

# NORTH CHANNEL



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## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Harris County HazMobile

Neighborhood Collection Event, Saturday, March 25, 2017, Jacinto City Fire Department, 1120 Mercury Dr., Jacinto City, TX. 77029. 8 am - 11 am only.

The HazMobile is a mobile collection system that can accommodate Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from approximately 100 households. HHW will be collected on a first come, first served basis until the unit reaches capacity. The containers must be 5 gallon or less in size.

#### WHAT TO BRING?

- Fertilizers and other yard products
- Paint and paint related products
- Household Cleaners
- Automotive Products (oil/gas)
- Pool Chemicals
- Electronics for Recycling
- Aerosol cans
- Fluorescent bulbs and CFLs
- Batteries (small to car battery size)
- Mercury Thermometers
- Small and BBQ size propane
- Tires (up to 4)

Items NOT accepted at this Mobile Collection event include: business waste, medical waste, radioactive waste, PCBs or Dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezer, air conditioners or household trash.

For more information call 281-560-6200.

### Joe Stephens Golf Tournament

Annual Golf Tournament, Thursday, April 13, 2017, 12:00 pm at River Terrace Golf Course, 16777 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049. You may register online at [www.VoteJoeStephens.com](http://www.VoteJoeStephens.com) Catfish Dinner from 6 pm - 8 pm at Wallisville Rotary Pavilion, 14350 1/2 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049.

## San Jac Coalition hears updates on pollution issues

At their regular monthly meetings, members of the San Jacinto River Coalition heard updates on various issues related to pollution in the river, and in their private water supply wells.

In addition, SJRC director Jackie Young brought the latest news from the EPA, and the representatives of the PRPs, or Potential Responsible Parties.

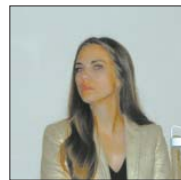
Harris County's Rock Owens, who is managing attorney for the Environment and Infrastructure Practice Group in Vince Ryan's office, reported to the audience that they had dropped the appeal of the



**Bob Allen**  
HC Pollution Control



**Rock Owens**  
HC Assistant Attorney



**Jackie Young**  
San Jacinto River Coalition

lawsuit against International Paper Company. The county lost this suit in a jury trial, but contended that the trial judge withheld evidence that would

have brought a different outcome. Attorney Owens said that their office had decided to drop the appeal because of the unlikely result they could win, and to

focus their resources on other environmental problems.

Harris County Pollution Control director Bob Allen reported on the next phase

in the county's testing of private well water. He said that they had tested 101 wells in Channelview, Highlands, and Lynchburg, and found dioxin in all of them, but at levels that were considered not a risk to health. He said they now wanted to test the other wells in the area, and had sent out 148 letters and advertised in the local paper, to get consent to test more wells. They will be tested for 17 types of dioxin and furan. He said they know of about 15 wells on the west side of Highlands,

*See San Jacinto River, Page 8*

## San Jac women's basketball headed to first-ever national tournament



HOUSTON — The San Jacinto College women's basketball team is going dancing for the first time in school history. The team, ranked 20th in the nation, earned an at-large bid to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) DI women's basketball tournament, the school's first-ever national tournament berth.

San Jac (24-8) enters the national tournament as the No. 16 seed, and will face No. 17 Harford Community College (28-3) out of Maryland on Monday, March 20 at 10 a.m. (CDT). The winner will move on to face top-seeded Gulf Coast State (Florida) on Tuesday at 2 p.m. (CDT).

"To be the first team in program history to play in the national tournament is special," said second-year head coach Michael Madrid. "The national exposure these young ladies

and program will receive is a credit to their hard work and commitment to each other."

San Jacinto College is led by a trio of players who are averaging double-digit points. Freshman guard Eryka Sidney (Houston / Wheatley HS) leads the team, averaging 12.2 points per game. She also leads the squad in three-point percentage, shooting nearly 37 percent from long range. Sophomores Ariona Gill (Las Vegas, Nevada / Arbor View HS) and Jasmine James (Innisfil, Ontario (Canada) / Nantyr

Shores Secondary School) are second and third, averaging 11.2 and 10.4 points per game, respectively. Gill is also the team's top rebounder at 9.5 per game.

San Jac advanced to the semifinals of this year's Region XIV tournament, defeating Jacksonville College in the quarter finals before falling to Kilgore College in semifinal action.

The NJCAA Division I women's basketball national tournament takes place Monday, March 20 through Saturday, March 25 at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock, Texas. For more information about the national tournament, including a tournament bracket and link to watch the games live, visit [njcaalubbock2017.org](http://njcaalubbock2017.org).

For more information about the San Jacinto College women's basketball team visit [sanjacsports.com](http://sanjacsports.com).

## Eric Evans named CEO of East Houston Regional Medical Center

Houston, Texas, Feb. 27, 2017 — HCA Gulf Coast Division President Troy Villarreal today announced that Eric Evans has been named chief executive officer of East Houston Regional Medical Center, replacing Alice Adams, who retired in December 2016.

Evans was previously senior vice president of strategic planning for the HCA Gulf Coast Division, where he focused on the development, implementation and management of the division's overall strategy, as well as the exploration and development of new opportunities across the continuum of care.

"Eric has shown his ability to work with leaders across the division to ensure optimal collaboration, coordination and communication," said Villarreal. "I know he will take his extraordinary talent for management and effective communication and put it



Eric Evans, new CEO of East Houston Regional Medical Center

to great use at East Houston Regional Medical Center. I look forward to seeing how he steers the facility."

Evans, who began his career at HCA in 1996, has also served as chief operating officer of The Woman's Hospital of Texas. Prior to joining The Woman's Hospi-

*See New CEO, Page 3*

## GALENA PARK CIP MEETING

## Community hears about responsibility for roads

By Gilbert Hoffman

GALENA PARK — The regular monthly meeting of the CIP (Community Industry Partnership) heard from several experts in the building and maintenance of roads and drainage systems in the Jacinto City and Galena Park areas.

Speakers for the meeting included Jeremy Phillips from Harris County Precinct 2, and Lon Squyres, City Manager of Jacinto City. Additionally, Galena Park was represented by Officer Drew Scroggins in place of Commissioner Barry Ponder.

Moderator Diane Sheridan explained that the theme of the meeting was chosen because people are confused about the multiple jurisdictions that are seen on the roads. She said the goal was to determine who is responsible for construction, maintenance, ditch cleaning, flooding, signage, traffic, and law enforcement.

Jeremy Phillips said that Harris County is responsible for Federal, Market, Mercury, Clinton, and Holland with some exceptions.

Harris County has six



**JEREMY PHILLIPS**  
Harris County Pct. 2 Senior Director of Infrastructure

maintenance camps, and is responsible for 1300 miles of road, 50 parks, Washburn Tunnel, and the Lynchburg Ferry. He presented a map to visually show which roads he maintains.

Working with TxDOT, he

**See MAP of ROADS on Page 8**

said there will be a new overpass on Federal Road at Industrial starting this year and completed in up to 18 months, costing \$4.3 million. Other Harris County projects in the area include a pavilion at Galena Manor



**LON SQUYRES**  
City Manager  
City of Jacinto City

park, sidewalks on Holland, storm drainage on Clinton Drive.

Lon Squyres said that Market Street in Jacinto City will get new LED streetlights within 6 weeks, as will Galena Park. 1-10 frontage roads are TxDOT responsibility.

On the question of jurisdiction for traffic violations on Federal Road, Drew Scroggins explained that is a joint effort by Houston, Galena Park, and Dept. of Transportation officers, due to various sections inside jurisdictions. He mentioned that new sidewalks will be built along one side of Mercury and Holland in the near future.

## NEW TEACHERS' RECEPTION

## Galena Park ISD new teacher Rookie Rodeo



Photo by Allan Jamail

Front Row (L to R): Cambrian Pichon - Tice Elementary, Yajaira Covarrubias - Sam Houston Elementary, Amariah Tucker - GPHS, Stephanie Briggeman - GPHS. Back Row (L to R): Ofelia Garza - Sr. Dir. for Teacher Development & Retention, Crystal Cerda - Sam Houston Elementary, Nicholas Hansen - North Shore 9th Grade, Karen Sutura - Sr. Dir. for Professional Development.

By Allan Jamail

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 the New Teacher "Rookie Rodeo" was a fellowship and gathering held for new teachers in

Galena Park ISD for the 2016-2017 school year. The event offered the new "rookie" teachers a time to get away from their campus to network, relax, have a good time with refreshments and enjoy

some team building activities.

Terri Moore the Assistant Superintendent for

*See New Teachers, Page 8*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Crosby Dental Center

6618 FM 2100, Crosby

### Just in time for Spring Break!

We are pleased to announce the addition of an Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon to Crosby Dental Center. Available on Thursdays, beginning 03/16/2017

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## The IRS is NOT Calling Highlands or Crosby Residents

An aggressive telephone scam with callers claiming to be IRS agents has been underway the last few years. Badge numbers and fake caller ids are often used. Sometimes the callers claim the IRS is in the process of filing a lawsuit against you unless you take prompt action; that you owe back taxes and will incur sizeable penalties or that you will be subject to arrest unless payment is made immediately. These shake down calls tend to be aggressive and threatening. These calls are NOT from the IRS.

How to tell that a call is not from the IRS:

- (1) Have you received a written bill or notice from the IRS on back taxes? The IRS will not call taxpayers without first having mailed a bill. (2) Have you been offered an opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe? Taxpayers have a right to know exactly what a claim is for and have an opportunity to formally appeal the notice. (3) Is a specific payment method required, such as a credit card or debit card? The IRS does not specify payment sources. (4) Are you asked for payment information over the phone? This is against IRS policy. No payment information is taken over the phone.

The IRS does not use email, text messages or any social media to discuss personal tax issues. If you receive a message using any of these media that claims to be from the IRS, it is a scam. For additional information: [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov)

The above commentary was provided by Texas Capital Management, 407-C West Baker Rd., Baytown TX 77521 (281) 427-8000, [txcm.com](http://txcm.com).

Advisory services offered through Texas Capital Management. Securities offered through Cerros Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC (not affiliated with Texas Capital Management)

## Harris County recognized for Excellence in Emergency Management

(Harris County, TX) – The Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT) honored the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) with the Excellence in Emergency Management Award at its annual symposium held this week in San Marcos, Texas.

“We are grateful for the recognition and proud of the team that made it happen,” said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. “Solid partnerships help us meet the ever-changing public safety and homeland security needs.”

The award recognizes HCOHSEM’s Intelligence Task Force (ITF) which regularly gathers, evaluates, summarizes, and disseminates pertinent intelligence information to local first-responder agencies and the organizations that support them.

“Through effective situational awareness, HCOHSEM can implement programs to better prepare our communities,” added Emmett. “This helps protect lives and critical infrastructure against threats and acts of terrorism.”

HCOHSEM’s ITF team includes law enforcement officers from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office, Harris County Toll Road Authority, and Harris County Constable Precincts 1 and 5.

“We are pleased to recognize the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for its commitment and leadership,” said EMAT President Kevin Starbuck. “The ITF plays an important role in information sharing and multi-agency cooperation.”

EMAT is dedicated to the advancement of the field of emergency management both statewide and nationally. It engages in an array of efforts to advance a statewide emergency management agenda and to promote the professional growth of the emergency management practitioner.

## Rock’n C Round-Up

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# COMMUNITY/SCHOOL NEWS

## Galena Park ISD host Prose and Poetry

On Tuesday, March 7, Galena Park ISD hosted its annual Elementary Prose and Poetry competition. A total of 30 students in grades K-2 and 3-5 competed in the district level contest after being named campus winners. Many of the talented students recited famous poems and speeches, and the judges had the difficult task of picking the winners. Congratulations to the following students.

Kindergarten-2nd grade:  
1st place: Asonn Guzman- Pyburn Elementary, 2nd place: Luis Guzman- MacArthur Elementary, and 3rd place: Sophia Vargas- Woodland Acres Elementary

3rd-5th grade:  
1st place: Madison Washington- Harvard Elementary, 2nd place: Andrew O'Berry- Cimarron Elementary, and 3rd place: Juliza Sifuentes- Sam Houston Elementary.

We would also like to congratulate each of our campus winners! They were all amazing and made GPISD proud!



## SHELDON ISD: Rodeo Art winners recognized at February Board meeting

Sheldon ISD elementary, junior high, and high school art students were recognized for their winning Rodeo Art Contest pieces at Tuesday's SISD regular school board meeting.

Winners included:  
Elementary Best of Show: Stephany Martinez (Carroll Elementary)  
Elementary Gold Medal: Fabian Sanchez (Garrett Elementary)  
Junior High Best of Show: Rodrigo Diaz (KMS)  
Junior High Gold Medal: Christian Martinez, (KMS)  
High School Best of Show: Elisandra Garcia (KHS)  
High School Gold Medal: Xochitl Phan (KHS)  
High School Gold Medal: Uriel Castro (KHS)  
High School Special Merit: Yvonne Chavarria (KHS)

Art instructors included:  
Elementary: Natalie Eve Leger and Staphany Martinez, and Melinda Shanklin.  
Junior High: Diane Taylor  
High School: Leslie Roades



## New CEO,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tal of Texas, he was the chief operating officer of Lakeview Regional Medical Center in New Orleans.

Evans holds a master's degree in health services administration from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor of science in business administration from The University of Texas at Dallas. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a Board Member of the American Leadership Forum.

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## 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 ISD Summer Camps

Galena Park ISD is proud to offer enriching camps and activities for our GPISD students this summer. The summer camps will be held in various locations across the district and throughout the summer. Registration will begin on Wednesday, March 1 through Wednesday, March 22. Visit our website at <http://galenaparkisd.com/summerCamps.php> to see the complete list of camps.

### 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.

### 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.

### North Channel Library events

-Saturday, March 18, 2:00 pm, Faithful Paws.  
-Monday, March 20, 6:00 pm, Project Peep: Nesting & Storage Box Build\*\*  
-Tuesday, March 21, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time.  
-Wednesday, March 22, 10 am, North Channel Book Club.  
-Thursday, March 23, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 12:00 pm, AARP Tax Help.  
-Saturday, March 25, 10:30 am, Project Peep: Foster Chick Reunion; 3:00 pm, Pokémon Club.  
-Monday, March 27, 6:00 PM, STEAM Camp: Rainbow Science. Library located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., 77049. 281-457-1631.

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# OPINION PAGE

## Recognizing the best in Education

(NAPSI)—When it comes to educating children and giving parents a choice in the process, some states have been found better than others. Here's a look at the ones the experts on school choice at Ed-Choice voted to win last year's educational choice yearbook superlatives.

**Most Empowering:** Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program

Indiana's program helps more families than any other voucher or education savings account (ESA) program in terms of participation and it has rather wide eligibility with more than 607,000 students eligible statewide. Data show the average per-student funding is \$4,024, or 42 percent of public school per-student spending. Some choice programs have caps that leave applicants unable to access funds, and some programs require the state legislature revisit whether they remain funded every single year during the budgeting process. What sets Indiana apart is its guaranteed purchasing power, meaning its funding stream is secure, and any eligible student who applies will receive a voucher. Parents don't have to worry from one year to the next.

**Most Well-Rounded Policy:** Nevada Education Savings Accounts

Nevada's ESA program design makes it nearly universal in terms of eligibility, with strong funding of the state's per-pupil spending in public schools.

With Nevada's ESAs, not only can students get up to 100 percent of the state's per-pupil allocation for kids in public schools, but parents may also use their ESA dollars to customize their children's education beyond paying tuition.

**Most Improved:** Ohio's Income-Based Scholarship Program

Ohio's Income-Based

Scholarship Program was designed by the Ohiolegislature so a new grade level is eligible each year. Last year, the state's vouchers were opened up to third-graders.

**Best New Program:** South Dakota Partners in Education Tax Credit Program

South Dakota's unique testing mandate puts the power to choose which state or national tests students take into the hands of parents. This regulatory choice is the first of its kind.

**Most Likely to Succeed in 2017:** Iowa

The organization expects Iowa to be the state most likely to succeed in creating a new educational choice program with strong policy design. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad is a strong school choice supporter. "Both houses of the Legislature have said they want to make this [expanding educational choice] a priority," he said.

He has already signed an expansion to the state's existing tax-credit scholarship program, and it's likely the state legislature will consider a statewide ESA program this session.

Other states to watch this legislative session include Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and West Virginia.

These states are considering or are likely to consider bills that would create or expand ESA programs so they are open to most children.

Learn More

For further facts and data about getting your kids the education they deserve, go to [www.edchoice.org](http://www.edchoice.org).



## Federal court panel rules against Texas redistricting plan

AUSTIN — Three of Texas' 36 congressional districts are unconstitutional because of racial or political gerrymandering, a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas ruled on March 10.

The judges ruled 2-1 that the districts' boundaries, drawn by the Texas Legislature in 2011 and 2013, violate the U.S. Constitution.

Plaintiffs in the case called *Perez et al. v. Abbott et al.* mounted statewide and regional claims in South and West Texas, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the Houston area under Section 2 of the U.S. Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth Amendment. States that have a history of race-based voter suppression may be subject to judicial pre-clearance of redistricting plans under Section 2. The Fourteenth Amendment requires due process and equal protection under the law for all citizens.

The three congressional districts that were ruled unconstitutionally drawn were District 23, currently represented by Will Hurd, R-Helotes; District 27, Blake Farenthold, R-Corpus Christi; and District 35, Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin.

The panel, composed of Circuit Judge Jerry E. Smith, Chief District Judge Orlando L. Garcia and District Judge Xavier Rodriguez, did not suggest how those districts might be redrawn in a constitutionally acceptable manner.

Judge Smith wrote a dissenting opinion, saying the panel lacked jurisdiction to rule on the case. He discussed the applicability of prior rulings made by higher courts that already have heard plaintiffs' arguments.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on March 13 reacted, asserting his agreement with Judge Smith's dissent and saying, "There are no lines to redraw. Accordingly, we are confident we will prevail in this case."

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



### Child protection bills move

Both houses of the Legislature last week passed bills to improve the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in response to Gov. Greg Abbott's call for emergency action.

Tasked with protecting children, elders and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation, the DFPS, part of the Texas Health and Human Commission, has attracted attention in recent years for inadequate funding and staffing to meet obligations.

On March 1, the Texas Senate approved SB 11 by Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown. SB 11 would shift to private contractors the DFPS's foster care management mission, but the state would remain the ultimate guardian over foster children. The bill also contains oversight and accountability provisions to enable close monitoring by the DFPS and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

On March 2, the Texas House approved HB 4 by Cindy Burkett, R-Sunnyvale, to provide additional support for family members who care for a child who has been removed from his or her home. Also approved was HB 5 by James Frank, R-Wichita Falls, to give the DFPS more autonomy by making it a separate agency with

its own commissioner.

In passing HB 4 and HB 5, the House has taken "important steps toward providing better protection and care for children in terrible circumstances," Speaker Joe Straus said.

### Abbott declares disaster

Gov. Greg Abbott on March 11 declared a State of Disaster in the counties of Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler after wildfires swept through farm and ranch land in the Texas Panhandle.

"This week's wildfires have had a devastating impact on a significant portion of the Texas Panhandle," Abbott said. "Texans have always been resilient in their response to disasters and this time will be no different."

Earlier last week, the governor granted a waiver to hay carriers and asked the USDA to accelerate the temporary suspension of grazing restrictions in affected areas.

### Jobless rate is updated

Texas employers expanded payrolls in January, adding 51,300 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs, the Texas Workforce Commission announced March 10.

But Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.8 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Texas' total combined labor force stood at an estimated 13,358,000 in January, a figure that reflects 12,697,100 employed individuals plus 660,900 unemployed people who are available for work and are looking for a job.

### Sales tax revenue grows

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.4 billion in February, 4.4 percent more than in February 2016.

"While tax collections from oil and gas mining remain subdued, receipts from telecommunications, construction, services and retail and wholesale trade increased significantly," Hegar said.

### Perry joins Trump cabinet

The U.S. Senate on March 2 confirmed Rick Perry as 14th secretary of the United States Department of Energy. Founded in 1977, the DOE has nearly 14,000 employees.

Perry served as chief executive of Texas from December 2000 to January 2015, making him the Lone Star State's longest-serving governor.

## Ten Tips For Successful Spring Cleaning

(NAPSI)—As the weather begins to warm, many people begin to think about spring cleaning. Here are 10 simple tasks to help get ready for spring.

1. Clean the Windows. A simple solution of dish soap and warm water and a squeegee will give you the best results.

2. Clean those often-neglected baseboards and door frames. Dish soap and warm water are once again a good solution for wiping down these areas.

3. Dust ceiling fans and wall art. Use a microfiber dusting cloth to wipe down fan blades, artwork and photographs.

4. Freshen Up Window Treatments. Vacuum blinds with a brush attachment. Wooden blinds can be wiped with a gentle wood cleaner; plastic and metal blinds can be removed and bathed in a solution of warm water and dish soap.

5. Clean Out Kitchen Cabinets. First, take everything out of the cabinets and wipe down the insides. Next, sort plastic storage containers and throw out any that are stained or missing lids. Check expiration dates and throw items away as needed. Wipe down the outside of all cabinets.

6. Clean out the refrigerator. Take everything out to give shelves and drawers a good scrubbing. S.O.S.® Soap Pads are an excellent tool for cleaning removable glass shelves. Made with durable steel wool and long-lasting soap, S.O.S. pads are perfect for tackling an incredible variety of cleaning projects. Simply wet the pad, scrub away any sticky messes, and rinse. Finally, check expiration dates on all food and condiments in the fridge, and throw out or put back items as needed.

7. Clean Out the Couches. Clear out any lost coins and other goodies and use a vacuum wand attachment to clean the cushions and crevices.

8. Clean out the Gutters. A little work now to remove debris and check for damage is well worth it to avoid future damage to your home's exterior or foundation should the gutters stop diverting water as intended.

9. Clean Patio Furniture. Cleaning plastic or metal patio furniture is easy with S.O.S. Steel Wool Soap Pads. Just wet the pad, scrub away dirt and grime, and rinse with a garden hose.

10. Swap Out Outdoor Tools. Clean and put away shovels, salt and snow brushes. Bring out your garden tools, kids' outdoor toys and lawn mower.

Learn More

For additional cleaning tips and tricks, visit [www.sosclorox.com](http://www.sosclorox.com).

## Get to the bottom of Water Waste

(NAPSI)—Have your water bills started creeping up? Or, if less than five people live in your home, does your winter water bill exceed 12,000 gallons per month? Then it's no mystery; you probably have a water leak.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons of water each year from easy-to-fix leaks. That's enough water to wash 270 loads of laundry! EPA's WaterSense® program has announced March 20 through 26 as its ninth annual Fix a Leak Week, a time to search out water leaks and stop them in their tracks.

Become a leak detective and follow three simple clues—check, twist, replace—to solve the mystery of water waste in your home.

Check: Examine your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the number changes, you probably have a leak and should investigate further. Check for silent toilet leaks by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank, then wait 10 minutes; if some color sneaks into the bowl before you flush, the culprit is likely a worn toilet flapper that needs to be replaced.

Twist: Next, snoop around for dripping pipes or fixtures. Just one showerhead that drips 10 times per minute can waste more than 500 gallons of water per year. Stop that drip by tightening the connection between the showerhead and the pipe stem, and use pipe tape to secure it. To save even more, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator on your bathroom faucet, to use 30 percent less water without a noticeable difference in flow.

Replace: If you suspect that one of your leaky fixtures is beyond repair, it may be time for a water-efficient replacement. Consider a WaterSense labeled toilet, faucet, or showerhead that has been independently certified to use less water and perform as well or better than standard models. You can find a lead on products that meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance using the Product Search Tool on the WaterSense website at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

Get the facts on leaks and other water-saving tips at [www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak).

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LIFESTYLE

Doris E. Farmer



Doris E Farmer, 80, went to be with the Lord on Monday, March 13, 2017, surrounded by her family. She was born in Enterprise, Mississippi to Ruby (Pulley) Smith and Farmer Smith.

She loved to cook for family and friends where no one was a stranger in her kitchen. She loved spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren. She was a caregiving, helpful, happy-go-lucky person. She loved life and her family very much. She loved to can veggies and fruit that was grown in the family garden.

She worked for GTE

★

OBITUARIES

(Verizon) for many years and was a beauty shop owner in Highlands for several years. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 64 years James Farmer Sr.; son, Mark Farmer; grandson, Paul Farmer; parents, Farmer and Ruby Smith; special pet companion of 22 years, Traveler.

She is survived by her children, Debbie Matocha (Frank), James Farmer (MaryAnn), Kenny Farmer (Jackie), David Farmer (Linda), Joe Farmer (Brenda), Tammy Bennet (David); her 101 year old sister, Louanne Smith of Long Beach, Mississippi; brother, Evans Smith; 33 grandchildren, 49 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

A visitation for family

and friends will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Sterling White Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 11:00 am at First Baptist Church of Highlands. Interment will follow at Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com).

The family would like to send a special Thank you to: Waterford Assisted Living Staff, Baytown RHC Staff, Houston San Jacinto ICU and 2 South Staff, and a special Thank you to Juliette her friend and caregiver for many years and a very special Thank you to Dale and Cheryl Farmer for caring and always being there.

GCCISD Communications Dept. Wins Awards at TSPRA



Melissa Tortorici (middle), president of Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA), congratulates (from left) Mima Trujillo, Carrie Pryor-Newman, Beth Dombrowa and Susan Passmore from the Goose Creek CISD Communications Department on the awards they received at the recent TSPRA Conference in Galveston.

The Goose Creek CISD Communications Department brought home numerous awards from the recent Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Conference in Galveston, including three Best of Category medals, 16 Gold Star Awards and 10 Silver Star Awards.

Competing against school districts throughout Texas with 10,000 to 30,000 students, the communications team of Beth Dombrowa, director of communications; Mima Trujillo, webmaster; Carrie Pryor-Newman, multimedia production

specialist and Susan Passmore, assistant director of communications, received Best of Category for the “2016 Goose Creek CISD Presents Our Marvelous Teachers of the Year” program and the Back-to-School Website. Carrie Pryor-Newman earned a Best of Category award for her photo, “A Really High Five.” Best of Category is selected from the Gold Star winners in each category.

The team received Gold Star Awards for four feature stories, seven photos, a pro-

gram, a brochure, a flyer, a non-English flyer and a website. Two features, an edited news release, an invitation, five photos and a promotional/ marketing video received Silver Star Awards.

The annual TSPRA Conference covers all facets of education and foundation communications and public relations. Sessions for rookies and veterans are presented on topics of interest to all education communicators in print and electronic media.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1: 20, 21

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Jonah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. In Genesis 15, who was told to "look now toward Heaven and tell the stars"?
  3. Who succeeded Belshazzar as King of the Chaldeans?
  4. Who sold his brother to a camel caravan? Cain, Judah, Silas, Joshua
  5. Where did Jacob and his family settle in Egypt? Goshen, Damascus, Bethlehem, Beersheba
  6. What was the name of Naomi's husband? Ephriam, Elijah, Elimelech, Elisha
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Abram; 3) Darius; 4) Judah; 5) Goshen; 6) Elimelech

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John 7:38

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

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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.  
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: "How should I clean and care for my fine Jewelry?"



Here's how to properly & safely care for your Fine Jewelry

**CARING FOR STERLING SILVER**  
Clean your sterling silver jewelry with a soft 100% cotton (nub free) cloth or flannel cloth. Remember, silver is a very soft metal and you can scratch it if you aren't careful so don't rub it too briskly. Never use anything but a clean 100% cotton or a special sterling silver cleaning cloth or very soft bristle brush, like a baby's tooth brush or a horsehair silver brush. Paper, polyester, and coarse fabrics often contain wood fibers or synthetics that can cause tiny scratches in the surface of your fine sterling silver jewelry. Dirt left over from previous cleanings can scratch the surface as well.

*Note: Focus on preventative care by storing your silver jewelry in a closed box or plastic baggy as silver will tarnish when exposed to air.*

Diamonds are forever, as long as you take good care of them!

**DIAMOND CLEANING – THE DO'S AND DON'TS**  
Bridal jewelry, such as engagement rings and wedding bands are typically worn daily, and can appear like they've lost their sparkle if not cleaned on a regular basis. Lotions put film on diamonds and reduce their shininess. Don't wear diamond jewelry while doing rough work. Avoid chlorinated pools and hot tubs. Avoid touching diamonds with your fingers, as smudges can affect a diamond's luster and fire.

**EXPERT SERVICE**  
If you have questions, feel free to visit an expert Jeweler for advice on cleaning and care. Some jewelry stores will gladly recommend the best products and procedures to use when caring for your diamonds, to help keep them in great shape.

**CARING FOR CUBIC ZIRCONIA**  
Use a cotton or flannel cloth to wipe your jewelry clean. A special jewelry polishing cloth would be perfect (a popular choice is Sunshine Polishing Cloth). Using straight, back and forth strokes,

### ASK DIAMOND JIM



polish your jewelry and remove any surface dirt and dust. Do not rub in a circular motion as that can scratch the surface of your jewelry. Then use a cleaning solution to remove grime and dirt. Just like a diamond, a cubic zirconia can be cleaned with warm water and mild soap. Use a soft, cosmetic applicator to reach crevices. However, if you wish, you can use a trusted jewelry cleaner to remove any dirt and dust from your zirconium. Store your jewelry in an airtight, sealable plastic bag. If this is not possible, store your jewelry in a lined jewelry box, away from the outside air.

**CARING FOR PEARLS**  
Pearls are very soft and need special care and attention. You should never store your pearls in a jewelry box next to other jewelry as the box and other pieces of jewelry can damage the pearls by scratching and nicking. Instead keep your pearl in a fabric lined box or fabric pouch. Human skin produces acids that can harm your pearls, so if worn regularly pearls should be wiped down with a soft cloth after every wearing. A pearl necklace will gradually absorb acid from the skin that will eat into the pearl causing it to lose its luster. Wiping pearls off with either a wet or dry soft cloth will prevent dirt from accumulating and keep perspiration, which is slightly acidic, from eating away at the nacre. You can also use a drop of olive oil on your cleansing cloth to help maintain your pearls' luster. Along with being soft and easily scratched, pearls can be damaged by chemicals and heat. Only use jewelry cleaners that are clearly marked safe for pearls. Never use ultrasonic cleansers, dish or wash

detergents, bleaches, baking soda or ammonia based cleansers. Never use toothbrushes, or any other abrasive materials to clean your pearls. Always take off your pearls before using any cosmetics, hair spray, or perfume and avoid heat and dry air because both can cause pearls to turn brown, dry out, and crack.

**CARING FOR RHODIUM PLATED SILVER**  
Clean rhodium plated silver with warm water and a mild liquid soap (like Ivory dishwashing soap). Rinse and dry with a soft polishing cloth immediately to avoid mineral residue from the water. Never use any chemicals on your rhodium items. Never use toothpaste and never brush with a toothbrush. Don't use polishing cloths that are intended for use on uncoated silver or for gold jewelry. If you have an antique or heirloom piece, don't clean it without consulting an expert about your item.

**CARING FOR GOLD**  
Gold doesn't tarnish, but it can be dirtied or dulled by the oils in your skin, body lotion, makeup or other substances. There are lots of products out there that promise to clean gold, but you can do it easily with mild detergent and a soft cloth. Mix a squeeze of mild dish detergent with warm water in a bowl. Put the gold item into the soap mixture and let sit for a few minutes. Use a soft toothbrush to gently scrub the jewelry. Remove item from soapy water, rinse it and dry thoroughly with a soft.

**CARING FOR GEMSTONES**  
Gemstones are quite literally hard as rock, but they can be damaged from careless handling and negligence. Here are some tips for keeping your gems and jewelry looking fabulous for years to come. Remember, even the hardest gemstone variety can be vulnerable to breakage if it has inclusions that weaken the crystal structure. Exercise common sense: if you have a ring set with a softer gem variety or an included stone, take it off before strenuous exercise. Even the hardest gem of them all, the diamond, can shatter or break in two with a single well-placed blow. Never remove rings by pulling on the stone: that habit may result in a loose and then a lost gem. Most importantly, store each piece of gemstone jewelry separately so that harder stones don't scratch softer ones. Almost every gemstone is much harder than the metal it is set in. Gems can scratch

the finish on your gold, silver or platinum if you throw your jewelry in a heap in a drawer or jewelry box. Rings in particular tend to collect dust and soap behind the gem, especially if worn often. You need to clean them regularly to let the light in so your gems can shine. To clean transparent crystalline gemstones, simply soak them in water with a touch of gentle dish soap. Use a bowl of water rather than the sink to eliminate the risk of anything going down the drain. If necessary, use a soft toothbrush to scrub behind the stone. Rinse the soap off and pat dry with a lint-free cloth (you want to make sure threads won't catch on the prongs). Think twice before putting gems in an ultrasonic cleaner. Diamonds, rubies and sapphires will be fine but many other gems may not be, in particular emerald, opal, pearls, and peridot: when in doubt, leave it out. Organic gems like pearls, coral, and amber should only be wiped clean with a moist cloth. Due to their organic nature, these gems are both soft and porous. Be careful about chemicals in hairspray, cosmetics, or perfume: they can, over time, damage pearls in particular. Opals also require special care. Never use an ultrasonic, never use ammonia, and avoid heat and strong light. Opaque gemstones like lapis lazuli, turquoise, and malachite, require special care because they are rocks, not crystals of a single mineral like transparent gems. These gem materials should just be wiped clean gently with a moist cloth. These gemstones can be porous and may absorb chemicals, even soap, and they may build up inside the stone and discolor it. Never use an ultrasonic cleaner and never use ammonia or any chemical solution.

**CARING FOR STAINLESS STEEL**  
Stainless steel jewelry won't rust, but it can tarnish over time. Steel jewelry does not tarnish as fast as silver jewelry but the rate of tarnishing depends on how it's used. As with any jewelry it is best to avoid contact with chemicals (lotions, chlorine from pools etc.) in order to keep it cleaner longer. Steel jewelry is easy to clean, you can use mild dishwashing liquid (two or three drops in warm water will do) and wipe it down with a soft cloth. Steel jewelry is very durable and can withstand a lot of wear and tear, as opposed to silver which is a very soft metal. 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).

## CHANNELVIEW ISD Tunink named district's new Director of Fine Arts

The Channelview Independent School District recently welcomed Jennifer Tunink as its new Director of Fine Arts.

Tunink most recently served the past four years as Band Director at Aguirre Junior High and is an 11-year veteran of the district. She replaces Ken Wright, who retired in January.

Tunink began her teaching career in 2001 as Band Director at Tarkington High School. She arrived in Channelview in 2006 to serve as Assistant Band Director at Channelview High School. She then moved to Alice Johnson Junior High as Band Director before heading to Aguirre when it opened in 2012.



Jennifer Tunink, new Director of Fine Arts.

At each of the campuses where Tunink has served, she has mentored to band, choir and art teachers. In addition, she was a member of the leadership team at Aguirre and served as electives department chair.

"I want all of our programs to continue to expand upon the growth they have already achieved," Tunink said. "All of our Fine Arts teachers are dedicated and passionate. That is exactly how it should be. Strong leaders know how to build strong programs. They are dedicated and passionate about making their students successful."

Tunink has recently been traveling to campuses throughout the district getting to know her staff and gather information about their needs.

"We are looking at where we have been, where we are now and looking ahead to what our vision is for the future," she said. "Then, we can start moving forward together to continue the many excellent traditions in place and start new ones to propel the Fine Arts program to even greater heights."


While Tunink has started her new duties, she is also pursuing her Masters in Educational Leadership at Lamar University. She received her Bachelors Degree from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State) in May 2001 and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She graduated from Huffman Hargrave High School in 1997.

Tunink thanked district officials for the opportunity to serve in her new position. "I am looking forward to the challenge and excitement of being able to work at the district level to encourage, support and be an advocate for our Fine Arts programs," she said.


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Pop Quiz!

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2. was a teenage slave in Ireland  
3. escaped from Ireland and then went back years later to teach about God and the Christian faith  
4. is said to have driven all of the snakes out of Ireland  
5. has many Irish boys named after him  
6. is a symbol of the Irish "spirit"

Who is the man that the Irish love so much?

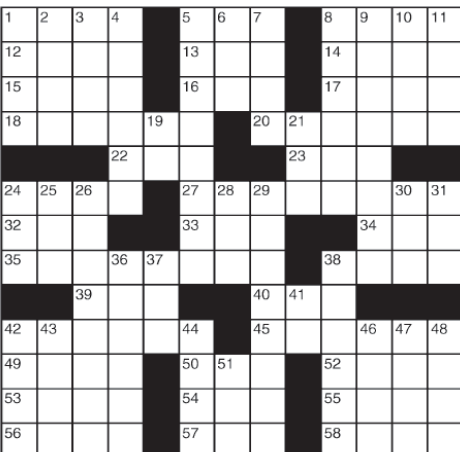
Answers: 1. Saint Patrick, 2. Saint Patrick, 3. Saint Patrick, 4. Saint Patrick, 5. Saint Patrick, 6. Saint Patrick

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King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Smooth-talking
  - 5 Water barrier
  - 8 Urban pall
  - 12 Places
  - 13 "Where did — wrong?"
  - 14 Ocean motion
  - 15 Enthusiastic, plus
  - 16 — de deux
  - 17 One
  - 18 Cognitive
  - 20 Dry cleaner's challenges
  - 22 Acapulco gold
  - 23 Branch
  - 24 Freeway access
  - 27 Small details
  - 32 Peyton's brother
  - 33 Alias (Abbr.)
  - 34 Sharp turn
  - 35 Church VIP
  - 38 Titanic foe
  - 39 Ostrich's cousin
  - 40 "Flying Down to —"
  - 42 High-ranking angel
  - 45 Historic write-up
  - 49 Rocky peak
  - 50 Suitable



- DOWN
- 1 Glitz
  - 2 Theater box
  - 3 PC picture
  - 4 Circus tent
  - 5 Embassy bigwig
  - 6 Turkish title
  - 7 Peat source
  - 8 Washington's portraitist
  - 9 Play down
  - 10 Valhalla VIP
  - 11 Understands
  - 19 It's between kue and ess
  - 21 Greek consonant
  - 24 Sleep phenomenon, for short
  - 25 "The Greatest"
  - 26 Ores
  - 28 Prez after
  - 29 Storyteller
  - 30 Melody
  - 31 Early bird?
  - 36 Pictorializations
  - 37 Dine
  - 38 Witticism
  - 41 Fashionable
  - 42 Highlander
  - 43 Therefore
  - 44 — and hearty
  - 46 Top-rated
  - 47 Chantilly, e.g.
  - 48 Goblet feature
  - 51 Shooter ammo

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## GALENA PARK ISD

## North Shore girls basketball player selected for the McDonald's All-American Game

Chasity Patterson, point guard for the North Shore Mustangs, was presented her honorary game jersey for the 2017 McDonald's All-American Game on February 21. Patterson received her game day jersey by former Houston Texans' center, Steve McKinney.

The future Longhorn is the all-time leading scorer for Lady Mustang Basketball with over 3,000 career points and is the 71st player in women's high school basketball to reach 3,000 p

Galena Park ISD and North Shore Senior High are so proud of Patterson and look forward to watching her play in the annual McDonald's All-American Game on Wednesday, March 29 at the United Center in Chicago. The game will be televised on ESPN 2 at 5 p.m. EST.



## ***New Teachers,***

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Communication Services and Professional Development said.

"This activity is to provide our newest family members with a fun, collaborative, stress-busting session during a hectic time of the year."

Activity stations were setup where participants could try to accomplish each of the activities.

The "Rodeo" events included stick horse riding, rubber band shooting, washer toss, horseshoes, roping, Texas storytelling,

Texas Jeopardy and a photo booth! Nachos, popcorn and Texas-shaped cookies were available to all.

The campus Administrators attended with their new teacher teams and enjoyed the events together.



SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 1. On this map, YELLOW indicates Harris County jurisdiction, and areas outside the BLUE line are the City of Houston. RED is the City of Galena Park, except for the Yellow lined roads.

## ***San Jacinto River,***

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and 140 wells in Channelview that might qualify for this additional testing. Information on this is available at [pcs.harriscountytexas.gov](http://pcs.harriscountytexas.gov).

To be tested, well owners must be in a certain geographic area, can't be served by a public water supply, and can't have been tested previously by the county.

Pam Bonta suggested that they should also test in areas with high rates of cancer, such as Highlands Shores, the Highlands Reservoir area, and McNair. Allen seemed surprised at this news, and said it might be necessary to have a third round of testing at a later date.

Testing is being paid for by the county's successful lawsuit settlement with Waste Management and McGinnes IMC, who settled for a \$29.2 million payment. About \$10 million of this went to the county, who has pledged to use the money for remediation efforts and health issues.

The county has completed a study of supplying new water and sewer lines in the Highlands area, according to Pct. 2 infrastructure director Jeremy Phillips. It was learned from this study that it would cost around \$10 million dollars to supply water and sewers to about 1232 persons, from the Baytown Area Water Authority. This included 186 single-family homes, 31 mobile homes, and 60 other lots and businesses.

**Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman** indicated that a project of this scope would require multiple funding sources and was beyond the capacity of the county to undertake alone.

Young revealed that the McGinnes company had another waste pit site in the area, that they began using after the San Jacinto River site was filled.

This site is along Halls Bayou near Hitchcock in Galveston County. It consists of 32 open pits, of which three have tested for dioxins. These lagoons have been there for over 40 years she said, and the McGinnes company has been monitoring them and making reports to the TCEQ and the EPA. They contend that in all that time, they have not leaked any toxins, even though they are near sea level and contained by only earthen berms.

Television Channel 26 has made a three-part video news story about these

pits, reported by their environmental reporter Greg Groogan. His report includes helicopter views and water level views of the lagoons, revealing a murky green color to the watery sludge in the pits.

In the video report, State Representative Mike Martin is quoted as saying these pits are not safe, and might spread toxins during a storm or hurricane.

Environmental attorney Jim Blackburn has also spoken out against the pits. The site is about 200 acres, much larger than the San Jacinto Waste Pits site, which is only about 14 acres. The dioxin tested in three of the pits shows a higher level than in the San Jacinto pits, according to the video.

The EPA issued a Site Update in February 2017. This report said that they were reviewing public comments that were sent to them. The quantity is 6000 individual comments, 48,000 signatures on various petitions, and about 2800 pages of detailed technical comments.

They said that written responses to all comments would be included in the ROD (Record Of Decision) that would be issued in late 2017.

Criteria for reviewing the comments were listed as follows:

1. overall protection of human health and the environment;
2. compliance with applicable, relevant, and appropriate requirements;
3. long-term effectiveness and permanence;
4. reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment;
5. short-term effectiveness;
6. implementable;
7. cost effective;
8. state acceptance;
9. community acceptance.

Of some concern to the SJR Coalition was the part of the EPA Update that a site inspection on January 23, 2017 revealed some missing rock in the cap, and some exposed geotextile membrane. In addition, some subsidence has occurred on the eastern side, up to one foot. Repairs were ordered by the PRPs, and additional rock will be placed.

In the February SJRC meeting, Young noted that the group wanting to "Keep the Cap" has enlisted more experts, including Sediment Management Work Group, Detroit, Michigan. They contend that solution 2N, an enhanced cap, is a

better solution than 6N, a complete removal. They have also engaged another law firm, Winstead PC, to help their case.

The public is of course involved in many ways in this issue. Young noted that students at Furr High School had undertaken a class project, a video entitled "Jackie's River" which won a prize in a film festival.

Another concern is a bill now in the Texas Legislature, HB2533, which would restrict counties and cities from lawsuits against polluters without state permission, and set a cap on the amount of the claim. She distributed a sample letter that she urged interested citizens to send to state representatives on the Environmental Regulation Committee, opposing the bill.

The coalition also discussed an area adjacent to the waste pits, known as the Upland Sand Separation Area.

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**PRESENTS**

**Spring Coloring & Painting Contest**

The contest is open to children ages 5 – 18.

Categories are as follow:

- Category A: Ages 5 – 8 – Coloring
- Category B: Ages 9 – 12 – Coloring
- Category C: Ages 13 – 15 – Easter Egg Design
- Category D: Ages 16 – 18 – Painting Contest

Registration starts March 5<sup>th</sup> and ends March 30. Winners will be published on April 13, 2017.

Contestant may only submit one entry.

All entries must be done at THE ART HUB. Schedule will be given upon registration. Registration Fee: \$10 which includes use of materials: crayon, oil pastel or acrylic paint. Contestants may bring additional coloring materials of their choice.

Prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner for each category will win: Summer Art Class (valued at \$195) plus other sponsored prizes.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner for each category will win: Gift Cards

Prizes are progressive. Weekly update will be published on NORTH CHANNEL STAR newspaper.



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