

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the **PRESS:**

- Beach City will vote on a 1.5% Sales Tax
- Mammograms are an important health tool
- Massage Parlor to be shuttered by police
-And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

TUES., AUG. 6 **THEA/San Jacinto River Coalition Mtg.**

Concerned citizens will hear more about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits at the monthly meeting. 6:30pm-8:00pm at the San Jacinto Community Center, Highlands.

SAT., AUG. 10 **Free Heart Screens for HS Students**

Back to School event, Heart Screening August 10 from 10am to 3pm at CE King High School. This event is open to all school districts, and the goal is to screen 200 athletes.

SAT., SEPT. 14 **Rotary Washer Tournament**

Saturday, September 14 from 2pm - 6pm the Highlands Rotary Club will hold their 13th Annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament. At Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street, Highlands 77562. Awards and Prize Money for the first 3 places. \$50 entry fee. 832-465-8620

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 2-Joe Luis Rodriguez
Katerina Horn
Aug 3-Mrs.W.E.Gentry
Nita Sloan
Aug 4-Stacey Glover
Brittany Hahn
Aug 5-James Bobalik
Aug 6-Sara Henning
Ethel Peters
Dolores Griffen
Aug 7-Cynthia Finnell
Aug 8-Bryan Allen
Daniel Finnell
Judge Tony Polumbo
Stephen Turner

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 5-PeeWee & Patti Farmer
Aug 6-Sue & Steve Norris
Jan & Mike Gucker
Aug 8-Martha & Alvin Keyes
Ronald & Beth Phillips

Highwayman foiled in Highlands

Attempted Robbery with a sword cut short

HIGHLANDS – Being robbed by machette is no doubt frightening, much like the historic cases of highwaymen sticking up carriages with swords demanding “Stand and deliver, your money or your life,” was 300 or 400 years ago, a woman had exited her

car and she was confronted by an underbrush cutter and a stressed looking bandit not wearing any mask, silk or otherwise.

A woman was robbed of \$7.00 cash at the apartments near the new Highlands Fire Station on East Wallisville last Thursday at about 11:00 a.m. At a corner there is a Valero Station. The suspect was about to transact some



Don Anthony Spitaleri, 44, of Dayton 25.

different business at that Valero Station when he was confronted by the apartment maintenance man, Andrew Davis.

Davis held the alleged robber on the ground outside the store until Harris County Precinct 3 Deputy Watson arrived to put him in handcuffs.

Shortly thereafter, a Harris County Sheriff's

Robbery Division Detective would affix charges of aggravated robbery on Don Anthony Spitaleri, 44, of Dayton. Spitaleri was booked into Harris County Jail without incident. Deputy Watson indicated that upon identifying Spitaleri she checked with Liberty County Sheriff's Office, they indicated they are familiar with Spitaleri.

Pct. 3 Constable race finds Eagleton, Jones, Florus already registered

Ken Jones seeks old position

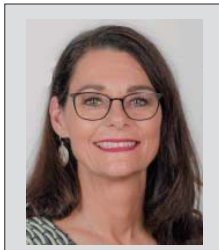
HARRIS COUNTY – By far the most contentious local, primary race in 2016 was the race for the Democratic candidate for Precinct 3 Constable. Now we find the incumbent Constable facing his old boss, and the wife of his last Republican opponent. While there is plenty of time for others to also run, these three have already selected a responsible financial treasurer to seek campaign finances for office.



Sherman Eagleton



Ken Jones



Deborah Florus

The race will be held November 5, 2020. The official deadline for filing isn't until Dec. 9 of 2019 for the Democratic Party. The Democratic party spokesperson indicates that they

do not know who will run as yet and the Harris County Clerk of Court has no listing as to who might run.

As rumor would have it, eleven people are running

for the office but no official record indicates this or whom those candidates might be.

Still with certainty, we can say that Harris County Precinct 3 Constable

Sherman Eagleton is running, the former Constable, Ken Jones is running and Deborah Florus is running and each has named an election treasurer. All three have long histories in law enforcement. Eagleton and Jones have held the office and Deborah Florus is a Harris County Sheriff's Deputy and wife of Dan Webb, the last Republican Candidate for Precinct 3 Constable and formerly with the Department of Public Safety.

In the last Democratic Primary Run-Off elec-

See **CONSTABLE RACE**, page 8

Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 9 thru Aug. 11

(AUSTIN) — Whether you're in need of notebooks, rulers or running shoes, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on those and other items during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend.

“As Texas families begin the process of replacing their beach towels with lunch boxes, the sales tax holiday is the perfect opportunity to save some money on supplies families need before the school bell rings,” Hegar said. “As a



father of three, I know how these expenses can add up.”

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

Shoppers this year will save an estimated \$102.2 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

CROSBY/HUFFMAN CHAMBER New Educator's Luncheon Aug. 14

New Educator's Luncheon is fast approaching the Chamber, scheduled for August 14th at Crosby Church, located at 5725 HWY 90 in Crosby and will begin at 11:30am.

This is our Monthly Member Luncheon where we host a lunch to WELCOME all New Educator's to our Crosby and Huffman School Districts. This year's luncheon will be Presented by:

United Community Credit Union

The Chamber will give every New Educator a goody bag full of items donated

by our business members to Welcome them to our towns. We also do a drawing and gift the teachers door prizes donated by our members.

We are asking for 150 goody bag items and we would like to be able to give every New Educator a door prize. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase your business and help Welcome our New Educators to these great Communities!

Please contact Chamber Office at 281-328-6984 or email us at chamber@croshuffmanccu.org for more information.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Bush Airport to Receive \$5.4M Federal Grant

WASHINGTON – The George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston was awarded a \$5,425,470 federal grant to implement noise mitigation measures for residents nearby, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn announced today. The funding comes through the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

“Texas’ population grows with each passing day, and as more people travel in and out of our state, it’s important our infrastructure is able to meet the demand without interfering with Texans’ quality of life” said Sen. Cornyn. “I’m proud that President Trump has made the Houston area a priority, and I look forward to seeing the impact this grant will have on our great state.”

This is in addition to the \$15,000,000 grant Sen. Cornyn announced in June to reconstruct a taxiway at George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



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Evening of Live Entertainment At the 18th Annual Precinct 4 Opry

The Holla Band Brings Live Rock, Folk, and Country Music to Humble

Harris County Precinct 4 Encore! invites the community to enjoy three hours of live rock, folk, and country music during the 18th annual Precinct 4 Opry Friday, Aug. 16, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway in Humble.

Musicians Michael and Ginny Hix return with The Holla Band and other special guests to bring uniquely dynamic, high-energy performances featuring pop, rock, and country hits from the past. Michael Hix has been compared to entertainers like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Dean Martin, Johnny Carson, Steve Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. Ginny Hix sings traditional country music with hints of swing, blues, and jazz.

Tickets for the Precinct 4 Opry are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Transportation from 10 locations will be provided by Harris County Precinct 4 Encore for individuals above 50. For more information or to register online, visit www.hcp4.net/encore/events

House Passes Babin’s Alabama-Coushatta Fairness Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement after the House of Representatives unanimously passed the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Settlement Act (H.R. 759) on Wednesday evening.

“We have worked tirelessly for more than a year to pass H.R. 759 in the House of Representatives,” said Babin. “I’m proud to have sponsored this piece of legislation that will put to rest years of uncertainty and turmoil experienced by the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribe of Texas. This has always been a fairness issue, plain and simple. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta deserve to have the same opportunity to run a Class II gaming facility as the Kickapoo – who have had this right for decades. The Naskila Gaming facility provides hundreds of jobs and adds \$140 million to the local economy each year. I am proud of this accomplishment, and am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to get this bill signed into law.”

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CRIME WATCH

Local Man Sent to Prison for Aiming Laser Pointer at an Aircraft

HOUSTON - A 20-year-old Houston man has been ordered to federal prison after admitting to pointing a green laser light at an Airbus AS350 B2 helicopter while it was in the air, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick. Bryan Aldana pleaded guilty Monday, April 22, 2019.

Today, U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes handed Aldana a 48-month sentence to be immediately followed by three years of supervised release. In handing down the sentence, the court noted Aldana’s irresponsible behavior shows he did not give thought to the people flying the aircraft and to the people on the ground. “The world is about responsibilities to other people,” said Hughes.

On June 23, 2018, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) agents were flying a the helicopter on routine law enforcement patrol. At approximately 9:00 p.m., they were headed in the north-west direction along highway US-290 when agents observed a flash of green light coming from the left side of the aircraft. At the time, they were at approximately 1000 feet elevation and traveling at a speed of 70-80 knots.

The pilot reversed the aircraft back to the southeast direction and was illuminated again by the green laser, which was powerful enough to light up the entire cockpit. The light caused a glare in the pilot’s eyes and obstructed his vision, forcing him to turn his head and maneuver the Airbus away from it. The pilot also had to close and shield his eyes from the flashing green laser inside the cockpit.

The investigation led to the source of the light at a business near the intersection of Hollister and Pitner Roads in Houston. Aldama was soon identified with the help of the Houston Police Department (HPD) and the store’s security cameras.

Video recordings show Aldana aiming a green laser up in the sky several times and a green laser pointer at the helicopter while sitting in a chair next to a silver sedan. He was also seen placing the green laser device through the opening of the silver sedan window on to the backseat.

Officers seized the laser and submitted it to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientist to be examined. The scientist concluded the laser pointer is a Class IIIB laser system and produced a “laser beam” which could result in serious and possibly permanent retinal damage.

Previously released on bond, Aldana appeared before Judge Hughes June 28, 2019, at which time the court found he had violated the terms of his release and ordered Aldana into custody. He will remain there pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in the near future.

The FBI, HPD and DPS conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Porto is prosecuting the case.



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ROUND-UP

Goss Library events

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, August 5.

Tuesday, August 6 - 6:30 pm, "Cork Dork Book Club" held at Yopez Vineyard. "Discussing Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng

Thursday, August 8 - 4:00 pm, "Donut Panic Back to School Program" Come decorate a binder and have snacks. (Grades 3-8, Registration required. Call 281-576-2245 to register.)

*All Month long - come cast your vote for your favorite dog in our dog contest. Voting will be conducted "Penny War" style and all monies will be donated to the Mont Belvieu Animal Shelter. Thank you, Yolie Belt Branch Librarian Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu (281) 576-2245

Baytown Little Theater

The theater company is now performing the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical "JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT."

Remaining performances are on Friday and Saturday, August 2nd and 3rd at 8pm, and Sunday August 4th at 2:30 pm.

The play is directed by Jim Wadzinski, and has a large cast of local and national performers. A newcomer, Brian Minson plays Joseph. The narrator (lead singer) is Jessica Clemmons Peavey. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.lee.edu/pac or by calling 281-425-6255.

Free CERT Training

Free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training. Thursdays evenings, September 5 - October 24, 2019, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm at Baytown Emergency Operations Center, 205 E. Wye Drive, Baytown, TX 77521.

8 week CERT Training includes: disaster preparedness, medical triage/treatment, disaster psychology, terrorism awareness, fire suppression, light search & rescue, CERT organization, Course Review/ Disaster simulation. To register, please contact Earl Smith 713-274-1748 or earl.smith@oem.hctx.net

Beach City will vote on 1.5% sales tax in the November election

BEACH CITY – The local city council is putting the question of a sales-and use tax to the voters for the Nov. 5 election, along with three city council seats.

It would put sales tax up to the \$08.25 per dollar as the rest of most of Chambers County. Currently, at 6.75¢ per dollar 6.25¢ goes to Texas and .5¢ goes to the Chambers County Health District. So what most jurisdictions are paying is the maximum sales tax allowed by Texas Law of 8.25¢ per dollar spent. Generally, the increase is spent on emergency services but once the tax is des-

ignated to one taxing entity no other could be made.

Once the 1.5¢ increase goes into effect it must be collected by a local taxing entity and once it is gone there is no more sales tax to apply.

The tax increase has been under evaluation by Beach City for a couple of years by a specially formed citizen's committee, they reported that many locals are in favor of the move. And as with most local sales tax the increase only applies to local transactions, inside Beach City.

Jackey Lasater said, "As you may or may not know,

the City of Beach City does not and has never levied a Sales and Use Tax. For many of us, this has been a point of pride."

Lasater continues "Currently, when you make a taxable purchase in Beach City, you are only required to pay the state tax (6.25%) and Chambers County Health Services (.5%). Unfortunately, in many cases... this is not the tax rate charged. Speaking from my own experiences, I have been charged at a rate of 8.25% every time that I paid attention to the sales tax charges."

"There is a potential

1.5% in Beach City available to any authorized taxing entity including Special Purpose Districts such as Chambers County Health Services (which already has 0.5%) and Transit Authorities."

"The only way to ensure that this was available to the City in the future would be to claim it via voter approval before some other taxing entity is able to claim it."

"City Council voted unanimously to have this issue placed on the November ballot at our May 28, 2019 City Council meeting. I will call for at least two

public hearings before the election to answer questions and allow public comments."

ADDITIONAL BALLOT ISSUES:

Although no one has filed for positions yet, the Nov. 5 election puts at issue three seats. Paul Newman, Ray Smith and newcomer Ryan Dagley are up for re-election. Ray Smith has been on the City Council since 2002, Newman since 2011 and Ryan Dagley took Jackey Lasater's council seat as Jackey assended to Mayor.

Baytown and Mont Belvieu P.D. team against parlor



Mont Belvieu Police Department thanks members of the Baytown Police Department, "Texas Special Operations" team for their assistance in interdicting an illegally operating business. An illegally operated business was uncovered on July 9, in the 9500 block of State Highway 146. As a result, two females were arrested, and charged with prostitution. In addition, Mont Belvieu Police Department is currently working with the City's Code Enforcement Division to address zoning violations, which in turn, along with the other charges, will result in the closing of this business.

LIBERTY COUNTY

Body found in field now identified

LIBERTY COUNTY – Shortly after noon on Sunday, July 28 a hired person on a tractor looking for a lost cow found the badly decomposed body of a man lying in high weeds of a field about 100 yards from a home in the Gulf Company Road area of south-east Liberty County.

According to Liberty County Sheriff's lead Investigator Sean Mitchell the remains are thought to be that of a man who the land owner did not know well but had been staying at the residence on the property for the past several days and was last seen on Monday, July 15th as he drove away in a pick-up truck.

Investigator Mitchell said at that time there was no confirmed identity of the deceased man, so as a result no family members could be notified, nor were

there immediate signs of foul play. Justice of the Peace Pct. 2, Judge Ronnie Davis ordered an autopsy while the investigation continued by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office.

According to Capt. Ken DeFoor, Public Information officer, after consultation with probable family members based upon papers found in the wallet of the deceased person, Liberty County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 Judge Ronnie Davis has confirmed the identity to be Brandon Wayne Wright, 34. The deceased was visiting a friend in Liberty County at the time he was found in the field.

There has been no autopsy results nor DNA reported as such examinations take an extended period of time and, at present, the Sheriff's Office is awaiting those results.

Mammography Key to Early Detection

BAYTOWN — (July 26, 2019) — Screening mammography is the most effective tool available in the early detection of breast cancer, but for women with dense breast tissue, detecting a small cancer can be more difficult.

If you've been told by your health care provider that you have dense breasts, you may be confused about what it means for your health. Dr. Ana Benveniste, a board-certified radiologist at the Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown, answers three of your frequently asked questions.

Q: What is breast density?

A: Breast density refers to the composition of a woman's breasts. All breasts are made up of lobules (glandular tissue that produces milk), ducts (tiny tubes that carry milk), and fatty and fibrous connective tissue that give breasts their size and shape. Dense breasts have less fat and more fibrous and glandular tissue than non-dense breasts.

Q: Why does breast density matter?



DR. ANA BENVENISTE

A: Dense breasts are normal and common. Being aware of your breast density is important because women with dense breasts have a slightly higher risk of developing breast cancer. Having dense breasts can also make it more difficult to detect a small cancer on a standard screening mammogram, because dense breast tissue can look similar to cancer or hide the cancer on a mammogram. If you have dense breasts, talk to your doctor about

what types of screenings are appropriate for you.

Q: Should I get a mammogram if I have dense breasts?

A: Yes. Mammograms are the best way to detect cancer—even for women with dense breast tissue.

Additional screening tools, such as tomosynthesis, or 3D mammography, and breast ultrasound, can help to distinguish between dense breast tissue and potential hidden cancers.



DR. ESTHER DUBROVSKY

Benveniste says having your imaging results interpreted by a breast radiologist who is on-site at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital benefits you in several ways:

Less wait time. Breast radiologists interpret imaging tests on-site so you don't have to wait hours or days to get your results.

Personalized care. You can meet with the radiologist and ask questions to make sure you understand the results.

Accuracy. There's less chance you'll need follow-up imaging tests when an on-site radiologist interprets your results accurately.

Dr. Esther Dubrovsky, breast surgeon at the Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown, says regular mammograms, along with breast self-examination, will help you in your quest to detect problems early, when chances of a cure are greatest. Mammograms can detect breast cancer up to two years before a lump can be felt.

"You are the first line of defense when it comes to breast cancer. That's why it's crucial to know how your breasts normally look and feel," Dubrovsky said.

Breast Cancer Symptoms

The following are warning signs of breast cancer. Dubrovsky recommends seeing your doctor if you experience any of these symptoms, but keep in mind that most breast

See MAMMOGRAPHY, page 6

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OPINION

By MICHAEL SKELLY
Make I-45 Better Coalition

The Real Debate over I-45 Finally Begins

After almost 5 ? hours of public commentary (65 people spoke) and debate on Friday, the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council approved \$100 million in funding for Segment 2 of the I-45 expansion from I-10 to I-610.

More than a hundred of you (wow!) showed up to the meeting, and 59 of you spoke eloquently against the funding. As one resident said, "There is nothing innovative about bulldozing through low income communities." Local figure Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale called the NHHIP (I-45 expansion) "the \$7 billion boondoggle." Many more cited TxDOT's own estimates of number of displaced residents; displaced businesses and jobs; and worse air quality as major reasons to delay funding.

Progress While this may not be the outcome we wanted, we've made definitive progress along the way. For starters, this vote was all over the news, and the project is now known as "the controversial I-45 expansion project." Spreading the word to more residents makes a huge difference!

Thank you to every one of you who has written to an elected official, attended a meeting, or spoken to your neighbors about the I-45 expansion.

We're making waves due to our collective effort, but we need to keep the pressure on.

Other wins we've earned:

\$1.5 million in funding for community engagement, which we will monitor to ensure the process is transparent and impacts the current design

\$50 million for transportation-related projects along the I-45 corridor to address adverse impacts of the expansion including but not limited to mobility, safety, and air quality

quarterly reporting by TxDOT on community engagement and response

a threat by City of Houston officials to kill the project if it doesn't get better

upcoming community outreach by the City of Houston with Huitt-Zollars engineers and UH-Community Design Research Center

much more press and community awareness about the project and its consequences for people living alongside it

more awareness and discomfort by Houston City and Harris County officials

What is H-GAC? / What Was This Vote For?

This vote was by a committee of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, a group made up of representatives from Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Montgomery and other surrounding counties to plan transportation projects in our region. Not surprisingly, these surrounding county officials don't care much about Houston's

neighborhoods, air quality, or flooding, so it's not a great shock that they'd support a project whose impact is borne by Houston residents.

This is far from the final word on this project as the Federal permitting studies are many months away from completion.

Elected Officials' Responses

Against funding:
Of note, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo fearlessly was the only member to vote against the \$100M for the I-45 project, after she was denied her proposal to delay the funding vote until January 2020. We applaud Judge Hidalgo's bold move standing up for the people of Harris and Houston.

Numerous other elected officials sent in letters against funding the project this month and called for the vote to be delayed.

Neutral:
Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia was the only to abstain.

Pro funding:
Although he is not on the voting council, Mayor Sylvester Turner sent in a letter of support for this week's \$100M of funding.

Houston Council Member David Robinson (At Large) voted in favor of advancing the project.

Houston Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum (District K) voted in favor.

METRO Chair Carrin Patman voted in favor

Briscoe Cain joins Criminal Justice Reform Caucus

On Friday, July 19th, Representative Cain announced founding membership in the newly formed House Criminal Justice Reform Caucus. "The bipartisan makeup of this caucus shows the widespread support for criminal justice reform not only in the Legislature, but across the State of Texas. I'm excited to be a part of this

group, because the issues we will address are not partisan, they are those of human dignity and I look forward to making sure that we find solutions that can improve the lives of every Texan who comes in contact with our criminal justice system." The caucus will initially be co-chaired by Representative Joe

Moody (D-El Paso), speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, and Representative Jeff Leach (R-Plano), who serves as chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence. Its other founding members are a bipartisan group that reads like a Who's Who of the Texas Legislature:

Chair Senfronia Thompson (D – Houston)
Chair Garnet Coleman (D – Houston)
Chair James White (R – Hillister)
Chair Nicole Collier (D – Fort Worth)
Chair Dade Phelan (R – Beaumont)
Rep. Briscoe Cain (R – Deer Park)
Rep. Todd Hunter (R – Corpus Christi)
Rep. Matt Krause (R – Fort Worth)
Rep. Ina Minjarez (D – San Antonio)
Rep. Jessica González (D – Dallas)

"I'm sad to say that for all our other successes, the 86th Legislature was a failure for criminal justice reform," Moody said. "Misinformation and a lack of issue-specific guidance on the floor stopped a lot of commonsense, crucially needed bills. The new caucus is committed to making sure that never happens again."



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Paxton lauds ruling against preclearance for redistricting maps

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton applauded a federal court ruling allowing the state to proceed with redistricting legislation without asking the federal government's permission.

The July 24 ruling by a three-judge federal court rejected plaintiffs' petition to require the state to obtain permission from the U.S. Department of Justice or a federal court before redistricting legislation could take effect.

After the San Antonio-based panel ruled on the ongoing voting rights case, *Perez v. Abbott*, Paxton said, "This court ruling is a win for our Constitution and the right of Texans to govern themselves."

Paxton called the plaintiffs' request for "bail-in" — that is, requiring proposed changes to voting laws and redistricting plans to be "precleared" by the Department of Justice — a "baseless challenge."

The plaintiffs originally brought suit over redistricting plans Texas lawmakers adopted in 2011, claiming that plans were passed by the Republican-dominated Legislature to dilute the voting power of minorities. The Legislature repealed those plans in 2013 and adopted largely court-drawn plans. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 confirmed that the Legislature in 2013 fixed defects plaintiffs alleged to have existed in the 2011 plans.

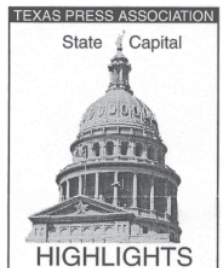
Furthermore, notably, the high court in June ruled 5-4 that federal courts have no oversight role when redistricting lines are drawn to favor a political party.

BALLOT ORDER IS DRAWN

Texas Deputy Secretary of State Joe Esparza on July 23 drew the ballot order for 10 propositions, the proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution that will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

At least two-thirds of the members of both the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives approved each proposed constitutional amendment for Texans to vote on.

They will appear on the ballot in the following order:



—Prop. 1: "The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time."

—Prop. 2: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas."

—Prop. 3: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster."

—Prop. 4: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."

—Prop. 5: "The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."

—Prop. 6: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."

—Prop. 7: "The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund."

—Prop. 8: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects."

—Prop. 9: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metals depository located in this state."

—Prop. 10: "The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances."

VOTER REGISTRATION URGED

After the proposed constitutional amendment drawing ceremony on July 23, Deputy Secretary of State Esparza reminded all eligible Texans to register to vote in the November constitutional amendment election.

"The future of Texas is and will always be in the hands of Texans. This fall, voters will have the opportunity to directly impact the Texas Constitution, and I strongly encourage all eligible Texans to register to vote so that they can actively participate in shaping the future of the Lone Star State," Esparza said.

Texans will have the opportunity to approve the amendments with a majority vote.

For more information and resources for voting in Texas, visit VoteTexas.gov.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY IS SET

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week reminded shoppers they can save money on a number of items during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

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ATTORNEY'S CORNER

By Attorney Weston Cotten



A Belated New Years Resolution?

You may be taking care of elderly parents now or looking at that possibility in the near future. According to a report from USA TODAY, ABC News, Gallup Poll, 41% of baby boomers are helping take care of elderly parents by providing personal help or financial assistance or both.

If financial planning and long term care planning have not been done previous to the need for care, the burden falls on the caregiving family member. Decisions about how care will be paid for, who will be responsible for managing the estate as well as how the long term care will be given can cause stress and contention among family members.

It is best for parents and all family members to be involved in planning for future financial needs. The financial resources being used today could change drastically with the occurrence of a stroke, illness or onset of dementia.

In order to plan financially for long term care, you need to know what the costs are now and what they will be in the future.

Every year MetLife does a survey of long term care costs. Their 2010 survey shows that the average daily rate for private nursing home is \$229 which is up from \$219 in 2009. Assisted living monthly base rate cost rose from \$3131 in 2009 to \$3,293 in 2010. Home health aids average \$21 an hour.

"According to some sources, 60% of us will need long term care sometime during our lives.

You are three times (3x) more likely to become disabled, or severely impaired, than to die. It is important for all of us to prepare for that day when we will need to help loved ones with elder care or we will need elder care for ourselves."

"It is simply a fact of life that we prepare financially for unexpected disasters by covering our homes, automobiles and health with insurance policies and to provide funding for our retirement. But no other life event can be as devastating to our lifestyle, finances and security as needing long term care.

It drastically alters or completely eliminates the three principal retirement dreams of elderly Americans, which are:

1. Remaining independent in the home without intervention from others

2. Maintaining good health and receiving adequate health care

3. Having enough money for everyday needs and not outliving assets and income

Yet, it is our experience that the majority of the American pub-

lic does not plan for the devastating crisis of needing elder care. This lack of planning also has an adverse effect on the older person's family, with sacrifices made in time, money, family lifestyles and even affecting the family's or caregiver's medical and emotional health."

National Care Planning Council " The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning"

Because of changing demographics and potential changes in government funding, the current generation — more-than-ever — needs to plan for long term care.

If you have spent time helping a parent or loved one cope with a disability resulting from aging, you know the frustration of balancing what you feel they need to do and what they want to do. Communication is strained at times, because after all, you are the child and they the parent, yet physically and mentally the rolls have changed. When you make directives, assignments and arrangements in advance of needing elder care, then everyone involved can follow the prearranged care plan.

As an example, Jefferson Simpson wrote in his care plan that if dementia or Alzheimer's inhibited his mental abilities to communicate or recognize his surroundings, he wished to be in a respectable facility and only asked that he be visited and brought chocolates.

To his children this request seemed silly at the time, but when his mental capacities did diminish, the instructions were there. No one had to wonder if they should try to take care of Father Jefferson at home and how they would do it. Without guilt or question they placed him in a respectable facility that took care of his needs. All they had to

do was make loving visits, and of course they brought chocolates.

In order for Jefferson's simple request to happen, he had made financial, legal and personal long term care plans years before.

1. What do you want your children or friends to do on your behalf?

2. When it comes time for them to help, what if you can't say what you want because of a physical or mental disability? This is where a written long term care plan comes into effect.

3. Do you have a financial plan or long term care insurance? Retirement savings can disappear quickly when used for care services.

4. Where is your paperwork; insurance policies, living will, medical directives, Armed Services discharge or disability papers? Is there someone designated to know the location?

5. What are the legal documents that are needed for power of attorney, estate planning and disbursement of assets? When do they have to be completed?

6. What types of care services and facilities are available and what are the costs?

7. What will government programs pay for and how do you qualify?

There is a lot you can do now to put together a plan for your own long term care. You may have limited resources in the future or health problems that will inhibit your ability to take care of things you could do now.

For example, Billy and Bobbie want to be able to stay in their home as they age. In order to do this, when they were in their 40's they took out a long term care insurance policy that will pay for home care if it is needed. The policy will also pay for nursing home costs as a care option. With tak-

Forgiveness, Hope, Eternal Life

Jesus, God the Son, died on the cross for our sins and rose again, so that we could be made right with God. If we confess our sins and believe in Jesus – We will be forgiven, saved, have eternal life. Jesus Christ loves you!

God's Word, the Bible, says:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23 NKJV

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

-John 3:16

God, be merciful to me a sinner! -Luke 18:13

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. -Acts 16:31

To sum up: Repent, Believe, Jesus Saves.

We invite you to Northside to learn more about God's love and salvation. Join us each Sunday at 11am; 6pm.

-David R. Brumbelow, pastor, Northside Baptist Church, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX 77562. nsbchighlands.org

ing the policy at a younger age and in good health the monthly payments are low. Extra funds can now be put away for retirement without worries of having to deplete savings for care costs. Or consider Sarah's following experience:

After taking care of her own parents for many years, Sarah realized the importance of making a plan and preparations for herself in advance. She saw all of her parents' assets dissipated in order for her father to qualify for Medicaid nursing home coverage. She didn't want the same thing to happen to her. She took the time to create her own plan on paper—expressing her wishes for her own care. A trip to her attorney provided all the legal documents and estate planning she wanted to be in place to insure care for her and an inheritance for her children.

There is much to learn about long term care and there are a lot

of new services and programs available to draw from.

The National Care Planning Council has gathered together an overall review of government and private long term care services both on the Council website, www.longtermcarelink.net and in their book The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning.

The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning provides comprehensive information about long term care planning. The design also allows you to record personal information, family agreements and directions on 20 planning sheets at the back of the book. Using this book as a single-source repository for information and directions makes it much easier for you or your care coordinator to carry out your wishes when the need for care occurs.

If it is too late for long term care planning, it is not too late to salvage some of the parent's estate if a plan is put in place upon

learning of the loved one's need for long term care in a skilled nursing facility (nursing home). Discussion with a skilled long term care attorney can result in savings to the well spouse, or for the children.

Don't rely on friends or for that matter the Department of Human Services. They manage the funding for Medicaid in the nursing home and are notoriously frugal in handing out benefits to which your loved one may be entitled with the proper planning, or proper guidance.

No matter the timing, it is important to discuss your situation with a competent professional immediately upon realizing that long term care, either in home, or in a skilled facility, is on the horizon.

The sooner the better.

Feel free to call the office of Weston Cotten, Attorney at Law, with any questions you may have, or visit www.westoncotten.com.

Legal Disclaimer: Unless otherwise indicated, the author is not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (Translation, I have not taken and passed a test in any area of legal specialty, but am licensed to practice law before all Texas State and County Courts and several Federal Courts).

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CHURCH LISTINGS

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown

ANGLICAN 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, nsbchighlands.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

NON DENOMINATION

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

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

• Pentecostals of Crosby, 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX ☐77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

Channelview, Jacinto City, Galena Park, Houston

•Second Street Church of Christ, 15821 2nd. Street, Channelview, TX. 77530. www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

•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, Houtson, TX. 77049.

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

CATHOLIC

•St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.

•Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

•2nd. St. Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. -281-452-4049.

•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

•St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

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.

For corrections or new listings, call 281-266-3444.

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ASK THE EXPERTS

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Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Assoc. of Mature American Citizens



Ask Rusty – About Collecting Spouse Benefits or Disability

Dear Rusty: My wife will be 62 in a few months and I'm still working (I am 59). Can my wife get any Social Security if I'm not yet retired? She's short quarters for her own Social Security from when she worked. She also worked under our State Teachers Retirement System as a substitute teacher, but she is short of getting any STRS benefits. She's a diabetic and has other health problems, so can she qualify for disability? Signed: Inquiring Husband

Dear Inquiring Husband: Your wife cannot collect Social Security spousal benefits from your record until you are

collecting your own Social Security. To be eligible for Social Security on her own work record she needs to have at least 40 "quarters" of work credits - about 10 years of substantial earnings over her lifetime during which she and her employer both contributed to Social Security. Her employment with STRS didn't give her Social Security credits since her State employer doesn't participate in the Social Security program; however, if she doesn't have a STRS pension then neither does she need to worry about that pension affecting her eventual Social Security spousal benefits when she can collect from you (if she had a pension from STRS her Social Security spousal benefit would be reduced).

As far as the possibility of your wife getting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, SSDI benefits can only be awarded based upon one's own work record. Whether your wife qualifies would depend upon how many Social Security quarter credits she has and when they were earned. Your wife would need to have worked in Social Security covered employment for at least 5 of the last 10 years to be eligible for SSDI benefits, and her current health condition would need to render her totally disabled and unable to work (and that must be medically confirmed) in order to qualify.

If she hasn't already done so, I suggest your wife obtain a Statement of Estimated Benefits and Earnings Statement from Social Security. She can do this online by setting up her own personal "My Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov or by requesting same from Social Security via phone. You can find your local Social Security office contact information by going to this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. Once you have obtained this information you will be able to determine exactly how many Social Security "quarter credits" your wife actually has to this point and the employment years for which she earned them (for SSDI purposes), and also if she is entitled to any Social Security benefits on her own from credits earned over her lifetime (SS credits don't expire). Having all that information should help your wife fully understand if she has any claiming options other than waiting until you start collecting your own Social Security retirement benefit, at which point she can claim her spousal benefit.

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.

Mammography,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

lumps aren't cancer.

- A painless lump or mass in or near the breast
- A change in breast size or firmness
- Breast skin changes, such as dimpling, a sore or a rash
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- A warm area in the breast
- Pain in the breast
- Swelling under the armpit or of the arm
- Bone pain

To schedule your mammogram at the Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown, visit houstonmethodist.org/breast-care, or call 855-454-PINK (7465).

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

Two Goose Creek ISD STEM Academies achieve “Model” Status



Lee Model Status:
Faculty and staff from Robert E. Lee High School's STEM Academy, along with Renea Dillon, director of CTE (second from left); Dr. Melissa Duarte (third from left), deputy superintendent for curriculum and instruction and Dr. Randal O'Brien (right), Goose Creek CISD superintendent, celebrate attaining Model Status from the National Career Academy Coalition.



RSS Model Academy:
Faculty and staff from Ross S. Sterling High School's Health Science Academy celebrate the academy's Model Status achievement from the National Career Academy Coalition with Dr. Melissa Duarte, deputy superintendent for curriculum and instruction; Renea Dillon (second from left), director of CTE and Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent.

By: Susan Passmore

Two Goose Creek CISD academies received notification from the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) that they achieved Model Status, the highest rating granted, based on the National Standards of Prac-

tice for Career Academies. Ratings from the NCAC include Model, Certified or In Progress.

The Health Science Academy at Ross S. Sterling High School and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy at Robert E. Lee

High School received recognition for meeting or exceeding proficiency in all 10 areas of the National Standards of Practice (NSOP), which are endorsed by both the Department of Education and the Department of Labor as a guide to best

practice in the implementation of quality career academies.

"This recognition is a result of six years of planning and dedication to implementing the best practices that have been determined nationally by the NCAC,"

said Renea Dillon, director of career and technical education.

The NCAC review process, introduced in 2009, was a response to requests from the field to identify best practices and strong career academy implemen-

tation models. The process identifies high quality career academies around the country, in urban, suburban and rural settings, that exemplify career academy practice and structure and can provide evidence of their ability to demonstrate fidel-

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 476441; Estate of SHIRLEY A. GRIFFIN Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on July 11, 2019.
PAMELA GRIFFIN McCONAL
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Rd. Highlands, TX 77562

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 July 22, 2019

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Program Comment for Positive Train Control and Infrastructure. Union Pacific Railroad proposes to construct an approximately 70 ft. monopole communications pole with associated equipment at the following approximate location in the Town of Crosby, Harris County, Texas within the existing railroad right-of-way:

- Coordinates: 29.957256, -95.006233 (Mile Post #336.26).

We respectfully request that parties interested in providing comment on the proposed undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103, within 30 days of the date of this publication. (GSS #W19183-TX-7)

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Constable Race,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion, Sherman Eagle-ton defeated Michael Pappillion handily. Jasen Rabalais was knocked out of the race by 36 votes be-hind Pappillion. He was Jones’ unofficial surrogate candidate but it would be fair to say made some mis-takes during the cam-paign in spite of spending the most to win. Rabalais con-tended without prov-ing that illegal votes were cast in the elec-tion that knocked him out of running.

While much of Cros-by voted Republican, the main race was in the Democratic Pri-mary and voters had to vote in one prima-ry or the other but no one can vote in both. The two parties, that were once the Demo-cratic-Republican Party against the Whigs, have made sure that their parti-zan politics is domi-nant.

Anyone campaign-ing this year must however must keep in mind that Harris County Precinct 3 Constable’s District is the third largest in population and second in landmass and a very diversified set of demographics.

During his time in office, Eagleton has initiated reforms, in-creased standards and initiated pro-grams to outreach to the elderly but dropped bad check col-lections, a civil matter.

Recovery snagged at floodplain rules

HARRIS COUNTY - The public doubtlessly wants to stop flooding but with new rules adopted in early July building new will come at a premium. Harris County Commis-sioner’s Court has estab-lished new rules that require that builders set off as much retention as would handle flooding at the 500-year floodplain. The vote was unanimous

on July 9 concerning unin-corporated Harris County to move the model from the 100-year to 500-year flood-plain. The new rules are related to projecting in-creases in the state’s rain from federal studies and the new development is required to retain as much water as possible so as to offset any impact they would have on the folks downstream.”

According to County Judge Lina Hidalgo at the assembly, “to make sure the new development takes into account the lat-est rainfall proections and the new development is required to retain as much water as possible so as to offset any impact they would have on the folks downstream.”

All eyes now are on the Federal Emerncy Man-agement Agency that is afixing flood maps that are due in 2021. The county’s guidelines are much like the new rules adopted by Houston. Locations that did not flood during Hur-ricane Harvey are being made to build higher and have more detention be-cause they are in the 500-year floodplain.

All this, of course, has builders upset and begging for enactment to be de-layed or reconsidered based on development cost. Houston Association of Realtors for instance, al-though they are in favor of unincorporated Harris County having housing being better able to with-stand floods; they are re-acting with sticker shock over building costs.

New Voting Machines on Trautman’s agenda

Touch Screen Voting Machines could be coming to Harris voters
By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. July 16, 2019 – Dr. Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk has her sights set on getting Harris County voters the newest voting equipment available to provide voters an easier, more comfort-able and reliable voting experience.

At the 2019 Annual International Association of Government Officials (iGo) Conference Trade Show vendors displayed and demonstrated various types of equipment and software to improve performance for gov-ernments performing services to the public.

Attending the conference were elected and appointed officials such as county and city clerks, record keepers, tax assessors, secretar-ies and businesses with interests in learning and obtaining insights to the most modern equipment and soft-ware.

Clerk Trautman is interested in the county getting new voting machines that’ll make voting easier,



Dr. Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk presents timeline and cost for the county to buy new voting machines for the May 2021 elections at the International Association of Government Officials.



Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk receives demonstration and an explanation of the newest voting machine technologies to provide voters a more comfortable voting experience.
Photos by Allan Jamail

quicker and to provide both electronic and hard copy records of votes cast in an election. Many of the voting machines displayed provided TOUCH-SCREEN voting, where the voter can look at a screen with candidate’s names and posi-tions sought on it and then merely touch the name on the screen of whom they wish to vote for. After voting the machine will electronically record their votes and then printout a hardcopy paper ballot of their votes for record keeping and recounting if needed. This type of voting will give more integrity to the voting process and the hardcopies of the ballots can be then used later to verify any questionable vote results and make “recounting results” more accurate and reliable.

Dr. Trautman said the approximate cost of 74 million would be needed to complete-ly replace the 20 year old machines currently used. She’s planning to budget the new machines in her upcoming budget so they can be ready for implementation in the May 2021 election.

If Commissioners Court approves the cost then the Clerk will form a community advisory group and a County Voting Selection committee comprised of mem-bers from the election staff, voter registra-tion staff, universal services staff and purchasing staff.

Numerous voting machine vendors will bid on the county’s business and present their equipment to the Selection Commit-tee that’ll narrow down the decision to the top two vendors. In July 2020 Commis-sioners’ Court Clerk will select the vendor for the new machines and place the order in August 2020.

From January through April of 2021 they’ll be awareness, education and demonstrations of the new machines provided to the voters, public and Election Judges.

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