

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- ExxonMobil faces multiple lawsuits after fire
- Sheriff Hawthorne busts 100 drug users
- Brighter Days Assisted Living
-And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS
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., AUG. 17
Go Big or Go Home Gala

Cody Stephens Foundation annual fundraiser and Gala, at Southern Lakes Estates in Crosby. Tickets are \$100 and are available by calling Scott Stephens Associates, 713-451-3600. Hurry, its a sell-out every year. Donations and Sponsorships are also welcome.

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 9-Johnny Delue
Jim Hildebrand
Annie Mae Smith
O.C. Smith
Rayford Smith
Sonora K. Boyd
Aug 10-Lisa Simmons
Thomas Harper
Aug 11-Christi Bobalik
Bobby Glenn Smith
Kristin Moseley
Raymond Oliver
Tiffany Cutbirth
Aug 12-Ashley Adams
Richard Fannels
Kenneth Ray Neatherlin, Jr.
Amy Rucka
Dianne Thompkins
Roy Cutbirth
Aug 13-Christeen Cutbirth
Aug 15-Sherry Kelley
David Langham
Beverly Nuckols
Elizabeth Price
Becky Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 6-Sue & Steve Norris
Jan & Mike Gucker
Aug 8-Martha & Alvin Keyes
Ronald & Beth Phillips
Aug 9-Cathy & Marvin Harm
Aug 10-Victor & Glorine Harris
Aug 12-Rick & Deborah Nibbe
Aug 12-Frank Drebert
Aug 14-Joe & Polly Lowden
Aug 15-Rusty & Maria Williamson

DEATHS

Peggy Sue Mathews, 85

Crosby ISD plans to use 2017 bonds to meet dire facility needs

CROSBY – The Board of Trustees of Crosby ISD met with Steven Doorman of Casey Sledge, attorney's and the school's bond consultant Doug DeWitt and authorized the selling of the bond that passed voters in 2017 for \$109.5 M. with some changes to address current needs at a special meeting called for August 5.

The bonds were separated into two phases and a third was eliminated. Phase one was to include the Maintenance and Op-

erations Budget Reimbursement for the years 2016 - 2018 for \$11,125,431 and 2017-2018 for \$2,060,881. The bond would buy buses for \$835,000. Upgrades to Barrett Elementary School and Newport Elementary School comes in at \$835,000. A New Middle School with 6th Grade and site improvements for the E5 and middle school is scheduled to cost \$38,099,960.

Crosby High School will add new wings for

\$20,378,802. Crosby Elementary School and Crosby High School are to get Emergency Access Drives or roadways for \$877,123. The cost of converting Crosby Kindergarten Campus to Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade and Drew Elementary School and Crosby Elementary School for Pre-Kindergarten with special facilities to accommodate Drew Elementary, Crosby Elementary and Crosby Middle School is \$1,844,571.

The total of the entire

first phase is \$78,845,613. Phase two is the building of a new elementary school for \$30,654,387.

So, the back parking lot for Crosby High, the Olympic Pool, conversion of operations center and the Crosby Elementary Dressing Area converted to Maintenance and Warehouse, conversion of the old Admin. building into a DAEP or naughty school, a new JROTC Obstacle Course and new stadium parking goes away for now subject to a new bond.

Facts impelling these adjustments include that the new growth factor is 2.23% and the district grew about \$180 M. this year with no stopping in site. Elementary is about 94% full currently.

Deliberations and questions went on at length and no action was taken on the purchase of 75.74 acres of land located on Foley Road with possible option rights for an adjacent 53-acre tract of land.

Commissioner Garcia details his plans for Pct. 2 improvements

By Gilbert Hoffman

Speaking last week at a North Channel Chamber luncheon, Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia covered a wide range of topics related to his concepts of improving conditions for all the resi-

Garcia said that his focus at all times is on Precinct 2, and what he can do to better conditions there. He said a fundamental change in how the precinct is run is his emphasis on spending county money to hire companies and workers that are located in the precinct. He introduced his purchasing director, Jose Jimenez, saying he was they key to implementing the new plan.

Garcia reflected on his first seven months in office, and how it seemed like an unending string of catastrophes. He noted that his term started the first week with an ExxonMobil fire in the refinery in Baytown, and currently was ending the period the same



Commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks at the Chamber luncheon about his plans for Pct. 2

way with the same disaster. He noted that the refineries in Precinct 2 have a history of violations of air and water pollution, and vowed that the county would implement new procedures to minimize these. Because of the large number of petrochemical plants in his district, he said that environmental concerns and safety would be a pri-

mary concern that he would focus on.

Garcia noted that his precinct has the lowest household income in the county, and related to that is the lowest home ownership percentage. He noted how important this is, related to other problems of educational achievement and crime rates.

He said a priority is to

raise the level of educational achievement, and as a start he has partnered with HCDE, the Harris County Department of Education, to provide free SAT college preparation for about 200 motivated students that need help to pass the college entrance tests. This is a four week course for high school students, and if successful will be repeated for more. Garcia noted that passing the SAT will open more educational opportunities, and result in more job and career choices and opportunities.

Garcia told the students, "Go on to succeed, but come back to Precinct 2 and Give Back."

Garcia said that healthcare was a major concern, and noted that he had started the first "food pantry" at a Clinic in the district, to provide more healthy food to clients. He noted that other factors affecting access to good healthcare included transportation, which is being

provided.

Noting that his precinct has the highest rate of cancer in Texas, probably due to proximity to refineries and other polluting sources, he was putting an accent on providing park space of a high quality, knowing that it affects our health. He is also working with a local healthcare company and the City of Houston to provide more park space.

A significant new type of park, known as an "inclusive" park designed for users with special needs as well as the general public, has been designated for development at James Drive Park in Northeast Houston. When finished, he sees it as a prototype for extension to other parks, in part or in whole through the county.

Another major concern, for Garcia as well as many residents of the precinct, is extreme flooding and the

See Precinct 2, page 6

\$47 million to rebuild Lake Houston dam

Crenshaw Releases Statement On FEMA Funds For Lake Houston

HOUSTON, TX – On Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced funding for the Lake Houston Dam Spillway Improvement Project. The project, which converts Lake Houston's dam to dam gates, was awarded a total of \$47,170,953 (\$35,378,214 in federal funds).

Congressman Dan Crenshaw released the fol-



Lake Houston Dam will soon have new gates to help control flooding on the San Jacinto River watershed area.

lowing statement in response to the announcement:

"This is great news for the entire San Jacinto watershed. This money will fund the much-needed Lake Houston dam gates to better manage the flow of water. For a community that feels the burden of flooding too often, this is a huge win. I'm grateful to partner with City Council Member Dave Martin, Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Department of

See LAKE HOUSTON DAM, page 6

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

CRIME WATCH

Spouse abuse turns to murder in Highlands



This scene was found on Tuesday afternoon on Thompson Road near Wallisville in Highlands. Detectives and deputies had closed the road.

HIGHLANDS – According to Sergeant Ben Beall, on Tuesday, August 06, at 11:20 a.m. Harris County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a Domestic Disturbance / Shooting at a residence, located at 8235 Thompson RD, in east Harris County.

The husband, Billy Warford, stated that he argued with his wife, Rochelle Salazar. Warford claimed that Salazar pointed a pistol at him, and he then attempted to disarm her. While they struggled for control of the pistol, the pistol discharged, striking Salazar in the chest.

Highlands EMS responded to the scene and pronounced Salazar dead. Sheriff's Office Homicide and Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene. Warford provided investigators with a statement. Investigators contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

Murder charges are pending against Billy Warford. The case is being investigated by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit. Anyone with information regarding the case is asked to contact the Homicide Unit at 713.274.9100.

RUOK? program expands with CASA

Now includes Senior Hispanic community

Harris County Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton is on the move again. Constable Eagleton has a heart for people and is fervent about putting the community first. Upon taking office in January 2017, he created a program called RUOK?. The purpose of RUOK is to focus on the well-being of elderly members of the community. Ms. Charlotte Jackson coordinates the RUOK program which consists of making a phone call to seniors of the community enrolled in the program. Ms. Jackson simply asks, "Are you OK?" If the senior answers the call and responds that all is well, they move on to the next individual. If, however, the senior does not respond after three calls, a deputy is dispatched to their location to check on their welfare.

Recently, Constable Eagleton saw a need to extend this program to the Hispanic community. With this in mind, CASA was created to work in conjunction with RUOK. CASA was designed for those in the Hispanic community whose primary language is Spanish. The coordinator of CASA is Ms. Rebecca Gonzales. Gonzales, who is fluent in Spanish, contacts seniors in the Spanish speaking community simply to ask if everything is okay. CASA offers this service for seniors, or those with disabilities who have no family living in the area. When there is no response, it could indicate that individuals many have fallen, misplaced their phone, or may be injured. The CASA phone call maintains connection with the individual.

CASA stands for Cuidando Ancionos con Seguridad y Asistencia. To participate in this program at no cost, and complete an application to enroll, contact:

RUOK?-Ms. Charlotte Jackson
(713) 274-2513

CASA-Ms. Rebecca Gonzales
(713) 274-9732



COMMUNITY WATCH

Shots on Ulrich becomes murder

CROSBY – The first call in what the Harris County Sheriff's Office would call a murder case came in at 4:37 a.m. Saturday of a shooting of a man on Ulrich Road.

That man would be identified as Sean Lindburg by Harris County Sheriff's Media Relations after he had been flown by Lifeflight Helicopters to Hermann Memorial Hospital.

Witnesses indicate that there was a screech of tires after a gunshot and a man known in the neighborhood as Sean Ramsey lay in the street. He reportedly died of gunshot wounds Tuesday Morning.

Two die in Old 90 bike - truck crash

According to Deputy L. Anders, "On August 3, 2019 at approximately 10:10 a.m. James Wesley Watson was operating a motorcycle eastbound in the 13800 block of Beaumont Highway with a female passenger. A tow truck was exiting the Chevron gas station and attempted to cross the eastbound lanes in front of his motorcycle. A collision resulted with the tow truck.

The impact caused Watson and female passenger to be thrown from the motorcycle. Both the Watson and female passenger were wearing helmets at the time of the collision. The tow truck driver was transported to the hospital by ambulance with minor injuries. A passenger inside the tow truck was also transported from the scene with minor injuries. The complainant was found at the scene with no signs of life. The female passenger on the motorcycle was transported to the hospital by ambulance with severe injuries. The female passenger of the motorcycle later died at the hospital from her injuries. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriffs Office Vehicular Crimes Division.





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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

"Strike Out Cancer" supports Coach Garcia



Fantastic barbecue and myriad festivities raised fund for Coach John Garcia as Crosby locals moved to Strike Out Cancer at Country Chic, 18302 Noyce Rd. on August 4 Strike Out Cancer was a family friendly event with a host of kid's activities, a Cinderella appearance and Live Elvis performance and Eddie Foster conducted a Live Auction. There was a Silent Auction and a raffle drawing in lavish settings of Country Chic. The auction was said to have taken in about \$24,000.

Strike Out Cancer was hosted by Country Chic in Crosby last Sunday in support of John Garcia and family. John was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and is currently undergoing cancer treatments at MD Anderson. The event was scheduled in hopes of raising funds to help ease this tremendous financial burden. Donations are still needed and for instructions on how best to make them please e-mail: coachjohnsjourney@gmail.com and help strike out cancer.

Following a stem cell transplant, the doctors monitor his condition closely. Thursday his counts were .1, Friday .3, Saturday, 1.3 and Sunday 3.7. A speedy recovery was wished by all.

A family spokesperson posted, "As far as the benefit goes, on behalf of the family, we'd like to thank all who took time out your busy lives to make a difference. Those who volunteered, those who bought barbecue, raffle tickets, bid on auction items, etc... we cannot begin to express our gratitude. Seeing this turnout and love for a friend/family member truly enforces our faith in humanity.

Again, thank you all for your support. Whether it be financially or through prayer and love, you are all appreciated and loved. God Bless you all!"



Larry Stasney enjoying festivities at Country Chic last Sunday indicated that Fast Eddie Foster would be performing the auction at 3:00 p.m.

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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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 12, 2019.

Tuesday, August 13 - 4:00 pm, Movie Day: "Ugly Dolls" (PG, 97 mins) Refreshments will be served.

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

Happening in Dayton

On the calendar at the City of Dayton

8/09 Food Truck Friday: 11 am - 2 pm, at the CrossRoads, 111 N. Church St., Downtown

Dayton comes alive for lunchtime with a variety of food trucks just waiting for you.

8/10 Farmers Market: 8 am - 2 pm, at the CrossRoads, 111 N. Church St., from

savoring produce at the peak of freshness to meeting the people who grow your food, there are countless reasons to visit the Dayton Farmers Market. Held the second Saturday of each Month. More info

8/15 Open Mic Night: All day, Jones Public Library (Blue Wall Cafe) 801 S. Cleveland St.,

Perform music, read poetry, sing, or try out your stand-up routine.

8/16 Food Truck Friday: 11 am - 2 pm, at the CrossRoads, 111 N. Church St., Downtown

Dayton comes alive for lunchtime with a variety of food trucks just waiting for you.

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

ExxonMobil Baytown faces lawsuits after second fire this year

Harris County and two Individuals file suits

BAYTOWN - Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan today filed suit against ExxonMobil Chemical Company over pollution caused by a fire Wednesday at its Baytown Olefins plant.

In addition, two workers at the plant who were injured by fire and debris have also filed multi-million dollar damage suits.

Ryan's suit alleges the company violated state pollution laws and created a threat to public health and safety as a result of the fire at the Baytown Complex, located at 5200 Bay Way Drive.

"Exxon violated state



Firefighters from ExxonMobil pour water on the blaze for most of the day, on Wednesday, July 31. Various reports were that 37 or 66 plant personnel were injured, and some were hospitalized with burns and lacerations. The company issued a "shelter in place" warning during the height of the blaze.

law by releasing tons of pollutants into the atmosphere," said County Attorney Ryan. "The

company violated the Texas Clean Air Act and the Texas Health and Safety Code when the fire result-

ed in the emission of propylene, LPG, propane and associated products of combustion."

Investigators from Harris County Pollution Control Services investigated the violation and provided air-monitoring data to the public as the incident developed.

This is not the first time Harris County Attorney's Office has sued Exxon for air pollution. Earlier this year, the County sued ExxonMobil for an explosion and fire at the Baytown Refinery that took place in March.

In its original petition, the County asks the court to issue temporary and permanent injunctions ordering Exxon to appoint an independent third party to study the incident and to make recommendations to the court. This would allow the court to issue orders requiring the company to take measures to ensure

See EXXON FIRE, page 6

Sheriff's drug sting nets over 100 total busts

19 arrests this week

CHAMBERS COUNTY - Tuesday, August 6 the Chambers County Sheriff's Office, assisted by the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Safety, the US Attorney's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration in a collected effort, are serving arrest warrants on these 19 individuals.

What began as an arrest of a large amount of meth resulted in the arrest and charges in over 100 drug cases in the last year.

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne reports that on October 11, 2018, the Chambers County Sheriff's Office was conducting an investigation of Lambert "Ray" Myers when a vehicle was observed leaving his residence located on Stutes Road in Winnie, TX. The vehicle was stopped and



Sheriff Brian Hawthorne and Chambers County District Attorney Cheryl Lieck at press conference.

three subjects were arrested for possessing over 5 ounces of methamphetamine. A search warrant was obtained for Myers' residence and an additional 2 ounces of methamphetamine was located. Due to the amount of methamphetamine possessed and

trafficked by Myers, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and US Attorney's Office out of Beaumont were contacted to assist in the investigation. The investigation led to the prosecution and conviction of Myers who was sentenced to 180 months in

Federal Prison.

During the investigation it was revealed that Myers was responsible for the sale and distribution of over 20 kilos' (44 lbs.) of methamphetamine in just over two months to Chambers, Jefferson, and Orange counties.

The estimated street value for the sale and distribution of 20 kilos of methamphetamine was approximately a half a million dollars.

The Chambers County Sheriff's Office then conducted a follow-up undercover investigation of those responsible for selling methamphetamine and other illegal drugs in the Winnie/Stowell area. Assisted by the Chambers County District Attorney's Office, indictments were obtained in 24 felony delivery cases resulting in warrants being issued for 21 defendants.

In combination with this undercover operation, an

increased proactive enforcement focusing on illicit drugs in the Winnie/Stowell area was conducted for this same time period. The result was the arrests of 73 individuals (50 Felony, 23 Misdemeanor), the filing of 118 cases and the seizure of powder and crack cocaine, opioids, marijuana, psychedelics, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), more than 3 lbs of methamphetamines, U.S. currency and illegal firearms. Also, during this proactive narcotic investigation, our deputies discovered several local registered sex offenders violating the rules of registering as a sex offender with our office; this has led to several additional felony arrest warrants being issued.

"I am committed to the citizens of Chambers County and our office will remain vigilant investigating those that are trafficking and pos-

See ARRESTS, page 6

Mont Belvieu Police nab thieves at site



RICHARD TREVINO

SAMUEL MAGLIOLO

On Wednesday, July 31st at around 2am, officers with Mont Belvieu Police Department saw a suspicious vehicle in the 11,000 block of State Highway 146. Upon investigation, Richard Trevino of Galena Park, and Samuel Magliolo of Houston, were found loading for transport a mini-excavator that was being used at a construction site in the area. Subjects were charged with Felony Theft.

During the processing police found drugs and firearms. The pair was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, both were placed in Chambers County Jail.

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★ OPINION PAGE ★



Bail Reform gets us closer to a system that works for everyone

A person is guilty until proven innocent or wealthy. This is how our old outdated justice system has been working in Harris County for far too long. There have been incidents that an individual may stay in jail for months. Most are jailed not because they are violent criminals or guilty, but because they cannot afford to pay a bond. This system is far from just and fair because it penalizes the poor. This may be a single mother who was arrested for failing to pay a traffic ticket, loses her job, misses payments for her mortgage and as a result, loses her home. She is now homeless. Or it could be a young man who was wrongfully accused but spent 6 months in jail before someone took a closer look at his case. We have to fix this. We can do better. We must do better.

My career in law enforcement has shown me where government fails and where we could improve. Not everyone who goes to jail is guilty. Not everyone who is arrested is a criminal. I have seen the wasted human capital that sits behind bars that could otherwise be contributing to our economy. Instead, they are in jail awaiting trial, being supported by our tax dollars. Some families are being torn apart, parents losing custody of their children. The poorer you are, the more likely you are to miss a court date: You cannot afford childcare, you cannot afford to miss work, and you cannot afford a car to get to the courthouse. If we are going to keep people out of jail for being poor, we need to have a criminal justice system that works for everyone.

The old outdated system of holding people in jail until they can pay bail – or keeping them until trial if they cannot – does not make the public safer; in fact, studies have shown it increases crime. A 2013 study by the Laura and John Arnold Founda-

tion found that people who were detained after arrest were more likely to commit more crimes. In fact, the longer a person was detained, the more likely they are to commit a crime after disposition of their current offense. As the former Sheriff, I witnessed how this unconstitutional cash bail system helped to create the most overcrowded jail in our recent history that depended on lucrative contracts with private jails to house thousands of inmates, while still requiring the taxpayers to pay millions more in overtime to keep the jail compliant with state jail standards. I had no problem holding onto the most violent and dangerous, but the great majority had made mistakes that posed no direct threat to anyone but themselves. When our criminal justice system can deal with people proportionate to their mistakes then we not only become fair and just but safer because the first time/nonviolent offenders will have fewer opportunities to learn from the worst in jails.

The impact goes far beyond the person who is incarcerated. Children with an incarcerated parent are more likely to experience higher rates of poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, and physical health problems. They are also twice as likely as their peers without a parent in prison to develop behavioral or mental health problems, including increased aggression, depression, anxiety and migrate toward gang involvement. They are also more likely to associate with delinquent peers, get into fights, skip school, have trouble concentrating, and perform poorly in school. This system is far from just, makes us less safe and negatively impacts our children. We have to do better.

The settlement announced this week is the first step Harris County takes at fixing this broken system.

The decree applies only to individuals charged with misdemeanors except for cases of family violence, bond violations, and repeat DWI. These are crimes where a person is more likely to re-offend and will receive a magistrate hearing within 48 hours to determine what kind of bond they may be released under. Those individuals outside of these exceptions will be released on a personal recognizance bond, which means the person commits to making their court dates. Under the consent decree, they will be ensured the opportunity to be able to be represented by counsel at these proceedings.

Freedom should never be for sale, and it is time we take our seat as a national leader in civil rights reform. I know the best way to keep our communities safe is having a multi-tiered approach that allows our District Attorney and law enforcement officers to focus on the most dangerous while enhancing a criminal justice system that promotes fairness for all. Let us be committed to our constitution that proclaims a person is innocent until proven guilty.



Moments in Time

The History Channel—

* On Aug. 25, 1835, the start of a six-part series announcing the discovery of life on the moon appears in the New York Sun newspaper. Sales of the paper soared as readers believed the tales about unicorns, two-legged beavers and furry, winged humanoids. Even Yale University scientists were fooled.

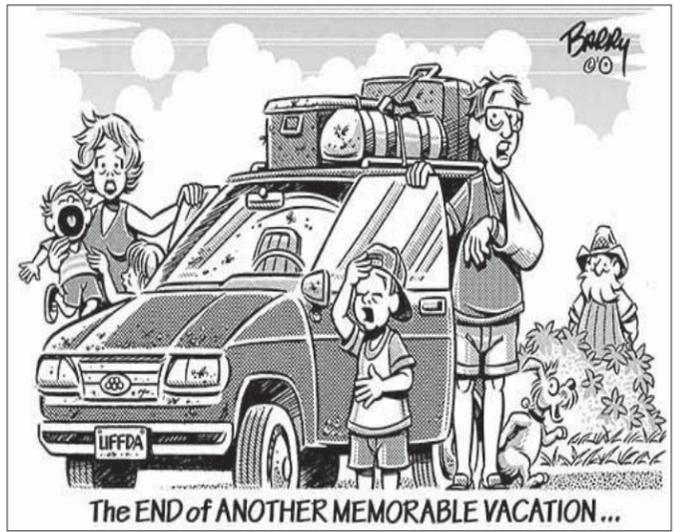
* On Aug. 24, 1873, William Henry Jackson takes the first photographs of Colorado's elusive Mount of the Holy Cross, providing reliable proof of its existence. The phenomenon formed after thousands of years of erosion of two deep ravines, which by sheltering winter snow from the sun created a perfect cross.

* On Aug. 19, 1909, the first race is held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. After the unstable rock and tar track caused the deaths of six people that day, the surface was replaced with 3.2 million paving bricks.

* On Aug. 21, 1920, Daphne Milne, wife of writer A.A. Milne, gives birth to a son, whom they name Christopher Robin Milne. He would be immortalized in A.A. Milne's books "Winnie-the-Pooh" and "The House at Pooh Corner."

* On Aug. 20, 1975, Viking 1, an unmanned U.S. planetary probe, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a mission to Mars. On July 20, 1976, the Viking 1 lander touched down on the Chryse Planitia region, becoming the first spacecraft to successfully land on Mars.

* On Aug. 22, 1989, Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers becomes the first pitcher in major league history to record 5,000 career strikeouts. Ryan would go on to compile 5,714 strikeouts, a record that still stands.



The END of ANOTHER MEMORABLE VACATION ...

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Abbott, Patrick react after 20 die in deadly shooting

AUSTIN — After a gunman was arrested in the killing of 20 people and wounding 26 others at a popular shopping venue in El Paso on Aug. 3, Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick offered thoughts and prayers.

Abbott ordered flags lowered in memory of those who lost their lives and said flags should remain at half-staff through sunset on Aug. 8.

The suspect, 21-year-old Patrick Crusius of Allen, Texas, surrendered after waves of first responders arrived on scene.

Crusius was charged with capital murder. He remains in custody in El Paso.

Lawmaker to take new post

Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, last week announced his retirement from the state House of Representatives, effective Sept. 30.

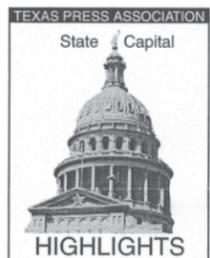
Zerwas, a physician for more than 30 years and past president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2007. He is the 29th most senior lawmaker in the 150-member lower chamber.

Zerwas currently serves as chair of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee, and served in the same capacity in the 2017 Texas Legislature. He earlier served as chair of the House Committee on Higher Education.

On Aug. 1, the University of Texas System announced the appointment of Zerwas as executive vice chancellor for health affairs, effective Oct. 1.

Kevin Eltife, chairman of the UT System Board of Regents and a former state senator, said Zerwas "comes to the UT System with a very high regard among colleagues in the medical, business and legislative arenas."

More than two-thirds of the UT System's annual budget is dedicated to health care, education and research, and UT institutions produce almost two-thirds of the state's health professionals, according to the UT System



news release.

Mitigation contracts issued

Eleven contracts totaling nearly \$14.6 million in the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust settlement have been issued, mainly to school districts, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced Aug. 1.

The settlement is a result of litigation over emissions-control defeat devices that were found to have been installed on vehicles manufactured by Volkswagen and its subsidiaries. Some 590,000 vehicles are affected, according to the TCEQ.

Entities that have applied for funds from the trust will use the money to replace aging diesel school buses, shuttle buses or transit buses with new models.

Alert system is launched

The Texas Department of Public Safety on July 30 announced the implementation of CLEAR Alert, the Coordinated Law Enforcement Adult Rescue Alert.

The new alert system is designed to assist law enforcement in locating and rescuing missing adults who may have been kidnapped, abducted or who are in immediate danger of injury or death, and to aid in locating potential suspects.

Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood, authored HB 1769 creating the CLEAR Alert and Sen. Larry Taylor,

R-Friendswood, sponsored the legislation in the Senate. It was signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in May and takes effect on Sept. 1.

The system, to be managed by the DPS, will be operated in the same manner as AMBER, Silver, Blue and Endangered Missing Persons alerts.

Revenue total is reported

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.86 billion in July, an amount 4.3 percent more than the amount reported for the month of July 2018.

"State sales tax revenue growth in July was moderate, with services and restaurant sectors leading the growth," Hegar said. "Tax receipts from the construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors also grew modestly, while receipts from the oil- and gas-mining sector remained about the same as a year ago."

Update: Measles cases

State health officials on July 29 confirmed that 21 cases of measles have been diagnosed in Texas so far this year.

The Department of State Health Services urged health care providers to consider measles when diagnosing patients because early identification, along with immunization, are keys to preventing the spread of measles.

A contagious respiratory illness, measles is a rash that begins as flat, red spots on the face and spreads down the neck and trunk to the rest of the body. Other symptoms include high fever over 101 degrees, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes.

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

OBITUARIES

PEGGY SUE MATHEWS

Peggy Sue Mathews, 85, went to be with her Lord on July 17, 2019. She was born to parents R.D. and Nettie Bell (Jenkins) Cargill on June 15, 1934 in Baytown, Texas.

Peggy married the love of her life, Herbert Ray Mathews, on December 31, 1953 and would be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary, if not for his passing in 1988.

She was a lifetime member of Uvalde Baptist Church, where she was a leader of the Keenagers Group. Peggy spent numerous days a week volunteering at East Houston



Regional Medical Center, where she also ran the gift shop for 27 years until the hospital's closing.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and brother, Ray Cargill.

Peggy is lovingly survived by her children, Sheri Czekanski and husband Shawn Spann, Teri Van Horn; granddaughter, Jennifer Pontillo and husband Daniel; great-grandchildren, Luke Pontillo, and Cameron Pontillo, as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Memorial services for Peggy will be held at a later date.

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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**

WB Auction packs in customers for bargains



Walter Boullion, owner of W.B. Auction on FM 1942 has set his schedule for the first third and fifth Saturdays of the month for June through August and seldom sees an empty seat but will put out more seats if more attend. The action pack live auction setting has many attending and hoping to find those rare items at a bargain price.



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – State pension may eliminate survivor benefit

Dear Rusty: Please validate or negate this dreadful information: My husband and I are recently retired and living on our combined retirement plans. I was told that when my husband dies, I will NOT be allowed to draw ANY of his hard-earned Social Security income. I cannot survive on my Louisiana teacher retirement alone. We were never informed of this until we had worked hard for 40 years

& retired. Can you advise me on this dreadful turn of events. Signed: Bewildered in Louisiana

Dear Bewildered: Unfortunately, I don't have good news. If your teaching career and the associated pension were in the State of Louisiana, I'm afraid that any Social Security survivor benefit you might be eligible for from your husband will be impacted by the Government Pension

Offset (GPO) - a provision of Social Security which applies to anyone with a pension from an employer who did not participate in the Social Security program. Louisiana is, unfortunately, one of 27 U.S. States whose employees may be affected by the GPO, because neither you nor the State of Louisiana contributed to the Social Security program while you were employed there. It's unfortunate you weren't made aware of this by your employer, but it's well documented in the State's "LASERS" information which you can view at this link: <https://www.lsuhs.edu/administration/hrm/benefits-retirement-nonss.aspx>

The GPO will reduce your Social Security survivor benefit by 2/3rds of the amount of your LA State pension, and if 2/3rds of your LA pension is more than your SS survivor's benefit, the Social Security survivor benefit will be eliminated. I know it's no solace, but you are not alone in your dismay over this provision. In fact, a bill is active in Congress to eliminate the GPO (and a sister provision known as the Windfall Elimination Provision, or WEP), but that bill has made little headway despite having 195 Congressional co-sponsors. The bill I'm referring to is known as the "Social Security Fairness Act", which is

House bill H.R. 1205 (there is a corresponding Senate bill S.915). You can examine it at <https://www.congress.gov/bills/115/house-bills/1205>, but I must let you know that very little progress has been made on this bill since it was introduced almost two years ago. For the record, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has expressed support for the bill's passage, but to no avail in a Congress which is instead debating ways to resolve Social Security's larger financial issues which are now projected to deplete the Trust Fund by 2035. I'm afraid the only suggestion I can offer for your personal situation is to contact your Congressional Representatives and ask for their support and action on H.R. 1205 and S.915.

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

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--Jeremiah 17:14

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★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

Drug Arrests,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sessing illegal drugs. We expect more indictments and arrests in the near future", said Sheriff Hawthorne.

Special thanks to Justice of the Peace Yale Devillier and County Commissioner Jimmy Gore for their dedication to the safety of the citizens of their community.

The Chambers County Sheriff's Office requests if you know of any illicit drug trafficking in your neighborhood, please call us at 409-267-2500. Below is the list of defendants arrested today, their charges and mug shots.

- Barbosa, Jessica Marie, 58, of Beaumont, manufacture/delivery of a simulated substance.
- Barron, Amber Jane, 34, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery

- controlled substance
- Barton, Lance Steven, 60, fail to register as a sex offender
- Estes, Heather Frances, 34, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance.
- Hollister, Donald David, Jr., 57, manufacture/delivery controlled substance
- Johnson, Darren Arnell, 44, of Stowell, fail to register as a sex offender.
- McClough, Patricia Ann, 54, of Winnie, theft, state jail felony.
- Neely, Lisa Kristine, 58, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- Ortego, Michael Trevor, 32, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance

- Osage, Donald Wayne, 53, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance
- Rogers, Chad Duane, 31, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance
- Simek, Carolyn Lynn, 50, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance
- Sonnier, Richard Herbert, 53, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance
- Villejo, Randy James Jr., 41, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery of a simulated substance.
- Simon, William "Trey", Jr., 28, of Winnie, manufacture/delivery controlled substance
- Williams, Dkorian Thomas, 31, of Anahuac, fail to register as a sex offender.

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- Williams, Dkorian Thomas, 31, of Anahuac, fail to register as a sex offender.

Precinct 2,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prospect of continued high water in the future. Garcia noted that although the voters approved \$2.5 Billion in drainage improvements last year, nevertheless it would be spread through the whole county, and would only be a partial solution to the problem.

He said that more planning and expenditures would be required to solve the flooding problem, and he and his staff were working on a comprehensive engineering analysis of the infrastructure of the precinct, to see where improvements would be the most effective use of the money. This will result in a Master Plan for work in the future.

Garcia noted that in this budget year, \$30 million will be spent on flood improvement projects in the North Shore area.

He discussed other problems including pervasive homelessness that results in some living on the

streets and under highway overpasses. He thought that instead of incarcerating these persons, intervention to provide counseling, good, and housing would be required. He noted that the Harris County Jail is the largest psychiatric facility in the county, and could be useful to deal with this homeless problem, and slow down the return of these people to life on the streets.

He said that many people were suffering from trauma caused by the string of natural disasters, and needed access to psychiatric resources to help them cope.

Another area that Garcia is addressing is affordable housing, and he said that he is working on a new approach with the Harris County Appraisal District, where the Precinct would take delinquent or foreclosed properties and make a land trust, for building new homes in a partner-

ship between the Precinct and private builders. He said that they have already assembled a land trust of 150 lots, and are working to get the sale price of homes down to \$120,000. One way to do this is for homeowners to own the house, but the county retain ownership of the property, he said.

About 100 persons attended the luncheon, and his presentation was met with universal approval.

Exxon Fire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this kind of event does not occur again. The County also seeks to recover its attorney's fees, court costs and expenses.

"This is not the first time my office has been required to focus the County's scarce resources on this company's air pollution," County Attorney Ryan said. "Exxon, like any other polluter, must be held accountable for yesterday's fire and its consequences." Ryan said.



Sheriff Hawthorne reports that recently approximately 2.6 pounds of methamphetamine was found on the Chambers County portion of the beach in Bolivar; the drugs have an estimated street value of \$20,500. The Sheriff warns that if you find what you suspect to be drugs: Do not touch the suspected drugs as you could run the risk of exposure to harmful or even fatal substances, call the Sheriff's office, give the location and a description of what you found and never attempt to move or transport the suspected drugs, leave it to law enforcement to remove safely. Pictured with Sheriff Hawthorne is Chambers County Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician Angela Hale.

Lake Houston Dam,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Emergency Management Executive Director Chief Nim Kidd, and State Senator Brandon Creighton to make this a reality."

Background:

Funding for the City of Houston Lake Houston Dam Spillway Project is awarded directly to the State of Texas in full. Phase I funding will be released to the City of Houston from the State of Texas. Once those funds are released to the City of Houston the City will begin the process of permitting, engineering, design, and environmental assessment to increase the out-flow capacity of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam.

Once Phase I of the project is complete the City of Houston will renew the cost benefit analysis and submit to FEMA for their review. Upon their review of the completed cost benefit analysis after Phase I completion, the additional funds provided to the state of Texas for this project will be released for completion of Phase II construction. Once the funding is received by the City of Houston the two phases are expected to be completed within thirty-six months, with the possibility of extension if needed.

Along with the award of the Lake Houston Dam Spillway Improvement Project Hazard Mitigation Grant FEMA has also announced three other grants impacting the area. Lone Star College's Kingwood Campus has been awarded two public assistance grants for Emergency Protective measures in the amounts of \$6,276,131 and \$2,502,914. Clear Creek Independent School District was also awarded a public assistance grant for Emergency Protective Measures in the amount of \$1,303,060. The funding for these three grants is authorized under Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Act.



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★ COMMUNITY ★

Crosby FFA student reaches national finals



FFA Student Reiden Hicks, Advisor Cassie Morrison

For the first time ever, Crosby FFA has a National Finalist. Since childhood, Crosby High School graduate and FFA member Reiden Hicks has worked for his family company, Hicks Farms, locally owned and run in Crosby. With age, Reiden's roles have grown along with him. When Reiden made it to Crosby High School, he began working on his FFA record book to document his multiple Supervised Agricultural Experiences, or SAE's. Along with showing turkeys and pigs at Crosby Fair, Reiden continued his work for the family business.

With his work and frequent updating of his record book, Reiden applied for a Proficiency Award through the Texas FFA Association. As defined by the National FFA, these awards honor FFA members who have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Just filling out an application does not mean that these FFA members automatically get these awards though. There are many steps these records and applications have to go through to reach the National level. First, these records go through District, Area, and State where they are judged, corrected and compared to hundreds of others that fall into their same categories. Reiden's particular experience in his application fell under the Forage Production in Agricultural Placement Proficiency. His work with his family farm along with his detail within his record book allowed him to shine in his category. Along with help from his FFA Advisor, Cassie Morrison, Reiden spent much time logging hours, answering questions, and interviewing to make it to the State level.

Once Reiden was selected as the winner at the State level in Texas, his book was looked over and fine-tuned at Tarleton State University before being sent off to the National FFA Association to compete with other State winners from around the country. After careful selection, Reiden's book has been selected as one of the top four record books in the country within his Proficiency category, making him Crosby FFA's first-ever National Finalist for any SAE. From here, Reiden will travel to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this coming October with Crosby FFA Advisor Cassie Morrison, and four other Crosby FFA Alumni receiving their American Degrees, the highest degree given to a FFA member. At National Convention, Reiden will interview with a panel that will decide who gets selected as the National winner.

Goose Creek Grads hired as new teachers this year



GCCISD GRADS ELEMENTARY TEACHERS:

Goose Creek CISD graduates return to the district as elementary school teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. Pictured are (front, from left) Alma Avalos Cervantes, Theda Aiken, Nancy Vega, Gladys Prado, Shelby Flowers, Karen Baham, Arika DeHoyos, Daniela Leija, Imelda Lerma, (back, from left) Monica Rodriguez, Jasmine Haymon, Fedra Mongroo, Jessica Reyes, Julie Tarver, Melissa Ortega, Karli Henderson, and Meagan Hutzley.



GCCISD GRADS SECONDARY TEACHERS:

Goose Creek CISD graduates will serve as secondary teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. Pictured are (front, from left) Ashley Hillin, Jessica Moses, Monica Ozuna, Elizabeth Monroe, Lakeisha Williams, Brandy Pheris, Brittany Smith, Angela Cruz, Kaylyn Tovar, Viridiana Navarro, (back, from left) Marianna Hammel, Kegan Adrian, Angela Comeaux, Stebbin Varner, Lori Gaughan, Nikki Comeaux, Joe Richard, Kenneth McVey, Carrie Hutton, Ashley Henderson, Taylor Baker, Hannah Latham, Robert Richard, Amy Conner, Eliu Torres, Rachel Smith, Valerson Castro and Jonathan Moore.

Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman



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