

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ Courier

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These stories in the **PRESS:**
 • 2 Inmates escape in Liberty, then recaptured later
 • HMB Pregnancy Guide
 • Neighborhood EC and Altus
And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS
SAT., SEPT. 14
Methodist Church Fish Fry
 Highlands United Methodist Church will hold its annual Fish Fry on Saturday, September 14 from 11 am to 2pm. For information or to order, call 281-426-3614.

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

TUE. SEPT 3
THEA/San Jacinto River Coalition
 The next meeting of the SJRC/THEA will be on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 6:30pm at the Highlands Community Center. Discussion will be on the upcoming EPA visit on Sept. 24.

BIRTHDAYS
 Aug 23-Tarshira Harper Daniel Stone John Wilson
 Aug 24-Donche Webb Alex Catie Maxey
 Aug 25-Cameron Adams Carley Hurta Curtis Hunter Catie Rynn Maxey Alex Russell Maxey Joshua Stuart Madie L.White
 Aug 26-Derek Elkins Rebecca Moye
 Aug 27-Craig Nelson
 Aug 28-Jimmy Fincher Steve Norris
 Aug 29-Alex Creel Myra Hedger Pamela Lewis

ANNIVERSARIES
 Aug 23- Greg & Angie Basquez Kaylin & Caleb Morgan
 Aug 26- Lee Ward & Jo Ann Hammac
 Aug 28-Gilbert & Mei-ing Hoffman

DEATHS
 William Stanley Grissom, 77
 Joe Warren Harris, Sr., 84
 Additions or Corrections are welcome, 713-266-3444

Cody's fundraiser Goes BIG

CROSBY – August 17, the Big Event for the Cody Stephens GBOGH Memorial Fund was a rousing success held at Southern Lace Estates for a night of big band, big auction and big celebration.
 A catfish dinner started off a packed program beginning with recognizing this year's youngsters saved from sudden death by the efforts of the foundation. Awards for those that contributed effort generally in the form of belt buckles.
 It was especially a celebration of the passage of House Bill 76, the Cody Bill, with special recognition of Representative Dan Huberty, R. 127, (also excitement at the passage of



Dan Huberty welcomes the accolades for HB 76, the Cody Bill and HB 3, the school bill. His staff is weepy and he is supported by Carol Avarado at left.

House Bill #3 for education) Rep. Briscoe Cain, R. 128, and State Senator Carol Avarado, all instrumental in passing the bill that gives parents the right to choose a heart screening for their students.
 Cody Stephens, Scott Stephens son, died in 2012 from sudden death, in the last legislative session, the Cody Bill was signed into law by the governor.
 The band Modulation, brought back memories playing larger band sounds, including those from the 70's band Chicago.
 Before the event the See GO BIG, page 8

New Educators welcomed to area schools

An annual tradition, the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce welcomed new educators with gifts and a special luncheon last August 14 Pastor Larry Koslovsky of the Brethren Church opened the ceremonies and an invocation was delivered by Pastor Keenan Smith within his own sanctuary. Chamber President Kim Harris updated members

and board, introducing Torrence Harris Vice President of Lending and Operations at United Community Credit Union. School's new personnel were introduced by respective Superintendents Huffman ISD- Dr. Benny Soileau, Crosby ISD Dr. Scott Davis

Huffman's New Teachers



HUFFMAN ELEMENTARY Alicia Dudley, Kathryn Landry, Blake Paul, Sara Shannon-Lough Marsi Spurgeon, Madison Valadez FALCON RIDGE ELEMENTARY Sarah Blankenship, Mandy Clark, Carmen Cook, Mayra Gonzalez, Lisa Kobak, Maria Lira, Katie Svoboda, Cassie Stoll, Heather Tharling HUFFMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL Gary Anthony, Andrea Brewer, Myra Broyles, Heather Carlson, Melanie Cordell, Anastasia Corkill, Staci Davis,

Amanda Fontenot, Candice Lucas, Brittney Margiolos, Nicholas Rhoden, Meagan Shockley, Emily Spindle HARGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL Joni Adams, Melissa Ayrado, Karen Brasher-Hinds, Katherine Colbert, Melanie Daleo, Leah Elder, Morgan Hashagen, Brittany McCloskey, Robert Powell, Beatriz Turner DISTRICT WIDE Michelle Davenport, Monica Oncale Crosby's New Educators on Page 6

TEA rates 2 Highlands schools at a "D"

TEA, the Texas Education Agency, released school performance ratings based on their new A to F system. Although most of the schools in the Goose Creek CISD received a passing grade, A,B, or C Highlands parents were upset to learn that their two schools,

Hopper Primary and Highlands Elementary, had received a "D".
 One other elementary, De Zavala, received a D. Receiving A grades were the Impact Early College High School, and Alamo elementary. The District itself got a B rating, as did most other school districts

in the East Harris County area. Ratings by the TEA are based on three categories:
 Student Achievement, or how much students know and are able to do;
 School Progress, how students perform over time and how that growth compares to similar schools;

Closing the Gaps show how different groups of students are performing.
 School officials suggest that disruption from Hurricane Harvey may explain the poor performance in Highlands, as well as restructuring of staff that is taking place.
 Superintendent O'Brien

told the Star-Courier that he was pleased with the overall performance of schools and students in the district, citing "almost all subjects, all grade levels and all domains improved this year." He did not specifically address the problems in Highlands or how to correct them.

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Crosby's Heart Healthy Schools recognized for relative safety

CROSBY – The Crosby ISD Trustees recognized Melody Stephens of Texas Children's Hospital on August 19 who in turn was recognizing two campuses within Crosby ISD as Heart Healthy Schools.

These have been recipients of Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory.) The two schools Crosby Kindergarten and Barrett Elementary qualified for this honor by developing and implementing a cardiac emergency plan, holding practice drills, maintaining an AED (Alert Emergency Detail) and trained a team of campus first responders in the event of a cardiac emergency on their campus.

Melody was mother to Cody Stephens who died in 2012 from sudden death, in the late legislative session, the Cody Bill was passed giving parents the right to choose a heart screening for their athletes. It is the first such bill passed in the nation.



Crosby Kindergarten Kriste Davis and Karen Stewardson received their signage for having made Crosby Kindergarten a Heart Safe School from Melody Stephens (Center.)



Darla Bumgardner, Phaedra Jackson and Karen Walthall of Barrett Elementary School received their signage for a Heart Safe School from Melody Stephens.

Machete ends honor among alleged thieves



Tuesday, August 13, 7:40 a.m., behind the Harris County Sheriff's Office patrol units a trailer had been stolen but fell back into the hands of law enforcement when a falling out among those who will be charged with stealing it resulted in one of the charged attacking the other with a machete.

BARRETT STATION – A man accused of stealing a trailer in the 13,400 block of Crosby Lynchburg around 7:30 a.m. used a machete to get the upper hand on his alleged partner last Tuesday.

Neighbors have friends in the hamlet, generally many look out for one another and this case would be no exception as folks watching over a storage area followed what they thought were thieves stealing a trailer. Somehow in the act of following the pre-

sumptive thieves a minor traffic accident resulted between followers and suspects.

A fight broke out, not between the followers and the suspects, but between the two suspects themselves.

"One suspect took a machete and struck the other suspect in the back of the neck," said Sergeant Samuel Hayes of Harris County Sheriff's Office.

The hack resulted in serious condition for the re-

ceiving suspect, he had to be flown by Life Flight Helicopter to Hermann Memorial Hospital.

Still on the lamb in the area, lawmen are searching for the suspect.

Detectives want a better idea of how all these events unfolded. Anyone with information on the location of the suspect or what may have occurred is asked to call (713) 221-6000.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales described the happenings as "Pretty wild."

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CROSBY HISTORY PROJECT Highlands Little League

This week's historical photos are from Highlands. Pictured is a Little League Parade along Main Street. This photo came from the Skrabanek family. The Skrabanek's had moved from Crosby to Highlands. I don't have a ton of details with these photos, but I thought readers would enjoy seeing them just the same, and will probably recognize some of those pictured.

This is the seventh photo in a series, of historic photos of Crosby and the sur-

rounding area in honor of its upcoming bicentennial. Over the next few weeks, we will hopefully present some more historic photos. Crosby was settled in 1823, making it one of the oldest settlements in Texas. Lifetime resident Jody Fuchs, is preparing a photographic history of the community in preparation for the upcoming event, and is looking for other old or interesting photos of the community. He is working with members of the Crosby Historical

Society, Donna Davenport and Klaus Duda.

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

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HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM



HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE

IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THESE PHOTOS, CONTACT JODY FUCHS AT 281-731-7010.

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019

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

ROUND-UP

Goss Library events

This is what is going on at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, August 19, 2019.

Thursday, August 22 - 5:00, Adult Book Club discussing "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens.

All month long - Come cast your vote for your favorite dog in our "Dog Days of Summer" contest. All money collected will be donated to The City of Mont Belvieu Animal Shelter.

Thank you,
Yolie Belt
Branch Librarian

New District Office for Middleton

Officially opening of Chambers County District office. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held Thursday, August 22nd at 4:00 PM in Wallisville at the historic 1869 schoolhouse. The schoolhouse is the oldest remaining schoolhouse in Chambers County, and even housed our county government in 1875.

The address is 20136 B I-10 Wallisville, Texas 77597. We would be delighted to see you there!

ICS Class in Mont Belvieu

Mont Belvieu OEM will be hosting an ICS-300 class August 26th - 28th. Share this information with your organization?

Here is the link to sign up.

<https://www.preparingtexas.org/ViewCourse.aspx?courseid=402f88cb-2f13-4627-82ab-8fe44fb10502>

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 77621.

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

Two inmates escape Liberty County jail, recaptured after manhunt

LIBERTY COUNTY - Freedom did not last even for a day for Liberty County Jail escapees Clay Sterling Harvey and Chance Marshall Hunt as they both were arrested and taken into custody at approximately 3:30pm this evening.

Acting on information developed throughout the day, deputies with the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office and the Liberty County Sheriff's Office went to an undisclosed location in Shepherd, Texas where Harvey was arrested without resistance but Hunt fled into nearby woods. A few minutes later Hunt was arrested as well. Both men are being returned to the Liberty County Jail by authorities.

When a routine cell check was made early this morning in the Liberty



Clay Sterling Harvey

County Jail it was found that two inmates had escaped the County jail in the early morning hours between 4:am and 6:15am. Missing from the

jail was 44 year old Clay Sterling Harvey of the Nederland, Texas area who was in jail on a charge of Manufacturing and Delivery of a Controlled Substance as well as other Felony charges. Also missing was 28 year old Chance Marshall Hunt of the Beaumont, Texas area and incarcerated for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle among other Felony charges. Both are white males and although it is not known if they are armed since their escape they are considered to be dangerous.

When an inspection was made of the jail facility, it was found that a fence on the east side of the jail

perimeter had been cut open. It appears this was the escape route of both Harvey and Hunt. Liberty County Sheriff Bobby Rader said he wishes to thank the many law enforcement agencies that worked hand-in-hand to make this rapid arrest possible

and the news media, as well, as they assisted greatly by getting the information to the public in a such a timely manner.

Capt. Ken DeFoor
Public Information Officer
Liberty County Sheriff's Office

Little Free Library for Chambers County

The Chambers County Library System held a ribbon cutting for their Little Free Library located at 1204 Stowell Street in Anahuac.

Pictured are members of the Library Advisory Board along with Girl

Scout troop member Gillian Puppa and Avalon Lee. The girls built the Little Free Library as part of their Silver Award Project with Troop 6272.

We're inviting the public to stop by and take a book/leave a book at their convenience.

Storytime & Babygarten at the Chambers Libraries

Starting the week of September 2nd, the library system will kick off Storytime and Baby & Me. Storytime is held weekly and is geared towards ages 2-5 and includes songs, stories, crafts and activities. Baby & Me is a program geared towards infants (birth-24 months). Babygarten is held weekly at each branch and includes music, exciting board books, and fun toys. It's a rhyme time for babies, infants, and their

caregivers that helps build on socialization skills, eye-hand coordination, introducing little ones to libraries, and more. These programs will enrich your child's life from the very beginning and provides an excellent foundation for the future. Dates and times for these events are as follows:

Chambers County Library, Anahuac: Baby & Me every Wednesday at

10am, and Storytime every Thursday at 10:30am

Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch, Winnie: Baby & Me every Wednesday at 10am, and Storytime every Friday at 10:30am

Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch, Mont Belvieu: Baby & Me every Tuesday at 10am, and Storytime every Friday at 10:30am.



Pictured left to right are board members: Susie Davis, Sarah Kathan, Carolyn Caldwell, Sam Little, Girl Scouts Gillian Puppa and Avalon Lee, Heather Puppa, Rhonda Leblanc, and County Librarian Valerie Jensen

HOUSTON METHODIST BAYTOWN Pathway to a Healthy Pregnancy

BAYTOWN - (July 12, 2019) - The early stage of pregnancy, the first two to eight weeks after conception, is a critical time for fetal development—when a baby's facial features, brain, spinal column, heart and kidneys begin to form.

"Because you may not realize you're pregnant until three weeks or more after conception, your health status before pregnancy is key," said Dr. Paul Redman, obstetrician-gynecologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "Caring for yourself before you conceive can help you avoid complications like preeclampsia (high blood pressure), gestational diabetes and preterm delivery, and reduce your chances for having a baby with birth defects."

The pathway to a healthy baby begins with a healthy mom, and the journey starts long before a positive pregnancy test. If you're thinking about having a baby, Redman offers suggestions to help ensure good health for both you and your future little one.

Redman says women should begin their pregnancy journey by visiting their doctor for a pre-conception visit. This checkup includes a complete physical exam and blood tests to look for infections and your immunity to certain diseases like rubella and chickenpox.

"Your doctor will update your vaccinations and discuss any medical issues, your medications, family history, body weight, fitness level and lifestyle. It's a good idea to schedule a trip to your dentist now to have any needed X-rays or repair work done," Redman said.

Eating a well-balanced diet that includes a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains,

low-fat dairy products and protein-rich foods like lean meats and fish is very important. Starting your pregnancy at a healthy weight can reduce your risk for complications like preeclampsia, gestational diabetes or a difficult delivery. Cut back on caffeine by limiting or avoiding coffee, tea, sodas, chocolate and certain medications.

Studies show that women who don't get enough folic acid, a B vitamin, are more likely to have babies with neural tube defects, such as spina bifida or anencephaly.



Dr. Paul Redman

"Because the neural tube, which becomes your baby's spinal cord and brain, forms within the first three weeks of pregnancy, it's critical you get enough folic acid before you conceive. Take a daily supplement or a multivitamin with

400 micrograms of folic acid," Redman said. When pregnant, women should get at least 30 minutes of exercise on most, if not all, days of the week. Being active before you conceive will help you improve your fitness, get down to a healthy weight, reduce stress, and gain strength and balance. Continuing to exercise during your pregnancy can reduce your chances for developing preeclampsia and gestational diabetes. It can help ease constipation, varicose veins, backaches and fatigue.

Redman says quitting bad habits like smoking, drinking alcohol or abusing drugs, is essential. They can cause miscarriage, premature birth, infant death, birth defects, and growth and learning problems. Ask your doctor about programs to help you quit.

If you're thinking about having a baby, make the effort now to seek preconception care and improve your lifestyle to give your child his or her best start.

To schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital obstetrician-gynecologist, call 281-420-5760. To schedule a tour of the Houston Methodist Childbirth Center at Baytown, call 281-420-8625.

Altus & Neighbors EC expand services

Baytown, TX - August 15, 2019 - Altus Baytown Hospital announced today an expansion of its outpatient emergency services starting on September 1st, 2019. The newly expanded locations will be providing services under the branding of Neighbors Emergency Center and Altus Baytown ER.

The locations are:
Neighbors Emergency Center - Baytown: 6051 Garth Road

Neighbors Emergency Center - Crosby: 14120 FM 2100

Altus Baytown ER - 1404 W. Baker Rd. The new outpatient footprint of the Altus Baytown Hospital will allow the hospital to better serve the Baytown, Crosby, and surrounding communities. All three emergency centers will be able to accept Medicare starting on September 1st.

About Altus Baytown Hospital:

Altus Health System opened the Baytown location in the fall of 2010, and later a Houston location in the fall of 2017. In 2014, after seeing the need for another hospital in the area, the Baytown location transitioned into a 14 bed, surgery specialty hospital and rebranded itself as Altus Hospital.

Since day one, Altus Hospital has been committed to being a long term partner in the community. Altus Hospital is staffed by committed personnel who exemplify compassion, accountability and strive for excellence daily. As one, we have one goal and that is to deliver affordable and quality care. Service offered by the hospital includes

outpatient imaging (X-Ray, CT, PET, MRI, and ultrasound), emergency medicine, Women's Center (mammography and breast diagnostic procedures), outpatient surgery and inpatient care. Our physician staff specialty includes bariatric surgery, ENT (ear, nose, and throat), gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, neuro-spine, orthopedic, pain management, plastic and reconstructive surgery, podiatry, and urology.

About Altus Baytown ER and Neighbors Emergency Center:

Providing full-service emergency care 24/7/365 with short wait times, board certified ER physicians, Altus Baytown ER and Neighbors Emergency Centers offer private, relaxing exam rooms for adults and children with the goal of enhancing the patient experience through convenient patient centered care. Services offered include X-Ray, CT, Ultrasound, laboratory, IV Fluids and medications, and all adult and pediatric emergency care.



★ OPINION PAGE ★



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – How is my benefit Amount Determined?

Dear Rusty: I am 60 years old. I have worked full time since age 22. I am thinking about working part-time ages 62-65. When I start collecting my social security benefit sometime after age 65, will my monthly amount be based on only the last few years of my working? Can you please explain how my monthly amount will be determined? Signed: Planning My Future

Dear Planning: I admire that you're thinking ahead to your retirement years and I'm happy to clarify this for you. Your Social Security benefit, when you claim it, will be based upon the highest earning 35 years of your lifetime working career (not only the last few years). To determine your benefit, Social Security will take your entire record of lifetime earnings, adjust each year for inflation, and select the 35 years in which you had the highest earnings. After totaling those years they'll divide by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to determine your "average indexed monthly earnings" (AIME). They then break your AIME into several parts (using what's known as "bend points") and then take a percentage of each part and add it up to arrive at what's called your "primary insurance amount" or "PIA." The "bend point" values change each year, but for 2019 they are \$926 and \$5583. To compute your benefit, the formula will take 90% of the first \$926 of your AIME; 32% of your AIME between \$926 and \$5583; and 15% of any amount of your AIME over \$5583. The product of those three computations are added together to arrive at your PIA.

Your PIA is the amount you will get at your full retirement age, or your "FRA," which for you (born in 1959) is 66 years and 10 months. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, your benefit will be reduced - about 29% less if claimed at 62. If you wait beyond your FRA the benefit will be more - 8% more for each year you delay, up to age 70 when maximum is reached. At age 70 your benefit will be about 25% more than it would be at your FRA. But a note of caution: any benefit estimates you have now from Social Security assume you'll keep earning at your current level until you reach your FRA, so if you work part-time starting at age 62 your benefit amounts will be less than those shown in the current estimates.

Finally, the above applies to your own individual SS retirement benefit from your own lifetime work record. If you are married, and your PIA is less than 50% of your husband's PIA, then you might also be eligible for a spousal boost from your husband. Or if you are the higher earner, your husband might be eligible for a spousal boost from you when you claim your Social Security 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.

★ THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Second Sunset

I spent the last couple weeks visiting my parents. I've been lucky in the parent department. It's fashionable to recall some pivotal incident that occurred when we were eight and extrapolate how every difficulty experienced in our life since is a result. But I've never seen any truth to this in my own life. I was really happy when I was eight—and I give my parents full credit.

My life is very different from my parents' life. Still, they have always been supportive and have always at least pretended to be interested in whatever I was doing as I careened from one career to the next. When, in my fifties, I started to write, my parents were characteristically enthusiastic, with only the occasional exception (perhaps when I wrote in a column how my mother used to garden in her red bikini).

They have always lived a life they enjoy and are proud of, and have encouraged me to do the same. Now in their eighties, my parents still inspire me. Most recently, it was at sunset.

My parents live in a cabin high on a hill overlooking the lake, so you have to climb a lot of steps to get from the cabin down to the shore. My father built the steps down to the lake. In the middle of the climb, there is a bench where (my dad insists) there is a good place to admire the view. (It happens to also be a good place to rest on the way up—but I'll let him stick to his story.)

Most every evening, my parents find their way down to the water's edge. They take a seat on the dock and watch the sun set across the lake. They listen to the loons call to one another across the water and watch the clouds turn pink as the sun disappears in the evening sky.

Then they do it all over again.

Because the cabin sits so far above the shore, when they climb back up the hill, the sun is no longer below the horizon but just beginning to set again—a second sunset.

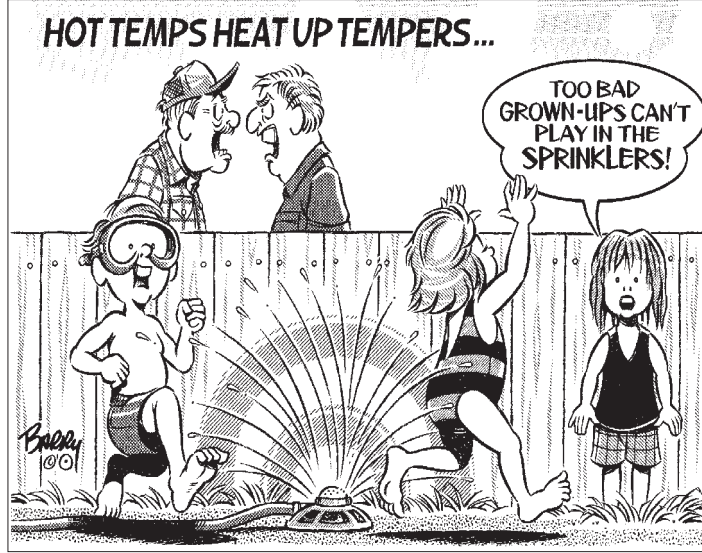
So, my parents take a seat outside their cabin and watch the whole thing all over again—from a different perspective. I tell my parents I admire the life they have created for themselves. They have this great cabin, fun friends and neighbors, they bike all summer, ski all winter and, at the end of every day, they get an extra sunset.

I'd like an extra sunset. By middle age, I thought I could already see the sun going down. I figured I knew, more or less, how the story ended. It turns out I was wrong.

Today, I am doing things I never dreamt of doing fifteen years ago, things I never imagined I could do. But now, as I scramble up the hill in the end-of-the-day light, I realize how much there is to do in the late afternoon, how much is left to see. I'd feel a lot sillier if I were the only one panting up the hill, but I have a lot of company. All around me I see folks looking for that second sunset: picking up paintbrushes and pens and college degrees, trying on new haircuts and new beliefs. Sometimes it's a little embarrassing—but we don't really care.

Like my parents, we're just grateful to get this extra sunset. We're so glad the sun hasn't gone down after all. We just needed a different perspective. We just needed to get to higher ground.

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com or www.Facebook.com/CarrieClassonauthor



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Governor takes action to prevent acts of terrorism

AUSTIN — Texas now boasts its own Domestic Terrorism Task Force, established by order of the governor in the wake of the deadly Aug. 3 shooting in El Paso.

Twenty-two people were killed and 24 injured by a suspect firing a military-style assault rifle in a popular shopping venue.

Gov. Greg Abbott on Aug. 14 said the task force's job will be to analyze and provide advice on strategies to maximize law enforcement's ability to protect against acts of domestic terrorism. The first meeting is set for Aug. 30.

"Our top priority is to keep Texans safe in their communities," he said, adding that "Texas is stronger when we come together in pursuit of a shared goal, and today's actions are vital steps in our ongoing fight against extremism and violence. We stand united against those who wish to bring harm to our state, and together we will build a safer future for every Texan."

Meanwhile, Abbott directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to:

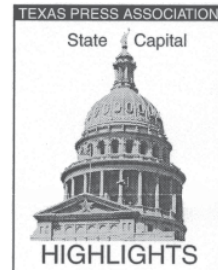
- Conduct a state intelligence assessment of the domestic terrorism threat;

- Establish a Domestic Terrorism Section within the Texas Fusion Center to proactively seek, assess and monitor domestic terrorism and other mass casualty threats;

- Coordinate with the designated regional fusion centers in Texas to increase the detection and monitoring of domestic terrorism and other mass casualty threats;

- Establish Domestic Terrorism Teams comprised of DPS Special Agents to provide immediate direct support to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces and increase the number of special agents to conduct domestic counterterrorism investigations;

- Increasing the number of DPS special agents and analysts in the Texas Anti-Gang Centers conducting investigations of criminal gangs affiliat-



earned the highest preliminary rating possible for 2018-2019. A school district or open-enrollment charter is assigned one of four possible letter grades — A, B, C or F — and a financial management rating of Superior, Above Standard Achievement, Meets Standard or Substandard Achievement.

Ratings for 2018-2019 are based on annual financial reports provided to TEA by districts and charters for the 2018 fiscal year.

TEXAS' NOTES RATED HIGH

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 15 announced Texas repeated its high credit ratings for this year's Texas Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes, short-term debt obligations to help the state manage its cash-flow needs for fiscal 2020.

"Texas has once again received the highest short-term credit ratings on these one-year notes," Hegar said. "These high ratings, coupled with the maintenance of our AAA long-term ratings, help keep Texas' borrowing costs low and save taxpayer dollars as we manage our cash flow. Our creditworthiness reflects our conservative approach to financial management, an increasingly diverse economy and our broad and rising employment base."

Hegar added, however, that issues such as emerging trade tensions, the need to continue to address long-term obligations on the state's balance sheet and increased spending pressures continue to pose potential risks to the Lone Star State's future credit.

ECONOMY ADDS JOBS IN JULY

The Texas Workforce Commission on Aug. 16 announced that in the month of July the state's economy added 35,200 seasonally adjusted total non-farm positions.

Also, the unemployment rate held steady in July at 3.4 percent, matching the all-time record low set in June. The rate of 3.4 percent is the lowest recorded unemployment rate since tracking began in 1976.

ed with Neo Nazi and White Nationalist groups and networks espousing terrorist attacks.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS NAMED

The Governor's office posted the following list of those who will serve on the new Domestic Terrorism Task Force:

Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen and Attorney General Ken Paxton. Also, DPS Chief Steve McCraw, Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd; Major General Tracy Norris, Texas Military Department; Executive Director Amanda Crawford, Texas Department of Information Resources; and Executive Director Carter Smith, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Also included are members of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, members of the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Attorney John Bash, Western District of Texas; Jeff Murray, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Lubbock County District Attorney K. Sunshine Stanek; El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen, Hidalgo County Sheriff Eddie Guerra, Hidalgo; and Capt. Anthony Carter, Collin County Sheriff's Office, North Texas Fusion Center.

Fusion centers combine the capabilities of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in combating criminal activity.

TEA RELEASES RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency on Aug. 9 released preliminary financial accountability ratings for more than 1,100 school districts and charters across the state.

According to the agency, 87 percent

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

★
OBITUARIES

JOE WARREN HARRIS, SR.

Joe Warren Harris Sr., Born in Tenehah Texas December 29, 1934 went home to be with his Lord and Savior August 18, 2019 in Jacinto City Texas.

He grew up in Center Texas and lived in Crosby Texas the remainder of his life and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After serving his country he came home to Texas where he met and married his wife of 52 years Robbie Lee Kilgore Harris.

He was preceded in death by Father JT Harris and mother Ola Mae Anderson Harris,



wife Robbie Harris and sister Hazel Honig. Surviving family are Brother Jack Harris and wife Susan. Children are Daughters Kathleen Elliott and husband Albert, Vickie Jo Machala and husband Andrew, son Joe Warren Jr wife Twyla. Grandchildren Richard

Scott Larson wife Crystal, Vanessa Larson and Travis Harris. Great Grand children Britton Cody Larson, Baleigh Cate Larson and Kaitlyn Elizabeth Larson. Numerous other family members along with many nieces and nephews and friends.

An informal memorial service is being planned in the near future. Any gifts in consideration of his memory as he was for many years a Masonic lodge member and Shriner can be made in his name to the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital in Galveston Texas.

WILLIAM STANLEY GRISSOM

William Stanley Grissom died in his home August 16, 2019 in North Zulch, Texas; succumbing to the effects of colon cancer. He was 77 years old.

Stanley was born August 21, 1941 in Henderson, Texas to parents William G and Hazel Grissom. After leaving the US Army in 1962, he worked several jobs before finding his niche in operating heavy equipment and then in construction supervision.

Stan retired in 2001 to his farm in North Zulch where he gardened and played rancher passing on his love of country life to his children; teaching them to always lend a hand and the importance of community. Known affectionately as the mayor of Whispering Oaks, he always greeted new neighbors,



helped with tractor work and working cattle.

He always had an ear to listen and a cold Lone Star Beer to share.

Stanley is survived by his wife Brenda Cryer Grissom, daughter Paula Harris and son-in-law Robbie Harris, son Richard Grissom, daughter Stacy Riendeau and son-in-law Marshall

Riendeau, and daughter Megan West and son-in-law Cody West, and younger sisters JoyceAnn Cheatham and Nora Faye Caufield, grandchildren Sydmi Nelson, Chelsea Jones-Riendeau and Ciara Riendeau and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and multiple life-long friends.

He was preceded in death by his father William Gordon Grissom, mother Hazel Lorene Kuhn, brother Gordon Ray Grissom and sister Opal Lorene Ellender.

The family will have a Celebration of Life on September 14, 2019 at the Midway Community Center located at 5612 School Rd, Midway, TX 75852 at 12pm.

Flowers can be sent to the family home.

I Believe in Jesus; Now What?

Great question. Believing in Jesus is not the end, but the beginning of the Christian life. These are some basics:

1. Find a good church and attend every Sunday. Get to know the people.
2. Get baptized. Believer's baptism by immersion is a picture of your salvation and a testimony of your stand for Christ.
3. Read a chapter in the Bible every day. A good place to begin is in the Gospel of John. Get a good English translation like the NKJV.
4. Pray. About big things, little things. God wants to hear from His children.
5. Give to the Lord and His church.
6. Tell others about Jesus. Keep Jesus first in your life.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. -Jesus; Matthew 6:33

You are invited to Northside every Sunday at 11am & 6pm. Services last about an hour, dress is casual.

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

★
**THOUGHTS FROM
MARANATHA CHURCH**
By Dr. Mark Trice



Mending the fences

People in our neck of the woods are quite familiar with fences of every sort surrounding fields full of cattle, and we all fully appreciate that those fences are in place.

Every rancher knows that, while some things can be ignored, the fence line can't. If you let your fence fail, you'll almost certainly lose part of your herd, because those great beasts seem eternally convinced that there's something better on the other side of that boundary. Yes, cattle can usually be tracked and recovered, but this takes time most ranchers really don't have. It's far better to maintain your fences and avoid the loss in the first place.

The Word of God is kind of like that fence line. As long as we stay in the Word, it can guard us. It informs us of what God wants from us as well as what He wants for us. It helps us guard our hearts so they don't wander off as they catch sight of the seemingly exciting

happenings on the wrong side of the boundary.

If we keep God's Word in our hearts, it continually alerts us to things in our lives that need to change. The key word is "keep." Just as the rancher has to keep his fence in good repair, because it only works if it has no weak spot or holes, we must maintain our relationships with God's Word. It can only protect us if we stay in it. Walk away from the Word and the odds are good you'll eventually wander away from God.

In Psalm 91, God makes great promises to those who dwell in His Secret Place - who stay inside the fence where it's safe, where we can live in the joy that can only be found in His presence. He promises to be our refuge, our fortress, our deliverer. He assures us that His truth (and His Word IS truth) will be our shield and buckler, which is even more protection.

In Psalm 91, verses 14-16, He says...

"Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

When you set your love on someone, you do all you can to get to know them. Where God is concerned, we do this by prayer and by digging into His Word like a hungry man digs in at the dinner table.

Stay in the Word, my friends. If you've slacked off, head back in and start mending those fences. God has great plans for you and you will miss out on them if you're on the wrong side of the fence.

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save me & I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise
--Jeremiah 17:14

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I Corinthians 13:8

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"The Devil or the New Jersey Dance" (1797)

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Draw near to God and
He will draw near to you.

JAMES 4:6-8

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ROMANS 8:18

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50-280 (Rev. 6-19-14)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019 in THE JOYCE HENDRIX ESC BOARD ROOM LOCATED AT 828 SHELDON RD, CHANNELVIEW, TX 77530

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 0.9700 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$ 0.4194 / \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	3.3782	% increase	or		% (decrease)
Debt service	24.8637	% increase	or		% (decrease)
Total expenditures	5.7445	% increase	or		% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 4,131,589,576	\$ 4,432,164,210
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 151,055,046	\$ 199,024,953
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 3,479,015,436	\$ 3,732,115,066
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 127,196,283	\$ 167,589,464

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 121,960,000.00

* Outstanding principal.

50-280 (Rev. 6-19-14) (Back)

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.04000	\$.35600*	\$ 1.396	\$ 5,042	\$ 5,116
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.95403	\$.41946*	\$ 1.37349	\$ 5,052	\$ 5,383
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.97000	\$.41900*	\$ 1.38900	\$ 5,191	\$ 5,782

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 123,841	\$ 140,216
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 100,405	\$ 113,645
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.396	\$ 1.389
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1401.65	\$ 1578.53
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 176.88

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.3894. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 1.3894.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 31,400,612
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 15,781,227

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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How can a hearing aid that costs less than \$200 be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,250 or more?

The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

MDHearingAid uses the same kind of Advanced Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 300,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, FDA-registered hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone - even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know... why pay more?

Can a Hearing Aid Delay or Prevent Alzheimer's and Dementia?

A study by the National Institute on Aging suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop Alzheimer's and dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention - such as a hearing aid - could delay or prevent this by improving hearing!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 15-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

Hearing is believing and we invite you to try this nearly invisible hearing aid with no annoying whistling or background noise for yourself. If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAid, return it within 45 days for a FULL REFUND.

For the Lowest Price Call 1-855-502-4986

Use Code HQ99 and get FREE Batteries for 1 Year Plus FREE Shipping

GO BIG Varsity Football Team - CROSBY

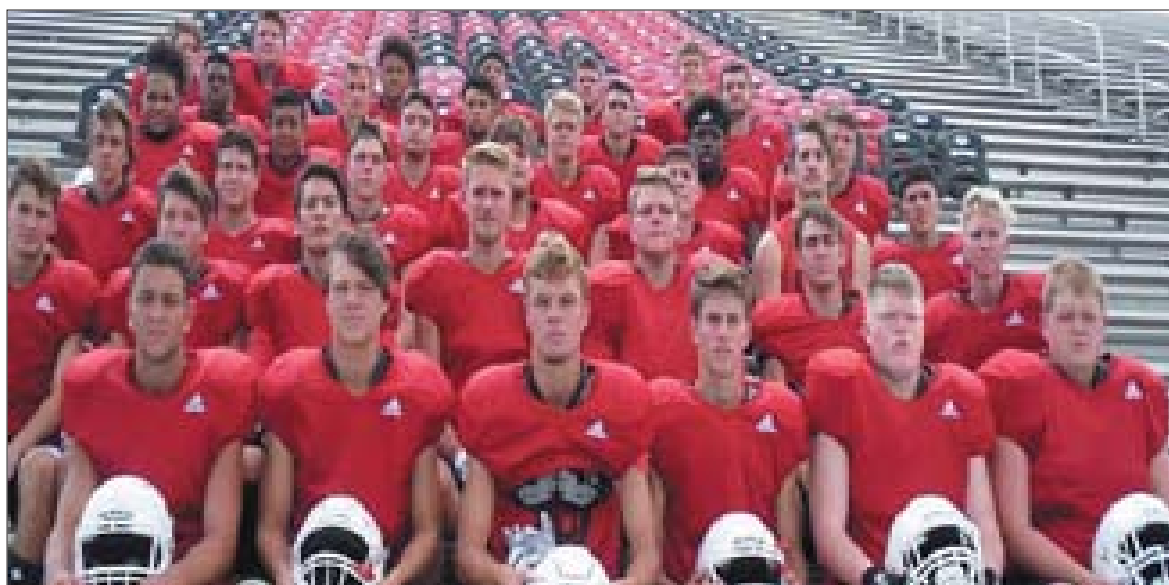
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

goal was to raise about \$275,000 but the event went all the way to "a smidgen under \$300,000," according to Scott Stephens. "The event set wonderful records, the live auction brought in near \$85,000 for 43 items. The silent auction brought in over \$12,000. These resources will help us screen young hearts all over Texas and place ECG modules throughout Texas where they are needed."

Sudden death is the #1 killer of student athletes, about 1 in 300 youths have an undetected heart condition that puts them at risk. The standard physical exam/history misses 96% of the youth at risk. Thanks to the generous donors supporting the mission, Cody Stephens Foundation can offer funding for first year screening. Thus far the foundation has screened more than 130,000 people and at least 100 young lives are referred to more extensive care to avoid sudden death. The ECGs are read by board certified Cardiologists.



Varsity Football Team - HUFFMAN



Although some Cardiologists fought making ECG less expensive dramatically, some supported Stephens as this one that did many of the readings for free. Alahna Kessler, Nathan Schwarz, and Thomas DeBauche accepted belt buckles.

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Can not be used in conjunction with other offers, not valid with merchandise. See dealer for details. Offer ends 8/31/2019.

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Robert Turner
Owner