

HIGHLANDS CROSBY  
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**These stories in the PRESS:**

- Exxon Mobile Baytown Expansion
- Hospital's Daisy Awards
- Baytown Rodeo results
- .....And more, Page 6

**IN THE STARS**

**EVENTS**

**SAT., MAY 11 EASTSIDE VETERANS OPEN CAR SHOW**

At the American Legion Hall, 14890 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Questions? Please call Eddie Foster 281-794-5122

**TUE., MAY 14 WEIGHT LOSS SEMINAR**

Considering weight loss surgery? Join Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital from 6-7 pm at the CRCU Community Room, 4401 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX. 77521. Registration is required. Visit [houstonmethodist.org/events](http://houstonmethodist.org/events) or call 281-428-2273 for more information or to register. See ad, p. 6

**THUR., MAY 23 DICKIE WOODS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

May 23, 2019 at Eagle Pointe Golf Course. 11:30 a.m. registration begins. For details, please call Highlands Chamber at 281-426-7227.

**MON., MAY 27 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION**

Sterling White Funeral Home Memorial Day, 10 am, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, TX. 77562

**BIRTHDAYS**

- May 9—Jimmie Dickey
- Tim Holton
- Vanessa Whittaker
- Elonda Cravatt
- May 11—Nancy Johnston
- May 12—Rusty Salters
- May 13—Judy Bailey
- Bobby Horn, Sr.
- Larry Koslovsky
- Michelle Lomanzoff
- May 14—DeDe Williams
- May 15—Lana Gaeke
- Lina Hsuan
- Dace Murphy
- Maria Williamson

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- May 10—Thomas & Eleanor Leibham
- May 12—Robert Smesny and Malba Stasney-Smesny

**Goose Creek CISD passes \$335 M. bond**

Only 1,795 voters, 181 more in favor than against, decided that taxpayers in Highlands and Baytown will float a bond for \$335 Million dollars that will be implemented as the bonds are sold.

This Goose Creek Consolidated ISD bond was decided by residents in both Harris and Chambers Counties with 988 for it and 807 against. Early voting decided the issue, 690 to 523 in Harris. Absentee votes in Harris County were 21 for to 7. In Chambers County early voters favored the bond 102 to 80.

On election day, the

bond would not have passed. Harris County voters were 114 in favor to 130 against. In Chambers County the vote went 61 for to 67 against on May 4.

A \$100,000 valuation house could see about \$116 more a year in school taxes as the rate could go to \$1.547 from \$1.432, the current rate. The rate increase is not to occur all at once but be phased in as the bonds are sold. While an 11.5 cent increase per \$100 valuation is possible it could not last for the length of the bond but at peak of construction.

Much of the financing is

for infrastructure like cables, lights, and plumbing. The school detailed a list of capital projects as necessary for growth within the district.

Projects include a new junior school for \$59 M., the sixth in the district, an elementary school to replace San Jacinto Elementary for \$28 M., another elementary school at \$26 M., \$8.8 M. for a new field house (best field house, ever!) a 55,000 square foot \$10.7 M. building for special education, a fine arts building for Robert E. Lee High School is expected to cost \$6.7 M.

**Eastside Veterans plan car show, memorial**



**CAR SHOW SATURDAY**

Eastside Veterans Celebration hosts an open car show May 11 at the David H. McNerney American Legion Hall Post 658 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending after awards beginning at 2:00 p.m. Dash Plaques will be awarded to the first 40 registered with Top 20 and Best in Show Awards. A 50/50 cash drawing is to be the last detail. Presiding over the show will be Eddie Foster.

**Local elections determine future**

**Crosby water board decided**

Crosby Municipality Utility District held a Director's Election on a "vote for three" ballot. Robert F. Fivecoat got 32 votes, William Wilkinson 35 votes, Velma Ellison 25 votes and Eddie Foster 38.

Wow, \$10,000 for an election where less than 50 voted and nothing changed.

"Being the newest on the board, I very much appreciate the support of my neighbors and friends," said Foster.

Crosby MUD could have had over 1,400 vote in the posted and published election that would decide decision makers for growth potential and attraction of new retail businesses to

**Crosby Woods Trustee for Highlands**

Riding a wave of popularity that is partially charisma and partly heritage but mostly hard work, Jessica Woods was elected to the Board of Trustees of Goose Creek Consolidated ISD for a second term.

"I am honored to serve the district, its students and families for a second term on the GCCISD school board. Thank you for supporting education in our communities. I look forward to working with the board and the district on many projects approved in the bond election. I am committed to being a good steward of taxpayer resources with the goal of

providing the best possible education our district can achieve," Woods said, "Community involvement in planning and oversight committees is vital and I am confident that together, we will achieve great things."

The unofficial vote was 213 for Woods to 98 for Peter Adams, a senior systems engineer.

District 6 voted for Tiffany Upshaw Guy, a Counselor from Barbers Hill, 224 votes. Former Trustee Jimmy Smith got 120 votes and Jeff Hawkins 129, unofficially.

District 7 elected a realtor over a former educator. Shae Cottar got an unofficial 98 to 81 for Amaro Martinez.

sible in this land and throughout the world. The plans however need somewhere for the statue or commemorate to stay.

During the meeting, the membership asked Garcia for a 10x10 foot or 12x12 foot space inside Harris County Crosby Park near Hare Road and to expedite the decision making to within 90 days. Cery Tarver said that the Eastside Veterans consider this the first of three phases for the memorialization. Getting the land is phase one. Finding an architect or sculptor to do the design is phase two. The third phase is funding. According to Tarver, once the land is secured, corporations or community organizations may well be willing to help with donations and the services of a grant writer will be called in to help.

CROSBY – Last Monday, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia attended a meeting of Eastside Veterans' Celebration.

The Commissioner brought with him Gil Sosa of Harris County Veteran's Affairs, Nelson Espitia, and Francisco Castillo, the latter being Community Liasons for the county.

The Celebration crew have been planning to change their agenda for veterans this year. Plans now include a parade on Nov. 9 the Saturday before Veterans' Day. They hope the school district will enable a Red, White and U student involved display enactment at the high school.

The big development now is they are hoping to cast a memorial to the people that made liberty pos-

**Bridge repairs completed, westbound lanes re-open EPA HOLDS UPDATE MEETING**



Westbound lanes of the I-10 bridge over the San Jacinto River were reopened in their normal state on Monday morning of this week. In addition, the entry ramp from Crosby-Lynchburg Road was reopened, and the temporary traffic signals at 4 Corners were removed. Motorists had been inconvenienced with traffic restrictions since a barge hit and seriously damaged a supporting column on February 11th. Contractors had to install two new steel columns in place of the concrete column that was split into two pieces.

Almost a hundred area residents braved a heavy rainstorm and sharp lightning, to attend a meeting with EPA officials from Dallas regarding the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River. The meeting took place last Tuesday, May 7 at the Highlands Community Center.

Gary Baumgarten, the new project manager in charge of the Superfund site clean-up, showed a series of slides that outlined activities that were taking place in the present time.

A consent order was signed by the PRP (Potentially Responsible Parties) in April 2018, and Remedial Design has been underway since that time. This phase of the work may take as much as 2-1/2 years, he said.

Baumgarten said that the next steps in the Remedial Design were investigations of data, study of the treatability of the on-site materials, and construction plans.

He displayed a slide that showed recent borings, and a depth scale that indicated some had acceptable material, and some had toxic material.

Baumgarten discussed some of the



**GARY BAUMGARTEN**  
EPA project manager

problems with the maintenance of the site. In July 2018 and November 2018 repairs to the Cap were required. He said that the red marker buoys had also

See EPA Meeting, Page 10

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

# Crosby Senior Signing Day ceremony grows



Ninety two Crosby High School Seniors inked pledges and got photographed signing up for their future inside the auditorium on May 3. An annual event now, Senior Signing Day had students taking the plunge into their futures as they sat with parents and on occasion with Principal Terry Perkins. Of course, as every individual is different, some go on to college settings, some go to trade school, some enlist in the military and others go out into the job market. By those and similar divisions the students were clustered into groups to be photographed. Each year the Senior Signing Day grows in participation. It is an excellent opportunity to begin a commitment. The above photograph is of the entire group.

## Musketeers Trailride surprises Crosby



Last Saturday afternoon locals were stunned by the pageantry and diversity of a trail ride that came south on US 90 frontage road beside Friendly Ford of Crosby and proceeded onto the Old Beaumont Highway. The ride featured carriages, floats, horses, ATVs and varied other transportation with beauties dancing atop hoods and plenty of music. Believed to be associated with the Three Musketeers Trail-ride the tradition goes far back into the Old West. The troop travelled on to North Shore.

## KMCO restarts alarm testing

The purpose of this communication is to inform neighbors and members of the community that KMCO will be restarting the weekly alarm testing on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 11:00 am. The KMCO facility is located at 16503 Ramsey Road Crosby, TX 77532. Please note, that KMCO will be conducting the weekly alarm testing every Tuesday at

11:00 am. The local community may hear high pitch siren tones associated with the alarm testing. KMCO appreciates your patience, understanding, and continued support. Should you have any questions, please contact Kim George, Director-Human Resources and Communications at 281-328-0287 or 281-702-5505.

Back Issues of this newspaper are available to read, at Crosby Library and Highlands Stratford Library.

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*Cordially invites you  
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CRI Financial Services joined the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce in 2016. Each year the company headed by Jack Noonan earns rave reviews from corporations seeking to have the most complex of taxes handled and CRI does the job. It suggests that someone is doing something correctly when an institution can stay in the same location for decades.

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## CONSIDERING WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY?

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 | 6-7 p.m.


Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

CRCU Community Room | 4401 Garth Rd. | Baytown, TX 77521



Laura Choi, MD, FACS  
Bariatric Surgeon

Weight loss (bariatric) surgery may not be right for everyone, but learning more about it and talking to your doctor can help determine if it's the right option for you.



Kendell Sowards, MD  
Bariatric Surgeon

Ask an Expert


Join Drs. Laura Choi and Kendell Sowards who will address commonly asked questions, such as:

- Am I a candidate for weight loss surgery?
- What are the common types of surgery?
- How do I know if I'm ready?

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Visit [houstonmethodist.org/events](http://houstonmethodist.org/events) or call 281.428.2273 for more information or to register.

Complimentary parking is available at the hospital.



★ OPINION PAGE ★

**TEXAS SENATE NEWS**  
By Richard Lee

*Senate approves major property tax and education finance Reform Bill*

(Austin) The bill to change the way the state pays for public education while reducing local property taxes passed the Senate on Monday, moving the session's signature bill one step closer to the governor's desk. A top priority of state leadership throughout the year, the bill would reduce local school property tax rates by 10 cents while updating funding formulas to better address the modern student population in Texas, according to its author. "A system that started in the early 80s has had numerous Band-Aids attached to it," said Friendswood Senator Larry Taylor. "Here we are today with the system that we have: very complex, very outdated, and not meeting the demands we have before us." The current system is especially poor, said Taylor, at addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged students, which make up more than half of all public school students in Texas today.

To improve achievement among that population, the bill targets funding increases toward students from low-income backgrounds in early education, including money for full-day, high-quality pre-K programs in order to improve the number of kids reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. This is a critical standard to meet, said Taylor, as all future education hinges on a student's ability to read. This funding would be partially outcome-based; schools would get more money up-front to improve reading standards for economically-disadvantaged students, but would also get a bonus for every student that met standards. Schools would have discretion to use an accredited reading assessment other than the STAAR test.

Districts would get additional money for every economically disadvantaged student they educate, and would get more depending on how dense poverty levels are in the community served by the district. Regardless of low income population, all districts would see more money through a \$740 increase in the primary variable in the school finance formula, the basic allotment. There's more money for dual-language programs, dyslexia

services and post-secondary readiness. For teachers, the bill still includes the \$5,000 pay raise for all public school teachers and librarians, but also adds an effectiveness-based pay scale that would allow districts to pay their best teachers more and increase compensation to those who choose to work at more challenging campuses.

For property taxpayers, school rates would fall 10 cents and the bill would implement a 2.5 percent rollback rate on local school property taxes to slow growth. To pay for this, the bill initially contemplated a one-cent increase in the state sales tax, but an amendment to the bill developed by a Senate workgroup looking at alternatives would fund it through other sources. It would divert part of oil and gas severance tax revenue, about \$2.3 billion for the biennium, from the rainy day fund into a new fund dedicated toward property tax compression, called the Tax Reduction and Excellence in Education (TREE) fund. Along with some changes in the way the state collects sales tax from online purchases and a reallocation from the Permanent School Fund, plus \$2.7 billion already in the budget for property tax cuts, in total the bill would include about \$5.6 billion in property tax relief.

If passed into law, it would mark the first time in decades that the state has made significant reforms to education finance without a court mandate. If the Legislature doesn't address school finance on its own initiative, Taylor warns the state could soon find itself in a familiar situation. "We've been given the opportunity to work on this by the court and now is our time or we will fall back into the same old pattern we've been doing for the last 3 decades: supreme court decision, Band-Aid, more money in a particular area, supreme court decision, Band-Aid, more money in certain areas," he said. "We've got to break that cycle, we've got to move our school finance system into the 21st century." The bill will now head into negotiations with the House to resolve differences between the two versions of the measure.



*Property tax reform bill goes to conference committee*

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives on May 1 passed Senate Bill 2, legislation proposing to bring property tax relief to homeowners, but the lower house slowed the bill's momentum by tacking on 25 floor amendments.

If finally passed in the coming days, the legislation would lower the rollback rate for most local taxing authorities from 8 percent to 3.5 percent and 2 percent for school districts. The bill also allows local option elections on proposals to exceed rollback rates.

SB 2, like House Bill 1, the state budget bill, is now in the hands of a conference committee of five House members and five Senate members tasked with producing a final, agreed-to version. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the calendar and the clock as constitutional deadlines set in and the May 27 end of the session grows near.

Gov. Greg Abbott lauded the progress made on the property tax reform bill. "For too long, Texans have watched their property taxes skyrocket while being reduced to tenants of their own property. That is not the Texas way," Abbott said.

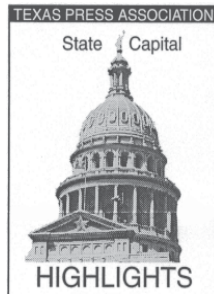
"In the final days of the legislative session, I am confident this historic legislation, combined with additional reforms working their way through the system, will reach my desk where I will sign them into law. I look forward to working with Lt. Gov. Patrick, Speaker Bonnen and the entire Legislature to deliver lasting property tax relief to every Texan."

**Parties settle voting suit**

Parties in the lawsuit LULAC v. Texas Secretary of State David Whitley and consolidated cases agreed to a settlement over Whitley's Jan. 25 letter to county voter registrars.

In an announcement released April 26, Whitley wrote, "Today's agreement accomplishes our office's goal of maintaining an accurate list of qualified reg-

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



istered voters while eliminating the impact of any list maintenance activity on naturalized U.S. citizens. I will continue to work with all stakeholders in the election community to ensure this process is conducted in a manner that holds my office accountable and protects the voting rights of eligible Texans."

In his role as the state's chief elections officer, Whitley wrote the letter directing registrars to identify and remove from voter rolls non-U.S. citizens registered to vote in Texas. That letter sparked the lawsuit.

Plaintiffs agreed to dismiss their claims and the Secretary of State's office agreed to issue a new advisory notifying Texas counties on a revised process for identifying and removing non-U.S. citizens from the state's voter rolls.

The Secretary of State's office, in following the new process, will send to county voter registrars only the matching records of individuals who registered to vote before identifying themselves as non-U.S. citizens to the Texas Department of Public Safety when applying for a driver license or personal identification card.

**House OKs marijuana bill**

HB 63, legislation less-

ening penalties for possession of an ounce or less of marijuana, won House approval on April 30, on a vote of 103-42.

If passed, the penalty for minor possession of marijuana would be a misdemeanor citation, like a traffic ticket. Authored by House Speaker Pro-tempore Joe Moody, D-El Paso, the bill drew support from both political parties.

Before a final vote was called in the House, Moody said in the course of a longer statement, "Members, 22 states and the District of Columbia have passed bills like this and the sky hasn't fallen there. Whatever you think about Colorado-style legalization, this isn't it."

HB 63 was received in the Senate for consideration on April 30, but Lt. Gov. Patrick, who presides over the upper chamber, indicated in a social media post that he would not allow the bill to progress any further.

**Revenue total increases**

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on May 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.8 billion in April, an amount 3 percent more than the amount reported in April 2018.

"State sales tax revenue continued to grow, but at a modest pace compared to recent months," Hegar said in an agency news release. "Increased sales tax collections were mostly from the construction and services sectors, while collections from retail trade saw a moderate decline," he added.

Furthermore, Hegar said, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in April 2019 was up 6.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

**Social Security Matters**

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



*Ask Rusty – Mother seeking SSI Benefits for Disabled Child*

**Dear Rusty:** My young daughter is disabled, and I am trying to make ends meet financially. Can you help with a child's SSI claim? Signed: Needy Mother

**Dear Needy Mother:** "SSI", or "Supplemental Security Income", is a Federal benefit program administered by, but separate from Social Security. SSI is available for low-income disabled seniors and disabled minor children. As your daughter's parent you must apply directly with the Social Security Administration (you cannot apply online). You can do this at the general SSA number (1.800.772.1213) or at your local Social Security office, which you can find by going to this link: [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator). Here, you can enter your zip code and get back contact information for your local office, including location, hours, and telephone number to call.

You should call first to make an appointment so as to speed up the SSI application process and avoid long wait times. In order to expedite the application, you should first complete a Child Disability Report which will ask you to provide detailed information about the child and the child's medical condition. A child is considered disabled if suffering from physical or mental impairment which causes a severe functional impairment which has lasted (or is expected to last) more than a year. Go to link for complete information on applying for SSI: [www.ssa.gov/applfordisability/child.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/applfordisability/child.htm). In addition to information on the child's eligibility criteria and how to apply, at this SSA website you will also find a link to the Child Disability Report.

Completing the report online is relatively straightforward and intuitive if you have some computer skills but, if not, you can also obtain a copy of the form (SSA-3820) at this link: [www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-3820.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-3820.pdf). You can download the Child Disability Report form (SSA-3820), print it out as completely as possible by hand and provide it to Social Security when you submit the SSI application. Gathering all the information requested and providing it to Social Security via the Child Disability Report will serve to greatly expedite the SSI application for your child. Please be aware that there are household income limits and that SSI benefits are closely coordinated with the State in which you live. In fact, Social Security will contact your State's SSI benefit office to provide them with your application, and your State's SSI benefit office will verify the child's eligibility by contacting doctors, hospitals, teachers, medical providers, schools or other contacts you have provided who can verify the child's disability and eligibility. If the child is working, he/she must not be earning more than the monthly allowable amount (\$1220 for 2019) in order to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income. Also, be aware that if the application is initially denied, you have the right to appeal that initial decision. And for clarity, money for SSI benefits is not taken from Social Security funds but rather from the Government's general funds.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website or email us.

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# Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

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## ROUND-UP

### Senator Brandon Creighton Statement on House Bill 3

Austin, Texas— Today the Texas Senate debated a school finance proposal that I believe is good policy, but because it lacked a price tag and did not include any data of how it would affect school districts in Senate District 4, I could not support the bill at this time.

Throughout my career, I have voted to reign in high-stakes testing, to provide school districts more flexibility, and this session, co-authored a bill to give Texas educators a \$5,000.00 raise. I believe in the merits of HB 3, and congratulate Senator Taylor and Representative Huberty on their legislation that reforms the state's school finance system. Before the session ends, I will have another chance to vote on the final bill, and I look forward to supporting it once I have a clear understanding of the impacts on school districts in Senate District 4, and the true cost of the legislation, which will have implications for all Texas taxpayers.

**SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON** represents District 4, which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson and Galveston Counties.

## ExxonMobil advances \$2B Baytown expansion

BAYTOWN — Exxon Mobil Corp. reported last week that it will proceed with a \$2 billion expansion project at its chemical plant in Baytown, Texas.

According to the company, the project is an add-on to its \$20-billion-plus "Growing the Gulf" series of projects to build and expand manufacturing facilities along the U.S. Gulf Coast.

"Our Baytown chemical expansion will put us in a solid position to maximize the value of increased Permian Basin production and will deliver higher-demand, higher-value products produced at our Gulf Coast refining and chemical facilities," ExxonMobil Chairman and CEO Darren W. Woods said in written statement.

The project calls for the addition of a new, approximately 400,000-ton-per-year Vistamaxx performance polymer unit, ExxonMobil stated. The company added that ex-



pansion — slated to start up in 2022 — will enable it to enter the linear alpha olefins market by way of a new linear alpha olefins unit with a production capacity of roughly 350,000 tons per year. "Global demand for chemicals is expected to be greater than energy demand growth and GDP growth over the next 20 years," said Woods.

Through "Growing the

Gulf," ExxonMobil last year began production at its new ethane cracker at Baytown. The 1.5-million-ton-per-year cracker provides ethylene feedstock to the company's nearby Mont Belvieu plastics plant.

In its announcement Thursday, ExxonMobil stated that the latest Baytown project should create approximately 2,000 construction jobs. (Courtesy Rigzone)

## DAISY Awards at Methodist Hospital

BAYTOWN — (May 7, 2019) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital recognized three nurses as winners of the April 2019 DAISY Awards.

Denelsianette Nunez (3 West) and Nidra Jeter (2 West) and John Mariano (Surgical Intensive Care Unit, SICU), were recognized as the DAISY Award winners in April. The DAISY Award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the "super-human" tasks nurses perform every day. Community Resource Credit Union serves as the sponsor of the DAISY Award program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

Nunez was nominated by a patient who appreciated her calm, helpful demeanor and reassuring words of comfort. Jeter was nominated after jumping into action as an emergency plumber to help a patient whose room toilet began leaking. Mariano's nominating letter stated his knowledge, upbeat nature and ability to explain the patient's care plan were a great comfort.

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, Calif., and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died in 1999 at the age of 33 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon autoimmune disease. The care Bar-

nes and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. Each month, a nurse is selected by a nursing committee to receive the DAISY Award.

At a presentation in front of the nurse's colleagues, physicians, patients, and visitors, the honorees receive a certificate commending them for being an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." The honorees are also given a beautiful sculpture called A Healer's Touch; hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe of Zimbabwe, Africa.

One day while Barnes was in the hospital, he asked his family to bring him a Cinnamon roll plus enough for all the nurses in his unit. With the help of Cinnamon's parent company, FOCUS Brands, the DAISY Foundation carries on this tradition by serving Cinnabons to all the nurses in the award recipient's unit in thanks for everything they do for their patients and families.

Bonnie Barnes, president and co-founder of the DAISY Foundation, stated, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide acutely ill patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human work they do. The kind of work the nurses at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of the DAISY Award."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is proud to be among the hospitals participating in the DAISY Award program. Nurses are heroes every day, and given the current national nursing shortage, the Daisy Award plays an important role in letting our nurses know their work is highly valued.

## Baytown Youth Fair participation grows



Raelynn Dempsey, Rebecca Currie, Jonathan Wischnewsky, Linda Wischnewsky, Darryl Wischnewsky and Breanna Moody are here with Dempsey's Grand Champion Steer, Diesel. The Wischnewsky's are representing Bayway Auto Group that bought the 1,285 lb. Diesel for \$9,000 in the livestock auction.

BAYTOWN — The 59th is in the history books and shows more students are taking advantage of the opportunities in the livestock show for college money by exhibiting livestock and talent.

This year the Wischnewsky family bought a new Diesel and it certainly isn't their first diesel as they represent Bayway Auto Group. And it isn't they are no strangers to purchasing grand champion steers as they purchased Shelby Kouba's in Crosby for \$25,000.

Melody McMurrey was Grand Champion Photographer netting \$1,000 from Awards and Engraving of Baytown. She likewise was first place in Horticulture. He brother Mason McMurrey was first place in crafts in his first participatory year.

The lovely smile everyone noted during the livestock auction was Breanna Moody; she was tapped as Senior Showman. Junior Showman was Coleman Smalley.

Grand Champion Lamb was earned by Isabella Gar-

zoria and Sharleigh Jones was Reserve Champion Lamb.

The Goat Show went to Haley Nugent and Carson Purswell Reserve Champion.

Grand Champion Swine belonged to Michael Bizanowicz and Kenzie Prewitt was Reserve Champion.

Grand Champion Rabbit was shown by Samantha Sedivec as Ashley Ybanez was Reserve.

The best of Broilers was Haley Nugent and Highlands Morgan Birdsong was Reserve Champion.



Denelsianette Nunez



Nidra Jeter



John Mariano

## Hope for Parkinson's Disease Patients

BAYTOWN — (May 6, 2019) — For patients suffering with movement disorders like Parkinson's disease, life can mean coping with the gradual reduction in motor functions that can make performing even simple activities a major hurdle.

But hope for an improved quality of life can be found through a procedure called deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapy. It is an established treatment not only for Parkinson's patients, but also for those dealing with dystonia, essential tremor and psychiatric conditions like

obsessive-compulsive disorder. It's also approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reduce seizures in epilepsy patients. The treatment is reserved for people who can't get control of their symptoms with medications.

Dr. Ruby Parveen, a board-certified neurologist and sleep medicine specialist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, says DBS therapy involves the surgical implantation of a neurostimulator, a small pacemaker-like device, under the skin of the chest.



Dr. Ruby Parveen

"The device has thin wires attached called leads

and electrodes that send electrical stimulation to areas in the brain that control movement," Parveen explains. "The neurosurgeon also drills a hole of approximately 14 mm diameter into the skull so that electrodes can be inserted while the patient is awake or asleep. The two parts of DBS surgery—implanting the leads in the brain and the neurostimulator under the skin—may be done on the same day or on different days."

★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

### \$6.25M jackpot-winning ticket sold at North Shore gas station

HOUSTON - A Houston gas station just helped one person become a millionaire after selling a \$6.25 million jackpot-winning lottery ticket.

The Lotto Texas drawing was held Saturday and the winning ticket matched all six of the numbers drawn (10-14-22-28-40-44). The ticket was purchased at Circle K located at 16222 Wallisville Road.

So how much does the winner get?

The claimant will receive \$4,309,883.85 because the customer chose the cash value option at the time of purchase.

How long does the winner have to claim the prize?

The winner has 180 days from the draw date to make a claim.

"If you have the winning ticket, we encourage you to sign the ticket, put it in a safe place, seek financial and legal advice, and call the Texas Lottery before coming to Austin to claim the prize. We look forward to meeting you," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery.

### Crosby Chamber of Commerce hosted for ribbon cuttings



The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce Welcomed First American Title to the Chamber. They are located at 5623 Main St, Suite C in Crosby. Please call them at 281-328-3239 for your title needs.



The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce Welcomed our neighbor Sjeaar Sjolander Salon to the Chamber. They are a full service salon and located at 5315 First St. in Crosby. They can be reached at 281-328-2515



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### Houston Symphony free summer concerts announced

•Neighborhood Concerts: June 4-7, 2019  
•ExxonMobil Summer Symphony Nights: June 21, June 22, June 28, June 29, July 4, 2019

HOUSTON (May 7, 2019) – The Houston Symphony announced today the details of its free, family-friendly Neighborhood Concerts and ExxonMobil Summer Symphony Nights. A summer tradition, these evening concerts are held in casual and accessible venues across Greater Houston, bringing the Houston Symphony to people of all ages and backgrounds.

This year's Neighborhood Concerts—led by Houston Symphony Associate Conductor Robert Franz—are held in schools and churches across Houston and feature space-themed works in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first human visit to the moon. With Strauss' Also sprach Zarathustra, Mozart's Jupiter Symphony, the John Williams' Flying Theme from E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, and more, an interstellar journey is in store for audiences at Lilly Grove Missionary Baptist Church (South Side Houston) on June 4; Morton Ranch High School (Katy) on June 5; Dulles High School (Sugar Land) on June 6; and North Shore Senior High School (Galea Park) on June 7.

For the 79th consecutive year, the Houston Symphony returns to Miller Outdoor Theatre for ExxonMobil Summer Symphony Nights, a tradition that introduces outstanding soloists and conductors to Houston audiences.

Known for charismatic and dynamic musicianship, Finnish conductor Dalia Stasevska leads the Houston Symphony in an evening featuring music by Sibelius—Finland's greatest musical export—on June 21. In July, Stasevska begins her post as the Principal Guest Conductor Designate of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and her performance at Miller Outdoor Theatre marks her North American conducting debut. The program includes Sibelius's Finlandia, later reworked as the popular hymn "Be Still My Soul."

Former Assistant Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Ruth Reinhardt makes her Houston Symphony debut in the program Tchaikovsky's Romeo & Juliet on June 22. The program opens with Detlev Glanert's Prelude No. 1 from Three American Preludes for Orchestra. Then, Houston Symphony Principal Second Violin MuChen Hsieh makes her Houston Symphony solo debut in Saint-Saëns fiery Violin Concerto No. 3. Reinhardt leads the orchestra to close the concert with two deep and dramatic works: Dvořák's heartfelt Othello and Tchaikovsky's romantic Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy.

On June 28, young pianist Drew Petersen—winner of the 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant—makes his Houston Symphony debut in Grieg's immensely popular Piano Concerto. Current assistant conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chilean conductor Paolo Bortolameolli closes out the program with Dvorak's towering "New World"

Symphony, a stirring love letter to America that captures the limitless potential of a budding nation.

American conductor Roderick Cox, who previously served as the Associate Conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra, leads the Houston Symphony in an unforgettable night, opening with Richard Strauss's Don Juan, plus a performance by the Silver Medal Winner of the 2019 Houston Symphony Ima Hogg Competition. Cox closes out the program with an epic and groundbreaking masterpiece, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

A Fourth of July tradition, the Houston Symphony returns to Miller Outdoor Theatre for its annual Star-Spangled Salute under the direction of the Symphony's Principal POPS Conductor Steven Reineke. Houston vocalist Chelsea Cymone joins the celebration of patriotic favorites. The evening concludes with a fireworks display.

Admission is free to all the ExxonMobil Summer Symphony Nights concerts at Miller Outdoor Theatre, but tickets are required for the covered seating area. Free tickets are available (4 per person over age 16 while they last) at the Miller Outdoor Theatre box office the day of each performance between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. If tickets remain at 1 p.m., the box office will reopen one hour before showtime to distribute the remaining tickets. As always, open seating is available on the hill.

Visit [milleroutdoortheatre.com](http://milleroutdoortheatre.com) for more information.



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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

# Historic Crosby (Phase 3)



By Joel Fuchs

This week's historical photo of Crosby is of the downtown area, where FM 2100 crosses the railroad tracks. Today there is a beautiful overpass at this location, that carries traffic over the old downtown area. This photo was taken around 1915, and the photographer had climbed to the top of the railroad water tower to get this particular vantage point. The photo is looking east. At the time, Main Street (FM 2100) was just a small dirt trail crossing the tracks.

In the foreground is the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. It was built in 1895. At the time, Crosby had three railroad tracks. Four trains per day stopped at the depot to pick up and drop off passengers. The small building just beyond the depot, is most likely the water well and pump house. Many of the town-folk hauled their water from there. The tall white building in the upper right center of the photo is the Texas Mercantile Compa-

ny Store. It was built in 1910, and it was the largest general store in the community. Starting in 1914, this building would also house the Crosby Telephone Company, which would bring telephone service to Crosby, Huffman, Highlands, Barbers Hill and Baytown.

In the lower right corner of the photo is a large stack of pipe. This was probably being used to construct the Gulf Pipeline that was being constructed along what we today call Gulf Pump Road. The small house behind the pipe was one of four homes that lined the tracks and served railroad workers. We can also see the backside of Ramsey's Drugs (second tallest white building) at 5623 Main Street. A car is parked across Main Street in front of the Crosby Auto Supply Co. Next door to that was Dr. Cutler's office (two-story building on the right), and even further to the right was the Sirocka Saloon. The small town was stunned in 1909, when a local boy named Larry Lynch was shot execution

style in front of the saloon. The assassin shot him in the back of the head with a double-barrel shotgun. The town was further stunned when another local kid named Walter Pira, was accused of the crime.

This is the third photo in a series, of historic photos of Crosby in honor of its upcoming bicentennial. Over the next few weeks, we will hopefully present some more historic photos. Crosby was settled in 1823, making it one of the oldest settlements in Texas. Lifetime resident Jody Fuchs, is preparing a photographic history of the community in preparation for the upcoming event, and is looking for other old or interesting photos of the community. He is working with members of the Crosby Historical Society, Donna Davenport and Klaus Duda. In June, the Historical Society will hold a meeting, where Jody will present some of the 1000's of old photos that he has collected thus far in preparation of this project. The meeting is free and open to any interested persons, so

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please feel free to join us at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 1st at the Crosby Brethren Church.

The book will cover the entire 200-year pictorial history of the town, as well as briefly covering the surrounding communities of Highlands, Huffman, Lynchburg, Barrett, Baytown, Liberty, etc. If you have any interesting photos or artifacts of the area or its residents from 1823 until the present, please contact the Crosby Historical Society at 281-731-7010.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Luke in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What just and devout man held the baby Jesus when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple? Cyrenius, Ham, Simeon, Zara
3. Which of these books comes before the other three in the Old Testament (KJV)? Nahum, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Daniel

4. What sign sealed God's promise not to destroy the earth ever again by a flood? Solar eclipse, Rainbow, Full moon, Ocean wave
5. From Proverbs 29 what does the fear of man bring? A snare, Redemption, Love of life, Death
6. Whose daughter found the infant Moses in the river? David, Pharaoh, Solomon, Timothy

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Simeon; 3) Ecclesiastes; 4) Rainbow; 5) A snare; 6) Pharaoh

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and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

**Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown**

**ANGELICAN CHURCH**

• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.

**APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands. 281-426-4133

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516

• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170

• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

**BAPTIST**

• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409

• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

**BAPTIST-Missionary**

• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.

• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.

• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

**BAPTIST-Southern**

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551

• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbchhighlands.org

• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

**BRETHREN**

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

**CATHOLIC**

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448

• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

• Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.

• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

**CHURCH OF GOD**

• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518

• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

**EPISCOPAL**

• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.

**INDEPENDENT**

• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705

• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

**LUTHERAN**

• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

**METHODIST**

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614

• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

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• Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. ☐281-576-5452.

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• Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

**BAPTIST**

• New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082

• Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.

• Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

• St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.

• First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

• Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

**BAPTIST-Southern**

• Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

• South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

• First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.

• Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

• First Baptist Church of Galena Park, 206 Woolfe St., 77547. 713-455-1261.

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• Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.

• Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

**EPISCOPAL**

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**HOLINESS**

• Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City, 713-671-3500.

**METHODIST**

• Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

• Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.

• Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

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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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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

## Parkinson's Disease,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Parveen says a few weeks after the procedure, your doctor will turn on the neurostimulator and adjust the degree of stimulation to best control your symptoms while minimizing side effects. This is done non-invasively using a tablet computer. These signals suppress distressing movement symptoms of Parkinson's disease, essential tremor and dystonia and provide relief.

An extensive evaluation is conducted prior to the procedure to ensure that patients are good candi-

dates for DBS therapy.

"The evaluation includes examining the patient's medical history, a neurological exam of the patient's movement and motor complications, an MRI of the brain to check for any issues that might preclude surgery, lab tests and a neuropsychological evaluation of their cognitive status," Parveen said.

According to Parveen, there are many benefits to DBS, including a quick recovery time and its ability to control symptoms 24/7.

"Because your doctor

programs the system, it can be altered as your symptoms change and the system can be turned off or removed. The system requires no maintenance from patients, except in the case of rechargeable systems, which require periodic recharging," Parveen said.

To schedule an appointment for an evaluation to determine if you are a candidate for DBS therapy, call Houston Methodist Neurology Associates at 832-556-6535.

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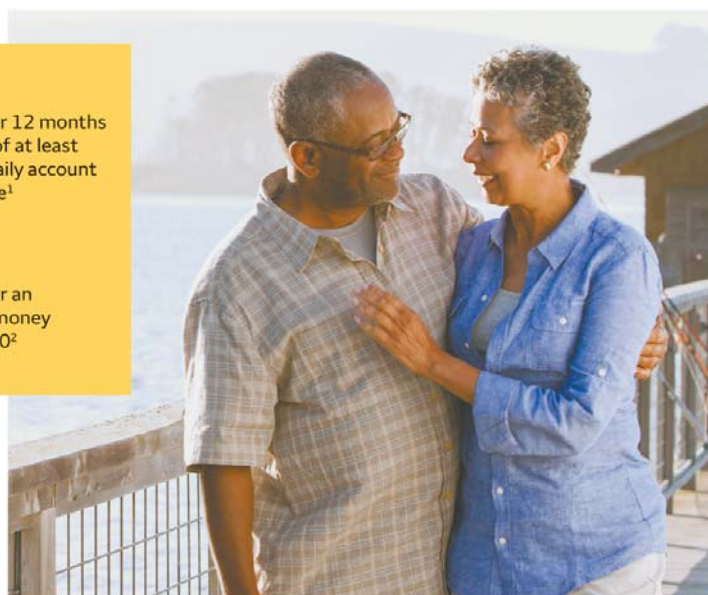
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ASK THE EXPERTS

ATTORNEY'S CORNER  
By Attorney Weston Cotten



Tax Time....Again

Rather than talk about the much maligned and universally hated income tax, I want to talk about what Congress has done to/for us before it adjourned for the Christmas recess.

Congress gave us a mixed bag of "tax relief". The Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 included and extension and rearrangement of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001, which retained the lower tax rate for both income, capital gains and estate (death) taxes; extension of child care and college credits; and keeping the itemized deductions fully deductible and included some new provisions such as the two percent (2%) decrease of the employee side of social security taxes (but not medicare) taxes for 2011 and a two (2) year modification of the alternative minimum tax.

The Act reinstates the estate (death) tax for persons dying between January 1 and December 31 of 2010. The prior tax laws had ended the death tax for the year 2010, but was to have reinstated the tax as it existed in 2006.

The Act sets a maximum rate of estate tax at a thirty-five percent (35%) rate for 2011 and 2012. (notice it expires in an election year).

Effective on January 1, 2011 the gift tax exclusion is raised from \$1,000,000.00 to \$5,000,000.00 and again used unified the estate tax exemption so it can be applied to either gifts or transfers upon death. Fi-

nally, in 2010 the \$5,000,000.00 will be adjusted for inflation.

Another feature is that in 2011, each person's exemption will become "transferable". This will mean that if one spouse does not use his/her full exemption, upon his/her death the remainder of the first spouse to die's exemption can be used by the surviving spouse. Before the passage of this Act, the only way to accomplish this transfer of remainder benefit was through a bypass trust.

Unfortunately, this is only temporary. The terms of the Act are only effective for 2011 and 2012. If not amended, extended or replaced by another Congressional act, the law will revert on January 1, 2013 to that which was in effect in 2000.

The Act (and Congress) creates uncertainty, rather than allowing for planning that can be depended upon to span a lifetime. Congress has put off until the next presidential campaign the question of how to deal with estate and gift taxes. Planning for death and future generations will have to be done on an annual or bi-annual basis until Congress gives an indication that the laws will not be meddled with for a period longer than the election cycle of two (2) years.

The most important thing to do is to keep in touch with your attorney, financial planner and accountant as there are most certainly more changes and surprises to come in the next two years.

Weston Cotten is admitted to practice in all Texas Courts, the Southern District, Eastern District, Northern District, Western District Federal Courts, and the U. S. Tax Court. He is a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. He has been licensed to practice for 28 years. His areas of practice include Probate and Estate preservation, business formation and operations, real estate, Social Security Disability and Bankruptcy law. He is a local, solo practice attorney with his office located at 5223 Garth Road, Baytown, TX 77521. Office number is 281-421-5774. He is associated with other solo practice attorneys with experience in all areas of the law. Feel free to call with your questions. If he is unable to assist you, he will try to give you a referral to an attorney with experience in your area of legal need.

Please visit his website at [www.westoncotten.com](http://www.westoncotten.com), or call at 281-421-5774.

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Weston Cotten is admitted to practice in all Texas Courts, the Southern District, Eastern District, Northern District, Western District Federal Courts, and the U. S. Tax Court, though not certified as to any legal specialization. I have been licensed to practice for over 30 years. My areas of practice include Probate and Estate preservation, business formation and operations, real estate, Social Security Disability and Bankruptcy law. I am a local, solo practice attorney with my office located at 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. New phone Number is 281-421-4050.

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EPA update meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

moved, and studies were underway to relocate them at the edge of the cap.

Janetta Coats of EPA talked about her work with the community, through the CIP or Community Involvement Plan. She said that the group had determined that the main community concerns were Health, Clean-up, Community Involvement, Wildlife, and Watershed.

Health concerns included impacts of remaining material, and recreation, after the cleanup.

Cleanup concerns included how floods and hurricanes might affect the sediments.

Community involvement included receiving information on status.

Wildlife concerns centered on affect to fish and other wildlife.

Watershed concerns included downstream wildlife affect, and water supply contamination.

An extended Question and Answer period followed the formal presentation. Everyone in the audience was given a chance to ask a question or give a fact or opinion.

Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation spoke of the efforts to post signs warning of fish advisories. He also said that more borings were needed in the Sand Separation area if a permit to dig that area for barges is granted. He thought pilings or something more substantial than the red buoys were needed to keep ships away from the cap.

Sean Matula, a life-long resident of Highlands and someone who grew up close

to the waste pits, told a personal story of his family's health problems from the toxins, leading to birth defects that had rendered him disabled and unable to work, and his point was that the waste pits are having a real effect on the lives of nearby residents. He and others raised the question of how the toxic waste could be classified as Non-hazardous for the purposes of disposing of it in a landfill, but toxic and hazardous in the river.

Baumgarten was questioned about how the waste was "characterized" for disposal purposes. He said that samples were tested, and though federal guidelines did not test for Dioxin, the state of Texas does test for this. However, depending upon levels, the waste could still be called "non-hazardous."

Bobby Stone of Channelview told how the site used to be much higher than the river, and wondered where the material had disappeared to.

Anna Holt, a Channelview native, hold about how she swam, boated, and skied in the river growing up, and ate the fish and crabs. Much like Matula's story, she said infertility was a major problem for many, including her family. She urged the EPA to understand that the waste pits were a serious, life-changing environmental problem.

Christine Singleton of THEA said they were concerned about the safety of workers who are on the waste pits cap, and will be working to remove it in the future. She urged the PRP to provide Data Safety Sheets to all workers so that they can protect themselves.

Lisa Gossett, an Environmental professional teacher, raised the question about how much information was in the official repository in Highlands, whether it was indexed and all accounted for, and whether new material

when added was so noted. She also pointed out that federal hazard testing looked for 40 chemicals,



LISA GOSSETT

but not Dioxin. She noted that Texas did test for this. She said that 50% of the original toxic material has washed away downstream.

Jackie Young of THEA reminded the audience that the area around the pits tests for a higher rate of 14 types of cancer than state average. She called on the EPA to correctly classify the hazardous waste and to send it to the proper disposal site. She said this characterization affects all other decisions in the Superfund cleanup process.

Other questions in the session centered on who is responsible for controlling barge traffic in the river, and has oversight on the dredging of boat slips near the waste pits. Gary Baumgarten said that this is the Army Corps of Engineers, and that EPA carefully reviews all permit applications they receive.

A member of the audience questioned whether there was some other way of disposing of the toxic waste at the site, other than removing it by truck or barge. She suggested chemical treatment or burning as two possibilities. EPA's John Meyer pointed out that a large quantity of hazardous waste is disposed of every day in Harris County, and the methods for doing this are safe and well known. He said that the material from the San Jacinto River site would be tested, characterized, and properly disposed of.



SEAN MATULA

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