HIGHLANDS

CROSBY



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the **PRESS**:

- Baytown Special Rodeo Operation Backpack
- treatment facility Town Hall Recreation Center
-And more, Page 3



EVENTS

THUR., AUG. 16 EAGLETON AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Pork Chop Dinner & Auction Fundraiser, Baytown Fairgrouds, 7900 N. Main, Baytown, TX 77521, 4 pm -8 pm. Live entertainment. \$10 donations.

SAT., AUG. 18 FREE HEART **SCREENINGS**

For area residents at Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Rd., 10 am - 12 pm.

SAT., AUG. 25 GO BIG OR GO HOME FUNDRAISER

Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation fundraising, August 25, 2018, at Crosby American Legion Hall Post 658.

<u>SAT., SEP. 22</u> CROSBY ED. **FOUNDATION ANNUAL GALA**

Crosby Education Foundation 8th annual Gala, Saturday, September 22nd from 7pm-11pm at new Southern Lace Estates. Tickets are available for purchase at the Crosby ISD Administration Building or via Paypal at paypal.me/ CrosbyEF.

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 16- William Don Carwile B.L. Owens

Aug 17-Amanda Abbott Rhonda Brewer Amy Chase Amy Murphy Thomas Parrish

Katherine Young Aug 19–Lisa Cutbirth Sherwood Jett Natalie Elizabeth King

Aug 20-Patti Farmer Ruby King Ronald Phillips Gertrude Rutledge Natasha Webb Pastor Phillip Morris

Aug 21-Gary Jackson Alice Seaburg Jimmy Ray Slot Patrick Williams Rick Ross Sheri Ross

Jessica Cain

Aug 22-Lacie Paige Burton G.A. Kearney James R. Townsend Tonia Watkins

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 18-Bruce & Debbie Mercer

Aug 19–Tony & Margaret Boyd Aug 20-Carl & Myrtis Richard

Aug 23- Greg & Angie Basquez Kaylin & Caleb Morgan

DEATHS

John Henry Yancey Judy Gail Spinks

Crosby ISD's cash woes show

CROSBY - Next Monday, August 19, at the school board meeting, Scott Davis, Superintendent of Crosby ISD, is expected to describe financial woes of the district and how the district will repair those woes, according to sources, but for now the district and the Superintendent are remaining silent and not returning phone calls, e-mails, or friendly visits.

Generally, when a Superintendent takes over a district the first order of duty is to look into the finances of the school district and for now there is a hiring freeze (excluding the new teachers that were employed last school year)



Superintendent **Scott Davis**

and a hold on new orders, according to the same

As an example of where the funding might have gone, sources say it was not an illegal absconding but using funds up to but not including \$50,000 to pay for cost overruns on Crosby's "The Jungle" Stadium from the General Fund by the previous Superintendent Dr. Keith Moore.

Timing being essential here the new A-F grading system for schools was just released with Crosby achieving a B letter grade. With two distinctions at Crosby High School for Post-Secondary Readiness and another for Comparative Academic Growth. The financial rating from Texas Education Agency, was a "C" for 'met standard' back when the 2017 bond was decided. TEA ratings go from "A" for superior to

F" for not measuring up.

Crosby ISD was awarded zero out of 10 points on the debt service coverage ratio by the TEA on the last bond. The district brings in \$58.3 million in revenue for debt service, the tax rate used to make bond payments, and it now pays \$65.4 million. Those poor standings may be due to inaccurate information, and they are under appeal.

Around 2012, the district began planning for the 2013 bond. About that time, the district's enrollment growth began accelerating. From 2013 to 2016, Crosby ISD's enrollment growth rate rose from 0.85 percent to 5.49

The district's 2013 bond election was for \$86.5 million and used to build a new high school and construct athletic structures. The district used more than \$10 million from its operating budget, which is set to be reimbursed with the 2017 bond package.

School districts running short of money is not a new

> See Crosby ISD Finances, Page 8

Freak storm blocks Crosby roadways



Last Friday at about 4:47 a sudden storm released a microburst that struck the power lines across the San Jacinto River Bridge onto the Beaumont Highway snarling traffic for a couple of hours on Old US 90 in both directions and New US 90 eastbound. Every type of law enforcement that services Crosby made the scene along with ambulances as 4 people were stuck near the lines. A cold front with rain brought the storm.

EPA to hold Citizen's meetings Sept. 12

The San Jacinto River Coalition heard updates from Jackie Young on the condition of the Waste Pits, at their last meeting on Tuesday, August 7th. In addition, Young announced that the EPA was returning to Highlands to conduct one-on-one interviews.

Young also revealed that Congressman Brian Babin had toured the Waste Pits site, along with EPA region 6 Superfund Manager John Meyer on July 22nd. This interest in the Superfund site by Babin was considered as a positive indicator for the project. Babin urged EPA in 2016 to remove the waste pits without delay. About this visit, he said "I have driven by here 100 times, but

See WASTE PITS, P. 8



Jackie Young shows samples of two types of Geofabrics that were used to cap the Waste Pits. The Geotextile in the foreground was used on most of the cap, and the Geogrid beyond was used on steep slopes where the fabric would not stay in positiion.

Changes in Goose Creek CISD Bus Routes

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! Do you know that Goose Creek CISD parents can find your child's bus route two different ways? You can go to gccisd.net and click on Departments and Transportation. Click on Bus Routes to access Infofinder i and type in your child's address and grade. Bus mailers also will be sent out the week of August 20th. Please remember that all routes have changed due to school time changes, so please verify your child's bus route.

Until school begins, you also can go to gccisd.net and click on Departments and Transportation. Click on the Bus Stops tab to select your child's school to find his/her bus stop and time of pick up or drop off. This will only be available

See School Bus, page 8



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Goose Creek CISD bus driver Kim Kennedy and students (from top) Hallie Buenrostro, Nixon Essangone-Eva and Noah Landry will be ready to go the first day of school. All Goose Creek CISD bus routes have changed, so check the website at www.gccisd.net under Transportation or the bus mailer, which will be sent out the week of August

Early voting started on flood bond issue

HARRIS COUNTY -Voters will have a chance to decide to spend \$2.5 billion dollars to help alleviate flooding, according to County Judge Ed Emmett.

The measure includes a list of 150 potential projects that will be paid for by the bond money, some of it to repair flood damage and some to mitigate future flood risks.

Judge Emmett said "People realize

this is our chance to say we are really serious about flood-control, mitigation and resilience."

Emmett continued "If this bond passes, it will not only

show we are serious, it will actually provide \$700 to \$900 million that will be matched by the federal government."

The funding includes \$1.2 billion for drainage improvements, \$12.5 million for new gloodplain

mapping, and \$1.25 million for an improved early warning system. The money will be spent over a 10 to 15 year period.

Election Day is August 25, the one year anniversary of the time Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast and brought devastating flooding to the Houston region. Voting at your precinct will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Rotar

Early voting already has started, with the following times:

Aug. 15-18, 7 a.m to 7 p.m. Aug. 19, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Aug. 20-21, 7 a.m to 7 p.m. Voters can cast

their votes early at any early voting location in Harris County. You should bring a photo ID with you to vote.

Early Voting Locations in this area include:

See FLOOD BONDS, Page 8

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



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COMMUNITY PAGE ★

Opening of new Agriscience Center



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Dr. Anthony Price (middle), Goose Creek CISD deputy superintendent, presents the keys to the new Agriscience Center to FFA members (from left) Isaiah Gomez and Shannon Schamp, Stuart Career Tech High School; Ashley Ybanez and Kaylee Dahlquist, Ross S. Sterling High School; Laney Lawley, Hannah Humphrey and Isabella Garzoria, Goose Creek Memorial High School and Raelynn Dempsey, Emily Arabie and Korbin Parks, Robert E. Lee High School. The new facility at 8312 John Martin Road, which houses classrooms, a practice arena and pens for pigs, goats, sheet and cattle, will be used by nearly 1,000 students from four high schools in GCCISD. The grand opening ceremony is scheduled for September 29, at 10 a.m. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Kenny Rogers at kenneth.rogers@gccisd.net or call 281-420-4500, ext. 84414.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS **BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**

CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018 in THE JOYCE HENDRIX ESC BOARD ROOM LOCATED AT 828 SHELDON RD, CHANNELVIEW, TX 77530 . The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax _/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations) School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations 2.0009 % increase or Debt service % increase % (decrease) Total expenditures 1.8015 % increase % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

| (as calculated under tax code section 20,04) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Preceding Tax Year | | Current Tax Year | | | | | | | |
| Total appraised value* of all property | \$ | 4008176379 | \$ | 4162147804 | | | | | | |
| Total appraised value* of new property** | \$ | 60133662 | \$ | 75829717 | | | | | | |
| Total taxable value*** of all property | \$ | 3224481134 | 5 | 3348347428 | | | | | | |
| Total taxable value*** of new property** | \$ | 48376079 | 5 | 61003177 | | | | | | |

- "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.0400.
 "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
- *** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$___

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service 4989 4308 \$ 4989 The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

| Solition from an i representer y minima | 24 14 | ar a new y will | reserved. | e recarect | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|--|
| | Last Year | | This Year | | |
| Average Market Value of Residences | \$ | 121031 | \$ | 122507 | |
| Average Taxable Value of Residences | \$ | 94269 | \$ | 98116 | |
| Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value | 5 | 1.396 | \$ | 1.4367 | |
| Taxes Due on Average Residence | \$ | 1316.00 | \$ | 1409.63 | |
| Increase (Decrease) in Tayor | | | | 93.63 | |

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an . This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$ 31,432,548

\$ 13,802,148 Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

So far 2018 has been an average year, with rainfall only a few inches less that 2017. However, the Aug. 25 Hurricane changed all that. Total rainfall in 2017 was about 23 inches more than 2016, due to Hurricane Harvey in August.



Letha Strouhal Star-Courier Rain Monitor

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas **JANUARY 2018 Day** .21 20 22 27 .18 .95 **TOTAL** 3.60 JAN. 2017 4.39

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas **APRIL 2018**

<u>Day</u> .09 .19 .05 1.47 **TOTAL** 2.24

Year to Date 14.83

APR. 2017 1.82 Year to Date 2017 12.78 inches

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas **MAY 2018** Day **MAY**

.20 .36 .08 .11 .66 TOTAL 1.44 Year to Date 16.27

MAY. 2017 4.36 Year to Date 2017 17.14 inches

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas **FEBRUARY 2018 Day** 6 .07 2.82 12 14 .01 .03 16 .02 17 21 22 .10 .02 25 .67 26 .25

Year to Date 10.00 FEB. 2017 Year to Date 2017

6.23 inches

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas

JUNE 2018 Day 14 .07 17 .58 18 19 20 1.88 21 25 .12 .09 Year to Date 22.08 JUN. 2017 10.95 Year to Date 2017

28.09 inches

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas **MARCH 2018** .64 .02 .04 16 .08 28 29 .05 1.71 **TOTAL** 2.59 Year to Date 12.59 MAR. 2017 4.73 Year to Date 2017 10.96 inches

RAIN REPORT

Highlands, Texas **JULY 2018** <u>JUL</u> 2.55 .06 .25 .15 .92 31 .77

TOTAL Year to Date 26.78 JUL. 2017 3.19 Year to Date 2017 31.28 inches



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> **CROSBY'S HOME** TOWN HOME CARE



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

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

ROUND-UP

Local organizations unite for YMCA's Operation Backpack

Texas Gatorfest looking for performers

Texas Gatorfest is inviting applications from all local talent to perform at this year's festival on the Alli Theater stage. Alli Theater Applications to Perform are available at the festival's office, the Anahuac Area Chamber of Commerce or online at

www.texasgatorfest.com
The deadline to receive
these applications is
August 31, 2018.n
Applicants picked to
perform will be notified
after that date.

Texas Gatorfest will take place Friday, September 14 through Sunday, September 16 in historic Fort Anahuac Park. With the Alli Theater, the festival hopes to provide a venue in which the entertainers' natural abilities and talents can be encouraged and develop in a positive and enriching atmosphere. Texas Gatorfest sees this as another way to showcase the many assets of the Anahuac area and to further involve the community

in the festival. This year's and the Alli Theather will be a great opportunity for local individuals and groups to showcase their talent. Groups who provided entertainment on the Alli Theather in the past have later been booked to perform on the festival's main stage in the beer garden. Entertainers wishing to obtain information about performing as an individual or group on the Alli Theater Stage, or, an application, should contact the festival office at 409-267-4190 or visit the festival's website www.texasgatorfest.com.

Local History - Local Wine at Anahuac

The public is warmly invited to Local History, Local Wine August 23, 5:30 p.m., at **Chambers County** Library, Anahuac. Local historians/authors Myra Norman and Bobby Scherer, Jr. will each speak on their books that feature persons or events in Chambers County. Norman has written Chambers County Veterans Through the Eyes of The Progress Volumes 1 and 2. Scherer's new book is Family on the Bay. The evening will also feature a wine tasting segment by Jim Frascone of Frascone Winery in Oak Island. Artisan cheeses and chocolates will accompany the wine tasting. Drawings will also be held for prizes! Adults 21 and up are encouraged to call 409-267-2554 or come by the library to sign up for the informal, entertaining program.



BAYTOWN – (August 10, 2018) – Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital staff purchased over 200 backpacks to benefit the Baytown Family YMCA's Operation Backpack. The backpacks filled with school supplies were donated by staff from each of the hospital's units to benefit the YMCA's yearly program that provides school supplies for children in Baytown and surrounding communities to help them begin the new school year with the tools to succeed. Many employees also placed notes of encouragement to the students inside the backpacks.

Baytown Special Rodeo rounding up for Sept. 8

BAYTOWON, Texas -August 2, 2018 - Calling all special cowboys and cowgirls, grab your hats, pull on your boots and plan to head for Baytown Special Rodeo set for Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. You, your parents and all of your siblings are invited to this free Western Day for special needs youngsters from throughout the area. Rodeo is held at the Baytown Youth Fair arena, 7900 N. Main St. in Baytown.

"As sponsors of this free event, the Baytown Special Rodeo Association works with the Special Education Departments of nine area school districts in order to make contact with special



"Rodeo Buddies" assisting at last year's Special Rodeo in Baytown.

needs youngsters and their families," said J.R. Miller, BSRA president. "Youngsters can enjoy everything from game booths, bouncy houses, meeting critters from Galveston Bay at the Eddie Gray Wetlands Center touch tank, to riding in a barrel train, a pioneerstyle wagon or sitting tall in the saddle of gentle horses provided by the Rocking Horse Riders family riding club."

When the kids are not jumping in the bouncy houses, riding a real horse or getting a tattoo (washable!), they can checkout

See Special Rodeo, Page 6

Volunteers needed at Wetlands Center

2018—As the kids head back to school, consider a new adventure to fill the extra time available. The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education Center at 1724 Market Street and the Baytown Nature Center, 6213 Bayway Drive, Baytown's environmental education jewels, are currently seeking volunteers who share a passion for the environment, enjoy working with children, and strive to make a difference in their community. The sister sites will hold a joint orientation/basic training on Tuesday, September 4 at the Wetlands Education Center.

Volunteer orientation/ basic training begins with an introductory session from 8:30–11:30 am which covers the mission, history, facilities and future of the two centers. Prospective volunteers will learn about the centers' programs and the type of help needed. After a lunch break, participants who wish to work in the environmental education programs will attend the Basic Training session from 12:30-3:30 pm. Further training with experienced volunteers will occur when student field trips to the Wetlands Center and Nature Center begin in September.



Examining blue crabs from the touch tank during the seventh grade "Liquid Science" program.

During the school year, all Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District fifth and seventh graders visit the Wetlands Center/Nature Center for a day. Fifth-grade students participate in ExxonMobil's Wetlands Ecology program and Covestro's i3 program while seventh graders enjoy the Liquid Science program, sponsored by Rotary Club of Baytown. During the fall and spring Baytown Nature Center hosts Back to the Bay for high school science students. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist with each of these programs. Previous teaching experience is not required, but should be

helpful. All the basic information for each program will be provided. Other educational offerings at the two facilities include Boy and Girl Scout badge workshops, birthday parties, weekly pre-school programs, outreach opportunities, spring, summer and winter camps, night hikes and monthly family nature programs.

Other volunteer duties such as maintenance or carpentry at the Wetlands Center and stewardship/maintenance work at the Nature Center do not require further formal training, however do require some hands-on training.

See Volunteers, Page 6

Baytown to host Town Hall for recreation center

City of Baytown Recreation Center Feasibility Study

Baytown, TX -(August 7, 2018) - The City of Baytown is currently studying the feasibility of a new Recreation Center for the City of Baytown residents. As part of the development of the study, an online public survey and a town hall meeting were previously conducted to gather input from residents on the types of indoor spaces and amenities they would like to see in the new facility.

Public input will be gathered at a second Town Hall Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 6, 2018, from 5:30-7:00 PM, at the Baytown Community Center, 2407 Market Street, Baytown, Texas. All residents, business owners, elected officials, and community stakeholders are invited to attend. At the Town Hall Meeting, community members can participate in a come-and-go event regarding the proposed indoor spaces and programs, initial schematic design of the proposed recreation center, and provide feedback regarding the proposal. Conceptual renderings will also be available for review and comment.

The City of Baytown is one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Texas. In order to keep up with the expected growth and development in the area, the City is looking ahead and planning for the future of the community. The City invites all citizens to get involved with this exciting planning process. If you have any questions please contact Sarah Korpita atskorpita@burditt.com.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

How Ready is Your Child for the New School Year?

(StatePoint) Backpack and supplies -check! So, what's left to do before going back to school? How about finding out how well your child has learned foundational skills that they need to succeed in the next grade?

Ninety percent of K-8 parents believe their child performs at or above grade-level in reading and math, according to Learning Heroes' research. However, the National Assessment of Educational Progress finds that only a little more than a third of students are achieving at that level. What's more, the "summer slide" puts students at risk of losing up to two months of reading skills and two and a half months of math skills over a single summer.

To get a better feel for how prepared your child is for the next grade and how to support their learning at home, check out these tips from Learning Heroes' "Super 5 Back-to-School Power Moves."

1. Get a gut check: Use the Readiness Check to see how prepared your child is for their new grade. Designed by leading experts in reading and math, the Readiness Check instantly provides important information about your child's grade-level progress with reading and math skills after your child answers just three to five questions in each of the two subject areas. The free tool, which is available in both English and Spanish, also connects you to information, videos and activities to help build grade-level skills at home. To access this tool and other resources, visit bealearninghero.org. Other ways to assess how ready your child is for the new grade include paying attention to how easy or hard it is for them to do grade-level tasks and looking at their annual state test results from last year. If you haven't received the results yet, ask your child's teacher.

2. Partner up: At your first teacher meeting, bring your child's state test results and ask what they mean for this year. Find out what's expected of your child and how you can provide support at home. Help the teacher get to know your child by sharing their interests and strengths as well. You can also share what you learned from the Readiness Check.

3. Make learning fun: You are the expert on your child and can make learning exciting. Read together, choosing topics that interest your child. Find math in everyday life and turn it into a game. These small learning moments add up to a lot.

4. Celebrate effort: Help your child see that hard work is what leads to success. Focus on effort and what your child is learning. This will help your child feel less nervous about new tasks or subjects.

5. Support life skills: Strengths such as communication, problem-solving, and confidence will help your child in school and life. Talk openly with your child about how they feel and handle situations, especially tough ones.

"Learning happens everywhere -- at home, in the community and in the classroom." says Bibb Hubbard, founder and president of Learning Heroes. "The Super 5 Back-to-School Power Moves can help you use the summer and beginning of the school year to get a more complete picture of where your child is on track, and where more attention and focus may be needed."



TEA releases preliminary financial accountability ratings

AUSTIN — Some 80 percent of public school districts and charters earned the highest-possible preliminary financial accountability rating, according to figures released by the Texas Education Agency on Aug. 8.

The "superior" ratings were calculated using 15 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures, the accuracy of a district or charter's financial information submitted to TEA and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses in internal controls, as determined by an external auditor.

Created by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001, the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas encourages public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes, the TEA said.

Any district or charter wishing to appeal its rating must submit a written appeal with supporting evidence to the TEA by Sept. 10. Final ratings will be released in October.

${f B}_{ m ail\, law\, changes}$ asked

Gov. Greg Abbott on Aug. 7 released a set of proposals to reform the state's bail system.

Abbott urged the Legislature to pass legislation he named the "Damon Allen Act" in honor of a state trooper who was killed in the line of duty last Thanksgiving Day.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

If passed, the bill would tie the setting of bail to community safety concerns. A magistrate would be required to consider the criminal history of a defendant and other relevant information, including impact on law enforcement, when setting bail.

In cases involving either felony or misdemeanor charges of sexual offenses and assault, the setting of bail would be handled by state district judges and their associate judges.

To protect communities from repeat offenders, the bill would add steps to the bail process, such as required notification of various other agencies through the case management system.

Revenue is

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 8 announced his office would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$842.7 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of August.

The amount is 8.2 percent greater than the amount reported in August 2017. The allocations are based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly. For those filing quarterly, the allocations are based on sales made in April, May and June.

Extra vigilance is urged

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Aug. 8 posted a reminder to all drivers to slow down in school zones and to be aware of children walking to and from school or waiting for buses.

With the new school year beginning, drivers should be especially alert and careful around school buses and to expect an increase in overall traffic, DPS Director Steven Mc-Craw said.

"Motorists who disregard the law and illegally pass stopped school buses put our schoolchildren in harm's way, and that reckless and irresponsible behavior will not be tolerated by DPS," McCraw said.

Drivers who illegally pass school buses face fines as high as \$1,250 for the first offense. For individuals convicted of that offense more than once, the law allows the individual's license to be suspended for up to six months, the DPS said.

Paxton aims to stop DACA

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Aug. 8 asked a Brownsville U.S. District Court for a nation-wide injunction to curtail the issue or renewal of permits under its Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program while Texas' multi-state coalition lawsuit, filed in May, is pending.

Created by an Obama administration executive order in 2012, DACA has granted lawful presence and work permits to about 700,000 non-citizens who reside in the United States.

The attorneys general of six other states joined Paxton in the request. All jointly expressed an ultimate goal of having the court declare the entire DACA program unconstitutional. Paxton said he believes DACA is unconstitutional because it took effect without congressional approval and allowed the president "to unilaterally set aside any duly enacted law."

Why vote? Social Security, That's why

By Rob Schneider

The next Congress may determine the long-term fate of Social Security.

Social Security is a compact between generations that has worked remarkably well for 83 years. Current workers contribute payroll taxes into the system, and retirees, who paid in throughout their working lives, collect benefits.

Unfortunately, today too many younger workers believe that Social Security won't be there for them. Why do they think that? Because when some members of Congress talk about the budget deficit, they talk about Social Security even though Social Security has never contributed one cent to the federal deficit. Social Security pays for itself, and it has enough money to pay full benefits until 2034. After that, with no changes, Social Security will pay 77 percent of benefits.

How important is Social Security? It's so important that today without it, 41 percent of Texans who are 65 and older would have incomes below the poverty level. Social Security may become even more important to younger people, few of whom have workplace pensions or significant savings.

The sooner Congress addresses Social Security's long-term solvency, the easier it will be to do. Finding the political will is hard though, and including Social Security in deficit discussions is a political smokescreen.

So, the Congress elected in November could decide to improve the program, keep the status quo, or worse, degrade the system.

If you think Social Security is as important as AARP thinks it is, find out if your candidates are truly committed to preserving the promise of Social Security. All candidates say they are for Social Security, but don't let them off the hook. Instead, find out if they will support cost-of-living increases that keep up with inflation. Find out if they would raise the retirement age. Find out if they would raise the cap on Social Security payroll taxes above the current \$128,400. Find out if they would work to reduce waits on the phone or at Social Security office so people can get the assistance they need.

Once you have the answers to these questions, you can decide whether a candidate has earned your vote. Then, show up in November and elect a Congress that has the will and commitment to honor the 83-year-old promise of Social Security.

Rob Schneider is the director of advocacy at AARP Texas.



Crosby Dental Center

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www.jimnored.com

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281-328-3569

Jim Nored DDS

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

Goose Creek CISD grads return as teachers



Some of the Goose Creek CISD graduates returning as new elementary teachers this year are (front, from left) Melania Dominguez, Maria Garza, Ashleigh Henderson, Jennifer Villarreal, Paola Bear, Katie Côté, Victoria Rosas, William Mize, Angela Hamilton, (second row, from left) Stebbin Varner, Amanda Richings, Mary Gopon, Kaitlyn Kolarik, Kelsey Gesford, Jennifer Schield, Brianna Lee, Ruben Galicia, Jill Thompson, Brenda Valencia, Brittnee Duncan, Kaci Davis and Nalleli Espinoza.



Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Some Goose Creek CISD graduates returning as new secondary teachers for the 2018-19 school year are (front, from left) Shermaine Young, Charnea Jones, Marianna Hammel, Marlene Ochoa, Tracey Woodson, Misty Mungroo, Mary Sitarski, Vondrea Coleman, Kayla Riley (second row, from left) Virginia Richard, Chad Promise, James Bundage, Paula Schmidt, Rosalyn Perkins, Christopher Moore, Yoanna Isas, McNeil Greenidge, Tanyagelia Prentice, Ryan Rogers, Trent Padgett, Jaymond Cleveland, Alecia Chapman, Natalie Mason, Jermaine Freeman and Lara Brown.

Gideon speaker at Northside Baptist, Highlands

The Gideons will be speaking at Northside Baptist Church of Highlands on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at 11am.

The Gideons are an organization of Christian businessmen who distribute Bibles in schools, motels, hospitals, both here and around the world.

Many have come to

know Christ as their Savior through their ministry.

Pastor David R. Brumbelow invites everyone to attend for great singing, fellowship, and an inspirational time learning of the work of the Gideons.

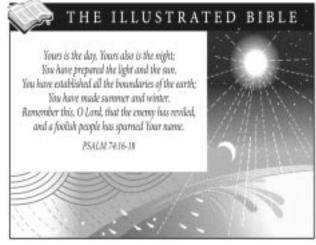
Northside is located at 317 Barbers Hill Road, Highlands, 77562;

nsbchighlands.org.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Lazarus in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. What were the children who were making fun of Elisha's bald head torn apart by? Two bears, Three lions. Seven serpents, Locust swarm
- 3. Who asked God, "Why is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding"? Jeremiah, Jonah, Job,
- 4. From John 19, who said, "What I have written, I have written"? Daniel, John the Baptist, Pilate, Jesus
- 5. From Genesis 31, who had a dream about an angel and rams? Adam, Abraham, Jacob,
- 6. How many suicides are recorded in the Bible (KJV)? 0, 2, 7, 14
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Two bears; 3) Jeremiah; 4) Pilate; 5) Jacob; 6) 7



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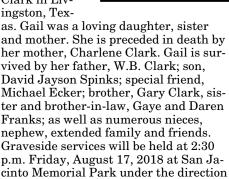
Pride only breeds quarrels, but widom is found in those who take advice.

God is our refuge and strengh, a very present help in trouble Psalm: 46:1

OBITUARIES

Judy Gail Spinks

Judy Gail Spinks, 57, passed away August 11, 2018 at her home in Trinity, Texas. She was born on October 24, 1960 to parents W.B. and Charlene Clark in Liv-



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Source: CBC, National Biabetes Statistics Report, 2817

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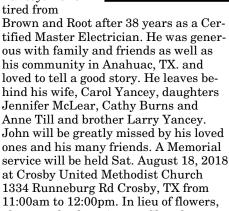
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of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

John Henry Yancey

John Henry Yancey left us to be with the Lord on June 30, 2018. John was born on July 4th, 1942 in Houston, TX to his parents Margaret and Laurence Yancey. He re-





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ous with family and friends as well as his community in Anahuac, TX. and loved to tell a good story. He leaves behind his wife, Carol Yancey, daughters Jennifer McLear, Cathy Burns and Anne Till and brother Larry Yancey. at Crosby United Methodist Church $1334\ Runneburg\ Rd\ Crosby,\ TX\ from$ please make donations to Churches United in Caring in Crosby, TX.

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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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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



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ASK THE **EXPERTS**

Program will reimburse eligible homeowners for Harvey-Related repairs

HOUSTON - The Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) is releasing a new tip sheet for homeowners making repairs to their Harvey-damaged homes. Later this year, the City of Houston will launch a Homeowner Reimbursement Program to reimburse homeowners for eligible repair expenses.

"Houston is a resilient city. Many Houstonians have been working hard to rebuild their homes," said Housing and Community Development Director Tom McCasland. "Help is on the way to assist homeowners with the cost of repairs."

The Homeowner Reimbursement Program is one of five programs the City of Houston will launch to assist homeowners with home repair. Program guidelines outlining the specifics of the program

Special

Rodeo,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Exxon Mobil's huge fire

engine, Acadian's ambu-

lance or a helicopter from

the Houston Police Depart-

ment or get acquainted

with fuzzy farm animals at

the Highlands 4-H petting

zoo. When toe-tappin' mu-

sic begins everyone can

dance with Miss Moo, Elvis

youngster will be assigned

chuck wagon lunch of ham-

burgers and hot dogs.

Each special needs

and the Chik-Fil-A cow.

are being developed now. The tip sheet advises residents about how to prepare to apply to the Reimbursement Program as they make repairs.

"We're advising all homeowners to save receipts, sign contracts for any work completed on their homes, take before and after pictures, build to code, and familiarize themselves with the kinds of expenses that are eligible for reimbursement," said Mayra Bontemps, HCD's Assistant Director for Disaster Recovery. The program will not reimburse homeowners for luxury finishes such as marble countertops, Jacuzzis, or pools. "Not everyone will qualify for the program, but we want to make sure homeowners know about the programs that are coming and how they can get ready," continued Bon-

Youngsters and their

families may register on-

needs child receives a Spe-

grow a little more, from the

original 87 participants to

averaging 1,300 to 1,500

participants each year

thanks to the generosity of

our many sponsors and the

dedication of more than

400 volunteers," Miller

said. "Special Rodeo has

indeed become a special

day for some wonderful

line at

event day.

youngsters."

Mayor Turner worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Texas, and County Judge Emmett to ensure that the City of Houston would administer its own housing recovery programs and that Houston got its fair share of recovery resources. The programs that launch later this year will be the first in more than \$1 billion for housing recovery programming from Hurri-

cane Harvey. Earlier this year, HCD convened 18 public meetings and conducted an online survey about Houstonians' priorities for housing recovery. More than 800 people attended an in-person meeting, and an additional 700+ participated in the online survey.

Please visit www.houstontx.gov/housing for updates on housing recovery programs.

Volunteers,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

www.specialrodeo.org "Our award-winning enthrough Aug. 31 in order to vironmental education guarantee their special programs have earned national recognition. Now cial Rodeo T-shirt. Each of we're looking for people in these youngsters will also the community who want be presented a cowboy hat, to ensure these educationsheriff's badge, bandana, al opportunities continue goody bag and a handmade for our children and the stick horse. Families may community," said Outalso register at the gate on reach/Volunteer Coordinator Mary Alice Trumble. "Every year we seem to

Pre-registration is required. Reservations for the training should be made no later than Tuesday, August 28. For more information or to register, phone the Wetlands Center at 281-420-7128 or email

MaryAlice.Trumble@baytown.org.

Angels Care provides tips on how to prevent and take control of the disease

Diabetes is a chronic an active, independent condition that affects more than 25 percent of people who are 65 years and older, so chances are high that some of you here have the disease or at least know someone with it. Diabetes is characterized by having too much glucose, or sugar, in the blood. Some sugar in the blood is okay, but too much sugar is danger-

Our bodies get glucose – or sugar - primarily from the foods we eat. If our body works the way it should, glucose moves from our bloodstream into our cells where it is converted into energy. Insulin is a hormone that helps facilitate this process. Unfortunately, our body doesn't always work the way we want it to. Diabetes sets in when we don't make enough insulin or the insulin doesn't work the way it should, and too much sugar stays in the blood.

Diabetes can cause serious damage to the body if not managed properly, contributing to heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease, and amputation. In fact, nearly 30 million people who have diabetes as a primary condition need emergency care, reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's a disease that requires a tremendous amount of monitoring and self-care.

Angels Care Home Health, serving Highlands, Crosby and the surrounding areas, provides the following tips on how to prevent the disease, as well as some management strategies if you already have diabetes so that you can take control of it, avoid emergency care, and enjoy lifestyle. Two Main Types of

Diabetes

TYPE 1 - The body does not make insulin (insulin helps the body convert sugar to energy). Those diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes must take insulin daily to live. It develops most often in children and young adults but can appear at any age.

• Symptoms may include:

o Increased thirst and urination

- o Constant hunger
- o Weight loss
- o Blurred vision o Extreme fatigue

IMPORTANT NOTE: If not diagnosed and treated with insulin, a person with Type 1 Diabetes can lapse into a lifethreatening diabetic coma. We have no control over this type of diabetes. Talk with your health care provider right away about any concerns you may have regarding Diabetes.

TYPE 2 - The body does not make or use insulin well (more common type). When type 2 Diabetes is diagnosed, the pancreas is usually producing enough insulin, but for unknown reasons the body cannot use the insulin effectively, a condition called insulin resistance. After several years, insulin production decreases. The result is the same as for Type 1 Diabetes—glucose builds up in the blood and the body cannot make efficient use of it.

Type 2 Diabetes is most associated with older age, obesity, family history of Diabetes, previous history of gestational Diabetes, physical inactivity and certain ethnicities. About 80 percent of people with Type 2 Diabetes are overweight or obese, reports National Institutes of Health.

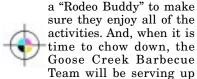
- Symptoms may include (similar to Type 1, but they develop gradual
 - o Fatigue
 - o Frequent urination o Increased thirst and
- hunger o Weight loss
 - o Blurred vision
- o Slow healing of wounds or sores

Often by making healthier lifestyle choices, such as losing weight or exercising or eating healthier foods, we can keep the disease from worsening and damaging our bodies.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you feel you may have some symptoms of diabetes, contact your health care provider right away. A simple blood test can confirm a diagnosis.

Whether you are look-

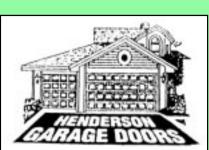
ing for strategies to prevent diabetes or to manage the disease, Angels Care urges you to adopt some healthy lifestyle changes today. Through education, you have the power to take control of your health. When you make positive choices for your health, you give yourself the tools to manage your disease, prevent complications, and have a better quality of life. Contact the Angels Care Home Health office in Baytown at 281-427-3510 or angelscarehealth.com for more information about its Diabetes Disease Management Program, Community Classroom and Caregiver Support education or the benefits of home health care service. At Angels Care...We Serve Patients.





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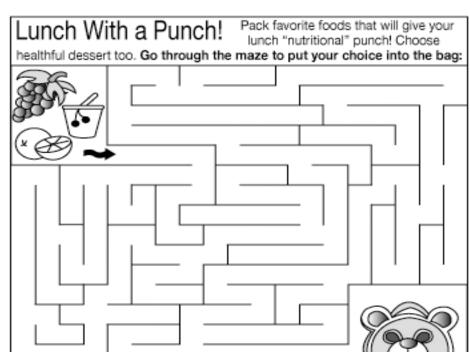
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★ COMMUNITY PAGE ★

Crosby ISD Finances,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

experience especially since 2016 when the largest school districts in Texas filed a lawsuit against their state government, alleging the public school system in Texas is both inadequate and inequitable. That was the same year the TEA initiated the A-F system.

The 2017 Bond was justified with lowering the tax rate because student enrollment increased from 5,199 in 2013 to 6,168 in 2017 and the tax base increased by \$0.2 billion in the same time frame. All of this and lowering the tax rate two cents per valuation made the bond attrac-

tive, and lately the district lowered the tax rate by another cent. Before anyone goes on a spending spree the increase in tax base does offer more money to the school, the crowding of homes now also adds the dollar amounts of valuations on property.

Yeah, you are gonna' spend more on school tax-

Sources indicate that it would have been wiser to put some projects on hold rather than take money from the general funds or operating budget to complete them.

August 20 is the last day to file for a school board

trustee position. Applications must be filed with Viviana Killion from 8 until 4 p.m. on any day that is not a school holiday or Saturday or Sunday. A joint election with Harris County was ordered by the Board of Trustees on May 14, 2018 for the following positions.

At-Large Position 6 John Swinney
District 1 Tanya Eagleton
District 2 Cathi Hughes
District 3 John Lindsey
November 6, 2018 is the

general election date.

CRCU sponsors GCCISD Education Foundation Gala



Community Resource Credit Union supports the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation as \$10,000 sponsors of the Foundation's All-Star Gala at Minute Maid Park September 29, 2018. Pictured are (from left) Macie Schubert, CRCU business development manager; Erika Foster, GCCISD Education Foundation director; Steve Boylan, CRCU chief operating officer; David Frazier, CRCU president/CEO; Aaron Rathbone, CRCU vice president of business lending and Logan Justice, CRCU marketing coordinator. Sponsorships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 are still available, and individual tickets will be \$200, with a \$50 discount for district employees. For more information, visit www.bit.ly/GCCISDAllStarGala or email Erika

Foster at erika.foster@gccisd.net.

Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this is actually the first time I've been on the ground here."

Ms. Young announced that the EPA is returning to Highlands on September 12th, to conduct interviews of anyone that wants their opinion included in a report that is being prepared, known as the CIP, or Community Involvement Plan.

The Community Involvement Plan serves as a guide for the EPA in sharing information and providing opportunities for public input on site cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and other activities outlined in EPA's October 11, 2017 Record of Decision (ROD)

The EPA is in the process of revising the San Jacinto River Waste Pits CIP, The updated CIP will identify areas of current interest and potential concerns of the local commuand other stakeholders at the site. To help update the CIP, the EPA will interview community members impacted by the site starting on September 12 in Highlands. The EPA welcomes your

School Bus,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for a short time, since changes will be made after school starts.

Elementary students who ride buses will receive wristbands at school to wear the first week of school to identify their bus routes. Please remember that everyone is adjusting to the new routes, so you should expect delays for the first few days. Thank you for your patience as we work to safely transport your child to and from school.

Early Voting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Crosby Branch Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby;

Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood;

Lone Star College, Atascocita, 15903 West Lake Houston Parkway, Houston;

Library, 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston; Baytown Community

North Channel Branch

Center, 2407 Market Street, Baytown.

Others include: Galena Park Library,

1500 Keene Street, Galena Park; Northeast Multi-Service

Northeast Multi-Service Center, 9720 Spaulding Street, Building #4, Houston;

Hardy Senior Center, 11901 West Hardy Road, Houston.

In addition, you can vote downtown at the Harris County Law Library, Conference Center, 1019 Congress Avenue, Houston;

Moody Park Community Center, 3725 Fulton Street, Houston;

Kashmere Multi Service Center, 4801 Lockwood Drive, Houston;

Ripley House Neighborhood Center, 4410 Navigation Boulevard, Houston.



Congressman Brian Babin examines the Geofabric materials to be used in the ongoing repairs of the cap over the toxic waste pits in the San Jacinto River. Babin visited the site on July 20, 2018 with EPA Region 6 Remedial Chief John Meyer.

feedback and suggestions on how to improve our communication efforts. You are invited to share your thoughts with Janetta Coats, the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site Community In-

volvement Coordinator, at coats.janetta@epa.gov or 1-800.533.3508 (toll-free).

One-to-One interviews with Coats will take place September 12 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center.

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