

Texas has 185 high schools labeled 'dropout factories'

Texas has 185 high schools that are hemorrhaging students fast enough to be called "dropout factories" in a new national report. San Antonio has 15 of them.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University, who did the study for the Associated Press, applied that label to high schools with an attrition rate of at least 40 percent — which amounted to one in 10 high schools.

The report's release coincides with a Texas study by the San Antonio-based Intercultural Development Research Association showing a 34 percent statewide attrition rate for the 2006 graduating class.

"This is the time bomb. This is the tsunami that started already," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, who is on the Senate Education Committee.

"If you look at our demographics, weaid. As a group, Hispanics have the highest dropout rate in Texas, some 45 percent, according to the IDRC report. Hispanics also make up the

largest percentage of the state's 4.6 million public school students.

Click here to read more about the dropout challenge in Texas. Cuomo:

Appraisers Inflated Home Values New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said Thursday a major real estate appraisal company sCuomo said in a news conference.

Cuomo announced the civil lawsuit against eAppraiseIT that accuses the First American Corp. subsidiary of caving in to pressure from Washington Mutual Inc. to use a list of "proven appraisers" who he colluded with the nation's largest savings and loan companies to inflate the values of homes nationwide, contributing to the subprime mortgage crisis.

"This is a case we believe is indicative of an industrywide problem," nd assess penalties.

"These blatant actions of First American and eAppraiseIT have contributed to the growing fore

closure crisis and turmoil in the housing market," Cuomo said in a statement. "By allowing Washington Mutual to hand-pick appraisers who inflated values, First American helped set the current mortgage crisis in motion."

Click here to read more about Cuomo's investigation of home values.

Asarco Criminal Allegations Sent to TCEQE Paso County Attorney Jose Rodriguez announced Monday that he is asking the state environmental agency to review the possibility of criminal charges against Asarco stemming from alleged violations in the "transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes."

Under state law, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality must review charges referred to the agency by a licensed peace officer. Rodriguez was requested to make the referral by Get The Lead Out, a coalition that opposes the reopening of Asarco.

The TCEQ has 45 days to make a decision whether to pursue administrative penalties, criminal penalties, or decline to pursue the matter. TCEQ officials were not available for comment late Monday.

Rodriguez said he decided to refer the matter because Asarco had a poor track record of compliance with both environmental laws and with abiding by penalties.

Click here to read more about the Asarco criminal enforcement review.

SaluteVeterans

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Alver Dee Session, Jacksonville, TX. 1962 - 1965; U. S. Army.

Cleo Cox, Rusk, TX. - U. S. Army; Viet Nam, 1970 - 1974.

L. C. Session, Dallas, TX. - U. S. Army.

Travis McGowan, Rusk, TX., U. S. Army, Viet Nam, Purple Heart.

Joe Teague, Jacksonville, TX. U. S. Army,

Donald Foreman, Rusk, TX., U. S. Army, Dessert Storm- Career.

Charlie Colston, Dallas, TX. U. S. Army.

Frazier Foreman, Dallas, TX. - U. S. Army, 1969 - 1972; Viet Nam

Adrian Silmon, Jacksonville, Tx. - U. S. Army, 1997 - 2002

Leo Simmons, Houston, TX.; U. S. Air Force, 1961 - 1965.

Jessie Simmons, Rusk, TX. -U. S. Army, 1962 - 1965

Norman Roberson, Rus, Texas.- Viet Nam

Jerry Leviston, Rusk, TX. U. S. Army

Larry Desrman, Rusk, Tx., U. S. Army

Charles Denman, Houston, TX. U. S. Navy, 1956 - 1959.

Mozell Tinsley, Rusk, Tx.-U. S. Army, 1968 -1971, Purple Heart

Jessie L. Burley, Nacogdoches, U. S. Army, 1953-1955



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