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Artist's Showcase:



24x30 oil on canvas by mei hoffman
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VOL. 66, NO. 05- 50¢ © Copyright 2019 THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Crosby Firefighters recognized for heroics

These stories in the PRESS:

- Toxic Landfill disposal site
- Honoring local heroes
- Baytown Crime Stoppers honors original Board Members
-And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

SAT., FEB. 2 BRAS FOR THE CAUSE

A fundraiser for breast cancer patients, to be held at the Southern Lakes Estate in Crosby.

SAT., FEB. 9 VALENTINE'S GALA Campaign Fundraiser for Sherman Eagle-ton Black Tie, Jeans and Boots dinner and presentations contact Ricky Larkin at 281-726-2842 for tickets, info.

TUE., FEB. 12 CANCER SEMINAR Free Cancer Education Seminar at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, 6-7 pm, 4021 Garth Rd., Conference Room, Baytown, TX 77521.

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.

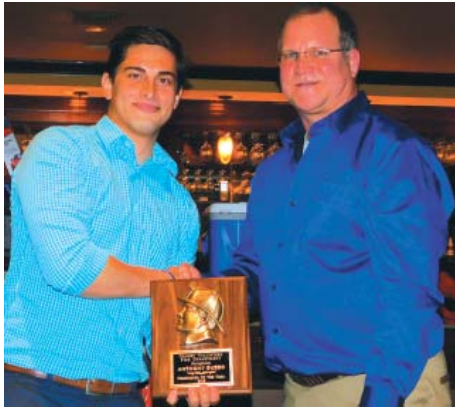
BIRTHDAYS
 Jan 31-Aida Valle
 Feb 2-Lisa Dammon
 Donny Herman
 Melissa Miley
 Feb 3-David Buford
 Sammy Covey, Jr.
 Feb 4-Harry New
 Andy Scott
 Chris West
 Mike Getlemy
 Feb 5-Angi Boudreaux
 Kyle McCain
 Geraldine Krampota
 Judy Powell
 John Mouton
 Feb 6-Josina Hovater
 Tori Brumfield

DEATHS
 Patricia Ann Mattingly
 Ruby Ethel Fawcett
 Cory Glynn Chesser

CROSBY - At the 2019 Crosby Volunteer Fire Awards a series of heroics were recognized depicted in this article.

According to Randy Foster of ESD 80, next week an inspection will be performed on a new Tanker 83, the department finally got a check for their services from FEMA for work during Hurricane Harvey, the project was closed out last November. Foster noted the accomplishment of lowered response times this past year.

The department reports lower injuries in 2018. Reports show new gear is becoming available to help firefighters deal more effectively and safely with possible heat prostration.



2018 Firefighter of the Year, □Anthony Guzzo receives the Firefighter of the Yera Award from Chief Alan Kulak.



2018 Officer of the Year, Russell White presented by Chief Alan Kulak.

See FIREFIGHTERS, Page 7

ROTARY CHILI FEAST THIS SATURDAY



Last Year's winners of the Chili Feast raffle were Steve and Linda Miller, seen above with Chairman John Seaton and a new Camaro. The Camaro or a Equinox SUV are the prize this year.

The Rotary Club in Highlands is preparing for its 44th Annual Chili Feast, Raffle and Auction, an event popular in the community for its good food, neighborly reunions, and the award of a new car or truck to the winner of the raffle.

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 2 starting at 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Chili Feast takes place in the social hall of St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 S.

See Chili Feast, Page 6

Protect Your Health:
 Cancer prevention, early detection and benefits of infusion therapy

Free Cancer Education Seminar at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Join our expert medical hematologist/oncologist, Cesar De Las Casas, MD, MPH, to learn more about cancer prevention and early detection, including:

- Risks
- Diagnosis
- Treatment options
- Proactive screenings and prevention

Cesar De Las Casas, MD, MPH
 Hematologist/Oncologist

Tuesday, Feb. 12 | 6-7 p.m.

Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown
 4021 Garth Rd., Conference Room
 Baytown, TX 77521

Registration required. To register for this event, visit houstonmethodist.org/events or call 281.428.2273.

HOUSTON Methodist BAYTOWN HOSPITAL

Major wreck hits near Middle School

CROSBY - Two unrelated accidents occurred back to back beginning at about 6:48 a.m. and another at about 8:00 a.m. in the 14,700 block of Main Street, about one block north of the Crosby Middle School on Tuesday, January 29.

The first was a roll-over accident that required Life Flight helicopter when a black sedan was involved in a collision with a black minivan. The sedan landed upside down on the side of the road.

The second accident, at the same location just after the first had been cleared by First Responders, also had one adult taken to the hospital by HCESD#5, the ambulance service for Crosby.

Crosby ISD had no word of anyone associated with the school being involved with either crash.

Harris County Sheriff's Traffic Investigators were still reviewing the case at press time and their determination of what exactly happened has not been concluded.

Crosby Middle School and Crosby High School are near the intersection of Krenek Road and along the path of both local traffic and traffic in route to major destinations including Houston, Baytown and Mont Belvieu where millions of individuals work. Those that remember the intersection of US 90 near Krenek and Runneburg Roads before the overpasses were installed will remember the touching between local traffic and heavy big city traffic required extra vigilance for driver's safety, the presence of schools makes it more imperative to be extra safe.

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Pct.2 distributes food during government shutdown

HARRIS COUNTY PCT. 2 – During the current federal government shutdown, veterans and federal employees impacted were able to get food baskets and resource guides at two Food Fairs held at Precinct 2 community centers.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia partnered with the Food Bank to provide drive-thru style support at the Northeast Community Center, and East Harris County Activity Center. Garcia said the event will repeat in the future if necessary.



Commissioner Garcia helps load food into an employee's car.



Precinct 2 staff turned out last Friday morning to help distribute the food.

Houston asks Feds for \$50 M. for 10 new flood gates on Lake Houston



The existing flood gates consist of two radial gates used to release high volumes of water and two flashboard gates to accurately affect water levels on Lake Houston.

HOUSTON The mayor and city council members agree that the most important flood prevention program in the Lake Houston Area is their request of \$50 Million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to add ten gates to the Lake Houston Dam.

Last year the City of Houston submitted grant applications for about \$50 Million dollars to the Texas Department of Emergency Management to ask FEMA for a grant to begin the work on installation of the flood gates. The Texas agency approved the request and the paper work went on through channels to FEMA. If FEMA approves, and as yet no response has been heard from the Federal agency, work could begin within months.

The 10 new gates would in effect allow the City of Houston to release water at a much higher rate prior to heavy rain, storms or emergency events. It would give the City of Houston more leeway to control lake levels. According to Matt Zeve, Harris County Flood Control District Chief Operations Officer, the new gates could "act as a flood control mechanism."


Currently, other than the four gates there is a long spillway that overruns when the lake floods.

"This potential project is a major modification of the operation and purpose of Lake Houston," said Zeve.

When Lake Houston was built in 1954 the sole purpose was to create a reservoir to provide for water for residents. However, since that time Lake Houston has fulfilled many useful purposes for local residents. At creation four flood gates were made to regulate water levels.

An engineering firm, Freese and Nichols had certified that with the four gates Lake Houston could release 10,000 cubic feet per second. Obviously, with ten gates it could release water much faster.

Previously, in response to Hurricane Harvey and other flooding events was to lower lake levels by two feet or more. The four gates are two radial gates used to release high volumes of water and two flash board gates to regulate the lake level according to the amounts of water coming from other sources.



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE



HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PCT. 3 SHERMAN EAGLETON

Valentines Gala

Saturday, February 9, 2019
South Shore Harbour
2500 South Shore Boulevard,
League City, TX 77573
Dinner – 7:00PM
Reception – 8:30 To 12:00AM
Affire: Black Tie, Blue Jeans and Boots

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Major Rick Larkin -281-726-2842
or Lt. Walter Gant - 713-516-8029

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019

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

ROUND-UP

Dayton Chamber of Commerce Banquet

Dayton Chamber of Commerce is preparing for an evening honoring outstanding citizens and enjoying live salsa dancers. The Chamber thanks each one of you for your support throughout the past year and we are looking forward to a new year full of networking and growth.

At the banquet they will have a silent auction and will be seeking donations for any items to put in baskets or single items. Your name will be presented on the bid item form. Here is a list to help you get an idea, whatever you want to donate is greatly appreciated.

- Restaurant gift cards
- Essential oils
- Candles
- Jewelry
- Spa day packages or spa type items
- Knives, bows for hunting, a gun
- BBQ pits
- Ice chest
- Beach themed items
- Art work
- Valentine's day is coming up - a basket for that
- Wine or cheese basket
- Movie night basket
- Movie Tickets
- Purses & wallets
- Local brewery tours
- Sunset or harbor cruises
- Museum tickets
- Comedy night tickets
- Live Theater Tickets
- Hot air balloon rides
- Outdoor activities (hiking, kayaking, bungee jumping)
- Theme park tickets

Dayton Chamber of Commerce, 936-257-2393.
www.daytonchamber.com

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 6, Animal Tales
- February 13, Bee My Valentine
- February 20, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

The center is located at 1724 Market Street.

Beach City Residents continue concern about disposal site in their Neighborhood *City Passes Ordinance to prohibit toxic landfill*

On January 15, 2019 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a "Public Notice" regarding the proposed dredging in the San Jacinto River. The notice described the disposal site as a tract in Beach City, even though the developer, Holtmar Land LLC, had promised the city they would amend the request from the USACE and find another site not in Beach City.

Concerned that the notice did not reflect a new site, Beach City passed an ordinance prohibiting the dumping of toxic waste at the site proposed along McCollum Park Road, with a \$2000 per day penalty if violated.

Further action was taken by Mayor Jackey Lasater, who wrote the following letter to the Corps of Engineers and shared it with the residents of Beach City in a newsletter:

"I will share with you my letter to USACE and I urge those that have not written a letter yet to please do so asap. We must continue to prepare for the worst case scenario until the permit is actually amended in our favor.

1-21-2019
Re: file #SWG-2015-00855

Dear Mr. Bader, My name is Jackey Lasater and I am writing in response to the above referenced permit request. As Mayor of Beach City, I urge you to consider the numerous issues that I/we have in the proposed placement

of contaminated dredge material from the area of concern located in proximity of the Federal Superfund site in the San Jacinto River near Highlands Texas.

1) The permit request documentation that is posted on the US Army Corp of Engineers website includes a letter to you from the TCEQ, dated August 25, 2016 that concludes "Based on sample results, dredged material, not to exceed the volume cited in the permit application, shall be placed in a hazardous waste landfill or an upland confined disposal area." I think common sense would dictate that any material that is considered worthy by the EPA to be placed in a hazardous waste landfill, should not be placed in a residential neighborhood adjacent to a family park where children play, picnic, fish and many other family activities.

2) The documents that were submitted in July 2017 to you by Enercon were a bit deceptive regarding the proposed Beach City DMPA location description. They failed to mention in their Project Location Report that the eastern border of the Holtmar property is shared by McCullum Park as described above. The Aerial photograph of the Beach City site (labeled: Figure 13) is now outdated. The western property line is shared with a residence now. The legend for Figure 13 calls for fiberglass panel walls along the perimeter of the property, without allowing for required construction setbacks. The aesthetics of this type of structure in a neighborhood where families exert a lot of effort and expense to maintain an attractive neighborhood would be unacceptable.



PROPOSED DISPOSAL SITE is near a residential area to the north, and McCollum Park is adjacent. The 3.5 acre disposal site is outlined above.

3) This location is approximately 800' from Trinity Bay. All runoff from rain events that don't go into neighbors' yards or McCullum park will go into Trinity Bay quickly. Especially during a major rain event of which this area is very prone to as you know. Trinity Bay is home to a number of commercial oyster reefs and marine life that depends on us to not take unnecessary risks. There are safer location options for this material. This location is also vulnerable to major hurri-

cane storm surge as we saw with Hurricane Ike. The negative impact on natural water flow during rain events will exacerbate flooding in the Barrow Ranch subdivision that already has issues with street flooding during heavy rainfall events.

4) All citizens in Beach City are on ground water, most have private wells. The risk of contaminating our ground water with toxins such as Dioxins is a risk, no matter how small, that should not be forced on the citizens of Beach City.

5) The proposed method of delivery of the dredge material is via dump trucks. The Holtmar property is located near the end of McCullum park Rd. Estimates of over 2,200 dump truck loads traveling down a narrow residential street

that is frequently used by joggers, walkers, and children walking to friends houses or the park. Although the speed limit is 35MPH, reality is that the temptation to speed by dump truck drivers that are getting paid by the load will prevail often. This is a recipe for disaster that can and must be avoided. This many dump trucks using this residential road will most surely cause damage to the surface that will have to be repaired at the expense of the tax payers.

6) Finally, the one issue that will most assuredly happen immediately if this dredge material is placed at this location. Property values, especially those hundreds of homes in proximity of the site, will be negatively affected. These homeowners do not deserve to have, probably their largest investment, devalued so that someone else can profit.

In summary, there are many environmental, humanitarian, logistic and financial reasons to deny the requested permit. I pray that you will strongly consider the merit of the issues I have presented and deny the permit request.

I also wish to request a public hearing on this matter. I know you have received many letters already but there are many more that would like to be heard but for whatever reason have trouble writing letters.

Sincerely,
Jackey Lasater
Mayor Beach City, TX

Baytown Crime Stoppers honors original Board Members



Campus Crime Stoppers sponsors receive gift cards at the recent Sponsor Appreciation Banquet for their work in the schools. Pictured are (from left) Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent; Enrique DeLeon, Robert E. Lee High School; Sarah Capestani, Gentry Junior; Peggy Cayton, Cedar Bayou Junior; Officer Randell Morris; Ditzorsha Jefferson-Lavon, Goose Creek Memorial High School; Leanne Leslie, Gentry Junior; Sam Laird, GCM; M.J. Nolan, Horace Mann Junior; Chief Keith Dougherty; Shonda James, GCM; Melanie Eastman, Horace Mann Junior; Jody Roberts and Steven Denton, Ross S. Sterling High School; and Randy Casey, BCS Board chair.

By Susan Passmore

With a 1980s theme, the recent Baytown Crime Stoppers Sponsor Appreciation Banquet honored the Baytown Crime Stoppers original board members from March 1981 along with the Lavon Heintschel Award winner and the Goose Creek CISD campus sponsors.

Special guests were original Baytown Crime Stoppers Board members Jay Eshbach (treasurer), Jim Ferris, Dottie Tickner, Geraldine Vara and Glen Walker, who were presented with a crystal award for their role in starting the successful program. Mayor Brandon Capetillo, who pre-

sented a proclamation to Casey designating January 2019 as Baytown Crime Stoppers Month in Baytown, and Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randal O'Brien also were recognized as special guests.

Other members of the original board were Leon Brown, R.K. Carter, Towson Ellis, Bob Gillette, Wayne Gray (vice chairman), Clyde Messiah, Dr. Nofal Musfy, Jess Navarre, Don Northrup, Joy Ralls (secretary), Peggy Ruth-erford, Ron Smith, Jack Strickler, Lanell Stuart, Charles Tillery (chairman), and Hugh Wood.

All 21 original members are listed on a plaque that will hang on the Wall of Honor in the Baytown Crime Stoppers meeting room.

Randy Casey, Crime Stoppers board chair, welcomed guests, and original board member Walker, who traveled from Durango, Colorado, gave the invocation.

"The first call with a tip was received on March 28, 1981. The first arrest from a Baytown Crime Stopper tip was made on April

Honoring Local Heroes



Mayes Middleton for State Representative honored Chambers County Sheriff's Deputies Braedon Boznango and Carlton Carrington during the West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce Gala. Deputies Carrington and Boznango selflessly and unhesitatingly risked their own lives to save a man trapped in a burning vehicle following a car crash. They are true American heroes and examples for us all.

22, 1981, by Detective Gene Sutton. The report describing the offense read, "Henry Silas Killian III was charged with felony theft in connection with the Saturday night theft of 38 rabbits from Leola Greer's yard," Strong said.

The year 1981 ended with 85 tips, 16 arrests \$15,000 recovered narcotics/property/cash and \$1,950 in rewards paid. At the end of December 2018, since the inception of the program, Baytown Crime Stoppers has received 12,068 tips, made 2,058 arrests, recovered \$3,585,762 in narcotics/property/cash and paid \$574,327 in rewards.

Wayne Hanson, Baytown Crime Stoppers Board member since 2005, having served as chair for four years and vice chair for five years, received the Lavon F. Heintschel Award, named for the long-time board member who passed away in 2011. Hanson was a member

of the Campus Crime Stoppers Committee from 2006-2013, chairing it from 2011-2013, and he initiated the Sponsor Appreciation Dinner in 2007, chairing it for eight consecutive years. He was presented with a framed certificate, and his name has been added to the perpetual plaque on the Wall of Honor with that of Janet Sibley, the first and the only other recipient of the Lavon F. Heintschel Award. Sibley, a member of the Baytown Crime Stoppers Board for 29 years and current secretary, also received a framed certificate.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

Babin continues fighting for federal contractors, urges colleagues to treat federal employees and contractors equitably

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement on the ongoing fight to ensure federal contractors receive backpay. Earlier this month, Babin joined Rep. Bill Posey (FL-8) in a letter to leaders of the House Appropriations Committee requesting the Committee provide equitable treatment for contract employees in crafting appropriations bills to open government agencies. Unlike civil servants, government contractors have not traditionally received back-pay and benefits upon reopening the federal government.

"I have voted for and the President has signed into

law legislation protecting civil servants, but we must make sure the same security is provided to contractors," said Babin. "As things stand, our contractors will not receive backpay for time missed during the shutdown. These contractors and their families are facing the same hardships as our civil servants, and we must do what we can to return them to work and treat them equitably. I will continue doing all I can for both our federal employees and contractors and working to bring all sides to the negotiating table to fully fund our government and critical border security needs."

Congressman Dan Crenshaw named to Budget and Homeland Security Committees

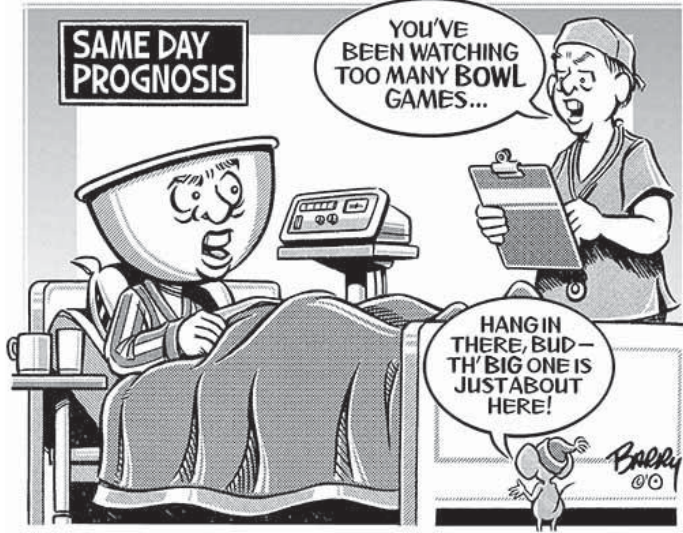
WASHINGTON, D.C. — January 23, 2019 - Congressman Dan Crenshaw released the following statement after he was appointed to the House Budget and Homeland Security Committees:

"These committee assignments will be a great asset in serving Texas's Second Congressional District. As a member of the Budget Committee, I will tirelessly make the case that we must address our out of control spending. I'm excited to advocate for fiscal responsibility at every turn.

"Texans are always concerned about the effective-

ness of our border security. This will be a top priority for me on the Homeland Security Committee. Also among my top priorities is ensuring Houstonians get the necessary relief funding to allow us to fully recover from Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, this Committee plays a vital role in important issues impacting the Greater Houston area including port security, aviation safety, and counterterrorism.

"I look forward to working to improve America's national security, deliver much needed relief funding and defend our budget from crippling tax and spend policies."



Senate Finance panel starts work on state budget

AUSTIN — Jane Nelson, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, on Jan. 22 said she would follow an aggressive agenda to deliver a budget ready for floor debate by the end of February.

"There are a lot of things this committee and the full Senate will decide to add, subtract, change, before we actually recommend out of this committee a budget," she said. At the top of the list are school finance and property tax relief.

Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has chaired the powerful committee for three consecutive sessions. On Jan. 15, Nelson filed Senate Bill 1, a base budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, and scheduled daily meetings for the panel to consider the particulars that go into a document that typically exceeds 1,000 pages in length.

Important in the budget-writing process is the state comptroller's revenue estimate, an amount based on economic indicators and models that predict how much

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

revenue the state will collect over the next two fiscal years. That number also serves as a constitutional cap on spending; the legislature cannot appropriate more in spending than the comptroller forecasts in revenue.

Comptroller Glenn Hegar estimated just over \$119 billion would be available in general non-dedicated revenue — nearly \$7 billion more than the \$112.2 billion in the Senate's base budget — in the upcoming fiscal biennium.

Speaker names committees

House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, after weeks of meetings with individual members, on Jan. 23 announced committee assignments for the 86th Texas Legislature and named Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, as speaker pro tempore.

Chairs and vice chairs are as follows:

- Agriculture & Livestock: Drew Springer, R-Muenster, and Charles "Doc" Anderson, R-Waco;
- Appropriations: John Zerwas, R-Richmond, and Oscar Longoria, D-La Feria;
- Business & Industry: Trey Martinez-Fischer, D-San Antonio, and Drew Darby, R-San Angelo;
- Calendars: Four Price, R-Amarillo, and Joe Moody;
- Corrections: James White, R-Hillister, and Alma Allen, D-Houston;
- County Affairs: Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, and Dwayne Bohac, R-Houston;
- Criminal Jurisprudence: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth, and Bill Zedler, R-Arlington;
- Culture, Recreation & Tourism: John Cyrrier, R-Bastrop, and Armando Martinez, D-Weslaco;
- Defense & Veterans' Affairs: Dan Flynn, R-Canton, and Tony Tinderholt, R-Fort Worth;
- Elections: Stephanie Klick, R-North Richland Hills, and Philip Cortez, D-San Antonio;
- Energy Resources: Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, and Abel Herrero, D-Robstown;
- Environmental Regulation: J.M. Lozano, R-Kingsville, and Ed Thompson, R-Pearland;
- General Investigating: Morgan Meyer, R-Dallas, and Nicole Collier;
- Higher Education: Chris Turner, D-Arlington, and Lynn Stucky, R-Sanger;
- Homeland Security & Public Safety: Poncho Nevarez, D-Eagle Pass, and Dennis Paul, R-Webster;
- House Administration: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, and Donna Howard, D-Austin;
- Human Services: James Frank, R-Wichita Falls, and Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin;
- Insurance: Eddie Lucio III, D-San Benito, and Tom Oliverson, R-Houston;
- International Relations & Economic Development: Rafael Anchia, R-Dallas, and John Frullo, R-Lubbock;
- Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence: Jeff Leach, R-

Plano, and Jessica Farrar, D-Houston;

— Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Harold Dutton, D-Houston, and Andrew Murr, R-Junction;

— Land & Resource Management: Tom Craddick, R-Midland, and Sergio Munoz Jr., D-Mission;

— Licensing & Administrative Procedures: Tracy King, D-Uvalde, and Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth;

— Local & Consent Calendars: Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, and Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint;

— Natural Resources: Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, and Will Metcalf, R-Conroe;

— Pensions, Investments & Financial Services: Jim Murphy, R-Houston, and Hubert Vo, D-Alif;

— Public Education: Dan Huberty, R-Houston, and Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio;

— Public Health: Senfonia Thompson, D-Houston, and John Wray, R-Waxahachie;

— Redistricting: Phil King, R-Weatherford, and Chris Turner;

— Resolutions Calendars: Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City, and Rick Miller, R-Sugar Land;

— State Affairs: Dade Phelan, R-Nederland, and Ana Hernandez, D-Houston;

— Transportation: Terry Canales, D-Edinburg, and Brooks Landgraf, R-Odessa;

— Urban Affairs: Angie Chen Button, R-Richardson, and Matt Shaheen, R-Plano; and

— Ways & Means: Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, and Ryan Guillen.

Voter roll advisory issued

Texas Secretary of State David Whitley, the state's chief elections officer, on Jan. 25 issued an advisory to county voter registrars regarding voter registration list maintenance activities.

In the advisory, Whitley said about 95,000 individuals identified by Texas Department of Public Safety as non-U.S. citizens have a matching voter registration record in Texas and about 58,000 of those have voted in one or more Texas elections.

Voting in an election in which the person knows he or she is not eligible to vote is a second-degree felony in Texas. Because the secretary of state has no statutory enforcement authority to investigate or prosecute alleged illegal activity in connection with an election, the matter has been referred to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the state's chief law enforcement officer.

Higher Ed chief resigns

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on Jan. 24 announced the resignation of Higher Education Commissioner Raymund A. Paredes after 15 years in the position. The resignation is effective Aug. 31.

Prior to joining the agency, Dr. Paredes spent most of his academic career at UCLA, where for 30 years he taught as a professor of English and also served 10 years as vice chancellor for academic development.

TEXAS SENATE NEWS By Richard Lee

Senators want solution for Driver's License wait times

(Austin) As the Senate Finance Committee considered the budget for the Department of Public Safety on Monday, members wanted to know why their constituents have to spend hours in line to get a driver's license. The driver's license program has been an ongoing headache for DPS, and efforts to streamline the process haven't worked so far. Wait times, whether in line at an office or on-hold on the phone, have increased and many offices are serving small populations while others are inundated with demand.

All but eight states issue licenses through a department of motor vehicles. Texas didn't have such an agency until 2009, when legislation carved motor vehicle registration and other services out of the Department of Transportation and created the DMV. DPS is still issuing licenses however, 3.5 million in fiscal year 2017, in addition to 600,000 state IDs. It operates 235 offices across the state, ranging from 166 offices staffed by ten or fewer employees to 9 mega-centers in major cities that process more than 2000 transactions every day. Whether a citizen goes to a single-person office or a mega-center, they aren't receiving good customer service, according to an interim review by the Sunset Advisory Commission.

Sunset staff found that wait times at offices continue to increase. At one office, the Houston-Gessner mega-center, average wait times have gone up from 33 minutes in 2009 to 77 minutes in 2017. The problem could be even worse because the agencies don't have data for people who give up before they ever get into the building due to long lines. On-hold wait times are getting longer as well. The Sunset report showed that in 2009, the average hold time was thirteen and a half minutes and most callers just hung up; only 35 percent of calls were answered. The problem only got worse by 2017, adding almost a full minute to the average wait time and reducing the percentage of calls answered to 20 percent. "This is one of the few places where everyone in Texas of driver's license age and above interacts with their state government," said Friendswood Senator Larry Taylor at Monday's hearing. "When it's this dysfunctional, it doesn't look good on the whole state."

Austin Senator Kirk Watson, who served on the Sunset Commission over the interim, said this issue was highly frustrating for that joint panel. "Frankly, the agencies were not very good at telling us how we could fix this," he said. "We talk about how you can't just throw money at a problem and fix it." Finance Chair Senator Jane Nelson agreed. "We have more than doubled the amount of money since 2012," she said. "So it's not just a money problem. We better figure out how...I don't want to study this anymore."

Sunset recommendations for the driver's license program favored an in-depth study of what exactly it would take to successfully place the program under the DMV, and also put a hard date of a transfer, study or not, on September 1, 2021.

Some members raised concerns about whether the agency could handle the program. "Here we are talking about a proposition to move [a program] that requires more FTEs [full-time equivalent employees] than the agency has currently?," he asked. Granbury Senator Brian Birdwell, who served as Chair of the Sunset Commission over the interim and will carry the DPS Sunset bill in the Senate, said they are working towards a solution, but ultimately the driver's license program will be going to the DMV. "This is not a study whether we should transfer this or not," he said. "It's going to move. If this committee wants to move it faster, we can do that." Chair Nelson told her members that she believes this problem will be solved this session. "I think I can safely assure you, just based on the comments this morning, we will come up with a solution to this," she said.

The Senate will reconvene Tuesday, January 29 at 11 a.m.



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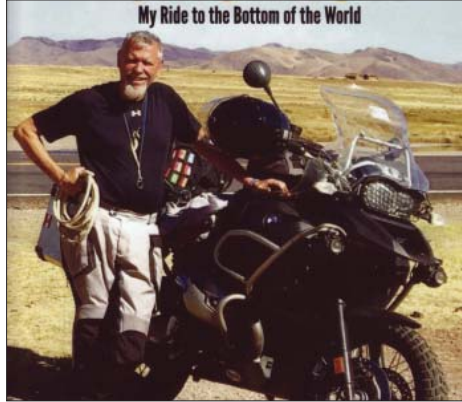
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LIFESTYLE PAGE

OBITUARIES

HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS

"Do it. Leave Tomorrow" adventurer tells Rotarians



DIRK WEISIGER with his BMW motorcycle that he rode from Austin to the tip of South America.

Dirk Weisiger is a businessman turned adventurer, travel trekker, trick roper, and storyteller. He brought all of these talents to last week's Highlands Rotary luncheon, telling of his adventures on a solo motorcycle trip from Austin, Texas to Ushuaia, at the southern tip of South America.

He has written a book about his trip, entitled "Leave Tomorrow." It reveals his decision to make the trip, against all conventional wisdom. His motivational talk is centered on the idea, "Do It. Leave Tomorrow."

Dirk's trip was 7000 miles long, and it took 14 months to complete. He traveled through 12 countries, including the U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa

Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina. Or as he calls it, "the Bottom of the World."

His talk was partially about the interesting things that happened along the journey, and partially about everyone's need to follow their impulses, face your fears, and do something different with your life.

His book and his talk are full of Life Tips and Travel Tips.

Dirk noted that every small town along his trip, through the 12 countries, had a sign for a Rotary club.

His motivational message was set a goal, get a mentor or coach to help you, and get started. His advice to all, was "Live Your Movie."

Cory Glynn Chesser

Mr. Cory Glynn Chesser, 38 of Snyder, TX died on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at his residence in Snyder.

Services for Cory will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 2:00 PM at Calvary Baptist Church with Reverend Matt Lowery officiating. Services are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Cory was born on May 09, 1980 in Snyder, TX to Gary and Danna (Myers) Chesser. He was a lineman for North Houston Pole Line company and a member of Community Baptist Church in Crosby, Texas. Cory enjoyed being a lineman and devoted all his time to his girl's Chloe and Claire, which he loved unconditionally.

He is survived by: Father - Gary Chesser and wife Vickie, Snyder, TX Mother - Danna Daughtry and husband Marc, Charlotte, TX

2) Daughters: and former wife Chloe & Claire Chesser, and Crystal, Crosby, TX 2) Sisters:

Lori Gryder and husband Nick, Snyder, TX Sarah Daughtry, Corpus Christie, TX

1) Brother: Zach Daughtry, Charlotte, TX

Paternal Grandparents - Susan and Darrell Bills, Snyder, TX

Paternal Grandfather - Clinton Chesser, Snyder, TX

Maternal Grandparents - Linda and W. D. Myers, Snyder, TX

4) Aunts D'Ann Preston and husband Ross, Snyder, TX



Kellye Jackson and husband Victor, Snyder, TX Dawn Myers, Snyder, TX

Sheila Martin and husband Mark, Sweetwater, TX

3) Uncles Joe Roemisch, Snyder, TX

Randy Chesser and wife Andrea, Snyder, TX

William Myers, Las Vegas, NV Special Friend - Misty Robison

Numerous neices, nephews, and cousins

He was preceded in death by:

Maternal Grandmother Wanda Myers and Aunt Debbie Roemisch

Visitation will be held Friday, January 25, 2019 from 6 pm to 7 pm at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home. Memorial cards can be mailed to:

White River Youth Camp (WRYC)

P. O. BOX Lubbock, TX 79490

Online condolences may be posted at

www.bellcypertseale.com

Bell-Cypert-Seale 3101 College Avenue Snyder, Tx. 79549 325-573-5454 cypertseale@yahoo.com

Patricia Ann Mattingly



Patricia Ann Mattingly age 88, went to be with the Lord on Saturday January 19, 2019. She was born in Kirkland, Indiana on April 21, 1930 to Lelah Pauline Stowers Arney and Hermal F. Arney. She enjoyed gardening and playing her trumpet, watching religion on tv and caring for her dogs, but most of all spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a very loving wife and mother, always happy and she will be loved and missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Carl Mattingly; her son, Robert Mattingly and her grandparents, Flo and T.M. Stowers.

Patricia is survived by her children, James S. Mattingly, Debra K. McKinney and Susan M. Hering. Also survived by 3 grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-

Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, on Friday afternoon, January 25, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. followed by services in Sterling White Funeral Home. Interment will be private. Arrangements entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand. ISAIAH 64:8

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I Corinthians 13:8

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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

OBITUARIES

Ruby Ethel (DuBose) Fawcett



Ruby Ethel (DuBose) Fawcett died on January 25, 2019, in Corpus Christi, TX. She was 90 years old. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester (Les) Day Fawcett. Ruby is survived by her 3 children, Stephanie, Howard (Teresa), and Gregg (Cindy) Fawcett. She also leaves behind 5 grandchildren, Ryan Bird (Alexandra), Shanna Stone (Richard), Edward Settle, Miranda Fawcett, and Marah Fawcett, and 4 great-grandchildren, Heather Bird, Emma Stone, Victor Bird, and Margaret Bird.

Ruby was born on September 26, 1928 in Sandia, TX, to Ellie D. DuBose, Jr., and Fannie Ruby (Rees) DuBose of Sinton, TX. She graduated from Sinton High School and earned a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Texas A & I University, now Texas A & M University - Kingsville. She married Lester Fawcett on October 27, 1951.

In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, Ruby had a successful business career. She was a highly regarded seamstress, a district manager for World Book Encyclopedia, and an entrepreneur. In the latter role she founded and oper-

ated three retail stores. Ruby retired at the age of 80 as the office manager for Baywood Exterminating in Crosby, TX.

Ruby was active in her community. She served as a room mother, cub scout den mother and girl scout leader. Her home was a bustling hub for children, friends and family alike. She always provided a shoulder to lean on and an ear to listen.

Ruby was a devout Christian and practiced her faith all her life. She taught Sunday School to young and old, visited shut-ins, provided meals to the sick, mentored and taught reading to prison inmates, organized and participated in other church-related activities too numerous to count.

Most of all, Ruby was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She was a role model to emulate and a guiding light to all who

knew her. She will be deeply missed.

The family would like to express their profound gratitude to the staff of Villa Corpus Christi South, especially those working in the Stepping Stones Memory Care Unit, and the Christus Spohn Hospice workers. We will never forget the constant love, care and support you gave our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother during the last months of her life. A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, on Friday February 1, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. followed by services in Sterling White funeral Home. Interment will be in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

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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

★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

Chili Feast,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Main Street in Highlands. Tickets are being sold by members of the club, and at select locations through the community such as Foodtown, Woodforest Bank, Dr. White's dental office, and Sterling White Funeral Home. Lunch tickets are \$7.00, and Tickets for the Raffle and 2 servings of chili are \$100.

The club will serve "Chester's Famous Chili," a unique flavor known throughout the community. In addition, homemade desserts will be available and a variety of drinks.

A live auction will start at 12:30 p.m., and a continuing silent auction will take place during the event.

The highlight of the day is the raffle drawing, where one of the 700 tickets sold will be the winner of a new 2019 Chevy Camaro or Chevy Equinox SUV from Turner Chevrolet. The drawing winner can choose which vehicle he or she prefers.

The raffle also has 15 additional prizes, all worth more than the price of the ticket. These will include an Apple watch, a shotgun, gift cards of various denominations, a pressure washer, Go Pro camera, Playstation 4, Bose headphones, security camera, Ring doorbell, Amazon Echo, and a Fit Bit activity tracker.

The money raised is the

major fundraiser for the Highlands Rotary club, and it is used throughout the year for community projects, such as scholarships, support for youth activities, library, pageants, sports teams, senior programs, and more. Last year the club awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 18 high school seniors and college students.

The chairwoman for this event is Rotarian Sheila McDonald, and club president Denise Smith and all the members participate.

For additional tickets information or purchase, you may call 281-426-3558, or 713-252-8000, or ask any Rotary club member.

New TX District 2 Congressman Dan Crenshaw tours flood prone areas and San Jacinto River sediment removal

Harris County, TX – January 23, 2019 – In his first visit back to the district as a U.S. Representative, Congressman Dan Crenshaw toured Harris County with Flood Control District Executive Director Matt Zeve and Professional Engineer Ian Hudson to get an update on projects in Texas's Second Congressional District. The tour highlighted local and federal Hurricane Harvey cleanup projects and flood mitigation projects. This came on the heels of Crenshaw's Monday meeting with City Councilman Dave Martin, in which they discussed the importance of these projects. Crenshaw released the below statement following his tour.



Congressman Dan Crenshaw, center, reviews flood maps of his district with HCFCF Executive Director Matt Zeve and engineer Ian Hudson.

"Our district has been through so much because of Hurricane Harvey," said Crenshaw. "I'm grateful for all the hard work our local and federal officials have done to accelerate recovery and better prepare us for the next storm. Although we have a long way to go, Hous-

tonians have made great progress since Harvey first made landfall in 2017. Our resilience as a people is apparent every day. I'm excited to get to work to ensure the people of TX-02 are able to make a full recovery and put Harvey in the rearview mirror."

Sites included on the tour: San Jacinto River Sediment Removal (USACE) Greens Bayou Federal Project (USACE) Addicks Reservoir, North End of Dam (USACE) Horsepen Creek (HCFCF) Bear Creek Village Subdivision (USACE)

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Representative Cain to serve on the elections committee and more

Texas State Representative Briscoe Cain, District 128, has been appointed to serve on the House Committees on Elections, Resolutions Calendar, and International Relations & Economic Development for the 86th Legislative Session. The Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives announced committee assignments today.

The House Elections Committee works with the Secretary of State to ensure fair and secure primary, special, and general elections. The Resolutions Calendar Committee plays an important role in the rules, procedures, and operation of the Texas House of Representatives. The committee on In-

ternational Relations & Economic Development has an expansive jurisdiction with a purview over relations between the State of Texas and other nations, including trade relations and international trade zones. It also impacts the relationship between the state and the federal government. Additionally, the committee covers commerce, trade, and manufacturing, including international commerce and trade. Importantly, the committee will hear legislation concerning economic and industrial development, including the development and support of small businesses, job creation, workforce training, and

job-training programs.

Rep. Cain said in a statement, "I'm excited to announce that our office was selected to serve on the Elections Committee, Resolutions Calendar Committee, & Economic Development and International Relations Committee for the 86th Legislative Session. These committee assignments provide new opportunities to advocate for the issues that matter most to the citizens of Texas House District 128. I'm looking forward to continuing the fight, in the Texas House and in our community, for fair and secure elections, economic development, and career creation."

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Crosby VFD Annual Awards Banquet



Safety Officer Ryan Allen awarding Casey Ward special Safety champion for 2018



Jacobi Patterson on left Rookie of the Year presented by Sam Parker, 2018 Training Captain.



2018 Top Responder, 530 responses, Sam Parker by Chief Alan Kulak.



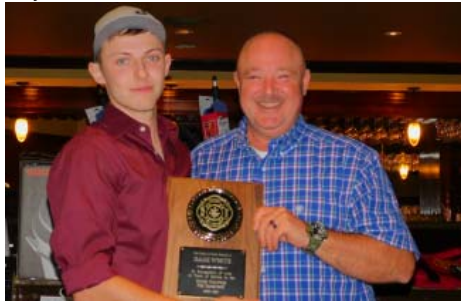
10 year service award, Ruben Leal.



2018 Captain of the Year, Warren Thompson presented by Chief Alan Kulak



2018 Runner Up Responder, 257 responses, Jonathon Riker



10 years service award, Gage White presented by his father Russell White



2019 Captains: Station 4 Casey Ward, Station 2 Warren Thompson, Station 5 Acie Turnbull, Station 1 Clay Budd, Training Captain Kelly Staton, Not pictured Station 3 Jacque Darbonne.



2019 Fire officers, Fire Chief Alan Kulak, 1st Asst Chief Russell White, 2nd Asst Chief Mike Sims, Safety Officer Ryan Allen, District 81 Chief Cameron Elles, District 82 Chief Ben Hathorn, not pictured Fire Marshal Tommy Jett.

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 467,990; Estate of JULIA BETH GOETSCHUIS AKA JULIE BETH GOETSCHUIS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on October 24, 2018.

PHYLLIS ANDERS
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 January 25, 2019

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