

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

Ship Channel Expansion meeting in GP

Availability of the Draft at public information meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at Galena Park High School, 1000 Keene St., Galena Park, TX, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Food & Resource Fair in Jacinto City

The Houston Food Bank along with South Texas Dental will have food distribution, applying/renewing SNAP (Food Stamps), CHIP and Medicaid and other services and information this Friday, September 22, 2017 at 1022 Mercury Dr., Jacinto City, TX 77029 from 9:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

Volunteer Voter Registrar Training

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

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

Annual San Jacinto Pilot Club Spaghetti Dinner

The 30th annual San Jacinto Pilot Club Spaghetti Dinner & Auction has been set for Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Live Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. at Baldree building located at 13828 Corpus Christi St. (behind Grayson Center), \$10 dinner tickets.

Proceeds are donated back to the community for scholarships and community programs. For more information, please call 281-221-1616.

EPA head tours Waste Pits

Scott Pruitt walks on site, promises "containment"

By Gilbert Hoffman

The head of the federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the person who will have the final say on how the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is disposed of, was in East Harris County last Friday to walk across the site and learn about the conditions first-hand.

Accompanying EPA Director Scott Pruitt were officials from the EPA, both nationally and from the Dallas office, including the Region 6 Acting Head Sam Coleman. Also on hand was Fox News26 reporter Greg Groogan, and after the walk Pruitt had an opportunity to discuss his



EPA Director Scott Pruitt, center, looks out over the Superfund site with Region 6 Acting Director Sam Coleman (straw hat), other EPA officials, and FoxNews26 reporter Greg Groogan (in cap). Pruitt wanted to be more familiar with the site and its potential problems, he said, especially after the recent flood event.

visit with Jackie Young of THEA (Texas Health and Environmental Alliance) and Scott Jones of GBF (Galveston Bay Foundation).

Pruitt's visit to the site was highly unusual, with EPA officials normally relying on reports and inspections from their staff and consultants.

In addition to the personnel accompanying Pruitt, there were also at least two boats with dive teams inspecting and probing the waste pits just beyond Pruitt's presence. They were searching for breaks in the armored cap and its geotextile

membrane after the Hurricane Harvey, and the subsequent flooding by the raging river. Nearby the torrent of the river had washed out two roads, making them impassable, and caused huge sinkholes in a residential area, where houses slid into the holes.

From where Pruitt stood, he could also see the damage to two large bumpers in the river that were meant to protect the I-10 bridge, but obviously had been hit and compromised.

After viewing the displaced rock cover, and in some areas exposed and dislodged mem

See EPA Tour, page 8

Gene Green, Ana Hernandez hold FEMA Hurricane recovery meeting

NORTH SHORE – A FEMA workshop and Disaster Relief Assistance event was held last Saturday, September 16, sponsored by Congressman Gene Green.

Joining Green in publicizing and sponsoring the workshop were State Representative Ana Hernandez, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, and Houston City Councilman Robert Gallegos.

On hand to answer questions, explain the federal assistance programs, and help people sign up for them were representatives of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the SBA (Small Business Administration).

The event was held from 10 am to 12 noon at the Christian Tabernacle at 13334 Wallisville Road, near Maxey.

Flood Relief and Recov-



CONGRESSMAN GENE GREEN, center, sponsored a FEMA workshop last Saturday September 16 for the North Shore community. The event was held at the Christian Tabernacle, on Wallisville Road. Joining Green in sponsoring the event were local officials seen above, State Representative Ana Hernandez, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, and City Councilman Robert Gallegos.

ery Efforts were discussed and explained to the large crowd who attended, and then help was offered to register for assistance.

Green said that anyone needing additional help could contact his office, at 713-330-0761, or see his website www.green.house.gov.

In addition, other Disaster Recovery Centers are open throughout the county, as announced by Harris County. These are open daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nearby Centers include:

-- Baytown Community Center, 2407 Market Street.

-- Greenspoint Mall, 263 Greenspoint Mall, Houston.

-- Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway.

For other centers, see www.fema.gov/DRC.

ROTARY CLUB EVENT

Local man brings home the Washer Tournament trophy

North Shore Rotarian John Painter not only enjoyed himself at the Highlands annual Washer Board Tournament last Saturday, but he also brought home a huge trophy that goes to the Rotarian with the highest score each year.

29 teams competed in the tournament, including local Rotarians, residents, and District Wide Rotarians. Many of the contestants had played last year, and wanted to defend their title or record.

The tournament raised between \$6000 and \$7000, and Highlands Rotary president Diana Weaver announced that all the money would be donated to local flood relief and the Highlands Food Pantry. In the past, monies were donated to the national Rotary Polio Plus program.



Highlands Rotary President Diana Weaver presents the "ROTARY TROPHY" to John Painter, past 5890 District Governor, and member of the North Shore Rotary. The award is to the washer player with the highest score, who is a Rotarian. He gets to keep it for a year, until the next tournament. (MORE PHOTOS on page 2).

AFTER HURRICANE HARVEY

East Houston Regional Medical Center closed for repairs



After flooding and extensive damage from Hurricane Harvey, the East Houston Regional Medical Center has suspended services until further notice. For all healthcare needs, you may visit Bayshore Medical Center Campus only 12 miles away from East Houston Regional Medical Center, at 4000 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, Texas 77504. The photo above shows debris pulled from the building, and a dumpster as part of the clean-up. (MORE photos on Page 8).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Washer
Tournament Photo Album



FIRST PLACE TEAM: FLYING SAUCER
Justin Graves & Michael Horne



Hope Elizabeth, daughter of Jennifer Ward,
granddaughter of Charlie Ward, enjoyed the
Washer Tournament too.



SECOND PLACE TEAM: REUTER BOYS
Cotten Reuter & Daryl Reuter



The Live Auction included this Quilt, with
logos of the Texans and the Astros.



THIRD PLACE TEAM: HOLD MY BEER
Jason Woodall & Clay



Championship Form shown by Daryl Reuter
and Justin Graves, the top player.

★
COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

Explorer's cafe & free after-
school meal at Library!

Stratford Library in Highlands is excited to announce the opening of the Explorer's Cafe on September 12th! Featuring FREE After-school meals for kids ages 1-18, Tuesday - Thursday during the school year! There will also be a variety of activities starting at 4:30 PM: crafts, science experiments, book clubs, and tech exploration. Come join in the fun!

Stratford Library is located 2 blocks behind Foodtown at 509 Stratford in Highlands. Call 832-927-5400 or find more info online at www.hcpl.net or on Facebook as "Stratford Branch Library."

Lee High School class of 1955
to host annual reunion Oct. 7

The Robert E. Lee High School class of 1955 will host their annual reunion with a lunch meeting at Luna's, 730 West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road.

The event, which is held the first Saturday of October every year, will be held at noon on Saturday Oct. 7. The class will announce a \$500 contribution to the Bay Area Heritage Society for 2017 from Lee class of 1955. Group reservations have been made, so no individual reservations are necessary. All checks will be separate.

For more information, call Sherrill Davis Poteet at 713-304-9991 or Allen Dunn at 281-422-7751.

Highlands United Methodist
Church Fish Fry October 14

New Date: Saturday, October 14 , 11am - 2pm. Plates are \$10 each (Portion of Proceeds Goes to Area Flood Relief). Live and Silent Auction. For more information contact the church office at (281) 426-3614.

Crosby Volunteer Fire
Department Open House

Come celebrate with Crosby VFD its 75 years of service at a Open House. Saturday, October 14 from 4pm - 7 pm at Station 2 at 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd. Admission is free.

Annual Eastside Veteran's
Celebration

November 11, 2017 at Crosby American Legion David H. McNerney Post 658, 14890 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas. www.EastsideVeteransCelebration.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY F.W.S.D. 51 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2017 on October 11, 2017 at 12:00pm at 367 Queenstown, Houston, Texas 77015. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Jerry Dominy, William Bowes, Cary Stephens

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Dr. B.J. Westbrook, Roger Bate

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.25700/\$100	\$.25000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.00700/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)	-2.72%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 122,668	\$ 132,932
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 24,534	\$ 26,586
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 98,134	\$ 106,346
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 252.20	\$ 265.86
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 13.66	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	5.41%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Bob Leared, Tax Assessor-Collector 713-932-9011

2017 Property Tax Rates in Harris County
Emergency Service District No. 50

This notice concerns the 2017 property tax rates for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 50. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$2,553,676
Last year's debt taxes	\$0
Last year's total taxes	\$2,553,676
Last year's tax base	\$5,138,181.087
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.0497/\$100
This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$2,552,520
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$5,260,885,888
=This year's effective tax rate	\$0.0485/\$100
(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	
This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$2,534,535
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$5,260,885,888
=This year's effective operating rate	\$0.0482/\$100
x 1.08=this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.0520/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0.0000/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	\$0.0520/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Harris County Emergency Service District No. 50 adopts a 2017 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.0485 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2016 taxes by \$48,176.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Unencumbered Fund Balance	8,000,000

Schedule B - 2017 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
	0	0	0	0
Total required for 2017 debt service			\$0	
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A			\$0	
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources			\$0	
- Excess collections last year			\$0	
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2017			\$0	
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2017			\$0	
= Total debt levy			\$0	

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 1001 Preston, Houston, TX 77002.
Name of person preparing this notice: Ann Harris Bennett
Title: Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector
Date Prepared: 09/14/2017

COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park High School's Elementary student of the week

Delila Flores and Christian Molina, Woodland Acres Elementary students, were named Galena Park High School's Elementary Students of the Week!

Flores and Molina were able to experience their first high school football game in style on Friday, September 15! When they arrived at the GPISD stadium, the honorees were greeted by the GPHS coaching staff and escorted onto the field. They were recognized by the announcer and even had an appearance on the scoreboard. During the first half, the students cheered on the Yellowjackets and chatted with Galena Park High School principal, Mr.

Gardea. After halftime, the students led the Yellowjackets football team out onto the field!

The students had a blast at the GPISD stadium and enjoyed the experience very much! They were even more excited to be the first two students selected as the Students of the Week for the 2017 GPHS football season!

Molina said, "It was an amazing experience. I was so excited to be there!"

Flores said, "It was awesome! I was so surprised and happy to be selected!"

The GPHS Student of the Week recognizes elementary students who exemplify excellent behavior and are role models for their school. We can't wait



Delila Flores, left, and Christian Molina, right, named Galena Park High School's Elementary Students of the Week.

to see who is selected to attend the next Galena Park High School football game!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Judge Stephens Teen Court

Judge Joe Stephens' Teen Court will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse located at 14350 Wallisville Road. Student volunteers are needed to serve as defense attorneys, prosecutors, jurors, bailiffs and court clerks. All students in 8th thru 12th grades are invited to participate. Please contact Judge Stephens' Office at MYJP31@JP.HCTX.NET or call 713-274-0760 for more information.

Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP meeting

The group will meet again on Thursday, October 5. The topic will be Hurricane Harvey and related topics. The agenda will allow to hear from the plants and others and to talk about what went well and how to improve.

Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club

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

Galena Park Senior Dance

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

North Shore Senior Dance

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

The Buckshot Jamboree

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

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Amegy Bank on I-10, at noon. For more information, please visit www.SanJacintoPilot.com.

Trip Israel

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

North Shore Little League introduces Challenger Division

On behalf of Texas District 17, North Shore Little League is introducing Challenger Division Baseball to the community with an exciting fall league. The practice has been set for September 23rd. September 30th will be their game day for all teams for the fall season.

The Challenger Division of Little League is a program designed for mentally and physically challenged boys and girls, to help them enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment that is structured to their abilities to help them develop social skills and build self-esteem. The participants range in age from 4 to 18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school. These children have the opportunity to experience



the joys of being a member of a team!

Clinic-style practice: September 23 @ 10:00am

All games will be played on Saturday, September 30, 2017 starting at 10:00AM

Each participant will receive a game jersey and cap. There is no charge to participate. Players from surrounding areas are welcome. Challenger Division Baseball does not require players to live within the boundaries of North Shore Little League. Challenger events are for families and

students, parents/guardians should plan to remain with their child during all Challenger sponsored games and practices.

Questions please contact them at nslchallenger@outlook.com

North Shore Little League Challenger Division Inaugural Season planned for the Spring of 2018!

This organization and its activities are not related to or sponsored by the Galena Park Independent School District.

GALENA PARK ISD

North Shore Elementary volunteer receives Prestigious Award

On Friday, September 15, Mrs. Carol Ann Youens, North Shore Elementary volunteer, was recognized in Austin for being selected as a 2017 Heroes for Children by the State Board of Education!

Mrs. Youens was one of 15 honorees selected to win this prestigious volunteer award. She received a plaque recognizing her service to North Shore Elementary. Her name is also engraved on a plaque that is permanently displayed at the Texas Education Agency.

Mrs. Youens is the second



Mrs. Carol Ann Youens, in the middle, receiving the 'Prestigious Volunteer Award.'

member of her family to earn the Heroes for Children award, as her late husband Alfred received the award last year.

Eighteen years ago, the Youens decided to "pay it forward" and began volunteering for our wonderful school district. For the past 14 years, Mrs. Youens has focused her work on assisting first and second grade students with basic reading skills.

Many volunteers have referred to Mrs. Youens as "the mother of the NSE volunteers."

Congratulations, Mrs. Youens!

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OPINION PAGE

More than \$1 billion in Federal Funds approved for Texas survivors

AUSTIN, Texas – Three weeks after the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey, \$1.09 billion in federal funds have been provided directly to Texans to aid in their personal recovery.

The funds include grants to households from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), claims payments from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

“This is a major milestone in our collective effort to support Texans in their recovery,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Kevin Hannes. “A billion dollars is going directly to survivors of Hurricane Harvey three weeks after the President declared a major disaster. This will help people get started rebuilding their lives. The speed of this assistance is historic for Texas.”

“SBA’s disaster assistance employees are committed to helping businesses and residents rebuild as quickly as possible,” said SBA Acting Regional Administrator Dorothy Overal. SBA representatives continue to meet with business owners and residents at all State of Texas/FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers and five SBA Business Recovery Centers throughout the impacted area to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process, help them complete their application and close their approved loans. For a list of locations, visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

As of Sept. 17, 2017:

- FEMA approved more than \$333 million in grants for eligible individuals and families in 39 counties for housing assistance, including emergency home repairs, replacement and rental assistance.
- FEMA approved more than \$146 million in grants for replacement of essential personal property and help with medical, dental, legal and other disaster-related expenses.
- NFIP paid more than \$347 million to policyholders in advance payments to expedite the recovery process.
- SBA approved more than \$265 million in low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses.

Ten counties with the highest FEMA household assistance totals as of Sept. 17, 2017:

- Harris County, \$198.6 million
- Galveston County, \$44.7 million
- Fort Bend County, \$22.2 million
- Aransas County, \$18.4 million
- Brazoria County, \$15.8 million
- Jefferson County, \$14.2 million
- Orange County, \$13.3 million
- Chambers County, \$12.7 million
- San Patricio County, \$9.9 million
- Nueces County, \$9.6 million

In addition, FEMA’s Public Assistance Program approved \$181 million for local and state agencies to reimburse the costs of debris removal and emergency response.

FEMA also made \$516 million in mission assignments to more than two dozen federal agencies to assist in response and recovery operations. The agencies include: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Customs and Border Protection, Corporation for National and Community Service, Defense Logistics Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Protective Service, General Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Occupational Health & Safety Administration, National Park Service, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service.

Residents who experienced disaster-related, under-insured losses in the following counties should register for assistance with FEMA: Austin, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller and Wharton Counties.

Registration is easy:

- Online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Phone 800-621-3362 (voice, 711/VRS-Video Relay Service) (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).
- Via the FEMA app, available for Apple and Android mobile devices. To download visit: fema.gov/mobile-app.



Citizens, government agencies continue hurricane recovery work

AUSTIN — Help-is-on-the-way announcements from the governor’s office came last week as residents of hard-hit counties of the state labored to pull themselves out the watery mire and windblown nightmare of Hurricane Harvey.

On Sept. 14, Gov. Greg Abbott spotlighted Texas Department of Transportation contractors’ efforts to remove debris along state roadways in the Coastal Bend, the area that took a full frontal assault from the deadly storm that plowed ashore and battered Texas in late August and early September.

“The cleanup in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey is a job that will take months for Texans to complete,” Abbott said, “but our state agencies have been poised and ready to begin the work of clearing our roads and public spaces of the oftentimes dangerous debris left by this storm.”

TxDOT, with its initial focus on Aransas, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties, worked to ensure roads and bridges were safe for travel. In addition to debris removal, the work included damage assessments, reopening roads, replacing and reactivating traffic signals, reinstalling stop, yield and one-way signs and resuming ferry service in Port Aransas.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality continue to coordinate recovery efforts. As of Sept. 14, the TCEQ reported that of 2,238 drinking water systems affected by Harvey, some 2,014 systems are fully operational, 77 have boil-water notices and 19 were shut down. Also, the TCEQ said its personnel had made contact with 1,219 wastewater treatment plants in the 58 counties within the governor’s disaster declaration, and 31 of those were inoperable.

State Capital Highlights
By Ed Sterling

Special day is proclaimed
Gov. Abbott proclaimed Sept. 12 as “Hand-In-Hand Day” and encouraged Texans to keep “the true nature of Texans on full display” by continuing to help hurricane victims. He noted that Texans had responded generously. “But there is even more we can do,” he added. “Now that the rescues are over, the response must continue. Thousands of Texans still need our help. ... At this time, I encourage my fellow Texans to consider the many ways they can extend their hand of support to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and show their generosity to those affected by Hurricane Irma.” Irma ravaged the Caribbean islands before striking Florida with catastrophic force as Texas and Louisiana reeled from Hurricane Harvey.

Executive order is issued
Many Texans found themselves unable to work and earn their usual paychecks because of Hurricane Harvey.

Gov. Abbott responded on Sept. 13 by issuing an executive order suspending the seven-day waiting period requirement imposed under the state’s labor law and immediately authorizing benefits to residents who became unemployed as a direct result of the natural disaster.

AG alleges price gouging
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Sept. 12 filed lawsuits against two gas stations and a motel, alleging unlawful price gouging while consumers were in need of fuel, shelter and other essentials as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

“It’s unconscionable that any business would take advantage of Texans at their most vulnerable: those who are displaced from their homes, have limited resources and are in desperate need of fuel, shelter and the basic necessities of life,” Paxton said.

“Texas has tough price-gouging laws, and my office will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute cases arising from Hurricane Harvey.”

Texans in affected counties who believe they’ve been scammed or price-gouged may call the Consumer Protection Hotline, (800) 621-0508, or send a message to consumeremergency@oag.texas.gov.

Straus issues list of charges
Texas House Speaker Joe Straus on Sept. 14 directed the House committees on Appropriations, Public Education and Natural Resources to begin studying issues related to Hurricane Harvey and state preparations for future natural disasters.

Findings from the committees’ studies will figure into deliberations in the next regular legislative session, which will begin in January 2019.

“The importance of getting these issues right when we meet again demands that we start working on them now,” Straus wrote in a letter to the committees. “I also hope you’ll point us in a direction that will lead to new and innovative solutions, even as we confront familiar challenges.”


AG cheers election ruling
Attorney General Paxton released a statement on Sept. 12 after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked two lower-court rulings that recently invalidated parts of Texas’ House and congressional maps.

The high court rulings should enable Texas to continue to use maps that the state used in the last three election cycles, Paxton said.

★

LETTERS FROM THE CONSTABLE

By Pct. 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton



Be aware of contractors fraud

Harris County Constable Sherman Eagleton has worked tirelessly with the community aiding in disaster recovery for those victimized by Hurricane Harvey. Constable Eagleton wants the citizens of Harris County to be aware of contractors who will prey on the community during these difficult times. We hope in our efforts to protect our citizens that all suspicious and fraudulent activity would be reported in a timely manner to Harris County Pct.3 Constable’s Office.

The Harris County Pct. 3 Constable’s Office has made a list of items citizens should follow in protecting themselves from fraud.

Licenses: Ask to see a contractor’s required state or local licenses, and write down the license numbers. Also ask contractors for proof that they have liability and workers compensation insurance.

Signed contract: Get a signed contract before work begins. But don’t sign any contract with blanks. A dishonest contractor could fill in unfair or fraudulent terms later.

No advance payment: Don’t pay a contractor in full before work begins, or before it’s finished. The contractor could disappear with your money, leaving your repair job unfinished. Normally you should only pay about 20 percent or less upfront.

No cash: Never pay in cash; pay only with check or credit card. A contractor who demands cash may be trying to avoid paying taxes or buying legally required insurance.

Repairs insured: Check with your insurance company to make sure your policy covers the repairs. Also have your insurance adjuster estimate the damage and probable cost to repair. This will give you a reliable basis for negotiating repairs with contractors.

Inspect damage: If practical, have an adjuster from your insurance company inspect your damage before repairs begin.

Signing off: Sign the certificate of job completion only when all repairs are finished to your satisfaction, and per your signed contract.

Call Pct. 3: Contact your state insurance fraud bureau and local office of consumer affairs right away if you suspect a repair scam. Please report any suspicious or fraudulent contractors to dispatch 281-427-4791 and Crime Tip Line 832-927-8477.

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LIFESTYLE

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Czech Fest



Sacred Heart Catholic Church Altar Society showing one of the four quilts that will be auctioned at the 77th Annual Czech Festival on Sunday, October 1, at the Crosby Fairgrounds. Pictures left to right are: Josephine Svoboda, Katie Hanus, Sue Matthews, Kathy Roder, Merlinda Canada and Marilyn Sikora. The Altar Society makes four quilts each year and hand quilts them throughout the year. For more information on the Czech Festival, call 281-328-4871.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Isaiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?

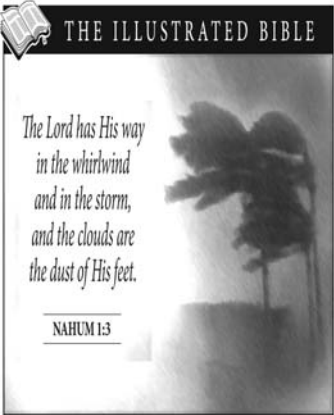
2. Whose first chapter begins, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus"? Matthew, Luke, John, Acts

3. From Acts 9, where did Peter cure Aeneas? Tyre, Neapolis, Lydda, Gibeon

4. As found in Numbers 20, where did Aaron die? Mount of Olives, Pisgah, Mount Hor, Gilboa

5. From Acts 24, what was Felix's wife, Drusilla? Pharisee, Gentile, Greek, Jewess

6. In 2 Kings 1, what Philistine city worshipped Baalzebub? Ekron, Succoth, Gomorrah, Antipatris
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Acts; 3) Lydda; 4) Mount Hor; 5) Jewess; 6) Ekron



Charity events rescheduled due to Hurricane Harvey

HIGHLANDS & CROSBY – This year annual events have had to be cancelled or rescheduled due to Hurricane Harvey. The process is still on-going but the majority of events have been set for time and location, now.

Saturday, September 30, is the Eastside Veteran's Car Show at Crosby Middle School behind the school and in the parking lot before the football field it all begins at about 8 and runs until about 3 p.m..

That night, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Crawfish Shack the Crosby Education Foundation is having their Annual Teacher's Grant Award Dinner.

The following morning, Oct. 1, is the heritage tradition of the Czech Festival to benefit Sacred Heart Catholic Church. It is the 77th and begins at the Crosby Fairgrounds at 11:30 a.m. Take your pick this year between barbecue with sausage dinners and tamale dinners. Then treat yourself to kolaches or other home made pastries. The Czech music and dance is always a treat as well as the live auction. Sacred Heart can be reached at (281) 328-4871.

The next Saturday, Oct. 7, Highlands Horizons is hosting a parade at 10:00 a.m. to feature contestants from the Miss Highlands and Highlands Junior Miss Beauty Pageant.

The following Saturday, Oct. 14 has by far the most entries of any this year. The morning begins with the Jared Jamail Golf Tournament at Stonebridge in Newport. This year a lucky hole in one golfer could win a new car from Turner Chevrolet in Crosby.

The Jamail tourney has become famous for providing scholarships to Crosby students to continue their education but this year, owing to the hurricane, it will also grant funds for those hardest hit by the hurricane in Crosby and in Kingwood.

The same day, at 2 and 7 p.m. the Miss Highlands Pageant will begin. This year's event is to be held at Highlands Junior School.

Meanwhile in Crosby, the Cody Stephens Memorial, GBOGH fundraiser to provide EKG screenings to first time athletes begins at 7:00 p.m. This event has been the gala event of August before but had to be pushed back due to the hurricane and pushed up due to the availability of the David H. McNerney American Legion Hall Post 658. Scott Stephens here is questing for the upgrade of testing first year athletes for heart conditions to include the two centuries old stethoscope and now a modern electrocardiogram analysis. All this predicated upon the loss of his son, Cody Stephens to sudden death a heart condition too often the first symptoms of which is death. Stephens has for four years now taken his case to the Texas State Legislature for legislation to incorporate the new machine.

Eastside Veterans are still planning to have their Veterans Fete and parade on November 11, the historical day that World War I ended a Century ago.

The Highlands Jambo-ree has been moved back until Dec. 2

What the tide brought in



Appearing on Galveston Beach Sept. 14, this unidentified creature is being studied.

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY

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John 7:38

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but wisdom is found in

those who take advice.

God is our refuge

and strength, a

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in trouble

Psalm: 46:1

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2017 on October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, Texas 77530 .Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Pete Brady, Bill Hamblen, R.L. McRae & Jimmy Ramsey

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Jimmy Smith

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2016 Last Year	2017 This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.366/\$100	\$0.366/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$ 88,239	\$ 94,055
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average taxable value	\$ 88,239	\$ 94,055
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 322.95	\$ 344.24
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$21.29
and percentage of increase (+/-)		6.59%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Mike Arterburn, Tax Assessor-Collector
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ROMANS 8:18

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

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "What is Common Sense and does it still exist?"

The Death of Common Sense
Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:
Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
Why the early bird gets the worm;
Life isn't always fair,
And maybe it was my fault.
Common sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults are in charge not children). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of an 8 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.
Common sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common sense was preceded in death, by
His parents, truth and trust
His wife, discretion
His daughter, Responsibility
His son, reason.
He is survived by his 4 step-brothers
I know my rights
I want my rights
I want it now
I'm a victim.
Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you're struggling to understand all of this...that's alright...it's just Common Sense.

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. Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

Channelview High School students earn top awards for rocket launch

Students in Alan Stone's Aerospace Engineering class at Channelview High School are being recognized for achieving the top level of performance in a statewide STEM education program.

The award is presented to schools that design, build, and launch a rocket that meets 100 percent of the standards of one of the levels in the SystemsGo program. Channelview was one of only six schools honored for the highest level of achievement.

"We are very proud of these students and their dedication that they have put into preparing for this competition," said Robert Laird, Channelview High School principal. "Being named as one of the top teams shows that their knowledge and attention to detail truly made an impression on others."

SystemsGo is a four-year STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) curriculum that uses project-based learning to stimulate workplace skills.

"Our students have put



Students in Channelview High School's Aerospace Engineering class prepare their "Red Scare" rocket for launch during the SystemsGo state competition recently.

in long hours to make sure that our rocket performs at its highest level," Stone said. "These types of projects require students to put of all of the STEM concepts they have learned into practice. Seeing the end result of what they've created and the rocket taking flight is simply amazing."

The Channelview students participated at the Tsiolkovsky level of competition, which requires their rocket to loft a one-pound payload one mile high. Successful teams met the

Martin Partida, Jr., Matthew Lawrence Ritter, Sebastian Benavides, Esteban Cruz, Jose Antonio Escobedo, Freddy Aguirre, Alyssabeth Beret Castillo, Alexis Ayana Plunkett and Mitzi Tranquilino Torres.

"We congratulate all teachers and students that participated in this competition for reaching their respective goals," said Rebekah Hyatt, program director of the SystemsGo program. "This not only confirms the ability of high school students to design, build, and launch a vehicle according to strict principles, but also shows their hard work."

As students advance through the SystemsGo program, they begin by building small model rockets as they learn the principles of flight. The program has been featured on NBC Nightly News, is endorsed by NASA and certified by The Space Foundation. It is now used in more than 50 high schools in Texas, New Mexico, and Oregon.

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE Grand opening unveils state-of-the-art industrial education facility

HOUSTON – San Jacinto College marked the grand opening of the new Center for Industrial Technology (CIT) on the College's North campus, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017. More than 100 guests, including faculty and staff, elected officials, industry partners and community members, attended the event.

The facility is located front and center on the College's North campus at 5801 Uvalde Rd., in Houston. It is a location that speaks to the increase in demand of skilled workers in all areas industrial technology.

"This state-of-the-art facility is a direct response



San Jacinto College marked the grand opening of the new Center for Industrial Technology (CIT) on the college's North campus, Tuesday, August 15, 2017.


Gentlemen, start her engine




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Industrial Education,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to industry need,” said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. “We have a strong economy in the Gulf Coast region and we understand the importance of supporting our industry partners to fill the workforce pipeline. This facility will help incumbent workers get the credentials they need to keep our region’s economy strong, while training new workers to meet industry demand.”

The grand opening featured remarks from Dr. Hellyer; Dr. Bill Raffetto, provost; Mark Johnson, dean of business and technology; and Dr. Sallie Kay Janes, associate vice chancellor of continuing professional development.

The \$36 million, 114,000 square foot center features technologically advanced facilities for welding, pipefitting, electrical technology, air conditioning, diesel technology, engineering design graphics, construction management and sheet metal and advanced manufacturing.

Through support from

industry, San Jacinto College is able to offer some of the “finest facilities in the state, if not the country,” according to Johnson.

In collaboration with International Trucks of Houston, the diesel technology department recently purchased a 2012 Navistar Prostar 18-wheeler. This new truck allows students to learn how to troubleshoot advanced electrical issues that many diesel engine industry professionals encounter.

Both the commercial air conditioning and pipefitting technology programs have four-course occupational certificates that allow students to become employable in only one semester. Employment for graduates is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024. Median pay is currently \$50,823 per year in the Gulf Coast region according to 2016 data from the Texas Workforce Commission. Many pipefitting students have been recipients of scholarships through a generous

gift from PVF Roundtable that offers them \$500 upon enrollment and \$500 upon certificate completion.

Electrical technology has three state-of-the-art labs that include a hands-on wiring lab, a motor control lab with 20 computers containing CAD software and a PLC skills lab with programmable logic controllers.

The San Jacinto College welding technology program is the largest technical program in the business and technology division. With four full-time and nine part-time instructors, the College enrolls more than 600 students in any given term. The CIT welding facility has 120 welding stations, most equipped with Lincoln Electric welding machines and a state-of-the-art Lincoln Real Weld diagnostic tool, that provides students with real-time data to make them more efficient welders.

Each of these programs are supported by industry partners and continue to grow in demand.

Flood scenes from the North Shore



‘WELCOME TO HOUSTON’ says the sign on this I-10 Motel, now closed for repairs. The parking lot is paved with mud, the interior furnishing piled outside.



HUNDREDS OF HOMES along Greens and Goodyear Bayous had 4’ to 8’ of water inside their homes, with furniture and wallboard torn out and placed curbside.

EPA tours Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



At the end of the on-site tour, Pruitt was able to talk with local environmentalists Scott Jones of GBF and Jackie Young of THEA, who explained their concerns about leaving the toxic waste in place with only a cap to protect future containment. A complete removal of the waste material is favored by local residents and recommended in the last EPA report, he was told.

brane, Pruitt said “When you have a temporary situation like this, when you take rock and put it on top of a site to secure it, you have a big enough storm, something like this, that could cause a disruption of that rock and a release could occur. We pray that didn’t happen here. That’s what we are testing.”

Pruitt was able to see the 1/3 of the material that is above the waterline, but 2/3 of the toxic waste remain below, with its condition of containment not really known. Days after Pruitt left the site, divers were still in the river probing the cap’s condition below the waterline.

After walking the site, and viewing the extent of the problem, Pruitt said he would take quick action, but did not indicate which “permanent solution”

he favored. The EPA staff has recommended complete removal of the toxic material, which might mean as many as 17,000 truckloads hauled off the site, a project that will take over a year and cost up to \$60 million dollars. However, another group (San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution) has recommended to the EPA that they build a permanent concrete cap, with administrative controls for the next 75 years.

Pruitt said “Our team at Region 6, the EPA has really each year had to come in here and provide some kind of remedial effort to the site -- that’s not good. You don’t want that and that’s absent a hurricane. So as we look to answers here, they need to be permanent, they need to provide confidence with the people of this area that it’s going to be for the long haul and we fix this situation, so that anxiety goes away.”

Environmentalist activists Scott Jones of GBF and Jackie Young of THEA were pleased that Pruitt had visited the site, witnessed the problem first-hand, and promised a quick solution.

Jones said “He said he would expedite the decision. EPA staff has already said removal is the right course.”

Jackie Young cautioned that “As long as the waste pits stay in the river, our residents won’t feel safe, especially in the storm situations that we have had recently. Administrator Pruitt made it clear he understands that.”

Pruitt was able to tour some of the other 42 Superfund Sites in Harris County during his visit.

The final ROD (Record of Decision) for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site is due to be announced before the end of the year.



During the on-site inspection, Pruitt and his group were able to see sights such as this rock cover and geotech membrane, pushed back by the force of the river, and exposing the material contained underneath. Tests are planned to learn if any toxic waste was able to escape from several similar areas. Drone photos showed the site with a number of areas opened like this.



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