to ignite time-consuming tussles between the upper and lower chambers. House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, has signaled his disapproval for the bathroom bill, despite pressure from Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who have more or less agreed as to how public schools might accommodate transgender students.

Education bill  
moves

The full Senate on July 25 tentatively approved SB

STATE CAPITAL  
HIGHLIGHTS  
By Ed Sterling



criminal organizations, such as Mexican cartels," said DPS Director Steve McCraw.

Zika infection is possible

The Texas Department of State Health Services on July 26 announced a Hidalgo County resident who previously had a Zika infection was most likely infected in Texas.

Because the individual has not recently traveled outside the area or had any other risk factors, the infection probably was transmitted by a mosquito bite in South Texas sometime in the last few months, health officials said.

Texas previously had six locally transmitted cases of Zika in Brownsville in late 2016. More information on Zika is available at TexasZika.org.

AG Paxton joins in brief

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on July 25 announced he joined West Virginia's amicus brief in Robinson v. United States, along with Indiana, Michigan and Utah in the United States Supreme Court.

The case was brought over a warrantless frisk search of an individual.

Paxton said an interpretation of the case by the Richmond, Virginia-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit "places an unlawful burden on Second Amendment rights."

"The Constitution plainly guarantees law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms, whether through open or concealed carry," he said. "We must ensure the court continues to protect the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens."

2, school finance reform legislation by Senate Education Chair Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood.

SB 2 contains \$212 million in additional spending over and above appropriations passed during the regular legislative session, to help needy school districts bridge funding gaps until the Legislature devises a more broadly functional finance system. SB 2 also would create a mechanism to provide financial assistance for children with disabilities to attend private schools.

DPS reports on gangs

The Texas Department of Public Safety on July 25 released the Texas Gang Threat Assessment, an overview and update of gang activity in the Lone Star State.

Gangs are evaluated and classified according to threat level. Also, according to the report, there are as many as 100,000 gang members across Texas.

"Gangs and their associates remain a significant threat to public safety in our state, not only because of their penchant for violence and criminal activity, but also their relationships with other

Lt. Gov.  
Dan Patrick:  
Statement  
on the  
Passage of  
SB 19

Teacher Bonus & TRS Care Boost - First Bill to Pass After Sunset

AUSTIN – July 25, 2017 – Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued this statement following the passage of Senate Bill 19 on second reading with a strong bipartisan 28 to 3 vote. Final passage of the bill will be later this evening:

"Just before Special Session began, I announced it was my priority to direct more of our education funding to teachers. I also made a commitment to shore up the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Care for retired teachers.

Tonight, I am proud to announce that the Texas Senate passed Senate Bill 19, by Senator Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, which will achieve both those goals. This is the first bill the Senate passed after the requisite Sunset Bill.

"Currently, over half the state budget goes to K-12 and higher education but only 32% of all revenue received by schools goes to teachers. Senate Bill 19 will provide a career bonus in 2018 of \$600 to teachers who have been teaching 6 to 10 years and \$1,000 to teachers who have been teaching 11 or more years. Senate Bill 19 also directs \$212 million to TRS Care to reduce out-of-pocket health-care costs for retired teachers. Teachers are the most valuable educational resource in the classroom and it is essential that we move deliberately to get more educational funding directly to our teachers. I congratulate Sen. Nelson for her hard work on this bill. We continue to work on the teacher pay increase called for by Gov. Abbott and supported by all of us in the Senate."

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

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LIFESTYLE

OBITUARIES

Justin “Bubba” Ray Gonzales

Justin “Bubba” Ray Gonzales, 27, of Highlands, Texas gained his angel wings on Saturday, July 22, 2017. Bubba was born on August 24, 1989 in Houston, Texas to Benny and Jamie Gonzales. Justin was an active member of Special Olympics, Highlands Sports Association, and All the Little Things Count Dayhab. At the age of 8, his mom Jamie involved him with Special Olympics of Baytown. He most enjoyed participating in cycling and bowling. He also played Softball for Team Texas and was coached by his dad. In 2010, Benny wanted to create a softball league for kids with special needs. Bubba was the sole purpose behind the forming of the very first Houston area PONY Champions League for Special Needs softball program. His favorite pastimes were drawing, twirling his pencil, listening to music and watching wrestling movies. Justin was very charismatic, the life of the party anywhere he went and never met a stranger. Bubba was the light of his mom’s life. He cared dearly for his nieces and spending time with his dad at the ball park, which was his favorite thing to do. Justin will be forever missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by, great-grandparents, Pedro and Olivia Salinas; great-grandmother, Ella



Kaatz; uncle, Paul Gonzales and cousin, Alex Gonzales.

Justin is survived by his parents, Benny and Jamie Gonzales of Highlands, TX; sister, Jessica Travis and husband Noah of Mont Belvieu, TX; nieces, Emma, Olivia and Abigail Travis of Mont Belvieu, TX; grandparents, Sonny and Doris Kaatz of Baytown, TX; grandparents, Danny and Tina Blackford of Harwood, TX; aunt, Jodi Gunnels of Kingwood, TX; uncle, Jason Kaatz and wife Lori of Baytown, TX; uncle, Fred Gonzales and wife D’ann of South Dakota; numerous cousins and extended family.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Friday, July 28, 2017 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm, at Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 10:00 am at Second Baptist Church Baytown, 6227 N. Main

St., Baytown, TX 77521. Interment will follow in Sterling-White Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. To offer the family condolences, please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com). In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to Team Texas Special Needs c/o Community Resource Credit Union P.O. Box 3181 Baytown, TX 77522.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Galatians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From which book's 10:35 does Jesus say the scripture cannot be broken? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. In order to see Jesus, Zacchaeus climbed what type tree? Fig, Carob, Sycamore, Cedar
4. From Matthew 17, what did Peter find with a coin in its mouth? Ram, Fish, Viper, Raven
5. In Mark 3:17, who were called "The Sons of Thunder"? James/John, Thomas/Judas, Peter/Andrew, Philip/Matthew
6. From Luke 8, Jesus caused swine to rush into what body of water? River Jordan, Dead Sea, Nile, Sea of Galilee

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) John; 3) Sycamore; 4) Fish; 5) James/John; 6) Sea of Galilee.

Sampson Masonic Lodge presents check to Precint2gether



Members of Sampson Masonic Lodge #231 present a check for \$1000 to Debbie Reeves, program director of Precinct2gether, Inc.

The San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands hosts a senior citizen program for local seniors in the area. Precinct2gether is a non-profit organization that hosts events, classes, seminars, health fairs, trips, and other activities throughout the year. Some activities include chair exercises, line dancing, Zumba, quilting classes, and

game days. Many activities are provided at no cost to the seniors. The program’s mission is to encourage social and physical activeness among senior citizens to better enable them to remain a contributing and viable force in their communities. To fulfill this mission, along with fundraisers and grants, it relies on partnerships and

donations from sponsors. On Friday, July 21, 2017, members of Sampson Masonic Lodge presented a check for \$1000 to the Precinct2gether Program at San Jacinto Community center. Sampson Lodge contributes to worthy charitable causes in the community with funds raised through its own annual BBQ fundraiser.

MONT BELVIEU Clothing exchange at Eagle Heights Fellowship

Eagle Heights Fellowship Church in Mont Belvieu is sponsoring a Back to School Clothing Exchange.

This year the exchange will take place on Saturday, August 5 , 2017 from

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. at the church located at 14120 Texas 146. The clothing exchange is open to all local residents.

Clothes are collected throughout the year and this week’s collection prior to the “exchange clothing

day”[Saturday Aug. 5] has been set Thursday from 10 am - 2 pm and Friday from 10 am - 2 pm and from 4 pm - 8 pm at the church.

For more details on this Clothing Exchange, please call 832-695-7490.

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John 7:38

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God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

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• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby. 832-661-9693.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands. 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516  
• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170  
• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409  
• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.

• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.

• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551

• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5415

• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448  
• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.

• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518

• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT

• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705

• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

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• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614

• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION

• LifePoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. ☐281-576-5452.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

• Pentecostals of Crosby 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX ☐77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

CHANNELVIEW, JACINTO CITY, GALENA PARK, HOUSTON

• Second Street Church of

Christ, 15821 2nd. Street, Channelview, TX. 77530. [www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com](http://www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com)

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

•Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST

•New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082

•Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.

•Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

•St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.

•First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

•Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern

•Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

•South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

•First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.

•Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

•First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

CATHOLIC

•St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.

•Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

•2nd. St. Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. -281-452-4049.

•Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.

•Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

•St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

•Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

•Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

•Galena Park United Methodist, 1705 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-0245.

•Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

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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: "What is the birthstone for August?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

**AUGUST BIRTHSTONE**  
We have a birthday present for those born in August: the stunning spinel has been added to your month's birthstone lineup! August now joins June and December as the only months represented by three gems. The original birthstone for August was Sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gem. Now spinel adds its multitude of color choices! **PERIDOT OVERVIEW**  
Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this

gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic faridat which means "gem," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word peridona, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites. Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gems. That's why this is one of few stones that only comes

in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present. Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Africa. Peridot only measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, so while the raw crystal is prone to cracking during cutting, the finished gemstones are fairly robust and easy to wear. **SARDONYX OVERVIEW**  
Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped stone with white bands. Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony. The finest examples of sardonyx, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay and the United States. Measuring 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, sardonyx is widely available and relatively inexpensive as gems, beads, and jewelry. It is often carved into cameos, intaglios and

brooches to show the color contrast between layers. **SPINEL OVERVIEW**  
The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gems. Spinel also has a lower Mohs hardness than ruby and sapphire. Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It has also been found in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadjikistan, Tanzania and the U.S. Vivid red is the most desirable color of spinel gemstones, followed by cobalt blue, bright pink and bright orange. The more affordable stones are often those with paler colors, like lavender. You may also find spinel in black, violet blue, greenish blue, grayish, pale pink, mauve, yellow or brown. So many choices!

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com). 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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

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Keeping up with Channelview ISD is as easy as following your fingertips to the district's Twitter page. Channelview ISD uses this as a constant information source, posting latest news, events, accomplishments, notices and even athletic scores. District officials encourage those who have a Twitter account to AgfollowAh Channelview ISD at the Twitter handle @ChannelviewISD. If you do not have a Twitter account, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and follow the prompts to set up your account on your personal computer or mobile device.

You may also follow your campuses on Twitter, as they all have their own accounts. Their Twitter handles are listed below:  
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Alice Johnson Junior High: @AliceJohnsonJrHi  
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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids addressed to the City Secretary of the City of Jacinto City, Texas and marked "Sealed Bid Vehicle" will be received at Jacinto City City Hall, 1301 Mercury Dr., Jacinto City, Texas 77029 until 5:00 p.m. on August 24, 2017 for the sale of a 2013 Dodge Charger (VEHICLE SOLD AS IS), MINIMUM BID APPLIES. Vehicle may be viewed at Jacinto City Public Works Facility, 12202 Market St.

The bids will be opened and publicly read in the Council Chamber, 10301 Market Street at the regular council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 24, 2017.

The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, to waive any/or all technicalities and to accept any bid or part thereof which in the opinion of the City Council is most advantageous to the city.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Morman’s Letter to EPA



**Commissioner Jack Morman**  
Harris County Precinct Two  
1001 Preston, Suite 524 • Houston, TX 77002 • Tel: 713.755.6220 • Fax: 713.755.8810

July 28, 2017

E. Scott Pruitt  
Office of the Administrator, MC 1101A  
Office of General Counsel, MC 2310A  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: SITE NAME:** San Jacinto RIVER WASTE PITS; CERCLIS ID: TXN000606611 SSID: O6ZQ.

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

As one of four Commissioners elected to serve the residents of Harris County, Texas, the third most populous county in the United States, I thank you for making the Superfund Program a priority.

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is located in my precinct. It was listed on the NPL in 2008, and contains at least 200,000 cubic yards of paper mill waste that is laden with 2,3,7,8 Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin ("dioxin"), a known mutagen and potential carcinogen.

The dioxin is in partially submerged pits on the shore of the San Jacinto River and in a highly vulnerable flood plain that is constantly subject to the forces of the River as well as threats from hurricanes and floods. Some of the dioxin has contaminated fish in the river prompting a State fish consumption ban. As long as the dioxin pits remain in place, they create an ongoing hazard that will leach into the River and Galveston Bay. The site poses a serious threat to the health of our residents and to the environment.

After years of study, the EPA has announced a proposed remedy for cleaning up the site calling for excavation and off-site disposal of the highly contaminated dioxin paper mill waste. The proposed remedy has an estimated cost of over \$50 million, placing it within the category of Superfund Sites that you have made a priority.


I strongly support the proposed remedy announced by the EPA for cleaning up this Site and previously submitted comments supporting removal of the waste. I continue to urge that you approve a Record of Decision consistent with the proposed remedy.

Bay Area Annex • 16603 Buccaneer Lane, Suite 100 • Houston, TX 77062  
Baytown Annex • 701 W. Baker Road, Suite 104 • Baytown, TX 77521  
Jim Fonteno Annex • 14350 Wallisville Road • Houston, TX 77049  
John Phelps Courthouse Annex • 101 S. Richey, Suite F • Pasadena, TX 77506  
Raul C. Martinez Annex • 1001 S. Sgt. Macario Garcia Dr., Suite 102 • Houston, TX 77011

I have reviewed the recent Superfund Task Force Recommendations and was pleased to see your proposal to focus on sites that have been on the NPL longer than five years. I respectfully request that you place the Site on the proposed Administrator's Top Ten list.

Respectfully, I re-urge that the Site be completely remediated by removal. Removal is the only remedy that resolves the contamination in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits with finality, eliminating the future costs and potential harm associated with leaving the waste in place.

Sincerely,



Jack Morman  
Commissioner

## Morman on Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ie Young, continue the fight to have the waste pits completely removed.

In the monthly meeting of these organizations, Young noted that the organization known as Keep-It-Capped, or San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution are continuing their efforts to have the EPA settle for a permanent cap over the toxic material, rather than complete removal.

She revealed that she has been served with a subpoena from their attorneys, requiring her to testify in what is known as "discovery," and to furnish certain documents from her activities.

As a result, THEA is now in a fund raising mode to afford to continue the fight to clean-up the river.

Young also revealed that a Tweet from Pruitt revealed that he had met recently with the CEO of International Paper. Since this company is one of the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, she questioned the propriety of the meeting.



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## Arrest,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he'll commit another crime on another child.

Texas criminal records show Apodaca was arrested in 2012 and found guilty of Indecency with a Child Sexual by Contact and served a prison sentence. Upon his release from prison he was added to the Texas Department of Public

Safety's Sex Offender Registry. He's required to regularly report to the Galena Park Police Department for a current photo and address for the sex offender registry. In both Galena Park and Jacinto City there are about 50 sex offenders listed.

North Channel Star writer Allan Jamail a former Jacinto City police chief with certification and experience in dealing with pedophiles (child predators) said, most but not all pedophiles suffer from pe-

dophilia which is a psychiatric disorder in which an adult or older adolescent is sexually attracted to young children. Pedophiles can be anyone -- old or young, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, non-professional or professional, and of any race. "I strongly urge parents to keep a close watch on their kids, never let them out of your sight, whether they're with you shopping or outside your home playing, keep watch on them," said Jamail.

## Galena Park School Board Honored



The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees has been selected as one of five Honor Boards (finalists) for TASA's 2017 Outstanding School Board Award.

The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees is one of five school boards from across Texas selected as Honor School Boards as part of the 2017 Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) School Board Awards. Each year, the program recognizes outstanding Texas school boards for commitment and service that has made a positive impact on Texas public school students.

The five Honor Boards were selected by a committee of Texas school superintendents, chaired by Lancaster ISD superintendent Michael McFarland, whose school board was named the Outstanding School Board for 2016. The selection committee's decisions were based on specific criteria, including support for educational performance, support for educational improvement projects, commitment to a code of ethics, and maintenance of harmonious and supportive relationships among board members.

"Galena Park ISD has established a culture of ex-

cellence and an expectation of success," said McFarland. "The board has been proactive, communicated effectively, planned strategically, and has modeled its vision of Excellence in All, for All, by All. For that, we are proud to select the GPISD board as one of the five Texas Honor Boards."

The GPISD Board of Trustees was nominated for the award by Superintendent Angi Williams. "I bear witness daily to this group of unselfish volunteers from the Galena Park ISD community, who give of their time and talents to collaboratively support the student, parent and taxpayer stakeholders they were elected to serve," said Williams. "I am proud of our board of trustees for their dedication to understanding governance and their willingness to lead."

The GPISD and other four Honor Boards: Coahoma, Hardin-Jefferson, Mansfield and Royse City ISDs are now finalists for the program's highest honor: 2017 Outstanding

School Board. They will be interviewed at the TASA/TASB Convention in Dallas, and then one board will be named Outstanding School Board during the convention's first general session at 4 p.m., Oct. 6. The other Honor Boards, as well as 11 regional winners, will also be recognized at that time.

Since 1971, the TASA School Board Awards program has honored Texas school district boards of trustees that have demonstrated dedication to student achievement and that put students first. The program is facilitated by TASA, the professional association for Texas school administrators, providing networking and professional learning opportunities, legislative advocacy, and targeted communications to support the work of superintendents and other school leaders. The organization's mission is to promote, provide and develop leaders who create and sustain student-centered schools and develop future-ready students.

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