



HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star Courier



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

THURSDAY



EVENTS

THURS. OCT. 31
Pct. 2 Halloween Party, Highlands
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at San Jacinto Community Center, 604 Highlands Woods Dr.

THUR., NOV. 7
Veterans Celebration
6:30 p.m. at Cougars Stadium

SAT., NOV. 9
Huffman Fun Fest
10 am - 4 pm at Jack Spence Stadium, 24403 E. Lake Houston Parkway.

SAT., NOV. 9
VETERAN'S DAY PARADE
Line up at 9:00 Parade begins at 10 a.m. hosted by Eastside Veterans' **11:00 Feed the Veterans** hosted by American Legion Post 658 preparing the food is Hungry Jax.

BIRTHDAYS
Oct 31-Judy Dunn
Kylah Ellsworth
William Gomez
Natalie Smith
Nov 2-Bob Fikes
Joseph Delome
Nov 3-Brittany Gleason
Natalie Welch
Nov 4-Peggy Clark
Nov 5-Mary Dobson
Wesley "W.G." Zarsky
Nov 6-Heather Hortman

DEATHS
Robert Eugene Hughes
Melba Robles Ortiz

Additions or Corrections are welcome,
713-266-3444

CROSBY CHURCH
Extreme Machine Sunday



Crosby Church hosted their annual Extreme Machine Sunday with bog races, booths, bounce houses, and a fantastic car show. This year over 110 vehicles entered the car show making it one of the largest held in this area. The contest announcements drew an ever widening crowd of spectators and conetstants. Crosby Volunteer Fire Department came out to demontraite the jaws of life and to show the kids the big old red trucks. After services concluded Rev. Smith was everywhere on the campus welcoming guests and getting stand arrounders to participate in the events going on everywhere. This year from the television show Extreme Ninja Challenge a new competitive climbing apparatus was erected to keep the young and athletic busy.

See Extreme Macine Photo Album, Page 8

Highlands
Cyclist killed saving fiancée

HIGHLANDS – Devin Custer and his fiancée Stephanie Thompson were on a bicycle ride last Monday night, Oct. 21 around 7pm on Barbers Hill Road. This was there usual evening routine, on the same road.

2004 Cadillac Deville driven by Jason Stewart. To date, he has not been charged with any traffic violation, but it is still un-

See CYCLIST, page 6



Devin Custer and Stephanie Thompson

Churches United benefitting local area

Big State Oilfield Services, Inc. recently held their first annual golf tournament and last Friday, met with representatives of Churches United in Caring (CUIC) to donate the proceeds of \$3,000 to the non-profit Assistance Center in Crosby. The donation was received by Skip Greenwade, Board President of CUIC. Funds will be used for purchases of food and toys for the CUIC annual distribution to its clients.

Big State Oilfield Services, Inc. is located in Crosby and was established and is owned by the Nelson brothers, Shawn and Cory. Their kindness was in response to many whom they have

known who have received help from CUIC in times of need or natural disaster. Churches United in Caring is a non-profit Thrift Shop and Assistance Center serving the Crosby, Huffman, and Barrett Station communities. Donations are accepted daily for sale at garage sale prices in the Thrift Shop at 944 Church Street. CUIC is operated by volunteers from area churches who also support the work of the Assistance Center, which has been in operation since 1983.

According to Skip Greenwade, "Our volunteers do a remarkable job



Pictured left to right are Shawn Nelson & Cory Nelson, owners of Big State Oilfield Services, Inc., and Skip Greenwade, Board President of Churches United in Caring (CUIC)

of assessing and meeting the needs of the folks who come here for assistance. Through partnerships with our local member and supporting churches, the Houston Food Bank, and a whole host of others who contribute time, money, goods, and services, we have a chance every day to make a difference right here in the community.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to be involved with CUIC and I encourage anyone looking for a way to help – even if it's just for a couple of hours a week – to stop by and see where their interests and talents can be put to use."

Boo Bash brings Crosby together



Crosby Community Center held their annual Boo Bash Party last Saturday from Noon until 3:00 p.m. attracting a swarm of trick or treaters as well as locals ready to participate in community based activities. The lavish Halloween decorations and colorful decorations made a festive event and the food was very reasonable. Volunteers welcomed visitors and directed others to the varied attractions available to viewing and classes available to enlist.

See more Boo Bash, Page 2

Fall Festival attracts crowds to Methodist



The Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch at Crosby United Methodist Church was attractive for everyone, at left Don Cox prepares the popcorn, in the background Rev. Jamie Lea sings a lovely blues note as families visit booths and bounch houses for fun and entertainment.

See Methodist Church, Page 8

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Florus running for Constable



Deborah Florus was the featured center of the Crosby American Legion fish fry dinner last Friday. A live auction featured Eddie Foster as auctioneer.

Boo Bash



"Chuck" Thompson smiles as he chaperones the hay ride around the park near Crosby Community Center and the Crosby Branch Library. The hay ride was one of a bevy of activities at the Boo Bash last Saturday near Hare Road in Crosby. Delicious sandwiches were also for sale to supporters. The majority of the Crosby Community Center activities are self supporting and members supported rather than a tax based pay out. The weather was certainly favorable for turn out and outdoor fun.

Robert E. Lee High School named Apple Distinguished School

Robert E. Lee High School is pleased to announce that it has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022 for its unique implementation of technology where every student learns with iPad and teachers use iPad and Apple TV to help facilitate learning.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence that use Apple technology to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment and have documented results of academic accomplishment.

"Becoming an Apple Distinguished School for the third time is unprecedented in Goose Creek CISD. This is another great example of the professionalism and constant focus our teachers have in improving the level of instruction on our campus," said Dr. Joseph Farnsworth, REL principal. "Lori Roberts, our educational technology specialist, played a huge role in our success! We have embraced the 21st Century technological skills that our students need to be successful after high school. This is a tremendous recognition that again illustrates the fact that Robert E. Lee High School is the flagship high school of Baytown."

The selection of Robert E. Lee High School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights the school's success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment. Students are engaged in collaboration and teamwork through the use of iPad. In Ginger Zoidis' Culinary Arts classes, students use iPad to create how-to recipe videos using iMovie and Clips to share their knowledge on creating a variety of dishes. With iMovie, Deaf Education students Dejaire Gray, Stephanie Hernandez, and Yaneli Gonzales were able to add picture-in-picture American Sign Language (ASL) translations to their recipe instructions. Algebra II



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman
Katie Ward (second from left), Algebra II teacher, and student Esmerelda Gonzalez (middle) show Shae Cottar (left), Goose Creek CISD board member, and Jess Cottar, community member, how the Classkick app works.



Photo by Katie Dean
Lauren Spyker tries out a new recipe while Ethan Selman videos in Chef Ginger Zoidis' Culinary Arts class.

teacher Katie Ward is able to give her students instant and relevant feedback on their math work using the app Classkick. Through Classkick, students are also able to anonymously ask for assistance from their instructor or classmates on solving problems if they are stuck. Student Juan De La O likes Classkick "because it helps improve my learning and gives me immediate feedback." Learning for teachers is also embedded into the school culture. Teachers participate in digital badge challenges and professional development to help increase their technology skills. Ninety-four percent of the faculty (including teachers, administrators, and counselors) has earned Apple Teacher Certification for iPad. These examples and more can be found in the book This is Us: Robert E. Lee High School on Apple Books for iPhone, iPad, or Mac. Visit <http://bit.ly/>

relads2019 to download and read the book.

Built in 1928, Robert E. Lee High School has a rich history as the oldest high school in Baytown. Traditions, such as the school colors of maroon and white, the Gander mascot and the saying, "Once a Gander, Always a Gander," have been passed down through the years. Proud alumni recall Doc Severinsen playing a concert with the REL Band in the 1960s and the excitement surrounding President Ford's visit to Stallworth Stadium for a Gander football game in 1976. Nearly destroyed by fire in 1987, the school was rebuilt, and it was honored with a historical marker dedication, sponsored by the Baytown Historical Preservation Association, in 2013. Today, REL serves nearly 1,800 students and houses the STEM Academy, which recently achieved Model Status, the highest rating granted by the National Career Academy Coalition.



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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

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

ROUND-UP

Treats on the Trail

October 31, 2019 - Trick or Treat on the Jenkins Park Trail, 5:30 pm - 10 pm, 4334 Crosby Cedar Bayou Rd., Baytown, Tx 77520.

Beach City News

Update from Commissioner Billy Combs

Needlepoint Road is closed from Kilgore Parkway to SH 99 for realignment construction. After construction Needlepoint Road will intersect with FM 565 allowing motorists to travel both north and south between FM 565 and I-10 without paying a toll. Construction is expected to take between 4 to 5 months. I apologize for the inconvenience, but the benefits will be much greater than the inconvenience.

TX-DOT finally got approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with removal of the S-Curve on FM 565. This project is expected to bid in the spring of 2020.

TX-DOT has appropriated funds to widen FM 565 to 5 lanes with 10' shoulders from SH 146 to SH 99. The project will include a bridge over the rail road tracks and reworking the intersection with FM 1405. This project is slated for 2022.

Jackey Lasater, Mayor, Beach City**

Goss Memorial Library events

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, November 4, 2019.

- Tuesday, November 5 - 10:00 am, Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)
- Tuesday, November 5 - 6:30 pm, Book Club at Yezpe Vineyard we will be discussing November 9 by Colleen Hoover.
- Friday, November 8 - 10:30 am & 2:00 pm Storytime (ages 0-5)

• Library Fundraiser: Let us wrap your gifts for you while you help a good cause! Bring your unwrapped gifts 16"x12"x11" or smaller to the library and we will wrap them for you for just \$2.00 per gift. Wrapping paper will be provided or you can bring your own if you wish. Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 am - Noon beginning Tuesday, November 19 - Thursday, December 19. Call Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu at 281-576-2245 with any questions.

Annual Veterans Day

Judge Lucia Bates would like to invite local Veterans to a free breakfast at the courthouse, 701 W. Baker Rd., Suite 101 Baytown. Please reserve by calling 713-274-0904 by Friday, Nov. 1

Arrest made in murder of Crosby man

A man has been arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada and charged with the murder of Ralph Leroy Machala.

According to Chambers County Sheriff Brian Hawthorne, James Rupert Howard, 69, of Houston was arrested by the Las Vegas Metro Police Department on a warrant issued by Chambers County Judge Larry Cryer.

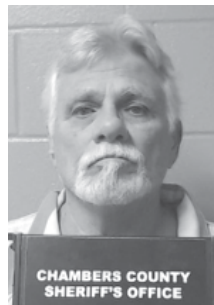
"Howard by no means is a rookie in the criminal justice field," said Sheriff Hawthorne.

"I am very proud of our Criminal Investigation Division's professional relationship with local Rangers between detec-

tives and Rangers over 1,500 hours was invested in making the arrest. I felt confident that detectives could make an arrest and secure a conviction for the killer of Lee Machala," the Sheriff continued.

He is being held in the Chambers County Jail with a bail of one million dollars.

Ralph "Lee" Machala the proprietor of Pooky's Tavern was found a victim of a brutal murder in Chambers County on Sept. 23, death came from a single gunshot. The body was found on FM 2354 in a house being shown by a local realtor. According to the Sheriff,



J. Rupert Howard Accused

Texas Rangers tracked Howard as he fled the state, roaming about North Carolina and other loca-



Ralph Leroy Machala Victim

tions finally deciding to venture to Las Vegas, where the cameras made sure he ran out of luck.

Where the trial will be held has not yet been determined, it might be held in Harris County where it is believed, according to forensics reports, the murder was committed or in Chambers County where the body was found.

"Very fortunate that each body that has been dumped here we were able to make an arrest and conviction. I feel blessed to have an effective Criminal Investigation Division," said Hawthorne.

"Lee" Machala, a 1979 Crosby High School graduate, was an avid benefactor of the Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Freaky Deaky rave was loud



Young people enjoying the Freaky Deaky party at Houston Raceway Park in Chambers County. Law enforcement interdiction caused the bass to be turned down and the after party to be cancelled.

MONT BELVIEU- So, promoters decided to host a concert called Freaky Deaky at Houston Raceway Park last weekend but neighbors decided that the music was too loud to be tolerated and law enforcement was called in to regulate the sound.

According to the Chambers County Sheriff's Department, "Ongoing efforts to lower the noise level at Houston Raceway Park have resulted in the cancellation of the after hours party, reducing the bass speakers from eight to two, reducing the sound levels on all five stages, no tailgating, and no loitering or playing music in the parking lot. Sheriff Hawthorne and our Command staff are on site and are receptive to the complaints made by the public demand to reduce the noise level."

Promoters at Disco Donnie Persents texted, "In an effort to be good neighbors and limit sound levels within the surrounding area, Freaky Deaky is proactively canceling the Green Velvet afterparty tonight on site. We apologize for the inconvenience and look forward to bringing Green Velvet back to Houston soon. Tickets will be refunded in full, automatically, at point of purchase. Please allow 3-5 days for the funds to be returned to the account used to make the purchase."

The Freaky Deaky Music Festival promoter was approved for a mass gathering permit by Chambers County Commissioners Court prior to the event. The information provided as required was sufficient and proper. He assured the Commissioners Court that the music sound levels

would not be invasive or disturbing to the general public. Throughout the event Saturday and Sunday, the Chambers County Sheriff's Office was monitoring the sound levels on a decibel meter. The promoter was warned of sound level issues and traffic flow problems on Saturday night.

"The promoter made numerous adjustments and changes at the request of the Sheriff's Office and Houston Raceway Park. The promoter voluntarily made additions and changes to meet the requests of the Sheriff and Houston Raceway Park management. Some of the changes included cancelling scheduled events and bringing in charter buses to help move the crowd and assist in the ride share

See Loud Rave, Page 8

Dayton Police Officer delivers baby in pickup truck



Dayton Police Officers helping woman in labor.

It was just another morning on patrol for Dayton Police Officer David Meyers - until he delivered a baby in the front seat of a pickup truck.

On Thursday, October 24, Meyers, along with Officers Jasmine Fontenot and Juan Gonzalez, responded to a call for service in reference to a female on Orchis Rd., who was in labor with contractions that were 2 minutes apart.

Arriving at the scene, they found Kelly Major sitting inside of a pickup truck. With contractions at less than a minute apart, it became apparent that the baby was not going to wait, so Officer Meyers stepped in and helped Major with the delivery of her baby boy.

"With contractions so close, we knew the baby

was going to come before EMS arrived, so I just had to help," Meyers said.

The officers cleared the back seat to allow the front seat to recline and Meyer stepped in to assist. Officers Fontenot and Gonzalez came alongside to encourage and coach Major with breathing.

"The baby came out and I caught him," said Meyers. "He started to cry right away, so we knew he was ok."

This was a first for Meyers, not being trained in the finer skills of midwifery, but his training in keeping calm during stressful situations helped. The new baby boy was placed on the mother's stomach awaiting the arrival of EMS, who arrived about 3-5 minutes after the baby was delivered.

Disaster Recovery Center Opening in Liberty County

AUSTIN, Texas - A Disaster Recovery Center will open Tuesday, Oct. 29, in Liberty County to help disaster survivors affected by Tropical Storm Imelda.

Recovery specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration, state and federal agencies will be at the center to answer questions about disaster assistance and low-interest disaster loans. They can also help survivors apply for federal disaster assistance.

Center location and hours are:
Cleveland Senior Citi-

zens Organization
220 Peach Ave.
Cleveland, TX 77327
Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Seven days a week (until further notice)

Texas homeowners, renters and business owners in Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange and San Jacinto counties that were included in the major disaster declaration for Individual Assistance may apply for uninsured and underinsured damage and losses incurred from Sept. 17 - 23, 2019.

Individual Assistance for homeowners and renters may be eligible for

grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses not met by insurance or other assistance programs.

To register, go online to DisasterAssistance.gov or call the FEMA help line at 800-621-3362. Help is available in most languages and phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Survivors who plan to register with FEMA at a DRG should have the following information:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged primary residence

- Description of the damage

- Information about insurance coverage
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where they can receive mail
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

Low-interest disaster loans from SBA are also available to businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters to cover residential and business losses as a result of the disaster. Applicants can visit the DRG for one-on-one assistance, visit www.SBA.gov/disaster, or call SBA's Custom-

er Service Center at 800-659-2955.

Disaster recovery centers are accessible to people with disabilities. American Sign Language interpreters may be available to assist at a DRG.

FEMA Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585 to register. Those who use 711 or VRS (Video Relay Service) or require accommodations while visiting a center may call 800-621-3362. All disaster recovery

See Recovery Center, Page 6

★ OPINION PAGE ★



Social Security Matters

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

Income Tax on Social Security vs. the Earnings Test

Dear Rusty: I retired from work this year (age 62) and I will receive my first social security benefits in September. Is there a special rule for the first year you retire that allows you to not pay taxes on your social security since you have earned no other income since you retired? Before I retired, I earned about \$50,000, which I know is more than the usual allowed income. Signed: Retired Senior

Dear Retired Senior: I'm afraid there is no such "first year" rule which exempts you from paying income tax on your Social Security benefits. When you file your Federal income taxes with the IRS you will need to claim your Social Security (SS) benefits as part of your income, and whether it is taxable will depend upon whether your "modified adjusted gross income" (MAGI) for the year exceeds \$25,000 (if you file single) or \$32,000 (if you file married-jointly). "MAGI" includes your taxable income from all sources (your "adjusted gross income" from your Federal income tax return), plus any tax-exempt interest you may have received, plus half of your annual Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds the above levels, then up to 50% of your Social Security benefits will become a part of your taxable income; or if you exceed \$34,000 (filing single) or \$44,000 (filing married-jointly) then up to 85% of your annual SS benefits will become taxable. If you don't exceed those levels your SS benefits aren't taxable as income.

However, I suspect you may be confusing income tax on your Social Security benefits with another rule - Social Security's "earnings test" which, if you have not yet reached your full retirement age, sets a limit on what you can earn without your benefit payments being affected. If you are collecting benefits before you have reached your full retirement age and you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$17,640 for 2019) Social

Security will withhold some of your benefits - \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If that is what you're referring to then, yes, there is a special rule for the first year you are collecting Social Security. That special first year rule says that if you claim benefits mid-year and you have not yet reached your full retirement age, you'll be subject to a monthly earnings test for the remainder of that year, rather than the annual test. So, if your benefits start in September, provided you don't earn more than \$1470 in September or any month thereafter in 2019 you won't lose any benefits. But if you do exceed that monthly limit, even by \$1, you won't be entitled to any SS benefits for that month. The monthly test is only in the calendar year you claim benefits - it goes away for you in 2020 and you'll be subject to the annual earnings test only for next year.

Please note that the earnings limits are considerably more if you are claiming in the year you will reach your full retirement age. If this were the year you will reach your full retirement age, the annual limit would be \$46,920 and the monthly limit would be \$3910 (these limits change annually). However, if you stay fully retired and don't return to work you will not need to worry about the Social Security earnings test but, depending on your "MAGI," you may need to pay income taxes on your Social Security benefits.

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.



Governor issues disaster declaration for storm-stricken counties

AUSTIN — After severe weather struck north and east Texas on Oct. 20, Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration naming a list of counties in that region.

Among the counties named are: Cass, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Erath, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Panola, Rains, Rockwall, Rusk, Tarrant, Van Zandt and Wood.

"By issuing this declaration, Texas is providing local officials with the resources they need to quickly respond and recover from this storm," Abbott said. In addition to providing access to state resources, the declaration waived certain regulations to make it easier for utility companies to bring in out-of-state resources to assist in restoring power.

The storm brought high winds, heavy rains and at least four tornadoes. Tornado action ravaged a swath 40 miles long through the Dallas area, causing widespread destruction in residential areas and businesses, forcing many closures and resulting in the loss of electrical power to tens of thousands of customers.

Damages attributed to the storm, currently estimated at more than \$2 billion, continue to be updated.

Report: The digital divide

More than two million Texas households still do not have access to high-speed internet service.

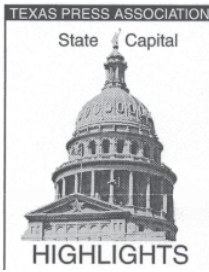
Those findings are included in the top story of the October edition of "Fiscal Notes," a monthly publication produced by the comptroller's office.

The story says the digital divide between urban and rural Texans "has serious implications for education, telemedicine, agriculture and small business."

Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar commented about the story in an Oct. 23 news release, saying, "It's a wired world today and we can't expect our state to flourish unless we make sure as many Texans as possible have access to de-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



Update: Vaping, lung issues

The Texas Department of State Health Services has identified 147 Texas cases of severe lung disease in people who reported they had "vaped" before developing symptoms. One of the patients has died.

In its Oct. 22 weekly update on the use of e-cigarettes ("vaping") and lung disease, the agency reported that state health officials are gathering more information about 17 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in cases in Texas and 48 other states.

Respiratory symptoms include difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and coughing. Some people have also experienced nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Clinicians are urged to ask patients with these symptoms about a history of vaping, gather as much information as possible about suspected cases, and report them to DSHS.

Nationally, 1,479 cases have been reported. The DSHS and agencies in other states are working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration to gather evidence about what the cases have in common and to determine a cause.

AGs target online sales

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Oct. 22 announced he has joined a bipartisan coalition of 47 state and territorial attorneys general in calling on Facebook, Craigslist and eBay to take action against alcohol sales on their platforms.

A letter from the coalition asks the companies to:

- Review the current content posted to their websites and to remove illegal postings for the sales and/or transfer of alcohol products; and
- Develop and deploy programming to block and prevent platform users from violating state laws.

Coalition members also invited the companies to join them in forming a work group with stakeholders from government and industry to explore how to establish protocols for preventing illegal alcohol sales.

pendable high-speed internet for everything from educational and medical services to agricultural technology and online sales."

Air monitoring increases

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is enhancing its air-monitoring capabilities thanks to new equipment funded by the Texas Legislature and savings from the agency's 2019 budget.

The Legislature granted TCEQ's request to equip up to three new vehicles with real-time, mobile air-monitoring technology. Meanwhile, budget savings are being used to fund the installation of three new automated gas chromatograph air monitoring stations in the Houston area and the purchase of new handheld air monitors.

Previously TCEQ's vans were equipped with instruments only capable of collecting data while stationary and required a time-consuming process to deploy and calibrate. The newly equipped vans will provide the ability for rapid survey assessments, allowing the agency to quickly sample pollutant hot spots, map air concentrations, and identify locations for sampling over longer durations.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"More Owls"

First, I noticed the owl. "Peter! Did you see the owl?!" Our last Airbnb in Spain had a ceramic owl. So, when I found a similar owl—in a similarly inconvenient location—I took it as a good omen.

"What owl?" my husband, Peter, said.

Then I found four more owls, bringing our tally up to five.

"Five owls! Now I know this is going to be a good trip!"

"Huh," Peter agreed.

(Sometimes Peter's not as effusive as I am.)

We are staying in Frigiliana, a small town in the south of Spain. The rent was suspiciously cheap, but the reviews were all good except to say that the house was on a road with stairs. There is a good reason for this: the town predates wheels.

Roads with stairs work perfectly fine if you don't drive on them.

We were dropped off as close as possible, then faced the challenge of dragging our luggage up the stairs (which was actually the road) to the little blue door of our house. We met our landlady who was both informative and hardy as she hefted our luggage over the cobblestone.

Peter and I have our travel priorities well synched. First, Peter made ice cubes because we need more ice than any European can imagine. We don't care. We like ice. Peter makes ice cubes in small plastic cups he brings along.

"Wonderful ice cubes!" Peter remarks, every time he does this.

Then we found the tourism office (there actually was one!) after we took a wrong turn and asked directions at the gelato shop. I did not have a gelato as it was threatening to rain and no one likes to eat gelato in the rain. Plus, I had just polished off an entire bag of cookies I bought just to see if they were any good. (They were.)

Then we went to the big grocery store which was not big but had everything we needed. They had a lot of vegetables and a variety of beans, including some I could not identify. So, naturally, I bought them. It turns out they were mammoth fava beans with skin still on them. Who knew fava beans had skin? Who knew it had to be removed?

Peter made soup with the fava beans. After the soup was cooked, Peter fished the beans out of the soup and skinned them. This is not the recommended order of operations.

"It's not that bad!" Peter said.

"It's like shucking shrimp!" (Peter is such a romantic.)

Then I went up to the bathroom and opened the door to the rooftop terrace. The bathroom is upstairs, all by itself, and the entrance to the terrace is through the bathroom. (It is an unusual arrangement.) Outside I discovered two cats on the roof who immediately made it clear they were expecting a handout. I rustled up some milk. I am quite sure they will show up tomorrow expecting bigger things.

Of course, not everything could go well. We failed to find any kitchen towels—which now constitutes an emergency. (A person needs at least one minor emergency just to keep sharp.)

We went to bed early. It started to rain. There had not been much rain, so everyone was grateful. I was lying in bed when I saw it.

"Peter! Another owl!"

The church bells stop ringing at 10:00 pm. At least, I think they do, as that is the last thing I remember.

"Six owls!" I said to Peter, as the church bells rang.

"Umm," Peter replied. I could tell he was impressed.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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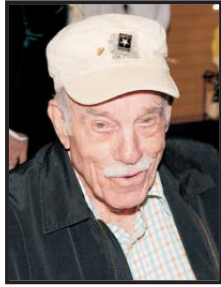
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LIFESTYLE PAGE

Robert Eugene Hughes



Robert Eugene Hughes, Sr., 92, passed away October 25, 2019 in Pasadena, Texas. Robert was born on April 23, 1927 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to parents Claude and Viola (Gray) Hughes. He was a WWII veteran, and Robert proudly served his country in the Army, 86th Ordinance, 147th Company, as well as in the Coast Guard as a Merchant Marine. At the conclusion of the war, Robert met and married the love of his life, Derna Maria (Memmo) and they enjoyed 70 years of marriage until her passing in 2017. He enjoyed fishing and he also had fun going to the casinos.

Robert will be remembered as a dedicated and loving father, grandfather and friend. He is preceded in death by his wife, Derna Maria Hughes; granddaughters, Bethanny and Caitlyn Hughes; half-brothers, Norman J. "Toodles" Hughes and Donald "Don" Hughes. Robert is survived by his children, Lilly Hughes and partner, Dennis W. Renfro, Robert E. Hughes, Jr. and wife LeeAnn, Roger Hughes and wife Jerri; grandchildren, Austin Hughes, Zackery Hughes, Jarred Hughes; great-grandchildren, Kandis Golden, Kolby Hughes, Tucker Hughes, Tred Hughes; half-sister, Vel McAllister; as well as extended family members and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, October 31, 2019 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home with Pastor Kent Wilson to officiate. Graveside services with military honors will follow at 1:00 P.M. in Houston National Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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OBITUARIES

Melba Robles Ortiz



Melba Robles Ortiz, 84, joined her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Oct. 22, 2019. She was born on Aug. 5, 1935 in Laredo, TX, and lived in Channelview, TX, for 55 years. She was preceded in death by her husband Ramiro G. Ortiz, parents Blas and Angela (Pedraza) Robles, sister Aurora Robles, and brothers Antonio Robles, Blas Robles, Daniel Robles, David Robles, and Jose Guadalupe Robles. She is survived by her sisters Delia Casablanca of San Antonio, TX, Elidia Robles of Corpus Christi, TX, and Dolores Torres (Raymond) of Pasadena, TX; by her brothers Santiago Robles (Lala) of Lake Forest, CA, Joe L. Robles (Rose) of San Diego, CA, and Richard Robles (Benita) of Pasadena, TX; by her sisters-in-law Lili Robles of Corpus Christi, TX, Delia Robles of Houston, TX, and Dolores Bolanos of Corpus Christi, TX; and by her brother-in-law Juan Ortiz of Phoenix, AZ.

She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She is survived by her children Ramiro Ortiz (Wanda), Antonio Ortiz (Susan), Mary Ortiz-Dvorak, Raymond Ortiz, Richard Ortiz (Sylvia), Melbie Vinson (Chuck), Angie Wolf (Jon), Mandy Ortiz, and Carlos Ortiz (Theresa). Her legacy includes her 23 grandchildren,

great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She was an active member of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church of Channelview for almost 50 years. She gave selflessly of her time, talents, and heart in many volunteer activities, caring for community members even when struggling herself. She was involved in the church as a eucharistic minister, as a member of the "Double Nickel" social group, counting weekend offerings, and other church services, such as visiting those who were homebound or in nursing homes. She was also active in Catholic Daughters of the Americas #2068, Legion of Mary, Vincentian Society of St. Vincent De Paul, and St. Andrew's Annual Bazaar, among others. Even with these volunteer activities, she was always there for her children, grandchildren, and their families. She also opened her loving home and heart to her children's friends whenever they were in need. She will be remembered as truly demonstrating the hands and

feet of Jesus. She was known for her love of life and adventure, as well as her competitive spirit. In addition to being an avid checkers player and die-hard Astros fan, she enjoyed riding her bicycle, parasailing, and tubing well into her '80s. She stayed active with yoga and exercise classes, loved to dance, and attended every quinceañera, graduation, and wedding she could, often being the last on the dance floor. She was proud of her children Ramiro, Antonio, and Mary, as well as her grandson-in-law Jackie, who served in the US Marine Corps. She also had the honor of attending the 243rd Marine Corps Ball in Camp Pendleton, CA, for the 5th Marine Regiment. Visitation will be on Mon., Oct. 28 from 5-8 pm at Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi St., Houston. Visitation and rosary will be at 5 pm on Tues., Oct. 29 at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview (rosary at 6:30 pm, refreshments afterward in the parish hall). Funeral mass will be on Wed., Oct. 30 at 11:30 am at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Friends and family will gather for internment at 2 pm at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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Historical Society views old Crosby photos

The Crosby Historical Society held their quarterly meeting last Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Brethren Church hall.

The members and guests, totalling about 75 persons, were given a preview of Jody Fuchs historical picture book "Two Hundred Years: Crosby's Bicentennial Story." Fuchs has been collecting photos for about two years, and has amassed an impressive archive of about 3500 photos, out of about 40,000 that he has screened.

Crosby was settled in 1823, making it one of the oldest settlements in Texas. It will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2023. Lifetime resident Jody Fuchs, is preparing a photographic history of the community in preparation



for the upcoming BiCentennial 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. Some of these photos are also on Facebook, with new postings regularly.



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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey--

1. Is the book of 1 Peter in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. At the time of Rehoboam there was a split: The Kingdom of Israel was in the north, while the southern

- kingdom was called ... ? Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judah, Syria
3. From Luke 13, which king was referred to by Jesus as "that fox"? Herod, Solomon, Ahab, Caesar
4. What was a Persian gold coin also used by the Hebrews? Loon, Daric, Denarius, Falc
5. Who said, "Be sure your sin will find you out"? Matthew, David, Noah, Moses
6. Jebus is another name for ... ? Jericho, Jerusalem, Judah, Joshua

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Judah; 3) Herod; 4) Daric; 5) Moses; 6) Jerusalem

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you.

LEVITICUS 26:7

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Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation hosts Board2Board Workshop



Goose Creek CISD Board members

Strengthening the impact and success of public schools for students and educators was the focus for attendees at the Board2Board™ Workshop held recently at the Goose Creek CISD Administration Building. Local education foundations are independent non-profit charitable organizations governed by a volunteer board of directors. The sole purpose of education foundations is to benefit local public school districts. More than 17 education foundations and related

organizations were represented at Board2Board™, including Erika Foster, director, and Ronnie Hotchkiss, president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation.

"Following in the footsteps of public universities and colleges, K12 school districts and their local communities are establishing their own foundations to leverage private dollars and expand opportunities for their teachers and students," said Laurie Cromwell, CFRE of Foundation

Innovation LLC and a Board2Board presenter.

Local education foundations focus on enhancing community support and expanding resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning and maximize opportunities for students and educators.

Education foundations provide a vehicle for donors to contribute a tax-deductible donation to benefit their local public school districts. They also create an opportunity for community engagement

and awareness that can help support and enhance the image of a school district and highlight its accomplishments.

"We benefited so much from meeting with directors and board members from other education foundations to exchange ideas and information," said Foster. "We are pleased to have had the opportunity to host this session, and we are looking forward to sharing what we learned with our other board members."

5 Important Medicare Changes Coming For 2020

(NAPSI)—If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, or are considering one, you will have more plan choices with a wider range of benefits to help you better manage your day-to-day health needs during this year's open enrollment period.

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, gives Medicare enrollees a chance to revisit their Medicare insurance coverage, make sure it still fits their needs and make changes for the coming year.

Online health insurance broker eHealth outlines five of the most important Medicare changes to be aware of this year:

1. New benefits to help those with chronic illness. Starting in January, 2020, some Medicare Advantage Plans will include benefits for people with chronic illness that will help to support their care. A few examples include nutrition services, transportation to doctor's appointments and home improvements like shower grips and wheelchair access. More traditional services like dental care, vision care and hearing aids also have been expanded.

2. Medicare Advantage premiums will be lower next year. The average monthly premium for Medicare Advantage plans is expected to be \$23 in 2020, a decrease of 14% from an average of \$26.87 in 2019, and down 28 percent since 2017. The average Medicare Advantage premium this year is the lowest it's been since 2007.

3. Part D drug plan premiums will be

lower, too. The average Medicare prescription drug plan premium for 2020 is \$30, a decline of 13.5% as compared with 2019 costs. Savings on out-of-pocket costs may be available as well. A recent eHealth analysis of people using eHealthMedicare.com to compare Medicare plans found that fewer than one in ten were enrolled in the lowest cost plan for their personal prescription drug regimen. Those who switched to their optimal drug plan stood to save an average of \$900 per year.

4. Seeing a doctor without leaving home will get easier. Many seniors will have access to Medicare Advantage telehealth benefits to connect with health care providers online or by phone. For 2020, more than half of all Medicare Advantage plans will offer added telehealth benefits, reaching up to about 1.7 million enrollees.

5. Medigap plan options are changing. Two of the most popular supplemental plans (so-called Medigap plans) used by those enrolled in original Medicare—Plan F and Plan C—will no longer be available to new Medicare members or those born after January 1, 1955. Fortunately, Plan G, another Medigap policy, offers the same level of coverage provided by Plan F—minus the Part B deductible—and will continue to be available after January 2020. The Part B deductible was \$185 in 2019.

Even if you're happy your Medicare coverage, eHealth recommends that you review your current coverage during open enrollment because each year plans can and do make changes in costs, physician networks or drug benefits.

Harris County Flood Control District completes phase one study of large diameter tunnels for stormwater conveyance

The Harris County Flood Control District worked with a team of underground construction experts to take an initial look at the feasibility of constructing largediameter, deep tunnels to convey stormwater. Underground tunnels could supplement existing bayou and creek capacity to mitigate flooding in Harris County. The team was led by Freese and Nichols with support from Parsons, Brierley Associates, Terracon, HVJ, Sowell Consulting Engineers, and Middleton Brown.

The study was the first phase of a multi-phased approach and focused on determining the applicability of tunneling by evaluating the hydraulic capacity of tunnels, developing schedules and cost projections, and by comparing geotechnical conditions in Harris County with other active and completed tunnel projects around the United States and the world.

Washington, D.C., currently has two large underground tunnels that were built in part for flood mitigation purposes.

"Our analysis of the geotechnical conditions indicate that the soil and groundwater conditions in Harris County are similar to Washington, D.C. - and could potentially be even better for tunneling," said

Brian Gettinger, P.E., Tunneling Services Leader at Freese and Nichols. "This is a key factor in the phase-one study as it validates that large-diameter, deep tunnels are constructable in Harris County."

The deep tunnel concept has similarities to a 1996 Flood Control District feasibility study that considered a trenched box culvert system along the Interstate 10 right-of-way. Unlike the 1996 study, the large-diameter tunnel concept has the potential to convey much larger flow rates and to convey the flow all the way into the Houston Ship Channel. The benefits include avoiding impacts to surface structures and property and potentially offering flood damage reduction benefits to a larger region.

"Geotechnical conditions do not appear to present any remarkable nor non-negotiable concerns for the large diameter tunnels at this time," said Scott Elmer, P.E., Engineering Division Manager at Harris County Flood Control District. "Geologic faults in Harris County may require special design and construction considerations if crossed by a tunnel, but it is not a fatal flaw."

Preliminary estimates prepared during the phase-one study show that a 10-mile-long, 25- and 40-

foot diameter tunnel would cost approximately \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively, to construct.

Harris County Flood Control District funded the phase-one study through a \$320,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and an \$80,000 cost-share from the Flood Control District's 2018 Bond Program. Considerations for the next phase of the study are currently in development.

ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Cyclist killed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

der investigation by the Sheriff's office.

Authorities said that Custer's bike did not have a rear red reflector, nor was he wearing a helmet. Custer's mother said that he was using the light from a cell-phone to alert drivers that he was on the road, which has two lanes and no shoulder.

Custer's mother said that the couple was devoted to each other, and planning a wedding next year. She said he was the kind of person that would sacrifice for another. "I just want everyone to know what a good son he was," she said sobbing.

The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit www.hcfcd.org.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for Construction of the 2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project to serve the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 in Harris County, Texas will be received at the office of Harris County MUD 50, 12900 Crosby-Lynchburg, Crosby, TX 77532, until 1:00 P.M. local time, November 14, 2019 and then publicly opened. A NON-MANDATORY BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at the office of Harris County MUD 50 on November 6, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. Each bid must be submitted in a 9" x 12" envelope and accompanied by Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, duly executed, in the amount of not less than five (5%) percent of the bid.

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 is proposing to rehabilitate a portion of the existing sanitary sewer collection system within the District and the adjoining service area. Project work consists of point repairs of existing sanitary sewers, grease removal, root removal, pipe bursting, cured-in-place pipe lining, manhole inflow protection dish installation, manhole rehabilitation, and manhole cover replacement. The scope also includes the replacement of a force main under an existing Harris County roadway. The project pavement demolition and reconstruction, storm water pollution prevention plan and traffic control plan will be performed as necessary.

This project is eligible for CWSRF funding; therefore, the following requirements apply:
 • This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
 • Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this IFB, RFQ, or any resulting contract.
 • This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of P.L. 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. All iron and steel products for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repairs incorporated in these plans must be produced in the United States.
 • Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.
 • This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "fair share policy", which includes EPA-approved "fair share goals" for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA's policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to Minority Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms. Although EPA's policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate use of the six affirmative steps. The current fair share goals for the State of Texas are as follows:

CATEGORY	MBE	WBE
CONSTRUCTION	19.44%	9.17%
SUPPLIES	25.34%	8.82%
EQUIPMENT	16.28%	11.45%
SERVICES	20.41%	13.66%

• Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or handicap. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.
 • Right to reject any and all bids.
 • All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, **Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions**.
 • Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the **Mandatory David-Bacon Act Contract Conditions**.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from www.CivCastUSA.com; Search Harris County MUD No. 50 - 2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. **Questions deadline is November 8th at 5:00 P.M.** Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, and plans for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

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- React to rev-eille
- Spelling contest
- " - not choose to run"
- Bottled spirit?
- Madison Avenue music
- Eden, for one
- Agts.
- Crony
- Moment
- Nuts
- The same, in bibliographies
- Primly self-restrained
- Tools for duels
- Bashful
- Buckwheat porridge
- Catastrophic
- Wit
- Lubricant
- Tandoor-baked bread
- Hibernia
- In the course of
- Rubs elbows
- Lightweight wood
- Light touch
- Lemieux milieu

DOWN

- Rundown
- Exist
- Prickly sensations
- One side of the Urals
- Villainous looks
- Thing
- Check
- Stein or Stiller
- mignon
- Skilled buys
- Domineering
- Marked a report card
- Classroom array
- Glutton
- Big bother
- Life story, for short
- Vietnam river
- Legendary firefighter Red
- Listener
- \$1 bills
- 2nd Amdt. proponents
- X rating?
- "Monopoly"
- Jute fibers
- Dickens' Mr. Heep
- Like some mouthwashes and tooth-pastes
- Written slander
- Art -
- California wine valley
- Cover
- Prepared
- Balaam's carrier

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Extreme Machine Photo Album



Extreme Ninja Competition was performed here.



Cindy Broadbent of Highlands was First Place in the Muscle Car Division with this 1954 Ford F-100 Puff with Chevy Stuff featuring a ZZ4 Fast Bore, 420 engine, Edelbrock NASCAR, a Chevy 350 transmission and custom role pleated seats came out of a 97 convertible. Cindy says "When I first saw this it was all in pieces, I just kept visualizing it. A place in Pasadena that is now out of business did the exquisite paint job.



It would be hard to touch this 1957 Chevelle for Classic Car and it would win the Classic Car Division last Sunday as trophies are awarded throughout the background.



Obviously, Rev. Keenan Smith makes no secret of how he feels about this well attended and participated event.

Freaky Deaky Rave loud,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

programs. The attendance for Saturday was approximately 21,000 and Sunday's attendance was estimated at 23,000. Considering a combined two day appearance of nearly 45,000 people, the crowd was very calm and peaceful. The Chambers County Sheriff's Office made five misdemeanor arrests that were festival related," Sheriff Hawthorne commented. Sunday evening the Sheriff recognized the mu-

sic volume getting louder during the last two hours of the event. Deputies were able to identify and document that the volume had increased to decibel levels that exceeded previously recorded monitoring. Due to the increased sound levels and the complaints of the neighboring public, Sheriff Brian Hawthorne directed that criminal charges be filed on the promoter for disturbing the peace, under statute 4201 - Disorderly Conduct.

"I believe the promoter had good intentions, but the entertainers and sound engineers were placing the entertainment of festival attendees over the citizens of our county; therefore, the promoter will have to answer to Chambers County Precinct 6 Justice of the Peace Larry Cryer on violations of unreasonable noise after being notified of the public nuisance," said Sheriff Hawthorne.

Fall Festival at Methodist Church attracts crowds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The Fall Fest at Crosby United Methodist Church had crowds at all the booths, last Saturday. The event was a great success, and lots of fun.



Kids enjoyed the Bounce House at the Methodist Church Fall Fest.

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