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These stories in the **PRESS:**  
 • Baytown Area Quilt Guild  
 • United Way Learning Opportunity  
 • Free Income Tax Preparation at Jones Library  
 .....And more, Page 5

**IN THE STARS**

**EVENTS**

**THUR., MARCH 21  
 VARICOSE & SPIDER VEINS SEMINAR**  
 6-7 pm at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, 4401 Garth Rd., Classroom, new conference center.

**THUR., MARCH 21  
 CROSBY MONTHLY LUNCHEON**  
 The luncheon will take place on Thursday, March 21st at The Crawfish Shack, located at 5822 FM 2100 in Crosby. Lunch will begin at 11:30 AM.

**TUES., MARCH 26  
 COLORECTAL CANCER SEMINAR**  
 From 6-7 pm at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, 4401 Garth Rd., CRCU Community Room. Registration required, call 281-428-2273.

**SAT., MARCH 30  
 CRAFT SHOW**  
 Craft Show benefitting Crosby Middle School Spanish Club. From 9 am to 4 pm, 14705 FM 2100.

**SAT., APRIL 6  
 SPRING FLING VENDOR & CRAFT FAIR**  
 April 6th, 2019 at Hargrave High School from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Contact Tiffany at tiffany@crosbychurch.com or call the office at 281-328-1310 for more information.

**BIRTHDAYS**  
 Mar 21—Crystal Burton  
 Jerry Eversole  
 Kathy Townsend  
 Mar 22—Craig Gross  
 Lisa Strouhal  
 Laura White  
 Mar 23—Jackie Thompson  
 Charlotte Wotipka  
 Mar 24—Lindsay Bell  
 John Townsend  
 Mary Helen James  
 Mar 25—Tara Barron  
 Mike O'Conner  
 Mar 27—Emma Johnson

**DEATHS**  
 Dr. Ronnie Joe Trice

**Huge Deer Park tank blaze seen citywide**



Chemical storage tanks in Deer Park near the San Jacinto Monument blazed for days inspite of efforts to extinguish them. The smoke cloud was seen throughout the Houston Region, as far west as Katy. Nearby residents were concerned about the affect that the fire and smoke might have on their health. (photo courtesy KPRC)

Fires in two oil facilities in East Harris County the weekend of St. Patrick's Day took the shine off the green. Saturday there was a fire at the Baytown Exxon Olefines Plant and St. Patrick's Day was the time of the origin of the fire at Intercontinental Terminals Company in Deer Park.

Baytown and Exxon firefighters and mutual aide rushed to 5000 Bay-

way Drive at about 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. All said and done, there was no shelter in place or evacuation called for there, and the fire was successfully contained without injury.

Sunday morning as many went to church a fire started near a chemical storage tank in Intercontinental Terminals Co.'s grounds in Deer Park. Firefighters struggled to contain the blaze to five

tanks but when low water pressure occurred in the early hours of Monday, three other tanks caught fire. This cancelled authorities' predictions of a rapid containment for the blaze.

The terminal is closed and evacuated, it stores gasoline additives and paint thinners. Some say these chemicals can cause difficulty breathing, coughing, headache and irritation to respiratory

systems.

The Environmental Protection Agency, TCEQ, and the Harris County Pollution Control are closely watching air quality. So far, all agencies are saying the dark black smoke blanketing the region isn't as dangerous as it looks, even as plumes envelop the county.

In fact, in a statement released by Intercontinental Terminals Company

spokesman David Wascome said "They actually flew a few planes through the plume the last few days and they are still within safe levels."

Concerning the trust issue, in the last 10 years Intercontinental Terminals Company has had to pony up about \$200,000 in fines for environmental viola-

See Deer Park Fire, Page 6

**Goose Creek CISD proposes new bond issue of \$335m**

HIGHLANDS – The Chamber of Commerce heard the details of a new bond issue that is proposed by the Goose Creek CISD for the election in May.

The presentation was made by Jessica Woods, director of the Chamber, and a school board member representing District 3. Woods presented the facts behind the need for the bond issue, but did not take a position on whether to vote to approve.

The new bond is named **GCbond2019** to distinguish it from the bond issue that failed to pass last year. The new bond will raise \$335 million for a variety of needs, but will not include the multi-purpose and athletic center from last year's bond, which had two propositions totalling \$437.5 million.

The 2019 bond referendum includes \$114m for updating Aging schools and Repairs, \$155m for New School construction, \$12m for Athletic improvements, \$3.75m for Safety and Security improvements, and \$49m for Technology.

Details of this bond issue were put together by a Citizens Bond Planning Committee made up of 42 community leaders, par-



JESSICA WOODS

ents, and teachers representing a cross section of the District.

This committee, made up for proponents and opponents of the 2018 bond referendum, received information on current facilities and program needs, demographic growth projections, and then toured the schools.

In January 2019 they made a proposal and final recommendation to the GCCISD Board of Trust-

ees, which approved the committee's recommendations in February by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

For aging schools and repairs, which will take place throughout the District, it includes new roofs, renovations to mechanical and A/C systems, and new buses.

For New Construction, included are two new elementary schools, a new

See BONDS, page 10

**Washburn Tunnel to close for improvements March 29 to April 8**

HOUSTON, Texas - The Washburn Tunnel will be closed for 10 days, beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 29th to 4 a.m. on Monday, April 8th. During this time, crews will be conducting in-depth maintenance to the Tunnel lining as part of the Washburn Tunnel Con-

crete Repairs project, which was planned proactively to preserve the life of the Tunnel.

Drivers are reminded to use alternate routes during the closure. Alternate routes include I-610 East Loop Freeway, Sam Houston Parkway, and Highway 146.

**Supplemental funding legislation draws from 'Rainy Day Fund'**

AUSTIN — A few of the funding priorities expressed by the executive, legislative and judicial branches are not covered in Senate Bill 2, the state's tentatively approved appropriations bill for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

So, on March 13, the Senate voted unanimously in favor of SB 500, \$6 billion in supplemental funding to plug many holes. Some \$4.3 billion of the total would be taken out of the Economic Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund. Authored by Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane

Nelson, R-Flower Mound, the legislation proposes the following allocations:

- \$3 billion for Hurricane Harvey recovery expenses;
- \$2.1 billion to address the Medicaid shortfall;
- \$100 million for school safety, with an amendment that gives districts greater flexibility on the type of safety equipment they can buy;
- \$300 million to improve state hospital facilities;

See Supplemental Funding, Page 2

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

★  
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Wills and Probate at Crosby Library**

Have you been procrastinating when it comes to estate planning? Don't know where to start? Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library invites individuals and families to a free event: "Wills and Probate", on Monday, April 1 at 4:30 pm, in the meeting room. Guest speaker is Assistant County Attorney Susan Fillion. Ms. Fillion has been with the Harris County Attorney's office since 2002, and has lots of information to share including estate planning basics, do-it-yourself wills, mistakes to avoid, and more. Don't miss this great informational opportunity!  
Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library is located on 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532. Call 832-927-7790 for more information.

**Huffman Education Foundation Casino night**

It's all in for Casino Night on April 26 from seven come eleven at the Walden Country Club to benefit the Huffman Education Foundation.  
The event will feature Texas Hold 'Em, roulette, craps, blackjack, a live auction, with door prizes per drawings.  
The Walden Country Club opens its lavish surroundings for a live auction, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails for an educational cause.  
Regular tickets are \$100 per person and with that the hors d'oeuvres, open bar, \$3,000 in casino Chips, and possibilities for 6 prizes drawn by the hostess.  
For the more elite standings, a better deal, is available for just \$1,000, become an event sponsor. This sponsorship opportunity comes with six tickets, additional casino chips and door prize opportunity.  
Space is limited so first come first served.  
To obtain tickets call (281) 328-7601 or visit [www.huffmanef.com](http://www.huffmanef.com) to buy tickets online.

**Tees-N-Tails**

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce will host its 27th Annual Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at Red Wolf Golf Resort, 27350 Afton Way, Huffman, TX 77336. Registration at 10:30 am. Please contact Chamber Office at 281-328-6984 or [chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org](mailto:chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org) with any questions.

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**Crosby Bass Fishing Team lands big**

Crosby Bass Fishing Team member, Patrick Brennan, who placed 5th this past weekend snaring 16.34 lbs, winning the award for biggest fish caught (10.06 lbs). Hayden Swinney and Wade Lewis placed 2nd with 20.6 lbs. Travis Koester and Matthew Swilley placed 38th with 8.11 lbs. Hayden Eidson finished in 80th place with 3.56 lbs. Cooper Harris and Logan Lindstrom brought in a 3.37 lb. bag. Cody Jones and Blayne Cunningham caught 3.35 lbs. Luke Galvan and Reiden Hicks brought in 2.78 lbs. Jake Greer and Hunter Perez (not pictured) scored a 2.74 lb fish.

**Supplemental funding**

Continued from page 1

- \$542 million to address pension liabilities for the Teacher Retirement System and provide retired teachers a "13th check" up to \$500;
- \$211 million to pay obligations of the Texas Tomorrow Fund, a college tuition savings program;
- \$160 million to address the Correctional Managed Health Care shortfall; and
- \$100 million to refill the Governor's Disaster Fund to help rebuild from natural disasters.

"The supplemental budget provides funding for some of the Legislature's key priorities: Hurricane Harvey relief, school safety and healthcare needs. It provides significant resources to improve the state's flood control infrastructure and helps communities along the Gulf Coast rebuild," Nelson said.

Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, said hurricane disaster recovery and flood mitigation "are exactly what the Rainy Day Fund was designed for" and added that the fund, now at a historically high balance, is projected to reach \$15 billion. The state constitution caps the maximum biennial "Rainy Day Fund" balance at an amount not to exceed 10 percent of certain general revenue deposited during the previous biennium.

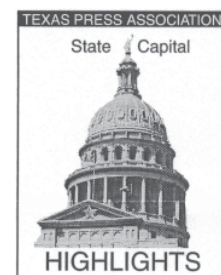
**Declaration is extended**

Gov. Greg Abbott on March 15 extended the state disaster declaration he originally issued on Aug. 23, 2017, to counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Thirty counties were named in the original declaration. As reports revealing the extent of the disaster came in, Abbott amended the declaration on Aug. 26, 27, 28 and Sept. 14, 2017, to include 30 more counties.

Abbott has renewed the disaster declaration every month since then, saying that a state of disaster con-

★  
**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



continues to exist in those same counties.

**Panel OKs pension bill**

The Senate State Affairs Committee on March 14 approved SB 12, legislation to keep the state's Teacher Retirement System fund actuarially sound by increasing teacher, school district and state contribution rates gradually over the next few years.

Last August, at the end of fiscal year 2018, the fund had \$47 billion in unmet debt obligations and a funding period of 87 years, the time it would take to pay off all of its liabilities under current revenues, according to the Senate News Service.

If nothing is done, unfunded liabilities would increase to \$124 billion by 2050, said Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, chair of the committee. Under her proposal, the active teacher contribution would rise from the present 7.7 percent to 8.25 percent in 2024; state contributions would rise from 6.8 percent of payroll to 8.25 percent over the same period, and district contributions would rise from 1.5 percent of eligible payroll to 2 percent by 2025.

SB 12 next moves to the

full Senate for consideration.

**Effort targets trafficking**

The Texas Department of Transportation, in partnership with the governor's office, law enforcement and industry partners, on March 12 announced the launching of the "On the Road to End Human Trafficking" initiative.

Similar to a neighborhood watch program, the initiative encourages everyone to know, watch for and report signs of trafficking.

TxDOT said University of Texas research showed more than 300,000 people are trafficked in Texas at any given time, including 79,000 youth victims. "These innocent human beings are horrifically abused by being forced into slavery, either in the form of hard labor or sex/prostitution," TxDOT said.

TxDOT is encouraging citizens to use a toll-free, confidential phone number, (888) 373-7888, to report suspected trafficking. Victims are encouraged to call 911.

**Report: 11 measles cases**

Eleven cases of measles have been reported in the Lone Star State since Jan. 1, according to information posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

In all of last year, nine cases of measles were reported statewide, the agency said.

The DSHS and the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend children get a dose of measles vaccine at 12 to 15 months of age and again at 4 to 6 years old.

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Saturday

March 23rd, 2019

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Details: [www.crosbyrodeo.com](http://www.crosbyrodeo.com)

Registration: [www.steakcookoffs.com](http://www.steakcookoffs.com)

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## CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Registration: 1:00 p.m.

Tournament: 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per team

## STEAK DINNERS

\$20/plate

Cooked-to-Order

6:00-10:00 p.m.

Silent Auction!

Live Auction!  
8:30 p.m.

## CONCERT

Gates Open at 5:00 p.m.

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**TEXAS SENATE NEWS**  
By Richard Lee

## SENATE PANELS CONSIDER PRIORITY ITEMS

(Austin) Texans may have to wait until the age of 21 to purchase tobacco and nicotine products under a measure heard before the Senate State Affairs Committee. That was one of several bills on Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's list of "priority legislation" heard in committee on Monday. Bills are given numbers based on the order they are filed, however the Lt. Governor usually reserves the lowest bill numbers to assign to bills he and the majority of Senators consider important legislation. This session, Patrick reserved the 30 lowest, and seven of those bills were heard in committees Monday.

SB 21, by Houston Senator Joan Huffman, would raise the minimum legal age to possess or use tobacco products from 18 to 21, including e-cigarettes and other nicotine vaporizing devices. While tobacco use is down statewide, there are parts of Texas where the habit remains hard to kick. North Texas is a particularly notable area, with a University of Texas study showing that twenty-five percent of adults in the region still smoke cigarettes daily, compared to 15 percent in the rest of the state. Huffman believes raising the smoking age will also discourage use among minors. "Raising the MLA to 21 for this offense would help keep cigarettes, e-cigarettes and tobacco products out of Texas public schools by creating more social distance between younger high school students and of-age purchasers, thereby reducing early addiction to nicotine and tobacco." If passed into law, the bill would make Texas the eighth state to raise the smoking age to 21. It remains pending before the committee.

Another priority bill in front of State Affairs Monday would prohibit registered lobbyists from seeking public office. "Texans expect their elected officials to represent their interests," said bill author Senator Brandon Creighton of Conroe. SB 13 would also seek to reduce the "revolving door" between serving in government and becoming a lobbyist by placing a two year cooling down period between a legislator leaving office and registering as a lobbyist. Creighton said that Texas is one of only nine states

with no restrictions on lawmakers walking out of office and into a lobbying firm. Finally, the bill would require that state campaign financial disclosures be hosted on the Ethics Commission website.

Other low-numbered bills considered by State Affairs Monday include SB 9, by Senator Bryan Hughes of Mineola, which aims to improve election security by requiring a paper record of any ballots cast through an electronic voting machine. SB 22 by New Braunfels Senator Donna Campbell, would prohibit state and local government agencies from funding abortion providers with public money. SB 29, by Edgewood Senator Bob Hall, would prohibit taxpayer funded organizations or political subdivisions from hiring lobbyists using public money. Finally, SB 30, by Granbury Senator Brian Birdwell, aims to increase transparency on ballot questions regarding public debt, requiring that each bond for different purposes be listed as separate propositions, rather than a single proposition including multiple bonds for multiple purposes.

The Finance Committee also heard a low-numbered bill Monday, one that would give the state's natural parks and historical sites a dedicated revenue stream for the future. SB 26 and Senate Joint Resolution 24 would place a question on the November ballot asking voters to approve the dedication of all sporting goods sales and use tax revenues toward the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Historical Commission in perpetuity. "The resolution is designed to ensure that our state parks and historic sites will receive the funding that they need to preserve our natural areas and protect our history," said author Senator Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham. According to the comptroller's biennial revenue estimate, sales on sporting goods are projected to bring in about \$342 million in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. If approved, the resolution would take effect at the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year. The bill was approved by the committee and now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

The Senate will reconvene Tuesday, March 19 at 11 a.m.



## Harris County residents reminded that Spring weather can be unpredictable

(Harris County, TX) – Springtime in southeast Texas offers plenty of pleasant days, but it also brings the threat of severe weather. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) and the National Weather Service (NWS) want to remind residents of the unpredictability of the season during its Spring Severe Weather Safety Campaign that runs March 4-8, 2019.

"Spring is a time of renewal and we want to take this opportunity to give a refresher on the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to stay safe," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Preparation is important year round and we can best do that by staying informed, having an emergency plan and essential supplies.

Understanding the difference between a warning and a watch:

- A watch indicates that the potential exists for the development of severe weather.
- A warning is more serious and requires more immediate action. It indicates that severe weather conditions are occurring or imminent.

HCOHSEM reminds residents that severe weather can develop rapidly and with little warning, and offers some life-saving tips for the following threats:

### Thunderstorms

- Keep an eye out for signs of a coming storm, including darkening skies, increasing winds or flashes of lightning.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be in danger from lightning, which kills 40-50 people per year.
- Postpone outdoor activities if a storm is imminent; lightning often strikes where it is not raining.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building or vehicle, with doors and windows securely fastened.
- Stay away from windows and avoid taking a bath, shower or using plumbing until the storm has passed.

- Floodwater weakens roadbeds. Drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

### Tornadoes

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of a home or building away from windows: a stairwell, bathroom, hallway or storage closet.
- Do not stay in a mobile home.
- At work and school, follow the drill and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.
- If you are in a car, do not try to outrun a tornado and avoid bridges/overpasses. If you see flying debris, pull over and park. Keep your seat belt on and the engine running. Put your head down below the windows, and cover yourself with your hands/arms or a blanket.
- If outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If no shelter, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.

### Flash Flooding

- Drivers should never underestimate the force and power of flood waters. If you see high water, turn around, don't drown!
- Waters can rise so rapidly that they may be far deeper by the time you are halfway across, trapping you in your vehicle.
- Six inches of water can cause tires to lose traction and begin to slide, 12 inches of water can float many cars, and two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs, and most other vehicles.
- Flash floods are especially treacherous at night when it is very difficult to see how deep waters may be or how fast water is

rising.

Remember to always have a plan and stay informed to protect yourself from severe weather threats.

## Senator Brandon Creighton statement on Senate Bill 500

AUSTIN, Texas -

March 13, 2019 - "Today I was proud to support the Senate's supplemental budget, Senate Bill 500. The bill's unanimous passage is a clear signal that the state is serious about addressing the catastrophic damage from Hurricane Harvey, and taking proactive steps to ensure that the entire state is better prepared for future storms. The bill also prioritizes school safety, and keeps our commitment to Texas teachers in the Teachers Retirement Fund.



"We are able to address these critical needs for our state because of conservative budgeting, and this budget is no departure and stays well within the constitutional spending limit. Every item in SB 500 that uses the Economic Stabilization Fund is a one-time expense. Texas has protected our Rainy Day fund for many years, and Harvey recovery and investing in flood mitigation are exactly what the Rainy Day Fund was designed for. The Rainy Day fund is at a historic balance and is projected to reach \$15 billion.

"I want to especially thank Chairwoman Nelson and the Members of Senate Finance for the many hours they spent crafting a conservative, responsible budget that meets Texas' obligations and priorities."

SB 500 provides \$6 billion in state dollars to cover supplemental needs, including:

- more than \$3 billion for Harvey-related expenses;
- \$2.1 billion to address the Medicaid shortfall;
- \$100 million for school safety, with an amendment for building and retrofitting, and providing flexibility on the type of safety equipment they can buy;
- \$300 million to continue the Legislature's commitment to improve state hospital facilities;
- \$542 million to address pension liabilities for the Teacher Retirement System and provide retired teacher's a 13th check up to \$500;
- \$211 million to pay obligations of the Texas Tomorrow Fund;
- \$160 million to address the Correctional Managed Health Care shortfall; and
- \$100 million to refill the Governor's Disaster Fund to help rebuild from natural disasters.

Out of the \$6 billion, \$4.3 billion comes out of the Economic Stabilization Fund.

Senator Brandon Creighton was sworn in to the Texas State Senate to represent the citizens of District 4, which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson and Galveston Counties.



**HIGHLANDS CROSBY**  
**Star-Courier**  
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# Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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 March 11, 2019.

These are the events that are happening at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of March 25.

- Tuesday, March 26 - 10:00 am, Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)
- Thursday, March 28 - 5:00 pm, Adult Book Club (ages 18 & up)
- Friday, March 29 - 10:30 am, Storytime (ages 0-5 yrs)

Call 281-576-2245 to register.

Call Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu at 281-576-2245 with any questions.

### April Events at the Jones Public Library

Monday - April 1st - 2:00 PM - Homeschool at the Library

They will be hosting our HS@TL group for a fun day of varied activities. We will be celebrating National Poetry Month with a "Spine Label Poetry" contest. The winners will have their poem displayed for the rest of the month. There will be a table for blackout poetry, haikus, simple poetry templates, and magnetic poetry. They will have a poetry slam for the Grand Finale. They will also be celebrating Easter with a fun shaving cream and paint easter egg craft outside on the patio.

Wednesday - April 10 - 10 AM 4 PM - Free Income Tax Preparation

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax return preparation and electronic filing to low and moderate-income individuals and families. This free service is an initiative of the Tax Law Society at South Texas College of Law Houston. For general information, call 936-258-7060. For tax questions, call 713-646-2921.

Thursday - April 11th - 5:30 PM - Poetry Slam at the Library

Join them from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at "The Blue Wall Cafe" - also known as the large study area in the Jones Public Library - for a one night only pop up Poetry Slam.

Teens and Adults are invited to come out and join us in celebrating National Poetry Month.

There will be a coffee bar and snacks for guests and performers when you arrive sign up for a performance slot. Space available for up to 20 performers.

Bring an original piece, share one of your favorite poems, or choose a poem from one of their books on display.

Jones Public Library is located at 801 S. Cleveland St., Dayton, TX 77535. Call 936-258-7060 with any questions.

## Two refinery fires shake oil industry



A fire broke out in a refining unit at the Exxon plant on Bayway Drive in Baytown last Saturday. Flames and smoke could be seen from nearby cities. After it was put out by Baytown and Mutual Aide fire units, Harris County announced no adverse health concerns existed.



Harris County officials held a news conference on Tuesday, to indicate that environmental monitoring of the ITC (Intercontinental Terminals Company) fire in Deer Park has not caused any threat to the public health. The fire, seen below, started from unknown causes Sunday morning, and has consumed seven storage tanks. It has burned for three days, and may take one or two more before it burns itself out. The smoke can be seen throughout the Houston region, reportedly clear to Katy. Multiple fire companies and mutual aide have been at work to quell the fire.



Smoke rises from the large storage tank fire at the ITC (Intercontinental Terminals Company) facility in Deer Park, near the San Jacinto Monument. The fire started at 10:30 am Sunday morning, and was still burning three days later. Low water pressure hampered the efforts at one point, as the fire spread from two tanks to seven.

## United Way hosts learning opportunity: An introduction to program evaluation for non-profits

Baytown, Texas - United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County will host a brunch and learn addressing the fundamentals of program evaluation for nonprofits. "An Introduction to Program Evaluation for Non-Profits" presented by Dr. Ruth Rechis who serves on the Cancer Prevention and Control Platform at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Learning the fundamentals of program evaluation is a critical and necessary step for any successful organization. While it can be difficult to get started with program evaluation, it can also be just one more way to show how the work an organization is doing is impacting the community. This session

will focus on basic evaluation terminology, evaluation processes and approaches; data collection processes, evaluation resources, and tips to help integrate data into grant applications. The Brunch-n-Learn is open to all who serve in health and human service agencies and is free of charge.

Dr. Rechis is the Director of Be Well Communities™ which aims to mobilize communities to promote wellness and stop cancer before it starts. Be Well Communities unites individuals, schools, workplaces, government agencies, health care providers, and policy-makers to carry out community-led solutions that will make positive, long-lasting

change in people's lives. Be Well™ Baytown is the inaugural Be Well Community. Dr Rechis holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from The University of Texas at Austin and has authored numerous publications and reports and spoken to scientific and lay audiences on topics such as community engagement, program evaluation, and cancer control.

To participate in the Brunch-n-Learn:

- When: Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
- Where: Workforce Solutions on 4308-B Garth Rd, Baytown
- Register: call 832-926-4007 or email lorir@unitedwaygbacc.org

## Creighton introduces major ethics legislation

Austin, Texas—March 18, 2019 - To address shortfalls in local and statewide policies, Senator Brandon Creighton today introduced two ethics bills in the Senate Committee on State Affairs.

Creighton's first bill, Senate Bill 710, is the J.D. Lambright Local Government Ethics Reform Act. This legislation allows counties to adopt their own ethics policy framework, and provides the ability for enforcement for elected officials and staff. Currently, local governments do not have the ability to adopt their own ethics policy, which has led to confusion and zero recourse if there is unacceptable behavior.

"J.D. was a friend and statesman, and I am honored to offer legislation in his memory. Senate Bill 710 will provide our local elected officials the ability to uphold the highest ethical standards, and give citizens the confidence they deserve. J.D.'s legacy is one of integrity and service, and I am proud that this common-sense legislation will benefit future leaders to better our communities."

The second bill is Senator Creighton's omnibus ethics legislation. Senate Bill 13 requires that current lawmakers have a 2 year waiting period before registering as a lobbyist, and that any current lobbyist de-register before filing as a candidate for office. The bill also instructs the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) to update campaign finance reports on their website within 2 business days. Currently, TEC reporting is significantly held-up, leaving the public in the dark on campaign contributions.

"Whether it is Washington, D.C. or the Texas State Capitol, I want to give Texans confidence that their elected officials are representing them, not special interests. Senate Bill 13 ends the revolving door of lobbyist to lawmaker, and expedites the Texas Ethics Commission online reporting of campaign donations."

The bills will be voted out of the Senate Committee on State Affairs, and then will be eligible to be heard by the full Senate.

## Baytown area quilt show



Quilt to be at the show

The Baytown Area Quilt Guild is having a Quilt Show, Friday, May 3 from 9 am - 5 pm and Saturday, May 4 from 9 am - 4 pm at Lee College's Sports Arena located at 200 Lee Drive, Baytown, Texas 77520.

The theme will be Votes For Women...Celebrating the 19th Amendment.

Special Guest Texas Historian Kay Reed Arnold of the Ruthe Winegarten Foundation for Women in Texas History will give daily lectures titled "Piecing It

Together; Women win the right to vote." Lectures daily at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Special Quilt Exhibit: HERstory: A Celebration of Strong Women (A traveling exhibit that was first shown at International Quilt Festival in Houston)

Admission is \$8. There will be also quilt exhibits, vendors, donation quilt drawing, raffle baskets, scissor sharpening, silent auction, special exhibits and historical lectures.

## West Chambers County Pilot Club annual Gala



West Chambers County Pilot Club members with Gala Sponsors. Chambers County Commissioner Pct. 3 Gary Nelson, Linda Polk, Samantha Forcier, President Marla Van Pelt, Linda Gilmore and Constable Ben L. "Butch" Bean Jr.

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. will hold its annual fundraising Gala on Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M., at Barbers Hill High School, Mont Belvieu TX. The theme of this year's Gala is "Meet Me at the Sock Hop on the Hill".

For more information contact W.C.C.P.C. at P.O. Box 1032, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580, Email wccpilotclub@gmail.com or to purchase tickets contact any West Chambers County Pilot Club member or call 832-597-0390.



Linda Gilmore, Gala Sponsor Karla Opryshek with Coldwell Banker Realtors., President Marla Van Pelt, and Deana Fojt.

★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

## Seminar offers help for varicose vein sufferers

BAYTOWN — (March 15, 2019) — Varicose veins aren't just unsightly; they can cause persistent, aching pain and discomfort that can make performing daily tasks, such as standing or walking upstairs, very difficult.

Left untreated, varicose veins may worsen over time and cause extreme pain, fatigue and skin changes, such as rashes, redness and sores. Severe varicose veins can lead to an increased risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a serious condition requiring immediate medical attention.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital vascular surgeon Jacobo Nurko, MD hosts a free seminar on Thursday, March 21, during which he'll discuss the possible causes, symptoms, risk factors, prevention and treatment options for varicose veins.

"There is help available for patients seeking relief from throbbing or cramping in the legs, disrupted sleep due to pain or discolored skin," said Dr. Jacobo Nurko, a board-certified vascular surgeon at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

Dark blue and located near or above the surface of the skin, varicose veins often appear on the back of the calf or inside the leg, but can form anywhere from the groin to the ankle. The American Society of Vascular Surgery estimates that as many as 40 million Americans, including 25 percent of women and 15 percent of men, suffer from varicose veins.

Numerous treatments are available for small varicose veins and spider veins—smaller and more common than varicose veins—that can bring relief from the pain and stigma associated with visible vein problems.

Mild to moderate varicose veins may simply require elevating the legs



Dr. Jacobo Nurko

above the level of the heart three to four times a day for about 15 minutes at a time, which helps reduce swelling and relieve other symptoms.

For smaller, less severe varicose veins, the wearing of compression stockings, elastic stockings that squeeze the veins and stop excess blood from flowing backward through the vein, may be prescribed. Some patients are required to wear the stockings daily for the rest of their lives but, in many cases, they may be all that's needed to relieve the pain and swelling and prevent future problems.

Some patients may be required to undergo a sclerotherapy procedure, in which the veins are injected with a solution that closes them and allows them to fade.

For larger veins, venous ablation may be needed. This minimally invasive treatment calls for the vein to be collapsed by light or radiofrequency application rather than the traditional approach of vein stripping. Microphlebectomy, a procedure in which small incisions are used to remove bulging veins, is also used to treat larger veins.

Nurko said researchers have uncovered several primary risk factors that may lead to the develop-

ment of varicose veins, including having a family history of them, being overweight, smoking, leading a sedentary lifestyle and occupations that require extensive periods of standing or sitting.

Women are more likely than men to develop varicose veins, especially those between the ages of 30 and 70. Pregnant women have an increased risk of developing varicose veins, but in many women the veins return to normal about one year after childbirth.

Even if the development of varicose veins is not accompanied by significant pain or swelling, Nurko recommends having them evaluated by a physician.

"Varicose veins may also indicate that an individual is at higher risk of other disorders of the circulatory system," Nurko said.

The seminar is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m. on March 21 in the conference center at Houston Methodist Baytown. For more information and to register, visit [houstonmethodist.org/events](http://houstonmethodist.org/events), or call 281-428-2273.

### About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

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

## Deer Park Fire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions. Tuesday morning five tanks were still on fire and three were spent of fuel, some seven more tanks are nearby.

"This isn't an event we wanted or planned. Many of my employees work in the city of Deer Park, they're out there fighting this fire the best they can," stated ITC spokeswoman Alice Richardson, "They are residents. I would guess that probably 30 percent live in Deer Park in La Porte. They're concerned. Their families are concerned, so of course I.T.C. would apologize to any of them."

Harris County Public Health in a statement released on Tuesday urged residents to check on relatives and neighbors who

are elderly or have respiratory issues.

As the clouds rise rapidly risk to locals is diminished but in the event of rain or fog, the clouds may be brought lower and risk may increase.

Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia is urging private, state and federal agencies to work together and provide timely and accurate information to Harris County officials so that the public can be effectively informed about the current situation at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Deer Park facility.

"It is imperative elected officials are being informed and receiving timely updates to make informed decisions. I'm frustrated with ITC's commitment

and management of the current situation," said Commissioner Garcia.

TCEQ and Harris County have filed multiple violations against ITC in the past. According to the Houston Chronicle report, the facility has been fined for violating clean air and clean water rules multiple times since 2009 and was cited for not following federal risk management regulations.

"Air quality is a top concern and I want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep the public safe and informed," Commissioner Garcia said.

Harris County Pollution Control has been on the ground monitoring the situation and will continue to do so for the next coming days, according to Harris County Judge and OEM head, Line Hidalgo.

## Will the Deer Park chemical fire affect our health?

Information provided by Dr. John Tynes, Chief Medical Officer, HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast (formerly Bayshore Medical Center):

•Are the chemicals burning in the fire dangerous to breathe? In most chemical fires, the really dangerous toxins are burned up before they are released into the air. The risks with this fire are very similar to what you would see with a forest fire or just on a really smoggy day: smoke and particulate matter. What you're breathing is a type of soot.

•What symptoms can people expect to experience? Any symptoms as a result of this fire would be primarily respiratory, including shortness of breath, coughing, sore throat, but could also include eye irritation, light headedness, and headaches. Note, however, that these are vague symptoms that could be caused by a lot of things other than the

fire. Remember, it's peak season for respiratory illnesses due to the flu or pollen allergies, which also cause many of these symptoms.

•Is anyone particularly at risk of developing these symptoms? The very young, the elderly, or those with preexisting pulmonary conditions, such as asthma or COPD, may be more sensitive to smoke. These people may already be familiar with standard precautions for fluctuations in air quality, which include staying indoors; remaining aware of the direction of the wind; and, potentially, wearing a face mask.

•Could there be long-term health impacts from this fire? It's really too soon to say, but generally, long-term health impacts are only a concern after prolonged and direct exposure. In this situation, the wind is moving and distributing the smoke, which is helping to minimize exposure, and thus health

impacts.

•Have you seen more patients in the emergency department as a result of the fires? We haven't seen an increase in people coming into our emergency department as a result of this event. We have received some phone calls from people reporting mild respiratory symptoms, which again, may or may not be from the smoke.

•What should patients do if they're concerned about their symptoms? Anyone who is concerned about their symptoms, particularly people who are part of the more vulnerable groups I previously described, should call their primary care physician. For more serious situations, our hospital offers emergency services at the main campus on Spencer Highway, and we also have two freestanding emergency departments located at 6191 East Sam Houston Parkway and at 6002 Fairmont Parkway.

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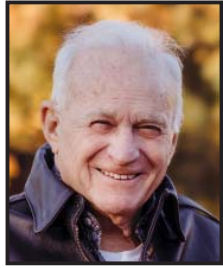
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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

★  
**OBITUARIES**

**Dr. Ronnie Joe Trice**



Dr. Ronnie Joe Trice, age 79, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at his home in Anahuac, Texas surrounded by family. He was born in Anson, Texas on September 14, 1939 to Granville and JC Thorn Trice. Following graduation from Hawley High School, he served in the United States Army, after which he went on to earn a Doctorate of Bible Theology from International Bible Institute and Seminary, and a Doctorate of Arts in Religious Education from Cornerstone University.

The oldest of three siblings, he was preceded in death by his parents Granville and JC Trice, and his brother, Kenneth Trice.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sandy Trice, of 59 years; his daughter,

Ronda Stiles and husband, Randall; his son, Mark Trice and wife, Dena; his seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Dr. Trice founded Maranatha Church, now Hillside Church where he served as pastor for 37 years. His ministry reached further than just Mont Belvieu and the surrounding area, he also started several other churches. Ronnie had a deep desire to spread the Gospel and win the lost for Christ. He was an accom-

plished airplane and helicopter pilot; a skill which helped him preach the Word all over the world. He enjoyed raising, riding, and showing cutting horses. He was a loving husband, grandfather, great grandfather, and a caring friend.

A gathering of friends and family for visitation in respect of Dr. Ronnie Trice will be held on Thursday, March 21st from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Hillside Church (formerly Maranatha Church) 12319 Hwy 146 Mont Belvieu, TX. 77353

Funeral Services will be held Friday, March 22nd at 10:00 AM at Hillside Church (formerly Maranatha Church) 12319 Hwy 146 Mont Belvieu, TX. 77353

In his honor, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to missions through Operation BAM (Be A Miracle) of Hillside Church.

**BIBLE TRIVIA**

By Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 1 Timothy in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. What did the Lord cast down among the Is-

raelites who complained about their wilderness misfortunes? Fire, Hail, Stones, Winds

3. From Romans 3, who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God? Jews, Gentiles, Heathens, All

4. What idol fell and broke after the Ark of the Covenant was placed nearby? Edrei, Dagon, Molech, Golden calf

5. Who built an altar and called it "Jehovah-nissi"? Isaiah, Baal, Moses, Malachi

6. What was the name of John the Baptist's mother? Elisabeth, Miriam, Sarah, Ruth

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Fire; 3) All; 4) Dagon; 5) Moses; 6) Elisabeth

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

**March gardening tips...**

The weather outside is frightful...one day in the 70s, followed by another in the 40s, followed by torrential rains, then sunny enough to make the weeds grow. Ah, spring in Texas. If you can just manage to get some garden tasks done right now whenever the weather cooperates, it will make April and May really enjoyable.

Fired up your mower lately? Even if you don't mow, it's a good idea to crank it monthly. And now is a great time to get blades sharpened, before it gets consistently warm, and before you have to stand in line at the mower shop. Of course, mowing will definitely aid in keeping the cool weather weeds down, so keep that in mind.

It's pruning time as well. Whack at everything that has already bloomed if you want to shape it. Roses typically get their haircuts on Valentine's Day, but if you missed that, get it done soon. Wisteria needs a severe cutting after blooming to control its unruly growth. Leave the crepe myrtles, gardenias, and confederate roses till much later. They won't perform well if you slash them now.

Pruning and shaping of trees follow those same rules. Generally, you don't mess with citrus at all; other fruit and nut trees get trimmed to provide air flow within the branches. When pruning, don't train your tree to make narrow "v" looking areas between branch and trunk; you want more of a "u" shape. The shorter angle can lead to splitting as the branch gets weightier with age.

There are a lot of annuals and vegetables that can get into the ground right now. Radishes, carrots, onions, and of course, leafy greens all come to mind. Strawberry plants are popping up at local stores, and if you keep them high and dry, will do well until ear-

ly summer, when they struggle mightily. Wait a few more weeks for the green beans, and get the tomatoes in about the end of the month. You'll thank me later for those early tomatoes!

It's a little early for most summer bloomers, but petunias, pansies, snapdragons and alyssum will provide quite a show in the next few weeks. This is a great time for bed clean-up; you can get rid of all the frost-bitten tops, and clean out the unwanted weeds before you plant in earnest. If you've never considered a "pollinator garden," you might look into the idea. Our bee and insect friends, along with a few of the birds and butterflies, enjoy the feast when you allow some of those native weeds to flourish among your traditional pretties. Many "weeds" are often the very food and nesting sources that the wild critters need to continue their existence, and if you can enjoy them for what they are, they can become a valued part of your planting program.

If you're a first-time vegetable gardener, start small, and start now. If you are going to dig in the existing ground, prepare the area now by digging and turning, clearing out the weedy growth, and ideally, getting a soil sample from Texas A&M to find out what nutrients you already have, and what you are going to need to add. Information on how to take a soil sample, and the form to send it in, are located on the "aggie-horticulture" site at A&M. Get that done before the spring rush.

If you are making raised beds and ordering "garden soil," keep in mind that the definition has more to do with the sand/clay percentages. It doesn't have anything to do with the nutrients that are needed to help the plants grow.

Once again, you should take a soil sample, and as that guy on tv says, "feed it!" Ninety percent of gardening, whether lawn, tree, flower, or vegetable, depends on the right kind of soil for the particular item you're growing.

Probably by the end of the month, the anthills will start to make themselves visible all over your yards. You can clear yours completely, but if your neighbors don't do the same, expect invaders to enter your territory, since you've so lovingly prepared them ideal sites! Mount a neighborhood campaign and share the ant poison.

If you have a brushy area near your vegetable and plant beds, it may help to know that while it's a wonderful spot for wildlife, it may also harbor those very insects you hate on your tomatoes in June. They overwinter in those protected areas, just like the birds do. If you want to continue to help the wild ones, you might want to move your bed further away, or let the brush area grow up somewhere else in the property.

As you gather all that dead plant material, and the sticks that fell from your trees during the windy days, consider using it all for the beginnings of a compost heap. Turning it into useable garden nutrients, instead of into a landfill, helps in two ways. You can be a lazy compost-er, and just pile everything up to rot slowly, or you can be more of an activist and turn it frequently and water it down if it doesn't get much rain. Add grass clippings to the brown stuff, and it will cook some more. Cooking scraps and eggshells (no meat products) can be added, if you can do it in a way that won't attract unwanted animals looking for a meal. The presence of earthworms after a short time will prove that your heap is working well.

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**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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Leviticus 19:32

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**Ziad Kronfol, MD**  
Colorectal Surgeon

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Join colorectal surgeon Ziad Kronfol, MD to learn more about prevention, diagnosis and available treatment options for colorectal cancer.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF INTENT

#### TO SELECT COUNTY DEPOSITORIES

In accordance with Article 116.022 of the Texas Local Government Code,

NOTICE, is hereby given to any Chambers County banking corporation, association, or individual banker, that the Chambers County Commissioners Court will at **10:00 a.m.** on the **23rd** day of **April, 2019**, select one or more depository banks for the following Chambers County Funds:

- Chambers County Operating Funds
- Interest and Sinking Funds
- District and County Clerk Trust Funds
- County Permanent School Funds
- County Internal Funds
- Other Related Funds

The county reserves the right to withdraw any or all Chambers County Permanent School Funds from this depository agreement. It is understood that the Chambers County Treasurer would give a 30-day written notice prior to any withdrawal of these funds.

The term of the depository contract shall be **four, (4) years** with an option to review at the end of **two, (2) years**.

Any banking corporation, association or individual banker desiring to be designated as a County Depository shall make and deliver to the Chambers County Judge an application applying for such contract on or before **2:00 p.m.** on the **3rd** day of **April, 2019**. The application must be in a sealed envelope marked on the outside **"Depository Application."**

The application must state the amount of the bank's paid-up capital stock and permanent surplus; the application must be accompanied by:

- (1) A statement showing the financial condition of the bank on the date of the application;
- and
- (2) A certified check or cashier's check for at least one-half (1/2) percent of the county's revenue for the preceding year.

The certified check or cashier's check that accompanies the application is a good-faith guarantee on the part of the applicant that if accepted as a County Depository it will execute the bond required under Ch. 116, Subchapter D, Texas Local Government Code. If the bank is selected as a depository and does not provide the bond, the county shall retain the amount of the check as liquidated damages.

The Commissioners Court may determine and designate the character and amount of county funds that will be demand deposits and that will be time deposits. The Commissioners Court may contract with a depository for interest on time deposits at any legal rate under a federal law or under a rule adopted by the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System or by the board of directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Commissioners Court will select one of more of the qualified applicants that offer the most favorable terms and conditions for the handling of the county funds; the Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject those applicants whose management or condition, in the opinion of the Commissioners Court, does not warrant placing county funds in their possession.

Jimmy Sylvia, County Judge  
Chambers County Commissioners Court  
March 1, 2019

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 473394; Estate of MARK ALLEN MCCOLLUM Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on March 7, 2019.

TINA ANN MALTOS

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 March 15, 2019

by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 473427; Estate of RHONDA DUMAS JOHNSON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on March 6, 2019.

JOSEPH ARMOND JOHNSON

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 March 13, 2019

by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Notice of Intention To Introduce A Bill In The Legislature of Texas

Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the Regular Session of the 86th Legislature of Texas a bill allowing the district to designate all or any part of the district as a tax increment reinvestment zone and use tax increment financing under Chapter 311 of the Texas Tax Code, pursuant to the provisions of Article 16, Section 59, of the Constitution of Texas and Chapter 313 of the Texas Government Code. This bill will provide for the district's administration, powers, duties, operation and financing under Chapter 311, Tax Code.

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

"Proposals for RFP 19-005 Beverage Vending Services will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Wednesday, April 24, 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**

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★ HOME IMPROVEMENTS ★

# HOME

## Ways to boost your home's curb appeal

(StatePoint) When it comes to your home, you only get one chance to make a great first impression -- and that takes place before anyone ever steps inside, making curb appeal upgrades an effective way to beautify your home while boosting its value.

Here are some great ways to enhance curb appeal that will give you a great return on investment, according to Remodeling Magazine's 2019 Cost Vs. Value Report.

### Garage Door Replacement

Whether you want your garage door to take center stage or provide a demure complement to your home's overall exterior, the right selection will make a great visual impression. Luckily there are a growing number of ways to personalize a garage door. New color options, which include two-tone combinations, are growing in popularity, and an expanding array of panel designs can help you work in harmony with your home's architectural style.

But know that this is not just any cosmetic upgrade. A new garage door has the potential to improve your family's safety and comfort, providing safety features not found



in older models, while reducing heat and cold transfer for lower energy bills.

### Manufactured Stone Veneer

A manufactured stone veneer project can enhance the aesthetic appeal of any space, indoors or out, and can be customized to suit your needs and style. When applied to a home exterior, this project has an impressively high return on investment at 95 percent, according to the 2019 Cost vs. Value Report.

Maximize this upgrade by opting for high-quality materials that look like authentic stone, even upon careful inspection. For example, the choices available from ProVia are molded and colored to produce a realistic, dramatic effect, mimicking stones from unique geographic regions in a range of cuts. Their online resources, which can be found at

provia.com, include design ideas and tools for selecting harmonious color groupings, helping you make the best choices for your home.

### Siding Replacement

Of all the home updates that will boost your curb appeal, new siding has the third highest return on investment, according to the report. When making this upgrade, consider materials wisely. Thanks to its overall low cost, ease of installation, minimal maintenance required and long-term durability, vinyl is the most popular home siding material. Whether you opt for insulated, traditional or decorative siding, this can be a great way to give your home a high-impact facelift that's well worth the cost.

To add beauty and value to your home, start with curb appeal, selecting projects that offer a great return on investment.

## Get more bang for your buck with these Spring home improvements

(StatePoint) The warmer weather means it's time to start thinking about home improvement projects. Whether you're getting your home in tip-top shape for your own enjoyment, or getting it ready to put on the market, not all home improvement projects are created equal when it comes to return on investment (ROI). Here are top areas on which to focus:



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Tyler Olson / stock.Adobe.com

### Interiors

The kitchen is the heart of the home and it's one of the best areas to renovate in terms of ROI, according to Remodeling magazine's annual Cost vs. Value Report, which puts the price tag of the average minor kitchen remodel at \$22,507, with 80.5 percent of the cost recouped upon resale.

To give the kitchen an updated appearance, replace the flooring, countertops, sink and faucet. A fresh coat of paint in a trendy shade, such as Living Coral, Pantone's Color of the Year, can add a vibrant pop of color to energize any kitchen. Not looking to go that bold? Consider an accent wall, or stick to a classic palette of gray and white in terms of cabinets and countertops. White on white is also a popular new style for kitchens and bathrooms.

Other features home buyers are paying close attention to are laundry rooms and such energy-saving elements as Energy Star appliances and windows, according to the

survey "What Home Buyers Want in 2019" by the National Association of Home Builders.

### Curb Appeal

The popularity of outdoor projects remains strong and it's for a good reason. According to the Cost vs. Value Report, the biggest bang for your buck in 2019 will come from replacing a garage door. The report says the average price is \$3,611, and 97.5 percent of it is recouped when the house is sold.

Other outdoor projects with high ROI include adding manufactured stone veneer to the exterior (94.9 percent), adding a wood deck (75.6 percent) and replacing siding (75.6 percent). Looking for a simpler way to make an impact? Sprucing up the landscape by planting flowers or bushes or even just clearing the yard of debris will make a big statement.

No matter what updates you end up making, it's al-

ways a good idea to notify your insurance agent. "Certain upgrades may change the value of a house, so homeowners need to make sure they're properly covered," says Bob Buckel, vice president of product management, Erie Insurance. "There are a few things to look for. Ask your agent about guaranteed replacement cost policies that can cover the cost to rebuild a home in today's dollars following a covered loss."

Some upgrades may also make you eligible for discounts, Buckel adds, especially if they make the home more secure. "For example, Erie Insurance offers certain safety discounts such as for installing smoke alarms or an automatic sprinkler system."

Now you have a checklist of DIY projects to focus on this spring. But before you start, take a moment to assess which ones are worth your time and money.

## Goose Creek Bond Issue,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

junior school, and an Education Service Center.

For Athletic improvements, included is a new field house at Stallworth Stadium and running tracks at five junior schools.

For Safety and Security improvements, buses will be equipped with camera systems, and GPS tracking. Throughout the District, additional security cameras will be installed, and the Police Department vehicle fleet will be expanded.

For Technology improvements, all schools will get new interactive white boards and projectors, replacement of computer lab and library technology equipment, replace all administrative computers, upgrade the wireless network infrastructure, and replace all network cabling older than 2005.

Woods said that the impact on taxpayers is calculated to be \$115 per year

for a residence that is valued at \$100,000, or proportionately more. The estimated tax rate would increase by \$0.1150. The current I & S rate is \$0.26189, and cannot increase beyond \$0.50 by state law.

If you are over 65 years of age, your taxes can be frozen at the dollar amount on your homestead. Therefore, the elderly would not see an increase in your homestead property taxes for this bond referendum.

Woods was assisted in her presentation by the Chamber president, Jim Wadzinski. He said that the bond referendum was endorsed by the Chamber.

Growth projections for the District indicate there will be 4600 new homes built in the next 5 years.

In the audience at the Chamber luncheon, there were comments mostly favorable, such as from Mike Wilson and Thomas Parent, who were on the bond committee.

ZXP president James Taylor cautioned on how the district spends this money, urging more on security and less on athletics. He said the bonds would have a major impact on his company's tax obligation, but said nevertheless he was neutral in his judgement of the merits.

Woods said that the last day to register to vote in this election would be April 4. Early voting will start on April 22, through April 30. Election Day is Saturday, May 4th. Polling locations for residents of Harris County will include the Harris County Law Library, and the Baytown Community Center.

Also for Chambers County, voting locations will be the GCCISD Administration Building, and the Chambers County Community Center Bayou Annex.

Additional information on the bond referendum is available at GCCISD.NET, and GCBond2019.com.

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