

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the PRESS:

- Washburn Tunnel Closure
- FM 565 extension opens
- Goose Creek CISD Annual Gala

.....And more, Page 3

OPINION POLL

Do 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.com

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.

WED., AUG. 15 NEW EDUCATOR'S LUNCHEON

August 15th at Crosby Church, 5725 HWY 90 in Crosby, 11:30am. Crosby-Huffman Chamber will host a lunch to Welcome all new educators to Crosby and Huffman School Districts.

BIRTHDAYS

Jul 26-Elton Sanders
Heidi J. Shepard
Jul 27-Rick Galvan
Timothy Lamm
Jul 28-Lee Henning
Martin Hernandez
Joyce Holleman
Haley Jo Maxey
Jul 30-Janis Parker
Jul 31-Cliff McKee
Richard Turvil
Aug 1-Kenneth Boudreaux
Calvin Finnell
Mildred Miller
Randall "Oscar" Stone
Barbara Statts
Mona Bowman

ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 26-Kenneth & Lisa Boudreaux
Jul 29-Marcelino & Marie Estrada
Jul 30-Johnnie & Barbara Stotts
Aug 1-Doug & Cathy Wagner
Christina & Troy Woodall

DEATHS

Benjamin Moses Shirey II

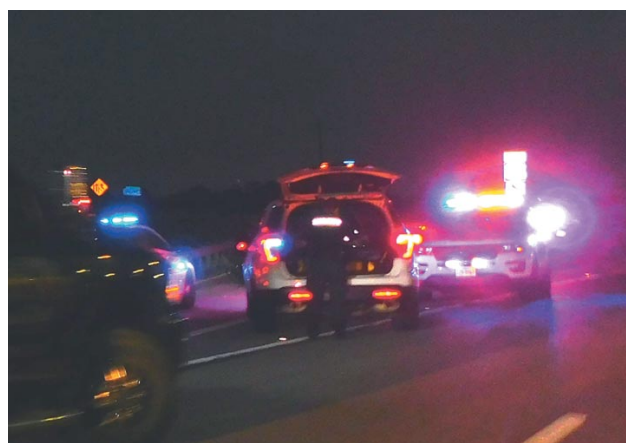
US 90 cycle crash kills local woman

CROSBY – A Sunday outing turned tragic when a blue Harley-Davidson motorcycle tried to enter US 90 from the south-bound feeder at the 2400 block.

Witnesses say some riders on bikes had been racing along on their way to an event closer to Houston at about 6:05 p.m. on July 22. Apparently, the motorcycle hit the guardrail marking the entrance to the highway.

The motorcycle was being driven by Martin Stephen McKinley and his sister-in-law, Aliecia Wright Pruitt, was riding behind him.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office report says, "Witnesses advised McKinley was traveling at a high rate of speed just prior to the crash, and that he had been drinking alcohol-



Traffic investigator check the scene of US 90 at the access road in front of Friendly Ford of Crosby where the guardrail was struck Sunday night at about 6:05 p.m..

ic beverages."

Investigators determined McKinley failed to drive in a single lane while attempting to enter US 90 from the entrance lane. McKinley struck the guardrail with his motorcycle where both he and

Pruitt fell from the motorcycle. During the crash Pruitt sustained life threatening injuries, which ultimately caused her death." She was pronounced at the scene.

See Fatality, Page 8

Theft of historic jewel leads to Highlands man

Two people were arrested last Saturday by West Columbia police and the Brazoria County Sheriff's department for the theft of a precious jewel from the historic Varner-Hoff Plantation Historic Site in West Columbia.

Arrested for the alleged theft were Carla Fuentes, 26, of Freeport, and Tirso Miguel Perez, 24, of Highlands, TX. Court records show that Perez has a history of as many as 13 theft convictions.

The pair tried to sell the brooch at a jewelry store, but the owner recognized the piece and called police.

The brooch was originally owned by philanthro-

pist Ima

Hogg,

who was

the daughter

of Governor

James Hogg.

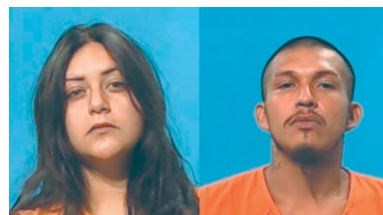
The brooch is

made of

pearls and a center diamond, mounted on a black carbon mound said to be material from the original 1901 Spindletop oil gusher in Beaumont.



IMA HOGG BROOCH & CASE



CARLA FUENTES

TIRSO PEREZ

POLITICS

Dayna Steele runs for Congress TX-36

Seeks to unseat incumbent Babin

CROSBY – A candidate for the U.S. Congressional seat representing the east part of Baytown to the Louisiana border including Highlands, Liberty and Crosby, District 36, was in Crosby last weekend interviewing with the *Star-Courier* about the upcoming election at the intersection of U.S. 90 and FM 2100.

Dayna Steele never worked in politics before, she was busy working in radio, most famously on Rock 101 for 14 years, television and writing 8 books that have sold well.

What does the Democratic candidate know about recent incidents in



Crosby?

"I know that what happened after Hurricane Harvey and the incident at Arkema, locals told me that the chickens refused to eat feed off of the

See STEELE, page 8

Cedar Bayou to benefit from Flood bonds

HUFFMAN – Thursday, July 19, at the I.T. May Community Center, a public meeting was held to discuss the \$2.5 Billion bond proposed by the Harris County Commissioner's Court to sponsor comprehensive flood relief programs by the Harris County Flood Control District.

The measures are to initiate a comprehensive flood control program that

See Cedar Bayou p. 6



Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman talks with Luce Bayou and Cedar Bayou watershed residents at the I.T. May Community Center last Thursday.

Turner Chevrolet garners national award from GM



Turner Chevrolet received the Mark of Excellence Award 2017 as a Chevrolet Genuine Leader honoring those dealers that have committed themselves to unsurpassed performance and customer satisfaction. Here Mark Fahey, and Ken Borough of Chevrolet present Robert Turner, Robbie Turner and David Mendez with the Mark of Excellence Award.

Sylvia Garcia resigns Legislature

Seeks TX-29 Congress seat

State Senator Sylvia Garcia has submitted her resignation in a letter to Governor Greg Abbott, earlier this week.

Garcia is running for the seat that was vacated by Congressman Gene Green, Texas District 29. Her name will be on the November ballot, as well as a Republican opponent, Phillip Aronoff.

In her letter to Abbott, she said "It has been an unbelievable honor for me and my family to serve the diverse, proud, working class constituents of Senate District 6 who contrib-



ute immensely to our state and want nothing more than to provide a good life for their family."

Her term will end Jan. 2, 2019. She asked Abbott to call an election to fill her seat in the next election in November.

Place Your Message on the Front Page, at a reasonable Rate. Call the STAR-COURIER 281-328-9605



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Dana Kratky new Crosby Elementary Principal

CROSBY, Texas - Crosby ISD is proud to announce Ms. Dana Kratky as the new Crosby Elementary School Principal for the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Kratky is replacing Ms. Christy Erb, who left the district to serve as principal in Humble ISD. Last Thursday, July 19, 2018, the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Ms. Kratky who had previously served as assistant principal at Crosby Elementary School from 2015-2018 and at Charles R. Drew Elementary School from 2009-2015. Ms. Kratky brings 13 years of teaching experience from Charles R. Drew Elementary School in Crosby, Texas, Bonne E'cole Elementary School in Slidell, Louisiana, and A.L. Smith Elementary School in Sterlington, Louisiana.

Her years of experience in education have also garnered Ms. Kratky an impressive list of accolades including the following:

- Top 5 finalist for Region IV Teachers of the Year
- Crosby ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year
- Charles R. Drew Elementary Teacher of the Year
- St. Tammany Parish 1st Runner Up ELKS

Teacher of the Year

- Bonne E'cole Elementary ELKS Teacher of the Year
- A.L. Smith Elementary Teacher of the Year

Ms. Kratky is a long-time Crosby resident and 1994 Crosby ISD alumnus. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Stephen F. Austin University and her Master's Degree of Education in Administration with a Principal Certification from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

"I am eager to continue serving my district and community as the Principal of Crosby Elementary School," said Ms. Kratky when asked about her promotion. "This is a special community and I consider it an honor to have been chosen as the Crosby Elementary Principal. Crosby Elementary has made great strides in recent years and, as a team, we will continue to work hard for our students."



San Jacinto River Coalition Meeting Dr. Garland reviews Waste Pits after Hurricane Harvey

Post Harvey TCRA Cap Survey and Sampling Results: Implications for Cap integrity and Release of Waste to the San Jacinto River and Environs

Presented by Dr. Kathleen Garland
June 20, 2018
Highlands Community Center

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey's floods, both the EPA and the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPS) conducted activities at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site in order to determine how the floods had affected the armored cap, and whether contaminated waste materials had been exposed by the floods and escaped into the river. These activities focused on the north site, located adjacent to the 110 river bridge.

Site activities included physical surveys of the cap surface both above and below water level, probing of the entire site on a 30' by 30' grid pattern using steel rods, physical examination of areas of the cap by EPA divers, and sediment sampling and analysis in areas of interest. The PRPs' contractors conducted the initial physical survey and sampling. EPA staff accompanied the contractors during the probe survey and later sampling activities.



DR. GARLAND displays a typical Geotextile used in the cap of the Waste Pits.

ties. PRP contractors were also present during EPA's dives on the site.

Using the physical survey data, the PRPs created a map of the cap surface that shows the differences between the shape and elevation of the surface as mapped in July 2017 and in early September 2017 after floodwaters receded. This map, reproduced as Figure 1 in this report, shows areas of erosion in yellow and red, and areas of deposition in blue and green. Areas in white showed less than 1 ft. of elevation difference between the two mapping events. This map shows that some areas of the cap experienced erosion (called "scour" in this report) and other areas experienced deposition of additional sediment (called "fill" in this report). Scour and fill features typically form when currents and eddies affect a streambed. These currents and eddies pick up sediment from some areas of the streambed and deposit it in other areas. The map produced by the PRPs indicates that small scale scour and fill took place across the armored cap while it was submerged by the floodwaters. Overall, the waste pits had the same configuration after the floods as they did before, indicating that the site as a whole remained intact during the floods.

Two areas of the site identified on this map caused particular concern to the EPA. The first of these is on the southeast side of the site, outside of the cap and waste pits, and appears in red on Figure 1. This area experienced significant erosion, and raised concerns that future events could erode into the waste pits on that side of the site. The EPA required

a repair plan, and the PRPs installed additional rock armoring in this area to protect that side of the pits.

The second area of concern is on the northwest side of the site. This area has never been protected by a geotextile because the slope is too steep to allow rock armor to stay in place if there is a geotextile liner underneath it. Instead of geotextile, this area has an aggregate rock layer on top of the waste, and then rock armor on top of that. The aggregate rock layer is made of mixed sizes of gravel laid down in a thick sheet over the underlying waste. This layer is designed so that smaller pieces of gravel will fill in the spaces between larger pieces, creating a more cohesive and erosion resistant surface. Large rock armor is then placed on top of this mixed rock layer. The aggregate layer helps hold the larger rock armor in place. This area has undergone repairs in the past, as this construction is more easily damaged due to its composition and the steep slope in that area. EPA focused their dive team investigation and sampling on this part of the cap.

The probe survey of the cap covered the entire site, and identified 38 areas of interest where the thickness of the rock armor was less than required, and/or where the geotextile liner was exposed. Based on the map and the probe survey, EPA calculated that damaged areas totaled 6700 square feet, distributed across the entire site. The probe survey confirms the conditions indicated by the site mapping: local currents and eddies thinned the rock armor, and in some areas scoured out the rock down to the underlying

ing geotextile. Some of these scour features remain. In other areas, these scours were filled back up with new sediment. Elsewhere on the cap, the armor and geotextile remained in place and were buried under several inches to a few feet of new sediment. The underwater environment at this site was extremely dynamic, as one would expect during a flood of this magnitude.

Sampling by the EPA, and duplicated by the PRPS, took place in the northwest areas of the cap and focused on locations where cap materials were missing and soft sediments were exposed at the surface. EPA also sampled downslope of these soft areas in order to determine if waste materials washed downslope from the exposed areas and was redeposited at the toe of the slope.

Testing of these samples identified one location where waste materials were exposed at the surface.

Both the EPA and PRP samples produced extremely high dioxin concentration measurements. Samples taken by both EPA and the PRPs downslope of this location also found dioxin concentrations consistently elevated above background levels by a factor of 10 to 20. Samples taken elsewhere on the site did not exceed background concentrations. Sampling and analysis confirms that waste materials were released locally from the site during the floods, but this release was small. Some of these materials were redeposited locally at the toe of the slope, within the site boundary.

Post Harvey investigations of the SJRWP Superfund site confirm a small release of dioxin contaminated waste, and highlight the inherent risk posed by this site and the need for EPA to expedite its chosen remedy of complete removal of this waste from the river. Although Hurricane Harvey floods were severe, a hurricane accompanied by storm surge could potentially cause greater damage to this site. The only way to eliminate the threat this waste poses to human health and the environment is to completely remove it from this dynamic river system.



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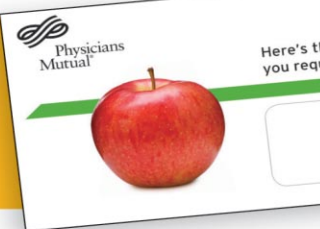


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Barbers Hill

★ Dayton

Press

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

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

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

ROUND-UP

FM 565 North extension open

The extension of FM 565 North to SH 146 is OPEN. Note that westbound traffic on FM 565 N. no longer has a stop sign, but traffic on Loop 207 now has a stop sign in both directions. Thank you, Enterprise Products, TxDOT and the City of Mont Belvieu for seeing this project through!

WCCCC Luncheon

Join business leaders and elected officials on Tuesday, August 14 at 12:00 p.m. (noon), in the Magnolia Room at Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex, 12450 Eagle Pointe Drive, Mont Belvieu, 77523, for the Chamber's August Membership Luncheon. Mont Belvieu Communications Director Brian Ligon and the City's technology team will share details about MB Link – Internet at the Speed of Life. WCCCC Membership Luncheon presented by Brian Ligon, Mont Belvieu Communications Director. Everyone Welcome – RSVP Required Attendance is \$35 with your reservation. Your quick RSVP is helpful and appreciated! You may call Rhonda at 281-576-5440 before noon Friday, August 10 to register.

Market Street Corridor Study

What is the Market Street Corridor Study?
In its distant past, the Market Street Corridor was a commercial hub in Baytown. However, the area is now littered with an abundance of vacant lots and aging structures. The Market Street Corridor Study will attempt to design and develop technical specifications which will drive the redevelopment and beautification of the corridor.

What is the goal of the Market Street Corridor Study?
The goals of the Market Street Corridor are many, including but not limited to:

- Identify opportunities for projects that would draw new investment, users, and visitors to the area (including small and large scale development);
- Identify a way to increase pedestrian mobility in the subject area;
- Repurpose all unused railroad right-of-way in the subject area;
- Garner strong citizen participation throughout the development of the study;
- Develop a Capital Improvement Plan for the subject area;
- Identify beautification opportunities along the corridor; and
- Produce an action plan (recommendations and next steps based on the data collected).

How can I help?
We need your input. Please complete the survey below and stay tuned for various town hall meetings, walking tours and various other events in which you will be able to provide feedback on issues that are important to you.

Citizen Input Needed:
Online Survey:
English Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/QLqHGt0waMEbFwe02>
Spanish Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/8Tz0gj90BPvrJkCj1>

Washburn Tunnel closed until August 2 for improvements

HOUSTON, Texas - The Washburn Tunnel will be closed for 10 days, beginning at 7 a.m. on Monday, July 23rd to 7 a.m. on Thursday, August 2nd . During this time, crews will be conducting in-depth maintenance to the Tunnel lining, as part of the Washburn Tunnel Concrete Repairs project.

Drivers are reminded to use alternate routes during the closure.

Alternate routes include I-610 East Loop Freeway, Sam Houston Parkway, and Highway 146.

"The Tunnel is nearly 70 years old, and this maintenance has to take place as necessary from time to time to keep it safe and sound," said Commissioner Jack Morman.

Construction on the \$670,000 project began in

April. While most of the work is conducted during normal Washburn Tunnel maintenance hours, the project is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2019.

Be sure to monitor www.hcp2.com, or like "Harris County Precinct 2" and "Washburn Tunnel – Harris County Precinct 2" on Facebook for updates on this project.

Goose Creek CISD announces annual Gala

The Goose Creek Education Foundation is inviting the public to help hit a home run for education at a formal event held September 29 at Minute Maid Park, home of World Series Champions Houston Astros.

With all proceeds benefiting the foundation, the All Star Gala will be held in the exclusive setting of the park's Diamond Club as well as on the stadium's field. It will be hosted by KHOU Celebrities Meteorologist Chita Craft and Sports Anchor Jason Bristol.

"With this type of venue and exclusive perks, we anticipate that tickets and sponsorships will sell out quickly," said Erika Foster, the foundation's executive director. "We are encouraging everyone to commit early to ensure they have a spot at this one-of-a-kind event."

The All-Star Gala brings together community leaders to benefit the foundation and raise money through sponsorships, ticket sales and special auction items. The exclusive event is black-tie with a sports twist – meaning add a sports accessory or special sporty touch to your formal attire.

The Diamond Club is a private lounge hidden in the area behind home plate accessing the stadium's most premium views. On the field, top sponsors will have access to the warning track, which is the part of the field running along the foul lines closest to the wall with access to the visitor and home team dugouts.

The event will also have many one-of-a-kind sports-related items that guests can bid on to commemorate the experience and take home a slice of sports history – with proceeds all going to a great cause.

The event starts at first-pitch at 6:05 p.m. as the Astros take on the Baltimore Orioles and the game will be broadcast in the background of the Diamond Club. You can also enjoy music on the dance floor or just enjoy the scenic views.

Sponsorship levels range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 with many exclusive perks for top level sponsors such as tours of the press room and owner's suite, served dining on the field and access to the dugouts. A limited amount of individual tickets will be sold for \$200 per ticket with a \$50 discount for district employees (with a limit of two tickets per employee).

Hurricane Harvey hit the City of Baytown particularly hard with many homes devastated with flooding including families

of students and the district staff. The entire community rallied to help flood victims and the foundation helped by donating mattresses to families giving them a warm place to sleep as well as providing other financial support to classrooms and affected families.

Because of the recovery efforts, last year's gala was cancelled, but this year the foundation is ready to get back to its core mission – enhancing education for the district, which has many Title I schools with economically disadvantaged students. Goose Creek CISD is the 57th largest school district in Texas, encompasses 128 square miles and over two counties. The district serves more than 23,000 students at its 28 campuses, and employs nearly 3,000.

Since its inception in 2009, the Education Foundation has awarded \$971,700 in innovative teaching grants to Goose Creek CISD educators and recognized 135 teachers, nominated by their students for making a difference in their lives, at the annual Students Choice Awards.

For sponsorship information, visit www.bit.ly/GCCISDAllStarGala or email Erika Foster at erika.foster@gccisd.net.

Patti Jett leaves the City of Baytown as PR Coordinator

City of Baytown Public Affairs and Media Relations Coordinator Patti Jett left the City of Baytown.

"I'm touching base with a bit of news for you all. I'll be leaving my position as Public Affairs Coordinator here at the City of Baytown after July 13, 2018," Jett said.

"I wanted to reach out to let you know how much I've enjoyed working with all of you during my time here in Baytown. You've been professional and you've kept me on my toes at times. It's been a true pleasure being able to facilitate your interactions with the City," she concluded.



Patti Jett

Baytown neighborhood without water

BAYTOWN, TX – Baytown neighborhood had no water service for five days.

Residents of Carriage Trail neighborhood reported they had contacted the water company, Aqua Texas, on July 18 and were told that the well needed to be replaced and that a tanker truck with water would arrive soon.

"Small tasks such as washing dishes, taking a bath and brushing your teeth are difficult for us, residents said. And every day they called Aqua Texas, they were told the water would be back in operation.

In an statement, Aqua Texas said "The well that

serves the community needs to be repaired due to a pump failure. Aqua Texas is working on multiple fronts to take care of the situation. In the immediate term, Aqua Texas is supplying bottled water to customers. To continue supplying water, Aqua Texas delivered a temporary storage tank to the site and is continuing to deliver water to fill the tank.

Aqua Texas is also planning to drill an emergency well. We apologize for any inconvenience to our 37 customers while the repairs is made."

The water was restored last Sunday evening, July 22.

HMSJ HOSPITAL Team Approach helps Manage Diabetes

BAYTOWN — (July 13, 2018) — Although there's no cure for diabetes, using a team approach to learning how to decrease your risk of complications with good diabetes self-management can make all the difference in controlling symptoms and ensuring your health.

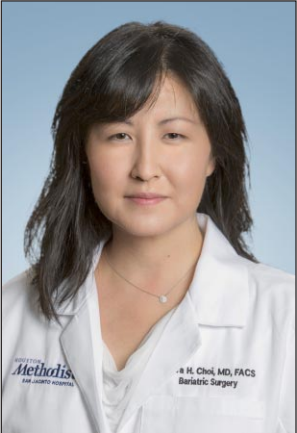
Jennifer Litaker, RD, LD, CDE, diabetes educator at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital, suggests diabetes patients consider themselves the captain of their health care team, which should also include a diabetes educator.

"Working with your team helps you effectively manage the disease, keep up with advances in care and prevent serious complications," Litaker said. "You should collaborate to tailor a program you can follow throughout the year."

Litaker recommends using the following schedule as a model for your self-care diabetes program, adding any other guidelines you and your team have agreed you should follow:

Every Day

- Self-monitor and log your blood glucose. There's



Dr. Laura Choi

no "right" number of times to test. At certain times, such as when you're first diagnosed, you'll benefit from testing several times a day to help get your blood glucose in your healthy range.

- Keep track of your medications. Understand your team's recommendations for dosages and timing.
- Eat well. Careful eating is an essential key to self-management.
- Exercise. Frequent activity is important for weight control and general health.

See Diabetes, Page 6

On Your Mark, Get Ready
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Fun hands-on math activities & games
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All activities will be centered around the specific grade level TEKS and include mathematical processes from all strands including place value, operations of whole numbers and fractions, algebraic reasoning, geometry, measurement, and data analysis.

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Space is limited. Register now!

Camp Location: Sam & Carmena Goss Library
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Count Me In!

Rhonda Ponder

Learner Dynamics
Visit: learnerdynamics.com

Math Camp Instructor Rhonda Ponder has over 30 years professional experience as a Math teacher in Barbers Hill ISD. She is now a learning specialist with Learner Dynamics.

THIS ORGANIZATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES ARE NOT RELATED TO OR SPONSORED BY THE BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Are you prepared for Hurricane Season and other storm emergencies?

(StatePoint) Hurricane season is in full swing, running from June through November. Unfortunately, no one can stop a tropical storm or hurricane from happening and both types of weather events are increasingly impacting larger portions of the U.S. However, there are steps you can take that will help you weather a storm and better ensure the safety of your family.



Arcady/stock.Adobe.com

victims of storms find each other to pool resources and offer one another assistance. Be sure to keep your phone fully charged as long as your home has power and consider having an external battery pack on hand as well.

The experts at Freddie Mac recommend doing the following.

- Know where to go in the event of a local area evacuation. Your area's emergency management agency can provide this information.
- Gather and protect important household documentation, including birth certificates, passports, marriage licenses, mortgage statements, deeds, insurance policies and medical files.
- Protect your valuables and family mementos by storing them in a safety deposit box, fire- and water-proof safe or moving them to higher ground where they are less likely to incur damage.
- Download an app for your smartphone that allows your friends and family to know if you are safe. The American Red Cross has a free hurricane app as do many for-profit organizations. Other apps that are available include weather tracking apps, and apps that can help

- Assemble an emergency supply kit that includes water, flashlights, non-perishable food, first-aid supplies, batteries, a radio and medication.
 - Create a family emergency plan and make sure everyone knows what to do and when.
 - Prepare your home for heavy rainfall and strong winds by cleaning up lawn debris, loose furniture and lawn items that will not be able to sustain strong winds. Secure loose rain gutters and ensure all gutters are clear from debris to keep water flowing and prevent further damage.
 - Consider building a safe room, if you are a homeowner, that meets Federal Emergency Management Agency criteria to provide at-home protection during extreme weather.
- More hurricane tips and information can be found at freddiemac.com/blog.

The devastation of last year's hurricane season was an important reminder that being prepared for a worst-case scenario is crucial. Before the next storm heads your way, be sure your family and home are protected.

HEADER: COMMUNITY Giving back on your summer vacation

(StatePoint) Hitting the road this summer and want to do something good for the world along the way? Consider using your summer road trip as an opportunity to give back to the communities you visit. For some inspiration, check out these great ways Americans are re-thinking vacations to include a touch of philanthropy.

Driving for Good
All those miles you log on the road can be for a good cause, if you look in the right places. Check out organizations and brands hosting fun fundraising or volunteer events on the road. For example, "MINI Takes the States," a biannual rally for MINI Cooper owners, gives participants an opportunity to explore America's beauty while raising money for Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization dedicated to fighting domestic hunger through a network of food banks. This year's rally saw participants kick off in either Orlando, Fla. or Portland, Ore. and converge in Colorado, passing through some of America's most interesting and beautiful sites and cities.

A portion of each registration fee is

donated to Feeding America and participants are encouraged to start fundraising pages online and spread the word to friends and family to contribute to the cause. Each dollar raised will provide at least 10 meals to people in the U.S. struggling with hunger. To learn more, visit MINITakesTheStates.com or follow the conversation at #DriveForMore.

Transform Your Road Trip
America's parks need your help, particularly its hiking trails. Volunteer opportunities abound for those who wish to combine a road trip with trail stewardship. After traveling to your favorite park, join a volunteer crew in order to build or maintain a trail, increasing accessibility to America's most beautiful natural wonders.

Or, be someone who brakes for animals -- animal volunteer opportunities that is. Many animal sanctuaries welcome vacationing volunteers to provide extra hands. From socializing dogs to feeding horses, certain opportunities even include lodging to those giving their time.

By giving back to the places you visit, you can take the concept of the ultimate summer road trip to new heights.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THOSE VOTER POLLS?

Bailey
©/O

JOYNA WINNER



"I love the polls — I only vote for who is ahead!"

HOWIE CARPS



"If th' polls ain't reliable — why bother with 'em?"

IMA PHIBBER



"If they poll me, I'll tell 'em what the polls say I think!"

MILES YONDER



(VIA CELL)
"Polls? WHAT polls?"

Mental health experts inform school violence & security panel

AUSTIN — Psychological prevention and treatment for students is the best way to head off school violence, mental health professionals told a panel of state lawmakers on July 18.

This was the third in a series of interim hearings for the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools & School Security, a panel named by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in response to the shooting at Santa Fe High School in May.

Dr. Andy Keller, president of the Meadows Foundation in Dallas, told panel members:

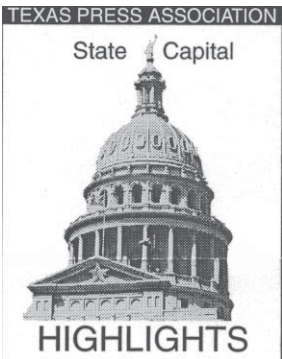
- It is a challenge to predict which students might turn into mass shooters;
- Some 2 million children and teenagers have been diagnosed with mental health disorders;
- Of those, perhaps 20,000 have a diagnosis associated with a slight increase in violent behavior; and
- Of the 20,000, fewer than 1,000 are considered high-risk for violent behavior.

Keller added that doesn't mean those 1,000 children are more likely to commit a mass shooting. Dr. Clifford Moy, director of Behavioral Health at the TMF Health Quality Institute in Austin, said professionals "should be focusing on the broader group of students who are at risk" in order to intervene for their and others' safety.

Dr. Iram Kazimi, director of the Inpatient Pediatric Bipolar Program at UT Health Harris County Psychiatric Center, said children's exposure to violent media changes their perception of how others think about them. "Unless we start addressing how kids actually think about the world around them, I think we're going to be at a loss," Kazimi said.

After its final hearing on July 24, the committee will present a final report

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



to the full Senate with findings and recommendations for the Legislature to consider in its next regular session, which begins in January.

Abbott, DOJ announce grant

Gov. Greg Abbott and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance on July 19 announced a \$1 million grant for overtime expenses of law enforcement officers involved in the response efforts after the shooting at Santa Fe High School. The grant will be awarded to the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division and will assist the City of Santa Fe and surrounding jurisdictions with law enforcement costs incurred responding to the shooting.

"As our hearts continue to ache for the lives lost at Santa Fe High School, this grant will provide welcome assistance to a community still struggling with this tragedy," Abbott said.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said, "Today, we continue to help state and local police in Texas to rebuild after the tragic murder of 10 people at Santa Fe High School."

Bush seeks input on Harvey

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on July 16 announced additional Hurricane Harvey outreach efforts to gather local and regional input for \$137 million in Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery funds available for local, regional and state planning.

The outreach by the Texas General Land Office will include a survey requesting input and encouraging regional planning coordination to help mitigate and lessen the impact of future disasters.

The survey will be distributed to citizens, local officials, councils of government and river authorities to request input for planning topics including:

- Flood control;
- Drainage improvements;
- Resilient housing solutions;
- Economic development;
- and infrastructure improvements.

RRC wraps up restoration

The Texas Railroad Commission on July 16 announced its Abandoned Mine Land program completed restoration of an eight-acre abandoned uranium mine in Karnes County.

Known as the Hackney Site, it was last mined in 1963 and sat abandoned for 54 years. It was selected for remediation because of the safety hazard abandoned pits posed to the public, as well as "elevated naturally occurring radiation levels." The four-month project reduced radiation to safe levels and restored the area to its natural state, the agency said.

West Nile cases confirmed

The Texas Department of State Health Services on July 17 announced it had confirmed three cases of West Nile disease reported by health departments in Austin, Dallas and Galveston.

Humans can be infected by West Nile virus through the bite of an infected mosquito. Last year, some 135 cases of West Nile illness that resulted in six deaths in Texas. There have been more than 3,500 illnesses and 167 deaths in Texas over the last 10 years, the

Research reveals recycling is increasingly popular

(NAPSI)—Here, for a change, is good news about the environment: Americans are recycling their food and beverage cartons more than ever and continue to look to brands to actively help drive the recycling of their products' packages, according to a new survey.

What The People Want

The national study commissioned by the Carton Council of North America showed that 61 percent of respondents report they always recycle their food and beverage cartons, up 11 percentage points from when the survey was last conducted two years ago. Nearly all—94 percent—think recycling is important and 74 percent believe recycling should be made a priority.

People also have high environmental expectations for the brands they buy. Consumers overwhelmingly expect food and beverage brands to be committed to recycling. More than nine out of 10 said brands should take an active role in helping to increase the recycling of packages. And 56 percent said their loyalty to a food or beverage brand is affected by the brand's engagement with environmental causes.

How To Tell Whether Something Is Recyclable

The survey showed that packaging remains the top source for determining recyclability, while friends and family as well as the news gained momentum. Nearly two-thirds of respondents said that if a package did not have a recycling symbol or language indicating the item is recyclable, they would assume it's not.

One help is that now food and beverage cartons can carry the standard "Please Recycle" logo. The ability to use the label is based on the milestone that more than 60 percent of U.S. households have access to carton recycling, a threshold set by the Federal Trade Commission green guidelines for packaging.

However, just because a package doesn't have a recycling symbol, doesn't mean that it's not recyclable. To find out, consumers should call their local community or visit its website.

"The survey findings highlight that as more Americans have gained access to food and beverage carton recycling, awareness that cartons are recyclable has also increased," explained Jason Pelz, vice president of recycling projects for the Carton Council of North America and circular economy director for Tetra Pak. The Carton Council works to deliver long-term collaborative solutions to divert valuable cartons from the landfill.

Learn More

For an in-depth look at the research findings, visit www.CartonOpportunities.org/survey. For more on recycling cartons, see www.CartonOpportunities.org.

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OBITUARIES

Benjamin Moses Shirey II



A memorial service for Benjamin Moses Shirey II, 71, of Canton is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at First Baptist Church in Canton with Bro. Mike Roberson officiating.

Ben was born March 23, 1947 in Mineola, TX to Benjamin Moses Shirey and Billie Novelle Smith Shirey.

He passed away July 20, 2018 in Tyler, TX.

Ben grew up in Rusk and Highland, TX. He graduated from Baytown High School before receiving his Bachelors Degree from North Texas State University and attending Southwestern Graduate School of Banking. Ben married Laura Leigh Peete June 29, 1974. The two lived in Dallas and Longview before settling in Canton. Ben worked in banking over 40 years and served as President of

First National Bank Canton for 25 years. Some of his favorite hobbies included golf, collecting antiques, visiting First Monday and restoring his grandfathers 1951 Chevy truck. Ben was an active member of First Baptist Church in Canton since 1990. He was also very active in his community serving in Lion's Club, Canton Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce, where he was voted Citizen of the Year in 2014.

Ben is survived by his wife of 44 years, Laura Leigh Shirey; Daughter, Summer & Kyle Norman; Daughter, Heather & Lee Axtens; Son, Jason Shirey; Daughter, Laura Beth Shirey; 6 Grandchildren: Benjamin, Kylee, & Brady Norman, Gabriel Evan, & Tori Axtens; Mother, Billie Shirey; Sisters: Angela Terry, Jill Casey, & LeAnne Barron; and Brothers: Lance Shirey and John Shirey.

He is preceded in death by his Father, Benjamin Moses Shirey.

Family will receive friends Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gideons International or Soul Harvest Missions PO Box 1149 Keller, TX 76244.

Go Big or Go Home fundraiser set for August 25

The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation fundraising event will be August 25, 2018. The event will include dinner, victory stories, a live and silent auction, and end with live music by Cody Kuba. The past 5 events have sold out, so please let the foundation know if you need a table or ticket soon.

Various levels of corporate donations are also

available and sponsors are needed. For more information on sponsorship, please see the website codystephensfoundation.org or search "Go big or go home foundation" on Facebook.

The administration takes no salary from the foundation and at this point, and Dr Thomas DeBauche reads the ECGs at no cost. Stephens' own company, Scott Stephens

and Associates, Inc., is a platinum sponsor of the fundraiser. It's passion, not profit that motivates the Stephens.

Each level will come with recognition at the banquet including the now popular foundation belt buckle and knowledge that you are helping to find those that may need life-saving intervention. If the percentages are correct,

based on what has been seen so far, there are 1,000 students in Texas that need heart surgery TODAY. Says Stephens, "Let's find them! Go BIG or Go Home AND "screen 'em all".

Scott may be contacted at 713-451-3600 or scottstephens@gmail.com. Your donations and attendance are greatly appreciated.

Special events at Eastgate Church

Great upcoming events at Eastgate Church. Ryan Bruss on Wednesday, August 1st at 7 p.m.

Ryan is the Director of "IT'S SUPERNATURAL" Bible School which is part of Sid Roth's TV program. And on Sunday, August 5,

Dr. Randy Caldwell will be with us at 10:30 a.m. Randy is a great Bible teacher and also brings us up-to-date information on Israel. Eastgate Church is located 6 miles east of Huffman on FM 1960, then turn right at the Shell Station on CR 611.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Had it not been the Lord who was on our side when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

then the waters would have engulfed us, the stream would have swept over our soul; then the raging waters would have swept over our soul.

PSALM 124: 2-5

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Haman in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 21, Abraham banished Hagar and whom else to the desert? Laish, Haman, Ishmael, Laban
3. By reasonable numbering which commandment is, "Thou shalt not kill"? 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th

4. Samson was put into prison as a political enemy of ...? Romans, Israelites, Philistines, Assyrians
5. From Matthew 17, whom did Jesus send fishing to find tax money? Andrew, Peter, Paul, Thomas
6. After her first husband died, who did Ruth marry? Isaiah, Ahab, Boaz, Jehu

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Ishmael; 3) 6th; 4) Philistines; 5) Peter; 6) Boaz

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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but wisdom is found in
those who take advice.

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in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

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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 EXPERTS

★

LIVING

Tips to have a summer adventure without leaving your backyard

(StatePoint) With a few supplies and some inspiration, your backyard can be the site of a summer adventure. Here are a few ways to slip into vacation mode without even leaving home.

Take a Camping Trip

Whether all the campsites at your favorite park are booked solid or you just want to skip the traffic jam heading out of town, you can recreate the fun of a camping trip in the convenience of your backyard. Invite friends to pitch tents and then spend the evening grilling, having sing-a-longs, making smores, playing games,

telling ghost stories and stargazing.

With the security of electricity and the convenience of indoor plumbing just a hop, skip and a jump away, this is a great idea for families with young kids who have never camped before or anybody who prefers the luxuries of “glamping.”

Go for a Dip

Love swimming but want to dodge crowds and avoid locker room hassles? Turn your backyard into your own swim club. Nearly any backyard can accommodate an easy-to-setup Intex pool. Available nationwide at a

variety of big box, club, sporting goods and specialty stores as well as numerous online retailers, Intex offers both smaller options that are great for kids, such as a unicorn-themed spray pool with a 40-gallon capacity, as well as larger options. Prism Frame pools available in three shapes and sizes to accommodate people of all ages, feature filtration systems with Hydro Aeration Technology to remove sediment and keep pool water crisp and free of debris. Pull out some deck chairs, grab some towels, pool toys and some shades and you'll be all set.

Movie Night

Enjoy your favorite stars under the stars. With a simple projector set-up, you can be the host with the most by turning your backyard into a movie theater. Pick a crowd-pleasing summer classic and get the neighbors involved. If you're short on seating, consider inviting guests to set up their own blankets and lawn chairs and make it a potluck picnic.

If you want something exciting to do but are not in the mood to travel, just remember to look no farther than the backyard. With a little imagination, there are plenty of adventures to be had on any budget and in any sized space.

Cedar Bayou Flood Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

begins in the north of the district all the way to the sea. The meetings focus on the needs of local populations and interact with the neighborhoods through a series of meetings. The H.C. Flood Control District presented 14 proposed anti-flood projects to be paid for by the bond.

Cedar Bayou has been flooding for decades now and a study of the watershed has been completed.

In the HCFCD proposal the upstream Cedar Bayou Project would receive \$74M. from the bond for right of way acquisition, design and construction of channel conveyance improvements and stormwater detention basin upstream of FM 1960. This 1% floodplain could be reduced in size from about 1,500 acres to less than 100 acres.

Another upstream project on Cedar Bayou would cost \$11M. but almost entirely eliminate the flood risk along upper Cedar Bayou.

of way, design and channel improvements to make it less than 800 acres from the current 2,700 acres.

Near IH-10 a proposed \$23M. project would construct a stormwater detention basin near Coastal Water Authority canals.

Proposed is a \$1M. project for design and construction of Crosby Eastgate Environmental Mitigation Bank for restoration and enhancement of wetlands to create credits for wetland mitigation supporting construction of District projects.

The total from the bond for these and smaller other projects is \$249,500,000. About \$2,745,500 are to come from Grant Totals. Partner Sharing with other counties would account for \$1,950,000 and local match requirements would need \$675,000.

The work needed for Luce Bayou in Huffman would require \$20,500,000 from the bond.

About \$33M. is proposed for the Magee Gully for the same treatment and infrastructure improvement.

About \$23M. is proposed for the Adlong Ditch right of way purchases, and channel improvements. It would improve the flood plain from about 2,300 acres to 200 acres.

Clawson Ditch would need some \$19M. for right

The proposed bond portion of the San Jacinto Watershed upper basin would run about \$50M. Also there would be a requirement of \$281,165,500 from Grants, a share partnership with Montgomery County of \$183,370,000 and a local match of \$117,754,000.

Voters will be asked to approve the \$2.5 Billion bond package on August 25th, the one year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey.

Diabetes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• Examine your feet. “Because you're prone to numbness, infections and poor circulation, your feet are vulnerable to health problems that should be caught early,” Litaker said.

Every Week to Every Month

- Weigh yourself. Maintaining a normal weight makes it easier to achieve good blood glucose control. This may include planning menus and shopping ahead to reduce eating last minute meals.

Every Three to Six Months

- Schedule a doctor's visit to monitor your diabetes and routine. Your doctor should:
- Do a hemoglobin A1C blood test, which measures the past three-month average of glucose in your blood
- Check your weight
- Take your blood pressure. People with diabetes are susceptible to heart disease
- Schedule a dental exam. People with diabetes

are two to four times more likely to develop gum disease and infection.

Every Year

- Be sure your primary doctor:
- Tests your urine for any sign of kidney disease
- Conduct a medical foot exam
- Screens your blood for cholesterol and triglyceride levels
- Gives you a flu shot and updates pneumonia, tetanus and hepatitis B vaccinations.

“Getting vaccinated is important since diabetes can weaken your ability to fight illness and infection,” Litaker said

- Get an eye exam annually. Diabetes puts you at risk for vision complications

Weight Loss Options

The Houston Methodist Weight Management Center at San Jacinto offers a full spectrum of options to help patients attempting

to better manage their diabetes and improve their overall health by losing weight.

Dr. Laura Choi, director of the Houston Methodist Weight Management Center at San Jacinto, says the center provides personalized care for patients with conditions attributed to obesity through both medical nutritional counseling and bariatric (weight loss) surgery.

Bariatric surgery procedures restrict the amount of food you can eat and/or changes the route food takes through your body so that less food is absorbed.

“Surgery has excellent outcomes for patients who qualify and can greatly improve type 2 diabetes. Some patients have experienced complete remission after surgery,” Choi said.

For more information on the services offered at the Houston Methodist Weight Management Center at San Jacinto, call 832-556-

6046. For details on services provided by the diabetes self-management program, as well as the diabetes support group at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital, visit houstonmethodist.org/diabetes or call 281-420-8525.

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-

Fatal accident,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McKinley also sustained life threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital by Life Flight. At the hospital it was discovered that McKinley was allegedly intoxicated. McKinley was

arrested at the hospital and charged with Intoxication Manslaughter. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division.



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ESD #14 has an opening on it's board of commissioners who make decisions for the ESD which consists of the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department and the ambulances run by the HVFD.

If you have a desire to serve on this board as an appointed volunteer for the remainder of the unexpired term which ends in 2020, then please send a resume along with any credentials you feel would be pertinent.

You must send your resume to ESD #14 at P.O. Box 96, Highlands, TX 77562 on or before end of business August 17, 2018.

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HCSO Captain Morrison meets with Newport

CROSBY — Last Wednesday the commander of the Harris County Sheriff's District 3, the district that Crosby and Highlands are served by, visited Stonebridge at Newport to speak with local residents about their concerns and law enforcement in the neighborhood.

The relative quiet of Newport, especially lately, let locals concentrate on asking questions of Captain John Morrison concerning how emergency calls are handled and the differences between the neighborhood's contract deputies and district deputies that patrol everywhere. Most of the questions concerned staffing, and retention and other civic concerns.

Concerns were raised about drug usage in the neighborhood. Cyber crimes were a concern and new deputies for District 3 were introduced that are specialists in that area. The Captain admitted he would like to have more personnel on the street but must make do with the numbers that he is assigned.

When questioned about equipment that might have been damaged in Hurricane Harvey, Morrison answered that Sgt. Donnie Williams was managing the fleet. "At the moment we are doing fine we



Captain John Morrison District III C.O.

are using a car sharing program in which two deputies will share one car. When one deputy gets off, generally there is an hour lay over between shifts, then the other deputy takes over use of the car. Our current situation is fine, we have I think over 130 cars on their way. They are in the process of being equipped."

The Captain reviewed the process for establishing an arrest and stated, "I like to think that we are working well with the District Attorney's Office."

Morrison explored the on-line tip capabilities and expounded on the benefits of Citizens Police Academy.

Dayna Steele,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ground. I started doing a little research and looking into what happened. I live in Seabrook, so I live close to all the plants. I have done a lot of crisis communication training for the executives in those plants, so I know what can go wrong and I was very concerned with what happened at Arkema. That is one of the many reasons I decided to run against Brian Babin."

Explaining that she said, "Babin voted again and again against environmental issues. In fact I had my research team look up some things for me, he voted 35 anti-environment votes in 2017 alone, he has a zero 0% rating. So, the few times I have heard him expressing some concern over something in the environment, I go look a little bit deeper and discover there is usually an ulterior motive that concerns profit and corporations, not people."

Her competition has television commercials running. "They are paying it through the American Chemical Council, which used to be, last year, the Chemical Manufacturers Association of Harris County. My question is: If he is doing such a wonderful job why do they need to be running commercials for him four months in advance of the election?"

"Why is the American Chemical Council which is actually a group that advocates for fewer regulations and less protection for the neighborhoods so adamant about getting him reelected?"

"So when people ask why me over Babin? Babin is profit over people I am people over profit. He is funded by corporate enterprise, I take no corporate money what so ever. I am funded by the people, I am grassroots and I intend to stay that way. When I found out that no Democrat ran against Brian Babin in 2016 I said our founding fathers would not think at all that is what Democracy is about. The more I research why people didn't run I find people are frightened and have been threatened if they run. They don't run because they are bullied and they have nothing to threaten me with. I love this area. My mother is from east Texas. I am a fifth generation east Texan. I am a third generation

Houstonian. This is not a Democrat or Republican thing this is an American thing. We are being overrun by corporate interests and I am tired of it."



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