

Immigrants make huge contributions to Houston

Immigrants from page A27

Houston's elite hospitals. And, in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, few complained when so many residents depended on hard-working foreign-born workers for much of the vital sheet rock and floor removal and replacement.

The first generation of immigrants to Texas — the “Anglo” Texans that migrated to the Mexican province that included modern-day Texas — used their own hands to build their homes here. How many native-born Texans today can do so without relying on the labor and skills of recent immigrants?

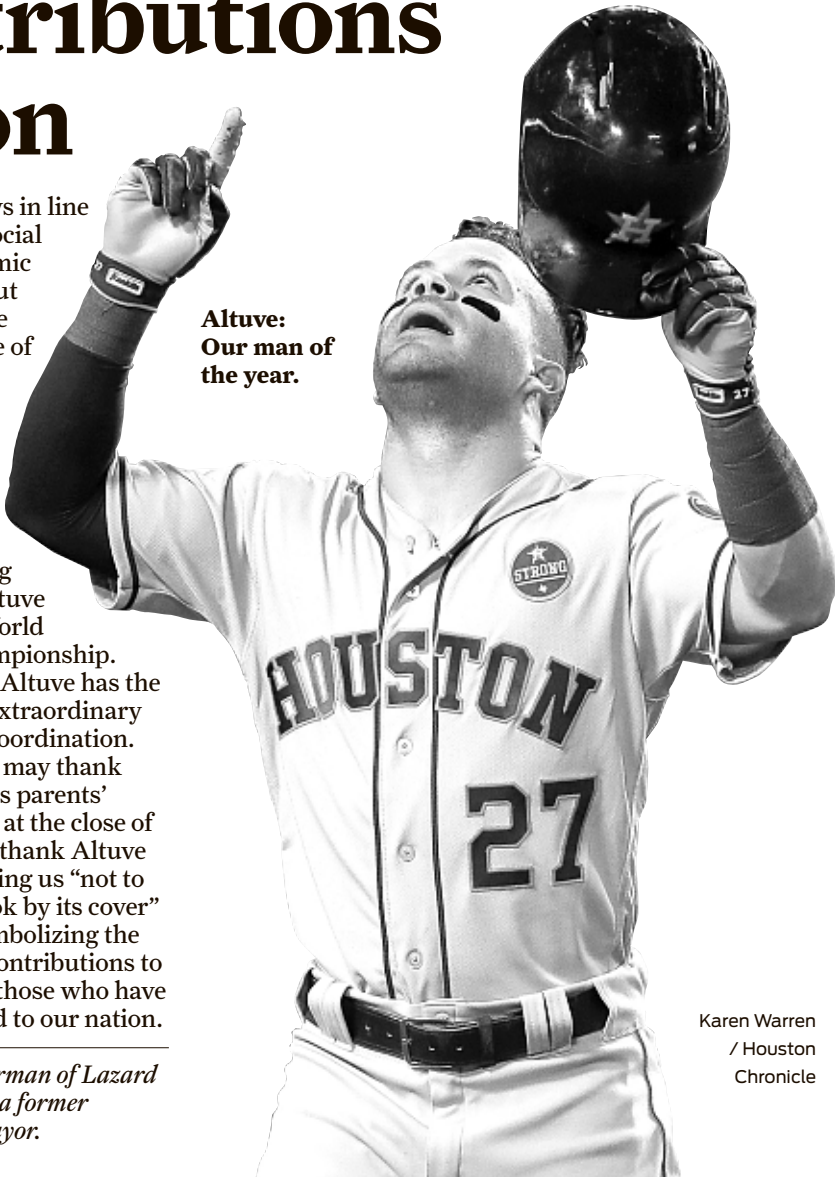
Obviously there is a legal difference between immigrants with current green cards and those who stayed past the expiration of work or tourist visas. Americans can debate in good faith how best to bring our immi-

gration laws in line with our social and economic realities. But denying the importance of immigrant workers to Houston is like denying their contributions — including those of Altuve — to the World Series championship.

Yes, Mr. Altuve has the benefit of extraordinary hand-eye coordination. For that he may thank God and his parents’ genes. But, at the close of 2017, let us thank Altuve for reminding us “not to judge a book by its cover” and for symbolizing the immense contributions to our city of those who have immigrated to our nation.

White, chairman of Lazard Houston, is a former Houston mayor.

Altuve: Our man of the year.



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Food Bank on front lines in times of trial

Food from page A27

nutrition aid from USDA and FEMA. This is an important lesson — our government is a strong helper when endowed with sufficient resources.

The evidence from Harvey is clear. Even in the most trying times, we are an empathetic nation. We care about each other, particularly during times of crisis. Our compassion is present and abundant, waiting to be invoked.

Recovery from Harvey will take months for many of those who felt its impact, years for those hardest hit. Alongside natural disaster, the man-made disaster of poverty will persist in its subtle but vicious attack on the most vulnerable members of our society. As organizations that advocate for the needs of these families, the Houston Food Bank and Feeding Texas will be on the front lines helping



Houston Food Bank

After Harvey, donations increased to Houston Food Bank from citizens eager to help those affected by flooding. Organization officials say the need continues, and they encourage Houstonians to continue to help families in need.

wherever we can.

If you intend to make a New Year’s resolution for 2018, commit to being a helper. Not just during the holidays, or times of crisis, but every day. When faced with news

of Texans experiencing sudden, traumatic events — or just the daily struggle to put bread on the table — ask yourself: “What is the compassionate thing to do?” And then encour-

age our leaders to do the same. Let’s make the future bright for everyone.

Greene is president of Houston Food Bank. Cole is executive director of Feeding Texas.

Russia not on board with Saudi oil limits

Russia from page A27

took a proactive stance towards recent deliberations to extend OPEC/non-OPEC production cuts into 2018.

Saudi’s steadfast commitment to the deal was not initially reciprocated by Russia. The cat-and-mouse process led one seasoned journalist to note President Vladimir Putin wanted to “crown himself king of OPEC.” The sequence of events prompted the question whether Russia has finally achieved what four decades of sponsored military proxies failed to do — surreptitiously gaining sway over Saudi oil policy.

For its part, Russia’s stated concern about a production cut extension was linked in part to the advantage higher oil prices are giving to U.S. shale producers. A Citibank report suggests that not only do Russia’s largest companies have 300,000 barrels per day in idled current capacity, they are sitting on some 23 fields that could add substantial new production in the next five years. Russia also has untapped shale potential.

Any Russian increases will come head-to-head with rising U.S. oil production. The U.S. Energy Information Administration has said that it could hit 10 million barrels per day in



Alexei Druzhinin / Kremlin Pool Photo via AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s grip on power is intimately linked to Russia’s oil and gas elite. He could be tempted to challenge Saudi stability.

2018, up 780,000 barrels per day. Analysts Cornerstone Macro are similarly bullish on U.S. supply, especially should prices be above \$60 a barrel.

Right now, production disruptions in Venezuela, the United Kingdom and Iraq are supporting prices in addition to a war premium fueled by raging proxy wars across the Mideast. Traders, shale investors and even reportedly Saudi Arabia are betting that continued problems in Caracas, among other locales, will make ample room for rising U.S. production. Longer term, there are more producers in line to increase exports,

including Iran, Iraq, Brazil and Canada.

But the real geopolitical showdown for market share will likely come down to Russia and the United States: Who can bring on new oil fastest?

The possible conflict over market share is existential to Russian power. Washington’s energy dominance tack, which recently included an announced gas export deal for Alaska during the Trump visit to Beijing, sounds as threatening to Russian ears as NATO expansion did a decade or more ago.

Not only does Russia rely heavily on its energy

exports for its budget and as a diplomatic lever, but the commanding heights of Putin’s inner circle and his grip on power is intimately linked with Russia’s oil and gas elite. Russian influence and economic health has suffered in the past from orchestrated alliances between the United States, Saudi Arabia and Qatar that targeted Russia’s energy earnings.

For now, Russia seems content to collaborate with Saudi Arabia on oil market stability, which ironically also suits the current U.S. administration, whose America-first jobs message is tied heavily to the economic engine of the shale revolution.

But that delicate oil truce rests on the back of Venezuela’s woes, which is making space for everyone. At some later date, if Saudi stability seems vulnerable to continuing proxy wars in the Middle East, Putin could be tempted to see if he can tip the scales further, making additional space for his long-term export surge and rendering his giant reserves all the more important.

Jaffe is the David M. Rubenstein senior fellow for energy and the environment and director of the Program on Energy and Climate Change at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Legal Notices

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email legals@chron.com or call 713.224.6868.

BIDS & PROPOSALS

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Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) is soliciting proposals for **RFP 18-003 Furniture-Office, Classroom, Cafeteria, and Specialty Furnishings**. Details are more fully set out in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The submission deadline will be 10:00 A.M. CST on January 17, 2018, at the GPISD Admin Bldg., Room Q109, 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at purchasing@galenaparkisd.com, or on our website: <http://www.galenaparkisd.com/departments/purchasing/upcomingBids.php>. Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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Sealed Proposal Solicitation #TP07-18 Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program Trenchless Pipeline Rehabilitation Services
Pre-Proposal Conference: 01/15/18 @ 9am
Response Deadline: 03/13/18 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 03/13/18 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice. 832-681-2514 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

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Sealed Bid Solicitation #SW04-18A Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program Sweeping Equipment
Response Deadline: 1/18/18 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 1/18/18 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice. 713-499-6693 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

IFB No. 4018000043: For Backup Fuel. Solicitation will be available on or about 12/18/2017.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO’s website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>.

If you are unable to download the documents or having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

SANTA FE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is requesting Competitive Sealed Proposals for A New Elementary School. A pre-proposal conference will be held at the Cowan Administration Building, 4133 Warpath, Santa Fe, TX 77510 at 10 AM on Wednesday, January 09, 2018. Contractors are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-proposal conference and to visit the site to become familiar with the work. The Competitive Sealed Proposals will be received at Santa Fe ISD Cowan Administration Building, 4133 Warpath, Santa Fe, TX until 2:00 PM (Base Proposals) and 3:00 PM (Alternate Proposals) on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. A public opening will be held at the above address immediately following the closing time of 3:00 PM. Plans and specifications may be obtained at Thomas Printworks, 4235 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX – 713.621.0022. A refundable deposit of \$250.00 will be required for each set of documents. Checks are to be made payable to Santa Fe ISD. Contact Jerry Bevel, cre8 Architects, 713.526.2738 for additional information.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Meetings Concerning Proposed Revisions to the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Guidelines for Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants, RG-368 (ERIG guidelines) and the TERP Guidelines for the Drayage Truck Incentive Program, RG-524 (DTIP guidelines)

The executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ, agency, or commission) is issuing this public notice of proposed revisions to the ERIG guidelines and DTIP guidelines to obtain public input.

The TERP was established by the Texas Legislature in 2001. The primary purpose of the TERP is to provide financial incentives (grants) for projects intended to reduce the nitrogen oxides emissions and other pollutants from on-road vehicles and non-road equipment. Certain areas of the state have ground-level ozone levels that exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established under the Federal Clean Air Act. The TERP was established to help these areas come into compliance with the federal requirements and to help other areas in the state that are facing air quality challenges.

The ERIG guidelines were originally adopted in 2001 to implement the TERP Diesel Emissions Reduction Incentive Program (DERI program) established under Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), Chapter 386, Subchapter C. The DERI program was established to provide grants to owners and operators of heavy-duty on-road vehicles, non-road equipment, marine vessels, locomotives, and stationary equipment to replace or upgrade their older vehicles, equipment, and/or engines with newer, cleaner models. The proposed revisions to the ERIG guidelines incorporate changes made to the DERI program by Senate Bill (SB) 1731, enacted by the 85th Texas Legislature, 2017.

The DTIP guidelines were originally adopted in 2014 to implement the TERP Drayage Truck Incentive Program under THSC, Chapter 386, Subchapter D-1. The DTIP was established to provide grants for owners and operators to replace drayage trucks operating at and through the seaports and rail yards located in the areas of the state designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as nonattainment for ground-level ozone under the NAAQS. The revisions to the DTIP guidelines would change the name of the DTIP to the Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction (SPRY) Program, expand the list of eligible vehicles and equipment, and make other changes to the program as required under SB 1731.

Public meetings are scheduled for: January 23, 2018, at 2:00 p.m., at the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Metroplex Room, 616 Six Flags Drive, Suite 200, Arlington, Texas; January 25, 2018, at 2:00 p.m., at the Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District Office, Room 109, 7600 Washington Ave, Houston, Texas; and January 26, 2018, at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Building E, Room 201S, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas. The guidelines are not a rulemaking under Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, but the meetings will be conducted like a public hearing for rulemaking. Staff will be available for a limited time after public comments are received to answer questions regarding the guidelines.

Comments may be submitted in writing or may be provided at one of the public meetings. Written comments submitted separate from a public meeting may be sent in writing to Mr. Stephen Dayton, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division, Implementation Grants Section, MC 204, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to Mr. Stephen Dayton at (512) 239-0077. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the eComments system. All comments should reference Non-Rule Project Number 2018-011-OTH-NR and should identify whether the comment pertains to the ERIG guidelines or the DTIP (SPRY) guidelines.

The public comment period closes February 6, 2018. Electronic copies of the proposed revisions to the ERIG guidelines and DTIP (SPRY) guidelines may be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.terpgrants.org>. Written copies of the documents may be requested by calling the TERP toll-free number at 800-919-TERP (8377).

Persons who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to attend a public meeting should contact the TCEQ at 800-919-8377. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.

For further information about these documents or the public meetings, please call the TERP toll-free number at 800-919-8377.

To place a legal notice e-mail
legals@chron.com