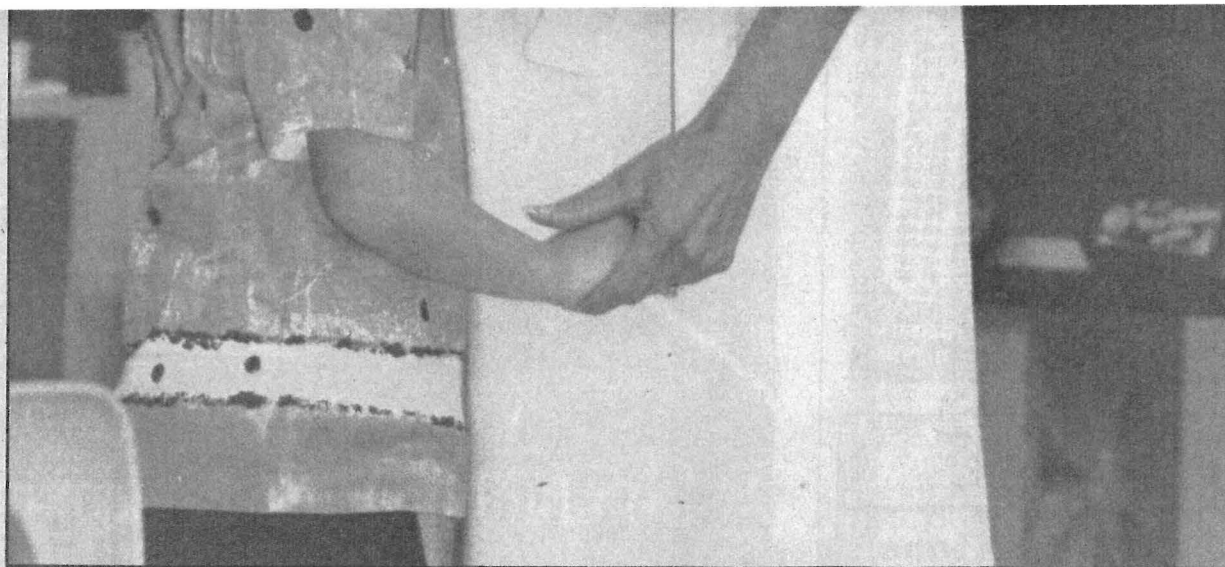


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Ed White Elementary kindergarten teacher Fran Cordes consoles first-time student Kathryn Holland on the first day of school Tuesday.

Citizen photo by Bonnie Pritchett

Holley's widow, Sonia, said shortly after her husband's death that she wanted his spot on the council.
City Councilman John Scott has insisted that she be allowed to fill her late husband's post and placed an item on Tuesday's council agenda to consider it — a move that left Mayor Sandy Drake cold and angered at least one council member.
"It's just too soon, we buried the guy Friday," said Councilman Don Carmichael. "I'm not ready to make a decision on it. Basically, I'm just appalled at this whole thing. I mean, this thing started last Tuesday night. They hadn't even got Jim dried off real good before they started this."

It just really makes me sick that someone is trying to use Jim's death as a political football."
Don Carmichael

"I just can't understand it," he said. "I think it's just absolutely disgusting that you can't even get the man buried before somebody tries to turn his death into a political issue. I mean, that kind of sucks."
Carmichael said while he and Holley didn't always see eye to eye politically, he can't imagine
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City Council fights Casa Mare demolition with resolution

By PAULINE DURYEA
Citizen Staff

SEABROOK — City Council Tuesday formally announced opposition to the proposed demolition of "the big house" at Camp Casa Mare while supporting its historical designation.

Council unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday "encouraging the San Jacinto Girl Scout Council to register Casa Mare as an historical landmark and save the mansion from destruction."

The Scott Mansion, owned and operated by the scouting council as a sailing camp for girls since 1958,

has been designated an historical landmark by preservation societies.

When in April the board of directors of the council found they could not afford the upkeep and mounting structural problems of the house, they voted to tear it down.

That decision started an uproar within the Girl Scout community which has ended in anti-demolition rally and pro-preservation petitions.

Amid scrutiny and extensive publicity, the board last week offered the house to anyone willing to relocate it. Texas Historical Commission, one of the interested preservation agencies, was asked to

act as a kind of administrator for the relocation effort by helping organize fundraisers and connecting interested parties with the council.

The sponsor of the resolution, Councilman Michael Landolt, said he strongly supported the resolution and was hopeful it would help sway the scouting council's decisions.

"I hope this will help the (scouting) council explore other alternatives," said Landolt.

Councilman Frank Jureczki said he hoped the scouting council had explored every avenue. He said he wondered if any large endowment

funds were available.

Debbie Ortiz, council assistant executive director, said thus far only moving companies interested in getting the job if the house is moved had contacted her.

When asked about the city council's support for establishing the house as an historical landmark, Ortiz said early Tuesday before the resolution had been officially approved, there would be no problem with that request.

"I'm sure we'd have no problem with that," said Ortiz. "We'd certainly have no problem with that."

Historic societies have said they

would need a signature from the owners of the building before it could be placed on the National Register, the nation's designation for historically significant places.

Texas Historical Commission Director Jim Steely and two other representatives met with both council Executive Director Anne Schneider and President Ann Moeller Friday.

Steely called it a "good meeting" and an exchange of ideas and both parties' positions on the issue.

"We're hopeful there's some

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and has a right to be sued in the county of his residence."

League City is primarily in Galveston County but parts extend into Harris County. At the time the suit was filed, Rodriguez's attorney, Chris Cahill, said the city could file in any county where the cause for action rose.

The response also says the case violates essential First Amendment rights and the suit is a violation of the separation of powers within government.

Court Clerk Andy Sanchez said Villhard had made a response for special appearance and a motion for transfer but had not yet called the court to determine when the judge could hear his case.

In his response, Villhard said he

wanted the case to be called after the 10th day and before the 20th day from his response, placing the dates between Aug. 26 and Sept. 9.

City Attorney Mark Sokolow said he was in the process of "reviewing the answer right now." He said Villhard had made "unusual allegations" which had to be proven true in discovery process and depositions.

"The city will investigate all allegations in this answer," said Sokolow. "The city has a right to know."

"I think the petition (Rodriguez's) is clear enough in what's needed for the court to make a determination."

Villhard declined to comment, saying his answer to the suit should serve as his statement.

HOUSE

Continued from page 1A

solution we can explore by funding either on site or by moving the building," said Steely. "I'm hopeful we can preserve it on site."

After seeing the house for the first time Friday during a site review to help the scouting council document the house through picture taking, Steely said it was both "architecturally significant" and "in very good condition."

Since the commission is knowledgeable about the process of preserving a building, Steely said its job would be to help make connections for the council. Thus far he said he had transferred to them one possible party interested in relocating the house.

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