

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories  
in the PRESS:

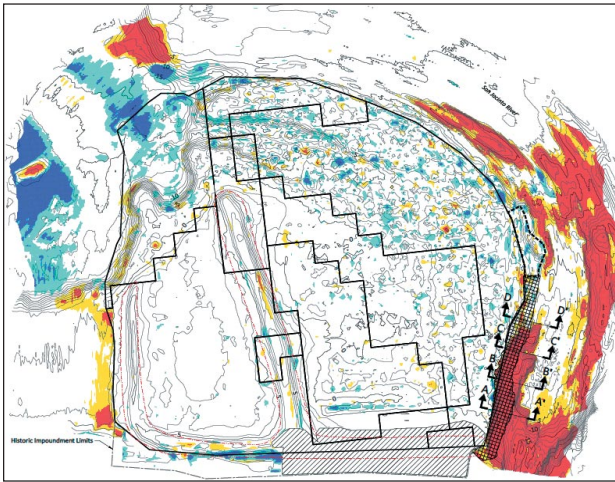
- Texas Trash Off Day
- Family Wellness Expo
- Better Homes Expo
- Sewer Overflow
- .....And more, Page 3

OPINION  
POLLDo you approve of  
President Trump's  
Immigration Policies?

- YES  
 NO  
 NOT SURE

Cast your vote on our  
website, and see current  
results, at:  
www.starcouriernews.comWaste Pits need additional repairs  
Toxic material exposed, cap membrane missingEPA Directs  
Additional  
Repairs for  
San Jacinto  
River Waste Pits  
Superfund Site

DALLAS - (June 29, 2018) EPA is directing the potentially responsible parties of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site in Texas to take immediate action to address damage to the protective cap. Initial repairs will begin shortly at the damaged areas where the protective rock was missing. Upon completion, EPA will inspect the final re-

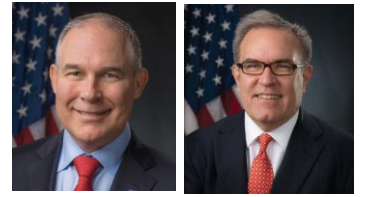


San Jacinto Riverbed scouring image post Hurricane Harvey. Gridded areas of riverbed labeled A, B, C, D will be repaired, as well as exposed toxin area in Northwest corner (dark Blue).

pair.

EPA received preliminary data from sediment samples collected by EPA's dive team from twenty-two small areas measuring up to 50 square feet at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site. Samples from twenty-two of the areas confirmed the protective cap is absent and the underlying waste material was exposed. The preliminary sample showed dioxins up to 60,500 ng/kg. EPA rec

See Waste Pits need  
Repairs, PAGE 8

EPA CHIEF  
PRUITT  
RESIGNS

OUT: Pruitt IN: Wheeler

The beleaguered head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, resigned his position last week, on July 5th, only one day after attending a 4th of July event at the White House. President Trump accepted his resignation, and said that his assistant, Andrew Wheeler, would take over EPA as Acting Administrator.

Pruitt had befriended local  
See Pruitt Resigns, PAGE 8

IN THE  
STARS

## EVENTS

WED., AUG. 2  
FM2100  
IMPROVEMENTS  
MEETING

TxDOT is proposing improvements to Farm-to-Market (FM) 2100 from Huffman-Cleveland Road (North) to FM 1960 in Harris County, Texas. Public Hearing on the proposed project will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2018, at Hargrave High School, 25400 Willy Lane, Huffman, Texas 77336.

THU., JULY 19  
FLOOD CONTROL  
DISTRICT  
HEARING

May Community Center, 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Discuss Cedar Bayou flooding. Public invited.

## BIRTHDAYS

Jul 13--Anita Davis  
Lisa Sanders  
Troy Woodall  
Jul 15--PeeWee Farmer  
Stephen Lambert  
Jul 16--Patricia Hoffman  
Polly Lowden  
Dianna Parker  
Jul 17--Cindy Broadbent  
Joan Brumfield  
Brenda Carroll  
Tara McKinney  
Maggie Williamson  
Jul 18--Geenee Parrish  
Jul 19--Jeanett Jett  
Pat Yates

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 13--Harvey & Sherry Little  
Jerry & Debbie Moore  
Jul 15--Bobby & Melinda Horn

## DEATHS

Johanna E. Busch Reese  
Robert Eugene Holman  
Alvin Albert Franta

## Cleaning the Lake



LAKE HOUSTON - Awareness is growing that this waterway is vital to the over 300,000 people that live near this lake and the metropolitan city it supplies with water.

Last Friday, local leaders including the mayor, State Representatives Dan Huberty, John Culbertson and others witnessed the cleaning up of the Lake from Hurricane Harvey, of debris that washed into the lake when it was hit by 51 inches of rain.

"Lake capacity was reduced by 30%. If we don't do this it will get worse. Things will wash into the area and you are going to see the risk of losing capacity. If there was any need for a reminder we got one on July 4. So, that's the reason we have to move and we have to move very, very quickly," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

The City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department contracted with DRC Emergency Services, LLC, to have several barges freight off over 50,000 cubic yards of debris.

Dan Huberty R. 127th Texas House District and before redistricting representative for Crosby and Highlands backed a program called Plea for

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, District E Councilman Dave Martin and Rep. Dan Huberty, along with others, met at B.J.'s Marina, in Huffman to observe the removal of debris from Lake Houston.



Three months ago that among other things called for Remediation: Full funding to dredge both Lake Houston and the San Jacinto River in order to remove the sand, siltation and debris deposits and stricter enforcement of TCEQ regulations on legal and illegal sand mining operations. And act on conditions resultant from the three major flooding incidents since 2015.

This clean-up project started in mid-May and since then, crews have removed 1,000 to 2,000 cubic

yards of debris each day.

On Friday, the leaders rode around Lake Houston to witness house sized mounds of debris on barges. Then, it was loaded into large dumpsters.

The last hurricane deposited felled logs, trash, furniture from everywhere the lake touched.

"We had over 17,000 homes alone [destroyed] when this area flooded. 4,500 businesses were impacted. We can not let that

See Clean Lake  
Continued on Page 8

Mystery shots  
ring in Barrett

On June 28 at about 6:00 a.m. near FM 2100 at FM 1942 shots rang out from a man that walked up and began firing into a vehicle occupied by a man and a woman. The suspect fled the scene. The man was flown by LifeFlight Helicopter to Memorial Hermann Hospital and the woman was taken by ambulance to a local hospital. No arrests have been made in the incident.

Fleeing Driver  
runs out of luck  
in Crosby

CROSBY - A police chase that began in Houston ended when a driver ran out of gas in Crosby, police said Monday.

According to Houston Police, officers tried to stop the driver of an Oldsmobile that had license plates that belonged to another car but the driver put the pedal to the metal on Homestead Road around 2:15 a.m.

Investigators said Houston P.D. ran all the way to Crosby where officers used spike strips to slow the car down.

The chase ended in a corn field on Ramsey and Louis, after the driver got stuck in the mud and ran out of gas. A complete framework for a Country &



Western song.

The driver, who police said had a parole warrant, was handcuffed when his failed elopement left his shoes in the soaked, sod field. Which somehow seems a great opening verse.

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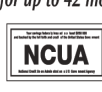


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and Boats!

## ★ COMMUNITY PAGE ★

## Harris County Flood Control District responds to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Harvey Recovery Work Plan

On July 5, 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a summary of their work plan for studies and construction projects related to funding provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which was passed and signed into law on February 9 of this year. The Harris County Flood Control District is pleased to report that many of our requests are included in the posted work plan.

Studies, which are at full federal expense, include:

- \$3 million for the Section 216 Study led by the Corps, which will evaluate the existing Addicks and Barker reservoirs and recommend operational changes and/or physical projects to improve the effectiveness of the reservoirs in reducing flood risks upstream and downstream; and
- \$3 million for a county-wide drainage study to look at Harris County's drainage infrastructure as a system, identifying potential inadequacies and potential improvements to the overall system.

Also included is federal funding to complete ongoing

construction of four active federal flood risk reduction projects that the Flood Control District is currently working on with the Corps. These construction projects include:

- \$75 million for the Brays Bayou Federal Project, consisting of around 21 miles of channel improvements, 11,400 acre-feet of stormwater detention volume, and 30 bridge replacements or modifications;

- \$295,165,000 for the Clear Creek Federal Project, which includes 15 miles of channel improvements and around 1,400 acre-feet of additional stormwater detention volume in several basins;

- \$65 million for the Hunting Bayou Federal Project, which calls for around 4 miles of channel improvements, 1,000 acre-feet of stormwater detention volume, and 17 bridge replacements or modifications; and

- \$45 million for the White Oak Bayou Federal Project, consisting of over 15 miles of channel improvements and almost 3,000 acre-feet of stormwater detention volume.

The timing of the release of funding and important procedural details still need to be addressed in the near future, but the fact that these investigations and projects were specifically named and have targeted funding is "very positive news," said Russ Poppe, Executive Director of the Flood Control District.

"The Corp's work plan announcement is great news for us as we have been advocating for project funding of these critical projects for many years," Poppe said. "This secured funding will allow us to complete these projects in a much shorter timeframe – as compared to the uncertainty of annual appropriations – and will reduce flood risks for thousands of Harris County residents."

The work plan also includes short-term funding for repairs to damaged drainage infrastructure, and while several projects within Harris County are listed, exact dollar amounts have not yet been allocated.

## Highlands Rotary helps with Hurricane relief



HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS Trisha and Andy Scott (above right), with granddaughter, are seen at Lowes with Beau and Davida Rosser. The Rotary club from Highlands, with the help of the Rotary Club of Franklin, North Carolina have been aiding families that were devastated by the floods that followed Hurricane Harvey last September. The club purchased an entire kitchen appliance package for this family, and has helped others.

## FEMA grants \$76 million to Texas General Land Office

AUSTIN, Texas – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded \$76.7 million to the Texas General Land Office as a reimbursement for the management and execution of the Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS) program following Hurricane Harvey.

The PREPS program provided emergency repairs and power restoration to single-family, owner-occupied homes. These repairs made the home safe, sanitary, and secure so that the homeowner could return home, rather than shelter in a hotel or rental property, while they continued to work on their full recovery.

The measures taken during the PREPS repair process provided only the minimal and essential repairs necessary to make the home safe and sanitary.

This FEMA grant of \$76 million requires a 10 percent non-federal match, or \$8.5 million, of the nearly \$85 million award. The total cost of the PREPS program, with previous reimbursements, was more than \$170.5 million.

This funding comes from FEMA's Public Assistance grant program which reimburses state agencies for actions taken during response and recovery from disasters, such as Hurricane Harvey. Eligible applicants include states, federally recognized tribal

governments, U.S. territories, local governments, and certain private non-profit organizations.

FEMA obligates funding for these projects directly to the state. It is the state's responsibility to ensure that the eligible final recipients receive these awards. Following the state's review process and upon receipt of appropriate documentation, they will provide funds to the final recipients on a reimbursable basis.

For additional information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit the Hurricane Harvey disaster web page at [www.fema.gov/disaster/4332](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332) or the Texas Division of Emergency Management website at <https://>

## Baytown Family Wellness Expo set

Baytown, TX – Holy Family Catholic Church is putting faith forward for the City of Baytown. On July 21, it will host the 2nd annual Family Wellness Expo. The event kick off is at 10 am. It will be a fun-filled day dedicated to activities and an enjoyable experience for the whole family.

The event has confirmed partnerships with Baylor College of Medicine,

OffBeat Eatz Food Truck, City of Baytown, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Kona Ice, UPS Stores Baytown, and many more.

The event is free to the public. There will be hourly features, performances, door prizes, games, vendors, and exhibitors. Families will come together for a day and focus on physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

All vendor fees and on-site donations will be collected to establish a youth program to benefit the Baytown community.

lectured to establish a youth program to benefit the Baytown community.

About the organization:

Holy Family Catholic Church is a community of faith that welcomes all. They are creating a new opportunity to engage and serve the greater Baytown area through hosting an event that gathers and promotes local businesses and an overall focus on wellness in the city.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### FM 2100

### FM 2100 from Huffman-Cleveland Road (North) to FM 1960

CSJ: 1062-02-009

### Harris County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as the lead agency, is proposing improvements to Farm-to-Market (FM) 2100 from Huffman-Cleveland Road (North) to FM 1960 in Harris County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting a Public Hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2018, at Hargrave High School, 25400 Willy Lane, Huffman, Texas 77336. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:30 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The proposed project area includes 4.5 miles of existing roadway and proposes to reconstruct and widen the existing facility from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided roadway with a raised median. The proposed improvements would accommodate expected traffic demand and growth in the region, while enhancing safety by providing a divided highway with raised medians and dedicated left turn lanes at select intersections and cross-streets. The proposed roadway design would include one 12-foot travel lane and one 15-foot outside shared-use lane in each direction, as well as sidewalks in each direction. Additional design features would include a storm sewer drainage system and detention ponds.

The proposed roadway improvements would be constructed primarily within the existing 150-foot right-of-way (ROW). Approximately 34 acres of additional ROW would be required for drainage, corner clips, and accommodation of the approaches to the bridge crossing at Luce Bayou. Although additional ROW is required, no residential or commercial structures would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below.

The proposed project would impact wetlands and would require an Individual Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed project would encroach upon the floodplain, however, the base flood elevation would not increase.

Any environmental documentation or studies, maps showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. To schedule an appointment at the Houston District, please contact Ms. Wahida Wakil at (713) 802-5513. Information will also be made available for viewing at the North Harris County Area Office, 16803 Eastex Freeway (US 59), Humble, Texas 77396. To schedule an appointment at the North Harris County Area Office, please call (281) 319-6400. This information also will be available for review at the hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be presented at the hearing, or submitted in person or by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, Attention: Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Comments must be received on or before Friday, August 17, 2018, to be part of the official hearing record. Comments may also be submitted electronically to [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:houston-piowebmail@txdot.gov) or <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/houston/080218.html>.

The hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending who have special communications or accommodation needs, such as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Houston District Public Information Office at (713) 802-5076. Requests should be made at least two days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact the TxDOT Houston District Public Information Office at (713) 802-5076.

**The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT.**

# Barbers Hill Dayton **Press**

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

P.O. BOX 2351, MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## ROUND-UP

### Don't mess with Baytown - Texas Trash Off

July 14, 2018, 8 am - 12 pm. Accepted items: old furniture, scrap metal, remodeling debris, junk, trash, tires, appliances w/o freon. 3 locations in Baytown: -Ross S. Sterling High School, 300 W. Baker Rd. -Robert E. Lee High School, 1809 Market St. -Goose Creek Memorial HS, 6001 E. Wallesville Rd.

### United Way Annual Meeting

United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County 2017-2018 Annual Meeting. Thursday, July 19, 7:30 am at Lee College - Rundell Hall, 200 Lee Drive, Baytown TX. This is a free event / Breakfast will be provided. RSVP required. Register by phone at (832) 926-4006 or register online at [www.unitedwaygbacc.org/2017-2018-annual-meeting](http://www.unitedwaygbacc.org/2017-2018-annual-meeting).

### Summer Youth Program

Get ready for a fun music filled summer! Nohelia Cantú and Josh Figueroa would like to invite you to partake in this summer's youth camp. This year's program will offer a TEKS based theatre curriculum as well as a fun environment for them to grow and experience the theatre life! This year's summer youth camp will take place at The Baytown Little Theater until July 13th, ending with three separate showings starting on July 13th and ending on July 15th. This year we will be accepting kids between the ages of 5 - 18, each child will be asked to pay \$325 to take part in the program. However if you have more than one child enrolled in the summer youth camp the price goes down to \$300. If you have any other questions or concerns feel free to email the youth directors at [nohelia68@gmail.com](mailto:nohelia68@gmail.com) or [orjoshuafigueroa555@gmail.com](mailto:orjoshuafigueroa555@gmail.com)

### Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Summer Camp

Anahuac, TX — Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will be hosting annual Jr. Ranger Summer Day Camp July 23 - 26, 2018. Topics covered will be insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and wetlands. Applicants must be 6-11 years old to participate. Cost is \$25 for the four day camp. Register in person at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Visitor Center, 4017 FM 563, Anahuac, TX 77514. For more information, please contact Stephanie Martinez by emailing [stephanie\\_martinez@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_martinez@fws.gov) or calling 409-267-3337.

### Barbers Hill New Teachers Welcome

The West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce is assisting the district with goodie bags for the new teachers at Barbers Hill Schools. If you have 80 items to place in the goodie bags, let the Chamber know by email at [Missy@thewccc.com](mailto:Missy@thewccc.com).

## Law busts \$2 Million of Meth on I-10



Deputy Jordan Kalis pictured with Corporal Kendall Blanchard. Pose with two million dollars worth of crystal meth.

MONT BELVIEU – Alert deputies with the Chamber County Sheriff's Office seized over two million dollars of Hitler Meth from a semi-tractor on July 3.

Sheriff Brian C. Hawthorne reports that Deputies of the

Chambers County Sheriff's Office seized approximately 43 pounds of methamphetamine following a call for service at the rest stop area located on I-10 in Chambers County.

At approximately 7:15 a.m. deputies got a report of a theft

from an 18 wheel truck/trailer at the rest area. They found a tractor trailer rig that was missing some tires on the rear of the of the trailer. Upon closer inspection deputies discovered irregularities on the trailer. Further investigation



Deputy Jordan Kalis shows Sheriff Hawthorne how the dope was discovered to be hidden in compartments. The rig had been the victim of thief before being busted.

revealed approximately 43 pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of nearly two million dollars, hidden in compartments on the trailer.

Arrested were Dan Roba, 48, of Northbrook, Illinois and Bianca Roba, 45, of Holland-

ale Beach, Florida. Both subjects have been booked in to the Chambers County Jail for possession of a controlled substance penalty group one, a first degree felony.

## Beach City VFD hosts car show and poker run

The Beach City Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD) in association with Barrow Ranch home owners held its Annual Car Show, Auction, live music in the evening and Poker Run benefiting the Beach City Volunteer Fire Department last Saturday, July 7, 2018.

The Car Show started at 12:00 pm in McCollum Park in Beach City (9902 McCollum Park Road, Beach City, Texas 77523). The live music featuring "The Southern Front Men" singing some Texas Country began at 9:00 pm.

The live auction started at 4:00 pm and the items were donated by local residents and businesses. Proceeds from this event go 100% straight to the BCVFD.

"I am very gratified that the community has shown their support for our department and volunteers in past years. We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the amazing cars and truck and festivities. Last year we had over 70 entrants in the show," John Eversole, Beach City VFD President said.

The Poker Run began at 5:00 PM at McCollum Park near the Barrow Ranch Subdivision and 50% of the proceeds go to the Beach City Volunteer Fire Department.

"We are delighted to be able to help our first responders that do so much for our community when our families are in need," The Barrow Ranch home owners men-



1962 Chevy Impala



Ferrari



tioned. Barrow Ranch Car Show and Poker Run offered an afternoon of family fun and entertainment in beautiful Chambers County while supporting a worthy local organization.

## BAYTOWN: Heavy rains cause sewer overflow

As a result of recent heavy rainfall occurring last Sunday, July 8; the City of Baytown has reported runoff filling manholes producing an overflow in the City's sanitary sewer system.

As of 7:30 p.m., July 8, Cedar Bayou had 16 Manholes overflow for a total of 171,760 gallons.

All appropriate local government officials and the TCEQ regional office have been notified and the appropriate documentation/records supplied. Clean-up activities of the overflow area are underway and will be continued until the affected area is clean and completely disinfected.

Per the Harris County Flood Control District, the Cedar Bayou area of Baytown received 3.88 inches of rain over the last 2 days.

Overflows listed above do not affect the City's fresh water supply.

Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor (City of Baytown) to determine if the water is safe for personal use. As a precaution, the public should avoid all contact with waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill. If the public

comes into contact with waste material, soil or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

The City of Baytown continues to be proactive in rehabilitating the sewer system. Utility capital improvement initiatives are critical to the growth and development of infrastructure. Past, as well as current projects represent over \$137 million in improvements since 2002. Historical overflow records show a steady and definite reduction in occurrences.

The City of Baytown has elected to participate in the TCEQ's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative. Throughout the 10-year term of this plan, the City reports annually to the State, to demonstrate progress made and milestones completed in relation to the schedule submitted. As with every system, the oldest sections of the City have historically been where most rehabilitation efforts have been focused.

For more information, contact Public Works Assistant Director Mark LeBlanc at 281-420-5300.

## Better Homes Expo at Baytown

The City of Baytown Community Development Division invites you to participate in their sixth annual Better Homes Expo. This event will be held Saturday, July 21, from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. at the Baytown Community Center, located at 2407 Market Street.

This event is FREE to the public and FREE activities for children will be provided.

"The goal of this year's expo is to assist those who are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey," said Luis Sanchez, Community Development Outreach Coordinator. "This expo will not only help residents with social services, but will connect them with local contractors, businesses and agencies. My hope is that the expo will improve the overall quality of life in Baytown. So far, we've had a tremendous response and are expecting to have

close to 40 vendors."

At this time, we're also seeking vendors for the expo. If you or someone you know provides a service relating to home improvement or disaster recovery, please contact me. I would love to have you.

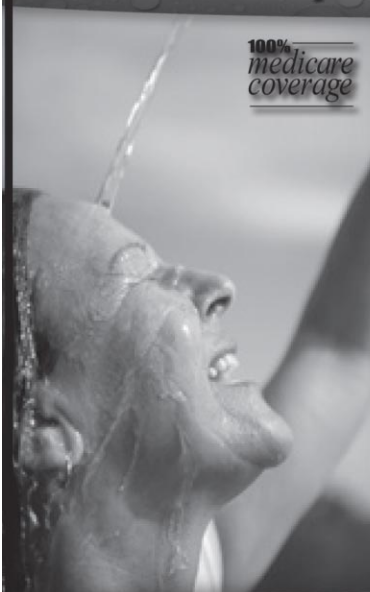
Participants can expect information on the following:

- Disaster recovery/ preparedness;
- Guidance for the path to homeownership;
- Home improvement/ repair;
- Financial assistance information/ legal guidance;
- Detailed breakout sessions;
- Free Food and activities for Children;
- Door Prizes.

If you have any questions, please contact Luis Sanchez at [Luis.Sanchez@baytown.org](mailto:Luis.Sanchez@baytown.org) or 281-420-5398.

## BEAT THE HEAT

Summer is here, and it's an important time to review vital hydration safety tips for seniors.



Angels Care Home Health is committed to keeping our patients and the communities we serve healthy. As a skilled nursing provider, we recognize that the best defense against dehydration is prevention.

Are you at risk for dehydration? What are the symptoms?

### First Symptoms:

- Thirst
- Dry mouth
- Fatigue
- Dark yellow urine
- Irritability

**ACTION:** Drink Water

### Life Threatening Symptoms:

- Dizziness
- Feeling of blacking out when sitting/standing
- Confusion
- Muscle weakness/cramps
- Sunken eyes
- Low blood pressure or increased heart rate

**ACTION:** Go to ER or call your doctor right away

Call us Today for more information on how together we can prevent dehydration!

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★ OPINION PAGE ★

## Flood aid recipients: Get insurance to stay eligible for repeat assistance

Some residents in high-risk areas must maintain flood coverage or risk missing out on future aid

AUSTIN, Texas – If disaster strikes once, it can strike again. Make sure you're prepared — and remain eligible for assistance from the federal government — by buying and maintaining flood insurance.

If your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and your property is in a high-risk zone known as a special flood hazard area (SFHA), you are required by law to purchase and maintain flood insurance if you have received federal disaster assistance for flood damage. Otherwise, when disaster strikes again, you will be ineligible for federal assistance for flood damage to your home or its contents.

Homeowners in SFHAs who receive disaster assistance must maintain flood insurance for as long as the property address exists. If the home is sold, the insurance requirement is passed to the new owner; therefore buyers should thoroughly research the history of their property before closing.

Renters in SFHAs who receive federal disaster assistance for flood-damaged personal property also must maintain flood insurance

on the contents of their home for as long as they live at that location. The insurance requirement, however, ends once the aid recipient moves away.

People in an SFHA who receive flood assistance through FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) may qualify for a Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP). The group policy is paid with IHP grant funds for survivors who receive disaster assistance and lack required flood insurance. To receive a group policy, you must have applied for a U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan and been found ineligible, among other requirements. A group policy expires at the end of 36 months, but the requirement to maintain flood insurance continues.

To learn more about flood insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program, call 800-427-4661, visit [www.fema.gov/business/nfip](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip) or contact your insurance agent.

For information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit the Hurricane Harvey disaster web page at [www.fema.gov/disaster/4332](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332) or the Texas Division of Emergency Management website at [www.dps.texas.gov/dem/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/)



## Paxton sends letters to cities that passed bag ban ordinances

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on July 2 notified 11 Texas cities that their ordinances against plastic shopping bags had been knocked down by the Texas Supreme Court.

Paxton said he issued letters to the cities of Austin, Sunset Valley, Port Aransas, Laguna Vista, Fort Stockton, Eagle Pass, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Kermit, Freer and South Padre Island "to ensure awareness of the recent ruling and waste management responsibilities Texas law places on municipalities."

In January, the state Supreme Court heard arguments in the City of Laredo v. Laredo Merchants Association and on June 22 the court struck down the bag ordinance. The city maintained it was not a bag ban but "an incremental implementation plan towards a cleaner city."

However, the Supreme Court upheld an appeals court ruling siding with the merchants association in finding that the state's Solid Waste Disposal Act preempts the city's ordinance, and no city

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

ordinance may conflict with a state law.

#### Request for aid granted

Gov. Greg Abbott's federal disaster request for individual assistance for Cameron and Hidalgo counties following recent severe weather and flooding has been granted, the governor's office announced July 6.

Abbott made the request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on June 26 after visiting Edinburg, where local officials briefed him on the flooding and response and recovery efforts following a storm that hit South Texas June 18-22. The weather event and its aftermath are being referred to as "The Great June 2018 Flood." The National Weather Service has estimated that the event's breadth and

impact could turn out to be greater than that of Hurricane Dolly in 2008.

"I thank the president and his administration for their swift response to aid Texans in the Rio Grande Valley as they continue to recover from these devastating floods. Going forward, the state of Texas will continue to work with local leaders to ensure the needs of those affected by the floods are being met," Abbott said.

#### Illnesses tied to parasite

The Texas Department of State Health Services on July 2 announced some 56 cases of illness caused by the microscopic parasite Cyclospora had been identified since the beginning of May.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the consumption of food or

water contaminated with Cyclospora. The main symptom of the illness is watery diarrhea lasting from a few days to a few months.

State and local health agencies are working to determine if there is a common source for the infections. They recommend thorough washing of all fresh produce.

#### Revenue total increases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on July 3 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.77 billion in June, an amount 13.7 percent more than reported for the month of June 2017. Sales tax revenue increased for almost all major economic sectors, Hegar said. "The strong revenue growth was led by collections from the mining and manufacturing sectors. The construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors also saw strong gains," he added. Also, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in June 2018 was up 12.4 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

Sales tax revenue is the

largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections. Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuel and oil and natural gas production also rose in June 2018, Hegar said.

More details are available online via the Comptroller's Monthly State Revenue Watch at [comptroller.texas.gov](http://comptroller.texas.gov).

#### Inspection totals released

The Texas Department of Public Safety announced some 7,980 commercial motor vehicles were inspected in Roadcheck 2018, a national commercial motor vehicle safety effort conducted June 5-7.

Commercial vehicle enforcement troopers, specially trained highway

patrol troopers, civilian inspectors, compliance review investigators and local partner agencies participated in the effort, in which 1,975 of the 18-wheelers, buses and other commercial vehicles inspected were placed out of service for a variety of safety violations until appropriate repairs could be made. Issues with brakes and defective tires were among the most common infractions that led to out-of-service violations.

Drivers also were checked for compliance with state and federal laws, and 301 drivers were placed out of service. Among the violations were failing to have the proper type of driver license for the vehicle being driven and violation of hours-of-service limits.

In all, 1,258 citations and 18,178 warnings were issued, the DPS said.



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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

**OBITUARIES**

**Johanna Emma Busch Reese**



Johanna Emma Busch Reese, 87, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on July 2, 2018. She was born on January 9, 1931 in San Antonio, Texas to Willy Curt Busch and Emma

Sturzenegger Busch. Johanna loved her family and would host gatherings at her house for them. She enjoyed painting, crafting, and gardening. She took great pride of her garden, especially her flowerbeds. Johanna will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, George Roy Reese, Jr; parents, Willy and Emma Busch; brothers, John Busch and Oscar Busch; and sisters, Evelyn Busch Long and Doris Busch Sodolak.

Johanna is survived by her sons, Edward Reese and wife Belinda, and Donald Reese and wife Elaine; brother, Willy Busch and wife Carolyn; sister, Margaret Busch

Wenzel and husband Floyd; five grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and a host of extended family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Sunday, July 8, 2018 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, July 9, 2018 also at Sterling White Funeral Home. Interment will be in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com).

**Alvin Albert Franta**



Alvin Albert Franta, 94, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2018. He was born on November 22, 1923 to Rudolph G. Franta and Hermina Marek Franta. Alvin was raised in Crosby and graduated from Crosby High School in 1941. He served in the US Army as a Sargeant and was honorably discharged in 1946. In 1947 he married the love of his life, Steazie Kovalcik, and together they raised a family. Alvin retired from the ExxonMobil Refinery as a Planner after 35 years service. He was a longtime and faithful parishioner of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby where he was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus and served as a Lector and an Usher. Alvin was a long-standing member of the

American Legion, R.V.O.S. and SPJST. Alvin and his wife, Steazie loved dancing and took great pride in leading Czech and Polish wedding marches in the surrounding areas. He enjoyed his yardwork, gardening and barbequing for his family. He cherished his family and was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Alvin touched the lives of many people with his kind and fun-loving heart and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his devoted wife of 56 years, Steazie M. Franta; parents, Rudolph and Hermina Franta; sisters, Doris Warzon and Irene Franta; and brother, Robert Franta.

Alvin is survived by his daughters, Linda Twardowski and husband Leonard, Shirley Buell and husband Carl, and Annette Bielamowicz and husband Raymond; son, Randy Franta and wife Judy; grandchildren and their spouses, Eric and Rachel Twardowski, Kristen and Neal Carlson, Brandon and Rachael Buell, Phillip Buell, Justin and Mary Kay Bielamowicz, Darren and Natalie Bielamowicz, Laura Bielamowicz Ostermann, Jared and Amanda Bielamowicz, Ryan and Krista Franta, and Amanda Franta and Matt

Fenoglio; greatgrandchildren, Wade, Kate, Elyse, Elena, Kaitlyn, Hannah Claire, Corbin, Brooke, Haley, Jay, Jack, James, Mary Blake, Olivia, Dylan, Alex, Claire, Emma, Sofia, Haygen, Cope, and Adalyn; and a host of extended family and friends.

Serving as Pallbearers will be: Ryan Franta, Darren Bielamowicz, Brandon Buell, Eric Twardowski, Justin Bielamowicz, Jared Bielamowicz, Phillip Buell, and Neal Carlson.

A Visitation with a Rosary will begin at 10:00am on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 915 Runneburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 am. Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Alvin's memory to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 907 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532, [www.sacredheart-school-crosby.org](http://www.sacredheart-school-crosby.org), 281-328-6561.

The family would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the staff at St. James House and Dr. Chris Hays for the care and comfort given to Alvin.

**Robert Eugene Holman**



Robert Eugene Holman, 56, passed away June 23, 2018 with his family by his side in Channelview, Texas. Robert was born on April 10, 1962 to parents

Lonus and Eva (Collins) Holman in Sidney, Ohio. He moved from his home state of Ohio to escape the cold and he found and enjoyed the warmth Texas. Robert worked in maintenance with the Channelview School District for 12 years. He was a kind hearted and generous man. Robert showed everyone respect and was glad to try and help anyone who was in need. He loved the thrill of riding choppers, four-wheelers, and Nascar racing. Robert enjoyed his rock-and-roll and country music, along with his cigarettes and beer. He was a true collector of all things, but he especially treasured collecting skulls and dragons. Robert will be sincerely missed by those who

knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents; daughters, Misty and Maria Holman; brother, Darrell Holman. He is lovingly survived by his wife, Anna Garza; children, Robert E. Holman, Jr. and wife Crystal, and Victoria Jeffreo; sisters, Judy Stauffer, Suzy Rodeheffer, Kim Wilhem; brothers, Virgil Russell and Chip Russell; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

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**BIBLE TRIVIA**

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Libitaria in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the ... wherewith Christ hath made us free"? Light, Liberty, Redemption, Resurrection
3. From John 8:32, "And ye shall know the ..., and 'it' shall make you free"? Word, Truth, Love, Forgiveness
4. In which book's 6:7 does it say, "For he that is dead is freed from sin"? Isaiah, Daniel, Mark, Romans
5. How many times is the word "independence" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? 0, 2, 11, 17

6. In Acts 22:28, who said, "But I was free born"? Paul, Bernice, Nicodemus, Phoebe

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Liberty; 3) Truth; 4) Romans; 5) 0; 6) Paul

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Psalm: 46:1

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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

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# MRI program earns prestigious accreditation

BAYTOWN — (June 27, 2018) — As a result of Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital's long-standing commitment to providing the most advanced imaging services to Baytown area residents, the hospital's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) program has earned re-accreditation from the American College of Radiology (ACR).



Dr. Nassim Akle

who are sensitive to sounds or are uncomfortable in tight spaces, the skilled imaging team at Houston Methodist San Jacinto helps patients prepare for their test and addresses any concerns to help provide the best experience possible, while also ensuring the most accurate results.

"Every patient has the choice to decide where their imaging tests are performed. In choosing Houston Methodist San Jacinto, patients are choosing world-class quality, highly skilled technologists and superb patient care, as proven by the ACR's seal of approval," said Courtnie Chambers, manager, Imaging Services & Breast Care Center.

To schedule a diagnostic imaging exam with a board-certified radiologist at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital, visit [houstonmethodist.org/san-jacinto](http://houstonmethodist.org/san-jacinto), or call 281-428-2273.

About Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital

Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital has provided Baytown and East Houston with quality medical care since opening its doors in 1948. The hospital has grown throughout the years with the community, providing comprehensive care at all stages of life. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist San Jacinto provides some of the most advanced and innovative procedures while never losing focus on compassionate and patient-centered care. [Houstonmethodist.org/sanjacinto](http://Houstonmethodist.org/sanjacinto).

The ACR grants accreditation of health care providers' imaging modalities following a thorough evaluation of the institution's practices, image quality, personnel qualifications, equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs. For area patients, the accreditation of the hospital's MRI program confirms that Houston Methodist San Jacinto's investment in state-of-the-art equipment, including the Magnetom Skyra 3T MRI machine, and its staff of experienced and skilled imaging radiologists and technologists, means they are guaranteed of receiving the highest quality of diagnostic care.

When facing an injury, unexplained illness or worrying symptoms, properly and accurately diagnosing the potential cause is critical. Diagnostic imaging aids in saving lives by giving health care providers an inside look at the body to locate broken bones, pinpoint diseases, guide cancer treatments and more.

An MRI exam consists of utilizing a tunnel-shaped machine that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to take pictures of the brain, neck, spinal cord and soft tissues.

They also assist in identifying disorders of blood vessels and internal organs," said Dr. Nassim Akle, radiologist at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital.

The Magnetom Skyra 3T MRI uses a larger and more powerful magnet that provides radiologists with sharper, higher quality images to aid in providing for a more precise diagnosis of a variety of conditions and assist in the development of better treatment plans for patients. Houston Methodist San Jacinto is the only facility in Baytown that provides this advanced imaging capability, which allows area patients to benefit from superior treatment and services in a facility that is close to home.

"The 3T MRI allows us to do more detailed and faster imaging and more sensitive neurological and cardiac imaging," Akle said.

The Imaging Services Department at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital offers a full range of imaging services and procedures, including ultrasound, x-ray, CT scan, interventional radiology and PET scan.

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals for Construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to serve the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 in Harris County, Texas will be received at the office of Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc., 13430 Northwest Fwy, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77040, until 2:00 P.M. local time, July 31, 2018 and then publicly opened. A NON-MANDATORY BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at the office of Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc. on July 24, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. Each bid must be submitted in a 9" x 12" envelope and accompanied by Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, duly executed, in the amount of not less than five (5%) percent of the bid.

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 is proposing to construct a new Package Wastewater Treatment Plant to serve existing portions of the District as well as new development. The project includes a new 90,000 gallon a day package wastewater treatment plant, influent and effluent lift stations, force mains, and gravity sewer work.

This project is eligible for CWSRF funding; therefore, the following requirements apply:  
 • This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).  
 • Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this IFB, RFQ, or any resulting contract.  
 • This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of P.L. 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. All iron and steel products for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repairs incorporated in these plans must be produced in the United States.  
 • Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.  
 • This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "fair share policy", which includes EPA-approved "fair share goals" for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA's policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to Minority Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms. Although EPA's policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate use of the six affirmative steps. The current fair share goals for the State of Texas are as follows:

CATEGORY	MBE	WBE
CONSTRUCTION	12.94%	8.72%
SUPPLIES	9.68%	9.34%
EQUIPMENT	7.12%	5.39%
SERVICES	10.84%	5.72%

• Equal Opportunity in Employment – All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or handicap. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.  
 • Right to reject any and all bids.  
 • All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.  
 • Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from [www.CivCastUSA.com](http://www.CivCastUSA.com): Search Harris County MUD No. 50 Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2. **Questions deadline is July 27th at 10:00 AM.** Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, and plans for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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THE CITY COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID OR PART THEREOF WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CITY COMMISSION IS MOST ADVENTAGEOUS TO THE CITY.

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# Waste Pits need Repairs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ommended clean up level for the site is 30 ng/kg.

EPA has directed both International Paper and Industrial Maintenance Corporation, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site in Harris County, to take steps to ensure that the exposed waste material is isolated and securely covered. The dioxin in the waste material does not dissolve easily in water, but it can migrate further out into the surrounding sediments.

The PRPs developed an Operations, Monitoring, and Maintenance Plan under Federal Order by the EPA and completed work to prevent wastes from continuing to migrate to adjacent areas including the San Jacinto River in July 2011. The Order allows the Agency to require additional measures and investigations deemed necessary by the Agency from its periodic inspection of the protective cap. EPA is exercising that authority today. EPA divers deter-

mined that additional measures were necessary.

The PRP conducted similar repairs in December 2015 and September 2017. EPA selected long-term remedy for the site has 150,000 cubic yards of waste removed and disposed of offsite.

EPA will continue to provide updates about the status of the Superfund site, and continue to work with the PRPs to ensure that risk to human health and the environment is managed as best as possible.

Connect with EPA Region 6:

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eparegion6>

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Activities in EPA Region 6: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region6.htm>

# EPA CHIEF PRUITT RESIGNS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Houston environmentalists such as Jackie Young of the SJRC, and Scott Jones of the GBF. It remains to be seen whether the new administrator will be as open and helpful on their local issues.

Pruitt had become well-known in Houston environmental circles, having visited the San Jacinto River Waste Pits in person, and placed their disposal on his "Top Ten" list of projects to receive his attention.

Pruitt's tenure at the EPA was controversial from the beginning, and as he made a number of questionable choices in his style of administration, he became a constant source of embarrassment to the President and his administration.

He had been ques-

tioned by Congressmen and the media about high travel spending, security team costs, dealings with lobbyists who he would have to rule on later, and misuse of government resources.

Even as his resignation took affect, the President wrote on Twitter "he has done an outstanding job."

Trump was pleased with Pruitt's efforts to reduce or eliminate regulations that the White House said curbed business growth. But opponents and environmental activists said that these roll-back of regulations endangered the environment and the health of the population.

Reportedly Pruitt resigned of his own accord, telling the president that because of the controversy around him, he didn't want

to be a distraction to the administration.

Trump moved immediately to name his successor, Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler. Wheeler had only been an executive at EPA for a little more than two months.

Wheeler promised to continue Trump's agenda to roll back environmental regulations to the benefit of industry.

Industry observers said they did not expect any significant changes in the direction of the EPA, although Wheeler's style might be more methodical and slower to change.

Wheeler is a former Senate staffer and EPA employee. He also has been a lobbyist for the coal mining and energy industry for a period of over a decade, casting doubt on his objec-

tivity in these matters.

Pruitt had been the Attorney General for the state of Oklahoma prior to his appointment to the EPA chief. Records show that he spent most of his time at the EPA meeting with industry representatives in businesses that he regulated.

Pruitt also challenged most of the scientific data on climate change.

Wheeler has promised to be more transparent and outgoing with the public, noting his work on the Community Right-to-Know Act.

In an interview with the Washington Post, when asked how he feels about his new job, Wheeler said "I really do think that my background, at this point in time, that this is the right job for me."

# SUV hits house on July 4th



A man on July 4th at about 11:20 p.m. clipped a curb after losing control of his vehicle and crashed into a house at 18,600 Bluffview Dr. in Barrett Station. Extensive damage was done to the house and he was taken to the hospital.

# Clean Lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

happen again," said Huberty. "Every time it rains people in this area are worried that our homes will flood again."

Huberty complimented the City for its effort, that of Harris County for the \$2.5 billion dollar bond it has called for and was

thankful of the \$5 billion dollars in aid that is supposed to be released soon to address Hurricane Harvey. He added when asked about the proposed dredging that is under review for the San Jacinto River, "Dredging has been needed here since at least 2011."

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