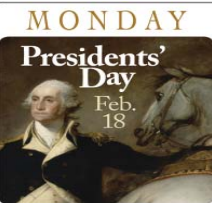




24x30 oil on canvas by mei hoffman  
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These stories in the **PRESS:**

- Waste Pits Dredging Permit Cancelled
- West Chambers County Pilot Club Brain Minders
- Rep. Cain on Texas Heartbeat Bill
- .....And more, Page 5



IN THE STARS

EVENTS

- WED., FEB. 20**  
**CROSBY CHAMBER ANNUAL AWARDS**  
Crosby-Huffman Chamber Annual Awards Banquet & Board Installation, Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 pm to 9 pm. Hilton Garden Inn Baytown, Tickets \$50/person at chamber office 281-3286984.
- FRID., FEB. 22**  
**FREE HEART SCREENING**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, 4401 Garth Rd., new conference center, Baytown, TX. 77521. See AD, page 3 for details.
- BIRTHDAYS**  
Feb 7—Chris Browder  
Feb 8—Leah Cathey  
Johange C. Highfield  
Jerry Hovater  
James Simpson  
Feb 9—Gerald D. Harris  
Feb 11—Carol Kelley  
Mary Mills  
Michael Parson  
Lanette Salters  
Feb 12—Shelby Hodges  
Lori Osterman  
Jed Riser  
Alania Kay Jones  
Ida Turley  
Feb 13—Lisa Brown  
Hannah Riser  
Tami Roe  
Christopher Salters
- ANNIVERSARIES**  
Feb 11—Keith & Becky Adams  
Howard & Patricia Brockinton  
Feb 12—Donnie & Elonda Cravatt
- DEATHS**  
John Calvin Aylor

# Barge damages I-10 bridge

## Traffic flow severely throttled

Monday afternoon a barge, being pushed by a tug boat, the Lindberg Crosby, hit a support pier under the I-10 highway, severely damaging it. TxDOT was forced to close the westbound lanes of the highway, until they could ascertain the extent of the damage. This caused a severe traffic jam from Highlands clear to the far side of Baytown. In addition, the entry ramp westbound at Four Corners was closed, and traffic backed up on all the side roads clear to Crosby. Some motorists headed north, to US90, but delays of over an hour were reported. The Coast Guard told See I-10 BRIDGE, page 10



THIS CONCRETE PIER, under the westbound lanes of I-10, was struck by an uncontrolled barge. TxDOT reported a structural failure both above and below the water line. They reported that they will let an emergency contract in a few days, for repairs and/or replacement of the pier. (Photo by We All Nosey)



TRAFFIC WESTBOUND at 4:33pm was blocked by TxDOT trucks and the police, as engineers assessed the damage. Later one lane was opened, and on Tuesday two lanes, but the on-ramp from Crosby-Lynchburg was closed, causing massive backups from Highlands to Crosby and Baytown. (Transtar Photo)

# TxDOT sets Main Street to be divided

CROSBY – As TxDOT prepares for the reconstruction and widening of FM 2100 from South Diamondhead Blvd. to Antelope Dr. to be bid for construction in March, changes are coming for local businesses and the community. The entire length of the project is subject to temporary road closures to allow construction and maintain safety of the traveling public. Notification of closures and a detour route is to be provided for use while closed. When construction begins TxDOT and the contractors are to coordinate with the County and local agencies on specific dates of each closure. TxDOT does not know at this time when or where contractors will elect to begin construction. A detour layout and title sheet has been provided by TxDOT to officials for questions. When construction starts, the TxDOT Area office and the Public Information Office will coordinate to provide advance notice of closures at intersection with side streets. All project related closures will be posted on the Houston Transtar website.

The left turn bays will be at 24 locations throughout the project length including at the intersection with side streets - Hare RD, N. Diamondhead Blvd., Hare Cook, Pine Forest, Foley Rd, Sundown Meadows (Regain), Tall Cedars, Reidland, Gum Gully Rd, Stroker Rd, Indian Shores, and Heathergate Lane. For example, the segment from S. Diamondhead to Newport Blvd. will have flash median but almost all other medians will be raised dividers. A driver has to go past and turn around to come back if there is no turn bay at the destination location. At some time, Hare Road will become a construction area with the

See FM 2100 widening, Page 10

# Sand mining makes waterways impact

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY – Modern politics has certainly discovered that a tension exist between bustling business, construction and environmental concerns. No one wants jobs to go away or to be poisoned. Anyone can bet that concrete is necessary for construction. Sand is necessary for concrete. The Greater Houston Area is burgeoning, trying to recover from Hurricane Harvey. A tension has emerged with questions of 'did digging for sand along the San Jacinto help flood the unincorporated areas during Hurricane Harvey?' In northeast Harris County sand has become one of the largest industries locally. Nationwide it accounts for nearly \$8 billion dollars. In Austin, the Texas Legislature, typically a business

friendly bunch, is looking into what needs to be done about mining sand. One proposed law would call for a new inspections program and require a hydrology assessment for permits to mine. This new law would make it a crime to lie about records and activities. Republican Governor Greg Abbott asked state regulators to more closely monitor and back up existing rules in sand mining. The Harris County Flood District is planning to look more closely at the industry and practices. Those that lost their homes in Hurricane Harvey have asked if larger amounts of sand that settled down the river contributed to making the outcome of the storm worse on those living on the river. See Sand Mining, Page 10

# SJRC stops one permit, faces other threats



JACKIE YOUNG, San Jacinto River Coalition

HIGHLANDS – Since the beginning of the year, the San Jacinto River Coalition, part of THEA, has held two public meetings to update everyone on developments around the Waste Pits site. The clean-up itself is in the Remedial Design phase, with the work plan approved. EPA and the PRP are actually working on Pre-Design Phase I, which can be seen on the EPA website. Phase II will be posted by Feb. 12, she said, and will continue through July. Young expected work to remove the waste material could start by the end of 2019. Young said that the PRP had hired a new consulting firm, GHD Consultants, with experience in this type of Superfund site. They will be helping prepare the work plan and Remedial Action plan. Maintenance of the current Cap is under the direction of another engineering firm, Anchor QEA & Integral. Sampling of the current material under the cap is taking place, to categorize the degree of hazardous material, and decide where to dispose of it. On site, core samples can be seen in drums, and water level samples in red storage tanks. These will be sent to a lab for testing. Young criticized the sampling effort, noting that they are not testing for PCBs. "We really don't understand what is the composition of this waste," she said. She also questioned whether workers on the site had adequate environmental protection gear, and whether samples taken were protected from tampering or alteration.

Since December, SJRC



SAMPLES of ground water, and cores are being stored in these drums, and then taken off-site for lab tests to determine the toxicity of the material under the cap, and how high the water table is below.

See River, page 10

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

## Pedestrian dies after being hit by 2 cars

CROSBY, Texas – A man died after being hit by two cars last Thursday in Crosby, Texas, deputies reported.

The accident happened around 10:50 p.m. on FM 2100 near North Diamondhead Boulevard.

According to officials, a man was standing in the northbound lane of the road when a car hit him. The car went off the road,

hit a ditch and stopped; the driver run from the scene, deputies said.

While the victim was lying in the road a pickup truck ran over him. The drivers of the pickup also left the scene, investigators said.

The victim has been identified as 26 year-old Matthew Kimmell. He was flown to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he died last Friday morning.

## Houston Symphony celebrates Rodeo with Western-inspired program

HOUSTON (Feb. 11, 2019) – Just in time for the start of Houston's rodeo season, the Houston Symphony saddles up with the Western-inspired family program Wild, Wild West at 10am and 11:30am on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Jones Hall, featuring students from the Theatre Under the Stars' (TUTS) Humphreys School of Musical Theatre and from TUTS' The River Performing and Visual Arts Center.

Houston families with children and babies of all ages are invited to join Associate Conductor Robert Franz on a wild, Western adventure, filled with musical classics invoking America's Wild West, like Aaron Copland's "Hoe-down," Rossini's William Tell Overture and fun favorites from Toy Story 2, Oklahoma! and more.

Franz and the orchestra welcome children from TUTS' Humphreys School of Musical Theatre, as well as TUTS' The River Performing and Visual Arts Center, an organization that provides arts access



and education to children with disabilities, to share the stage.

The Wild, Wild West sponsored by BBVA Compass program takes place at Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana Street, in Houston's Theater District. For tickets and information, please call (713) 224-7575 or

www.houstonsymphony.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the Houston Symphony Patron Services Center in Jones Hall (Monday-Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.). All programs and artists are subject to change.

## Harris County Judge Linda Hidalgo launches Civic Engagement Plan

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas – Last weekend Judge Linda Hidalgo kicked off the first Civic Saturday event as part of "Talking Transition: Harris County", a program designed to promote the public's involvement in shaping the county's future.

### Talking Transition: Harris County

*This initiative of the newly-elect Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo will bring together thousands of Harris County residents from all walks of life to have our voices heard about issues that matter to us—from the education of our children to the fairness of our justice system—to share ideas, and to collectively inform the Judge's priorities for her first year.*

*We all know that there are no shortage of good ideas in our communities that can help improve our schools, our hospitals, our courts, and the rest of the ways that county government affects people's lives. The goal of this initiative is to make sure that all of us who want to improve our communities understand how county government works—and how we can change it.*

*It's not an accident that most people don't understand the workings of government—it's not easy or accessible because that's how those who have traditionally been in power have maintained it. But that's not how it should be. We want to make county government more open and more accessible to every single one of us that has the desire to participate. In other words, we want to make Harris County live up to the idea that democracy is government by us, for us. --Harris County Judge's Office*

### Upcoming Civic Saturdays

A series of full-day public events will take place on several consecutive Saturdays throughout the County. Each Civic Saturday will consist of:

1. A large gathering organized around a specific theme (examples include education, health, and transportation) that will give people a chance to share new ideas for improving their communities and to hear from others;

2. Smaller working groups for people who have devoted time to specific issues to focus on how to best realize community-driven ideas through county government; and

3. Classroom style lessons on the workings of county government.

### Civic Saturday # 2

This event is free and open to the public. Let us know that you're coming by registering here!

Topic: **Transportation, Infrastructure, and Safety**

Date: Saturday, February 16

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown 6500 Rookin St, Houston, TX 77074

Opening Town Hall - What makes a well-connected, safe, accessible, and affordable transportation network so that all Harris County residents can access opportunities?

This assembly-style session will include the entirety of the participants present and ask us to think creatively about our transportation network and what is needed to make our communities well-connected through multiple transportation options.

Breakout Session - Accessibility How does the quality of infrastructure affect mobility? What role does the county play in addressing the ability of all people – regardless of size, age, or disability – to navigate and use transportation-related infrastructure?

Breakout Session - Affordable Transportation Options: Walking, Biking, and Transit What affordable transportation options are available to me? What role does the county play in investing and building such infrastructure?

Breakout Session - Hike and Bike trails What long-distance trail options are available to me to hike and bike throughout Harris County? What are the opportunities for the county to expand this type of infrastructure?

Breakout Session - Road Safety for All How can different county departments work together to make the road safer for everyone – rollers, walkers, bikers, commercial vehicle drivers, and personal vehicle drivers?

Breakout Session - County Civics: Transportation Edition This session will provide information around transportation initiatives, including road safety, that the county is responsible for. Participants will get a better idea of funding streams, policy initiatives, and opportunities for civic engagement and participation in those programs and departments.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST 9:00 AM. PROGRAM BEGINS 9:30 AM.

### Civic Saturday # 3

This event is free and open to the public. Let us

know that you're coming by registering here!

Topic: **Resilience & Flood Mitigation**

Date: Saturday, February 23

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Baytown Community Center 2407 Market St, Baytown, TX 77520

### Civic Saturday # 4

This event is free and open to the public. Let us know that you're coming by registering here!

Topic: **Children & Early Education**

Date: Saturday, March 2

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Julia C. Hester House 2020 Solo St, Houston, TX 77020

### Civic Saturday # 5

Topic: **Economic Opportunity & Housing**

Date: Saturday, March 9

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: BakerRipley East Aldine 3000 Aldine Mail Rte Rd, Houston, TX 77039

### Civic Saturday # 6

Topic: **Criminal Justice**

Date: Saturday, March 16

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Emancipation Center 3018 Emancipation Ave, Houston, TX 77004

### Civic Saturday # 7

Topic: **Resilience & Flood Mitigation**

Date: Saturday, March 23

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Magnum-Howell Center 2500 Frick Rd, Houston, TX 77038.

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## Constable Eagleton hosts lavish fundraiser



Sherman Eagleton and his wife, Gayle, received guests and sponsors to the Valentine's Gala Saturday night. "It was a very successful evening and a great time was had by all! We filled the room to maximum capacity with 450 guests. It was definitely evident that we have the support of the department and community, and we are so grateful. We are blessed to serve communities that continue to encourage and stand behind us."



No shortage of Crosby Fair & Rodeo (CF&R) supporters at the Harris County Constable Precinct 3 Sherman Eagleton Valentine's Gala at South Shore Harbour featuring a Dinner and Reception of black tie, blue jeans and boots. In addition to being the first black Constable for Precinct 3, Eagleton was the first black man elected to the board of the CF&R. CF&R announced their 2019 badges for \$75 has gone on sale allowing entrance to Rock'n C Round Up/Steak Cook-Off, the Rodeo Cook-Off and this year's rodeo .



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★ OPINION PAGE ★

**TEXAS SENATE NEWS**  
By Richard Lee

**Healthcare Committee passes mental health Collaboration Proposal**

(Austin, Texas) – Mental health care for children and adolescents would be coordinated by a central commission charged with increasing detection and access to treatment under a bill approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday. Another of Governor Greg Abbott's emergency items for the session, the Texas Mental Health Consortium would be created through SB 10 by Flower Mound Senator Jane Nelson. As chair of the Finance Committee, Nelson filed a base budget bill that includes more than \$7 billion for mental health services across state agencies. This bill would create a board to ensure that those agencies coordinate and cooperate to improve mental health services in Texas, especially for children. She said that the dire need for better mental health care for minors was impressed upon her by the Santa Fe High School shooting last May as well as the surge in youth suicides in recent years. "As we've seen with recent acts of violence, increased suicide rates and lives shattered by drug and alcohol abuse, Texas students need our help," said Nelson.

Texas is facing a significant shortage of mental health professionals. According to a 2016 University of Texas at Austin report, 206 of the 254 counties in Texas fall short of the 1 provider to 30,000 population ratio recommended by the federal government. SB 10 looks to address these gaps by creating comprehensive child psychiatry centers, what Nelson called "hubs", at state medical schools and other health-related institutes of higher education. These hubs would provide mental health consultation services from on-call mental health professionals, via telemedicine, to pediatricians and family physicians. Nelson said that in 75 percent of cases, it's pediatricians who first identify developing behavioral health disorders, but many feel uncomfortable managing treatment.

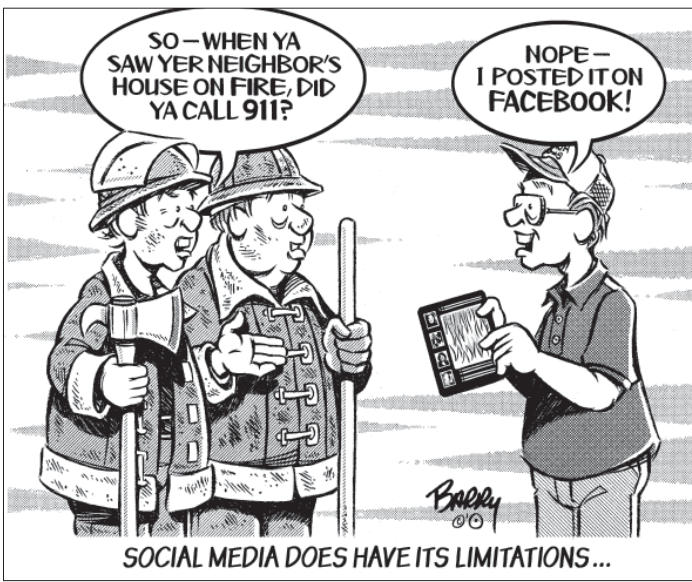
The centers will also use remote services to conduct behavioral health assessments for at-risk students. It would authorize these students to have two consultations via telehealth services with social workers or other mental health care

professionals, and then determine if a referral for additional treatment is called for. "We need to identify mental illness early, we need to treat it without stigmatizing it, just as we would any other physical condition," Nelson said. "I firmly believe that this legislation will help identify youth at risk, get them to treatment, and prevent them from becoming a danger to themselves or others." She said the goal is to work with local school districts to ensure that these programs are available in every region across the state.

Identifying and treating mental health disorders in children as early as possible is key to better outcomes, according to testimony offered by psychologist and mental health policy expert Dr. Andy Keller, who helped develop SB 10. The reason that mental health has become a crisis is that too many disorders go unidentified and untreated for too long, he said. According to research, the time between the appearance of behavioral health disorder symptoms and treatment averages ten years. "Just like any illness, if you wait that long, and you wait until it's a crisis until you intervene, it's going to be much harder to help, it's going to be far more risky to the individual as well as the folks around them," said Keller. "The point of this bill is to help us help children as soon as possible." He highlighted the detection provisions in the bill, which would help identify emerging mental health disorders in both pediatricians' offices and public schools, as well as opening pathways towards treatment and other mental health services through telemedicine and telehealth programs. "It's not just physicians, it's also social workers, other people who can be of help," said Keller. "Because it's not actually even usually medication that's helpful, it's a range of things, and a lot of support to parents."

The bill received unanimous support from the committee and won't face much opposition moving through the Senate, as all 31 Senators are signed on as co-authors of the measure.

The Senate reconvened Wednesday, February 13 at 11 a.m.



**Governor gives lawmakers list of emergency items to tackle**

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott named as his emergency priorities education reform, teacher pay, school safety, property tax reform, mental health services and disaster response in his Feb. 5 "State of the State" address to a joint session of the Texas Legislature.

The House and Senate may schedule committee hearings on bills related to items on the governor's priority list before the 60th day of the legislative session, which hits on March 8. Consideration of all other legislation must wait until after that date, except for House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 2 — the state budget — which is already in the works.

Abbott gave lawmakers something to cheer about when he said, "When you combine our legislative accomplishments with our record-breaking prosperity, you have elevated Texas to a rarified status and I am proud to tell you that the state of Texas has never been better."

Abbott touched on a number of other issues that need attention and funding, such as Hurricane Harvey recovery and disaster readiness, law enforcement and public safety, border security, mental health and services for military veterans.

In a news release, Abbott pointed out that half of the issues on his list "deal directly with public education, more if you count property tax reform, which is inextricably linked with school finance."

**Tax panel receives input**

The Senate Property Tax Committee on Feb. 6 held its first public hearing of the 86th session of the Texas Legislature to consider SB 2, a proposal to cap local property tax growth at 2.5 percent for most taxing entities and automatic ratification elections if an entity wishes to exceed the cap. There is an

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling

exemption in the bill for entities that take in less than \$15 million in revenue per annum.

"We're going to solve this problem," said Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, author of the bill. "We're going to be here until we do." Bettencourt said property tax bills have pushed many homeowners out of their neighborhoods and kept many others from buying homes, and passing a state law to lower the rollback rate is a way to change what is happening locally.

Much of the testimony given by panel after panel of witnesses in the three-hour hearing was in favor of the cap. Testimony given in opposition to setting the cap at 2.5 percent mostly focused on the potential of negative outcomes the low cap might cause, such as cutbacks in needed services and a reduction in local control.

**Hegar distributes revenue**

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 6 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$953.9 million in local sales tax allocations for February. The amount is 4.6 percent more than the amount returned to governmental bodies in February 2018.

These allocations are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2018 sales by businesses that report tax annually.

**Revenue total increases**

Comptroller Hegar on Feb. 4 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.8 billion in January, an amount 6 percent greater than the total reported in January 2018.

Growth in sales tax collections was primarily due to continued strong spending in oil- and gas-related sectors. Collections from restaurants also grew, while those from retail trade were flat relative to a year ago, Hegar said.

**Measles: new cases reported**

Seven measles cases have been confirmed in Texas this year, according to information posted Feb. 7 by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Measles is a contagious respiratory illness spread by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing.

Measles, a rash that begins as flat, red spots on the face, spreads down the neck and trunk to the rest of the body. Other symptoms include a high fever over 101 degrees, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. Anyone who believes they have measles should contact their health care provider as soon as possible, the DSHS said.

The DSHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend children get a dose of measles vaccine at 12-15 months of age and again at 4-6 years. The measles vaccine is about 97 percent effective after two doses. Children too young to be vaccinated or who have only had one dose of vaccine are more likely to get infected.

**Advocates Praise Governor Abbott's Call for Property Tax Reform**

AUSTIN, Texas – February 5, 2019 – **Texas Association Of Builders' Robert Wood:** "The Texas Association of Builders appreciates the leadership Governor Abbott has shown on the issue of addressing the rising property tax burden on Texas homeowners." "The Texas Association of Builders appreciates the leadership Governor Abbott has shown on the issue of addressing the rising property tax burden on Texas homeowners. We look forward to continuing our work with the Governor, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Bonnen and the members of the Senate and House to help ensure that future generations of Texans can continue to attain the American Dream of home ownership." (Robert Wood, President, Texas Association Of Builders, 2/5/19)

**Texas Association Of Business' James Hines:** "We applaud the efforts of Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Bonnen to reduce the property tax burden and improve schools." "We applaud the efforts of Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Bonnen to reduce the property tax burden and improve schools. Addressing funding for schools and property tax relief will take Texas's legendary jobs and economic climate to an even greater level. TAB stands ready to help the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker make our schools, workforce and economy stronger than ever." (James Hines, Senior Vice President Of Government Affairs And In-House Counsel, Texas Association Of Business, 2/5/19)

**Texas Retailers Association:** "We applaud Governor Abbott and the state's leadership for making both property tax reform and school finance major priorities for the 86th Legislative Session." "The Texas Retailers Association represents all sectors and sizes of the retail industry in Texas. We applaud Governor Abbott and the state's leadership for making both property tax reform and school finance major priorities for the 86th Legislative Session. TRA and its members depend on a business-friendly environment as well as a well-educated workforce for continued success in Texas. We understand the complex nature of these two very important issues and are committed to working with our state's elected officials to make positive progress toward goals which are shared by our members, customers, and employees across the state." (Texas Retailers Association, 2/5/19)

**Texas Apartment Association's Chris Newton:** "The Texas Apartment Association applauds Gov. Greg Abbott's call for more transparency and accountability in the property tax system." "The Texas Apartment Association applauds Gov. Greg Abbott's call for more transparency and accountability in the property tax system. Through his efforts and those of legislative leaders Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Speaker Dennis Bonnen, we are hopeful that the legislature will adopt meaningful reforms that will not only limit growth in property taxes and improve the overall valuation system but also provide more consistency and certainty." (Chris Newton, Executive Vice President, Texas Apartment Association, 2/5/19)

**Texas REALTORS® Tray Bates:** "Texas REALTORS® thank Gov. Abbott for making property tax reform a priority issue for the 86th Texas Legislature." "Texas REALTORS® thank Gov. Abbott for making property tax reform a priority issue for the 86th Texas Legislature. Texans deserve more clarity in the process that is leading to increasing tax burdens, and the Legislature must do everything in its power to ensure homeownership remains in reach of all Texans." (Tray Bates, Chairman, Texas REALTORS®, 2/5/19)



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Steve was walking down the sidewalk the other day to get from the barber shop to where he'd parked his pickup. It was a nice kind of day. Chilly, of course, but not bolt-freezing cold.

His mind was on what he had to do that day. In addition to the usual ranch chores, he had to catch up the horses and give their hooves a mid-winter trim. There are only a couple of horses shod at the moment, in case one is needed, and the others will get iron on them before the spring gather.

"Mister?"

Steve stopped and turned to see a girl about seven or eight years old coming up behind him.

**HOME COUNTRY**  
By Slim Randles

"Hi there," said Steve, smiling.

"Mister, I think you dropped this."

She held out her hand, and there was an old pocket knife. It was old and beaten up and Steve automatically slapped his left-side vest pocket. Gone.

"Thank you so much," Steve said, taking back the old, worthless pocket knife that had been handed down from his grandfather. He put it back in the vest pocket and buttoned the pocket shut.

"Can I give you anything? A dollar, maybe?"

"No thanks," she said smiling. "See you later."

Steve thought, she did this and didn't even know my name. Well, I don't know hers, either. But that was really nice of her.

Sometimes love can be just a little thing like handing a knife back to someone who dropped it.

Brought to you by Home Country (the book) available from www.riograndebooks.com.



# Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

VOL. 24, NO. 07 - 40¢

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

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

## ROUND-UP

### Programs at Sam & Carmena Goss Library

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of February 17, 2019.

- Tuesday, February 19 - 10:00 am Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)
  - Thursday, February 21 - 4:00 pm Teen Taste Test Tournament (ages 13-18 yrs)
  - Friday, February 22 - 10:30 am Story Time (ages 0-5 yrs)
- Call Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu at 281-576-2245 with any questions.

### February events at Jones Library

• 2/16/19 - Quilting Club - The Nimble Thimbles  
The second meeting of The Nimble Thimbles will be held on February 16th beginning at 11:00 AM in the back work space of the library. Bring your sewing machine and creativity! Join us for a time of learning and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you here!

• 2/23/19 - Genealogy Club  
NEW CLUB COMING TO THE JONES PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Are you fascinated by genealogy? Do you enjoy finding out about your family history? Join us for our newest Saturday programming here at the Jones Public Library. We will be hosting a Genealogy Club on the 4th Saturday of every month. We will kick off this club on Saturday - February 23rd at 11:00 AM in the back work space of the Jones Public Library! We look forward to seeing you all here for this fun and exciting new program!

Jones Public Library is located at 801 S. Cleveland St. Ste. A. in Dayton, Tx 77535, 936-258-7060.

### Winter Gator Tales

The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center in Baytown is hosting a series of Pre-school programs for ages 3-5 every Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am as follows:

- February 20, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

The center is located at 1724 Market Street.

## Dredging permit for Beach City cancelled

After weeks of waiting for results from their campaign to block a site in Beach City, on McCollum Park Road, from becoming a hazardous waste landfill, residents finally got the word last week that the company planning the disposal project had withdrawn their request for a permit from the Corps of Engineers.

In a newsletter to Beach City residents, Mayor Jackey Lasater proclaimed:

"Hello, Neighbors! ITS OFFICIAL!

I JUST RECEIVED THIS EMAIL FROM US-ACE (Corps of Engineers) From: Bader, Brian J CIV USARMY CESWG (US)

Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 5:01 PM All,

The United States Army Corps of Engineers-Galveston District issued a



Beach City Mayor Jackey Lasater

Public Notice on January 15, 2019, to solicit comments on Department of the Army Permit application SWG-2015-00855.

Subsequently, we received a request from the applicant to withdraw this application. The Corps has honored that request.

As of February 8, 2019, Department of the Army Permit application SWG-2015-00855 is withdrawn. If you have additional questions please contact me. Thank You.

/s/ Brian J. Bader Regulatory Project Manager CISM Peer Supporter US-ACE-SWG-RD-E (409) 766-3037."

Lasater went on in his newsletter to thank everyone that had helped stop the disposal project.

"Thanks to every one who pitched in, collected signatures and wrote letters.

Also want to thank Commissioner Billy Combs, Judge Silvia and everyone at the County for your support and assistance."

Beach City first learned about the proposed landfill project when residents of Channelview received letters from the Corps, and they subsequently reported it to Jackie Young of the San Jacinto River Coalition, who made it known to Lasater.

Holtmar Land has indicated they have another site for the disposal, not in Chambers County.

## West Chambers County Pilot Club 2nd Grade BrainMinders presentation

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. members along with the Barbers Hill High School Anchors presented the BrainMinders™ program to the 2nd graders at Barbers Hill Elementary Schools on

Friday, January 25, 2019. The Pilot Club gave out over 400 activity books and 40 helmets.

Pilot International's public service campaign, BrainMinders™ is focused on providing prevention education to the general

public, children, caregivers and professionals in the community.

The primary goal of the BrainMinders™ program is to dramatically decrease the number of brain injuries.



Barbers Hill Elementary North Helmet Winners Group 2: Aileen Lowry, Lyrikay Posey, Sevenae Farv, Alana Ricco-Hernandez, Cayson Walker, Hunter Wilson, Benjamin Chapman, Alexa Briscoe, and Anna Allred



Barbers Hill Elementary North Helmet Winners Group 1: Andee Duff, Aya Abboushi, Lane Pinon, Kenner Deathrage, Kingston Miller, Brady Fischer, Makayla Ricamore, Genesis Reynoso, Alexis Davis, and Kason Brown

West Chambers County Pilot Club members at 2nd Grade BrainMinders™ Presentation; Samantha Forcier, Deana Fojt, Diana Jackson, Judy Duncan, Susan Hudnall, Pam Sapp, Wynona Montgomery, and Linda Polk. Not pictured Becky Erikson, Linda Gilmore, Connie Hernandez, Shirley Hamon, Agnes Hejtmank, and Jennifer Pinion (not pictured).



SEE MORE PICTURES, page 6

## Shah earns liver transplant certification

BAYTOWN — (January 31, 2019) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital gastroenterologist/hepatologist Atul T. Shah, MD has recently earned certification in transplant hepatology (liver) from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

Also board-certified in gastroenterology and internal Medicine, Shah has been providing gastroenterology services to Baytown area residents since 1991. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital now has two physicians on its medical staff with board-certification in transplant hepatology. Gastroenterologist/hepatologist Dr. Rashid Khan also holds this certification. Shah and Khan are members of Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates in Baytown.

"Having two physicians with transplant hepatology certification from the ABIM on its medical staff means that Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital will be able to provide care in all areas of hepatology to the community it serves," Shah said.

Shah adds that the hospital is in the planning stages of establishing a comprehensive liver clinic that will provide a wide range of hepatology procedures and services in one location, allowing Baytown area residents to receive liver treatments close to home.

In addition to providing treatment for a variety of liver conditions, including fatty liver disease, hepatitis and cirrhosis, Shah's clinical expertise includes treatment of general gastroenterology disorders of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon, pan-



Dr. Atul Shah

creas and gall bladder. He also provides endoscopy and colonoscopy services.

For more information and to schedule an appointment with a gastroenterology specialist at Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates, call 281-422-7970, or visit [houstonmethodist.org/baytown](http://houstonmethodist.org/baytown).

### 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](http://Houstonmethodist.org/baytown).

## Representative Cain files the Texas Heartbeat Bill

*Editor's Note: Article as submitted by Briscoe Cain. Your comments, as Letter to the Editor, are welcome.*

AUSTIN, Texas - February 7, 2019 - Texas State Representative Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) filed House Bill 1500, known as the Texas Heartbeat Bill. This commonsense piece of legislation codifies the straightforward idea—if the heartbeat is detected, the baby is protected. The Texas Heartbeat Bill ensures that unborn Texans exhibiting a heartbeat are protected from the cruel and unusual practice of abortion. Representatives Phil King (R-Weatherford), Dan Flynn (R-Van), Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound), and Rick Miller (R-Sugar Land) have boldly stepped forward as joint-authors.

For years, pro-life advocates have called attention to the fact that abortion stops a beating heart. The Texas Heartbeat Bill empowers the beating heart of a tiny, defenseless unborn baby to stop a life-ending abortion.

Representative Cain said in a statement: "The heartbeat is a universally recognized indicator of life. The Texas Heartbeat Bill recognizes that this universal indicator should



State Representative Briscoe Cain

also apply to our most innocent and vulnerable Texans. A society is judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable members. I believe the most defenseless members of our society are innocent unborn children. As State Representative, I am committed to making Texas the safest place in America for the unborn child. I will continue the fight to ensure that all Texas children, including those saved by the Texas Heartbeat Bill, will inherit a prosperous Texas filled with endless opportunity."

Representative Flynn added that, "Protecting unborn life is critical to who we are as a nation and a state. When you have a heartbeat, you have a life, and we should honor that life at all cost."



ASK THE EXPERTS

Application period opens for mayor's 2019 summer jobs program for youths

HOUSTON -- Mayor Sylvester Turner's Hire Houston Youth jobs program is open for summer 2019.

All youth ages 16 to 24 in the Houston area can apply for paid jobs and internships in many kinds of industries, non-profit organizations and businesses as well as City of Houston government.

Visit www.hirehoustonyouth.org to apply. Click on the "youth" tab, create an account, and choose a job to apply for. We also encourage youth to follow Hire Houston Youth on social media on Instagram and Twitter @hireHOUyouth.

"Hire Houston Youth empowers young people from many walks of life to 'earn and learn' as they plan and train for full-time jobs in Houston's dynamic economy," Mayor Sylvester

Turner said. Selected applicants will be paid at least \$8 per hour for at least 7 weeks during the summer, and some employers are seeking immediate placements.

Companies such as American Pool Houston are looking to hire 400 lifeguards at various community pools, for example. Other employers include McDonald's, United Airlines, Texas Department of Transportation, Houston Airport System, MD Anderson Cancer Center, iTz Pizza and non-profit organizations like Urban Enrichment Institute, Houston Food Bank and more.

More employers are urged to join the program. Mayor Turner has set a goal of 10,000 jobs for summer 2019, up from 7,500 last year. He started the program in 2016 with

2,500 jobs.

In lieu of providing summer jobs, employers can make a tax deductible \$2,500 donation to sponsor a subsidized youth to work at a non-profit organization, and/or become vendor at a job or career fair.

To sign up, employers should visit hirehoustonyouth.org and create an employer account.

In addition to participating in Hire Houston Youth, young people will have the chance to seek employment by participating in summer job and career fairs at City of Houston multi-service centers, Lone Star College - Victory campus, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston Food Bank, and other locations. Voter registration and resources for youth and families will be on site.

RAIN REPORT 2018

RAIN REPORT 2018 2018 was an average year, with rainfall a total of 26.87 inches less than 2017. Total rainfall in 2017 was about heavy due to Hurricane Harvey in August. No similar events happened in 2018.



Letha Strouhal Star-Courier Rain Monitor

RAIN REPORT Highlands, Texas JULY 2018. Table with columns Day, JUL, and Year to Date 26.78.

RAIN REPORT Highlands, Texas AUGUST 2018. Table with columns Day, AUG, and Year to Date 29.76.

RAIN REPORT Highlands, Texas SEPTEMBER 2018. Table with columns Day, SEP, and Year to Date 41.71.

RAIN REPORT Highlands, Texas OCTOBER 2018. Table with columns Day, OCT, and Year to Date 47.90.

RAIN REPORT Highlands, Texas NOVEMBER 2018. Table with columns Day, NOV, and Year to Date 52.91.

RAIN REPORT Highlands, Texas DECEMBER 2018. Table with columns Day, DEC, and Year to Date 89.72 inches.

Brain Minders Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Barbers Hill Elementary South Helmet Winners Group 1: Shelby King, Allie Richardson, Kenley Brumley, Sianna Chavez, Foster Robbins, Keila Cavazos, Grace Griffis, Samantha Romero, Mason Harrison, and Annalise Fagala.

(IMG 0763aa) Barbers Hill Elementary South Helmet Winners group 2: Cannon Wampler, Trent Robbins, Jakson Regian, Zoey Tittle, Ava Gonzales, Julian Valdez, JayDen Lopez, Harper Fitzgerald, Emily Hall and Dago Bodily.

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

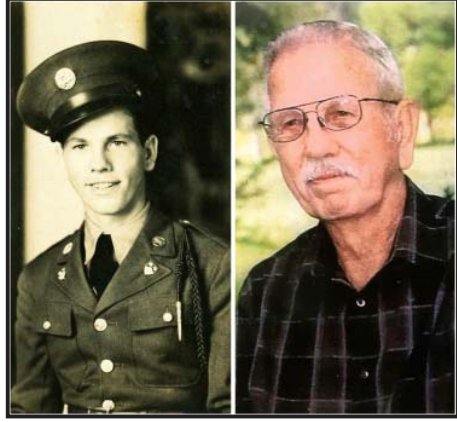
★  
**OBITUARIES**

**John Calvin Aylor**

John Calvin Aylor passed away peacefully at his home on January 23, 2019 surrounded by his loving family, with his faithful dog Abby on his lap. Known as J.C., John was born on January 31, 1919 in Rollett, TX to Rollan Jack Aylor and Ada Lona Davis Aylor. A true child of the Depression and the Dust Bowl, J.C. related many stories of his family migrating from farm to farm in the 1920's around Texas to pick cotton, fruit, or other crops to earn a living. As a young man he worked for many years at the fig farms in Highlands, at the starting wage of 15 cents an hour.

J.C. joined the Army on January 15, 1940 as a corporal in the 2nd Division (Indianhead), 23rd Infantry, Company M. He and his sweetheart Olga Matula were married on October 5, 1942 while J.C. was on weekend leave in Houston, and the Army shipped him overseas in October of 1943. He was proud to have been part of the D-Day invasion that landed on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944. He went on to fight the Germans in the French hedgerows of towns like Brest and Bayeux, and in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and France. He was honorably discharged after Axis defeat as a Staff Sergeant on August 17, 1945 and came back to Baytown and went to work for Humble Oil in the Research and Development Department, retiring as a Maintenance Supervisor from Exxon on June 1, 1980. He made full use of his 39 years of retirement, enjoying his family and friends, weddings and anniversaries, playing softball, traveling, hunting, and fishing. He also related his war stories to anyone who asked, and revisited Normandy Beach later in life, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

J.C. was the storyteller of the family, and loved sitting on the back porch talking about growing up in the Depression, the hardships his family endured, all with the purpose of conveying the lessons of history. He was an honest man, a sincere man. He had a quality to be found in many men of the Greatest Generation. He was very skilled in everything:



plumbing, carpentry, electrical, roofing, you name it; he did not believe in throwing things away if he could fix it, saying "you've got to get the right tool for the job." He was also famous for his pot of pinto beans, homemade blueberry wine, sausage, and jerky.

Life-long residents of Highlands, J.C. and Olga raised their three children here, and J.C. was always proud of his children's accomplishments and loved providing a good life for them in the years after WW2. In his retirement, he loved watching his grandsons play baseball and taking them hunting and fishing, and those memories they will cherish. J.C.'s wife Olga is a lifelong member of St. Jude's Catholic Church in Highlands, and in 2014 J.C. was baptized, with his daughter and grandson serving as godparents.

John Calvin Aylor is survived by his loving wife of 76 years, Olga Marie Aylor of Highlands, daughters Barbara May of Highlands and Jo Ann Fowles (Raymond) of New Braunfels. He was preceded in death by his late son, Michael Calvin Aylor and his four brothers, Dock Oswald Aylor, O. B. Aylor, Joe Aylor and Roy Lee (Buddy) Aylor. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Gregory May (Charlene) of Baytown, Russell Brenner (Jackie) of Katy, Cassandra Mickel (Jefferson) of Austin, Johnathon Aylor (Christine) of Houston, and Ian Aylor (fiancée Brie) of El Lago. John is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, Mackenzie May, Emilee Herring, Reese Brenner, Hatfield Mickel, Augustus Mickel, Gage Aylor, Ada Aylor,

and his newest great-grandchild John Calvin Aylor II. Survivors include his daughter-in-law Wanda Aylor Wingo, brother-in-law Jerome Matula (Evelyn), sister-in-law Martha Schwartz, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Friday February 8, 2019 at 5:00 pm with rosary following at 7:00 pm at Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Road, Highlands, TX. A funeral mass will be held at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, 800 South Main Street, Highlands, TX at 10:00 am on February 9, 2019. Interment will follow at San Jacinto Cemetery, 14659 East Freeway (I-10).

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses on the 2 East Wing of Baytown Methodist Hospital and the staff at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center for their tender loving care of John. They would also like to thank the Harbor Hospice staff for helping make his last few days comfortable. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Disabled American Veterans Charity, or to St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church in Highlands.

Pallbearers: Greg May and Russell Brenner  
Honorary Pallbearers: Johnathon Aylor, Ian Aylor, Ed Sheffield, Aubrey Barrow, Jerry Taylor, William Barrow, Dewey Higginbotham, Dick Moore, Bob Kelly and Leo Rizzuto.

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**HIGHLANDS HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**



**Highlands State Bank Opening and first Miss Highlands Contest - 1956 - Winner Teresa Keyes, Runner-Up Sandra Dunaway. (Bank located at southwest corner of North Main and Wallisville).**

-Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Wotipka Boland.

**BIBLE TRIVIA**

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
2. From Song of Solomon 8, what is so powerful that many waters cannot quench it? Hope, Love, Salvation, Peace

3. Thorns and what else grew from the ground that God cursed after Adam and Eve's sins? Vines, Ivy, Thistles, Weeds  
4. According to Paul, in hardships Christians are "more than" what? Friends, Conquerors, Warriors, Innkeepers  
5. From Luke 19, what

town was home to Zacchaeus? Jericho, Tarsus, Thessalonica, Corinth  
6. How many sons did Isaac have? 2, 4, 6, 8

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Love; 3) Thistles; 4) Conquerors; 5) Jericho; 6) 2 (Esau and Jacob)

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can move  
**MOUNTAINS**  
Matthew 17:20

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I Corinthians 13:8

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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

*In order to be the best, you have to be willing to give the best.*

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## Presidents Day

At one time, England ruled 13 colonies on the eastern part of North America. Each colony had its own government and ran things its own way. To create unity and keep the peace, the Continental Congress was formed, and a few men from each colony went there to discuss things and find answers. They complained to England about many problems. But, when those problems were not fixed, fighting began between the colonies and England. Armed colonists were brought together by the Congress to form an army, the first military group serving all of the colonies.

Colonel George Washington was named commander-in-chief of all the armed forces who would fight for freedom (1775). Washington also had a small Navy to stop British ships that brought supplies to America. When the war ended, so did the small, brave Navy. But, years later, as president of the new United States of America, Washington launched a permanent U.S. Navy.

Read the clues to fill in the crossword about George Washington:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. was our country's _____ president   | 10. was a great _____ during the American Revolution                       |
| 2. was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, _____                   | 11. defeated the _____ army at the Battle of Yorktown                      |
| 3. had no middle _____   | 12. was the only President not to live in the _____ House                  |
| 4. had 9 _____, 4 were half-brothers and sisters                                 | 13. would not allow anyone to refer to him as any kind of royalty or _____ |
| 5. was over 6 _____ tall, which was rare   | 14. was well-known for being _____   |
| 6. his favorite _____ was fox hunting  | 15. was retired for less than 3 years when he died of a _____ infection    |
| 7. when young, worked as a surveyor – a person who _____ out the borders of land |  |
| 8. was married to _____ Custis in 1759   |  |
| 9. had no _____ of his own, but helped raise his wife's two children             |  |

maps children throat name first L Virginia siblings hobby Martha White feet A British honest

Begin at the star above (number one) and follow the dots to see a famous silhouette!

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### LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 472329: Estate of JAMES DONALD HASTEN. Deceased: In Probate Court No. 1, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on January 30, 2019

**PATTI KAY HASTEN**  
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:  
c/o Weston Cotten  
5223 Garth Rd.  
Baytown, TX  
77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this February 6, 2019

by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

### LEGAL NOTICE

"Proposals for RFP 19-003 Armored Courier Services will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Friday, March 8, 2019 @ 2:30 PM CST. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Brooke Lakner, Director of Purchasing at 832-386-1008 or on our website: <http://galenaparkisd.com>. The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

**LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR IN THE HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR. CALL 713-266-3444 FOR MORE INFO.**

### RENT/LEASE

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### CHARITY

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### EVENTS

**San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Feb. 7-24.** For entertainment lineup and tickets, go to [sarodeo.com](http://sarodeo.com). 210-225-5851.

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Who Are We? Navy Marines

President Franklin

Presidents Day



## I-10 Bridge,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this newspaper that an investigation was underway, but did not have details on the cause of the collision at this time. Aerial photos on TV news showed the barge and a tug boat standing by just south of the highway.

Environmentalists such as Jackie Young of the San Jacinto River Coalition, expressed concern that workers repairing the damaged pier might be exposed to toxins from the nearby waste pits, which occur on both the north and south sides of the highway. She also said that the occurrence of a barge out of control was another reason why the waste pits needed totally removed from the river.

On Tuesday, at first TxDOT allowed westbound motorists to proceed in two lanes, one the regular right lane and the other the shoulder. Then they totally closed the road for several hours, while they restriped the lanes to create two regular lanes. They indicated that this will be

the condition until repairs are made. An estimate of time for repairs was not available, TxDOT said, until engineers and contractors sign an agreement in several days. It is expected that this work will take weeks, perhaps months, to complete if a new pier with underwater foundation is required.

TxDOT indicated that they have a traffic division that is working to alleviate some of the jams. Harris County Pct. 2 indicated that they are not in a position to help, and it is a TxDOT responsibility, but they said they expect the westbound ramp at Four Corners to re-open soon.

Alternate routes, such as Highway 225 to the south, and US90 to the north are being recommended to avoid traffic. The county also considered expanding service on the Lynchburg Ferry, but this has not happened yet.

Motorists are advised to check each morning with Transtar and TV for updates on traffic problems.

## FM 2100 Widening,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

road closed and traffic from the north will be detoured from Hare Cook Rd. east to south on Miller-Wilson and then back west on Hare Road.

Most construction of new roadway will be on the east side of the existing roadway however it seems that the some right of way changes are to be on the west side in the segment just north of North Diamondhead straightening that curve.

South Diamondhead Blvd. is to become a construction area a series of detours including Live Oak, Newport Blvd. and Port O'Call will be used as detours.

Hare Cook will also eventually become a construction area using Sundown Meadows as detour. Gum Gully Road for some time will

become a construction road detours involving W. Stroker Rd. Heathergate Lane will become a construction area using Indian Shores and Honey Dale as detour. Indian Shores Rd. will become a construction area using Honey Dale and Heatherate Lane as detour. Each of these detours will be foremarked by portable message signs at least seven days prior to closure.

The last Crosby Project financed by the Texas Legislature was the project to widen FM 2100 from Antelope to

FM 1960; however, that project will now bid construction in July 2019. More details are to follow concerning this project when available.

One attorney had advised a client to ask the state to simply give him in exchange a business front on FM 2100 as he has before construction including building afterwards and he would ask no monetary remuneration. Seems reasonable.

Changes are coming for Main St. in Crosby and for the residents that must drive these roads.

## Sand Mining

Continued from Page 1

The implication is that flooding relocated sand and dumped it where it increased the tendency to flood neighborhoods because the river was not able to handle as much as it might otherwise have been able to hold.

Miners of sand point out that they had no loss of sand from their locations and that sand holes may have even held back some of the water.

Academics are found to weigh in all over the place to say what might be responsible for increased flooding.

## San Jacinto River Superfund Site,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has been working with residents to oppose a dredging permit that would remove sediment from a shoreline area just west of the Waste Pits, and send it to a landfill in Beach City. With the help of Congressman Brian Babin, and a concerted effort of petitions and letters, the coalition has been able to get a reprieve from the project and its environmental dangers.

The petitioner, Holtmar Land LLC, has told the Corps of Engineers that it would like to withdraw its request to dredge the material in the River, and deposit it in Beach City. The Corps announced on Feb. 8 that the permit had been cancelled.

However, Young pointed out that the petitioner still wants to remove the material and deposit it on another site they own, probably off River Road in Channelview. There will probably be another battle from the residential neighborhood to stop this.

The permit application stated that Holtmar planned to dredge 31,000 cu. yards of material, and transport it by barge to the landfill. It would truck the material to the site from the barge, which would take about 2,200 truckloads, according to Young. On Monday, Beach City Mayor Jackie Lasater was able to announce that the Corps had officially notified him that the permit had been cancelled, at the

request of Holtmar Land. Lasater had spearheaded the opposition to the proposal to use Beach City as the landfill site, and had an ordinance passed by council that barred any dumping.

Now the San Jacinto River Coalition must face the possibility that Holtmar will try to continue the project and dump the dredged material on a site they own in Channelview, in the River Bottom area of River Road. Court records show that Holtmar Land owns 12 properties in that general area, and it is known that they have approached some residents to get their permission to use the sites for landfill.

Young urged the audiences at her meetings to follow developments on a new website, [www.SanJacDredgeSpoil.com](http://www.SanJacDredgeSpoil.com).

**EPA NOT RESPONSIVE**  
Young pointed out that during the recent shutdown of the government, she and the public were unable to reach anyone at EPA offices, to discuss the permit problems or to report any further infractions in the San Jacinto River site area.

EPA workers were not only not in their offices, but they were prohibited from taking calls on their cell phones out of the office.

She cautioned that since the primary contact for toxic waste was not available, she recommended reporting to the Harris

County Pollution Control department. She expressed concern that federal offices faced another potential shutdown after Feb. 15, according to President Trump.

**ANOTHER PERMIT**  
The San Jacinto River Coalition has been advised of another permit request, that will affect the area immediately adjacent to the Superfund Waste Pits site.

San Jacinto River Fleet, which maintains an office next to the site, and cleans and stores dozens of barges that are anchored in the river near the Superfund site, has requested a permit for "Construction and Maintenance on Existing Docking Facilities."

Their permit application, available on the COE website, shows work on rebuilding a dock on the East Bank, in Highlands, and other work around the mooring sites in the river.

Some of this work is in an area known as the Sand Separation Area, and is within the boundaries set by EPA as part of the Superfund Site.

Young questions whether adequate precautions will be taken not to disturb any toxic waste material during this construction, and if so, who to report it to if the government is shut down.

The Corps of Engineers is requesting comments on this application, but has set a deadline of Feb. 14.

## Sheriff's Office to help kids of incarcerated

**HARRIS COUNTY** – Somehow in an effort to find justice, a well meaning society seems to be most punitious to those that have done the least injustice.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office and Texas Children's Hospital have partnered to win a grant from the National Institute of Corrections to make the Harris County Jail more child friendly. Experts are visiting the jail this week to make suggestions in areas that include enhancing the inmate visitation experience for children and train-

ing jail staff on how to positively interact with visiting children.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and Nancy Correa, Senior Community Initiatives Coordinator for Public Health and Primary Care at Texas Children's Hospital are spearheading a new program for the children of those in local jails making assessments of the kid's needs.

Some key findings of the needs assessment include:  
• Seven percent of all Harris County children have a parent who spends time in the county jail each year.


• Half of Harris County Jail inmates have at least one child under the age of 18.  
• Nearly two-thirds (61 percent) of incarcerated parents provided all or most of the financial support for their children before being jailed.

Over the past year, the Sheriff's Office conducted a needs assessment on children with incarcerated parents with Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas Medical Branch. The assessment was funded by the Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute.



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## Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber to host Gala

It is time again for the annual Installation and Community Awards Banquet of the Highlands Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce.

This year the ceremonies are to be held at Monument Inn on Thursday,

February 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Individual Tickets and sponsor levels are available. The Chamber asks that would be sponsors and ticket buyers write them via email to [highlandschamber@verizon.net](mailto:highlandschamber@verizon.net)






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We have been creating fun...    ...Valentine cards for our classmates!

# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Animilis LLC © 2019 V11-5

We've taken out all of our colored pencils, markers and crayons to design our Valentine's Day cards. We are using art supplies we have around the house to make cards and adding little items like buttons, lace or stickers to make them interesting. You can, too!

glitter
poems
blue envelopes

1. paper trim with fancy designs
2. sweets
3. feeling
4. red + white
5. month
6. Roman god of love
7. rhyming words
8. Saint
9. pair of small parrots
10. when people care about each other
11. roses, daisies
12. symbol of love; pumps blood
13. paper messages
14. a gathering of friends
15. ruby-colored

scissors
paper

## Valentine's Day!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle using the words inside the dot-dot:

friendship

February

love

poetry

cards

party

lace

heart

Cupid

red

What Did Cupid Do?

lovebirds

flowers

pink

Valentine

candy

To see what Cupid did with his bow and arrow, start at #1 where the heart is and follow the other numbered hearts.