

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the PRESS:

- Missing Officer found dead
- Baytown breaks ground for second water treatment facility
-And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**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.

**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.

**SAT., SEP. 22
 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 9--Johnny Delue
- Jim Hildebrand
- Annie Mae Smith
- O. C. Smith
- Rayford Smith
- Sonora K. Boyd
- Aug 10--Lisa Simmons
- Thomas Harper
- Aug 11--Christi Bobalik
- Bobby Glenn Smith
- Kristin Moseley
- Raymond Oliver
- Tiffany Cutbirth
- Aug 12--Ashley Adams
- Richard Fannels
- Kenneth Ray Neatherlin, Jr.
- Amy Rucka
- Dianne Thompkins
- Roy Cutbirth
- Aug 13--Christeen Cutbirth
- Aug 15--Sherry Kelley
- David Langham
- Beverly Nuckols
- Elizabeth Price
- Becky Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug 9--Cathy & Marvin Harm
- Aug 10--Victor & Glorine Harris
- Aug 12--Rick & Deborah Nibbe
- Aug 12--Frank Drebert
- Aug 14--Joe & Polly Lowden
- Aug 15--Rusty & Maria Williamson

GOOSE CREEK CISD SUPERINTENDENT

No resignation, O'Brien backed



Spontaneous demonstrations are in favor of Randy O'Brien on Monday.

BAYTOWN – It may be that some of the board members of Goose Creek Consolidated ISD got ahead of reality in efforts to guide the district in a different direction this week and that calling for the resignation of the popular superintendent of the schools was a less than popular idea.

Last Monday, at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees a vocal crowd with signs and plenty of enthusiasm showed up and signed up to speak for Randal O'Brien. Of ten citizens that signed up to talk on a topic, all ten spoke accolades for O'Brien. Most expressed their appreciation for the dedication of

their superintendent for goals that he has promoted in every method.

Libby Zegland spoke first of O'Brien's attentiveness to parents, faculty and staff. She called for the renewal of O'Brien's contract.

Melissa Aitel spoke next

See School Board Meeting, page 8

Concerns voiced at final FM 2100 hearing



Citizens directed their comments to TxDOT representatives last Thursday. Here moderator Patrick Gant listens to a developer concerning accommodations of new neighborhoods.

HUFFMAN – The final hearing of citizens concerning improvements to Farm-to-Market 2100 from Huffman-Cleveland Road south to FM 1960 was August 2 at Hargrave High School unless citizens respond quickly by writing comments electronically to hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov or https://

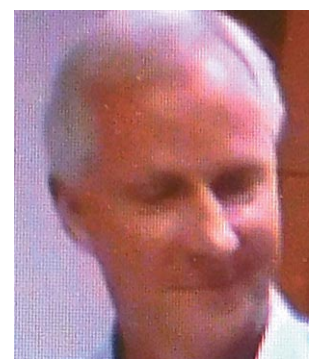
www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/houston/080218.html.

See FM 2100 Improvements, page 6

Arkema indicted for toxic emissions

CROSBY – Arkema has been indicted for Emission of Air Contamination under the Texas Water Code. It carries with it a penalty

of up to 5 years in jail and/or \$1 Million fine.



Richard Rowe



Leslie Comardelle

A Harris County grand jury on Friday indicted the French chemical company Arkema North America in connection with the release of toxic chemicals during a fire after the Crosby plant was flooded during Hurricane Harvey

last August. Richard Rowe, CEO, and plant manager Leslie Comardelle made their initial court showing Monday on criminal charges. Allegedly, they had felony "reckless emissions" of chemicals into the air and water, putting residents and first responders at risk in the days after Harvey dumped 51 inches of rain on the Houston area, according to the Harris County District Attorney's office. Bond for each man

See Arkema, Page 6

Renowned surgeon talks at Highlands Rotary Club

HIGHLANDS – Dr. Joseph Agris is a plastic surgeon, known all over the world for his volunteer work reconstructing bodies damaged by war.

He is even better known in Houston, as the doctor who accompanied Marvin Zindler to Central America to reconstruct cleft palates on children.

Agris is a surgeon affiliated with Methodist Hospital and Texas Childrens Hospital. He is also an author of four books about his travel and medical relief work in 36 countries, including Nicaragua, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Highlands Rotary was thrilled to hear some of the stories Dr. Agris told, about his adventures around the



Dr. Joseph Agris

world as part of this work. As he told his story, the audience could picture the scenes almost like a movie. In fact, he mixed his own story of healing, with tales of danger and in

See Surgeon at Rotary, Page 8

Pork Chop Dinner & Auction Fundraiser

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★ COMMUNITY PAGE ★

August is Back to School Safety Month

(Houston, TX) – August is Back to School Safety Month and a good time to review your family's safety and emergency plans. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) reminds parents that teaching their children how to stay safe before, during, and after school is crucial.

Although schools have emergency plans and hold drills throughout the year, parents should make sure that their children know their phone number, address and how to get in touch with them or another trusted adult in case of an emergency.

Traffic safety is also key to keeping children safe. Motorists are reminded that there are heavy fines for going over the speed limit and for texting or using handheld devices while driving through a

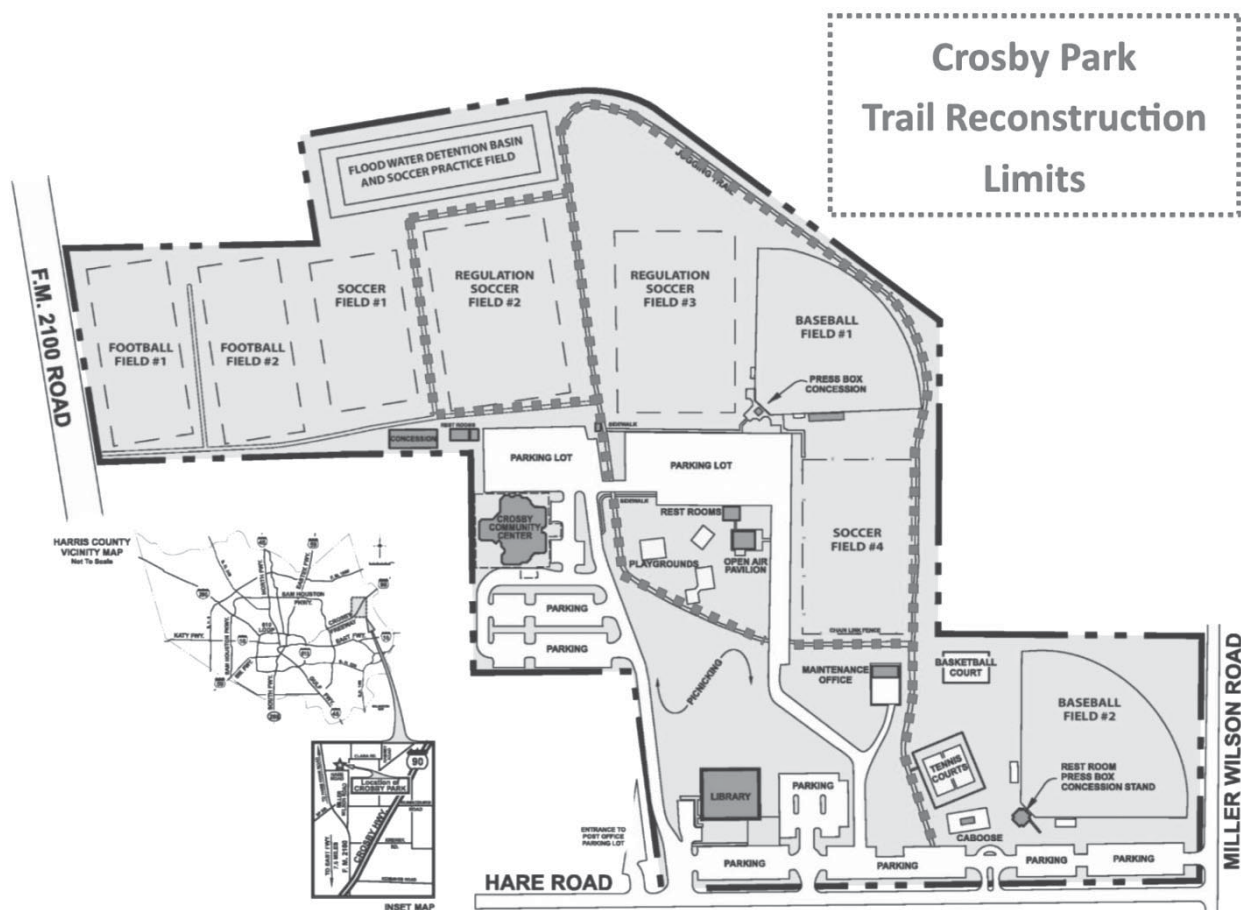
school zone.

State law mandates that drivers come to a complete stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped to pick up or drop off students. Children walking or riding their bikes should only cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.

After school, your children should feel safe at home. Post an emergency phone list where your children can see it. Include 9-1-1, your work and cell numbers, numbers for neighbors, and the numbers for anyone else who is nearby and trusted. Practice an emergency plan often so they know what to do in case of fire, injury, or other emergency.

Download the free ReadyHarris app from the App Store or Google Play for help creating a preparedness plan.

Trail improvements begins at Crosby Park



CROSBY, Texas – Commissioner Jack Morman has announced the start of trail reconstruction at Crosby Park for Monday, August 6th. The \$280,000 project includes reconstructing the nearly three-quarter mile asphalt trail to a concrete walkway.

Portions of the trail and all surrounding amenities will remain open for the duration of construction. Park goers are encouraged to take caution around the construction site and be mindful of directional signage for access points to amenities. Construction is

expected to be complete in late September of this year.

Crosby Park is located at 419 Hare Road, just north of Highway 90. It features various sports fields including football, soccer, and baseball, as well as a tennis and bas-

ketball courts. This park also has a pavilion available for rent, picnic areas with barbecue pits, and recently-upgraded playgrounds.

For more information, visit www.hcp2.com or like "Harris County Precinct 2" on Facebook.

THE ARMADILLOS HAVE EMERGED IN NASHVILLE

The Outlaw phenomenon produced powerful music and everlasting bonds between Nashville and Texas. Willie and Waylon, Bobby Bare, and Kris Kristofferson demanded and got greater creative freedom and the movement was real—not just a marketing term, but a creative flowering, a confluence of art and revelry, whiskey and poetry.

OUTLAWS & ARMADILLOS: COUNTRY'S ROARING '70s

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM NASHVILLE

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ALBUM & BOOK AVAILABLE NOW

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – File Early and Invest vs Wait to File

Dear Rusty: I read your article entitled "Doing a Breakdown Analy-

sis" and noted that the article was in response to a reader question about when to take Social Security Benefits. The writer commented "I'm in pretty good health and don't really need the money right now." The breakeven analysis you suggested is a great help in determining whether to claim early or wait to take Social Security benefits; however, and in light of your reader's comment that "he did not need the money right now," perhaps another element should be added to the breakeven analysis. That element is to roll the figures based on taking the money early and investing that money month after month for the 48 months in question. The end result should also help in determining an appropriate course of action. I was in the same position back in the mid 90's and made out far better by taking the money early and investing it. In any event, it's one more way to look at this issue. Signed: Faithful Reader

Dear Faithful: Thanks for your feedback. I certainly agree that there's more than one way to look at the question of

when to take Social Security. And, yes, I'm quite familiar with the strategy of taking benefits early and investing them. But since I'm not a Financial Advisor and not qualified to give investment advice, I'm required to restrict my remarks to only the Social Security aspects relating to questions I'm asked. You might be interested to know, however, that many financial advisors today do not recommend taking Social Security benefits early, investing the money, and trying to earn more than the Social Security benefit growth they'll realize by waiting. Unlike the investment opportunities of the 90's, it's pretty hard these days to beat the 6.7% annual growth in one's Social Security benefit realized by waiting until full retirement age (FRA) to collect, as well as the 8% annual growth one realizes by waiting beyond full retirement age. And those higher benefits are paid for life, which is significant when considering that average life expectancy is now well into the 80's and living into the 90's is now relatively common. Another consideration when taking benefits earlier than

one's full retirement age is that there is an annual earnings limit which, if exceeded, will result in Social Security withholding benefits, so a person's intentions for continuing to work could have a financial impact and should be included as part of any financial analysis. And yet another is that Social Security benefits are taxable if certain income thresholds are exceeded, so taking benefits early when someone is still earning a large salary will increase their income tax liability. The point is, it's never an easy or clear-cut decision as to when to start Social Security, and many factors such as those mentioned above need to be evaluated. And the breakeven analysis, which compares cumulative benefits at different claim-ages, should only be one piece of the puzzle.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA).

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

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

ROUND-UP

Council renames McKinney Road

City Council renamed McKinney Road to McClellan Road. The change was needed to help alleviate an ongoing issue we have with large trucks traveling to JSW Steel on McKinney Road in Baytown and ending up in Beach City. This gave us an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to Beach City's second Mayor, Jimmy McClellan. Mayor McClellan was very instrumental in Beach City's incorporation, served on our first city council and was our second mayor.



FM 2354 upgrades delayed

TX-DOT has delayed the work for FM 2354 that will add a center turn lane and shoulders for Fisher Road to FM 3180. This project is now slated to begin in the fall of this year.

The Baytown Resource Fair

Thursday, August 9, 2018, from 4pm to 7pm, at the San Jacinto Mall on Garth Road.

Cedar Bayou Watershed Public Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2018, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center, 1724 Market Street, Baytown, Texas 77580.

Texas Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 10-12

This year, the sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10-12.

The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced below \$100 from sales tax, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.

Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

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.

Missing officer found dead in Chambers County

BAYTOWN - At a news conference Tuesday morning, Chambers County Sheriff Brian Hawthorne announced that the search for missing Baytown police officer John Stewart Beasley was over. His body had been found by search crews, using ground search methods, and a helicopter, to locate the body in an agriculture field behind Beasley's house.

Beasley had been reported missing last Thursday, and an active search had continued since then. The body was found

about 3/4 of a mile behind Beasley's home in the Plantation Subdivision in Cove. Sheriff Hawthorne said that a gun was recovered near the body, and he seemed to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound sometime on the Thursday he was reported missing.

Beasley was 46 years old, and he and his wife were building a new home.

Fellow officers that knew him expressed grief mixed with disbelief that he would take his own life. They said he had a happy



JOHN STEWART BEASLEY

disposition, and never seemed depressed.

Baytown police Lt. Steve Dorris spoke at the news conference, saying that all police officers worked under a great deal of stress, that builds up gradually over time.

Dorris said that Beasley was a patrol officer that had spent most of his 23 year career on the streets of Baytown.

Sheriff Hawthorne said that an autopsy had been ordered, but there was no sign of foul play. His service revolver was recov-

ered, and a note may have been found. The Sheriff did not reveal any details of the investigation, including whether Beasley used his own gun, or what the note said.

Citizens expressed their grief recounted the generous and loving personality of Beasley. During the five day search, most of his colleagues and friends believed that he would be found alive because of his positive outlook on life, and his dedication to the police work he did with the Baytown department.

Baytown Area Water Authority breaks ground on second water treatment facility



Officials at groundbreaking ceremony



Rendering of the water plant plans.

The City of Baytown and Baytown Area Water Authority (BAWA) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new BAWA East Water Treatment Facility on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. The groundbreaking took place at the site of the new facility, which will be located off of State Highway 99, East of FM 1405. The \$46 million project has

been contracted to PLW Waterworks and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2021.

When completed, the state-of-the-art facility will treat 6.0 million gallons of water per day and is designed so that it can be expanded in the future to handle a maximum of 24.0 million gallons of water per day. The 60 acre site is lo-

cated adjacent to both fresh and saltwater, and can be converted to a desalination drinking water facility to process salt water into drinking water. The plant is equipped with an upgraded disinfection system that provides increased anti-pathogenic capabilities. The addition of the BAWA East Water Treatment Facility will of-

fer the city a dual water system feed and system redundancy to provide water in the event of an emergency.

"In terms of impact, there aren't many projects that will make a difference quite like this one." Said City Manager Rick Davis regarding to the project, "With its construction and the addition of six million

gallons of water per day, Baytown will be better positioned to accommodate growth and provide a sustainable water supply into the future."

For more information on the facility, please visit www.baytown.org or contact the Baytown Area Water Authority at (281) 420-5310.

Lee College students help in Gulf Coast Monarch Project



Hopper Primary Students from the gardening club include Xzander Arnold, Gavin Goose, Danikah Conner, Scotty Venable, Drake Farmer, Cayla LeGross.

Dow provides a grant to non-profit Gulf Coast Monarch Project

In alignment with Dow's Global Citizenship pillars of Building the Workforce of Tomorrow and Innovating for Global Solutions, the non-profit Gulf Coast Monarch Project was selected under two categories to receive a 2017 Dow Community Grant: Classroom to Career and Community Well-Being.

Gulf Coast Monarch Project strives to protect, sustain and improve the habitat and food supply of Monarch butterflies and bees along the Texas Gulf Coast region through education, outreach and proactive revitalization initiatives. The non-profit helps preserve nature's winged friends - butterflies and bees.

"With Dow's help, we

are planting seeds in the minds of Hopper's students," said Wendy Britt-Walker, President of Gulf Coast Monarch Project. "Pollinator gardens can not only support the curriculum, but can also foster creativity, imagination, and curiosity."

The funds from this grant went to the butterfly gardens that were installed this past April in addition to books for students. Twelve volunteers from Gulf Coast Monarch Project, Lee College and Hopper Primary School worked as a team to get these built at the school for students to use.

"Our students were able to utilize the butterfly garden as an outdoor science lab to study the life cycle of the butterfly," said Maria Rosas, Principal of Hopper Primary School. "They took pride in watering the

gardens and taking care of the flowers on a daily basis. They watched how they changed and the need for the constant care."

Dow's Community Grants Program seeks projects that provide positive community impact in at least one of the following areas: Classroom to Career, Educator Empowerment, Community Well-Being, Energy Efficiency and Affordable Housing, Increase Food Productivity & Prevent Waste and Water Access & Reuse. It is a competitive program designed to support social, economic, educational and environmental projects that will enhance the quality of life and promote Community Success within the communities where Dow operates.

To volunteer or for more information please email baytownseedfling@gmail.com.

Aqua Texas Boil Water Notices

If you get water from Aqua Texas you are well aware that there have been several notices issued this year to boil your water. "Until recently I was unaware of the frequency of these notices and how the notices are issued. A concern that was brought to my attention was that when a Boil Water notice is issued on the weekend a sign is placed at the end of McCullum Park Road but no call outs are made informing the residents," said Billy Combs, Mayor of Beach City.

Aqua Texas released the following statement after Mayor Combs contacted them.

"Posting the BWN/BWL yard signs meets the TCEQ requirements for notification, but Aqua goes above the requirement with the customer call outs via phone call/text/email notifications for these situations.

Online notification is also provided as well at www.aquaamerica.com/customer-service-center/service-centers/boil-water-notices.aspx. During the weekends we do not always conduct the call outs since we still meet

the requirements with the yard signs. Although, we are always looking to improve our communication with our customers, and we are working through a process to implement call outs during weekends. Regarding the BWN's we have had several in this system since January about half of those were due to electrical contractors installing a standby generator for the water plant. The others were due to freeze or equipment failures."

They assured the Mayor that Aqua Texas will do what they can to make the calls if a Boil Water notice is issued on a weekend.



★ OPINION PAGE ★

Rep. Babin votes to extend flood insurance program

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Brian Babin (TX-36) released the following statement after the House passed the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2018 (S.1182), legislation that will keep the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) authorized through the upcoming hurricane season.



Rep. Babin

"I represent working coastal communities that were hit very hard by Hurricane Harvey - communities that are vital to our nation's energy security. Coastal energy and petrochemical refining facilities like those I represent in TX-36 cannot function without a steady and reliable workforce, and

that workforce cannot exist without a stable housing market. I am grateful that my House colleagues saw the need to reauthorize this vital program, and I look forward to continuing our effort to reform the NFIP before it expires toward the end of the year."

Dos and Don'ts: Bus Safety Rules for Your Child

Aug. 6, 2018 - The first day of school is quickly approaching and buses filled with excited students will soon be back on the roads. Parents are reminded that back-to-school readiness includes reviewing bus safety and etiquette.

Riding the school bus has longtime been considered the safest form of student transportation. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, American students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than with their own parents and guardians in cars.

As with all forms of transportation, dangers do exist. According to Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools: The greatest danger is not riding on the bus, but rather getting on or off the bus. Young school children ages 5-7 are the most at risk for bus-related injury.

Parents and children should discuss bus safety together to help ensure a safe start to the new school year. Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools offers the following bus safety tips to help ease the back-to-school transition:

- Talk to your kids about bus safety and respect. Ridership is a privilege. It can be taken away due to bad behavior, so check with your school district about established guidelines. Refer to the policy as "school bus behavior policy" and go over it with your child.
- Dress appropriately for the weather. Many buses are not air-conditioned.
- Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is set to arrive. Tardiness and other mishaps can lead to mistakes in safety measures. Examples might be running in front of the bus; running back to find something left on the bus; or bending over or bending down to retrieve something dropped while getting off the bus.
- Kids should follow the five giant steps rule: Be five giant steps back from where the bus actually stops until it comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door.
- Backpacks/bags need to be fully closed and

sized appropriately for the child to prevent safety hazards such as dragging straps.

- Always stay seated on the bus. Teach your child to stay in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop at your child's destination.
- Show appreciation to the bus driver. Remind your kids to say thank you when they get off. Kindness and good manners go a long way.
- Railroad crossings require drivers to stop, to open the door and to make sure the coast is clear. Teach your kids to be extra quiet during these times.
- Go over your child's bus routine. Describe the location and street where your child should get off.
- Don't hang out of the window. Keep body parts inside the bus.
- For younger kids, write down their names, bus number, bus stop and where you may be reached and put that information inside their backpack. Help your children memorize your cell number; putting it to song can help.
- Bullying should never be tolerated. Talk to your child about bullying on the bus. Read your district's school bus behavior policy to understand to whom you should report such behavior. It may be the driver, teacher, principal or someone else.

Each school district has school bus ridership rules and policies in place. Families are encouraged to navigate their school district's website to locate and discuss the school bus rules with their children.

About Harris County Department of Education: HCDE provides special education, therapy services, early education, adult education and after-school programming. Services are funded by government grants, fees and a local property tax rate of \$.005195. For every dollar in local property tax collected, HCDE provides \$4.40 in services to the 25 Harris County school districts. HCDE also operates four campuses for students with profound special education needs and adjudicated youth who require a low student-teacher ratio and highly structured environment. One-hundred percent of students served on HCDE campuses are at-risk. The organization is governed by an elected board of seven trustees and has 1,060 employees and 33 facilities, including 15 Head Start centers. More info at www.hcde-texas.org.



Hurricane Harvey-affected campuses receive special evaluations

AUSTIN — Some 109 independent school districts and charters directly affected by Hurricane Harvey are eligible for special evaluation in this year's state accountability system, the Texas Education Agency announced Aug. 1.

Based on data reported to the agency during the past school year, the affected districts and charters encompass some 1,188 eligible campuses.

Among the submitted data are the numbers of displaced students and teachers and the impact on local school facilities and instructional time.

Hurricane Harvey criteria announced in June represents a change to storm-related accountability adjustments when compared to prior storms in Texas due to the extraordinary magnitude and unique impact of the storm. The adjustments provide the necessary reprieve from accountability while also ensuring that student outcomes continue to be the focus in Texas, the TEA said.

Districts and charters were given several opportunities to submit information regarding students, teachers and facilities throughout the school year, the TEA said.

Gallego, Flores to face off

Former U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego of San Antonio and retired game warden Pete Flores of Pleasanton will face each other in a runoff for Senate District 19. A date for the runoff had not been set as of press time.

Gallego, a Democrat, beat state Rep. Roland Gutierrez of San Antonio for the right to face Flores, who easily outdistanced two other Republicans in the SD-19 special election on July 31.

Gallego, a lawyer, was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1990. He served 11 consecutive terms in the House until he was elected to Congress in 2012. He served one two-year term in Congress and in 2014 lost to Republican challenger Will Hurd, a Helotes lawyer, who is now running for his third straight two-year term as the representative for Texas Congressional District 23.

The winner of the Gallego-Flores runoff will fill the seat formerly held by Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, who resigned from office after he was convicted by a federal district court on 11 felony counts of fraud. Uresti was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Miller stops spraying

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on July 30 shut down a cattle fever tick spray box operation at a South Texas ranch.

The spray boxes apply a high-powered insecticide to combat ticks that may infect livestock with deadly Texas cattle fever. Miller said lack of ventilation in the confined spray box violates federally approved label requirements for the insecticide and that licensed applicators were not present at the inspection, as required by state and federal law.

The Cattle-Fever Tick Eradication Program is managed by the USDA and the Texas Animal Health Commission. The use of pesticides is regulated by the Texas Department of Agriculture, over which Miller presides.

The goal of the program is to limit the cattle fever tick to the eight-county quarantine zone along the border with Mexico, and ultimately to eradicate the pest from Texas entirely.

On Aug. 1, the Fort Worth-based Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association issued a statement critical of Miller's action.

"We are very disappointed that Commissioner Miller made such a rash decision to take away this vital tool from Texas cattleraisers," wrote the organization's

president, Robert McKnight Jr. "His decision has a direct and immediate impact on cattle health, Texas ranchers and the entire U.S. cattle industry. His action could seriously endanger cattle welfare and prevent Texas ranchers from participating in commerce at a time when our industry is already facing hardships due to drought and other issues. We hope Commissioner Miller will reconsider his position that harms Texas cattle and cattle raisers."

Revenue total increases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 2 announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.74 billion in July, 6.9 percent more than in July 2017.

"Sales tax receipts from almost all major economic sectors were up compared with last year," Hegar said. "The most notable increases were from oil and gas mining and manufacturing sectors, followed by wholesale trade, restaurants and services. Recent tax collections have also been boosted by a tax amnesty, including more than \$39 million in delinquent state sales tax revenue, most of which was processed in July."

Also, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in July 2018 was up 10.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

6 Ways to Prepare for a New School Year

(StatePoint) Want to ensure the transition from summer to school goes smoothly for your family? Check out these six tips.

1. Make a smooth transition. Been sleeping in all summer? Now's the time to get your body back into the routine of early mornings. Start slowly, setting the alarm earlier until you reach the time you'll be waking up for the school year. Parents can assist younger kids with this transition.

2. Get the right education tools. From highlighters to USB drives to loose-leaf paper, be sure you have a comprehensive list of all the school supplies and education tools you'll need for a successful year ahead. As far as tech tools like graphing calculators are concerned, opt for those that are jam packed with all the latest features. For example, the Casio fx-CG50 offers the ability to draw three dimensional graphs, such as planes, cylinders and spheres, and view them from various angles in order to better analyze their shape. It also features a cross-section option and a special zoom function for in-depth analysis.

3. Organize your agenda. Make sure everyone is ready for the busy year ahead. Plan your children's participation in after school activities. Then, display relevant items on a calendar where the whole family can see it to ensure no one misses a club meeting, rehearsal or team practice.

4. De-stress. The hectic back-to-school season can create tension and stress. Encourage hobbies that help students unwind as the school year gets back into full swing. For beginners of music, check out new tools that can make the learning process fun and easy, such as Casio's LK-265 keyboard, which features an LCD display that shows both music notation and correct hand positioning.

5. Get healthy. Crowded classrooms are a good place to pick up germs. Keep kids healthy with a daily multivitamin, plenty of fresh fruits and veggies and lots of sleep. Regular exercise is also an immunity booster, so encourage kids to get active.

6. Adapt to new school resources. Families aren't the only ones getting ready for back to school. Districts are incorporating the latest tech into classroom learning. Such tools include Casio LampFree Projectors, an eco-friendly technology that gives educators the ability to control the projector from a smartphone or tablet, expanding their ability to create and deliver dynamic lesson plans.

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

OBITUARIES

Travis Richard Stafford

Travis Richard Stafford, 82, passed away August 1, 2018 surrounded by his family in Houston, Texas. Travis, known to many as Richard, was born on May 5, 1936 to parents Travis Robert and Kitty (Lyons) Stafford in Prairie Hill, Texas. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force.



Richard worked most of his life as a traveling printer for newspapers and assisted numerous newspapers in several different cities. He married the love of his life, Connie and they enjoyed 50 years of friendship and marriage together. Richard, Connie, and their family lived in the Cloverleaf area for over 40 years. Together, they also owned and operated The Canary Club in Cloverleaf for 25 years where they made many life-long friends.

Richard was a family man and truly enjoyed spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents. Richard is lovingly survived by his wife, Connie Stafford; children, Kitty Prater and husband Derril, Terri Kyser and husband Brian, Jose Gonzales and wife Sheba, Stephen Stafford and

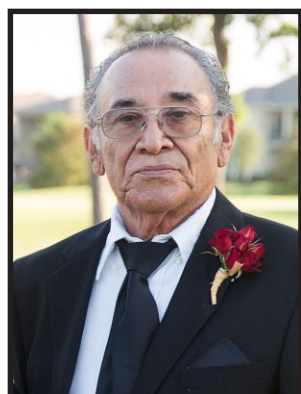
wife Sheryl; sisters, Kay Glover and Brenda Sharp; numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation Monday, August 6th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services officiated by Bro. Gene Talbot will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 7, 2018 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Interment with military honors will follow at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at Houston National Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Mr. Abraham Gonzalez Sr.

Mr. Abraham Gonzalez Sr., of Anahuac, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, born on July 9, 1939 in Rodriguez, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to the late Julia and the late Javier, passed away at age 79 on August 2, 2018 in Houston, Texas.



Abraham came to the United States as a son of a U.S citizen in 1966 to prepare for his life with his beautiful wife and young family. He was a Longshoreman at the Port of Houston for 42 years until retiring in 2010. Abraham was the beloved husband of Eva for 51 years. He was preceded in death by his son, Abraham, Jr.; and sisters, Ofelia, Enequina, and Maria de Jesus. Abraham is survived by his son, Paul; daughters, Brenda, Sussy, and Christina; sisters, Olivia, Gloria, Julia, and Rosario; grandchildren, Christian, Alberto, Pablo, Julian, and Dayanara; and great-grandchild, Alan.

Some of Abraham's hobbies were doting over his grandchildren,

a huge soccer and football fan. Abraham had a boisterous personality, with a big sense of humor and a prankster. He was loving and supportive of all those around him. He had a contagious smile and laugh that brought joy to everyone around him.

Friends and family can pay their respects at the visitation, on Wednesday, August 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at San Jacinto Funeral Home, 14659 East Freeway, Houston, Texas, 77015. A funeral service will take place on Thursday, August 9 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at San Jacinto Funeral Home. San Jacinto Memorial Park and Funeral Home is handling arrangements, 14659 East Freeway, Houston, (713) 453-7114.

THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Fellowship Like Family

Have you ever watched westerns? I grew up watching them; I still enjoy watching them. There are a lot of things that are pretty consistent in those old shows and one image that stands out when you think about the old westerns is a group of cowboys gathered around a camp fire. They may have worked hard during the day, at times together and at other times spread far apart, but when the sun went down they would take time to gather for a meal and, as we in the church would put it, fellowship.

We don't often have campfires to gather around, these days, but the need for fellowship remains. The thing is, we don't have a definite end to the day like they did. Too often, we bring our work home with us in the evenings, and spend our weekends trying to cover the ground we couldn't hit during the week. We have to prioritize, and in doing so we often choose to eliminate the one thing that appears to be negotiable - fellowship.

But fellowship really isn't negotiable. We need this time with others, and they need quality time with us. As Christians, we should be both taking in and giving out. We should be imparting to others on a regular basis, encouraging one another to stand strong, to give God our best, to determine to walk

in victory no matter what the devil throws at us. As Christians, we should be receiving the same. I Thessalonians 5:11 (AMP) offers us a challenge... or, truly, gives us a command: "Therefore encourage and comfort one another and build up one another..." Do we obey? As Christians we're family, and we should fellowship like family - like family ought to fellowship. Right?

You have so much to give, more than you probably realize. I tell my congregation often that each one of them is a walking warehouse of seeds. All they have to do is be aware of the people around them and open their hands to give - of their time, their knowledge, their wisdom, and their physical assistance. Generally, you don't learn what someone needs until you've spent time with them, gotten to know them, and that happens most often either one-on-one or in small groups.

So, I encourage you. Gather around that virtual campfire - regularly - and spend quality time with those in your circle...and widen that circle. John 13:35 (AMP) tells us that, "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another."

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REVELATION 1:4-6

Christ the King statue in Swiebodzin, Poland

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ROMANS 8:18

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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Leviticus 19:32

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★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

FM 2100 Improvements,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The proposed roadway would be improved from a two-lane to a four lane divided highway with raised median, 4.5 miles long.

Most of the comments by the four citizens that signed up to speak asked that TxDOT respect residential access and show special consideration to first responders getting about on this roadway.

One of the delights of this roadway is that it will

be constructed within the existing Right of Way except that an additional 34 acres of Right of Way will have to be acquired for drainage, corner clips, and accommodations of approaches to the bridge crossing at Luce Bayou. Numerous water detention ponds would be added for the displacement. The proposed bridge over Luce Bayou would be a substantial improvement.

All of this is to handle traffic demand and growth, the divided highway with raised medians is said to be safer. Dedicated left turn lanes at select intersections and cross-streets. The proposed would include one 12 foot travel lane and one 15 foot outside shared-use lane in each direction, and sidewalks in each direction.

Arkema Indicted,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has been set at \$20,000. Arraignment should be in October.

Findings are related to discoveries in September of 2016 FM Global Engineering warned of flooding hazards and other insurance risks. Also, the US Chemical Safety Board last May found that Arkema failed to consider how flooding events might impact safety systems.

Lawsuits related to the releases contend that the chemical releases contaminated the air and water causing residents respira-



tory problems, pneumonia, headaches, nausea and dizziness continuing to plague the first responders

outside the plant when trailers were allowed to blow up and neighbors of the plant.

Texas Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 10-12

AUSTIN July 25, 2018 _ Whether you're in need of book bags, blackboard chalk or bell-bottom pants, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on those and certain other items during the state's sales tax holiday. This year, the sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10-12.

The law exempts most clothing, footwear,

school supplies and backpacks priced below \$100 from sales tax, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.

"As Texas families begin the process of replacing their beach bags with book bags, Texas' sales tax holiday is the perfect opportunity to save some money on the supplies families need before the school bell rings," Hegar said. "As a dad to three young

children, I know how these expenses can add up."

Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

This year, shoppers will save an estimated \$90.3 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday.

Texas' tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

Preventing heat related illnesses

BAYTOWN — (August 3, 2018) — Even by the blistering standards of southeast Texas, the summer of 2018 has been brutally hot. With August promising even more record-setting heat, learning how to avoid heat-related health conditions can help prevent potentially life threatening situations.

Excessive heat can be much more than simply an uncomfortable fact of life for Texans—it can trigger life threatening conditions, especially in children, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems.

Exposure to heat can cause heat cramps and rashes, but the most serious heat-related disorders are heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Symptoms include confusion, irrational behavior, headache, fainting, hot, dry skin and abnormally high body temperature.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature: the body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.

Dr. Irfan Dadabhoy, a family medicine physician at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital, says it's best to avoid being outside during the hottest part of the day (roughly around 3 p.m.), but if you can't, drinking cool water, reducing physical exertion, wearing appropriate clothing and taking regular rest periods in a cool recovery area can lessen the effects of excessive exposure. Preventing dehydration is the first defense.

"Most people do not realize how dehydrated their bodies can become in a short time," Dadabhoy said. "Most people do not drink enough water, so re-

member to hydrate before you plan to be active and continue to drink fluids during and after the outside activity. By the time you actually start feeling thirsty, you're usually already dehydrated."

Dadabhoy recommends drinking at least eight ounces of water at least eight times a day as a way to maintain proper hydration throughout the summer. He recommends wearing lighter, breathable clothing while outdoors and avoiding fabrics like cotton that keep sweat close to the body. Using sunscreen is a must and wearing a wide brimmed hat is a good idea as well. He says patients on certain medications that may increase their risk of heat-related complications should consult their primary care physician regarding the risks posed by too much heat exposure.

"I remind those patients that take blood pressure medications, particularly diuretic therapy, to take extra caution to replace fluids and electrolytes because they are at higher risk of dehydration, muscle cramps and heat stroke because the medication works by excreting extra salts from the body through urine," Dadabhoy said.

In addition to preventing heat related illnesses, making sure that children or pets are not left in parked cars—where the temperature can soar to as high as 170 degrees—is essential. If the family pet generally resides outside, owners should make sure the pet has plenty of water and shade available.

If you see someone suffering a mild symptom of heat exposure, like fainting, have them lie down in a cooler area and begin slowly drinking water or a sports drink. For more serious conditions, such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke, call 911 immediately. The person should then



Dr. Irfan Dadabhoy

be moved to a shaded, cooler area where their outer clothing is removed. Use cold water or an ice bath if possible to cool the body and place cold, wet cloths or ice on the head, neck, armpits and groin. Stay with the person until emergency medical services arrive.

For more information and to schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital primary care physician, call 832-556-6936, or visit houstonmethodist.org/san-jacinto.

About Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital

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

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★ COMMUNITY PAGE ★

August outdoor world tips from Bass Pro Shops

HOT WEATHER HIKING

If you plan on hiking in hot weather, freeze your water bottles the night before. In addition to hydration, the cold bottles held against your skin can help cool you down.

Sunscreen is a necessity – don't forget to apply it on your neck and ears. A floppy, wide brim hat protects the neck & ears much better than a baseball cap. Sunglasses are great for protecting your eyes from the sun.

Bring cooling towels to put around your neck and keep them wet. It's very refreshing to wipe your face, arms and legs with them when you start getting too hot.

Hot weather hiking takes a lot of energy and strength, so bring extra food. Don't be in a hurry. Take lots of breaks. Relax, have a sip of water or some food. Dip your feet in a creek or even take a swim.

Your feet might sweat more when it's hot. Wear a light pair of socks that wick away moisture and wear a pair of hiking socks on top.

It's always good in hot weather to take someone with you hiking and let others know where you are going and when you plan on returning in case of an emergency.

FISHING GEAR FOR KIDS

When you teach a kid to fish, try to avoid using adult tackle. Instead, use the best quality kid's gear you can find because it is usually designed for their hands and is more user-friendly.

Adult ultra-light spin casting combos are a good, durable choice for young anglers. They are easy for kids to hold and are relatively tangle free. Best of

all, they make even a small perch feel like a whopper to a kid.

Go with a combo with a soft tip which will be easier to cast. Make sure the reel handles 4-pound test line well and has a smooth drag. Start a kid right with decent, functional tackle – anything less performs poorly and invites discouragement.

When using a bobber for kids, keep in mind that for best results you want the bait to hang about halfway between the surface and the bottom. If you're not sure how deep the spot is, set the bobber for 4 feet. If the bobber rests on its side, the bait is on the bottom. Shorten the distance between the hook and the bobber.

ALWAYS BE READY TO GO CAMPING

You can always be ready to go camping if you stay prepared. Grab three large plastic storage bins from a local store. Keep air mattresses, pumps, pillows and tarps in one bin. In the second bin, pack up stoves, pots, pans, lanterns, hatchets, rope, saws and other camp tools.

Keep the third bin stocked with items you'd need for camp and kitchen, like a small bag of favorite spices, toilet paper, paper towels, camp soap, spare rope, a first aid kit and anything else you think you might need. Store a tent and sleeping bags in large plastic bags.

Label each bin with its contents. Keep these bins in the garage or storage shed so you'll always have your gear waiting when you're ready to go camping.

Have each family member fill a small backpack with essential clothing, and have them include

some warmer items for cooler nights and mornings. Make sure everyone has packed rain gear. The weather can be incredibly unpredictable at times.

With this preparation, you can easily go make family memories without all the stress and frustration of trying to find everything when you are ready to go camping.

BEGINNER BOW HUNTING TIPS

There are a few steps you can take to improve your skills as a beginner bow hunter. The first is to practice. Take some time to shoot at least a few quivers of arrows a week, every week, year around. Practice builds skill and confidence that you are taking an appropriate shot and can make the shot that you take.

Step two is to go into the woods with a plan that you believe and trust. Nothing is worse than moving from one location to another and jumping deer. Scout the area that you are going to hunt, pick stand locations that you feel will put you in a good place to succeed and stick with them.

The third way to improve your bow hunting skills is to hunt. While good information can be gathered from practicing, scouting, reading magazines and web articles, watching YouTube videos and talking to others, there is no substitute for the skills that hunting will provide you over time. The only way to learn to really learn is from the actual mistakes that you will make.

To stock up your camping bins stop by your local Bass Pro Shops or Cabela's store or go to www.basspro.com or www.cabelas.com.

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Jeanne Shipp, Patients ER founding partner (second from right) and Ashley Shibley, Patients ER marketing director (second from left), present a check for \$15,000 to Erika Foster (left), Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation director (left) and Ronnie Hotchkiss, GCCISD Education Foundation president-elect, as MVP Sponsors of the upcoming All Star Gala. The event will be held September 29 at Minute Maid Park, hosted by KHOU celebrities Chita Craft, meteorologist, and Jason Bristol, sports anchor. Sponsorships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 are still available, and individual tickets are \$200, with a \$50 discount for district employees. For more information, visit www.bit.ly/GCCISDAIStarGala or email Erika Foster at erika.foster@gccisd.net.

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No resignation for O'Brien

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of her experience as a parent with the district and in particular about O'Brien. From the start she made a case for proven character and competence. "Under his leadership our students routinely advanced in state UIL Competition." She concluded, "There is no better person for the job."

Jenessa Coffey, a former school trustee, pointed to the failed school bond, that some believe the superintendent is being blamed for, and redirected the blame back at the board especially Pete Pape. She described the board pushing through a bond that lacked consideration of what was best for the schools in the Goose Creek District.

"When the school board decided that Randy O'Brien should be named our superintendent it was the perfect answer to the question, 'What is best for the children of our district.'"

She described O'Brien in terms of healing concerns and facilitating communication. She described him as being seen as involved in the community, hard working, honest and cooperative man. "He lives

everyday to doing what is absolutely the best for the students at GCCISD."

Don Coffey, who is Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3 Position 2, spoke next calling in favor of the resignation of Pete Pape. Saying, "You have refused to allow Randy O'Brien to run this district without your pervasive interference."

Every sentence by Coffey brought loud applause and cheers. He immediately launched into the failed bond issue as predicate to calling for O'Brien's resignation. He charged that as the bond committee took pains to put together a bond that would meet the needs of the students and be an affordable package for the voters, "Al Richard took the lead and added over \$86 Million dollars, insuring that the bond would fail."

Briscoe Cain, R. - District 128, Texas House of Representatives, spoke in favor of O'Brien's capabilities.

Jessica Woods representing the Highlands area put the last item of the day, "Consideration of Action to Accept the Resignation of Randal O'Brien

as Superintendent of Schools and Approval of Voluntary Resignation Agreement and Consideration to Approve Interim Superintendent Employment Agreement" back onto an agenda for a meeting called for on Aug. 15, that also will discuss the failed bond issue.

She stated to the Star-Courier, "I feel that yesterday's executive session with Mr. O'Brien included much healthy dialogue concerning the communication process we as a board and the Superintendent should employ. As overseers of the district, I feel we can be clearer in our expectations and can help guide the education process. It is my belief that the many perspectives and the various areas of expertise provided by all board members can bring value to the leadership team if clearly communicated."

Woods concluded, "It is my belief that extending Mr. O'Brien's contract is the best way for GCCISD to move forward. And I will continue to advocate for that."

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Renowned Surgeon at Rotary,

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trigue. He told about a trip through the Khyber Pass in Afghanistan, how he made friends with local tribesmen, perhaps Al-Qaida, and they introduced him to Osama bin Laden, in a cave in Bora Bora near the pass. Bin Laden was with his "senior" wife and their kids. Dr. Agris performed some medical work on this group of tribesmen, but said he was not sure he would leave this encounter alive.

The Khyber Pass is a famous route also known as the "Silk Route," a trading passage from China to Europe that has been used throughout history.

For the humanitarian work that Dr. Agris has performed in his 40 year medical career, he was presented with the highest civilian award the U.S. bestows, the Medal of Freedom. The presentation was made by President George H. W. Bush in Washington.

Dr. Agris is a Rotarian with the Houston club, and is also head of the Agris-Zindler Foundation. This charity funds his humanitarian surgery work on children.

Dr. Agris has many tales to tell of his world travels, and shared with Rotarians the beautiful

views he had in the Himalayas. He took many pictures from the summit, some of which appear in his books.

He said that in his travels around the world, especially to countries where different languages made it hard to communicate, he has found that an old Polaroid camera that he carries with him is an excellent way to make friends. Many persons have never seen a film picture that develops in front of them like the Polaroid film, and they consider it "magic."

Dr. Agris said that his work not only helps heal patients physical being, but in many cases his presence is a message of hope and caring. In countries such as Syria, where there have been horrendous war wounds, he not only treats burn victims, but can send a message about social issues such as the call for womens' rights in these countries.

Dr. Agris latest book is "Mission Divided" about his travels and travails in Pakistan and Afghanistan. His other books are "White Knight in Blue Shades," "Miracles in Bedlam," and "Tears in the Sand." The latter book is about his encounter with bin Laden.

Dr. Agris supports his volunteer work with the sale of his books, and donations.