

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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Artist's Showcase:



Oil on Canvas 20" x 24" by mei hoffman

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Troupe wins Chicago tour



Auctioneer Patrick Kelley nearly bursts with pride announcing the live auction raised \$21,980 at the Crawfish Shack on Saturday as Band Directors Kevin Knight and Michael Lehw beam. With other efforts they raised the over \$27,000 needed to send the Crosby Symphonic Band to an honored engagement in Chicago all expenses paid that would have cost over \$2,000 each for the students to ask parents to raise.

CROSBY – So the Crosby Symphonic Band is all set to take off for the windy-city following heroic efforts at the Crawfish Shack on Nov. 17.

Dan Meaux, owner of the Crawfish Shack told the behind scenes story, "Our goal is to fully fund the trip to Chicago tonight. Today we sold 370 chipped

beef sandwiches and we are still short by about \$26,000. There are 14 live auction and 56 silent auction items."

"Charlie Dahu of Hungry Jacks cooked the chili, Junior Forest of Junior's Smoke House donated about 157 pounds of chili meat and seasoning. Everything in this effort was

donated so 100% of the funds raised goes to the band. We have already gotten some nice checks, Murf Turf donated \$1,500. Oil-Well Tubular and family donated \$500. It is going great so far." Meaux continued excitedly before the

See Crosby Band, Page 2

HAPPY THANKSGIVING Judge Stephens donates 1300 Turkeys to the needy

Judge Joe Stephens continues his tradition of generosity by donating turkeys to needy families in the area. Judge Stephens collaborated with Ronny Dwairy, Constable Sherman Egleton and Christian Tabernacle to purchase and distribute 1300 turkeys to those in need in 5 different communities.

The turkey giveaway was a weekend long event starting on Friday, November 16th with 450 turkeys given out in the North Shore Area. The donations continued on Saturday when Judge



Judge Stephens ready for turkeys' distribution.

See Turkey Donation, Page 2

Mid-term Election results in change of principals involved in Superfund site

The November 6th Mid-term election brought about a number of changes in our elected officials, and some of these are involved in promoting or maintaining progress on the Superfund San Jacinto River Waste Pits.

Three U.S. Congressmen have been involved in getting the site on the Superfund role, and now two of them have been replaced. Gene Green has retired, and his seat was won by Sylvia Garcia. Ted Poe has also retired, and Dan Crenshaw was elected to fill his seat. Brian Babin remains in office. These three Congressmen have repeatedly prodded the EPA to put the site on the "Priority List" for remedial action, and to continue to monitor progress.

The Superfund site is in Harris County Precinct 2, which will have a new Commissioner in January. Adrian Garcia will hold the position and replace Jack Morman. Morman has been vocal in supporting the clean-up and removal of the toxic wastes at the site, which have the potential to pollute the river and Galveston Bay.

The County Judge is now Ed Emmett, but will be replaced in January by Lina Hidalgo. The county received \$10 million dollars from the lawsuit against the Re-

sponsible Parties, and has administered that money along guidelines from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

One officeholder that kept his seat was Briscoe Cain, the state representative for District 127. Cain replaced Wayne Smith, who carried the original legislation through the Texas Legislature to get the \$10 million dollars of the settlement money allocated to Harris County.

Additionally, this year the EPA replaced their head, Scott Pruitt, with acting head Andrew Wheeler, and several positions at the Dallas EPA Region 6 have changed due to retirements.

The EPA has said that the Superfund Process, and the Record of Decision, have been set into motion and will be followed to completion. It remains to be seen if the new principals involved are committed to that goal.



NONALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE SEMINAR

THURSDAY, NOV. 29, 2018 | 6-7:30 P.M.



Rashid Khan, MD
Gastroenterologist and Liver Specialist

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is often associated with obesity, insulin-resistant diabetes and high cholesterol. If left uncontrolled, patients with NAFLD can also develop fibrosis (early-stage scarring) and (later-stage scarring) cirrhosis, which can lead to liver failure and even liver transplant.

Ask the experts about fatty liver and how to prevent it as well as what liver-healthy foods to eat.

This free event is held in association with the American Liver Foundation.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital
Plaza II, Conference Center
CRUC Community Room
4401 Garth Rd. | Baytown, TX 77521

For more information or to register, visit houstonmethodist.org/events or call 281.428.2273.

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Highlands eager for holidays



Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce collected donations to feed 88 families from local schools at their Thanksgiving feast, the November 8th luncheon. Members brought their favorite covered dishes for Thanksgiving pot-luck to share among themselves and cooked turkeys. Employees at ZXP Technologies helped collect foods and pack boxes for distribution. Members of the chamber and Boy Scout Troop 107 also brought in food donations and filled boxes that were decorated by students at Highlands Elementary and B.P. Hopper Primary Schools. Above, Chamber members vote on the best decorations.

On November 28th- Noon, there is a members meeting to begin Christmas Park Decorations.

December 4th- 5p.m. to 8p.m. enjoy Christmas Tree Lighting and cookies with Santa.

December 13th- 11:30 a.m. Chamber Luncheon- school choirs perform.

Nominations for new board members and the Terry Davis Awards accepted. Nominations for our community awards and for director positions on the board. Please send in your recommendations for our citizen of the year Terry Davis Memorial Award, business or group of the year, Firefighter, Deputy Sheriff, and Deputy Constable of the year nominations. The Chamber asks for the Community to get involved and with their submission for the awards to include a short description of the achievements of the nominees and contact information for their supervisor.

Crosby Ornament to decorate Capitol Christmas Tree



Crosby ISD, in conjunction with the Crosby High School Advanced Fine Arts Department held a contest to select one of their students to decorate the Texas House District 128 Christmas ornament that will hang on the Texas House Christmas tree. The winner of that contest is Leilani Siritham of Crosby High School who is pictured with Bergundi Cain, Representative Briscoe Cain's wife.

Crosby Band,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

live auction. David Mendez of Turner Chevrolet submitted a bid of \$2300 for a rifle before the event and the auction was up to \$2,200 but quit before Mendez's bid was open.

According to Kevin Knight "Thank you for being here tonight. Every week since September 1 we have been in a fundraising mode. We have been tasked with an impossible mission and tonight is our final big push thanks to you. We go forth to represent Crosby and Crosby ISD on the largest stage with over 2,000 audience. People will be reading about our town all over the world.

Members of the troupe performed music and danced for their opportunity to travel north prior to the auction beginning. The Crawfish Shack provided a warm and homelike atmosphere as Dan and Jennifer adjusted the amenities to the climate.

The total amount raised with sales of chipped beef sandwiches, monster truck and fan boat display, chilli sales, live and silent auction was \$40,793, over \$10,000 over the goal.

According to Meaux, "It was an awesome night. The band, all the kids were super excited. That makes it all worth it."



Charlie Dahu dips up the chili he prepared to make Frito Pie in generous servings.



As the band plays outside his restaurant, Dan Meaux makes the Lady Cougar welcome!



Monster Trucks and chipped beef sandwiches are quiet the attraction as students take to the streets to hawk for funds to travel to Chicago in December.

Turkey Donation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stephens and volunteers set up in North East Houston, Barrett Station, Baytown and Sheldon.

Judge Stephens said, "God has blessed me and

I am thankful. I feel it is important for me to give back in a way that can help the community." Judge Stephens started the turkey giveaway in 2012 with only 300 turkeys and each

year it has grown. Judge Stephens would like to say thank you to everyone involved for making this year's turkey giveaway a huge success.

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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

ROUND-UP

Dayton Annual Christmas Tree event

The City of Dayton is hosting the 8th annual Christmas Tree event, benefiting Liberty County Bikes for Christmas. The City would like to invite all local businesses, individuals, churches and organizations to participate in this highly anticipated community activity. Help create a festive Christmas atmosphere at the Dayton Community Center by taking part in the Tree Decoration contest. The trees remain on display throughout the holiday season for all to view and enjoy. It is a contest so get creative, have fun and good luck.

Details for participation are as follows:

- The entry fee is a donation of any amount to Liberty County Bikes for Christmas.

- Check in at Dayton Chamber office to drop off entry fee and get an approved tree location.

- Provide and decorate your own tree, real or artificial, no taller than 7 ft.

- Place one sign to identify yourself, your business or organization.

- Participants may start setting up their tree Nov. 12, 2018, deadline for entry setup is Nov. 29, 2018.

- Winners will be announced and awards will be given December 20, 2018.

- Tree should be cleaned up and removed by January 4, 2019.

Register at Dayton Chamber Office, call 936-257-2393 for details.

A Holiday Movie Event

The entire community is invited to a Holiday Movie Pajama Party at the Jones Public Library Kidz Zone, Saturday, Dec. 1st, at 11 am and 2 pm. This is a FREE event.

Put on your coziest Christmas jammies and join us for a holiday movie to kick off your day at Spirit of Christmas! They will have two showings, one at 11:00 am and one at 2 pm, in the Kidz Zone of the Jones Public Library. Wear your pajamas, bring a cozy blanket, and spend time watching a Christmas favorite. The Friends of the Library will be serving hot cocoa and christmas cookies as refreshments during the movie. Everyone that attends the movie will be leaving with a special gift... one may even call it the first gift of Christmas!

Pilot Club of Baytown, "Deck the Halls" Christmas Tour of Homes

The 2018, 7th Annual, "Deck the Halls" Christmas Tour of Homes is Saturday, December 1, and Sunday, December 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There was no home tour in 2017 because of Hurricane Harvey storm damages by both homeowners and Pilot Club members. However, the Pilot Club of Baytown and homeowners are excited to showcase homes on the tour again this year. Four families have opened their beautiful Baytown homes decorated for the holiday season in support of the Pilot Club's efforts to fund service projects in our community for the coming year.

Generous homeowners are: Junior & Robin Forrest, Nancy Mann, Shane & Gladys Pryor and Dr. Richard & Gerri-lynn Siegelman.

A donation of \$20/person allows a tour of all four homes to be visited on either day.

Pilot members volunteer to assist in the homeowners homes being visited. Typically, a minimum of four Pilot members assigned per home to ensure security. We always want our homeowners to feel at ease. Proceeds go to Pilot Club of Baytown, Projects & Operating Budget, for service activity within the community for the Pilot Year 2019-2020.

Tickets for the Christmas Tour of Homes are available from any member of the Pilot Club of Baytown and the following business locations.

- Baytown Historical Museum, 220 West Defee
- Designs by Carolyn, Halls Carpet Haus, 1415 North Pruett
- Kathy Young's Merle Norman, 407 West Baker, Ste J
- Tease Me, Please Me Hair Designs, 1400 North Pruett

The donations to the Christmas Tour of Homes, along with the Annual Yellow Rose Gala held in the Spring, allow the Pilot Club to support needed



The Pilot Club of Baytown, in the spirit of Christmas, has invited homeowners to showcase their beautiful homes in a "Deck the Halls", Christmas Tour of Homes. Pictured are homes to be toured. (Photos by Becky James)

projects for the Baytown community in the coming year. Following are projects supported by Pilot.

Community Service Projects - Houston Methodist San Jacinto Cancer Center, Bay Area Homeless Shelter, Baytown Special Rodeo, Eddie Gray Wetlands, New Horizons, YMCA Youth, Habitat for Humanity, Love Inc., Women's Storybook Project, Pick Me Ups, and Relay for Life.

Health & Safety Division Projects - Lifeline, Chinquapin School Fire Extinguisher Service, American Diabetes, Beauty Will Rise, Emma's Hugs, Special Olympics, Pregnancy Resource Center, Texas District Pilot Club Traumatic Brain Injury Camps, Project Graduation for high schools, Alzheimer's Association, Houston Methodist San Jacinto Stroke Education, and Lee College Nursing Scholarship.

Education Division Projects include - Lee College Foundation Scholarships Program, Chinquapin Scholarship Fund, Baytown Symphony program, Sterling Municipal Library, Baytown Communities in Schools, Goose Creek Education Foundation, Story Book Christmas, D.A.R.E., Monica Boyd Literacy Foundation, Lee College Educational & Opportunity Center,

BrainMinders Program to teach Elementary students to protect their brain, Art League for Education of Traumatic Brain Injured individuals, "When Sean Speaks" Powerful Message of danger mixing alcohol with driving to local high school students, Scholarships Awards for graduating high school seniors of GCCISD high schools.

Patriotism Division Projects - One Hundred Club Survivor's Fund, Veterans Memorial Activities, Decorate Christmas tree at Baytown Historical Museum Contest, Sponsor patriotism essay contest for all GCCISD 5th graders, activities for Police Memorial, Participate in War Memorial activities, Bay Area Heritage Society, American Legion - Boys State, and American Legion Auxiliary - Girls State, Project Blue, City of Baytown Police.

International Relations Division Project Activities - Prepare Seafarers Boxes for Seamen away from home for holidays.

Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's - Plan and coordinate Baytown Walk - 2018 pledges & contributions total \$59,000 to date. The Walk was held on October 13, at Bayland Park, however, donations to a Pilot Club member or online can be made until mid December at act.alz.org/baytown.

West Nile Virus case confirmed in Chambers County

Chambers County Public Health Department has confirmed one isolated case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Chambers County, making it the first WNV case in the county in 2018. The patient has been released from the hospital, resides in western Chambers County, and their identity will remain confidential. Chambers County has a very active Mosquito Control Department, with a surveillance and spraying program. Dr. Clay Brown, Local Health Authority for Chambers County states "We are actively monitoring the situation, and further case investigation through the Public Health Department will continue." West Nile season typically runs from June through October. Most people who are infected with West Nile will not develop any symptoms. Those at greatest risk are those over the age of 50, those who have chronic illnesses, and those that are

immunocompromised.

You should take an active role in helping to prevent the spread of mosquito borne illnesses:

1. Use an approved insect repellent every time you go outside. Approved repellents are those that contain DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow the instructions on the label.

2. Regularly drain standing water! Including water that collects in empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters and saucers under potted plants. **MOSQUITOS BREED IN STAGNANT WATER.**

3. Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

4. Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and windows to keep mosquitos from entering the home.

5. Visit TxWestNile.org for more information.

BAYTOWN LITTLE THEATER

A Little Christmas Spirit opens Nov. 30th

Baytown Little Theater is excited to announce that their next production is A Little Christmas Spirit directed by Sandra Smith. Opening night is November 30th at 8pm at the Baytown Little Theater and will run through Sunday the 16th of December. Please join as they bring you some holiday cheer through this heartwarming, fun, and family friendly show.

J. D. Morse has been looking high and low for a special Christmas gift for his grandson. Finally, as a last resort, he wanders into Nick's Emporium, an old-fashioned store chock full of all sorts of gifts and knickknacks. He has a hard time explaining to Nick what he's looking for,

but finds himself falling under the old storekeeper's spell. Just when Morse is about to buy something, he runs to the street to chase kids away from his car. When he returns, he finds the store suddenly dark and quiet. A policeman then shows up to run him off because, "This place ain't been open in forty years!" Morse finds a way back, not only to the store but to a time years ago when he was a younger man. This full-length Yuletide fantasy is full of holiday spirit and humor and makes us all wish we could find "Nick's Emporium," where life stands still and we can all truly enjoy a little Christmas spirit.

Buy tickets at baytownlittletheater.org.

Baker Discusses Treatment as Honoree of Diabetes Gala

BAYTOWN — (November 9, 2018) — As a kid growing up in Baytown, Taylor Baker enjoyed countless days of fun and laughter with family and friends, but her carefree small town upbringing was interrupted on one life changing day.

"I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when I was 12," Taylor, a 2009 graduate of Ross S. Sterling High School, recalls. "No one else in my family has it but me, so I just didn't understand it."

But rather than allow diabetes to define her young life, Taylor—with support from her parents, Jack and Kim Baker, also Baytown natives—began to gain an understanding of what it means to be diagnosed with the disease that affects roughly 415 million people around the world.

Baker navigated the nutritional and lifestyle changes, as well as the medication regimen, required to manage the disease throughout her high school years and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in fashion and marketing from The Art Institute of Houston.

Now the assistant event manager at the Baybrook Mall location of jewelry retailer Kendra Scott, Baker



Taylor Baker, 2nd from right, with father Jack, sister Clayton and mother Kim

will serve as the honoree at the "Havana Nights" gala benefiting the Baytown Council of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDRF) on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Houston's Royal Sonesta Hotel. The gala promises an evening of dinner, dancing and a silent auction. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is a sponsor of the event.

"My parents have attended the gala every year for as long as I can remember," Baker said. "I was super excited and surprised to be nominated."

JDRF funded research

helps create significant advances in type 1 diabetes therapies, with the ultimate goal of finding a cure and universal prevention. The global organization works to ensure that potentially life-changing treatments and therapies move through development and into the market where they can lessen the impact of diabetes. An estimated 30 million adults and children in the U.S. have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Baker said she looks forward to speaking on the disease from the perspective of someone whose life

has been touched by JDRF research efforts.

"I can definitely speak to the impact of the funds raised by the JDRF because it directly affects me," she said.

Baker said one of the biggest challenges that diabetes patients face is finding the type of insulin delivery system that works best for them. Her initial delivery method was traditional shots, followed by pumps, but after recently adapting to a continuous glucose monitor, she believes she's finally found the optimal method.

"It (continuous glucose

monitor) makes it so much easier. It completely changes everything about how I manage the disease day to day," she said.

Baker says she relishes the opportunity to provide insight into what she's learned about living with diabetes.

"It's very important to find a good doctor that you like, but it's equally important to listen to your body in finding something that works for you," she said. "Until you try things and see what works best, you never know."

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown 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 Baytown provides some of the most advanced and innovative procedures while never losing focus on compassionate and patient-centered care. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

PLASTIC POLLUTION What to Know

(StatePoint) Plastics are an increasingly widespread pollutant, according to environmental experts, harming ecosystems and wildlife as well as endangering human health. One of the largest worldwide industries driving this crisis -- the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector which offers such things as soft drinks, toiletries, foods and other consumables -- is not taking significant action to put the brakes on the growing production and marketing of single-use plastics, suggests a new report.

The report, "A Crisis of Convenience: The corporations behind the plastics pollution pandemic," by Greenpeace, found that single-use packaging is the main delivery system used by all of the companies surveyed and there is no sign of that changing. What's more, none of these companies have comprehensive strategies that include commitments to move away from single-use plastic, with some companies actually increasing the amount of single-use plastic packaging and waste they produce.

"Unfortunately, across the board, the consumer goods industry has failed to take responsibility for the single-use plastics crisis they helped create," said Greenpeace USA ocean plastics campaign director, John Hocevar. "The current commitments corporations have made around plastics actually allow for increased use in the future. We need more transparency and substantive action immediately."

Other study findings include the fact that most solutions being explored by businesses are primarily related to addressing recyclability or recycling, not reducing or creating new delivery systems. Unfortunately, most companies know or disclose little about the amount of their packaging that is recycled and even less about the destination of their plastic waste after consumption.

Beyond personal choices, such as recycling single-use plastics and using reusable bags and bottles, Hocevar points out that individuals can make an impact by talking to their local grocery stores, restaurants and businesses about phasing out single-use plastics as well as by writing to some of the larger companies urging them to move in a better direction.

More information about the study and plastic pollution can be found by visiting www.greenpeace.org.



Happy Thanksgiving Field of candidates for House speaker narrows to one

AUSTIN — Eight members of the Texas Legislature filed papers with the Texas Ethics Commission to declare themselves candidates for speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and as of last week, only one remained.

The candidacy of state Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, gained momentum in October, and Bonnen on Nov. 13 announced he had the support of 109 members of the 150-member House. At minimum, it takes 76 votes to elect a speaker, which is 50 percent, plus one, of the 150 members of the House.

The other candidates for the speakership who withdrew from the race include: Travis Clardy, R-Nacogdoches, vice chairman of the House Committee on Local and Consent Calendars; Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee; Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, vice chair of the House Redistricting Committee; Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, chairman of the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee; Tan Parker, R-Flower Mound, chairman of the House Investments and Financial Services Committee; Rep. Walter "Four" Price, R-Amarillo, chairman of the House Public Health Committee; and Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Bonnen, 46, first was elected to represent House District 25 in 1997. The district includes Matagorda County and part of Brazoria County. Bonnen currently is chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee and serves as speaker pro tempore of the House.

The first order of business for the House when the 86th Texas Legislature convenes on Jan. 8 is the election of the speaker, who will succeed Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio. Straus chose not to seek reelection and is finishing a record fifth consecutive

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

term as speaker.

McCall to lead transition

Bonnen on Nov. 13 announced that he had named former longtime Texas House member Brian McCall, who has been chancellor of the Texas State University System since 2010, to serve as chairman of his transition team. Bonnen said McCall would assist him in recruiting senior staff, planning the swearing-in ceremony and working with outgoing Speaker Straus and his staff to facilitate a smooth transition.

"I've known Rep. Bonnen since his first day as a House member and quickly recognized his leadership ability," McCall said. "He possesses all of the qualities to be a successful speaker; he is a straight shooter, compassionate, principled and determined to unify the House and work constructively with the Senate and governor." "Chancellor McCall knows the Capitol and the people who make it work. More importantly, he has a reputation as both a legislator and a higher education leader for his fairness, decency and ability to bring people together," Bonnen said.

Bonnen gets thumbs up

Gov. Greg Abbott on Nov. 12 congratulated Bonnen, saying, "no one works harder or more passionately for Texas" than Bonnen. "There are a number of important and pressing issues facing Texas as we head into this next legislative session, including reforming school finance and elevating our education system and I look forward to working with the new speaker and the entire House of Representatives to address these topics and much more," Abbott added. Also, in a joint statement released Nov. 14,

Bonnen and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the state Senate, said they had a phone conversation in which they agreed to work together "to move Texas forward" in the upcoming legislative session. "The lieutenant governor and I share a strong commitment to do the people's business," Bonnen said.

DPS expands social media

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Nov. 12 announced the launch of seven regional social media accounts, covering every corner of the state and all seven DPS regions, including North Texas, Southeast Texas, South Texas, West Texas, Northwest Texas, Central Texas and the Capitol Region.

"Each DPS region is unique, and we look forward to using these regional social media accounts to highlight the work of the department in those areas and bolster our ties with communities throughout Texas," DPS Director Steven McCraw said.

TEA releases district ratings

The Texas Education Agency on Nov. 15 released final financial accountability ratings for the 1,200 school districts and charters across the state.

Each school district or open-enrollment charter received one of four possible letter grades — A, B, C or F — and a financial management rating of Superior, Above Standard Achievement, Meets Standard or Substandard Achievement.

Ninety-nine percent of the districts and charters earned a successful final rating, as measured by the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, a system designed to encourage public schools to better manage financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes, the TEA said.



by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty - Will I Get Spousal Benefits?

Dear Rusty: What percentage, if any, should I be able to collect on my husband's Social Security benefits? He started his full retirement age and I'm turning 62 in 3 months (born 1957). I did work and am eligible to collect on my own work record. Half of his benefit would be approximately \$300 more a month than I would collect with my own benefit. I am not currently working and do not have plans to go back to work. When I called the SS office to make an appointment, I asked this same question and the person I spoke with said I couldn't collect on my spouse. I have a friend who told me his wife did get some extra benefit from his Social Security and she also worked. Signed: Inquiring Mind

First, find out what your benefit amount would be if you wait until your full retirement age to claim (you can get this from Social Security or by creating your own "My Social Security Account" online at www.ssa.gov). Since you say your husband claimed at his FRA, compute one half of his current benefit, and then compare your FRA benefit amount to one half of his benefit amount. If half of his is less than your FRA benefit, you won't get a "spousal boost." If half of his is more than your FRA benefit, you will get a spousal boost, but it will be reduced because you're taking it at age 62 instead of at your FRA. At age 62, rather than half of your husband's benefit you would get about 34% of his benefit, and the difference between that amount and your own reduced age 62 benefit is your spousal boost. That spousal boost, if any, will be added to your age 62 benefit amount to arrive at your total Social Security benefit at age 62. And that total amount will be less than 50% of your husband's benefit. Since Social Security has already told you that you aren't entitled to a spousal benefit, it's probable that your own FRA benefit amount is more than 50% of your husband's FRA amount.

Dear Inquiring: Not everyone is automatically entitled to spousal benefits, and everyone doesn't get 50% of the higher earning spouse's benefit amount. Whether or not you are eligible depends upon how much your benefit on your own work record is at your full retirement age, compared to half of your husband's benefit at his full retirement age (FRA). And if you take benefits at age 62, both your own benefit and your spousal benefit will be reduced. Born in 1957, your benefit at age 62 from your own work record will be reduced by 27.5% from what it would be at 66 (your full retirement age). Because you're taking the spousal benefit early (you'll be deemed to be filing for spousal benefits when you claim your own) you won't get 50% of your husband's FRA benefit, rather it will be reduced. Here's how you can figure out your total benefit at age 62, and whether you will get a spousal benefit in addition to your own.

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Contanda Greens Bayou Terminal LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 154296

This application would authorize construction of a Greens Bayou Terminal located at 2894 Penn City Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015. This application is being processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

IN THE STARS

**SAT., DEC. 1
HUFFMAN FUN FESTIVAL**
Saturday, Dec. 1st, 10 am - 4 pm at Jack Spence Parkway, 24403 E. Lake Houston Parkway, Huffman.

**TUES., DEC. 4
SANTA ARRIVES IN HIGHLANDS**
Santa Claus will arrive on a firetruck at the park on San Jacinto Street, at 6 pm. Photos with Santa. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served by the Highlands Rotary Club at the Fire Station.

**SAT., DEC. 8
CROSBY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & PARADE**
Parade starts at 6:00 p.m. at Crosby Middle School and ends at the Festival (CrosbyFairgrounds), 14920 FM 2100, Crosby, TX

BIRTHDAYS
Nov 22—Theresa McGee
Lisa Selensky
Nov 23—Monica Day
Brittany Muldrow
Caleb Morgan
Nov 24—David Boucher
Jaymee Gleason
Teri Gleason
Gene Gomez
Nov 25—W.G. Carro
Curtis Ingram
Nov 26—Mary Hargis
Nov 27—Doyle King
Nov 28—Louise Duncan
Jim Strouhal, Jr.

ANNIVERSARIES
Nov 25—Lois & Charles Dunbar
Becky & Rayford Smith
Nov 26—J.B. & Barbara Glaze
Nov 26—Doyle & Ruby King

Travis students share Thanksgiving project



Melissa Lindsey's first-grade students at Travis Elementary present a retelling of the First Thanksgiving for their families following a Thanksgiving Feast in the cafeteria. After reading the book "Molly's Pilgrim" by Barbara Cohen, students decorated clothespins like Pilgrims or Indians, making a village display. Showing off the costumes they made and wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving are (from left) Aden Guiles, Owen Vasquez, Jack Pettine, Kylie Kubicek, Jade Wotipka, Madyson Wingate, Khalil Fevrier, Dale Fifield, Charlyze Veifling, Audrina Mireles, Austin Thomas, Kinley Wheeler, Ashley Maiden, Raul Hernandez, David Orellana and London Johnson.

Reverend John Moore installed as pastor at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Reverend John Moore was installed as pastor of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Crosby on Sunday, November 11, 2018.

Pastor Moore has served congregations in Indiana and Iowa in the past, and more recently, assisted in the outreach of a new start, Oikos Lutheran Church in Houston. He is uniquely equipped to shepherd a growing congregation, sharing the Lutheran Church's rich liturgical history with contemporary innovations through the gospel as given to us in the Bible.

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church has been worshipping in their youth building at 19704 FM 2100 since Hurricane Harvey destroyed their sanctuary and fellowship hall in 2017. Planning for a new worship facility has been ongoing and groundbreaking will occur in the near future.



The members of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church joyfully welcome Pastor Moore and his family and invite others to share in Jesus' saving grace with us. Sunday school is at 9:30 and worship service is at 10:45.

Participating in the installation were Our Shepherd members, friends, relatives, pastors as well as district and synodical personnel.

Goose Creek CISD donates to Toys for Tots



Photo by Susan Passmore

Goose Creek CISD staff members donate to the Toys for Tots program to help make Christmas bright for families in need. Toys for Tots/Faith Family Church coordinated the toy drive, delivering collection boxes to all schools and facilities and picking them up to prepare the toys for delivery to families. Pictured are (from left) Stella Gonzalez; Patricia Pena; volunteer Alicia Bryan; Eloy Chapa, assistant superintendent for human resources; Goose Creek CISD Police Chief Tony Alfaro; volunteer Elizabeth Bowden; Brenda Hernandez; volunteer Ryan Tremmel and Kim Barnes.

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FAITH
can move
MOUNTAINS
Matthew 17:20

Attorney at Law
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LOVE NEVER FAILS
1 Corinthians 13:8

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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

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

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What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later
ROMANS 8:18

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

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

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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Ready to Quit Smoking?

BAYTOWN — (November 16, 2018) — Most smokers have been chastised repeatedly about how bad smoking is for their health and urged to lose the habit. But let's be honest: quitting smoking is hard.

With November designated as Lung Cancer Awareness Month, there's no better time than now to quit. Fortunately, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has the tools to help making the journey to being smoke-free a little smoother.

"Whether it's your first, second or third time, the first step is deciding to quit. Then take time to focus on why you want to quit. Even better, write it down and be specific," said thoracic surgeon Dr. Shawn Tittle, medical director of the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown.

Tittle says there are numerous reasons to quit:

- Improving your health, being able to breathe better, reducing your long-term health risks (lung disease, heart disease, cancer, etc.).
- Reducing exposure of your family, friends and pets to secondhand smoke, as well as nicotine and chemical residue on furniture and other indoor surfaces left by tobacco smoke.
- Saving money and using your savings for something valuable.
- Saying goodbye to smelly clothes, breath, car, home, life!

"We can help you figure out which strategies you can use to quit for life," Tittle said. "Be honest about the reasons why you smoke, what triggers you to light up and what challenges you anticipate during the process," Tittle said. "You'll learn about the different tools and therapies available and the pros and cons of each. Your health care provider may recommend one therapy over another or a combination of therapies based on your personal health history."

Smoking cessation options may include:

- Nicotine patches. The patches adhere to your skin to deliver regular doses of the drug into your system.
- Nicotine gum and lozenges. These may help with a short-term nicotine "fix" and can be taken when the craving strikes.
- Nicotine inhalers. You puff on the inhaler and a nicotine vapor is released into your mouth and throat for another short-term craving buster.
- Prescription medications. Certain drugs help reduce the craving for nicotine in some patients, but may come with side effects.
- Cold turkey. This strategy works well for those who don't want the crutch of nicotine replacement and prefer to tough it out.



Dr. Shawn Tittle

Don't Go It Alone

The Beat the Pack smoking cessation program at Houston Methodist Baytown can help you stop smoking and reduce your risk of developing conditions, such as lung cancer and heart disease.

- The program offers:
- Counseling sessions and guidance based on exercise, nutrition and stress management strategies
 - A fitness assessment and consultation
 - Massage
 - Sessions with a registered dietitian
 - Progress monitoring with a specialist, who helps you set a quit date and develop a cessation plan

Should You Schedule a Lung Cancer Screening?

The goal of the comprehensive Lung Cancer Screening Program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is to help high risk patients receive a diagnosis and treatment

plan at an early stage. The program for current and former smokers includes annual low-dose CT scans, consultations with health care providers, access to tobacco cessation programs and referrals to physician specialists if the disease is found.

For more information on the Beat the Pack program, call 713-363-7007. To find out if you're a candidate for lung cancer screening, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown, or call 281-428-2273.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown 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 Baytown provides some of the most advanced and innovative procedures while never losing focus on compassionate and patient-centered care. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

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EVENTS

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Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, Nov. 27-29, 2018. Opens Daily at 9 a.m., Amarillo Civic Center. Attend the Largest Farm Show in Texas. 400+ exhibitors, education programs, earn CEU credits, register to win prizes. AmarilloFarmShow.com, #AmarilloFarmShow.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

TYPE-2 DIABETICS - Gangrene of the genitals has been associated with the use of SGLT2 Inhibitors, like Invokana, Farxiga, Jardiance. Call 800-800-9815 - you may be entitled to compensation!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO DISCUSS BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Barbers Hill ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, December 17, 2018 In the C. T. Joseph Conference Center, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Barbers Hill ISD's rating on the State's financial accountability system.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT

PROPOSED AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 154296

APPLICATION Contanda Greens Bayou Terminal LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for:
Issuance of Permit 154296

This application would authorize construction of the Greens Bayou Terminal located at 2894 Penn City Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015. This application is being processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.749444&lng=-95.155278&zoom=13&type=r>. The facility will emit the following contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on November 2, 2018. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Galena Park Library, 1500 Keene Street, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING You may submit public comments, or request a public meeting or a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all public comments.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application, if requested by an interested person, or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for an Air Quality Permit will then be published and mailed to those who made comments, submitted hearing requests or are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn. The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, and daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing"; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or an association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

If a hearing request is timely filed, following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Contanda Greens Bayou Terminal LLC, 1111 Bagby Street Suite 1800, Houston, TX 77002-2548 or by calling Ms. Sharon P. Jones, SEE Solutions, LLC at (281) 416-4198.

Notice Issuance Date: November 14, 2018

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