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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Houston Mayor to serve as San Jacinto keynote speaker

PASADENA, Texas – Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner will deliver the keynote address at the San Jacinto College commencement ceremonies on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

"We are thrilled to have Mayor Turner speak to our graduates," said San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "Mayor Turner is a respected leader who has a



passion for all things Houston, including education. I think our graduates and guests will relate to his message, and I look forward to welcoming him to our ceremony."

Mayor Turner was elected in 2015 and is serving his first four-year term as Houston's 62nd mayor. He has brought a performance driven approach to the mayor's office that is creating more responsive, streamlined and efficient delivery of city services.

A signature program of Mayor Turner's administration is the Complete Communities initiative, which aims to improve quality of life for residents in areas that are not thriving at a level enjoyed by other Houston neighborhoods. The mayor's other priorities include implementation of a six point holistic plan for addressing homelessness and new programs to reduce flooding and improve drainage.

Prior to his election as mayor, Turner served for 27 years in the Texas House of Representatives, serving District 139. Mayor Turner is a life-long resident of Houston and still lives in the Acres Homes community where he grew up with his eight siblings. He is a graduate of the University of Houston and holds a law degree from Harvard University. He began his law practice at Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., and later founded the Barnes & Turner Law Firm.

Mayor Turner is the proud father of First Daughter Ashley Turner, who is continuing the family tradition of public service in the health care field.

The San Jacinto College commencement ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 2 p.m., at Minute Maid Park. More information about the San Jacinto College commencement ceremony can be found at sanjac.edu/commencement-ceremony.

County files lawsuit against Arkema for emissions release

HARRIS COUNTY – County Attorney Vince Ryan has filed a lawsuit against Arkema Inc. Ryan indicated that the county would, "seek the highest penalties possible for what happened and hopefully work with them to make sure that it never happens again."

Shortly after Hurricane Harvey, the organic peroxides stored at the Arkema plant were going to explode after the plant was flood-

ed, lost power, generators flooded and backup generators were little more elevated than the regular generators so they were knocked out by water, too.

In an effort to mitigate the fallout from the impending explosions, Arkema employees informed authorities of the situation. The National Guard cleared everyone in a 1.5-mile radius from the area. From there, first responders remained on the perim-

eter of the plant, and when the organic peroxide did begin to explode the first responders got sick, with some collapsing in the road from exposure to invisible fumes.

Within a week of the incident, a couple dozen of first responders filed a lawsuit in Harris County District Court, and others

See Arkema Lawsuit, Page 8



FLECKS OF WHITE DEBRIS IN THE AIR FROM THE SEPT. 2 EXPLOSION INDICATES SUBSTANCES BLOWN INTO THE AIR AFTER THE TRAILERS WERE IGNITED FOR A CONTROL EXPLOSION.

Jacinto City's new swimming pool underway for 2018 opening

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – Monday, November 20, 2017 – Jacinto City residents will be enjoying a new pool when the 2018 swim season begins, after not having a swimming pool for the last two summers because the old pool became unusable. The old pool floated up out of the ground severely damaging the pool structure and adjoining concrete apron surrounding the pool along with the water lines.

City Manager Lon See *Swimming Pool*, p.3



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES ON THE NEW JACINTO CITY PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL

WALLE, GARCIA SEEK GREEN'S SEAT

Congressman Gene Green announces retirement



CONGRESSMAN GENE GREEN



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARMANDO WALLE



STATE SENATOR SYLVIA GARCIA

this position. They will compete for votes in the Democratic primary election in March 2018.

Both Walle and Garcia have districts and constituents that overlay Green's District 29, so voters will be very familiar with the candidates.

In announcing his retirement, Congressman Green released the following statement on his deci-

See CONGRESS, Page 8

RECOGNITION

Galena Park ISD host annual Veterans Day Luncheon



As part of a week dedicated to honoring those who have served or are serving our nation, Galena Park ISD hosted its annual Veterans Day Luncheon on November 10. More than 150 veterans and their family members attended and were honored by the North Shore Senior High School's choir performance which included the theme song from each military branch and finished with the Star Spangled Banner. GPISD would like to thank all of the veterans and family members who attended the Veterans Day Luncheon. Pictured is Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Angi Williams, with Marine Corps veterans.

Local agents talk flood insurance

CROSBY – Local insurance agents addressed concerns about flood insurance at Crosby Church the week after the House of Representatives voted to increase premiums for many locally.

On Nov. 7 the U.S. House of Representatives voted 237 to 189 to support a program that has been under increasing pressure to become more expensive from storms that are becoming more frequent and powerful. The flood insurance program got a \$16 billion bailout due to Hurricane Harvey. Claims have been exceeding increases regularly.

John Sparks of Sparks



John Sparks of Sparks Insurance Agency and Randy Casey of State Farm in Baytown addressed the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce luncheon on November 16.

Continued on page 4, see FLOOD INSURANCE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Thanks to customers and sponsors



Raceway in Crosby hosted the Eastside Veteran's Celebration, Core, and the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce for customer appreciation days last Tuesday. A member of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber and sponsor of the Eastside Veteran's Celebration and several other events Raceway in Crosby put on an Appreciation Days for their customers to enjoy a free Eastside hotdog and other attractions.

H-E-B donates Turkeys



H-E-B donates 10 turkeys to Horace Mann Junior School in Goose Creek ISD for their faculty Thanksgiving dinner, since several HMJ staff members are still displaced due to Hurricane Harvey. The HMJ Band will play at the Grand Opening of H-E-B December 6. Pictured are (from left) Erica Tran, HMJ principal; Kim Kelly, H-E-B community coordinator, Gary Schmalfeldt, H-E-B unit director and Jose Chaidez, HMJ assistant band director.

ExxonMobil donates to Partner Schools



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

The Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees approved a donation from ExxonMobil in the amount of \$15,000. The funds will be used for the Goose Creek CISD and ExxonMobil Partners in Education program. with \$2,500 allocated for each of the following campuses: Travis Elementary, Victoria Walker Elementary, San Jacinto Elementary, Lee High School, Baytown Junior School and Cedar Bayou Junior School. Pictured are Dr. Joseph Farnsworth, principal of Robert E. Lee High School; Connie Tilton from ExxonMobil; Randal O'Brien, GCISD superintendent and Al Richard, GCCISD board president.

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Annual
Candlelight Remembrance

Carter-Conley Funeral Home cordially invites the families we have served, as well as the general public to celebrate the Christmas holidays with a time of remembrance during the Annual Memorial Candle Lighting Service.

Sunday Afternoon
December 3th, at 3:00 p.m.
at Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi Street.

If you have lost a loved one and find that the holidays are a difficult time, we encourage you to come and share a word of encouragement and holiday entertainment followed by a candle lighting ceremony to remember your loved one. Refreshments will be served.
We will also have a

Christmas Remembrance Tree from
November 27th, 2017 thru January 2nd, 2018
on which you can hang a Christmas ornament personalized with the name of your departed loved one, which will be yours to keep after the holidays.

It is our hope to make the holiday a little easier to bear as we remember the reason for the season, as well as our loved ones.

For any additional information please call **713/455-5100**.

Sincerely, Carter-Conley Funeral Home Staff

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2018 Calendars Now Available

COMMUNITY/SCHOOL NEWS

Channelview ISD November students of the month

Channelview ISD recently honored its November Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the top level of the press box at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium. The Students of the Month include, top row, from left, Jose Sanchez (McMullan Elementary), Elisani Marie Alvarez (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center), Mario Cordova (Aguirre Junior High), Ashley Gelato (Channelview High School) and Haleigh Duhon (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center). Pictured bottom row, from left, are Samantha Xiljo (DeZavala Elementary), Angel Estrada (Brown Elementary), Mariah Rodriguez (Alice Johnson Junior High), Iyanna Saenz (Cobb Elementary), Alondra Hernandez (Hamblen Elementary) and Mario Escamill



LyondellBasell Channelview helps with reforestation



Jennifer Andrews of LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex (center), her son Trenton Andrews (right) and her daughter Morgan Andrews (left) are some of the volunteers at the Prairie Plant-a-Thon event held recently at Sheldon Lake State Park to help with reforestation.



Eric Fender of LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex (left), his son Dean (center) and his daughter Kai (right) volunteered at Prairie Plant-a-Thon at Sheldon Lake Park.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOPE Candlelight Service

Hearts of Parents Endure, Inc., will hold its sixteenth annual candlelight service at 7 p.m. on December 6 at San Jacinto College North Campus. 5800 Uvalde, for parents and families to remember and honor children who have passed away. The inspiration for the Christmas Box Angel Memorial Garden was the 1991 best-seller THE CHRISTMAS BOX by Richard Paul Evans. The public is invited to attend. For information please contact Velma Chesnutt at 713-453-5266.

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.

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.

Trip Israel

Join Wayne & Patsy Moss on a trip to ISRAEL! March 2018. Call for more information. 981-447-4307.

Swimming Pool,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Squires after an extensive cost analysis to repair the damaged pool determined in the long term interest of the city it would be best to demolished the old pool and replace it with a new modern pool.

Squires said, "The pool will be ready to open in the early spring and while we have not set the weekly schedule yet we would like to have it open prior to Memorial Day weekend."

The new pool will have an irregular shape and is slightly larger than the old pool. The pools deepest part will be 5 feet and it'll contain 111,255 gallons along with a splash pad. Parents will have shaded seating areas when watching their children.

"We anticipate the splash pad to operate as

part of the pool and included with the entrance fee while the pool is open. When the pool is not open the splash pad will still operate by user activation and be free. We are working on the fee schedule and may offer discounts for the city's residents and season passes. Admission will not have a minimum age if children are supervised by an adult. The pool will primarily serve the citizens of Jacinto City," Squires said.



Progressive Commercial Aquatics is contracted to build the pool for \$1,178,000, the splash pad is included.

Mitchell Contracting will remodel the pool bath house for \$149,709, which includes roofing and handicap accessibilities.

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OPINION PAGE

DPS urges drivers to fill up on safety for Thanksgiving

AUSTIN – As Texans prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding motorists to make safety a priority and to enjoy the holiday weekend responsibly.

“Thanksgiving should be a time of celebration with family and friends, and we are encouraging everyone to take some simple but potentially life-saving steps to celebrate responsibly,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “DPS Troopers will also be on the lookout for drivers who needlessly endanger others by disregarding the law. Everyone, especially motorists, has a part to play in keeping our roadways safe, and it is imperative that you take this responsibility seriously.”

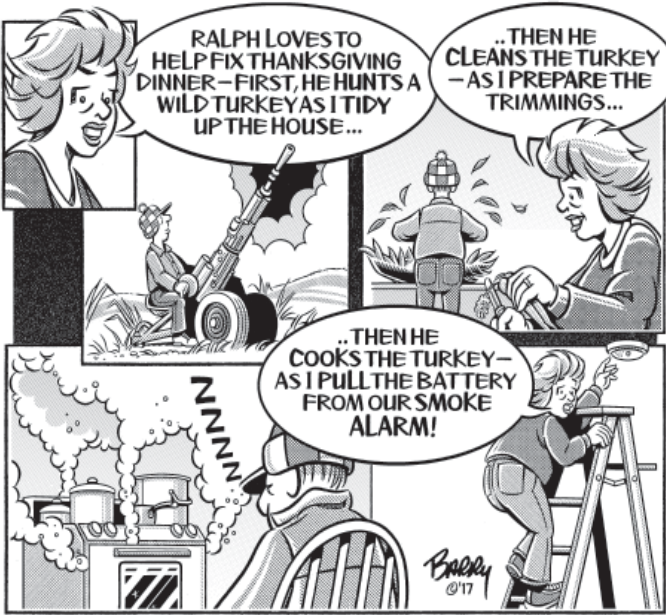
DPS Troopers, and other Texas law enforcement agencies, will be patrolling around-the-clock during the holiday weekend looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators, and other motorists who are endangering themselves or the public.

During the Thanksgiving weekend in 2016, DPS troopers issued 51,592 traffic citations and warnings for a variety of violations, including speeding, no insurance and seat belt/child safety seat usage. DPS patrols also resulted in 275 driving while

intoxicated arrests, 198 fugitive arrests and 141 felony arrests during the same time period.

DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Thanksgiving holiday:

- Do not drink and drive.
- Slow down – especially in bad weather, construction areas, heavy traffic and unfamiliar areas.
- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle – it’s the law.
- Don’t drive fatigued – allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Before your trip begins, make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and always double check to make sure all cargo is secure.
- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS, Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated – it’s the law. Also, show the same courtesy to fellow drivers stopped along the road.
- Monitor weather and road conditions wherever you are traveling. In the event of inclement weather, use extra caution on roadways.



FEMA briefs governor, vice president on hurricane recovery efforts

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott and Vice President Mike Pence on Nov. 15 received a briefing on Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Joint Field Office in the capital city.

Pence, in town for the Republican Governors Association conference, joined Abbott, FEMA Administrator Brock Long, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and state and local officials to discuss ways to improve federal and state coordination of resources. Abbott thanked Pence for “his commitment to the people of Texas” in the aftermath of the hurricane that struck the Texas coast in late August, bringing historically heavy rains, flooding and destructive winds.

“The people of Texas have suffered greatly, but I am hopeful that the response of their federal and state leaders will continue to strengthen their resolve,” Abbott said. “I, along with the vice president, want to assure all victims that they will not be forgotten and we will continue to work to help get their lives back on track.”

Hurricane Harvey impacted more square miles of Texas than the combined land area of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, according to the governor’s office. On Nov. 10, Abbott offered words of encouragement to Texans, saying: “We are listening to our local leaders and we continue to work with our federal partners to secure more and faster funding. The road to recovery is long, but progress is being made. And each day brings new hope.”

Report details funding

The Texas comptroller’s office on Nov. 14 announced the release of its monthly publication, Fiscal Notes. The issue focuses on the role of federal funding in state finances.

In 2016, Texans sent the federal government \$261 billion in taxes and the state government received \$39.5 billion in federal grants, or about 15 percent of the total federal tax tab. Those grants pay for programs in education, health care, infrastructure and

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



other areas, the report shows.

“The missions of our federal, state and local governments are distinct but intertwined,” Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. “Texans pay federal income tax, so it’s important to examine and monitor the value our state gets back from the folks in Washington.”

In November Fiscal Notes, the Comptroller’s office also takes a look at the rising importance of “telehealth” in Texas — technologies that allow doctors and other health care professionals to consult with and treat patients through audio-visual connections.

AG goes after gougers

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 13 announced his office’s filing of more price gouging lawsuits against businesses accused of taking advantage of Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey.

On Oct. 30, Paxton’s staff notified 127 additional businesses that they were being investigated for alleged price gouging during the disaster. In all of these cases, consumers allege they were charged excessive prices for gasoline.

Paxton said, “Price gouging is illegal, unconscionable and completely opposite the spirit of cooperation we saw just about everywhere else in our state before, during and after the hurricane. My office will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute more cases arising from Harvey.”

Flood Insurance,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Insurance Agency and Randy Casey of State Farm in Baytown addressed the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce luncheon on November 16. The three 500 year flood events over the last two years are impacting local premiums. One of the take away facts is that flood insurance must be purchased for Federally backed mortgages where there is a 1% chance of being inundated.

Randy Casey explained the many factors that can impact the homeowner’s premiums. Flood zones that are changing, prior history, new development and other factors can impact what one will be paying for flood insurance.

According to John Sparks, “You will want to talk to your agent. Let him know what you have got, I can not tell you have many times we have made discoveries in a claim situation of undeclared items like a garage with classic cars stored inside and although the garage was insured the cars were not. An incident comes to mind of a mobile home insured with \$30,000 in a gun safe within and the home was insured but not the gun safe. Always read your policy for limitations and exclusions if you aren’t going to read anything else, read that page. That way you can get your agent to see how to get those items you need covered, covered.”

“You need to tell your agent, here is all the stuff I have got here, here is all the stuff I’m thinking about doing. Also seasonal inventory, during December I have about four times the inventory I have the rest of the months. All of those factors should be figured into your policy,” explained Sparks, “You need to get the adjustor on your side, I realize that can be difficult, especially in third party cases. Catastrophe adjusters come from all over the United States. What happened here in Harvey, we had all these adjustors show up and then Irma hits Florida and the single biggest insurer in Florida is the State not like here in Texas where we have the Texas Fair Plan, in Florida they have something called Citizens and since they have been hit so many times, the Alstate and State Farms don’t write down there, the state board set up a bounty to attract adjustors so all the adjustors leave for Florida. So what happens to many who expect the adjustor to show up and settle the money manner in a week it becomes five weeks.”

The U.S. House of Representatives Financial Service Committee passed in June reauthorizing National Flood Insurance Program for 5 years. The Flood insurance must satisfy government requirements. So, those in attendance learned that private companies have been out of the flood insurance game for awhile. One has to go to a local agent to buy flood insurance and then buy the federally backed program. The vote reflected some partisan divisions. Republicans saw an increase in costs to taxpayers beyond acceptable when more and worse storms could be coming but there is no climate change. Democrats feared the increase will price out those needing the insurance most. Final legislation is expected to remove a provision to stop insuring newly constructed structures after 2021 and stop insuring houses valued over \$1 million.

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LIFESTYLE

LAKE HOUSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The gift of giving ‘Thanks’

By Pastor Frank Coats

Dear friends,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! As I am writing this at the beginning of the week of Thanksgiving, I'm grateful to be completing another year as pastor of Lake Houston United Methodist Church. This church has shown such heart and courage in the face of such adversity. Since the end of August, when the waters filled our fields and buildings, the church and the greater community have shown what it means to love God and to love neighbors. Our friends at Community Baptist Church have opened their their doors for our new Jesus and Me (J.A.M.) and provided a place for them to meet as we move forward. This church and many others have contributed finan-

cially to our recovery, and we have moved step by step forward as we deal with the aftermath of loss and opportunity by the flood.

The first Sunday in December will be the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the church year. Advent is a time of remembering the coming of Jesus into the world as well as the anticipation of His coming again. The church year and the corresponding lectionary readings allow us to move together through the life of Jesus. The four weeks of Advent move through readings foretelling the coming again of the Lord and then the coming of the baby in Bethlehem. It is so beautiful and comforting to hear again the stories of angels appearing to tell of wondrous happenings about to take place, to think of God

coming to earth in the form of a helpless baby, but we remember that God is coming again, and we are to be ready.

Christ will come to set the world aright. Christ has come to set the captives free. Captives to addiction, captives to resentment, captives to prejudice and ignorance and hatred – all can be set free by an encounter with the living Christ.

What does it look like to encounter the Risen Christ? Maybe it looks like approaching 7,000 sandwich meals for the Huffman Food Pantry by Mission: Serve; maybe it looks like 80 Thanksgiving Baskets, with the makings of them stored in the shell of what was once our Sanctuary; maybe it looks like 67 boxes being dropped off

for Operation Christmas Child, and that's not all of the boxes that have come from our church; maybe it looks like Adopting a Family for Christmas; maybe it looks like facing adversity and floodwaters and making the sign of the Cross and kneeling in prayer.

Many of us enter this December tired. Many are tired of not living in our homes, tired of dealing with construction decisions. Many of us face challenges, known and unknown to others. But we are here, and we are together, and we look for Christ in the beauty of the living.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Faithfully in Jesus Christ,
Pastor Frank

★

OBITUARIES

Dorothy Marie Keith

Dorothy Marie Keith, 84, passed from this life on November 15, 2017 surrounded by her family in Anahuac, Texas. She was born to parents Sim Brown and Rosalee Walker Brown on July 5, 1933 in Mississippi. She loved being a homemaker and mother to her family.



Dorothy was also a seamstress, and attended church at The Sanctuary Church in Mount Belvieu. Dorothy was known to many as “the original pioneer woman”.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Lester Lemuel Keith; son, Geral Keith; brother, Charles Brown; and grandchildren, Shawn Keith and Jeremy Keith. Dorothy is lovingly survived by her children, Lester Keith and wife Kristen, Bobby Keith and wife Suzanne, James Keith; siblings, Morris Brown and wife Candace, Jimmy Brown and wife Ovella, Meredith Herndon and husband Kenneth; grandchildren, Jason Keith and wife Danielle, Ruthann Anderson and husband Jake, Aimee Carpenter and husband Michael, Becky Alexander and husband Robert, Ashley Keith and wife Darla, Nathan Edwards and wife Candace, Nick Keith and wife Kim, James Banning and wife Tiffany, Amber Nordstrom and husband Beau, Toni Keith; 19 great-grandchildren, as well as

numerous extended family members and many dear friends.

A visitation will be held-Monday morning from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. November 20, 2017 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at noon on Monday with Reverend Ron Macey and Reverend John Bernadini, II officiating, with graveside services to follow at Ryan Cemetery in Tarkington Prairie, Texas at 2:30 p.m. under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

The family would like to sincerely thank the care teams at Harbor Hospice and at Bayside Hospital in Anahuac, Texas for their compassionate services they provided during Dorothy's time of illness.

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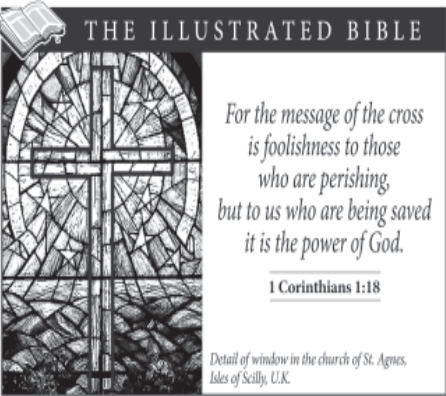
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Thesalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. To keep Adam and Eve away after the Fall, what did God place around the Tree of Life? Smoking pits, Deep moat, Cherubim with flaming swords, Walking vipers
3. In 2 Samuel 12, what personality did God name Jedidiah? David, Amos, Solomon, Joab

4. What "type" water did Jesus offer the Samaritan woman at the well? Fresh, Cool, Living, Clean
5. From John 10, to what type animals are Christians compared? Camels, Sheep, Lions, Serpents
6. Which was a type of food as found in Exodus 16:15 and other verses? Yoke, Manna, Prodigal, Mina

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Cherubim with flaming swords; 3) Solomon; 4) Living; 5) Sheep; 6) Manna



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John 7:38

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in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

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ROMANS 8:18

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the Holy Spirit and began to
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Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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the faith. Have courage
and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the
aged, show respect for the
elderly and revere your God.
Leviticus 19:32

ASK THE EXPERT

Diamond Jim: "How did Thanksgiving Day in America come to be...?"



ASK DIAMOND JIM

THANKSGIVING AT PLYMOUTH

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the New World. After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and

outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50

years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as American's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the historic banquet's exact menu, the Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow wrote in his journal that Governor Bradford sent four men on a "fowling" mission in preparation for the event, and that the Wampanoag guests arrived bearing five deer. Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations.

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U.S. Senate approves legislation for maritime centers of excellence



Photo by Jeannie Peng Mansyur

San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus in La Porte, Texas.

A Center of Excellence designation would allow San Jacinto College to expand maritime training

PASADENA, Texas – San Jacinto College is one step closer to having a Maritime Center of Excellence. The U.S. Senate recently voted to approve maritime workforce centers of excellence legislation as part of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This follows a vote made by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year to approve the legislation.

While there are slight differences between the House-passed maritime workforce centers of excellence provision and the Senate-passed provision, both are based on the original Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act (H.R. 2286) to authorize federal support for maritime centers of excellence at two-year community and technical colleges. In late June, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security voted to adopt an amendment by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) to include language from the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act into a MARAD reauthorization bill (S. 1096).

The Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act was offered on the Senate floor in September as part of broader package of maritime

provisions contained in an NDAA amendment by Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX), Deb Fisher (R-NE), and Cory Booker (D-NJ). The Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act is unique and precedent-setting in that it is limited to community and technical colleges.

"I'm proud to support this provision to strengthen our nation's maritime workforce, which will benefit both national security and international trade," said Sen. Cornyn. "Located in close proximity to one of the nation's most active ports, San Jacinto College is already a top maritime education institution, and this bill will allow it to expand and strengthen its program to serve its students even better."

As Centers of Excellence, two-year colleges will be able to expand their capacity to train domestic maritime workers by admitting more students, training faculty, expanding facilities, creating new maritime career pathways from associate degree to baccalaureate degree programs, and awarding credit for prior learning experience, including military service.

"We are truly grateful that both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate recognize community colleges as training sources for mariners," said John Stauffer, associate vice chancellor and superintendent of maritime at San Jacinto College. "Because San Jacinto College maritime is located in one of the largest port re-

gions, we welcome the opportunity to produce highly qualified mariners to enter the workforce and alleviate the shortages that are occurring due to retirements and the expanding global market."

Since 2010, the San Jacinto College maritime program has awarded more than 5,500 U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)-approved course completion certificates. Keeping current with the most recent developments of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW), which require some tasks to be completed on a vessel, the College has received support from MARAD to allow maritime students access to Ready Reserve Fleet ships. This will ensure that they complete their required training to advance in the industry and stay current with USCG requirements.

San Jacinto College is also home to the state's first associate degree program in maritime transportation to train those new to the maritime industry. Last year marked the opening of the College's Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus in La Porte, Texas, to offer more training opportunities for new and incumbent mariners.

The San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus offers a full calendar of USCG-approved maritime courses. For more information and to register, visit sanjac.edu/maritime.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0011770001

APPLICATION. Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50, 12900 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011770001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0057053) to authorize an additional phase and an increase the two-hour peak flow to a volume not to exceed 2,200,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 922 Magnolia Avenue, Crosby, in Harris County, Texas 77532. The discharge route is from the plant site to Rickett Creek; thence to a series of ponds/lakes; thence to San Jacinto River Tidal. TCEQ received this application on September 25, 2017. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at the Crosby Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.868611&lng=-95.077777&zoom=13&type=r>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about_comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Karen Sims at 281-328-2041.

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CONGRESS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

-sion to not seek reelection:

“Serving as an elected official is one of the greatest honors our country can bestow on a person. I have been blessed and fortunate to serve almost 46 years in elected office. Since 1973, I have served as a Texas State Representative for 13 years, Texas State Senator for seven years and since 1993 as a member of the United States Congress. Our family has known politics and public service throughout their lives. My wife, Helen, has been a partner every step of the way for our 47 years of marriage.

The goal of every elected official should be to serve and help your constituency to have a better life for their families. I am proud of sponsoring events in our district such as having Immunization Day each year for the past 20 years to provide free vaccinations for children and Citizenship Day each year for the past 22 years to help legal residents to become citizens of our great country.

We have also held Job Fairs twice a year to help people find employment and Paying for College Workshops to help students find the resources to allow them to afford to go to college.

At home or in Washington my goal is to impact legislation for the benefit of our constituents. Serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee helped to put a Texas view on the expansion of Health Care access and expand job opportunities in our district.

We have held many town hall meetings each year and have been accessible to people in our district. Our staff in Houston and Washington has been dedicated to helping our constituents with problems in many different areas such as Social Security, Veterans Affairs, and Immigration. I have been blessed to have such a dedicated staff to help me do the job of a Member of Congress.

I have been fortunate to have never lost an election since 1972 and I am confident that I still have the support of my constituents and would be successful if I ran for another term in Congress. However, I have decided that I will not be filing for re-election in 2018. I think that it is time for me to be more involved in the lives of our children and grandchildren. I have had to miss so many of their activities and after 26 years in Congress it is time to devote more time to my most important job of being a husband, father and grandfather.

I and our staff will continue to serve our district until our term is over at the end of 2018.”

State Senator Sylvia Garcia issued the following statement:

As you may have heard by now, Gene Green announced yesterday he’s not seeking re-election to Congress. He’s done a tremendous job for the people. Thank you Gene, Helen and the family for all you’ve done for us!

We need a champion for the people now more than ever. That’s why I’m running. From good paying jobs and immigration reform to quality public education for our children, I’ve fought before and I’ll keep fighting. You know my record as a strong progressive committed to equality, economic opportunity and justice for all. I hope you’ll join our campaign and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. Forward this email to fellow community members who are ready to join #TeamGarcia and ask

them to subscribe to our emails.

Thank you for the calls and messages to encourage me to take this step. I know we’re in this together. And think we need a little more working together in Congress.

Putting people first,
Sylvia R. Garcia

State Representative Armando Walle has not yet filed for the primary, but told this newspaper he would be running for the Congressional seat.

Walle’s background as a candidate is as follows:

Representative Armando Walle, the oldest of five children, was born and raised in northeast Houston by a single mother. He graduated with honors from MacArthur High School in the Aldine Independent School District. The first in his family to pursue a higher education, Rep. Walle is a proud graduate of the University of Houston, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. He recently received his law degree at the University of Houston Law Center.

Representative Walle was elected to represent House District 140 in the Texas House of Representatives in 2008. Since taking office, Rep. Walle has focused on the issues that matter most to the people of House District 140, which includes northern portions of unincorporated Harris County and the City of Houston. Rep. Walle has authored and advocated for numerous proposals to improve quality of life in the Aldine and Northside communities, increase safety in local neighborhoods, and encourage local economic development.

Currently serving his fourth term in the Texas House of Representatives, Rep. Walle serves as Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Government Transparency & Operation and as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Select Committee on Transportation Planning, and the House Select Committee on State and Federal Power and Responsibility. He has previously also served on, among others, the House Committees on Human Services, Business & Industry, Insurance, Homeland Security & Public Safety, and Urban Affairs.

Prior to his election, Rep. Walle worked with Congressman Gene Green for six years. During that time, Rep. Walle led several community projects including Immunization Day, Paying for College workshops and senior citizen issue forums. He also served on the staffs of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Councilmember Carol Mims Galloway. Rep. Walle began his career in public service by participating in Senator Rodney Ellis’s Texas Legislative Internship Program.

Before his time in elected office, Rep. Walle worked hard to increase outreach for community service programs like youth sports leagues and adult GED programs for Aldine residents. Rep. Walle also served on the Board of Directors for the Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA, as President of the Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico, and as Chair of the Harris County Tejano Democrats. During his time at the University of Houston, he spearheaded efforts to recruit and retain qualified Hispanic students to the University. Rep. Walle also served as a student mentor for Students Aspiring to a Better Education, encouraging at-risk high school students to stay in school and pursue a college education.

Arkema Lawsuit,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

living nearby joined.

Harris County Commissioners Court approved plans to file a lawsuit in civil court against Arkema for creating a public nuisance and keeping first responders that were needed elsewhere occupied dealing with the Crosby plant.

For local residents, there was nowhere to find out what potentially the air quality would be from the explosions. Arkema had indicated to state authorities that 11 contaminants had been released. Later it was learned that isobutylene was about 40 yards from six of the trailers that were designated to blowup creating a potentially catastrophic situation that locals were not

told about.

Authorities thought that a contingency plan other than calling the local fire department seems reasonable for a plant operating inside the flood plan that had changed since 2007.

Arkema Inc. officials stated “Many of your conclusions fail to recognize that Hurricane Harvey was unlike any rain event Houston has ever experienced.”

The county’s suit will contend it was common knowledge for a week or more before the storm hit that Harris County could get as much as 50 inches of rain from Harvey.

Harris County has got-

ten three major floods in the past two years, all indicating that Arkema officials could have expected flooding and have known to develop plans for contingency.

But, Harris County had incidents of lack of preparation, too, including the first mid-storm releases of water from Addicks and Barker reservoirs. But the unpredictable nature of the storm doesn’t change how serious the situation was, since the plan was to just detonate the chemicals before they exploded in a more spontaneous fashion. Arkema officials had dealt with these same materials igniting before in a 2006 fire at the plant, and there were other

chemicals stored at the site that were also dangerous. Ryan said his team wants Arkema to pay back the county for the county’s response. Ryan wants improved safety plans with legal enforcement.

The complaint filed by Harris County Attorney’s Office specifically lists sulfur dioxide and particulate matter, which can cause breathing problems and premature death in people with heart or lung conditions according to a release from the Environmental Protection Agency.

“We hope it is not as bad as we think,” Ryan continued, “Evidently, they did a poor job of preparation and we would hope they would have had a more robust response to such an event.”

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