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VOLUME 7, NO. 12 (#266) THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Next Chamber Luncheon April 5

Speaker for the next luncheon is Robert Guerrero, of SeAH Steel USA, a new industry in the North Channel area. At San Jacinto College, reservations 713-450-1114.

Washburn Tunnel to close for improvements Mar. 29-Apr. 8

HOUSTON, Texas - The Washburn Tunnel will be closed for 10 days, beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 29th to 4 a.m. on Monday, April 8th. During this time, crews will be conducting in-depth maintenance to the Tunnel lining as part of the Washburn Tunnel Concrete Repairs project, which was planned proactively to preserve the life of the Tunnel.

Drivers are reminded to use alternate routes during the closure. Alternate routes include I-610 East Loop Freeway, Sam Houston Parkway, and Highway 146.

GP/JC Rotary Club Cake Auction

Cake Auction will be April 16, 2019, during regular meeting, 12 p.m. at Baggett Community Center.

Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club chapter seeks to collect funds to assist college students whom find themselves faced with the obstacle of financial hardship.

Galena Park LULAC Council 4703 BBQ Fundraiser

Brisket or chicken, sausage and the trimmings, Saturday, March 23 from 11 am - 3 pm at the Mechanic Shop located on 307 Holland, \$10 per plate. For questions, please contact Cruz Hinojosa at 832-434-1591.

Huge Deer Park tank blaze seen citywide



FINALLY EXTINGUISHED: Chemical storage tanks in Deer Park near the San Jacinto Monument blazed for days in spite of efforts to extinguish them. The smoke cloud was seen throughout the Houston Region, as far west as Katy. Nearby residents were concerned about the affect that the fire and smoke might have on their health. By Wednesday of this week, the fourth day, the flames and smoke were gone. (photo courtesy KPRC)

Fires in two oil facilities in East Harris County the weekend of St. Patrick's Day took the shine off the green. Saturday there was a fire at the Baytown Exxon Olefines Plant and St. Patrick's Day was the time of the origin of the fire at Intercontinental Terminals Company in Deer Park.

Baytown and Exxon firefighters and mutual aide rushed to 5000 Bay-

way Drive at about 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. All said and done, there was no shelter in place or evacuation called for there, and the fire was successfully contained without injury.

Sunday morning as many went to church a fire started near a chemical storage tank in Intercontinental Terminals Co.'s grounds in Deer Park. Firefighters struggled to contain the blaze to five

tanks but when low water pressure occurred in the early hours of Monday, three other tanks caught fire. This cancelled authorities' predictions of a rapid containment for the blaze.

The terminal is closed and evacuated, it stores gasoline additives and paint thinners. Some say these chemicals can cause difficulty breathing, coughing, headache and irritation to respiratory

systems.

The Environmental Protection Agency, TCEQ, and the Harris County Pollution Control are closely watching air quality. So far, all agencies are saying the dark black smoke blanketing the region isn't as dangerous as it looks, even as plumes envelop the county.

In fact, in a statement released by Intercontinental Terminals Company

spokesman David Wascome said "They actually flew a few planes through the plume the last few days and they are still within safe levels."

Concerning the trust issue, in the last 10 years Intercontinental Terminals Company has had to pony

See Deer Park Fire, Page 6

Galena Park Commissioner Chersky becomes new police chief

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. March 20, 2019 – Galena Park City Commissioner Rodney Chersky in January stepped down to become the city's new police chief. Chersky after being re-elected in May 2018 with 61 percent of the vote moved out of the city.

According to Chief Chersky, "City Attorney Robert Collins advised me I could continue as Commissioner to fill out my new term but I would not be able to seek re-election because of no longer being a citizen of the city. My leaving the city was only temporary and I'd planned to move back before the next election."

Chief Chersky said, "In late 2018 I was approached by several police officers about becoming the police chief since the new interim chief Sergeant James Knox

See GP New Police Chief, Page 3



Photo by Allan Jamail
Galena Park's new Police Chief Rodney V. Chersky, appointed by Mayor Esmeralda Moya, confirmed by Commissioners January 15, 2019.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Supplemental funding legislation draws from 'Rainy Day Fund'

AUSTIN — A few of the funding priorities expressed by the executive, legislative and judicial branches are not covered in Senate Bill 2, the state's tentatively approved appropriations bill for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

So, on March 13, the Senate voted unanimously in favor of SB 500, \$6 billion in supplemental funding to plug many holes. Some \$4.3 billion of the total would be taken out of the Economic Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund. Authored by Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane

Nelson, R-Flower Mound, the legislation proposes the following allocations:

- \$3 billion for Hurricane Harvey recovery expenses;
- \$2.1 billion to address the Medicaid shortfall;
- \$100 million for school safety, with an amendment that gives districts greater flexibility on the type of safety equipment they can buy;
- \$300 million to improve state hospital facilities;

See Supplemental Funding, Page 2

HB3 Education reform could add money to schools, lower property taxes

AUSTIN: State Rep. Dan Huberty, R., District 127, formerly of District 128, has ridden shotgun on a \$9 billion school finance reform bill that is to send more state money to public schools and lower school property tax rates, according to lawmakers. To enact the plan, passage is required by both the House and the Senate.

"The Texas Plan" or House Bill 3, has had Huberty hopping around explaining to Republicans and Democrats that a \$9 billion increase in the base funding for each student and compressing school districts' property tax rates by 4 cents statewide, among other policy items is not only possible but necessary. Pre-K for full days for eligible students also benefits, and sending more money to school districts



Dan Huberty excitedly explaining legislation related to school finance reform in Austin.

with higher concentrations of disadvantaged students. In his State of the State Address, Governor Abbott named three (emergent items) they are teacher pay, school finance reform and property taxes reform.

Huberty and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen,

R-Angleton, held a Tuesday news conference with other House members at the Capitol to publicly lay out the proposal. The lawmakers seemingly indicat-

See Education Reform, Page 3

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia honored at annual NALEO Gala

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Yesterday, over a hundred national leaders and lawmakers joined together with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the nation's leading Latino leadership foundation, in honoring Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia the Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service.

"NALEO - thank you for this honor, to be a part of Edward Roybal's legacy," Congresswoman Garcia said during her remarks. "It is truly amazing to see the progress that has been made over our lifetimes, the legacy that will help future generations push progress forward."

At the ceremony, national leaders spoke of



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia receiving award at NALEO's annual Gala.

Congresswoman Garcia's hard work and years of public service.

"She is a voice for voiceless – dedicating herself to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community, as a social

worker, legal aid worker, and as a leader who has served at every level of government, said U.S. House Speaker Nancy

See Garcia Honored, Page 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

Wills and Probate at Crosby Library

Have you been procrastinating when it comes to estate planning? Don't know where to start? Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library invites individuals and families to a free event: "Wills and Probate", on Monday, April 1 at 4:30 pm, in the meeting room. Guest speaker is Assistant County Attorney Susan Fillion. Ms. Fillion has been with the Harris County Attorney's office since 2002, and has lots of information to share including estate planning basics, do-it-yourself wills, mistakes to avoid, and more. Don't miss this great informational opportunity!

Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library is located on 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532. Call 832-927-7790 for more information.

Huffman Education Foundation Casino night

It's all in for Casino Night on April 26 from seven come eleven at the Walden Country Club to benefit the Huffman Education Foundation.

The event will feature Texas Hold 'Em, roulette, craps, blackjack, a live auction, with door prizes per drawings.

The Walden Country Club opens its lavish surroundings for a live auction, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails for an educational cause.

Regular tickets are \$100 per person and with that the hors d'oeuvres, open bar, \$3,000 in casino Chips, and possibilities for 6 prizes drawn by the hostess.

For the more elite standings, a better deal, is available for just \$1,000, become an event sponsor. This sponsorship opportunity comes with six tickets, additional casino chips and door prize opportunity.

Space is limited so first come first served.

To obtain tickets call (281) 328-7601 or visit www.huffmanef.com to buy tickets online.

Tees-N-Tails

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce will host its 27th Annula Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at Red Wolf Golf Resort, 27350 Afton Way, Huffmam, TX 77336. Registration at 10:30 am. Please contact Chamber Office at 281-328-6984 or chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org with any questions.



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Crosby Bass Fishing Team lands big

Crosby Bass Fishing Team member, Patrick Brennan, who placed 5th this past weekend snaring 16.34 lbs, winning the award for biggest fish caught (10.06 lbs). Hayden Swinney and Wade Lewis placed 2nd with 20.6 lbs. Travis Koester and Matthew Swilley placed 38th with 8.11 lbs. Hayden Eidson finished in 80th place with 3.56 lbs. Cooper Harris and Logan Lindstrom brought in a 3.37 lb. bag. Cody Jones and Blayne Cunningham caught 3.35 lbs. Luke Galvan and Reiden Hicks brought in 2.78 lbs. Jake Greer and Hunter Perez (not pictured) scored a 2.74 lb fish.

Supplemental funding

Continued from page 1

- \$542 million to address pension liabilities for the Teacher Retirement System and provide retired teachers a "13th check" up to \$500;
 - \$211 million to pay obligations of the Texas Tomorrow Fund, a college tuition savings program;
 - \$160 million to address the Correctional Managed Health Care shortfall; and
 - \$100 million to refill the Governor's Disaster Fund to help rebuild from natural disasters.
- "The supplemental budget provides funding for some of the Legislature's key priorities: Hurricane Harvey relief, school safety and healthcare needs. It provides significant resources to improve the state's flood control infrastructure and helps communities along the Gulf Coast rebuild," Nelson said.

Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, said hurricane disaster recovery and flood mitigation "are exactly what the Rainy Day Fund was designed for" and added that the fund, now at a historically high balance, is projected to reach \$15 billion. The state constitution caps the maximum biennial "Rainy Day Fund" balance at an amount not to exceed 10 percent of certain general revenue deposited during the previous biennium.

Declaration is extended

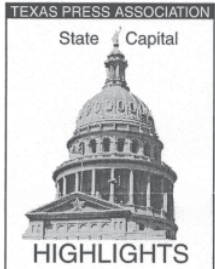
Gov. Greg Abbott on March 15 extended the state disaster declaration he originally issued on Aug. 23, 2017, to counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Thirty counties were named in the original declaration. As reports revealing the extent of the disaster came in, Abbott amended the declaration on Aug. 26, 27, 28 and Sept. 14, 2017, to include 30 more counties.

Abbott has renewed the disaster declaration every month since then, saying that a state of disaster con-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



tinues to exist in those same counties.

Panel OKs pension bill

The Senate State Affairs Committee on March 14 approved SB 12, legislation to keep the state's Teacher Retirement System fund actuarially sound by increasing teacher, school district and state contribution rates gradually over the next few years.

Last August, at the end of fiscal year 2018, the fund had \$47 billion in unmet debt obligations and a funding period of 87 years, the time it would take to pay off all of its liabilities under current revenues, according to the Senate News Service.

If nothing is done, unfunded liabilities would increase to \$124 billion by 2050, said Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, chair of the committee. Under her proposal, the active teacher contribution would rise from the present 7.7 percent to 8.25 percent in 2024; state contributions would rise from 6.8 percent of payroll to 8.25 percent over the same period, and district contributions would rise from 1.5 percent of eligible payroll to 2 percent by 2025.

SB 12 next moves to the

full Senate for consideration.

Effort targets trafficking

The Texas Department of Transportation, in partnership with the governor's office, law enforcement and industry partners, on March 12 announced the launching of the "On the Road to End Human Trafficking" initiative.

Similar to a neighborhood watch program, the initiative encourages everyone to know, watch for and report signs of trafficking.

TxDOT said University of Texas research showed more than 300,000 people are trafficked in Texas at any given time, including 79,000 youth victims. "These innocent human beings are horrifically abused by being forced into slavery, either in the form of hard labor or sex/prostitution," TxDOT said.

TxDOT is encouraging citizens to use a toll-free, confidential phone number, (888) 373-7888, to report suspected trafficking. Victims are encouraged to call 911.

Report: 11 measles cases

Eleven cases of measles have been reported in the Lone Star State since Jan. 1, according to information posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

In all of last year, nine cases of measles were reported statewide, the agency said.

The DSHS and the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend children get a dose of measles vaccine at 12 to 15 months of age and again at 4 to 6 years old.



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AW19-1054

COMMUNITY NEWS

Channelview HS Robotics team exhibits at Rotary



CHANNELVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS PROGRAM was the subject of a talk and demonstration at the North Shore Rotary Club at their recent luncheon meeting. The instructor seen at left is J. Keith Cummings, who has taught the Robotics class for 25 years. Students in the Robotics class who participated in the demonstration are Tony (coder), Keegan (narrator) and Faith (safety captain). The team's robotic device is seen at the right background. It is meant to lift a circular hatch on a space vehicle, but also handled a basketball in this demo. The team took six weeks to build the machine. They will compete in a World Championship to be held in Houston on April 20.

Channelview ISD March Students of the Month



Channelview ISD recently honored March Students of the Month by hosting a recognition luncheon in the press box of the Ray Maddy Stadium. The Students of the Month include top row, from left, Vanessa Hernandez (Channelview High School), Isabel Thierry Muro (Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center), Jose Gallegos (Anthony Aguirre Junior High). Middle Row: Ayla Smith (DeZavala Elementary), Andrea Cano-Herrera (Cobb Elementary), Stephanie Hidalgo (McMullan Elementary). Front Row: Aiden Saldana (Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center), Paulina Hernandez (Crenshaw Elementary), Ahyleen Chavez (Brown Elementary), Yiselle Alvarez (Schochler Elementary), Alayna Gonzalez (Hamblen Elementary). Not Pictured: Nephelée Garza (Alice Johnson Junior High) and Caden Medina (Kolarik Ninth Grade Center).

GP New Police Chief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

didn't want to become the permanent chief. Knox had agreed to assume the chief's duties until a permanent chief could be hired. He had served as Interim Chief before under three mayors.

"Mayor Moya in January approached me and asked me if I would be interested in the chief's job, after giving it lot's of thought and being assured by the mayor she'd do everything possible to work with me to help make the needed improvements I wanted to make, I decided to accept the appointment, said Chief Chersky."

The chief said he has many goals; two are, making the image of the police

department more respected by the community and to increase the department's capabilities in all phases of law enforcement by acquiring newer technology and equipment.

Chersky said, "Interim Chief Knox is staying with the police department and will assume his sergeant's position. He and I have an excellent professional working relationship and together we will move the police department in a positive direction while bringing the necessary changes needed to enhance visibility, police services and response times for our citizens and to our community."

Chief Chersky has a

Master Peace Officer's certification with the state and he's worked as a police officer for Galena Park and as a Deputy Constable in other agencies for the past 40 years. He feels he'll be able to draw from having worked for various agencies to bring the best knowledge and experience to his new chief's position.

A current top priority is to hire more police officers and police dispatchers. Experience in dispatching is preferred but training is available, anyone interested in either position can call 713-675-3471 or email the chief at: rchersky@cityofgalenapark-tx.gov.

Education Reform,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ed that the bill would increase the base funding per student by \$890 to \$6,030. This while lowering school district property tax rates statewide by 4 cents per \$100 of taxable property value, to reduce redistribution of money from wealthier school districts to poor

ones. That should work out to reduce tax for a \$1/4 Million estate by about \$100 year.

Senate Bill 3, which would give all full-time classroom teachers and certified librarians a \$5,000 pay raise, passed easily, but it will likely face an uphill battle in the

House. Bonnen has said he prefers giving local districts the flexibility to use increased funding for teacher pay as they see fit. The House proposal is expected to provide districts with \$140 million to help recruit and retain teachers.

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OPINION

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TEXAS

SENATE NEWS

By Richard Lee

SENATE PANELS
CONSIDER
PRIORITY ITEMS

(Austin) Texans may have to wait until the age of 21 to purchase tobacco and nicotine products under a measure heard before the Senate State Affairs Committee. That was one of several bills on Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's list of "priority legislation" heard in committee on Monday. Bills are given numbers based on the order they are filed, however the Lt. Governor usually reserves the lowest bill numbers to assign to bills he and the majority of Senators consider important legislation. This session, Patrick reserved the 30 lowest, and seven of those bills were heard in committees Monday.

SB 21, by Houston Senator Joan Huffman, would raise the minimum legal age to possess or use tobacco products from 18 to 21, including e-cigarettes and other nicotine vaporizing devices. While tobacco use is down statewide, there are parts of Texas where the habit remains hard to kick. North Texas is a particularly notable area, with a University of Texas study showing that twenty-five percent of adults in the region still smoke cigarettes daily, compared to 15 percent in the rest of the state. Huffman believes raising the smoking age will also discourage use among minors. "Raising the MLA to 21 for this offense would help keep cigarettes, e-cigarettes and tobacco products out of Texas public schools by creating more social distance between younger high school students and of-age purchasers, thereby reducing early addiction to nicotine and tobacco." If passed into law, the bill would make Texas the eighth state to raise the smoking age to 21. It remains pending before the committee.

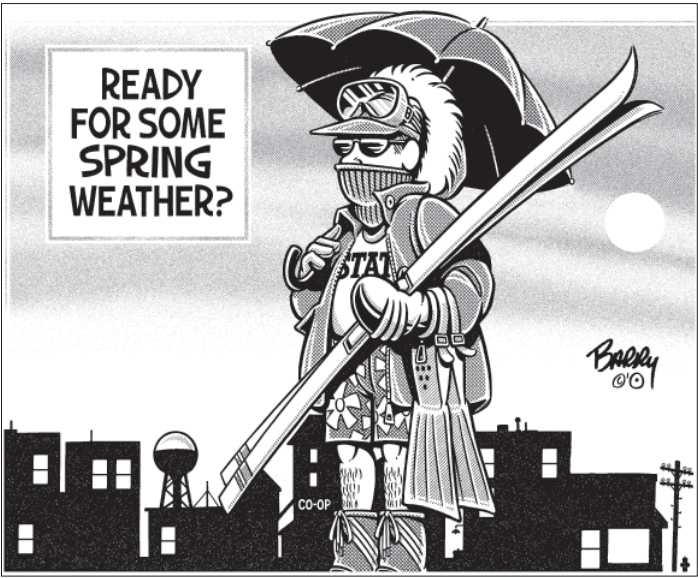
Another priority bill in front of State Affairs Monday would prohibit registered lobbyists from seeking public office. "Texans expect their elected officials to represent their interests," said bill author Senator Brandon Creighton of Conroe. SB 13 would also seek to reduce the "revolving door" between serving in government and becoming a lobbyist by placing a two year cooling down period between a legislator leaving office and registering as a lobbyist. Creighton said that Texas is one of only nine states

with no restrictions on lawmakers walking out of office and into a lobbying firm. Finally, the bill would require that state campaign financial disclosures be hosted on the Ethics Commission website.

Other low-numbered bills considered by State Affairs Monday include SB 9, by Senator Bryan Hughes of Mineola, which aims to improve election security by requiring a paper record of any ballots cast through an electronic voting machine. SB 22 by New Braunfels Senator Donna Campbell, would prohibit state and local government agencies from funding abortion providers with public money. SB 29, by Edgewood Senator Bob Hall, would prohibit taxpayer funded organizations or political subdivisions from hiring lobbyists using public money. Finally, SB 30, by Granbury Senator Brian Birdwell, aims to increase transparency on ballot questions regarding public debt, requiring that each bond for different purposes be listed as separate propositions, rather than a single proposition including multiple bonds for multiple purposes.

The Finance Committee also heard a low-numbered bill Monday, one that would give the state's natural parks and historical sites a dedicated revenue stream for the future. SB 26 and Senate Joint Resolution 24 would place a question on the November ballot asking voters to approve the dedication of all sporting goods sales and use tax revenues toward the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Historical Commission in perpetuity. "The resolution is designed to ensure that our state parks and historic sites will receive the funding that they need to preserve our natural areas and protect our history," said author Senator Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham. According to the comptroller's biennial revenue estimate, sales on sporting goods are projected to bring in about \$342 million in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. If approved, the resolution would take effect at the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year. The bill was approved by the committee and now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

The Senate will reconvene Tuesday, March 19 at 11 a.m.



Harris County residents reminded that Spring weather can be unpredictable

(Harris County, TX) – Springtime in southeast Texas offers plenty of pleasant days, but it also brings the threat of severe weather. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) and the National Weather Service (NWS) want to remind residents of the unpredictability of the season during its Spring Severe Weather Safety Campaign that run March 4-8, 2019.

"Spring is a time of renewal and we want to take this opportunity to give a refresher on the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to stay safe," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Preparation is important year round and we can best do that by staying informed, having an emergency plan and essential supplies.

Understanding the difference between a warning and a watch:

- A watch indicates that the potential exists for the development of severe weather.
- A warning is more serious and requires more immediate action. It indicates that severe weather conditions are occurring or imminent.

HCOHSEM reminds residents that severe weather can develop rapidly and with little warning, and offers some life-saving tips for the following threats:

Thunderstorms

- Keep an eye out for signs of a coming storm, including darkening skies, increasing winds or flashes of lightning.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be in danger from lightning, which kills 40-50 people per year.

- Postpone outdoor activities if a storm is imminent; lightning often strikes where it is not raining.

- Take shelter in a sturdy building or vehicle, with doors and windows securely fastened.

- Stay away from windows and avoid taking a bath, shower or using plumbing until the storm has passed.

Flash Flooding

- Drivers should never underestimate the force and power of flood waters. If you see high water, turn around, don't drown!

- Waters can rise so rapidly that they may be far deeper by the time you are halfway across, trapping you in your vehicle.

- Six inches of water can cause tires to lose traction and begin to slide, 12 inches of water can float many cars, and two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs, and most other vehicles.

- Flash floods are especially treacherous at night when it is very difficult to see how deep waters may be or how fast water is

rising.

- Floodwater weakens roadbeds. Drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

Tornadoes

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of a home or building away from windows: a stairwell, bathroom, hallway or storage closet.

- Do not stay in a mobile home.

- At work and school, follow the drill and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.

- If you are in a car, do not try to outrun a tornado and avoid bridges/overpasses. If you see flying debris, pull over and park. Keep your seat belt on and the engine running. Put your head down below the windows, and cover yourself with your hands/arms or a blanket.

- If outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If no shelter, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.

Remember to always have a plan and stay informed to protect yourself from severe weather threats.

Senator
Brandon
Creighton
statement on
Senate Bill 500

AUSTIN, Texas - March 13, 2019 - "Today I was proud to support the Senate's supplemental budget, Senate Bill 500. The bill's unanimous passage is a clear signal that the state is serious about addressing the catastrophic damage from Hurricane Harvey, and taking proactive steps to ensure that the entire state is better prepared for future storms. The bill also prioritizes school safety, and keeps our commitment to Texas teachers in the Teachers Retirement Fund.



"We are able to address these critical needs for our state because of conservative budgeting, and this budget is no departure and stays well within the constitutional spending limit. Every item in SB 500 that uses the Economic Stabilization Fund is a one-time expense. Texas has protected our Rainy Day fund for many years, and Harvey recovery and investing in flood mitigation are exactly what the Rainy Day Fund was designed for. The Rainy Day fund is at a historic balance and is projected to reach \$15 billion.

"I want to especially thank Chairwoman Nelson and the Members of Senate Finance for the many hours they spent crafting a conservative, responsible budget that meets Texas' obligations and priorities."

SB 500 provides \$6 billion in state dollars to cover supplemental needs, including:

- more than \$3 billion for Harvey-related expenses;
- \$2.1 billion to address the Medicaid shortfall;
- \$100 million for school safety, with an amendment for building and retrofitting, and providing flexibility on the type of safety equipment they can buy;
- \$300 million to continue the Legislature's commitment to improve state hospital facilities;
- \$542 million to address pension liabilities for the Teacher Retirement System and provide retired teacher's a 13th check up to \$500;
- \$211 million to pay obligations of the Texas Tomorrow Fund;
- \$160 million to address the Correctional Managed Health Care shortfall; and
- \$100 million to refill the Governor's Disaster Fund to help rebuild from natural disasters.

Out of the \$6 billion, \$4.3 billion comes out of the Economic Stabilization Fund.

Senator Brandon Creighton was sworn in to the Texas State Senate to represent the citizens of District 4, which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson and Galveston Counties.

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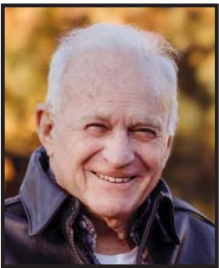
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OBITUARIES

Dr. Ronnie Joe Trice

Dr. Ronnie Joe Trice, age 79, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at his home in Anahuac, Texas surrounded by family. He was born in Anson, Texas on September 14, 1939 to Granville and JC Thorn Trice. Following graduation from Hawley High School, he served in the United States Army, after which he went on to earn a Doctorate of Bible Theology from International Bible Institute and Seminary, and a Doctorate of Arts in Religious Education from Cornerstone University.

The oldest of three siblings, he was preceded in death by his parents Granville and JC Trice, and his brother, Kenneth Trice.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sandy Trice, of 59 years; his daughter,



Ronda Stiles and husband, Randall; his son, Mark Trice and wife, Dena; his seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Dr. Trice founded Maranatha Church, now Hillside Church where he served as pastor for 37 years. His ministry reached further than just Mont Belvieu and the surrounding area, he also started several other churches. Ronnie had a deep desire to spread the Gospel and win the lost for Christ. He was an accom-

plished airplane and helicopter pilot; a skill which helped him preach the Word all over the world. He enjoyed raising, riding, and showing cutting horses. He was a loving husband, grandfather, great grandfather, and a caring friend.

A gathering of friends and family for visitation in respect of Dr. Ronnie Trice will be held on Thursday, March 21st from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Hillside Church (formerly Maranatha Church) 12319 Hwy 146 Mont Belvieu, TX. 77353

Funeral Services will be held Friday, March 22nd at 10:00 AM at Hillside Church (formerly Maranatha Church) 12319 Hwy 146 Mont Belvieu, TX. 77535

In his honor, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to missions through Operation BAM (Be A Miracle) of Hillside Church.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 1 Timothy in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What did the Lord cast down among the Is-

raelites who complained about their wilderness misfortunes? Fire, Hail, Stones, Winds

3. From Romans 3, who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God? Jews, Gentiles, Heathens, All

4. What idol fell and broke after the Ark of the Covenant was placed nearby? Edrei, Dagon, Molech, Golden calf

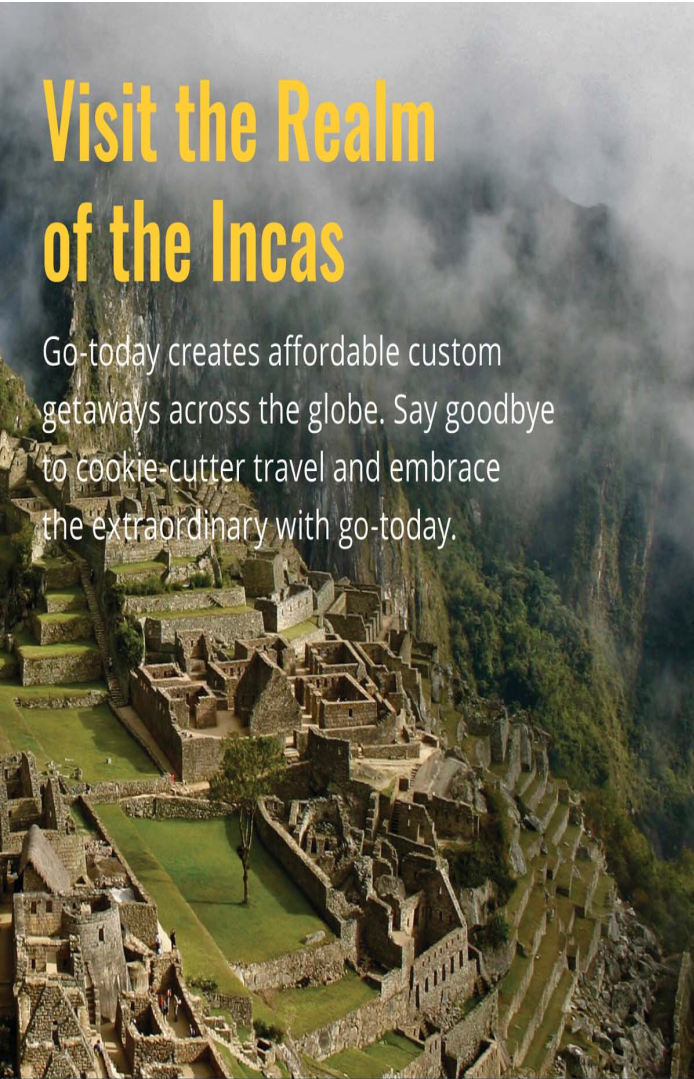
5. Who built an altar and called it "Jehovah-nissi"? Isaiah, Baal, Moses, Malachi


6. What was the name of John the Baptist's mother? Elisabeth, Miriam, Sarah, Ruth

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Fire; 3) All; 4) Dagon; 5) Moses; 6) Elisabeth

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I Corinthians 13:8

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

March gardening tips...

The weather outside is frightful...one day in the 70s, followed by another in the 40s, followed by torrential rains, then sunny enough to make the weeds grow. Ah, spring in Texas. If you can just manage to get some garden tasks done right now whenever the weather cooperates, it will make April and May really enjoyable.

Fired up your mower lately? Even if you don't mow, it's a good idea to crank it monthly. And now is a great time to get blades sharpened, before it gets consistently warm, and before you have to stand in line at the mower shop. Of course, mowing will definitely aid in keeping the cool weather weeds down, so keep that in mind.

It's pruning time as well. Whack at everything that has already bloomed if you want to shape it. Roses typically get their haircuts on Valentine's Day, but if you missed that, get it done soon. Wisteria needs a severe cutting after blooming to control its unruly growth. Leave the crepe myrtles, gardenias, and confederate roses till much later. They won't perform well if you slash them now.

Pruning and shaping of trees follow those same rules. Generally, you don't mess with citrus at all; other fruit and nut trees get trimmed to provide air flow within the branches. When pruning, don't train your tree to make narrow "v" looking areas between branch and trunk; you want more of a "u" shape. The shorter angle can lead to splitting as the branch gets weightier with age.

There are a lot of annuals and vegetables that can get into the ground right now. Radishes, carrots, onions, and of course, leafy greens all come to mind. Strawberry plants are popping up at local stores, and if you keep them high and dry, will do well until ear-

ly summer, when they struggle mightily. Wait a few more weeks for the green beans, and get the tomatoes in about the end of the month. You'll thank me later for those early tomatoes!

It's a little early for most summer bloomers, but petunias, pansies, snapdragons and alyssum will provide quite a show in the next few weeks. This is a great time for bed clean-up; you can get rid of all the frost-bitten tops, and clean out the unwanted weeds before you plant in earnest. If you've never considered a "pollinator garden," you might look into the idea. Our bee and insect friends, along with a few of the birds and butterflies, enjoy the feast when you allow some of those native weeds to flourish among your traditional pretties. Many "weeds" are often the very food and nesting sources that the wild critters need to continue their existence, and if you can enjoy them for what they are, they can become a valued part of your planting program.

If you're a first-time vegetable gardener, start small, and start now. If you are going to dig in the existing ground, prepare the area now by digging and turning, clearing out the weedy growth, and ideally, getting a soil sample from Texas A&M to find out what nutrients you already have, and what you are going to need to add. Information on how to take a soil sample, and the form to send it in, are located on the "aggie-horticulture" site at A&M. Get that done before the spring rush.

If you are making raised beds and ordering "garden soil," keep in mind that the definition has more to do with the sand/clay percentages. It doesn't have anything to do with the nutrients that are needed to help the plants grow.

Once again, you should take a soil sample, and as that guy on tv says, "feed it!" Ninety percent of gardening, whether lawn, tree, flower, or vegetable, depends on the right kind of soil for the particular item you're growing.

Probably by the end of the month, the anthills will start to make themselves visible all over your yards. You can clear yours completely, but if your neighbors don't do the same, expect invaders to enter your territory, since you've so lovingly prepared them ideal sites! Mount a neighborhood campaign and share the ant poison.

If you have a brushy area near your vegetable and plant beds, it may help to know that while it's a wonderful spot for wildlife, it may also harbor those very insects you hate on your tomatoes in June. They overwinter in those protected areas, just like the birds do. If you want to continue to help the wild ones, you might want to move your bed further away, or let the brush area grow up somewhere else in the property.

As you gather all that dead plant material, and the sticks that fell from your trees during the windy days, consider using it all for the beginnings of a compost heap. Turning it into useable garden nutrients, instead of into a landfill, helps in two ways. You can be a lazy compost-er, and just pile everything up to rot slowly, or you can be more of an activist and turn it frequently and water it down if it doesn't get much rain. Add grass clippings to the brown stuff, and it will cook some more. Cooking scraps and eggshells (no meat products) can be added, if you can do it in a way that won't attract unwanted animals looking for a meal. The presence of earthworms after a short time will prove that your heap is working well.

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ROMANS 8:18

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

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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

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

ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Be Present

We encounter different personalities along our journey. Perhaps this week you will have new neighbors, new co-workers, visitors at church or maybe even a new waiter at your favorite restaurant. You may be attending a wedding reception or funeral where there are people who you do not know. It does not matter if you meet them briefly or if you will be working beside them for years to come, you have to get along with each other. You have to learn to be present and look for opportunities to make a difference.

Life is way too stressful to let someone's quirky tendencies or obnoxious behavior ruin your day. I learned a long time ago, that I can get along with others without forcing myself to be their friend. I can encourage others without giving them a shoulder to cry on. And the amazing part of that is that I can sleep at night knowing I have not been ugly or had to be fake. Genuine love for God allows a person to live in a way that others cannot always understand.

With all of the shootings and constant uproar that we see many young people involved in, we as older community members must take the time and become mentors and find ways to make a positive difference. Maybe you do not have time to sign up to be a mentor and commit to one person. Each one of us can definitely keep ourselves in "check" and be a role

model for many. Perhaps it starts with having a relationship with God and then having an accountability partner who you can be honest with and accept constructive criticism from. The two of you can hold each other responsible for how you react in public as well as live in private. If one of you sees the other one not living in a way that promotes a healthy life, you have to be able to tell each other that.

The two of you then have to make an honest effort to meet new people and have an awareness to promote a life that younger people can be drawn to. When either of you meet someone who needs guidance, you have each other to work with to help the young person out. Everywhere I go to see how I can impact others. Sometimes it is just opening a door for a mom who is trying to get her multiple children into the store. Maybe it is returning the shopping cart to the stall so that an elderly person does not have to do it. Next time you are in line, take the time to allow someone else to cut in line in front of you. When you leave work, tired and ready to be on your way home, let another car get in front of you. Do not look at it as someone trying to cut but instead look at it as someone who may be in a bigger emergency than to you get somewhere. One thing about it, I know that somewhere someone is watching to see if you are present and making a difference.

Rep. Ana Hernandez updates the community on Legislation Bills

It may be Spring Break, but committees are pushing full-steam ahead. I presented seven pieces of legislation in committees that help to support our active-duty military members, solve cold criminal cases, provide needed reforms to our criminal justice system, and protect our children. I'm proud of our policy agenda and its focus on making Texas a more inclusive, accessible, safe, and work-force-friendly state. As we now position to advance our legislative package, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (512) 463-0614 if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Kind regards,
Ana Hernandez

Protecting Young Children

Over the past decade, nearly 90 deaths, 3,200 abuse and neglect cases and more than 450 incidents of sexual abuse have occurred at daycare facilities in Texas. Ending this abuse and neglect requires improved oversight, uniform safety standards, and modern tools to assist in investigation proceedings.

Joining courageous mothers who traveled to Austin to testify before the House Committee on Human Services, Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 459**, which would establish requirements for the placement of security cameras in daycares. We must do everything we can to protect children and give investigators the tools they need to prosecute cases involving abuse and neglect.

Supporting Our Heroes

According to the Department of Defense, 321 active-duty military members took their lives in 2018. These



Representative Ana Hernandez, middle, was joined by courages mothers and parents to testify about Human Services.

include 57 marines, 68 sailors, 58 airmen, and 138 soldiers.

Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 833** to the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs, which would establish a "Camo Alert" system for missing active-duty military personnel suffering from a mental illness.

Solving Cold Criminal Cases

Preventing sexual assault and other heinous crimes has been one of Representative Hernandez's legislative priorities. The collection of DNA evidence can make a difference in avoiding a false conviction, solving a cold case, and preventing escalating crimes. Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 979** before the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety to update our state's DNA database to include more assaultive offenses upon final conviction.

Giving Seniors a Voice at the Table

The Employee Retirement System of Texas (ERS) currently has over 142,000 active members and more than 113,000 retirees. To guarantee

fair representation during policy discussions, Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 596** to the House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services, which would make one of the ERS Board's three elected seats eligible to be filled by either an active or retired member.

Fighting for Parent-Friendly Facilities

Currently, most diaper changing stations are located in women's restrooms. We need to support all parents and caregivers — including fathers, grandfathers, male babysitters and any other men caring for babies in diapers. Parents shouldn't have to resort to changing a diaper on a dirty floor of a public restroom or on a sink counter and risk potentially unsafe and unsanitary conditions for their babies. Addressing this issue, Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 952** to the House Committee on State Affairs, which would establish requirements for the installation of diaper changing stations in newly-constructed or renovated restrooms that are made available to the public.

Criminal Justice Reform

In 2018, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice reported that over 60% of women in our state prisons were parents of young children. Texas' incarceration rate for women has grown by 906% since 1980, significantly higher than the national average of 700%. It's important that we help good people who have made one bad choice avoid outcomes that can tear a family apart.

Recognizing this, Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 1374** before the House Committee on Corrections, which would provide the ability to develop pretrial diversion programs tailored to primary caregivers of children.

Reliable Work Scheduling

Unpredictable and unstable work schedules can place hourly employees in a state of economic instability, and make them unable to plan for family responsibilities.

To combat this problem, Representative Hernandez presented **House Bill 640** to the House Committee on Business and Industry, which would require large retail and food employers to notify workers of their work schedule at least two weeks in advance.



Diamond Jim: "A Diamond's Value & The 4 C's...Carat Weight"

When it comes to buying an engagement ring, diamond price is determined by the quality of the 4 C's combined, and not the least of these is Carat weight. What is a "carat" anyway? Why not measure a diamond's weight in grams or another better-known unit of measure? Those are good questions.

In the jewelry industry, a carat is "one metric carat" and is referred to as 1.00ct (ct is the be abbreviation for carat). One carat is equal to 100 points or 200 milligrams (0.2 grams). In basic terms, a 1 carat diamond weighs about the same as one half of a small paper clip.

Many people wonder why a diamond's weight is measured in terms of carats. The use of grams, kilograms, or other commonly known units of measure might be more familiar to most people. The carat has a very interesting and unique history. The word carat actually originated from

ASK DIAMOND JIM

the word carob which refers to a locust tree that produces edible pods. Carob seeds, being even in weight, were used as weighing references by traders in the olden days, going back as far as the Roman Empire.



Without electronic scales, seeds were used as measurements

As recently as the 1890s, if you bought a "one-carat" diamond, the weight could actually vary anywhere between 0.94 to 1.06 metric carats! Standardization of measurement has been something of a challenge over the centuries. That's a huge amount of uncertainty considering

the big sums of money paid for a single stone. Much has changed since ancient times and the old days. While highly sensitive electronic weighing equipment has replaced the carob seeds, the industry stuck with the terminology of using carats to describe the weight of a diamond.

If you read my recent 'Ask Diamond Jim' column on Cut, you'll remember that an "ideal cut" allows the best

return of light in a diamond. The ideal cut also helps to ensure the relatively consistent size of a diamond. A one carat shallow cut diamond may appear bigger than one carat ideal cut; however, it will not return the light properly. A one carat diamond cut too deep will appear smaller and it too will likely disappoint the owner with a lack of fire and scintillation.

No matter what size diamond you're interested in owning, take the time to consider all of the 4 C's...Cut, Color, Clarity and Carat weight. Thank you for taking the time to read this brief summary of a Diamond's Carat Weight.

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.

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NOTICE OF INTENT

TO SELECT COUNTY DEPOSITORIES

In accordance with Article 116.022 of the Texas Local Government Code,

NOTICE, is hereby given to any Chambers County banking corporation, association, or individual banker, that the Chambers County Commissioners Court will at 10:00 a.m. on the 23rd day of April, 2019, select one or more depository banks for the following Chambers County Funds:

Chambers County Operating Funds
Interest and Sinking Funds
District and County Clerk Trust Funds
County Permanent School Funds
County Internal Funds
Other Related Funds

The county reserves the right to withdraw any or all Chambers County Permanent School Funds from this depository agreement. It is understood that the Chambers County Treasurer would give a 30-day written notice prior to any withdrawal of these funds.

The term of the depository contract shall be four, (4) years with an option to review at the end of two, (2) years.

Any banking corporation, association or individual banker desiring to be designated as a County Depository shall make and deliver to the Chambers County Judge an application applying for such contract on or before 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd day of April, 2019. The application must be in a sealed envelope marked on the outside "Depository Application."

The application must state the amount of the bank's paid-up capital stock and permanent surplus; the application must be accompanied by:

- (1) A statement showing the financial condition of the bank on the date of the application;
- and
- (2) A certified check or cashier's check for at least one-half (1/2) percent of the county's revenue for the preceding year.

The certified check or cashier's check that accompanies the application is a good-faith guarantee on the part of the applicant that if accepted as a County Depository it will execute the bond required under Ch. 116, Subchapter D, Texas Local Government Code. If the bank is selected as a depository and does not provide the bond, the county shall retain the amount of the check as liquidated damages.

The Commissioners Court may determine and designate the character and amount of county funds that will be demand deposits and that will be time deposits. The Commissioners Court may contract with a depository for interest on time deposits at any legal rate under a federal law or under a rule adopted by the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System or by the board of directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Commissioners Court will select one of more of the qualified applicants that offer the most favorable terms and conditions for the handling of the county funds; the Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject those applicants whose management or condition, in the opinion of the Commissioners Court, does not warrant placing county funds in their possession.

Jimmy Sylvia, County Judge
Chambers County Commissioners Court
March 1, 2019

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 473394; Estate of MARK ALLEN MCCOLLUM Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on March 7, 2019.

TINA ANN MALTOS

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

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

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 March 15, 2019

by WESTON
COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 473427; Estate of RHONDA DUMAS JOHNSON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on March 6, 2019.

JOSEPH ARMOND JOHNSON

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

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521

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 March 13, 2019

by WESTON
COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Intention To Introduce A Bill In The Legislature of Texas

Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the Regular Session of the 86th Legislature of Texas a bill allowing the district to designate all or any part of the district as a tax increment reinvestment zone and use tax increment financing under Chapter 311 of the Texas Tax Code, pursuant to the provisions of Article 16, Section 59, of the Constitution of Texas and Chapter 313 of the Texas Government Code. This bill will provide for the district's administration, powers, duties, operation and financing under Chapter 311, Tax Code.

LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

"Proposals for RFP 19-005 Beverage Vending Services will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Wednesday, April 24, 2019 @ 2:30 PM CSDT. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Brooke Lakner, Director of Purchasing at 832-386-1008 or on our website: http://galenaparkisd.com. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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Deer Park Fire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MULTIPLE FIRE COMPANIES joined to fight the huge fire in the ITC storage tank farm. Here, equipment from Galena Park and Baytown position themselves on the roadway adjacent to the burning tanks.

up about \$200,000 in fines for environmental violations.

Tuesday morning five tanks were still on fire and three were spent of fuel, some seven more tanks are nearby.

“This isn’t an event we wanted or planned. Many of my employees work in the city of Deer Park, they live in Deer Park, they’re out there fighting this fire the best they can,” stated ITC spokeswoman Alice Richardson, “They are residents. I would guess that probably 30 percent live in Deer Park in La Porte. They’re concerned. Their families are concerned, so of course I.T.C. would apologize to any of them.”

Harris County Public Health in a statement released on Tuesday urged residents to check on rela-

tives and neighbors who are elderly or have respiratory issues.

As the clouds rise rapidly risk to locals is diminished but in the event of rain or fog, the clouds may be brought lower and risk may increase.

Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia is urging private, state and federal agencies to work together and provide timely and accurate information to Harris County officials so that the public can be effectively informed about the current situation at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Deer Park facility.

“It is imperative elected officials are being informed and receiving timely updates to make informed decisions. I’m frustrated with ITC’s commitment

and management of the current situation,” said Commissioner Garcia.

TCEQ and Harris County have filed multiple violations against ITC in the past. According to the Houston Chronicle report, the facility has been fined for violating clean air and clean water rules multiple times since 2009 and was cited for not following federal risk management regulations.

“Air quality is a top concern and I want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep the public safe and informed,” Commissioner Garcia said.

Harris County Pollution Control has been on the ground monitoring the situation and will continue to do so for the next coming days, according to Harris County Judge and OEM head, Line Hidalgo.

Sylvia Garcia Honored,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pelosi in her tribute. “In the Congress, she is a pioneer for progress.”

“I’m proud to know that I can always say “Ella es mi amiga,” said Congressman Van Taylor (TX-03), a Republican. Reps. Garcia and Taylor previously served together in the Texas Senate before both were elected to the US House of

Representatives for the 116th Congress.

At the end of her remarks, Congresswoman Garcia called for a renewal of Latino leadership in today’s divisive political environment.

“We cannot lose sight of what’s important: Family, community, opportunity. The American Dream.

That’s why we are all here, after all,” Congresswoman Garcia said during her remarks. “America’s strength is its diversity and as Latinos, our growing chorus of voices must continue to lead the call that America’s best days are still ahead... That’s what NALEO is all about.”

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