

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 28

JULY 9, 2014

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

IMPORTANT NOTICE POST OFFICE REMOVES ALL NEWSPAPER BOXES

This newspaper has received orders from the new District Director of the US Postal Service to remove all its circulation boxes from Post Office property, in Highlands, Crosby, Huffman, Mont Belvieu, and Galena Park.

In his letter, director Yul Melonson said his motivation is "a clean, uncluttered retail environment."

Publisher Gilbert Hoffman sent a letter to Melonson, pointing out the inconvenience to thousands of readers, and the benefits of attracting the public to his facilities. In the meantime, the newspaper is increasing circulation at area locations such as markets, libraries, convenience stores, banks and more.

To insure you receive a paper, we suggest you consider a mail subscription. A subscription form is inside this issue.

If you want the newspaper at the Post Office, we suggest you contact your local Postmaster, and the District Director by phone, mail, or fax with your opinion. His contact info:

Yul Melonson, District Director
4600 Aldine Bender Rd. Rm 800
Houston, TX 77315-0800
PHONE 713-226-3717
FAX 713-226-3700

North Channel Chamber events

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce will have a FREE networking event on Tuesday, July 29, 2014.

On this Networking Together meeting, you will have 30 seconds to talk about yourself or your organization. Also opportunity to build business relationships and meet community leaders.

Networking will start at 9:30 a.m. at La Quinta Inn & Suites located at 5520 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N., Houston, TX. 77015.

For more information, please call 281-452-4402.

GALENA PARK

COUNCIL SAYS "NO" TO MAYOR'S REFORMS

Firings rescinded, meeting chaotic

By Gilbert Hoffman
North Channel STAR

GALENA PARK – One day after being sworn in as the new mayor of Galena Park, Esmeralda Moya issued orders to make sweeping changes in the administration and the way City Hall was run. In a stunning move, she fired 3 top administrators and changed the locks on the municipal building.

However, reaction came immediately from the City Administrator Robert Pruett, who stated that the city charter did not give the mayor authority to fire employees, except with the consent of city council.

Moya had fired Pruett, City Attorney Jim DeFoyd, and de-



CITY COUNCIL MET MONDAY in special Executive Session, to try to resolve the actions of the Mayor that they deemed without authority. Failing this, they went into regular session and voted to rescind the firings and to strip the mayor of some of her authority. The only incumbent councilman, Danny Simms, was given authority to sign checks and conduct the meeting. Also present at the special council meeting was an outside attorney, Jim Hightower, seen at left, with City Attorney Jim DeFoyd, Simms, new councilwoman Lois Killough, Mayor Moya, and not seen to the right councilpersons Maricela Serna and Juan Flores, Jr.

moted Police Chief Jonathan Rader.

Monday's Council meeting was called to try to resolve the actions of the mayor that Pruett deemed illegal, but an executive session scheduled for 4:00 p.m. was boycotted by Moya, who claimed the agenda was not correct. Immediately after, the meeting was reconvened in public session, with all parties present, including an outside attorney Jim Hightower, whom the council had hired to advise them on the legal interpretation of the city charter.

Hightower, of the firm Olsen and Olsen, gave his opinion on the charter, and said that the mayor does not have "unilateral" authority to fire

See CITY COUNCIL, page 8

Freeport St. construction on schedule

NORTH CHANNEL – Construction is progressing on schedule, and on budget, according to Harris County Precinct 2 coordinator Jeremy Phillips.

The \$12.8 million dollar project started with an official groundbreaking last November 6th, as reported in the inaugural issue of the *North Channel Star*.

In his opening remarks, at that time Pct. 2 commissioner Jack Morman noted the benefit to the community, and that the money to pay for the project was primarily from the federal government, as reimbursement for damage from Hurricane Ike. The new storm sewer system should alleviate flooding in a similar hurricane situation, he said.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM ALLGOOD CONSTRUCTION prepare to pour concrete in a third new lane of the rebuilt Freeport Drive. Also being installed are new storm sewers and drains, and curbs and sidewalks.

The Freeport Street project is being built by Allgood Construction, with engineering by R. G. Miller Engineers, and Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.

A second project related to this is new overlay paving, being built on Cloverleaf streets with the Pct. 2 "BetterStreets 2 Neighborhoods" program.

The new Freeport Street will be three lanes, one in each direction with a center turn lane, and run from I-10 frontage road to Holly Park. At that point it will join with already constructed lanes that continue to Uvalde Road. Construction is scheduled to be finished by June 2015, according to Phillips.

MORE PHOTOS, page 5

COMMUNITY WATCH

Over 190 DWI arrests made during Fourth of July holiday weekend

HOUSTON - The combined efforts of multiple law enforcement agencies in Harris County resulted in the arrest of 192 individuals suspected of driving drunk during the holiday weekend. Additionally, the HCSO's Traffic Enforcement Division investigated three fatal car accidents during the same time period.

Shortly after midnight on July 4, 2014 deputies responded to a major car accident in the 10900 block of W. Compaq Center Drive. An unidentified male was operating a blue 2008 Chevrolet Avalanche traveling eastbound when he lost control of the vehicle and struck a tree. The vehicle rolled over and caught fire, killing the driver.

That same day at approximately 10 p.m., Omar Lopez was driving a 1995 Lincoln Town Car southbound in the 2200 block of Sheldon Road when he lost control of the vehicle and hit a utility pole. Lopez was ejected from the car and died at the scene.

Later that night HCSO deputies were dispatched to another major car accident. This



DWI arrest scene.

time in the 29000 block of FM 2920. During the investigation it was determined that an unidentified male was walking westbound in the roadway when he was hit by a blue 2002 Chevrolet Silverado traveling eastbound. The truck's driver, Adam Zepeda, was attempting to pass a vehicle when he fatally hit the pedestrian.

Toxicology results are pending

ing in all three of these accidents.

Other agencies that took part in the traffic initiative to crack down on drunken drivers included the Baytown, Pasadena, La Porte, Jersey Village, Tomball, Galena Park, Bellaire, and Jacinto City police departments, and all eight Constable Precinct Offices.

HOUSTON PORT AUTHORITY

Port Authority achieves top ranking in Texas Comptroller program

JUNE 24, 2014-The Port Authority scored a perfect 22 out of 22 items in securing the new platinum level award, Executive Director Roger Guenther noted during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority. The Comptroller of Public Accounts launched the Leadership Circle program in 2009 to recognize local governments across Texas that strive to meet a high standard for financial transparency online.

Guenther also reported Tuesday that May 2014 operating revenues exceeded \$23 million, the highest ever reported in a single month in PHA's history. The increase in revenues was supported by growth in bulk cargos, in particular, steel, and leveraged value of real estate assets, he said.

In her remarks during the meeting, Port Commission Chairman Janiece Longoria reported on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act or WRRDA, signed



into law by President Obama. The bill sets target appropriations for the full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund over time and contains provisions that would direct resources to "nationally significant ports" and "energy transfer ports."

"Of course, our port fills both of those roles quite admirably," Longoria said. "And our local Congressional delegation once again came together in a bipartisan way to meet the Port Authority's needs in this legislation."

Longoria also noted that Enterprise Products Partners will build an ethane export facility on the Houston Ship

Channel. They have signed a long-term agreement with the Port Authority for use of facilities adjacent to their existing terminal at Morgan's Point. The 30-year agreement is a significant transaction for the Port Authority that will enhance the value of the existing lease with Enterprise. The facility is expected to begin operations in the third quarter of 2016.

Port Commissioners also approved updating an application to the Foreign Trade Zones Board to reorganize FTZ 84 under the Alternative Site Framework. This will reduce the time for businesses to obtain approval from Washington, D.C., from a three-to-six-month process to as few as 30 days. PHA's FTZ 84 is currently ranked No. 2 in the nation in merchandise received and exported.

The Port Commission approved designating Maxine Buckles, Managing Director,

See PORT AUTHORITY, p. 2

COMMUNITY NEWS

Comptroller's report shows Channelview ISD's construction costs below state average

Channelview ISD's school construction costs are significantly below the state average, according to a recent report from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

The report showed Channelview's construction were among the lowest in the state at \$107 a square foot, which is considerably lower than the state average of \$154 a square foot. The Comptroller's Office tracked the spending of public school construction projects between 2007 and 2012.

The results of the report also reflected that Channelview's expenses were the second lowest in the area, just behind Alief ISD at \$102 per square foot. Costs among the Greater Houston area districts ranged from up to \$161 per square foot.

The majority of Channelview ISD's facility work came after concerns of campus overcrowding and aging facilities led to voter approval of a \$111 million bond issue in 2009. An unrelated project, the Kolarik Ninth Grade Center, opened its doors to students in January 2008.

"The results of the Comptroller's report show a true reflection of how district staff, the Board of Trustees, architects and contractors all worked together to provide the best facilities possible for the children of this district and the community," Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis said. "It truly took a team effort to accomplish such great results, while keeping costs at a minimum."

Bay-IBI Group served as the architects over the projects, while contractors for the variety of Channelview ISD's projects included Division One, Drymalla Construction, Durotech, Marshall



Channelview's Early Childhood Center building.

Construction and Purcell Construction.

The bond program funded the construction of Aguirre Junior High, the district's Early Childhood Center and Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center (formerly Endeavor Campus). In addition to the new schools, additions and renovations were made to four elementary campuses, along with the construction of the new Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium and central athletic arena (Bill Neal Center). A new Educational Support Center to house the district's administrative offices was also built, along with new offices for the Maintenance and Transportation departments.

Ollis praised Assistant Superintendent of Finance Kris Lynn for overseeing the implementation of the entire bond program, along with members of the Citizens' Bond Commit-

tee and the Board of Trustees - who shared input for the new facilities.

"The dedication and long hours that Mr. Lynn put in while overseeing these projects made everything run smoothly," he said. "Our community members that served on the bond committee were also vital in the process as they helped establish the vision of the building program."

"The new facilities have brought a renewed spirit in the community and throughout the district," Ollis added. "People have told me they look down Sheldon Road and say it reminds them of an extreme makeover. We have received a very positive response with the construction of these facilities. It is something that was desperately needed in our community and it will benefit our students for years to come."

WWW.NORTHCHANNELSTAR.COM

Diamond Jim... What is "The Star of Africa" diamond? Just how large is it?

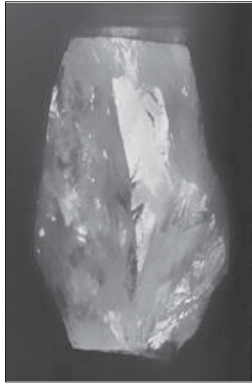


One of the most famous diamonds in the world, Cullinan I, (530.4 carats), was justly considered the largest diamond in the world up to the discovery of the Golden Jubilee.

Also known as "The star of Africa", the pear-shaped stone is the largest of the 9 diamonds cut from the largest rough diamond ever, the Cullinan diamond (3106.75 carats, or approximately 1.37 pounds).

Currently, it is the head of St. Edward's scepter, one of the British Crown Jewels; but it can be removed and worn as a brooch.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



This is the "rough", or uncut diamond.



Finished diamond.

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 or visit pineforestjewelry.com for more information.

PORT AUTHORITY,

Continued from page 1

Internal Audit, as the Port Authority's chief audit executive.

Safety Director Rich Galle gave an update on progress in the safety program during today's meeting. He said the focus has been on building an enhanced, transparent and sustainable safety system. Part of that effort involved acquiring a team of safety professionals and organizing safety leadership teams.

"I am pleased to report that during the last three months, we have had zero incidents and no significant injuries," Galle said.

Chairman Longoria noted that the state's Sunset Commission recommended a more proactive safety program. "I believe we have responded

very well and quickly," the chairman said. "One of the most important things is to keep safety at the top of our thinking at all times."

June is National Safety Month.

The Port Commission also approved an amendment to Tariff Nos. 8, 14, 15 and 17, relating to vehicle traffic safety program procedures at Turning Basin, Barbours Cut and Bayport terminals. This will align the Turning Basin safety violations process with that of Barbours Cut and Bayport.

Longoria also reported on the filming of a documentary about the Houston Channel, which is scheduled to air this fall, coinciding with the Houston Ship Channel Centennial. The documentary will be presented by Houston/PBS and is being produced by the Texas Foundation for the Arts as part of its award-winning se-

ries, "Texas: Our Land, Our People."

Finally, Chairman Longoria noted the passing of a "dear friend" of the Port of Houston, Father Rivers Patout, who had served as full-time chaplain of the port since 1972. A memorial celebration was held for him at the Houston International Seafarers Center in mid-June. Father Patout was a founding member of the Seafarers Center. "He had a cheerful, caring demeanor and we will miss him very much," Longoria said.

Longoria also noted the death last week of longtime Port Commissioner W.D. Haden II. He served for 20 years between 1964 and 1984, giving him the second-longest tenure on the board.

The July 22 meeting of the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26.



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JULY 9, 2014 PICK-UP LOCATIONS FOR THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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|---|--|
| NORTH SHORE North Channel Chamber Office, I-10 in Woodforest Bank Bldg Pineforest Jewelry, Uvalde Rd San Jacinto College North, Student Center & Library Fonteno Court House, Wallisville Rd East Houston Hospital, I-10 Foodtown, Uvalde Rd Sellers Brothers Market, Uvalde Rd YMCA, Wallisville Rd Fiesta Market, I-10 HPD Substation, I-10 Federal Road Barber Shop, Uvalde @ Halifax Panera Restaurant, Beltway 8 @ Wallisville CiCi's Pizza, Uvalde @ Woodforest Post Office, Mesa Road Kroger's, Woodforest @ Beltway 8 Fuddruggers, Normandy Rd Walgreens, Maxey Rd @ Woodforest Senator Sylvia Garcia office, in Woodforest Bank Bldg North Channel Library, Wallisville Rd North Shore High School, at Wallisville Rd Walgreens, 15511 Wallisville Rd United Comm. Credit Union, Normandy United Comm. Credit Union, Wallisville | SHELDON Sheldon ISD Admin Bldg. C. E. King High School, Tidwell Rd Kroger's, Normandy at Woodforest Parkway Feed, CE King Blvd Community Bank of Texas, Tidwell Road CLOVERLEAF HC WCID #36, Hollywood St Grayson Community Center, Corpus Christi St Galena Park Admin Building, Beltway 8 at Woodforest CommunityBank of Texas, I-10 E @ Freeport Gatti's Pizza, Uvalde North Channel Assistance Ministries, Bonham @ Freeport JACINTO CITY City Hall, Main Street El Ahorro Market, Main Street Community Center/Senior Center, Oates Rd Capital Bank, I-10 E Jacinto City Branch Library, Akron St State Rep Ana Hernandez office, Mercury Drive Sellers Brothers Market, Market St JC Police Dept., Market St Market Street Feed Store, Market St GALENA PARK Baggett Community Center, Keene St Post Office, Clinton Drive Galena Park High School, Keene St Galena Park City Hall, Clinton Drive Galena Park Library, Keene St United Comm. Credit Union, 16th St. |
|---|--|

CHANNELVIEW
K&T Western Wear, Sheldon Rd
Post Office, Sheldon Rd
Channelview High School, Sheldon Rd
Woodforest Bank, Sheldon Rd
Channelview Admin Bldg, Sheldon Rd
Food Fair, Sheldon Rd @ I-10
Flukinger Comm Ctr, Lorenzo St
Holiday Inn, I-10 E

If you would like to be a PICK-UP LOCATION, let us know.
281-328-9605 or northchannelstar@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Galena Park Swimming Pool Summer Hours

The City of Galena Park Pool is open to the public 7 days a week from 11 am til 9 pm. Admission is \$4.00 per person. Senior adults 55 and over have a free swim time from 8 am til 9 am Monday through Friday. For more information please call 713-674-1741.

JULY North Channel Library events

-Thursday, July 10, 10:30 am Baby Time; 4:00 pm Teens-Teen Scene.
-Saturday, July 12, 11 am - 12:30 pm Ask A Lawyer.
-Monday, July 14, 2:30 pm Monday Movie Madness (tickets required)
-Tuesday, July 15, 10:30 am Toddler Time; 1:30 pm Preschool Story Time; 4 pm Teens-Minerals & Gems (tickets required).
-Wednesday, July 16, 2:30 pm Dr. Radium's Mad Science Show.
-Thursday, July 17, 10:30 am Baby Time; 4 pm Teens-Jewelry make.
Library Hours: Sunday: Closed; Monday 1-8 pm; Tuesday-Thursday 10 am - 8pm; Friday 1-6 pm; Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

JULY Galena Park Library events

-Thursday, July 10, 11:00 am Baby Time; 3:00 pm Jungle Jim's Wild Encounters
-Monday, July 14, 3 pm Family Movie Time.
-Tuesday, July 15, 1 pm Mecanografia; 4 pm Typing Basics.
-Wednesday, July 16, 11 am Children's Story Time.
-Thursday, July 17, 11 am Baby Time; 3 pm Trees for Houston.
-Monday, July 21, 3 pm Teen Time Food Science Lab.
-Tuesday, July 22, 1 pm Internet Basico I; 3 pm Kid Whiz Computer Class; 4 pm Internet Basics I.
-Summer Reading Program June 2 - August 9. Register online at www.hcpl.net
Library Hours: Monday 10 am-6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm (noon) - 8 pm; Wednesday & Thursday 10 am-6 pm; Friday 1-6pm; Saturday 10 am-5pm. Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details. The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

SATURDAY NIGHTS The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Satutday 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.

3RD. MONDAY AARP Chapter

AARP Chapter #1160 Houston/ Northshore meets every 3rd Monday at Alvin Bagget Community Center, 1304 Keene Street Galena Park from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Ollis named TESA's Administrator of the Year

Channelview Independent School District Superintendent Greg Ollis was honored as the Texas Educational Support Staff Association's (TESA) Administrator of the Year at the organization's annual conference in Austin. Ollis has served as Channelview ISD for 24 years, eight of those as superintendent. He was assistant superintendent from 2002-2008. He was principal at Hamblen Elementary from 1996-2002 and came to Channelview in 1991 as an assistant principal at De Zavala Elementary.

"I'm very humbled by this award," Ollis said. "Teamwork is so very vital to the success of any school district or organization. Our office professionals are the unsung heroes that always roll up their sleeves to get the job done for the good of the team. TESA and its area associations provide valuable resources and training for paraprofessionals that help districts in many ways. I am a strong supporter of your efforts."

Members of the Channelview Educational Support Staff Association (CESA) nominated Ollis for the top administrator award.

The nomination stated, "Mr. Ollis encourages and promotes the professional development of CISD employees and has also supported the attendance of staff development training at CESA meetings, TESA conferences and area workshops. In addition, Ollis has strongly supported the district's Certified Educational Office Professional (CEOP) certification training for paraprofessionals.

This year, Ollis is serv-



Greg Ollis named TESA's Administrator of the year.

ing as a TESA Summer Work Advisory Board member. He constantly shows his support for the organization by speaking at area workshops about how organizations such as TESA have been beneficial to Channelview and other school districts.

"Channelview support staff employees would not have the benefit of many opportunities TESA provides if it were not for Mr. Ollis," said Elizabeth Cormier, CESA president. "We are all appreciative of his vision to provide opportunities for professional success to all employees."

TESA's mission is to provide educational support staff opportunities for professional growth, a network for sharing ideas, recognition of achievements and fellowship and represent all educational support staff advocating their interest in all areas of education. It is the only professional association for educational support personnel in public schools, educational service centers, private schools, colleges and universities in Texas.

North Channel Chamber of Commerce hosts ribbon cuttings



The North Channel Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members Comala Mexican Restaurant located at 5310 E. Sam. Houston Parkway N. Suite K, Houston, TX. 77015



North Chamber also welcomes The Wild Orchid located at 13451 Woodforest Blvd, Houston, TX. 77015.

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Second Street Church of Christ

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OPINION PAGE

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Panel gets input on population influx at border

AUSTIN - A U.S. House Homeland Security Committee field hearing titled, "Crisis on the Texas Border: Surge of Unaccompanied Minors," was conducted in McAllen on July 3. Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw was among those who testified. He said unaccompanied Central American children are continuing to make the journey to the United States through Texas in record numbers; and

U.S. Border Patrol detention facilities in the Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere are overwhelmed; Drug trafficking organizations are gaining power as a direct result of a porous border; and State troopers, agents and Texas Rangers are being deployed to the Rio Grande Valley "to conduct data-driven, multi-agency, ground, air and marine saturation patrols in high threat areas for sustained periods of time."

Gov. Rick Perry testified, too. Here are excerpts from what he said: "Last week I witnessed the difficult conditions these children are being housed in while they await action by Washington, whether it's the right decision to immediately deport them or the short-sighted and tragic decision to essentially turn them loose in the United States. Some might think allowing them to stay is a more humane option, I assure you, it is not. Nobody is doing any of these children the slightest favor by delaying a rapid return to their countries of origin, which in many cases is not Mexico."

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, listed more than a dozen areas of action the federal government is taking, one of which was public health screenings "for all those who come into our facilities for any symptoms of contagious diseases or other possible public health concerns."

School Cost analysis is released

State Comptroller Susan Combs on June 30 announced the publication of an analysis of new school construction costs.

Combs said the analysis, conducted by her agency, shows practices school districts can implement to save money, such as "architectural prototypes that suit elementary, middle or high schools, saving months of construction time and hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"Schools can be built efficiently and less expensively, but districts don't always choose to do so," Combs said. "Our report provides taxpayers and school districts with additional information to consider when making those

choices."

Construction cost figures are inflation adjusted and take into account regional differences in the price of materials and labor, Combs said.

Drought conditions persist

Gov. Perry on July 3 renewed for another month the drought emergency disaster he originally proclaimed on July 5, 2011, certifying exceptional

drought conditions pose a threat of imminent disaster in specified counties in Texas. This current proclamation extension applies to 118 of the state's 254 counties. "Rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt

response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the state of disaster," the proclamation states.

State shows impact of bases

Comptroller Combs on July 2 publicized a new source of information on the economic impact of military installations in the state.

TheTexasEconomy.org/ military highlights how the state and local communities support military activities and families and gives examples of ways military activities spur economic development and innovation in Texas.

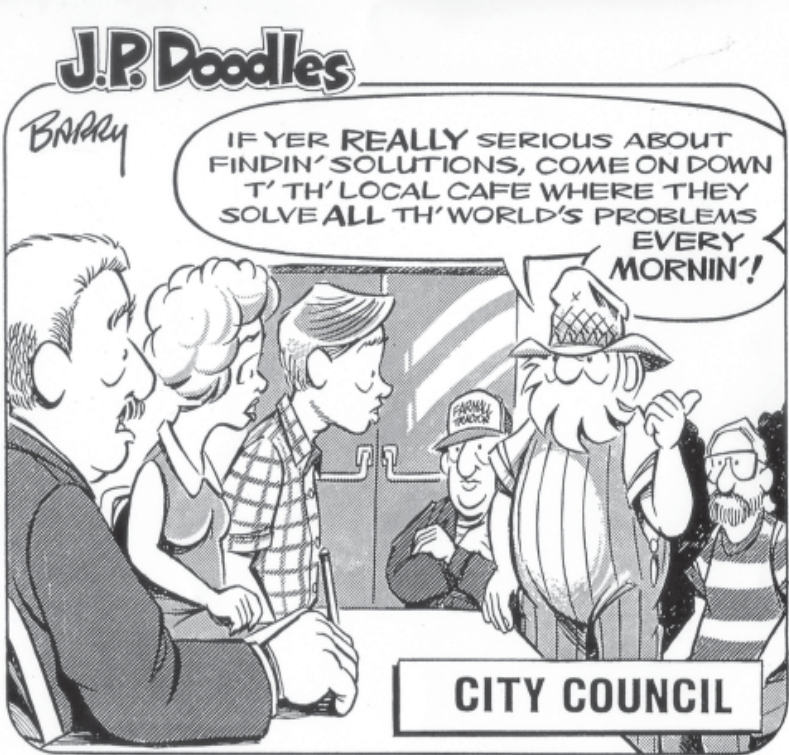
Texas military installations, which employ more than 255,000 military and defense-related civilian personnel, provide an impact "of nearly \$150 billion to the state economy and account for 6 percent of the state's economic activities," Combs said.

Anti-trafficking force meets

The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, chaired by Attorney General Greg Abbott, met in Austin on July 1.

At the meeting, Abbott promoted a new publication titled "Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Texas Education Professionals."

He said the publication, available at oag.state.tx.us, would further the task force's efforts "to identify, investigate and prosecute human traffickers such as: the realities of human trafficking, federal and state laws defining and prohibiting human trafficking, human trafficking as a form of child abuse, risk factors for school-aged children, indicators of human trafficking, approaches to responding to an outcry, a mechanism to report human trafficking, and proactive approaches for school districts."



Learn the Myths of Medicare

Toni: Recently, I read an article online about the myths of Medicare from E-Health Insurance. I am a 65 year old engineer who retired from BP about 3 years ago. I am now working on a contract basis on various oil related projects

Can you elaborate on the Medicare myths? I have recently been diagnosed as having Parkinson's and want to be sure I make the correct choice.

I do not understand why I need to enroll in Medicare, since I have excellent company retirement health insurance.

Looking forward to what you have to say...John from the Memorial area

Hello John: Below is my response to the myths in the E-Health Insurance article:

•Myth #1... A person can enroll in Medicare any time after they're 65 without penalty...FALSE!! This idea is absolutely wrong. If you are not working fulltime for a company with true group benefits and wait later than 65 years old and 90 days to enroll in Part B, then you can receive a penalty of 10% for each 12 month period or year that you did not enroll in Part B. That penalty lasts for the rest of your life.

John since you are not working fulltime for the company you have retirement benefits with I would advise you to enroll in both Medicare Parts A and B to keep from receiving the late enrollment Part B penalty. Toni Says: If you or your spouse are not working fulltime with true company benefits be sure to enroll in Parts A and B by the

MEDICARE

By Toni King

time you turn 65. Wait 90 days past turning 65 and you will get a penalty!

•Myth #2: Medicare is free...FALSE!! The Medicare payroll tax that you have been paying for years is for Part A only! Part B has a premium which is means tested due to income. Most on Medicare are paying \$104.90 each month for Part B, but there are 10% that meets the means tested income amount and has to pay more than \$104.90 each month. If you do not pay the Part B premium, then you will not have any of the Part B benefits.

Toni Says: Nothing is free!! You worked and paid taxes into the Social Security system.

•Myth #3: Most baby boomers think Medicare is just like regular health insurance plans...FALSE!! Medicare is totally different than traditional group or individual health insurance. Medicare has two Parts A & B. Part A has a \$1,216 deductible 6 times a year for an inpatient hospital stay. Medicare Part B includes doctor's services such as office visits and doctor performing surgery, outpatient services and surgery, scans, x-rays, chemotherapy and radiation, wheel chairs, walkers and the list goes on. There is a deductible for Medicare Part B of \$147.00 once a year with Medicare picking up

80% and you pay 20% of the Medicare approved amount with no co-insurance or stopping. Not like the typical 80/20 to \$5,000 with a stop loss. The 20% just keeps on going!!

Toni Says: Medicare is completely different than health insurance. The out of pocket can be huge. Learn about the different Medicare plan options to pick up your out of pocket costs.

•Myth #4... Medicare covers everything. FALSE Most baby boomers are surprised to find out that Medicare does not cover long term care, routine dental care, dentures, cosmetic surgery, exams for hearing or hear aids and acupuncture. Medicare only covers what is medically necessary.

Toni Says: Medicare will only pay for medical expenses and if Medicare doesn't pay, then your Medicare supplement or Medicare Advantage plan will not pay either.

Confused about Medicare workshop - Tuesday, July 8th at 2:00-4:00 pm. Join Toni King at her new Toni Says Houston office at 10998 S. Wilcrest Dr, Suite 120, Houston, TX 77099. Located in the Stafford, Sugar Land, and SW Houston area. RSVP 832/800-4674. Reservations are required because seating is limited to 20.

Questions call 832-519-TONI (8664).

TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

Bonham, Texas

When I was a kid, I remember going to the movie theater in downtown Bonham, Texas and watching Close Encounters



of the Third Kind. It was my first time to experience a Stephen Spielberg movie. At the time, my family lived south of town in the country. When we got back home that fall night, I remember going to the back yard, lying in the grass and starting up at the stars wondering if the fantastic story about aliens could be true.

The movie is still one of my favorites and continues to fascinate me.

Among the movie's iconic scenes is the one where William Dreyfuss' character has visions of a shape. At his kitchen table, using his plate and mashed potatoes, he builds a semblance of the monolithic Devil's Tower near Moorecroft, Wyoming. For reasons different than Dreyfuss' character in the movie, I have always wanted to see the geologic wonder for myself.

This summer, I left Texas and traveled to Wyoming to take my wife and children to America's first national monument. Deemed a place worthy of protection in 1906, Theodore Roosevelt declared the tower and surrounding 1,347 acres a monument.

From a distance, the tower sticks out of the mostly rolling plains that surround it. Getting closer to it, it is even more juxtaposed. Like a giant rock column, it rises 867 feet from it's base to it's high, plateaued summit. Ringing the main tower at its base are huge boulders that litter the area and around that, old growth Ponderosa pines rise from the sloping grassland - covered hillsides.

While various theories exist as to the origins of the tower, it is thought that the monolith is the result of an ancient lava infusion into the subterranean soil. As the infusion cooled and millions of years past, the land around the tower eroded away, thus exposing the igneous column. From a distance Devil's tower appears to have grooves down its sides. These grooves are hexagonal columns that are distinct in volcanic formations and run vertically around the entire face of the tower.

Circumnavigating the base of Devil's Tower is a 1.3 mile, all weather trail that my family and I hiked on our trip. Around the way trail several interpretive signs tell of the natural and cultural history of the area and provides a spectacular view of the Belle Fourche River bottom as it cuts its way through the red dirt sedimentary rock that flanks the tower.

At one stop we see mountain climbers scaling the side of the tower. According to what I read, about 1,000 people a year ascend the face and summit. Looking at the monument, it seems impossible but four people attached to ropes are defying my sensibilities.

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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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

Freeport Street Rebuilding



TRAFFIC MOVES FREELY ALONG THE TWO LANES THAT THE CONSTRUCTOR KEEPS OPEN, AS HE WORKS ON THE THIRD LANE WITH SEWERS, CURBS, SIDEWALKS AND PAVING.

MUCH OF THE WORK WILL NOT BE SEEN, AS IT CONSISTS OF NEW STORM WATER SEWERS THAT ARE UNDERGROUND, CONNECTED TO MAJOR TRUNK LINES TO CARRY WATER AWAY FROM THE AREA AND MITIGATE FLOODING.

Chamber honors local high schools seniors

By Margie Buentello
President and CEO

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce is unique in that there are three public school districts in this Chamber's boundaries. Our chamber has a long tradition of supporting education. We take pride in our public schools, private schools, as well as our institutions of higher education.

On Friday, May 30th, the top five percent of the 2014 graduating class from C. E. King High School, Channelview High School, Galena Park High School, and North Shore Senior High School



Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD Superintendent, left; Dr. Vickey Giles, Sheldon ISD Superintendent; Dr. Angi Williams, Galena Park ISD Superintendent and Drew Dougherty, right.

See **CHAMBER LUNCHEON**, page 8

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LIFESTYLE

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OBITUARIES

Robert Edward Bullard

Robert Edward Bullard, 72, passed away Thursday, July 3, 2014 at his residence in Houston, Texas.

Robert was born June 3, 1942 in Lufkin, Texas to parents John and Lucille Bullard. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy. Robert enjoyed his work at NASA where he retired from after 35 years. He is preceded in death by his father, John Bullard; daughters, Felicia Phillips and Sheri Bullard.

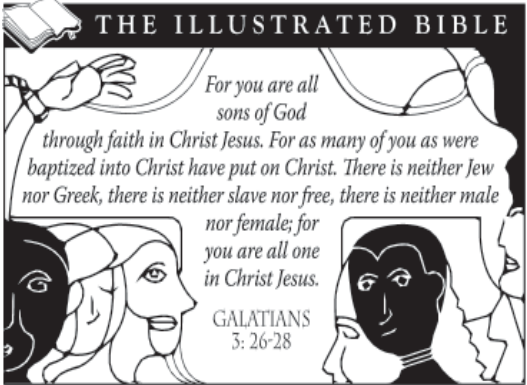
Robert is lovingly survived by his mother, Lucille Bullard; children, Daniel Bullard and wife Nicole, Stacey Roper and fiancée Billy Pelfrey; brother, John W. Bullard; sister, Pat Seay; grandchildren, Robert Pfitzner, Randy West, Krystin Roper, Travis Roper, Ty Tidwell, Zackary Bullard; great-grandchildren, Hayden Pfitzner, Mason Pfitzner, Jace Lopez; as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family from 5:00 p.m. to



8:00 p.m. Friday, July 11, 2014 at Carter Funeral Home for visitation. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2014 in the chapel of Carter Funeral Home with Rev. Joey Galloway to officiate.

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LITTLE
BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

What's in Your Hand?

A friend named Danny was coaching baseball at Riesel ISD in the early 1970's. During practice one of his players hit a long foul ball that landed where the high school band was practicing. A trombone player, Joey, picked up the baseball and threw it all the way back past the home plate backstop! Danny immediately sent one of his players to find the person who threw that ball. Joey exchanged a trombone for a baseball and became the team's starting pitcher. They went on to win the state championship.

Has the Lord placed an opportunity at your feet? Pick it up. He has a great plan waiting for you. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Amos in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From Exodus 16, what wilderness did the Israelites come out between Elim and Sinai? Nod, Lot, Dan, Sin
 3. In a letter to Christians at Corinth, what did Paul say was the greatest? Faith, Love, Charity, Tithes
 4. What king wrote a letter to Hezekiah concerning surrender? Sennacherib, Artaxerxes, Belsazzar, Jabin
 5. In Judges 1, who fed 70 kings at his table? Samson, Elisha, Adonibezek, Neco
 6. Whom were Nadab and Abihu the sons of? Joshua, Aaron, Moses, Mordecai
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Sin; 3) Charity; 4) Sennacherib; 5) Adonibezek 6) Aaron

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in the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah 29: 10

I can do everything through him
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Phillipians 4:13

All of them were filled with the
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in other tongues as the Spirit
enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Galena Park council meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

employees, nor to change locks in the building.

After hearing this legal opinion, Councilman Simms took charge of the meeting. He moved and it was passed unanimously that he had the authority to sign checks, and that the mayor did not have the right to fire the employees unilaterally, and they voted to rescind the firings. Moya said she objected and vetoed the vote, but the councilmen voted to override her veto.

As Moya struggled to control the meeting, she stated that she had acted on the firings because that was what the people wanted, and that was why she was elected.

She said that the public was tired of the old way of running city hall, and wanted change. She also hinted at mismanagement, perhaps corruption, was prevalent in the city government. As an example, she confronted councilman Simms about his health insurance, paid for by the city for 12 years at a cost of over \$160,000, when it was meant only for full-time employees which she pointed out did not include council persons.

Attending the meeting was a standing room crowd of about 150 persons, and most of them seemed to be supporters of Mayor Moya. As each vote against her was cast, they chanted or yelled "No No No" or "You forgot who elected you."

After the chaotic session was over, Simms left with a police escort. A crowd that had gathered outside was asking people to sign a petition to recall the elected council persons, and about 200 signatures have been collected, with the crowd planning to continue a door-to-door campaign for more.

The next day, Tuesday, City Hall had returned to a quiet round of business as usual, but the next council meeting, scheduled for Tuesday night, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. promises to continue the drama.



A CROWD OF SPECTATORS FILLED THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, and with standing room and others outside in the hallway, amounted to over 150 persons. Most seemed to be supporters of the Mayor, and chanted "No No No" when the Council voted to rescind the firings of the City Administrator Pruett, City Attorney DeFoyd, and demotion of Police Chief Rader. After the meeting, they gathered outside to sign petitions calling for the ouster of the councilpersons.



MAYOR MOYA HOLDS UP PAYROLL SHEETS showing that Councilman Simms had received health insurance benefits from the City over the last 12 years, amounting to about \$176,000. She contended that he was not a full-time employee of the city, and therefore not entitled to this benefit.



CITY ADMINISTRATOR ROBERT PRUETT, left, was restored to his position in charge of the city, and the city hall building. Some of the public who expressed their opinion, said that Pruett had done a good job, and returned the city to solid financial condition over the last few years. Others were critical of his authoritarian style of running the city.

PUBLIC OPINION was unanimous in saying that the city needed new water and sewer lines, better roads and more attractive appearance, especially Clinton Drive, and they wanted new businesses to establish themselves in the city, with better shopping opportunities. They also saw a need for more job opportunities locally. Moya had campaigned on these issues, but she also promised change from the "old way of doing things."

CHAMBER LUNCHEON,

Continued from page 5

were recognized and honored with a luncheon in the Monument Room at San Jacinto College North. The Keynote Speaker was Drew Dougherty, Host of "Texans TV" and Houston Texans Integrated Multimedia Manager.

Dougherty is the on-air talent for the video on the team's website and can be heard and seen on all team-related shows. This year will be his sixth season with the team. On Saturday evenings at 6:30 pm this fall, Dougherty will host "Texans Extra Points," which can be seen locally on ABC-13/KTRK.

He also interviews players and coaches on Texans TV on the team's website. Gamedays NRG Stadium are busy, as he's on the videoboard hosting the pre-game and post-game shows, as well as all in-game score updates and community features. Home and away, he can be seen live on Fox Sports Southwest's Texans Countdown to Kickoff pregame shows. In addition to his duties in front of the camera in English, Dougherty also hosts a weekly segment in Spanish called "Puntos Extras" with "La Voz de los Texans" Enrique Vasquez.

Dougherty grew up in Houston rooting for the Oilers, Astros and Rockets and grad-

uated from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory. He attended Southern Methodist University where he triple-major in Spanish, Latin American Studies and Print Journalism.

Dougherty gave great words of advice to the honor students.

He warned the students that they will fail, everyone fails at some point, but do not let that discourage them. He said to be like a Swiss Army Knife, be versatile but above all else keep your blade sharp (your main talent). Remember to always read.

It takes a lot of planning and coordination to have a successful Senior Honors Luncheon.

The Chamber staff would like to thank members of the Education Committee, Mark Kramer with Channelview ISD, Ashley Shibley with Sheldon ISD, and Jonathan Frey with Galena Park ISD for all their efforts to make this year's luncheon a huge success! In addition, our local school superintendents are great supporters of the Chamber and they deserve a much deserved "thank you."

Last of all, this celebration would not have been possible without the many chamber members who sponsored lunch for the honor students.

CLOVERLEAF

Three attack a man, steal his car at gunpoint

Sheriff's deputies are looking for three suspects who robbed a man at gunpoint on Friday, June 27, in east Harris County.

According to deputies reports, the three men also shot at the man's car.

The incident happened around 1:30 pm when the three men jumped the victim in a residential area in the 14200 block of Duncum near Hollywood.

The victim said one man had a pistol, other had a shotgun. They took the man's money and then fired at his car, Harris County Sheriff's said.

According to authorities, the robbers fled the scene in a red sedan that was later found near Freeport and the East Freeway.

The man was not injured. The suspects are still at large.

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