

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

GALENA PARK Mayor's son pleads Guilty

Sergio Jesus Moya, 27, the son of Galena Park mayor Esmeralda Moya, pleaded Guilty last Wednesday, Aug. 31 to three charges of pos-



SERGIO MOYA AT COURT WITH ATTORNEY LEWIS

session of child pornography. Moya until now had maintained his innocence. He was arrested by a Houston Police Department task force at his home last year, on May 29, 2015.

Since that time, his trial on these charges has been continually postponed or reset by his attorney, Chip Lewis, in the Harris County Criminal Court with Judge Thomas Brock, Jr. presiding. His bail while he was free the last 15 months had been set at \$70,000 for the three offenses combined. Moya was observed at a back-to-school health fair event in Galena Park park, near where children were present. This was a possible violation of the terms of his bail, but his attorney Chip Lewis said "we believe this attack is politically motivated, and contend that Mr. Moya did not violate his bond."

Moya now faces a presentencing investigative hearing on Tuesday, November 22, prior to his final sentence.

3 School superintendents update Rotary

By GILBERT HOFFMAN

North Shore Rotary was informed of the State of the School Districts in the area, by the three superintendents of Galena Park, Channelview, and Sheldon. The talks took place at the regular weekly luncheon of the club, at the Holiday Inn in Channelview last Thursday, Sept. 1.

Channelview superintendent Greg Ollis said there was a new motto at CISD, "One Passion - One Dream - One Heartbeat." Ollis stated that the district had grown, to 9500 students, 1292 employees on 13 campuses.

For purposes of state funding, the district is classified as not affluent. 80%



SUPERINTENDENTS speaking to the North Shore Rotary were Sheldon ISD's King Davis, Galena Park ISD's Angi Williams, and Channelview ISD's Greg Ollis. At right, Rotary president Kim Gonzales awards each speaker the traditional "Gold Rimmed Cup" as a thank you.

of the students are enrolled in free or reduced rate lunches, and 40% for free breakfast. The district budget for this year will be \$78 million, and the tax rate has decreased in 2 of the last 3 years.

Referring to a favorable graduation rate of 89.6%, Ollis said that "we changed the culture of what went on in our schools."

Advanced programs include Modified Early College, Dual credit, college forward, AP exams, and OnRamps with UT Austin. All elementary schools teach dual languages.

Channelview is proud that they have a Gates Scholar, Christian Meza,

See 3 SUPERS, p. 3

Drug disposal available at Walgreens

NORTH CHANNEL – The problem of drug disposal, and possible misuse of available drugs in the home, just got easier with a Disposal Box available at the Walgreens store on Uvalde.

At a dedication ceremony last Thursday, Sept. 1, Congressman Gene Green and representatives of Walgreens spoke and demonstrated how to use the Disposal facility.

Green is ranking member of the subcommittee on Health for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over federal health programs.

In his remarks, Green noted the large number of flu shots donated by Walgreens during the school immunization day at North Shore and Galena Park. He noted the problem of drug overdose, where every 12 minutes



TO DEDICATE THE NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF FACILITY, present at the Walgreens on Uvalde Road were Congressman Gene Green, center, and L to R, Walgreen Executives Stephen Johnson, Carole Hardin-Oliver, Roy Armstrong, Monica Orzabel, and Chris Magee. At the right can be seen the Drop Box in the pharmacy area.

someone in America dies of an overdose. He said that proper disposal, such as in this Kiosk, will help solve the problem.

Walgreen's representatives also spoke. Regional VP Stephen Johnson said that there were 18 Disposal Kiosks in the Houston area, and there would be more. To date, there are 53 Medication Disposal Kiosks in Texas. Nearby locations include Tidwell Road, West Road, Old Spanish Trail, and Buffalo Speedway. The Sheriff's office also provides a similar dropoff in Aldine.

Spokesperson Carole Hardin-Oliver also pointed out that Walgreens is involved in providing an antidote to opioid overdoses, naloxone, without a prescription at all their pharmacies. This medicine, and instructions on how to use it, are expected to save many lives, she said.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Dr. Williams named a finalist for Texas Superintendent of the Year

Houston-- Dr. Angi Williams, superintendent of Galena Park Independent School District, has been named a finalist for the 2016 Superintendent of the Year sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards.

The Superintendent of the Year award recognizes exemplary superintendents for their excellence and achievement in educational leadership. Candidates were chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving educational quality, ability to build effective employee relations, student performances and commitment to public involvement in education.

In June, Dr. Williams was named 2016 Region 4 Superintendent of the Year and qualified for Texas Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Williams traveled to Austin last month to be interviewed on issues such as advocacy for public education, recruitment and retention of high quality educators, programs and initiatives that positively affect student growth and steps to measure continu-



Dr. Angi Williams, Galena Park ISD Superintendent

ous improvement were targeted.

The state selection committee cited Dr. Williams' emphasis on the importance of teaching from the "crib to college" and her belief that every educator

has to be the best every single day to ensure success for all students.

The Superintendent of the Year will be announced on September 23 in Houston at the TASA/TASB Convention.

NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER

Port of Houston helps drive the Houston economy

By Gilbert Hoffman

Activities at the Port of Houston were the subject of the talk last Friday, at the North Channel Chambers monthly luncheon. The guest speaker was Leslie Herbst, Community Relations Manager for the Port of Houston Authority.

Herbst reviewed the history of the Port, with antique photos of some of the first facilities and loads. The Port recently celebrated its 100th birthday, she said. Congressman Thomas Bell brought representatives from Congress to the Ship Channel area in 1912, and got federal money to dredge and expand the facility into a deep water port. Bell is also known for the city named for him, Tomball. The original channel was dredged to 25' depth, adequate for ships of the day. It was officially opened by the president in 1914.

Herbst said that the Port is one of the four pillars of the Houston Economy, along with NASA and the oil and gas industry.

In 1956 a revolution occurred, as the first container loads made their way up the channel.



PORT OF HOUSTON spokesperson Leslie Herbst

The Ship Channel is home to over 150 terminal companies, and 8 terminals that belong to the Port Authority. It is said that over one million jobs in the region are a result of activity at the Port.

To keep up with the expansion of container business, and the new SuperMax ships crossing the Panama Canal, the Port has installed four SuperMax cranes at Barbers Cut, and plans on 4 more at the Bayport terminal before the end of the year.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE SHIP CHANNEL, AS IT APPROACHES THE I-610 EAST BRIDGE.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crosby - Huffman Chamber of Commerce News

Car & Bike Show



***Raffles *50/50 Drawing *Door Prizes *Trophies**
Hosted By: Century 21 Realty Partners
Benefiting: Easter Seals Greater Houston
Location: 24405 E. Lake Houston Pkwy. Huffman, TX 77336
Date/Time: Sept. 10th 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Pre-Registration: \$20 Registration at Event: \$25

Questions? Call 281-594-3603

Turn It Blue

For Our First Responders



Weekend of September 10-11, 2016

Please show your support for all of our first responders by decorating your home, office or even your car with the color **BLUE**

Buy a blue lightbulb for your front porch and let it shine!
We Support our First Responders and hope You will too.

Picnic In The Park!

Come out and enjoy homestyle hamburgers on the grill, with all the fixins! Courtesy of your Board of Directors. September 15th, @ 11:30 a.m. til 1:00p.m. Crosby Park, 419 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532

In case of rain, we will move to the Crosby Community Center.

The Picnic is free, but please register so we will know how many hamburgers to cook! You can register by emailing chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org, call 281-328-6984 or stop by the office!

LAKE HOUSTON CRAFT & CONSUMER EXPO



Vendor Info & Liability Release
Hargrave High School
Saturday, September 24, 2016
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Booth Vendor Fees - \$75 Non - Chamber Members / \$50 Members / \$25 Non-Profit

1. Booth spaces are 10' X 10'. Each booth provided on a first request basis at no additional charge.
2. Booth spaces must be paid in full to reserve your space, at which time the space will be assigned.
3. All vendors responsible for their own tables/chairs/booth contents.
4. All Vendors are required to remove a door prize and have it announced with the DJ at 2:30 p.m.
5. Vendors are responsible for breakdown and clean up of their space immediately following the event but will not be allowed to start breaking down until 3:00 p.m.
6. Set up time will be from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



The Crosby Huffman Chamber invites you to "A Night at the Races"

Saturday, October 22, 2016
Location: Crawfish Shack
5822 FM 2300, Crosby, TX 77532
Tickets are Free
Doors open at 5:00pm



An action packed, heart pounding, video taped horse racing event
Admission includes Dinner, Drinks and \$10.00 in play money
Horse Racing, Auction, Kentucky Derby Hot Contest for Ladies, and more!!!

Purchase a Horse & Jockey: Cost \$25 and you have fun naming!
Purchase a Race: Cost \$100 and you get ad in Program!
Reserve a Table \$50

SPONSORSHIPS



Triple Crown: \$1500-United Community Credit Union
Kentucky Derby: \$1000 Auction Sponsor, 2 Tables, \$200 in play money
Preakness: \$500, 1 Table, \$100 in play money
Belmont: \$250, 1 Table, \$50 in play money



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Open Enrollment in Texas Tuition Promise Fund began Sep. 1

(AUSTIN) — Open enrollment in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund®, the state's prepaid college tuition program, begins today, Sept. 1, and runs through Feb. 28, 2017. Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds families that the Texas Tuition Promise Fund offers parents and loved ones the chance to prepay a child's education at Texas public colleges and universities at today's prices.

"Giving your child the opportunity to pursue a college education is one of the most important decisions you can make for your family," Hegar said. "A Texas Tuition Promise Fund account is a good way to start paying for future college expenses. The sooner you start, the more affordable a Texas public college education can be."

Participants in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund purchase prepaid "tuition units" that can later be used toward undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities. Prices are based on 2016-17 academic year costs for the state's public colleges and universities.

Type I units, priced for undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at the most expensive Texas public

four-year university, cost \$135.22 per unit.

Type II units, based on the weighted average cost of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees across all Texas public four-year schools, cost \$94.66 per unit.

Type III units, priced at the weighted average cost of in-district tuition and school-wide required fees across all Texas public two-year community colleges, cost \$23.89 per unit.

Under the plan, 100 units equal roughly one academic year consisting of 30 semester hours of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at the Texas public school that most closely matches the unit's pricing base. Participants can purchase up to 600 Type I units — approximately six academic years — or the dollar equivalent of Type II or III units.

The plan's payment options include lump sum payments, installment payments that include 8 percent interest or a pay-as-you-go option that allows participants to gradually add more units when the family budget allows. Payments can be as low as \$15 after an account is established by purchasing at least one unit. Enrollment requires a one-time application fee of

\$25.

For more information about the prepaid college tuition program, including a calculator that provides information on the type and number of units currently needed for any Texas public college or university, go to TuitionPromise.org or call 1-800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

Purchasers should carefully consider the risks, administrative fees, service and other charges and expenses associated with the contracts, including plan termination and decreased transfer or refund value. The Plan Description and Master Agreement contains this and other information about the Plan and may be obtained by visiting the website or calling 1-800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5. Purchasers should read these documents carefully before purchasing a contract. Participation in the plan does not guarantee admission to any college or university.

Comments or complaints may be forwarded to the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Program, Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts at P.O. Box 13407, Austin, Texas 78711-3407, or by calling 512-936-2064.

GOT TO HAVE IT!

Shopping Extravaganza

September 17, 2016
Hours: 10am-4pm

Baker Road Baptist Church
900 W. Baker Rd.
Baytown, TX.

Intersection of Garth Rd. & Baker Rd.

100+ Booths
Free parking & Entry
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SCHOOL NEWS

First Day of School at Galena Park ISD



On the first day of school, Mr. Rey's third grade class at Cimarron Elementary got a huge surprise from a group of United Airlines employees! Their classroom has been transformed to look like the inside of an airplane presented by United Airlines. The students were greeted by flight attendants and were presented with a "passport" as they entered the classroom. Mr. Rey was sponsored by United Airlines in the Let's Fly Back into Learning program. Their first stimulated trip was to Cancun, Mexico! We can't wait to see where they are off to next!

Galena Park ISD announces campuses Open Houses

Williamson Elementary, Tice Elementary, Jacinto City Elementary, Pyburn Elementary, North Shore Elementary, Cloverleaf Elementary and Woodland Acres Elementary Open House will be on September 15 at 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Galena Park Elementary, MacArthur Elementary, Cimarron Elementary and Purple Sage Elementary Open House will be on September 15 at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sam Houston Elementary, Williamson Elementary and Normandy Crossing Elementary Open House will be on September 15 at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Green Valley Elementary Open House will be on September 15 at 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Harvard Elementary Open House will be on September 15 at 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Gerald D. Cobb Open House-Teams C,A,G on September 13 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Teams O,U,R,S on September 15 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cunningham Middle School

Open House will be on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Galena Park Middle School Open House will be on September 14 at 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

North Shore Middle School Open House will be on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Woodland Acres Middle School Open House will be on September 22 at 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

North Shore 9th Grade Campus Open House will be on September 12 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Galena Park High School Open House will be on September 19 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

North Shore Senior High School Open House will be on September 19 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ECHS Open House will be on September 13 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Zotz Open House will be on September 22 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ACE Open House will be on September 22 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Employee burned at Channelview plant

CHANNELVIEW, Texas – An employee suffered burns last Tuesday morning at Energy Investment Fund.

LyondellBasell spokesperson released the following statement:

"Early yesterday morning a worker was injured at a cogeneration facility owned and operated by Energy Investment Fund, which is near our LyondellBasell Channelview facility off of Sheldon Road. Our emergency response team from the Channelview facility provided assistance until the Energy Investment Fund worker was transported by life flight to a hospital. Any further questions regarding this worker should be directed to Energy Investment Fund."

3 Supers,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who is in the 1% of 53,000 students that applied for this program. Channelview also has 700 students enrolled in athletics, and 600 in fine arts.

Sheldon Superintendent King Davis acknowledged that this was his first year, starting in January.

The motto for Sheldon is "Every Child, Every Day." He is administering a \$285 million bond issue, indicating how fast the district is growing. The bond will be used for a new replacement high school for C. E. King, and a new elementary #6. With a growth rate of 7% overall, and 12% at the high school level, the new schools are needed. The money will also be used for new buses and security upgrades, he said.

The district now have 8500 students, and this is expected to grow to 11,000 by 2023.

He has been able to balance the budget for the first time in three years. For state funding, Sheldon is classified as a wealthy district.

Galena Park superintendent Angi Williams spoke about the size of her district. It has 22,00 students, 3000 employees, and a budget of \$204 million.

She noted that their starting salaries are competitive with large districts around the city.

Advanced programs include Early college with San Jacinto College with 200 students enrolled, and dual credit with San Jacinto College. Students can get up to 24 hours of college credit in this program, saving them a great deal of money. Last year Galena Park ISD graduated 1500 seniors.

Galena Park ISD held a bond issue that passed, and the \$200 million is being used to rebuild and upgrade all 6 elementary schools.

Galena Park's two high school graduated 1068 from North Shore HS, and 446 from Galena Park HS.

CHANNELVIEW

Volunteers sought for Textbook Adoption Committees

The Channelview Independent School District is seeking volunteers to serve on this year's District Textbook Adoption Committees. This year, the following instructional materials for secondary students will be selected during Proclamation 2017: Career and Technical Education, Languages Other Than English, Special Topics in Social Studies, Algebraic Reasoning and Statistics.

The adoption committees will consist of district

personnel and parent volunteers working side-by-side to evaluate subject area materials and make recommendations for adoption and use by Channelview ISD. All volunteers will be asked to commit to attending all scheduled committee meetings. Meeting dates, times and locations will be established by each committee at a later date.

The number of committee members will be limited and the Superintendent has the final decision concerning committee member selection.

Channelview ISD values input from parents and community members in district decisions. With this in mind, please consider participating in the adoption process by serving as a member on one of the instructional materials committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Sandy Hartman, Curriculum & Instruction Administrative Assistant, at 281-452-8017.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 in THE JOYCE HENDRIX ESC BOARD ROOM

LOCATED AT 828 SHELTON RD. CHANNELVIEW, TX 77530. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax \$ 1.04 /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

School Debt Service Tax \$.356 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Approved by Local Voters

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations 2.4203 % increase or % (decrease)

Debt service % increase or 2.7814 % (decrease)

Total expenditures 1.7359 % increase or % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 3487222768	\$ 3658701096
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 18381672	\$ 29603152
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 2965637521	\$ 3111467770
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 15632318	\$ 25175397

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(18).
** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.01(217).
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 148,112,041.25

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.04000	\$.37500 *	\$ 1.415	\$ 4596	\$ 5093
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.09648	\$.33371 *	\$ 1.43019	\$ 4417	\$ 4935
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.04000	\$.356 *	\$ 1.39600	\$ 4423	\$ 4852

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 99820	\$ 110730
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 74813	\$ 82617
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.415	\$ 1.396
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1058.60	\$ 1153.33
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 94.73

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.396334. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.396334.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 27,854,565
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 13,639,241

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Active military, first responders to be honored

Channelview ISD will honor the services of area veterans, active military and first responders in a special halftime ceremony during the Channelview vs. Aldine Davis football game at 7 p.m., Friday, September 9 at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium.

For more information about the event, call the Channelview ISD Public Relations Office at 281-452-8080.

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.

San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Mr. Gatti's on Uvalde at noon.

Jacinto City Library programs

-Friday, Sep. 9, Clases de Inglés Usando Mango, 1 pm.
-Saturday, Sep. 10, Family Movie Theater, 12:30 pm.
-Monday, Sep. 12, ESL Discussion Class, 4 pm.
-Tuesday, Sep. 13, Toddler Time, 10:30 am; Children's Storytime, 11:30 am.
-Wednesday, Sep. 14, ESL Class (Clase de Inglés), 12:30 pm.
-Thursday, Sep. 15, Teen Board Games, 4 pm; Tex Mex Music Fiesta, 5:30 pm.

•FREE FLUE SHOTS: Walgreens will be administering free Flue Shors for ages 7 and up in the meeting room on Thursday, September 20 between 1 pm and 4 pm. No need to register.

NOTE: Will be suspending COMPUTER CLASSES at this location until further notice. There are free computer classes at the Galena Park Library, 713-450-0982 and North Channel Library, 281-457-1631.

Jacinto City Branch Library, 921 Akron, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. For more information on other programs, call 713-673-3237.

Galena Park Library Programs

-Thur., Sep. 8, Kid's Creations (Kick Off to Football Season), 4 pm.
-Sat., Sep. 10, Family Time: Game Boards, 3 pm.
-Tue., Sep. 13, Tween Squad, 4 pm.
-Wed., Sep. 14, Toddler Time, 10:30 am; Story Time:Fiesta, 11:30 am.
-Thur., Sep. 15, Kid's Creations: Hispanic Heritage-Fiesta, 4 pm.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

-Mon., Sep. 12, Coffee & Coloring, 4 pm.
-Wed., Sep. 14, Microsoft Word Básico II, 10:15 am; Microsoft Word Basics II, 1 pm; Get Active/Ativate, 4 pm.
-Sat., Sep. 17, Ask a Lawyer, 11 am.

All children programs require tickets. Tickets are free and available the Mody before the program at the front desk.

Galena Park Branch Library, 1500 Keene St., Galena Park, TX. For information on other programs, please call 713-450-0982.

OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

Make your family Emergency Plan today

Ensure that everyone in your household downloads the free FEMA app.

(NAPSI)—The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urges Americans to take a few simple actions to prepare for a wide array of hazards by developing a family emergency communication plan and downloading the FEMA app.

FEMA is encouraging people to take these actions in conjunction with America's PrepareAthon!SM, a grassroots, community-based campaign for action designed to increase preparedness and resilience.

One of the ways to protect your family and prepare for an emergency is to start with good communication. A family emergency communication plan is critical to making sure the entire family knows whom to contact, how to reach each other, and where to meet up in an emergency.

Visit ready.gov/prepare and download Be Smart. Take Part: Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan. Collect the information you need, decide on the places where you will meet in case of an emergency, share the information with your family and practice your plan. In addition:

- Create or update a wallet card with emergency numbers and an out-of-town point of contact. Make sure everyone in your family has their own

card to carry with them.

- Know your community's plans for evacuation and the evacuation route where you live.

Another way to protect your family is to ensure that everyone in your household downloads the FEMA app for disaster resources, weather alerts and safety tips. The app provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, tips on how to survive natural and manmade disasters, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations anywhere in the United States. In addition, with the app you can:

- Share disaster damage photos on a verified photo-sharing platform.
- Get directions to open shelters and find out where you can talk to FEMA in person.
- Receive reminders to check your smoke alarm and replace the batteries.

Download the FEMA app for free on the iTunes App Store and Google Play (available in English and Spanish).

Visit the America's PrepareAthon! website at ready.gov/prepare to download the Be Smart. Take Part: Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan and visit fema.gov/mobile-app for more information about the FEMA app.



Education chief announces fines assessed to testing service

AUSTIN — Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath on Aug. 23 announced the Texas Education Agency will fine the company that delivers and administers STAAR® — the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness — with \$5.7 million in liquidated damages.

Morath also directed the company, Austin-based Educational Testing Services, to invest \$15 million for a total of \$20.7 million. The \$20.7 million, according to the TEA, "addresses various logistical issues encountered by students and school systems during statewide STAAR administration in the 2015-2016 school year."

"I believe this combination of liquidated damages with an additional financial commitment from ETS reflects the correct balance of accountability for the recent past and safeguards for the future," Morath said in an Aug. 29 news release.

ETS holds the state contract for the administration of high-stakes testing for grades 3 through 8 and high school STAAR end-of-course exams. That contract was awarded in 2015.

Rep proposes alternatives

State Rep. Jason Isaac, R-Dripping Springs, on Aug. 29 called for reform "in light of more bad news about Texas' standardized testing system, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness."

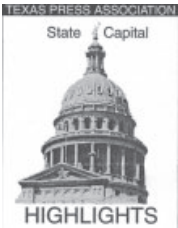
Isaac pointed to the \$20 million fine assessed to Educational Testing Services by the Texas Education Agency, which he said is "possibly the largest such fine in Texas history."

"I'm pleased that the Texas Education Agency has taken significant steps to improve STAAR, but it's clear there is still more work to be done. School districts should not be hampered by an inefficient and ineffective system. Adding a dose of free-market philosophy to education by allowing a variety of standardized test options

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



State Cemetery in Austin on Aug. 30.

Mrs. Laney is widely remembered as a driving force and champion in everything she undertook in her many private and official roles.

Revered lawmaker dies William McKinnie "Bill" Sims, 84, died Aug. 29. Sims, of Paint Rock, was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1983 and held office until 1997.

His Senate District 24 covered as many as 37 Central and West Texas counties and portions of others. He was considered a champion of farmers and ranchers. He served as president pro tempore of the Senate in the 72nd session of the Texas Legislature.

Grant money is available

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Aug. 26 announced the agency will accept grant applications for the Texas Clean Vehicle Fleet Program through Oct. 18.

The grants encourage businesses, governments and other entities to replace their large fleets of diesel-powered vehicles with alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles. Up to \$5.9 million is available to those that qualify.

Grant applicants must commit to replacing at least 20 diesel-powered vehicles with hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. More information is available at tergrants.org.

Salvinia campaign underway

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on Aug. 26 promoted Lake Dudes, a new, animated video series launched to capture the attention of boaters and enlist their help in stopping the spread of giant salvinia, an invasive waterweed that threatens to take over Texas lakes.

Lake Dudes is part of a campaign designed to remind boaters to "Clean, Drain and Dry" their boats, trailers and gear before traveling from one lake or river to another, because boats are the main way aquatic invasive species are spread.

The campaign also includes online and radio ads, billboards, gas station advertising, emails and social media as conduits.

In 2015, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$6.3 million to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the 2016-2017 biennium to manage aquatic invasive species, an increase from \$1.1 million in the previous two-year funding cycle.

Teaching your child healthy habits

(NAPSI)—If you're like most parents, you work hard to make sure your children eat their veggies, brush their teeth and always say "please" and "thank you," but one important habit is often forgotten.

Experts advise parents to teach children the importance of smiling. Smiling can positively affect you and the people around you, and lower stress, which should improve your child's quality of life.

What You Can Do

Here's a look at a few of the habits that can be crucial to ensuring children enjoy a healthy lifestyle:

1. Setting a regular bedtime: According to the National Sleep Foundation, children need at least 10 to 12 hours of sleep. By the age of 2, children have spent more time asleep than awake. Why is this? Sleep is vital to children's development and lets them be alert, fresh and ready to learn every day. While bedtime tantrums can be frustrating, they may well be an indicator that your child needs sleep. Avoid active endeavors right before bed and replace them with 30 minutes of relaxing, quiet activities. This will encourage a healthy bedtime routine for kids and may help them to see the importance of a good night's sleep.

2. Keeping active: Encourage your children to play outside, join a team or take part in some other activity outside of school. This provides a great opportunity to meet and socialize with other kids they may not meet otherwise. Developing hobbies from a young age helps keep children busy and gives them a chance to learn beyond the classroom.

3. Eating fruits and vegetables: Reinforcing a healthy diet will improve your children's mood, health and even their smiles. Instilling a healthy diet early will create lifelong habits that will benefit your child for years to come.

4. Smiling more often: Teach your child the importance of proactive oral care to ensure fewer trips to the dentist and a bright, healthy smile for life. Getting your children to brush and floss twice a day may not be easy, but parents can ensure their kids have a complete oral care routine by using Sunstar GUM®'s suite of toothbrushes, toothpaste and flossers for kids featuring popular themes such as Crayola™, Power Rangers™, Dragons™ and Lalaloopsy™. The new kid's toothpaste collection lets kids add color to their brushing routine. You can find your child's favorite colorful toothpaste, toothbrushes and flossers in retailers such as Target and online at www.gumbrand.com.

5. Reading for pleasure: Encourage your kids to take a break from video games, social media and other distracting forms of technology and pick up a book instead. Reading for pleasure will help expand your children's imagination and develop their reading skills. Once their homework is complete, designate a daily "screen-free" hour or make it a family activity by reading a chapter or two together before bed each night.

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LIFESTYLE

Celebrate Reading with 1000 books before Kindergarten

Summer Reading may have come and gone, but families are invited to keep reading by joining the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at Sterling Municipal Library. The program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration will open September 6. The first 100 families to register will receive a free tote bag. Every child who registers will receive a special notebook and a chance to celebrate each 100 book milestone.

Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to during early childhood. Reading to children from an early age can help prepare children to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000 book goal in three years and provide their children with essential early literacy skills. There is even a free app available to make logging books easier than ever.

Children's Librarian Chazley Dotson described the program, "By celebrating reading accomplishments with families from a young age, we are encourag-



PHOTO CREDIT: CITY OF BAYTOWN
Damien Kohles demonstrates one of the ways families can celebrate reading milestones through the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program at Sterling Library.

ing children to make reading and learning a habit that lasts a lifetime."

For more information, call the library at 281-427-

7331 or visit our website at www.baytownlibrary.org. This program is free of charge thanks to a generous donation from ExxonMobil.

Better Business Bureau gives Rotary advice on scams and more...

HIGHLANDS – Candice Twyman, the Executive Director of the Houston Better Business Bureau, came to last week's Rotary luncheon with a long list of scams to be wary of, and some advice on how to protect yourself from losses.

In the 18 years that Candice has been with the BBB, she has seen people lose a lot of money in scams and frauds. The worst case, she said, was a woman who invested all her money with someone who disappeared, and she lost \$650,000.

Her best advice: call first, before you buy anything or sign anything. Check people with the BBB, or other references.

It is especially important after a natural disaster has occurred, when unscrupulous itinerant contractors show up, collect some money, and then disappear. Another bit of advice, don't do something you've never done before.

Check the BBB facebook page for information on scams operating in this area.

Some common scams are: Property Tax compa-



Candice Twyman of the Houston Better Business Bureau presents a talk on avoiding "scams" and other work of the BBB.

nies, who get you to sign an "evergreen" contract that never ends;

Grandparents scam, asking for money to help a needy child or parent; IRS calls, which are never legitimate and can be ignored. Don't send money, and don't return the call;

Door to Door scheme, to "update your security system." They come at night, work as a team, and either steal of get you to sign a contract which ends up having you pay for a sec-

ond security system;

Tech support on your computer. You get a message that someone, perhaps Microsoft, has detected a virus and you must take action. Sometimes you have to pay money to get rid of the message;

Letters sending you money, a check, which you can deposit, but you are asked to send back your own check. Meanwhile, the unsolicited check is no good and you lose.

over twenty years ago. The finish and the feathers were worn and faded, and they had even lost some of their original weight. However, as I handled these old pieces of workmanship, I noticed something. They had not lost the most important trait an arrow can have - they were still straight. Living your life for

Christ may wear you down at times. You may think you do not carry the influence or "weight" you once did. But whatever toll time may take, always line up with the Word of God. We have never lived in a day when straight with God was most important.

Hebrew 12:13 says, "Make straight paths for your feet..."

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the Book of Darius in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Philippians 4, what does the apostle Paul instruct us to do rather than

worry? Cry, Pray, Love, Talk
3. How long did the journey of Ezra take from Babylon to Jerusalem? 4 days, 4 months, 4 years, 40 years
4. What creature did the prophet Joel have a vision of? Locust, Flies, Viper, Leeches

5. From John 18, who asked, "What is truth"? Moses, Paul, Pilate, David
6. All of Job's children were killed in a ... ? Flood, Fire, Wind, Stampede

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Pray; 3) 4 months; 4) Locust; 5) Pilate; 6) Wind

★
LITTLE BIDDY BITS
By Danny Biddy

Stay Straight

I was looking at an old set of wooden arrows a man named Mark made

★
OBITUARIES

Jeffrey William Brown

Jeffrey William Brown, passed away at the Houston Methodist Hospital on August 31, 2016, with his family by his side. He is survived by his loving wife Annette; sons, Matthew and Jonathan; and brothers, Jay and Chris. Jeff was born in Glens Falls, New York, June 11, 1951 to Mina and Vernon Brown (both deceased) and he had a younger brother, Tim (deceased). Jeff and his



immediate family moved to Texas in 1980. He had recently retired as a Facilities Inspector at The University of Houston.

His family has requested a private service. Arrangements were entrusted by Chapel of The Pines and Sterling-White Cemetery, Highlands, Texas.

Mrs. Brown, would like to extend her gratitude to his family, friends, coworkers, and Houston Methodist Cancer Center for their compassion and constant support.

Jeff will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Student donates school supplies for needed classmates



Barbers Hill Primary School first-grader Gretchen Gilbert, pictured with counselor James Harris, donated school supplies she won during Vacation Bible school at Missouri Street Church of Christ this summer, for students in need at her campus. Gretchen won the supplies by bringing the most friends to Bible School.

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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

BUSINESS

Diamond Jim: "What's a 'Challenge Coin' and why is it important to some people?"



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Challenge coin
A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (often military-related), bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. Traditionally, they are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In addition, they are also collected by service members. In practice, challenge coins are normally presented by unit commanders in recognition of special achievement by a member of the unit. They are also exchanged in recognition of visits to an organization.

Origins
There are several stories detailing the origins of the challenge coin.

One such story is that the Roman Empire rewarded soldiers by presenting them with coins to recognize their achievements.

Another story dates challenge coins back to the origins of our country when some of our founding fathers were drafting the Articles of Confederation (the precursor documents to the Constitution for the United States of America). Since communication between the colonies was slow, to say the least, the brilliant men gathered in secret so that the British spies would not discover what the colonists were doing. To ensure that no spies were present during their many meetings, a coin was struck in very limited number and was issued to each man whose identity was verified. To gain entry into the meetings behind heavily fortified doors, the invited participants had to slide one of these coins through an opening in the door to someone waiting on the other side. Once the coin was acknowledged, the door was opened and the person was allowed inside. At the end of each meeting and before leaving the building, each person was re-issued one of the coins to be used for identity verification and access to the next meeting, and so on.

According to the most common story, challenge coins originated during World War I. Before the entry of the United States into the war in 1917, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he

wore about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallion, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification. He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished



through challenge in the following manner: a challenger would ask to see the medallion, if the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

Outside of the military
Challenge coins are also exchanged outside the military. NASCAR, the NFL, cadets of the Civil Air Patrol, Eagle Scouts and World Series of Poker all have their own challenge coins. They are also becoming popular with police departments, fire departments and fraternal organizations. In 2007, the Utah Symphony and Opera gave challenge coins to all of its staff and musicians, making it the first symphony organization in America to do so. Franklin Public School in Ontario has a coin that is given to graduates, featuring its mascot 'Frankie'. Many non-

profits, especially those with connections to the military, give challenge coins to donors to acknowledge their support of the organization.

Harley Owners Group
In 2009, the Harley Owners Group (HOG) created and made available its own challenge coin to Harley-Davidson motorcycle owners through the HOG members only website, stating: "Those who ride Harley-Davidson motorcycles share a bond in much the same way as those who have served their country with pride. Carrying a H.O.G. National Challenge Coin in your pocket, on your bike or off, is a meaningful way to show your pride of Harley-Davidson ownership—while also paying tribute to those who serve." The HOG National Challenge coin, measures 1.75 inches (44 mm) in diameter and is minted in US from solid brass alloy with an antique finish. The HOG eagle logo is stamped on the coin. The Harley-Davidson bar and shield logo encircled with the words "the official riding club of Harley-Davidson" is stamped on the back.

Pineforest Jewelry has a very nice selection of Challenge Coins on display and for purchase. They can even customize Challenge Coins just for you.

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

Make the most of gifts to grandchildren

ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

Did you know that National Grandparents Day is less than a week away? While this "Day" is not as widely known as Mother's Day or Father's Day, it is nonetheless important, as it recognizes the key role that grandparents play. If you are a grandparent yourself, you might expect some cards or phone calls or emails from your own grandchildren—but you will probably experience even greater enjoyment in the gifts you can give them. If you're thinking of making a financial gift, consider your options carefully.

To begin with, don't forget about your own needs. As much as you love your grandchildren, you can't afford to provide significant financial gifts to them at the expense of your own retirement savings or the resources you might need for health care or long-term care. So, review your budget to determine what you can afford to give. This amount may change year by year, depending on your circumstances, so you may want to review your potential gifts annually.

However, assuming you can afford to give regularly to your grandchildren, how should you go about it? Here are a few possibilities:

Establish a 529 plan. A college degree is a very good investment in your grandchildren's future—but higher education comes with high costs. If you want to help your grandkids go to college, you could establish a 529

plan. Earnings in a 529 plan can grow federal tax-free and will not be taxed when the money is taken out to pay for college. Plus, you may receive state tax incentives if you invest in your home state's 529 plan. (However, if withdrawals are not used for higher education expenses, the earnings portion is fully taxable and will incur a 10% penalty.)

Keep in mind, though, that a 529 plan could affect your grandchild's financial aid. While a 529 plan owned by a grandparents generally won't be reported as an asset under the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), withdrawals used for school will be treated as student income on the next year's FAFSA, and so could lower your grandchild's financial aid package. So you could wait for your grandchild's final year of college, when he or she won't be applying for future financial aid, before you allow withdrawals from the 529 plan. (You may want to discuss a 529 plan's potential financial aid impact with a financial aid professional.)

Contribute to a custodial account. You can give money to your grandchildren through a custodial account, known as UGMA or UTMA. These are irrevocable gifts that minors gain control of at the age of majority. Be aware, then, that once they get the money, they can do with it as they choose, and their choices may be far different from what you had intended.

Pay college bills directly. You can simply write a check to the college to help pay for your grandchild's expenses.

By making any of these gifts, you can help your grandchildren move forward through life—and their journey can provide you with the gifts of pride and joy.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Tax issues for 529 plans can be complex. Please consult your tax advisor about your situation. Edward Jones, its financial advisors and employees cannot provide tax or legal advice.

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"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District for **RFP 17-006 Investment Management Services** at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015 no later than September 21, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. CST. Submission guidelines may be obtained at <http://www.galenaparkisd.com/departments/purchasing/UpcomingBidsRFPs.htm>. Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY IS ACCEPTING "SEALED BIDS" FOR PROPOSALS TO CONSTRUCT OR RECONSTRUCT IT'S PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX. A RFP/RFQ IS AVAILABLE DETAILING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS. THE RFP/RFQ CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 713-674-8424 OR BY EMAILING RFP@jacintocity-tx.gov.

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED AT JACINTO CITY CITY HALL UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 AND WILL BE OPENED AND READ AT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AT 10301 MARKET ST. AT 6:00 P.M. ON SAID DATE. ALL BIDS SUBMITTED TO JACINTO CITY MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A BID BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF 5% OF TOTAL BID.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT JACINTO CITY CITY HALL, 1301 MERCURY DR. ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.. VENDORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 448,208; Estate of LARRY WAYNE HUTTON, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on August 17, 2016.

TIMMIE JEAN LINDSEY

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
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All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this September 1, 2016.

by WESTON
COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition (the "Coalition") will receive sealed bids at the office of RVI Planning + Landscape Architecture, 19 Briar Hollow Lane, Ste. 145, Houston, Texas 77027 for the construction of a park. Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a Cashier's Check (the "bid security") drawn for at least two percent (2%) of the total amount of the bid and made payable to the Coalition only. The successful bidder shall forfeit bid security to the Coalition as liquidated damages if it shall fail or refuse to enter into a proper contract for the project, including failure or refusal to furnish the Performance and Payment Bond required by the Contract. Bid security will be returned to all but the three (3) most qualified, lowest responsible bidders within five (5) days after the Bid Opening Time set forth below. Remaining bid security will be returned after execution of the Contract. The BIDS are due in duplicate at **2:00 P.M. (CST) on Wednesday, September 28, 2016. NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 2:00 P.M.** The Coalition is exempt from sales and use taxes, so such taxes should be excluded from BIDS.

A **MANDATORY PRE-BID** Conference will be held at 2:00 P.M. (CST) on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the site of the park at 641 Bradfield Road, Houston, Texas 77060. In case of inclement weather, the alternate location will be at indoor facilities at 16945 Northchase, Suite 1900, Houston, Texas 77060.

Bid Documents are available at RVI Planning + Landscape Architecture, 19 Briar Hollow Lane, Ste. 145, Houston, Texas 77027 during normal working hours Monday through Friday. Alternately, Bidders may obtain online access by contacting RVI Planning + Landscape Architecture, Robert Whittemore, rwhittemore@rviplanning.com. Online access will be provided to prime bidders only. All questions pertaining to this bid shall be directed to Robert Whittemore in writing at rwhittemore@rviplanning.com.

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NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE
2016 PROPERTY TAX RATES IN HARRIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 80

This Notice concerns 2016 property tax rates for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual 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 can start tax 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	\$ 682,669
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 0.00
Last year's total taxes	\$ 682,669
Last year's tax base	\$ 1,633,960,838
Last year's total tax rate	\$.041780/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 679,368
÷ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 1,642,431,776
= This year's effective tax rate (Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)	\$.041360/\$100

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 health care expenditures)	
÷ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 1,642,431,776
= This year's effective operating rate	\$.041360/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$.044660/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$ 0.00
= This year's total rollback rate	\$.044660/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease
If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 adopts a 2016 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$.041360 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2015 taxes by \$17,989.

SCHEDULE "A": Unencumbered Fund Balances
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:	General Fund
Balance:	\$1,155,000

SCHEDULE "B": Current Year Debt Service

The taxing 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).

2016 Debt Service: NONE

This Notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at:

Two Memorial City Plaza
820 Gessner, Suite 1710
Houston, Texas 77024

Name of Person preparing this Notice: JOHN W. PEELER, District Counsel

Date: August 30, 2016

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SPORTS

Texans enter 2016 season with high hopes:
Dallas counting on rookie QB to carry load while Romo mends

The NFL begins its 96th season on Thursday night, with a Super Bowl 50 rematch when the Carolina Panthers visit the defending champs, the Denver Broncos in prime time on NBC.

On Sunday and Monday, the league's 30 other teams make their season debuts with the Texans hosting the Bears at NRG Stadium, while the Cowboys host the Giants. The 2016 season will conclude on Feb. 5 at NRG Stadium, the site of Super Bowl LI. The Texans would love to be the first home team to host the ultimate game of the year and after an offseason that saw them upgrade their offense, they have as good of a shot as any team in the AFC to do just that.

The Houston front office provided head coach Bill O'Brien with the speed he has been asking for on offense and a strong-arm quarterback who can throw the ball down field. General Manager Rick Smith signed 6-7 quarterback Brock Osweiler and running back Lamar Miller as free agents. He then drafted speedy wide receivers Will Fuller (Notre Dame) and Braxton Miller (Ohio State) to give O'Brien the weapons he's needed on that side of the ball. If the preseason is any indication, it appears the moves could pay off handsomely when the games begin counting on Sunday when the Bears come to town.

The only down side to the preseason was the absence of both starting tackles, Duane Brown and Derrick Newton. Brown is still recovering from a quad injury sustained in the playoff loss to Kansas City, while Newton suffered a hamstring injury early in training camp. The Texans are hoping Newton is ready for the season opener, but it appears Brown won't be ready for the season opener.

Defensively, the Texans had the third-rated defense in the league in 2015 and 10 starters return. Defensive end J.J. Watt, the reigning Defensive Player of the Year, missed all of training camp rehabbing from back surgery. Watt has vowed he will be back for the season opener, but the Texans should be cautious and not rush him back. A back injury is nothing to trifle with, just ask the Cowboys!

On paper, this could be the best Texans team ever, but like they say, they don't play the games on paper. Houston fans should be optimistic about the upcoming season and if Osweiler is the real deal, 2016 could be a year to remember in the Bayou City.

Up I-45 optimism has been replaced with 'guarded' for the Cowboys heading into the 2016 season. After winning their first two games in 2015, the Cowboys lost 12 of their last 14 games after quarterback Tony Romo broke his collarbone in the second game of the season against the Eagles. Romo returned on Thanksgiving Day against Carolina and re-injured his collarbone, which ended his and the Cowboys season.

Romo worked hard in the offseason rehabbing and looked sharp in his first outing in the second preseason game against the Dolphins. But unfortunately in the third preseason game at Seattle, Romo broke a bone in his back and is expected to miss six to 10 weeks. That means the Dallas offense will be put in the hands of rookie quarterback Dak Prescott of Mississippi State. Prescott had an outstanding preseason, completing 39-50 passes for 454 yards and five touchdowns. He also rushed for two TDs against the Dolphins. Prescott gives the Cowboys a viable backup, one that haven't had in the past, but the preseason and the regular season are two very different animals. Prescott flourished against vanilla defenses during the summer, when the season opens on Sunday against the Giants, he'll be dealing with more exotic defenses. Owner Jerry Jones and head coach Jason Garrett seem confident the 6-2, 226-pounder rookie will be able to handle the pressure. We shall see. It helps that he will be protected by the best offensive line in the league and has an outstanding rookie running back in Ezekiel Elliott to keep defenses honest.

Elliott was taken fourth overall in the 2016 draft and could be a special back. He is a true three-down back and should get plenty of work starting on Sunday. Dallas also has a proven veteran in Alfred Morris to spell Elliott.

The Cowboys also have a pretty fair, and healthy, wide receiver in Dez Bryant, who looked like his old self in preseason after missing a number of games last year with a foot injury.

While the offense should be OK, it's the defense that is the biggest question mark heading into the 2016 season. That unit gave up way too many big plays last year and enters the season without the services of its two starting defensive ends. DeMarcus Lawrence and Randy Gregory will be suspended for the first quarter of the season after violating the NFL's substance abuse



policy. Prescott and Co. will have to outscore teams while the defense finds its footing. That's easier said than done in the NFL.

The one thing going for the Cowboys is the fact they play in the worst division in the NFC. If they can split their first four games or go 3-1 against the Giants, (at) Washington, Chicago and (at) San Francisco, Dallas could be back in the playoff hunt when and if Romo returns.

For the time being, Dallas fans will have to trust in Dak! It should be another wild and wooly season in the NFL. The AFC appears wide open, while the NFC is loaded with teams capable of winning the SB LI (Green Bay, Carolina, Seattle, Arizona and Minnesota).

So, without further ado, let's see what this week's schedule has to offer.

NFL

Carolina at Denver: Nothing like starting the 2016 season with a rematch of last year's Super Bowl as the Carolina Panthers will be looking to make amends for the 24-10 loss they suffered to Gary Kubiak's Broncos in Santa Clara in February. Things are a lot different this time around for the Broncos. Future Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning retired and his back up is now the Texans starting quarterback.

The offense is now in the hands of Trevor Siemian, a seventh-round draft choice in 2015 from Northwestern who has all of one snap in his brief NFL career, and that was a kneel down! Siemian did use the year to learn under Manning and he did win a three-man battle for the starting gig over veteran Mark Sanchez and rookie Paxton Lynch. The Broncos still have a majority of their offensive weapons back (wide receivers Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders and running

back C.J. Anderson) to help Siemian adjust to his new role. The Broncos also return a defense that gave Carolina QB Cam Newton fits in the Super Bowl. Newton wants to make up for that embarrassing loss, so expect him to come out firing on Thursday night. Newton gets his top wide receiver back in Kelvin Benjamin, who missed the 2015 season with a knee injury. Benjamin will give Newton one more weapon to throw to, which is not good news for the rest of the NFC. Look for the Panthers defense to be the difference in this one as they force Siemian into a key turnover or two as Carolina makes up for its Super Bowl 50 loss. My pick, Carolina 24, Denver 16

Chicago at Houston: The new look Texans host the Bears in their season opener and will want to make a strong impression with their new weapons on offense. Chicago should be the right team to begin the season against. Chicago appears to be in rebuilding mode and did not look good in the preseason. But like they say, those practice games, the real games begin on Sunday. Still, Houston should have an easy time of it on Sunday. Look for Osweiler to come out flinging the ball to DeAndre Hopkins and Fuller, while Miller gauges a suspect Bears defense. Watt and his defensive teammates should make it a long day for Bears QB Jay Cutler. This one could be over by halftime. My pick, Houston 34, Chicago 17

New York Giants at Dallas: This marks the fourth time in five years that these two teams have opened the season against one another and each game has been played in Arlington. This should be another high-scoring contest just as the three previous openers turned into. Giants QB Eli Manning and wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., should have a big day against the Dallas defense, which means Prescott and the Cowboys offense will need to match them point-for-point. Elliott could be the difference

maker in this one. If he has success running the ball early, which should take a lot of pressure off of Prescott and allow him time to connect with Bryant and tight end Jason Witten. Look for Witten to be a safety net for Prescott, just as he has been for Romo. This will be a fun game to watch with plenty of points being put on the board. This will be Prescott's first big test as a pro and I expect him to pass it with flying colors. My pick, Dallas 34, New York Giants 31

New England at Arizona: The Patriots open the season with Jimmy Garoppolo as the man under center while Tom Brady begins his four-game suspension for his role in "Deflategate." Garoppolo has thrown all of 27 passes (19 completions, for 182 yards and 1 TD) in his two years with the Patriots so expect head coach Bill Belichick to have a simple offensive game plan come Sunday night against the Cardinals. Look for tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Martellus Bennett to get plenty of looks as New England looks to have time-consuming drives. The Patriots running game is also an unknown as James White is replacing the injured Dion Lewis. White should handle the pass catching duties out of the backfield, while LeGarrette Blount will handle the inside running chores. The Cardinals will look to quarterback Carson Palmer and his hosts of weapons to strike early against a solid NE defense. Running back David Johnson is a rising star in the league and is a dual threat as a runner and pass catcher. Look for him to get plenty of early looks, which should soften things up for

Palmer to make strikes down field to Larry Fitzgerald, Michael Floyd and John Brown. New England will be in this one late because it's so well coached, but look for Johnson to be the difference maker down the stretch as the Cardinals open with a huge victory. My pick, Arizona 26, New England 24

Pittsburgh at Washington: The first of two games on Monday night pits the Steelers against the Redskins on Monday Night Football (the night cap is Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco). The Steelers offense will be limited due to the fact that running back LeVon Bell will sit out the team's first three games after violating the league's substance abuse policy. Pittsburgh has a capable replacement in DeAngelo Williams, who played extremely well after Bell went down with a knee injury midway through the 2015 season. The Steelers also have a pretty fair passing game led by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and the NFL's top wide receiver Antonio Brown. Look for those two to attack a suspect Washington secondary early and often on Monday night. The Redskins appear to have found their quarterback in former backup Kirk Cousins, who replaced Robert Griffin III last year and led Washington to the NFC East title. Cousins threw for 4,166 yards and 29 touchdowns a year ago. Redskins fans are hoping for more magic in his second year as the team's starter. He faces an improved Pittsburgh defense in Week 1, which may expose him. My pick, Pittsburgh 31, Washington 26

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