

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star  Courier

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the **PRESS:**

- West Chambers County Pilot Club Scholarships
- Baytown Early Head Start opens new location
- Mont Belvieu Summer Reading at the library

.....And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**FRIDAY, MAY 31
 SUMMER BOOK SALE IN CROSBY**

Friends of the Crosby Library will hold a Summer Book Sale Friday, May 31st - 1pm - 6pm & Saturday, June 1st - 10am - 5pm. Buy 2 books, get 1 Free!! For more info, call the Library at 281-328-3535.

**MAY 31 - JUNE 8
 CROSBY FAIR & RODEO**

MAY 31 BAG O DONUTS
 JUNE 1 PARADE 10:00 - 8 P.M. TRAVIS MATTE
 JUNE 5 LIVESTOCK SALE
 JUNE 6 - 8 PRCA RODEO & CONCERTS

**SAT., JUNE 1
 SUMMER FESTIVAL**

Saturday, June 1, 2019, 4:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Multiculture dance performances, vendors, food trucks, fun for the whole family and more. At the Box E. Pavillion, 421 US 90, Crosby, TX. 77532.

**MON., JUNE 3
 WISDOM OF PREPLANNING**

7 pm - 8:30 pm at 4 Corners BBQ, 7735 Decker, Baytown, TX 77562.

BIRTHDAYS

- May 30—Justin Hodges
- May 31—Danielle Grooms, Rodger Simmons
- Jun 1—Brittani & Paige Carroll
- Evelyn Wotipka
- Jun 2—Martha Keyes, Bettie Woosley
- Jun 4—Whitney Sain, Mary Ann Stone, Michael Taylor, Patricia E. Sparks
- Jun 5—John Abbott, James Allen, Amanda Taylor, Teresa Griffith

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jun 1—Harold & Janice Havard
- Doug & Roxanna Phillips
- Jun 2—Glen & Nell Salters
- Jun 3—Edwin & Dorothy Sheffield
- Jun 4—Donnie & Connie Larrison
- Jun 5—Teresa Griffith
- Jun 6—Randy & Nita Sloan

Sterling-White hosts Memorial Day



Solemn ceremony as veterans, civilians remember those that served.



Dana Read plays "Taps" for rest of those that gave all in time of war.



Mike Page of Sterling White



Rev. Jerry Hovater



Army M. Sgt. Joe Briscoe Retired

HIGHLANDS - Let anyone planning where best to celebrate holidays in the U.S.A. remember to be here for Memorial Day. Each year a capacity crowd turns out to remember those that have served the armed forces and especially those that gave the last full measure for their country with speeches,

tributes, prayer and music at the cemetery in Highlands.

This year with the help of the Crosby High School JROTC, Boy Scout Troop #107, Cub Scout Pack 264 Den 1 and honored guests that served in the International War on Terror and scores of veterans from lo-

cal areas with local folks that echo the patriotism that summoned the rest returned to see the Memorial Wreath placed on the Wall of Honor.

According to Mike Page, Managing Partner at Sterling-White Funeral Home-

See Memorial Day, Page 8

Crosby Rodeo Cook-Off & parade is this weekend

CROSBY - The biggest party in northeast Harris County kicks off this weekend at the Crosby Fairgrounds for the 73rd Annual Crosby Fair & Rodeo Cook-Off.

Bag of Donuts plays Friday, May 31 and Travis Matte plays Saturday, June 1. Booths are sold for cooking teams to compete against one another for best in brisket, ribs, open dish, desert, chicken, and other categories including Showmanship where in ti is tested who welcomed others as well as is traditional.

Saturday morning June 1 at 10:00 a.m. a parade that first appeared during World War I will leave the Middle School and venture North on FM 2100 tossing

candy to all that witness. Displaying every business that wants local customers to visit.

After the camps clear on Sunday the next event of the rodeo is the Livestock Auction. It begins with a buyers dinner at 4:00 p.m. Then thousands of dollars will be spent to get some lucky kids money to go on with their education as Grand and Reserve Champions all the way down to 8th place get sold off for college money.

New this year for the Crosby Fair & Rodeo which begins the next day June 6 is that each night not only will feature HI-Lo Pro Rodeo at 7:30 p.m. but Mutton Bustin' by local kids will lead that off at 7:00 p.m. Also, each night in addition to tra-

ditional cowboy sport of rodeo like bullriding, bull fighters will take on the bulls without the disadvantage of having a rider on their backs. It is a big step forward for the bulls to get at the fighters. That cowboy sport is good for enthusiasts of the sport but for those that like Country Music Flatland Cavalry will play a concert that night.

On Friday, June 7, Adam Hood opens for Parker McCollum.

On Saturday, June 8 the little wranglers will show that the kids have cowboy skills in keeping with their heritage. Caden Gillard leads for Koe Wetzel in fabulous workout for country western and rock music.

Highlands pet dog savagely killed

HIGHLANDS - Family and friends are mourning the incident of extreme animal cruelty. Peanut, an 18-month-old teacup Chihuahua, was found dead by her owners Saturday.



The small dog appears to have been tortured, shot and mutilated over the weekend. "His head was crushed and his eye was popping out, and his jaw was just broken. On his paws there were lacerations. They tried to skin him and then they just left him there," Dominique Cabrera said tearfully, Monday.

The person or people who committed the crime

are unknown. Dominique Cabrera, owner of the animal called the Harris County Sheriff's Office who took a report. Cabrera said that it took six hours for a deputy to show up,

See Dog Killed, Page 6

After needed repairs, Battleship may be moved

LA PORTE - The Battleship Texas may be in line for another big battle, and the loser may be La Porte and East Harris County.

In a last minute maneuver in the 86th Legislative session, State Representative John Cryer (R-Lockhart) and State Senator Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) sponsored a bill that would allow the ship to be moved to another location, reportedly Galveston, after it received \$35 million in state money for repairs in a shipyard in Alabama. SB1511 provides for the transfer of the ship from the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife to the Texas Historical Commission, and then to a nonprofit, possibly the Battleship Texas



BATTLESHIP TEXAS is currently on display in La Porte, near the San Jacinto monument.

Foundation. Who would make the final decision on relocation is not clear from the bill.

Local state representatives Mary Ann Perez and Briscoe Cain have been vocal in opposing the move. Perez pointed out that the

Galveston population is seasonal, and there is no guarantee that more people would visit than in La Porte. Cain filed an amendment to stop the ship from being relocated, but it was

See BATTLESHIP, p. 5

Harris County Public Health surveys Huffman and Crosby residents

Assessing Resilience and Recovery in Residents Post-Hurricane Harvey

HOUSTON - Harris County Public Health (HCPH) staff and volunteers will go door-to-door in the Huffman/Crosby area to assess residents' needs more than a year and a half after Hurricane Harvey. This area affected by flooding during Harvey and some residents are still trying to recover. Survey results will be shared with local, state, and federal public partners to better understand how residents were impacted, what their current needs are, and how to better prepare residents for future emergencies.

On Saturday, June 8, survey teams will visit randomly selected homes in the Huffman/Crosby area. Survey takers will be asking residents how they have fared in since Harvey, and what their current needs are.

- Some of the questions will include the following:
- Was your home flooded?
 - Do you still have damage?
 - Did you have mold in your home?

This is a confidential survey and residents will not be asked to sign the survey or identify them-

See Flood Survey, Page 6

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

86th LEGISLATURE REPORT:

Other key bills passed by both chambers this session

HB 1 - (Nelson)- The state budget. The final version appropriates 164.2 billion in state money to pay for services through 2021, including the tax and education reforms passed in SB 2 and HB 3. Other highlights include: funding to increase capacity at state drivers' license offices, funding to dispose of the backlog on sexual assault kit testing, \$7.8 billion in mental health program spending across 23 state agencies, and \$347 million for women's health programs.

SB 500 - (Nelson)- The supplemental budget, truing up accounts between what was appropriated in 2017 and actual costs. Includes \$3.5 billion in rainy day funds to assist with Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery as well as \$800 million to offset lost property values for school districts in the disaster area.

SBs 6, 7, & 8 - (Kolkhorst/Creighton/Perry) Comprehensive Harvey relief and recovery package. Leverages expertise at state institutions to improve disaster response and train local officials (SB 6). Creates a funding structure to pay for flood mitigation and prevention projects, pull down federal matching funds, and cover other costs associated with hurricane relief. (SB 7). Creates a statewide flood planning system that coordinates regional plans for the first time (SB 8).

SB 11 - (Taylor)

School safety plan developed in the wake of the 2018 Santa Fe High School shooting. Requires districts to develop safety plans for each campus, implements facility hardening standards and requires safety committees for individual campuses. The Texas School Safety Center in San Marcos will evaluate plans and offer logistical support to districts. SB 10 (Nelson), which creates the Texas Mental Health Consortium, was amended onto this bill in the House. That measure allows mental health professionals at state medical schools to consult with pediatricians and other providers on mental health issues affecting children. Also includes suicide awareness and prevention programs for students and training for teachers from SB 1390 (Menéndez).

SB 12 - (Huffman) Provides long-term fiscal stability for the state teachers' retirement system through gradual increases in contributions from active employees, school districts and the state over the next 6 years. Also provides for a 13th bonus annuity check up to \$2,000 for beneficiaries this fall.

HB 2048 - (Huffman) Repeals the state drivers responsibility program, a system that adds additional penalties to drivers who exceed a certain number of traffic violations in a year.

SB 1264 - (Hancock)

Lake Houston spillway dam project reduces lake level

Houston, TX - City Council Member Dave Martin would like to bring to resident's attention that Houston Public Works has lowered Lake Houston by six inches as of Monday, May 20, allowing contractors to begin a critical rehabilitation project on the Lake Houston Spillway Dam. Lake Houston will be lowered another six inches on Tuesday, May 28, following Memorial Day weekend, for a total lake reduction of one foot through the fall of 2020.

The Lake Houston Spillway Dam Rehabilitation Project will provide increased stability to the dam through the installation of a new reinforced concrete training wall. This project also includes partial demolition of a splitter wall, which is the device used to break up the flow of water over the spillway. Contractors with Thalle Construction Company will build new concrete anchor blocks at the bottom of the training wall and elevate the Ogee and Stilling pool weirs by seven feet, thus altering the water flow from the spillway.

Consumer protections against surprise medical billing for state-regulated health insurance plans. Effectively prevents the practice in cases where a person has no say in who is treating them, such as in an emergency room. Patients would still be responsible for deductibles,



During this project property owners should be prepared for varying levels on Lake Houston through the fall of 2020 as any time the lake is above 41.5 feet, it will be immediately lowered back to 41.5 feet in an effort to minimize disruption of the project. In these instances, advance notice may not be possible and property owners should secure property along the shoreline for this extended period of time. During the time of this project recreational activities will be disrupted and boaters are urged to use extreme caution on the lake due to lower levels as well as increased instances of exposed debris.

Contractors will use water pumping and cofferdams for the project allow-

ing them to work on the dam below the water line. The project is expected to be completed by fall 2020. The estimated construction cost is \$10 million and is being funded by Coastal Water Authority's (CWA) Special Equity funds, designated for CWA through the City of Houston infrastructure improvements fund. It is important that water levels will be lowered to 41.5 feet throughout the entirety of the project. For more information on the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Rehabilitation Project, contact Erin Jones.

The project does not include additional gates on the Lake Houston Spillway Dam. That project is still being pursued on the federal level and if approved

the design and construction of those gates will be completed within three to five years of approval. Council Member Martin has worked diligently to secure support for this project from Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz, and Representative Dan Crenshaw.

Separately, during times of inclement weather when the National Weather Service predicts greater than three inches of rain within a 48-hour period, the lake should already be at 41.5 feet which would require no additional lowering unless a more significant rain event is predicted. Lake Houston has a normal pool elevation of 42.5 feet. To monitor current water levels at Lake Houston, visit: www.coastalwaterauthority.org. Again, Property owners should plan to secure property along the shoreline through fall of 2020.

Please contact the District E office by phone (832) 393-3008 or email districte@houstontx.gov with any questions.

filed in the House and Senate, and 1419 passed both chambers. The governor has up to 20 days to veto any bills of which he disapproves. Otherwise, any unsigned bills can become law absent his signature.

HB 3906 - (Taylor) State STAAR accountability test reforms that move the test to a shorter, online version over the use five years, intended to reduce test taking time, stress and instructional time lost to testing. Per Texas Legislature Online, 7324 bills were

"Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget"

San Jacinto College District will hold a public budget hearing meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room, Suite A1.104, of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, located at 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the College District's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.

Public participation in the discussion is invited.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held immediately after at which time adoption of the 2019-2020 budget will be considered.

The proposed budget will be available for inspection beginning on May 31, 2019, in the Budget Control Office, Room A2.213, 4620 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.



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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

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

ROUND-UP

Summer at the Wetlands Center

Summer is right around the corner. Please check out the activities that will happen at the Wetlands Education Center and the Baytown Nature Center and discover all that is awaiting you this summer. Summer Science Camp begins next Monday, June 3 and runs through August 9. A few of the camps still have openings, so don't miss the chance to give your child or grandchild an experience not to be forgotten. Gator Tales return to the Wetlands Center for the summer for pre-school children ages 3-5, plus an adult. Full Moon Hike is offered each month during the summer at BNC, as well as the popular Nurture Nature Series on the first Saturday of each month.

More detail for each activity is on the web at www.baytown.org. Under City Hall-Departments-Park & Recreation The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center is located at 1724 Market Street, Baytown, TX 77520. 281-420-7128.

Evening Pilot Club of Baytown

2019-2020 Installation Banquet, Tuesday, June 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. dinner, at Springhill Suites by Marriott, 5169 I-10 (behind Cracker Barrel) Baytown, TX. Reserve at 832-293-3481.

Early Head Start/Head Start officially open new building



Baytown EHS-HS Rendering

Harris County Department of Education Head Start celebrated last Thursday the opening of its new 20,000-square-foot facility on about 3 acres in Baytown with a ribbon cutting. The facility will house Early Head Start and Head Start under one roof.

HCDE Head Start is an educational program providing students and their families the skills they need to be ready for the demands of school.

HCDE Board of Trustees were joined by Superintendent James Colbert Jr. and other HCDE ad-

ministrators along with City of Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo. Baytown Head Start students did a special performance for those in attendance. Parents and community members are attended.

Special features of the Head Start center include: seven Head Start classrooms, five Early Head Start classrooms, training room, offices and two playgrounds - one for Head Start and another for Early Head Start. The facility has a capacity of 180 students - 140 Head Start

students and 40 Early Head Start students. About 45 staff members will be assigned to this location, including Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships staff.

The facility opens this summer to Early Head Start students and welcomes Head Start students this fall.

The build-to-suit lease project was funded by KQC Investors, LLC and took two years to complete and it's located at 323 Massey Tompkins Rd., in Baytown, Texas 77521.

West Chambers County Pilot Club awards scholarships



West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. presented three Scholarships at the May meeting. Scholarship Winners are Barbers Hill High School Seniors Adriana Rodriquez, Mason Murphy, and Makenna McBride.

Dayton Native serves aboard advanced U.S. Navy Warship Half A World Away

By Lt. Jake Joy, Navy Office of Community Outreach

SASEBO, Japan - Airman Apprentice Jordan Ranges, a native of Dayton, Texas, said generations of his family had served in the military and he wanted to keep the tradition alive. He chose to do so in the U.S. Navy.

Now, just a year later and half a world away, Ranges serves aboard one of the Navy's most advanced amphibious ships at Fleet Activities Sasebo, patrolling one of the world's busiest maritime regions as part of U.S. 7th Fleet.

"It can be exciting sometimes," Ranges said. "You learn something new every day. You meet a lot of new friends."

Ranges, a graduate of Hardin Jefferson High School, is an aviation boatswain's mate (handling) aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault

ship USS Wasp in Sasebo, Japan.

"I have responsibility for ensuring the safety of aircraft, that they are being properly chocked and chained, and for making sure aviation assets are tied down properly and conducting equipment preservation work," said Ranges.

He credits some success in the Navy to lessons learned in Dayton.

"I developed a good work ethic, how to show up to work early and have patience," he said. "Sometimes things will not go your way, just deal with it and eventually it will be over."

U.S. 7th Fleet spans more than 124 million square kilometers, stretching from the International Date Line to the India/Pakistan bor-



Photo by Senior Chief Petty Officer Gary Ward
Airman Apprentice Jordan Ranges

der; and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South. U.S. 7th Fleet's area of operations encompasses 36 maritime countries and 50 percent of the world's popu-

See U.S. Navy, Page 6

CAPITOL UPDATE

State Senator Brandon Creighton

Final Passage of SB 7

Austin, Texas—May 22, 2019 - Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) finally passed Senate Bill 7. The bill will now be sent to Governor Abbott to be signed.

"After months of work and collaboration to craft meaningful policy, the Texas legislature finally passed Senate Bill 7, a bill that will bring measureable relief for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, and set the state on a path to be more resilient and better prepared for future storms. It is uncharacteristic for the legislature to take such bold, proactive actions, and I am honored by the faith our colleagues put in me and Rep. Phelan to get this done—but every stakeholder, local leader and Texas family who was impacted by the storm and provided input shares in this success. Special thanks to Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Chairwoman Nelson, Chairman Perry and Chairwoman Kohlhorst for the many hours they committed to getting the best plan for a more resilient Texas."

Senator Creighton passes priority Legislation for Texas Law Enforcement

Austin, Texas—May 22, Senator Brandon Creighton passed House Bill 1399, the Krystal Jean Baker Act. This bill is the top priority for Texas law enforcement to solve cold cases and bring justice for victims of violent crimes. The bill allows for law enforcement to collect DNA samples of individuals arrested for violent felonies (murder, rape, assault) and will securely store the identifying markers in a database. The collection upon arrest

allows law enforcement to link prior, unsolved offenses to a current offender.

"Texas once lead the nation in DNA innovation to solve serious crimes, but we have fallen behind, leaving thousands of victims waiting for justice," said Creighton. "With the passage of HB 1399, Texas law enforcement will have a valuable tool to crack cold cases, and get violent offenders off the street."

The bill is named for Krystal Jean Baker, a 16 year old girl who was abducted, sexually assaulted and strangled to death in 1996. DNA evidence was collected at the time, but the case remained unsolved until Kevin Smith was arrested in Louisiana on a drug charge in 2010. His DNA was sampled at the time of arrest, and he eventually pled guilty to Krystal Jean's murder.

Currently 18 states have this policy, including all four states that border Texas. When New Mexico, a state with a population smaller than the City of Austin adopted this policy, over 1500 cold cases were solved. Former New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez's testimony and advocacy for this important policy was critical to the bill's success in the Texas Legislature.

"I want to thank Representative Reggie Smith for his leadership, Chambers County District Attorney, Cheryl Swope Lieck, Assistant District Attorney Eric Carcerano, Sheriff Brian Hawthorne, the Sheriff's Association and other law enforcement who have brought attention to this important issue," said Creighton. "Violent crimes against women and children are rarely isolated, so in addition to bringing justice for victims, this bill will prevent crimes and save lives."

HB 1399 was amended in the Senate, so the bill awaits final passage in the House, and will then be sent to the Governor.

Library announces annual Summer Reading Program!

"Summer in Space!" is the theme of the 2019 Summer Reading Program, which begins on Monday, June 3 at the Chambers County Library System. The library in Mont Belvieu has some incredible programs scheduled this year.

There are three program levels this year, designed to accommodate all ages of readers and listeners.

Kids! Infants through 11 years of age are encouraged to participate in the "Summer in Space" Summer Reading Program, which runs from Monday, June 3 through Saturday, July 13, at 1:00 p.m. Launch Week begins Monday, June 3 with events at each of the libraries all week. Special programs will be held almost weekly at each library, and children will receive certificates and reading incentives based upon their reading. This year, youngsters will be given a Game Board to color in a space for

every day they read at least 20 minutes. The Game Board has levels that inform kids when to show the librarians their progress, and receive incentives throughout the 6 week program.

Teens! Ages 12-18 can enroll in the Teen Summer Reading Program. Events at this level are geared for the older youth, and again, will be held at each of the county libraries. At Anahuac, for every item checked out from the library, teens will receive a scratchie to see if they are a winner. Only 1 scratchie per day. At Winnie and Mont Belvieu, for every 2 books read or heard, simply fill out a bookmark with the titles and enter to win a drawing each week for great prizes. Weekly drawings will also be held at each branch.

Adults! Adults can also participate in the Adult Summer Reading Program. For every 2 books read or heard, adults will fill out a

bookmark with the titles and enter to win a drawing each week for great prizes. Book Club meetings will continue at all the branches throughout the summer. There will also be special adult programs at each branch this year including, escape room board games, wine tasting, scavenger hunt, trivia, movies, and more! Check your local branch for details.

Free downloadable books! The library system subscribes to OverDrive and Hoopla Digital. At these sites, users can choose from eBooks, audiobooks, music, movies, TV shows and more! Titles can be downloaded to Nooks, Kindles, Smartphones, Tablets, just about any handheld device. In addition, talking books from the library system collections can also be chosen. Remember, for every 2 books read or heard, simply fill out a bookmark with the titles and enter to win a drawing each week for great prizes.

For more information check out the website at www.chambers.lib.tx.us. The Chambers County Library at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch at Mont Belvieu is 281-576-2245.

JUNE PROGRAMS: Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch, Mont Belvieu HSE (formerly GED) Prep classes will be held every Mon. & Thurs. from 6pm-9pm
LAUNCH WEEK! 10 AM TO NOON, MONDAY - FRIDAY
JUNE 3 - SUMMER READING 2019 STARTS - Snocones with Commissioner Nelson & Treasurer Nikki Whittington!
JUNE 4 - Popsicles with Judges Jimmy & Blake Sylvia!
JUNE 5 - Hot dogs with the Sheriff's Office!
JUNE 6 - Tattoos with Stuart the Chicken!
JUNE 7 - Craft day with the Chick-fil-A crew.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

TEXAS SENATE NEWS
By Richard Lee

Legislature concludes session with top priorities accomplished

(Austin) The 86th Legislative session concluded Monday, with lawmakers delivering on a promise made by state leadership back in January: sweeping school finance and property tax reform. "In my inaugural address I said that this will be the session we enact historical school finance reform by putting more money into the classroom, paying our teachers more, reducing recapture and cutting property taxes," said Governor Greg Abbott in a press release issued late Saturday. "Tonight, without a court order, the legislature did just that by passing one of the most transformative educational bills in recent Texas history."

The two bills saw final passage in both chambers Saturday evening. The first, HB 3, was shepherded through the process on the Senate side by Education Committee Chair and Friendswood Senator Larry Taylor. He said it represents groundbreaking reform for an education system that has lagged behind the changing needs of Texas schoolchildren. "What we are doing here today...will move us towards continued prosperity for this state," he said. In all, the bill would put \$4.5 billion more into the classroom. This money would flow through funding formulas, and would direct more to students with economic disadvantages, those still learning English, and those with

dyslexia. It would create an optional July term for eligible students and full-day, quality Pre-K programs for students from low-income backgrounds. The only outcomes-based funding in the final version would reward schools for every student they graduate ready for college, the workforce or the military.

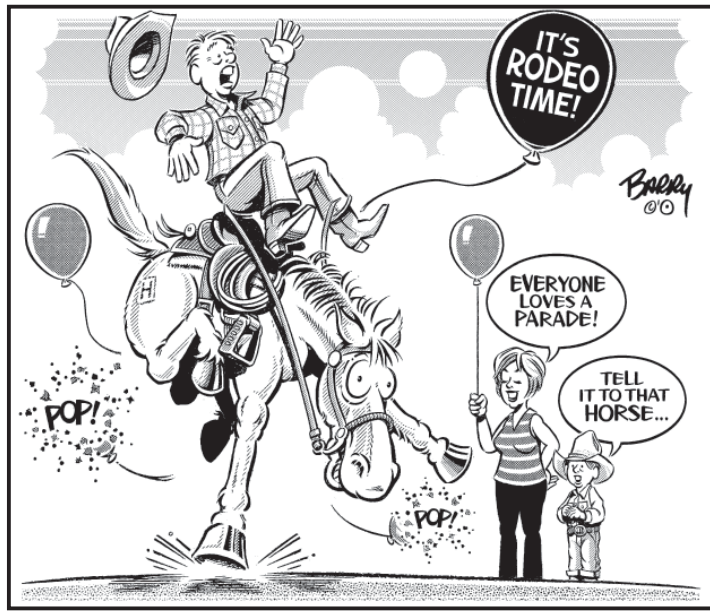
Teachers would see a salary increase, but it wouldn't be the even, across-the-board \$5,000 originally included in the Senate version. Instead, it would create a mechanism by which teacher pay would increase whenever the legislature ups the basic allotment, the fundamental variable in school formula funding. HB 3 would raise that more than \$1,000, to \$6,160, of which nearly a third must go towards salaries for non-administrative public school employees. Districts would also have the option of developing a system to identify their best teachers and pay them more, but that system couldn't factor in results from state accountability tests. There are also incentives for teachers who are willing to teach at high-need or rural campuses. Administrators will have flexibility in how these funds get distributed, so the actual amount of increased pay will vary district to district. In all, the bill puts about \$2 billion towards teacher and other public school salary increases.

The bill would also reduce local school property tax rates by

an estimated 13 cents per \$100 valuation by 2021, providing more than \$5 billion in property tax relief within 2 years. It also seeks to rein in rate growth by requiring districts to seek voter approval if they wish to exceed a 2.5 percent rate increase in any year. SB 2, by Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt, would create a similar limit for most municipal tax rates, at 3.5 percent. That bill also includes a number of transparency and taxpayer education provisions. If voters approve no rate increases above these new limits, it would save an estimated \$980 million in property taxes statewide by 2024. "This is astonishing tax relief," Bettencourt said of the two bills.

Following passage of both measures, Lt. Governor Patrick thanked the Speaker of the House, the Governor, and both chambers for working together to accomplish a landmark session. "This is truly a historic evening," he said. "It's going to save taxpayers a lot of money, give teachers more money and change the way we educate students and finance and make us number one in the country to lead on education reform."

The Legislature is scheduled to reconvene again in January of 2021, when lawmakers will see how well these education and property tax reforms worked over the 19-month interim. Until then, the Senate stands adjourned sine die.



Top officials say state's top issues are resolved

AUSTIN — With the governor's mansion as their backdrop, Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen on May 23 announced their agreement on the Texas Legislature's state budget, property tax reform and school finance reform bills.

Standing behind the state's top three elected officials in the press conference were members of three House and Senate conference committees tasked with smoothing out the sticking points in House Bill 1, the state budget; Senate Bill 2, property tax reform; and House Bill 3, school finance reform.

Abbott spoke first, saying the assertion that he, Patrick and Bonnen made in January at the beginning of the legislation session — that together they would decrease property taxes and improve public school finance — is now accomplished. "I'm proud to tell you, today, we are announcing that we've done exactly that," Abbott said.

Patrick, using a football analogy, said, "We have a touchdown, and we have had the Super Bowl of legislative sessions in the history of this state, and I think in the history of the country: transformational ideas in education which take us to number one in the country."

"This bill resolves equity," Bonnen added. "It ensures that all students, whether they're in a wealthy district or a poor district or a rural district or an urban district, they will know that

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Texas leaders care about the quality and the funding of their education."

Meanwhile, House and Senate members must seal the deal by giving final passage to those bills in the few remaining days of the session ending May 27.

Abbott, Patrick and Bonnen agreed that Texas homeowners can expect to see a total reduction in local school property taxes topping \$5 billion, an average reduction of 13 cents per \$100 valuation by 2021 and additional tax relief in years going forward. They also will see a reduction in recapture, or "Robin Hood" — the distribution of funds from property-rich to property-poor districts — and increases to the state share of education funding by 7 percent, up to a total of 45 percent.

Patrick added that new property tax rollback rate reductions are part of the tax relief package, decreasing to 2.5 percent for school districts and 3.5 percent for cities and counties.

HB 3 would put an estimated \$4.5 billion more into classroom programs, including free full-day pre-kindergarten classes for economically disadvantaged students as well as more resources to improve reading

outcomes among these students by the end of 3rd grade. The legislation also would add an optional month of classes in July for low-income students who wish to participate. Furthermore, all schools will see more money per student through an increase in the principal variable in the school finance formula system, the basic allotment.

On the topic of teacher pay, Patrick said the average teacher in Texas will see an increase in compensation of about \$4,000, with more possible through merit pay and other incentives, such as participation in the July term or mentoring other teachers. School librarians, nurses and counselors also would see a pay raise and retired teachers would get an actuarially sound pension fund and a bonus check next year, on average, of \$2,000.

Senate approves CBD bill

More Texans could be prescribed a cannabis derivative to treat certain disorders under HB 3703, a bill approved by the Senate on May 22.

Therapeutic use of cannabidiol (CBD) oil was first allowed in Texas under a bill passed two sessions ago, but could only for the treatment of a particular seizure disorder that resists standard treatments. In the four years since the law passed, it has proved its effectiveness, said sponsor and New Braunfels Senator Donna Campbell.

"For patients participating in this program, they have had a remarkable and life-altering change because of this," Campbell said. "That's compassion."

State resources on standby

Gov. Abbott on May 20 placed emergency resources on standby across the state in preparation for an outbreak of severe weather.

Put in readiness mode were ambulance strike teams, medical incident support teams, saw teams, game wardens, boat teams and more.

Abbott cautioned Texans that when severe storms threaten, the safest place to be is indoors. He added that residents should avoid areas already flooded and avoid any fast-flowing water.

Dangerous waters, he said, can seem deceptively calm and if you encounter flooding, move to higher ground.

More information can be found at the Texas Department of Public Safety website, www.dps.texas.gov.

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

Carol's Dance & Gymnastics celebrates 17th recital



Carol's Dance and Gymnastics celebrated its 17th season performing at the Crosby High School auditorium Sunday May 19, 2019. Many local kids danced their hearts out in a fun, energetic show which displayed all their smiles and talents. The recital theme was Life's a Gift CELEBRATE! Carol Hearn's studio is now taking registration for summer and fall classes. To register, email itsadancinthing@aol.com. The studio is located at 5815 Crosby Dayton Rd. in Crosby.

Honoring our veterans in Highlands



American and Texas flags are displayed in Highlands Park as a tribute to our military servicemen and women, who are not forgotten. This is an annual events of remembrance by their families and others.

Deputy recognized BIBLE TRIVIA



Deputy Benjamin Genghini of District 3 of Harris County Sheriff's Office was recognized by the Harris County Citizens on Patrol on May 23 at the Wallisville Substation for his service to interdict a cruelty to Animals/ Torture of a puppy at 521 Woodland St. in which the offender admitted throwing the puppy into a creek and pelting it with rocks and attempting to squeeze the puppy in a painful manner. The offender was found to have a prior conviction and the deputy filed a felony charge of Cruelty to Animals. Animal Control took the puppy.

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Philemon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. In Matthew 8, what prophet's words did Jesus claim to be fulfilling as He was healing people? Iddo, Esaias, Gad, Medad
 3. Who wrote, "Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court"? Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea
 4. In scripture, what did God rain down upon Sodom and Gomorrah in addition to fire? Hail, Lightning, Brimstone, Mud
 5. Whose grave was marked by a pillar erected by her husband Jacob? Abigail, Lillith, Puah, Rachel
 6. From Judges 16, who slept through a haircut? Manoah, Samson, Adam, Uriah
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Esaias; 3) Ezekiel; 4) Brimstone (Gen 19:24); 5) Rachel; 6)

Chamber awards scholar

Winners of the golf outing known as Dickie Woods Memorial Golf Tournament include the Chairman of the Highlands Chamber Board, Jim Wadzinski with Steve Daniele and Dwight Hooks with a 55 stroke score. Second place went to Carl McCoskey, Ed Biles, Mike Biles and Shannon Brinkley with a score of 56. Third place went to Pete Pape, Ben Pape, Ryan O'Hara and John Dowdall with a 58. Ray Patrick was closest to the pin and Longest Drive went to Dwight Hooks in the First Place Team.



The Dickie Woods Memorial Scholarship was won by Ulises Quiroga for academic excellence as awarded by the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce on May 2 after the Dickie Woods Memorial Golf Tournament. Above, Dickie's widow, Virginia and Ulises' mother flank him beside the golf scores at Eagle Point Golf Club.

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ROMANS 8:18

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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

★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

Dog Killed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and it is unclear if deputies are actively pursuing the case.

Cabrera said the deputy who took the report, indicated that in an adjacent neighborhood, there were

reports of kids with BB guns, shooting at various objects, but nobody has been apprehended.

Cabrera said there is a small memorial in the field near Prince's Roller Rink,

and she started a Facebook page to generate tips and honor Peanut. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Crimestoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS.

Flood Survey,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

selves, and their addresses will not be included on the surveys. The survey, known as a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER), is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) model.

"Emergencies can be devastating and disrupt people's lives. The survey

helps us determine if residents still have unmet needs nearly two years after Harvey. Though, we certainly hope that our communities remain safe, we want for our residents to be as prepared as possible before an emergency or disaster strikes," said Dr. Umair A. Shah, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health.

HCPH also surveyed the severely impacted community of Aldine in 2017, one month after Hurricane Harvey, and in September 2018, one year after Harvey. The Bear Creek area was also surveyed in February, 2019. Survey results are compared and analyzed to develop future preparedness and recovery strategies.

U.S. Navy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lation with between 50-70 U.S. ships and submarines, 140 aircraft, and approximately 20,000 sailors.

"It's interesting, visiting countries I've never been to that I've wanted to for a long time and meeting locals and making friends with the Japanese," said Ranges.

With more than 50 percent of the world's shipping tonnage and a third of the world's crude oil passing through the region, the United States has historic and enduring interests in this part of the world. The Navy's presence in Sasebo is part of that long-standing commitment.

"The Navy is forward-deployed to provide security and strengthen relationships in a free and open Indo-Pacific. It's not just the ships and aircraft that have shown up to prevent conflict and promote peace," said Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, commander, U.S. 7th Fleet. "It is, and will continue to be our people who define the role our Navy plays around the world. People who've made a choice, and have the will and strength of character to make a difference."

Wasp, one of the Navy's most advanced amphibious ships, is designed to deliver Marines and their equipment where they are

needed to support a variety of missions ranging from amphibious assaults to humanitarian relief efforts.

Sailors' jobs are highly varied aboard USS Wasp. More than 1,000 men and women make up the ship's crew, which keeps all parts of the ship running smoothly, from handling weapons to maintaining the engines. An additional 1,200 Marines can be embarked. USS Wasp is capable of transporting Marines and landing them where they are needed using helicopters, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and other water-to-shore landing craft.

These ships support missions from sea to shore, special operations and other warfare missions. They also serve as secondary aviation platforms. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice, according to Navy officials.

Serving in the Navy means Ranges is part of a world that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

A key element of the Navy the nation needs is tied to the fact that America is a maritime nation, and that the nation's prosperity is tied to the ability to operate freely on the world's oceans. More than 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water; 80 percent of the world's population lives close to a coast; and 90 percent of all global trade by volume travels by sea.

"Our priorities center on people, capabilities and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on speed, value, results and partnerships," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities."

There are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community, and career. Ranges said he's simply proud to be a part of 7th Fleet.

"I had some family that served out here, and they told me they had seen the Philippines, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong," he said. "I wanted to be part of that."

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied upon assets, Ranges and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes, contributing to the Navy the nation needs. "I see the Navy as an every day job," Ranges said. "Go to work, do the hours, get off, call it a day, then go be with your friends."

Prevention leads to drop in cancer deaths

BAYTOWN — (May 24, 2019) — The American Cancer Society (ACS) credits a steady reduction in the number of smokers and advances in early detection and treatment with an impressive decline in the death rate from cancer in the U.S. over the past 25 years.

According to annual statistics reporting by the ACS, as of 2016 the cancer death rate for men and women combined had fallen 27% from its peak in 1991. The decline translates to roughly 1.5% per year and more than 2.6 million deaths avoided between 1991 and 2016.

Thoracic surgeon Dr. Shawn Tittle, medical director of the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown, says the statistics serve as evidence that improved diagnostics, smoking cessation campaigns and preventive programs are helping to save lives.

"The report shows very positive trends and indicates more cancers may be getting detected at an earlier stage, but there is still much work to be done to educate the public on the importance of screenings," Tittle said. "While we've seen a dramatic drop in smoking over the past several decades, lung cancer remains a major health concern and is still the deadliest of all cancers."

The ACS says lung cancer death rates declined 48% from 1990 to 2016 among men and 23% from

2002 to 2016 among women.

The comprehensive Lung Cancer Screening Program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital provides high risk cancer patients with a diagnosis and treatment plan at an early stage, and provides fast, accurate and efficient diagnosis and management of suspicious lung nodules through expert analysis by a radiologist, interventional pulmonologist or thoracic surgeon.

Individuals 55 to 77 years of age who currently smoke or have quit smoking in the past 15 years, have a tobacco smoking history of at least 30 "pack years" (an average of one pack a day for 30 years, two packs a day for 15 years, etc.), and receive a written order from a physician are eligible for low-dose CT lung screening.

One of the most common misconceptions about lung cancer among long-term smokers is that it is "too late" to stop. Tittle says quitting smoking at any time not only can reduce your risk of cancer, but also provides other health benefits, including improved circulation and heart and lung function.

"A smoker can cut his or her risk of lung cancer by as much as 50 percent by quitting," Tittle said.

Houston Methodist Baytown also offers the free Beat the Pack program that seeks to help smokers kick the habit by providing a support group of people



Dr. Shawn Tittle

who want to quit, as well as tools and tips to help participants quit.

While smoking is by far the number one cause, approximately 20 percent of lung cancers occur in patients who have never smoked. Some of those cases are the result of genetic mutations; others are caused by environmental factors, such as exposure to asbestos or radon gas.

As part of its recognition of June's designation as National Cancer Survivor's Month, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital hosts its annual Cancer Survivors' Day Celebration from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 26 in the Conference Center Classroom. For information and to register for the free event, visit houstonmethodist.org/events, or call 281-428-2273.

For more information on the Lung Cancer Screening Program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, call 281-428-4510.

Battleship Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not in the final bill.

The Battleship Texas is 107 years old, having seen service in two world wars. It has been located in La Porte for about 70 years.

However, the steel hull of the ship has rusted over the years, and is very thin

in some locations. Water enters the hull constantly and must be pumped out to keep the ship from sinking.

Bruce Bramlett of the Battleship Texas Foundation said the decline in number of visitors has left the group without enough

money to keep repairing the ship. The assumption is that a new location, probably in Galveston, would attract more paying visitors and generate funds for the continual upkeep.



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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 472042: Estate of CONNIE A. GIBBS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on May 14, 2019.

KELLIE MILLER

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 May 23, 2019

Weston Cotten

by WESTON
COTTEN
Attorney for the
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Memorial Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Cemetery "I was pleased with the turn out. I thank Master Sergeant Joe Briscoe for coming to speak to us today he drove all the way up from Frisco to present his speech. And Paster Hovator for leading us in prayer so that we could all come together on Memorial Day knowing what it is really all about. And those that we lost we are here to honor them." The guest speaker Joe

Briscoe last his right arm and was severely wounded in his left during his service in Iraq. He recounted the events of that faithful day

He went through telling the horror of the war to remember to ask himself how do we begin to honor those that sacrificed all for us to enjoy our freedoms. "How dare I wallow in sorrow with the life I have been given by others."

How do you honor them? Firstly, never let their memories die. Secondly vow to live your life the best way that you can. Remembering that you have been given a gift. Take full advantage of the freedoms for which they sacrificed their lives. I can hear them say don't feel guilty because you survived but live they very best that you can."



Placing the Memorial Wreath at the Garden of Honor.



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Survey teams to visit Crosby/Huffman Saturday, June 8, 2019

On Saturday, June 8, survey teams from Harris County Public Health (MCPH) will visit the Crosby/Huffman area to conduct a survey.

Health Department staff and volunteers may come to your home and ask how you have been doing since Hurricane Harvey and what your current needs are.

During the survey we will not ask for your name or any identification. All answers are confidential.

FREE Mobile Health Services

Saturday, June 29, 2019 (weather permitting)

MCPH will feature its mobile fleet to help meet residents' current needs based on survey results.

Come enjoy FREE health services, recovery resources and family fun activities.

Crosby Community Center
409 Hare Road, Crosby, TX 77532



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**APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Your rate will be fixed. 4.33% APR based upon a \$100,000 loan total @ 60 months with monthly payment of \$1,841.85, resulting in total loan payoff of \$110,499.00. Your annual percentage rate will be dependent upon total loan amount, term chosen, and individual financial circumstances. Rates based on an evaluation of each member's credit history, loan-to-value (LTV), loan amount, loan purpose, and other factors; so your rate and terms may differ. All loans are subject to credit approval. Under certain circumstances an escrow account for taxes and insurance may be required. Some restrictions may apply. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice. CRCU membership required. **Check with your tax advisor for details. *Individual loan circumstances vary and actual loan funding may exceed stated timeframe.