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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the PRESS:

· Battlesip could be brought to Baytown • Beach City Civic Club

• GCCISD College Night ..And more, Page 3



EVENTS

SAT. NOV. 30 A Charles Dickens Christmas

10 am - 4 pm kick-off the Christmas Season, 5613 & 5619 North Main in Crosby Info: 281-799-2080

SAT. NOV. 30 Pct. 2 Christmas in the Park

10 am - 6:30 p.m. at Riley Chambers Park 11901 Mulberry St., Barrett Station, TX 77532.

- Gumbo Cook-Off 10 am to 2 pm (\$10 per quart) - Presentation/Tree-lighting/Golf Cart Parade 5:30 pm.

– Movie in the Park "Shrek

The Halls" 6:30 pm Info 281-328-4713.

TUE. DEC 3 Santa arrives in Highlands

6:00 pm Santa at Heritage Park. Rotary serves hot chocolate. Photos with Santa in the Gazebo.

SAT. DEC. 7 Children's Christmas Festival & Parade

FESTIVAL 1-5 pm at Crosby Church. PARADE 6 pm. Line up at Crosby Middle School at 5 pm. Info: 281-328-6984.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov 21-Claudia Birdsong Gene Cole Kristan Liu Hoffman Gina Marie Manley

Nov 22-Theresa McGee Lisa Selensky Nov 23-Monica Day

Brittany Muldrow Caleb Morgan Nov 24–David Boucher Jaymee Gleason Teri Gleason

Gene Gomez Nov 25-W.G. Carro Curtis Ingram Nov 26-Mary Hargis Nov 27–Doyle King

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 20-Albert & Cheryl Dunbar

Becky & Rayford Smith Nov 26–J.B. & Barbara Glaze Nov 26-Doyle & Ruby King

DEATHS

Lila Faye Carter Willie Lee Haluska Mikeinal Anthony

Additions or Corrections are welcome 713-266-3444

Crosby woman tried for murder of daughter

CASTLE ROCK, COLO-RADO – A woman that had lived and gone to church in Crosby is now on trial for the unthinkable murder of her own

7 year old daughter. Kelly Turner 41, a.k.a Kelly Grant has been charged with the 2017 murder of Olivia Grant, her daughter. Allegedly Grant, her daughter. Allegedly she faces 2 charges of murder in the first degree for the same death under Colorado law that makes special provisions for those entrusted with children under 12 years of age. She is charged with child abuse and ten associated counts.

Olivia Grant was seen as a terminally ill seven year old who was a favorite of firefight-

who was a favorite of firefighters and police and pretend op-ponent of convicted criminals in local events. She had been dubbed the "Bat Princess." But authorities allege it was a con-cocted story put together by her mother to bilk the community



Kelly Renee Turner a.k.a. Kelly Grant

of money and use the girl's death as cover. The grand jury found that Kelly has taken over half a million dollars from Make A Wish Foundation, Medicaid, local hospitals and a half dozen local char-

ities under false pretenses The Douglas County Sher-iff's Office conducted a year long investigation based on questions that had come to light in the case including why would a mother take a daughter out of the vicinity of a world recognized children's hospital. Allegedly, Kelly would tell doctors her daugh-ter was sick with a variety of life threatening illnesses like a build-up of fluid on the brain, a tumor, she was given surgeries and seizure medica-tions with serious side effects after doctors determined she had no seizure conditions.

nad no seizure conditions.
Doctors discovered she was
getting only about 30% of the
food she needed.
Finally, the wide birth of
illnesses Kelly had attributed to Olivia raised enough suspicion that her body was exhumed and found not to have the conditions.

DEPUTIES' LIFESAVING **RECOGNIZED AS HEROIC**



Deputies Sergeant Williams, Mitchell and Guidry recognized at District III meeting for their efforts during Tropical Storm Imelia. These three braved inclement flood waters to travel to the American Red Cross in downtown Houston to assemble supplies. Successfully at the Crosby United Methodist Church.

See Deputies recognized, Page 6

Rotary prepares Holiday Gifts



Highlands Rotarians were busy this week, preparing a number of gift wrapped bags with toys and clothing items for the needy children of a Highlands family. The Gift bags will be distributed in the Holiday spirit at the beginning of December.

County Judge Hidalgo outlines key accomplishments at First State of the County

Announces New Focus on Early Childhood Development

Harris County, Texas -November 15, 2019 - Today, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo joined business leaders, residents, and community leaders from across the region to deliver the first State of the County address of her term. During her remarks to about 900 attendees, Judge Hidalgo outlined key areas of progress in fostering a safer, healthier, and more equitable Harris County and announced a new initiative that will fo-



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

cus on improving early childhood development. "The state of our county

See State of the County,

Crosby fights for Rooks



Charlie Rooks (center) and his brothers show their Warrior faces as he takes on cancer with the support of a good portion of Crosby at the Knights of Columbus Hall last Saturday. To help with his cause donations can still be made to the Hall last Saturday. Paypal account: PayPal trooks2552@aol.com.

Rooks support of Crosby Fair & Rodeo was apparent and the Board and most of the membership echoed, "Good people get great support.

See Charlie Rooks, Page 6

Cougars, Falcons advance on State

The Crosby Cougars and the Hargrave Falcons convincingly advanced in the Bi-District playoffs last week as they routed their opponents by over 28

Crosby defeated Willowridge by 70 to 42 with the homefield advantage last Friday. It was a record high score for the Cougars.

Huffman bested Furr Brahmans 49-6 last Thursday with he home field advantage before the half time. The blow out before the half allowed the coach es to keep the second half time clock turning like after the two minute warning. The Falcons have won eleven games straight.

Crosby moves to swat the Huntsville Hornets next with an overall 6-4 record. Their next game begains Saturday, Novem-

1500 F Wallisville Re

Highlands, TX 77562

ber 23 at 2:00 p.m. at Randal Reed Stadium at 21360 Valley Ranch Parkway in New Caney. Pre-sale tickets are \$8 for a dults and \$5 $\,$ students and \$10 at the gate. Crosby's ranking has advanced 31 in the State. There has been a definative improvement in the team performance in the lat few games.

Hargrave Falcons at-tack the Palestine Wildcats who has a 6-5 overall record but number 2 seed from District 10-4A Division 1, Friday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Bryan High School The Wildcats are still hot from their 50-20 victory over the Mustangs of Waxahachie last Thursday night.

Now Crosby is standing at number 224 and Huffman is standing at number

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COMMUNITY NEWS *

Newspaper publisher celebrates milestone birthday, memorable life

This week, Gilbert celebrates his 80th birthday. Upon such a significant milestone, it is worth lookng back on his remarkable life, family, adventures,

and many careers.
In 1994, Gilbert Hoffman and his wife Mei-ing bought the Highlands Star - Crosby Courier, fulfilling one of Gilbert's lifelong dreams: to own a newspaper. This also marked the beginning of what would become a small publishing conglomerate, serving the greater Houston area with community papers such as the Star-Courier, Northeast News, and North Channel Star.

PENNSYLVANIA BOY

Born in Oklahoma, Gilbert moved to Pennsylvania at a young age and grew up in New Castle, a town just north of Pittsburgh. Even as a boy, he was interested in printing resses and newspapers. His sister, Cheryl Massie, recalls Gilbert putting her to work, along with their brother Richard. The two younger siblings had to col-lect news from around their neighborhood, which Gilbert would write up into stories that he typeset and printed on a small letter-press in their basement. Then he sent Cheryl and Richard back out to deliv-

er these bulletins. Their father was an ar chitect, and both Gilbert and Richard followed in his footsteps. In his teens, Gilbert worked as a drafts-man at the W.G. Eckles Company, which started as a small local practice but is now known as the Eck-les Group and remains one of the 50 oldest architecture firms in the country.

Upon graduating high

girlfriend Carol, and they had their first daughter, Susan. Thus began a new chapter in his life as husband, father, and college

ARCHITECT ABROAD

After graduating from Carnegie Tech with his Bachelor's degree in architecture, and the University of Pennsylvania with his Master's, Gilbert was employed at a series of firms in Pittsburgh and Phila-delphia. He gained experience and climbed the ladder, from draftsman to model builder to designer to project architect. Then he relocated to New Haven to work under esteemed architects such as Eero Saarinen, Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo, and Charles W. Moore. The projects he worked on ranged from hospital facilities to airport terminals, university buildings to pedestrian malls.

He also taught a few

undergraduate courses at Yale University.

During these same years, Gilbert's young fam-ily grew. He and Carol welcomed another daughter, Trisha. They took the girls sailing — another of Gilbert's passions, though he was hardly an expert. Tr-isha can still remember the terror she felt as a girl when their boat would keel so strongly that water nearly came in over the

Sadly, the marriage didn't last, and after the divorce, Carol and the girls moved to Phoenix to be near her parents.
Gilbert returned to New

Castle for a while, then was hired by 3D/International, a large architectur-



Gilbert Hoffman with printing press in Houston Texas



Gilbert with daughters Susan and

"Over the last decade, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Gil as he works to best report the important news of the Crosby and Huffman communities. He has created the go-to clearinghouse for all news in that area and I have been honored to work with him and his team. Happy 80th Birthday, Gil! Thank you for your service to this community!" - Dan Huberty. State



Gilbert and Mei Hoffman

"I especially want to wish a very 80th birthday to Mr. Gil Hoffman who has done an outstanding job and service to his community as the Publisher of the Star-Courier for over

30 years. Happy Birthday Gil! God Bless!" Brian Babin, US Congressman District 36

al firm in Houston. There he had the privilege of traveling all over the world for his work. Among the more dazzling of his assignments:

- A corporate headquar-ters in South Africa

- A conference and exhibition complex in Malaysia

- A five-story palace/of-fice in Qatar - An entire town in Saudi Arabia (i.e., schools, police station, mosques.

housing, etc.) - Houston VA Hospital Whenever possible, Gilbert took advantage of these grand travels to do some sightseeing as well. He was able to dip his toes in the Red Sea, visit the Eiffel Tower and Moulin

Rouge, see the Pope, tour Kruger Game Park, spend a day at Machu Picchu, and even enter King Tut's Also working at 3D/I at this time was Mei-ing Liu,

an architect from Taiwan who had graduated from Penn too. While everyone else thought that meant Penn State, Gilbert recognized his alma mater and introduced himself. They started dating, and once again, a new chapter unfolded.

ENTREPRENEUR

Despite a healthy career in architecture, Gilbert still itched to pursue his

In 1984 newly married Gilbert and Mei-ing decided to purchase a one-man print shop from an owneroperator who was ready to retire. They named their new company Grafikshop

> See Publihser's Birthday, Page 8





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> **CROSBY'S HOME** TOWN HOME CARE

3 injured in Head-on Crash in Barrett Station

Two vehicles were involved in a head-on collision last Sunday night at around 6:00 pm. The crash occured on FM2100 in the middle of Barrett Station. Authorities reported that the crash occured when one of the vehicles crossed the centerline and struck an oncoming vehicle. Authorities reported that one of the vehicles was a car, the

other a pick-up truck. Harris County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene, and it was necessary to call LifeFlight to transport one of the occupants of the car. The other two persons involved in the accident were transported by



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYTOWNCOPS.COM

pital with non-life threatening injuries.

The accident was worked by EMS#5 from Crosby. Assisting them with the helicopter re-

licopter had to land on the street, due to the fact that the helipad at the Crosby fire station on US90 was already reserved for anoth-

Annual Sterling Bazaar set for November 23rd



Ross S. Sterling High School PALs prepare for the 42nd Annual Sterling Bazaar November 23, 2019 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.at Sterling High School. The event includes vendors and entertainment as well as the Original Sterling Star Chicken Spaghetti. Pictured are Delilah Arredondo, Nely Benitez Gonzalez, Makenna Cook, Samelys Cruz Solis, David Foxworth, JW Gammel, Angela Hillary, Brianna Jobity, Marisol Martinez, Kendyl Rhea, Haley Rodriguez, Christopher Roth, Michael Shipp, Ericka Smith, Bailee St. Romain, Kaitlyn Stork, Kaleea Taylor, Matthew Ward, Annalise Williams and Jacob Yepez.

Barbers Hill * Dayton

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

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of money would need to be spent to create a proper

tourist attraction around

Meanwhile, Baytown citizens have started a

pledge drive to raise mon-

ey for continued mainte-

nance. By pledging only 27¢ a day, or \$100 per year for 5 years, they think they

can show enough support to attract the ship's care-

takers to Baytown.

They also have a website and Russell Hamman

has his history website,

"Baytown History with a

the ship.

ROUND-UP

Goss Memorial Library events

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, November 25, 2019.

-Tuesday, November 26 - 10:00 am, Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)

-Tuesday, November 26 - 2:00 pm, Movie Day showing Toy Story 4, Come enjoy a movie with your favorite toy. Refreshments will

be served. • 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 Upcoming

program: Nerd Con 2!! Nerd Con is back and better than before! Vendors, Authors, Artists, Panels, Cosplayers and more! Saturday, December 7, 2019. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at Eagle Point Recreation Complex. For more information visit http:// www.nerdconmb.com/ index.html

Call Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu at 281-576-2245 with any questions

Dayton Spirit of **Christmas** Celebration

7, 2019, all day at Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland, Dayton, TX

Christmas on the Hill **Parade**

Mont Belvieu's most beloved holiday tradition the Christmas on the Hill Parade, enters its 11th year. Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. along Eagle Drive. This year's parade will feature a new

Baytown Christmas **Parade**

The 2019 Baytown Christmas Parade, December 5, 2019, 6:30 p.m. (line-up at 5:30 p.m.) Parade registration until November 25 at the Baytown Community Center, 2407 Market St., 77520. Info: 281-420-

Campaign to move Battleship to Baytown

roots citizen group is leading the effort to bring the Battleship Texas to a berth in Baytown, after it is repaired and restored.

The group is headed by businessman Jay Eshbach, with help from well-known historian Russell Hamman, Jake Daniel, Peter Piontkowski, and others.

The Battleship was originally built in 1912, and has seen service in both World Wars. Since 1948 it has been berthed at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park in LaPorte.
The State of Texas has

spent \$85 million to preserve the ship and keep it afloat, but now wants to turn it over to a private foundation to maintain and operate. The new own-er is the Texas Battleship Foundation, and wants a new site where it can attract 300,000 visitors instead of the 80,000 in LaPorte. Admission fees must pay for the upkeep of



the ship, which will cost \$2 million yearly.

Texas has voted to spend \$35 million more to remove, repair, and relocate the ship. Several locations have indicated interest, including Galveston, Corpus Christi, and Baytown.

Some local politicians want it returned to the

Houston Ship Channel where it currently sits. State Representative Briscoe Cain introduced a bill to keep it in LaPorte, only to see the provision stripped from the final bill. Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia got the county to pass a resolution to keep the ship



BEACH CITY CIVIC CLUB:

"Treat Beach City like someone you love"



Beach City CIvic Club Adopt-A-Highway volunteers

Even after 30 plus years of the Don't mess with Tex-as® campaign, some folks still roam the roadways. tossing trash from their car windows and let litter fly out of their truck beds. 'We're talking about cigarette butts, fast food wrappers, cans, styrofoam and even banana peels. They're sometimes small, but they're still trash" said Beach City Mayor Jackey

Lasater. The newly formed Beach City Civic Club. zens group with an initial focus on eliminating Litter and establishing meaningful community projects. Colquitt, who also serves as Beach City Mayor Pro Tempore said "We are excited to support and partner with the Texas Dept. of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway anti-litter campaign as our first project. We want people to treat Beach City like someone you love".

Last Saturday, 33 citizens joined to-gether to remove litter and debris along two miles of FM 2354. "I was delighted at the great turnout we had on Saturday " said Mayor Lasater More than 20 trash bags were filled on Saturday and larger debris like tires were collected over 3 hours. "A special thanks goes to our BC Volunteer Fire Dept. members and Chief Chaired by Dana Colquitt was established as a citi-port. We hope to expand this program to additional areas of the City." The litter pick up will be performed at least 4 times

Photos Credit Senac/Colquitt



Kids also volunteered during the "Treat Beach City like someone you love" cam-

Colquitt said "City Council supports this activity and said the Civic Club will focus on identifying important and meaningful needs within our community and will develop activities or programs to

support those needs."
The Civic Club consists of 21 active and likeminded residents working to make Beach City a better place to live and recreate. For more information about participating with the Civic Club telephone Dana Colquitt at (832) ttbooboo@hotmail.co.m

Goose Creek CISD hosts College Night



Ana Aguilar from Goose Creek Memorial and Ares-Jean Lacy from Ross S. Sterling High School receive information from Linda Solis. Texas Southern University representative, at Goose Creek CISD's College Night held at GCM. Forty-eight colleges/universities set up booths, and more than 300 students attended.



Baylee Dixon, a freshman at Robert E. Lee High School, signs up for information about Millsaps College during Goose Creek CISD's recent College Night. Millsaps College was one of 48 colleges/universities at College Night.

OPINION PAGE

Channelview Community meeting recap --PARTI

The Channelview community had its second Community Meeting the evening of Oct. 24, 2019 at the Channelview Fire Dept. Sta. 3 located at 1210 Dell Dale. This meeting was held as a progress update to the Environmental Meeting held on 09/12/19 and in a continuing effort by residents to share information, to work together with governing and other agencies to address the issues impacting Channelview to bring awareness and to document, remove, prevent and/or improve the environmental issues affecting our residents. As a result of last

month's meeting Rebecca

Smith of the Houston

office of C.E.E.R. had

taken a tour of Channelview for an "eyes on" understanding of Chantour and Ms. Smith's attendance at Septem ber's meeting resulted in C.E.E.R. including Channelview as one of their communities to be addressed at C.E.E.R.'s Baytown/Channelview Town Hall on Disaster Recovery & Resilience public forum and resource fair held at Lee College in Baytown on Oct 30th Along with provision of resources useful in addressing a variety of concerns, attendees of C.E.E.R.'s meeting were provided an opportunity to participate in a study being conducted by Texas State University to add and/or more accurately reflect Channelview's data and issues to be presented to governing agencies once TSU's study has been completed. Also relayed to attendees was interest and contact by other groups who had wanted to aid the Channelview Community, but had not had a source to contact. C.E.E.R. and the other groups' contact and interest were proof to Channelview Community organizers efforts relating to the goal of bringing awareness was being achieved. In addition to awareness being brought to the community, organizers had been made aware of Lyondell Basell's $monthly\ C.A.P.L.E.$ meeting. Several community members had attended the Oct. 17th C.A.P.L.E meeting to learn about Lyondell Basell's Community Advisory Panel and to initiate a relationship with Lyondell Basell. C.A.P.L.E.'s Associate Facilitator contact Anne Gowan. annelgowan@gmail.com, was shared for those wishing to attended C.A.P.L.E.'s upcoming

meetings. Organizers of this month's meeting provided attendees updates on the following environmental issues provided at the last meeting: Intra Services -Air Quality Permit #91606 was renewed and extended in September, but further investigation into the permitting was being conducted, C. W. Certified Wash - A new tank wash facility at 15653 N. Brentwood had

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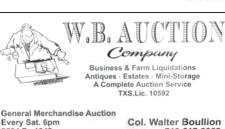
Crosby, TX 77532

a TCEQ registration number, #97511, but according to TCEQ no Air Quality or Storm Water permits, although a Storm Water permit may be in the works. The facility at this time was not required to have a Hazardous Waste Registration due to company information saying they do not handle hazardous waste. Residents' reports are that tankers with hazardous placards are routinely coming, going and parked on the property.

Following the meeting organizer's updates, additional presentations and updates were presented by Lone Star Legal Aid's Environmental Justice Team. Rodrigo Cantu gave a very informative presentation on group structuring; Forming Your Community Based Advocacy Group. His presentation discussed the various ways the Channelview Community could become a legally recognized group to further promote their group goals and to solidify the group's recognition by governing agencies and other entities. Mr. Cantu covered the un-incorporated associations, incorporated non-profits which is a state law based concept, or incorporated tax exempt (501(c)(3) which is a federal law based concept discussing the requirements, the advantages and disadvantages of each and how each group formation compares to the other formation types. Also presented was how the group's capacities, goals, purpose and planned activities may play a role in which type of organization would be best suited for the group. Mr. Cantu informed the group that the initial structure could be changed as the group became more established. The information shared left the attendees with much to consider and a discussion followed with attendees clarifying various details and weighing in on their preferences Heejin Hwang provided

an update on research LSLA had initiated in response to concerns over Texas Industrial Box $Maintenance, Inc.\ (TIBM)$ a tank wash facility at 15331 Market St. which had exploded and caught fire on 09/10/19 two days prior to the Channelview Community's last meeting. TIBM established operations in 2002, a short 2 years later their recorded history of violations began - 2004 thru 2016 TIBM has multiple Texas Water Code, Texas Clean Air Act. Texas Health & Safety Code, and Harris County storm water regulations violations 2010 TCEQ audit reflects TIBM did not have appropriate hazardous waste permits and did not maintain required records - 2012 TCEQ denied storm water permit -2014 "an oil sheen with solvent-like odor pooled near a tank and then ran outside the fence and into a swale"

PART II will continue next week



Col. Walter Boullion 713-817-9062 wbauctioncrosby.com



Federal funds to assist county in buying out flood-prone properties

AUSTIN - Land Commissioner George P. Bush on Nov. 14 announced the Texas General Land Office's approval of \$21,155,575 in Hurricane Harvey funds for Fort Bend County to conduct a buyout

In the late summer of 2017, record-heavy rainfall brought by Hurricane Harvey catastrophically flood-ed streets and homes. Fort Bend County will use the funds to conduct a buyout program targeting approx-imately 100 homes most vulnerable to flooding.

The funds come from a much larger pool of federal assistance. Bush was ap-pointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to lead Hurricane Harvey housing recovery efforts funded by \$5.7 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Ĥurricane Harvey devastated communities across the Texas Coast," said Bush. "These recovery funds are critical to protect-ing lives, homes and businesses from future storms. We continue to work with our partners in communities across the region to le verage these resources efficiently and effectively to benefit Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey."

Court stays execution

The execution of a Texas death row inmate incarcerated since May 1998 was stayed by the Ťexas Court of Criminal Appeals on Nov.

The court order came five days before Rodney Reed, 51, was scheduled to be executed by lethal injec-tion. A number of Republican and Democratic federal and state lawmakers and

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

celebrities called on Gov. Greg Abbott to prevent the execution as motions for the reexamination of DNA and other evidence and the introduction of new witness statements gained publicity. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles voted in favor of granting a 120-day reprieve of the execution

In 1998, Reed was convicted in the 1996 murder of Stacey Stites, a 19-year-old grocery store clerk. Both Reed and Stites were residents of Bastrop when Stites's body was found. Reed, who had dated Stites, was arrested as a suspect and taken into custody.

Lawmaker is

charged State Rep. Poncho Ne-varez, D-Eagle Pass, on Nov. 14 was charged with possession of a controlled substance and released on \$10,000 bond. In September, Nevarez

was observed on Austin airport security cameras dropping an envelope containing some 2 grams of cocaine. A conviction for possession of that amount of cocaine is a third-degree felony that could result in a sentence of up to 10 years

Nevarez has announced he will not seek reelection to a fifth term as the state representative for District 74, an enormous district that includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves,

aturdays? Sundays,

Thanksgiving Friday

ctober 5th

Terrell and Val Verde.

Nevarez serves as chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety; as vice chair of the House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety; and as a member of the House Committee on Natural Re-

AG warns of scam calls

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 14 warned Texans about scam callers falsely claiming to be members of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division and attempt ing to obtain personal and financial information.

Fraudulent callers attempt to obtain personal identifying information from the call recipient and ask for money transfers or bank details after baseless ly claiming the call recipi-ent's Social Security number has been compromised. Fraudsters use local numbers and sometimes provide a false case number during the call.

Paxton is encouraging those who receive such calls to notify his office's Consumer Protection Hotline toll-free at 1-800-621-0508 or to file a complaint online.
Paxton also said his of-

fice's true Crime Victim Services phone number is toll-free 800-983-9933 and local number 512-936-1200. Abbott declares drought

Gov. Greg Abbott on Nov. 8 issued a declaration certifying that exceptional drought conditions pose a threat of imminent disaster in 53 of Texas' 254 counties.

As stated in the disaster declaration, "Significantly low rainfall and prolonged dry conditions continue to increase the threat of wildfire across these portions of the state.'

The declaration authorizes the use of all available res of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disas-



'Season's Edge"

"I like the edge season!" my husband, Peter, said, as we watched the moon rise over the mountains and felt a chill breeze rise with it. As far as I know, Peter invented this expression. He might have meant the "season's end," but like the idea of the "season's edge"

Peter and I are staving in the south of Spain and, even here, the season is changing. Restaurants that have been open all summer and fall are finally giving their employees a few days off. Menus are changing, hours are shortening, outdoor tables are now used only during the day and only on days that are sunny. Clouds suddenly appear over the mountains and the diners scatter, looking for somewhere cozy indoors.

And I agree with Peter: I like it. Peter and I took a bus inland to Granada this week and it was coole than on the coast. I brought along fancy boots and a skirt and ditched them both after I realized the cobblestones were murder on my feet. I was not willing to make a fashion statement at the expense of my feet. Would I have been willing to do that a few years ago, I wondered? Probably. Perhaps this is a change that has come in my own "edge season."

I still feel the familiar pull of, "I should really do that," or, "not everyone gets a chance to do this. and feel a sense of obligation to chase after some sight or activity and, while I do make an effort not to be a stick-in-the-mud, I can't help but notice how wonderful it feels to simply be where I want, doing what

When I was younger, I was obsessed with the idea of missing out. I could barely stand to be in one place, thinking of all the other places I could be at the same time. The idea of taking a nap was preposter ous. The idea of missing an opportunity, too painful to contemplate.

Things are different now.
After Peter and I toured the Alhambra palace in Granada, we came home and took a nap. Instead of imagining all the sights I was not seeing, all the memories I would not have, I thought about the all amazing things I had seen that day. I replayed them in my head and

drifted off to sleep. Later, Peter and I headed out (in practical shoes) and had a kind of very strong Moroccan tea I had never tasted and a delicious crepe We sat on ornate cushions covered with tassels and sequins, with glittering lanterns overhead, and watched two college girls busy with their phones and their hair.

"Would you take a photo of us?" I asked the students in badly fractured Spanish, "I'm terrible at selfies!"

The young woman with the larger volume of hair cheerfully agreed and took several photos of us—me grinning broadly (as I do) and Peter looking a tad on edge (as

I wondered what these two young women would do in their lives—if they would stay in Granada or travel the world. I wondered if they ever worried they were missing out when they already lived in such an interesting place.
And then I thought how grateful

was to be exactly where I was in my life—dressed in practical shoes with nowhere I wanted to be other than exactly where I was.
I took Peter's hand. "I'm very

happy to be here with you," I told

"This is great tea!" Peter said.



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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

OBITUARIES

Lila Faye Carter

Lila Faye Carter, 84, passed away on Friday, November 15, 2019. She was born on October 31, 1935 to Roswell Buford Hopkins and Ladeen Safrona Ravburn. She was a long time Highlands resident and Robert E. Lee graduate. She worked as a bookkeeper for Briggs Weaver, and retired in December 2005. An accomplished creative writer, she had articles and poems published. Lila was a voracious reader and an active member of her book club. She enjoyed playing Mahjong and tending to her flower garden. She was a beach lover, and had a beach house in Galveston, where she also volunteered at the Grand. She was a big Tiger Woods and Astros fan. Lila will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



She is preceded in death by her parents, Roswell and Ladeen Hopkins; sister, Brenda Scott; son, David Carter and partner of 17

years, George King.

Lila is survived by her daughter, SueZan Moseley and husband Ronnie; son Joe Kenneth Carter Jr.; daughter, Melinda Cordova and husband George; granddaughter, Shana Moseley; granddaughter,

Brittany Ford and husband Jason; granddaughter, Tiffany Sandford and husband Todd; granddaughter, Mira Carter; grandson, Taylor Harrison; and sister, Barbara Smith and partner Neva Fitzgerald. She is also survived by eight great-grandchildren.

A visitation for friends and family will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Arrangements are entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas. To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

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Willie Lee Haluska

Willie Lee Haluska, 94, went to be with the Lord on Monday, November 11, 2019 He was born in Fav-1925, to Willie John Haluska and Rosie Franta Haluska. As a young child, he moved to Crosby with his parents to begin a new farm. Willie graduated from Crosby High School and then proudly served in the United States Navy in the Pacific during World War II and was honorably discharged. He retired from Exxon Mobil after thirty-one years, and at the time of his death had been retired for 38 years. He loved hunting, fishing, managing his cattle and tending to his garden. He was a loving father and grandfather, hard worker. an interesting storyteller and quite a character. He was also a carpenter and he and his father built the house that he and his wife lived in. Most importantly, Willie was a Christian and an active member at Crosby United Methodist



Church where he served in various capacities. He loved his Sunday School Class and his group of "Angels". Willie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Rosie Haluska; wife of fifty-five years, Alice Mae Kosina Haluska; brother Ladd Haluska and wife Rosalie; and stepmother Amalia Syptak Haluska.

Willie is survived by his daughter, Connie Walding and husband Scott; grandson, Brian Remkes; great granddaughter, Megan Alyse Remkes; sister-in-law, Frankie Kosina Brewer and numerous extended family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends was held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Sterling-White Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at 10:00 am on Friday, November 15, 2019 at Crosby United Methodist Church, 1334 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532. Interment was in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. In lieu of flowers, memo-

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Crosby United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or charity of choice.

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Mikeinal Anthony "Butch" Gomez

October 17, 1945 -November 12, 2019

Mikeinal Anthony "Butch" Gomez the son of Frederick Garcia Gomez and Dorothy Hardin Gomez was born on October 17, 1945 in Bryan, Texas. He entered eternal life on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 in Houston, Texas at the age of 74 years.

Butch was a graduate of Galena Park High School in Houston. He was a Vietnam War Veteran and a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps serving from August 1965 – April 1969. Butch was employed most of his life as a pressman. He married Becky Fee on June 11, 1983 in Houston, Texas. He will be remembered by his family as an outstanding husband, father and friend. He loved to hunt and fish but his most enjoyable times were spent with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frederick Garcia Gomez; his mother, Dorothy Catoe and the father that raised him, Eugene Catoe; sister, Doris Clark.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Becky Gomez of Houston; Sons and Daughters-in-law, Mikeinal Troy Gomez and wife Kellie of Galveston, Robert Anthony Gomez and wife Teresa of Houston, Nathan Eugene Go-



mez and wife Dawn of Franklin, Gene Gomez of Houston and William Gomez of Houston; Sisters and Brothers-in-law, Juanita Fowler and husband Larry of Houston and Sammie Baker and husband Donald of Cleveland; Brother and Sister-in-law, Fred Gomez and wife Marea of Anchorage, Alaska; Grand-children, Wesley Savell, Kaitlyn Gomez, Shelby Gomez, Brittany Gomez and Allison Gomez; Great Grandchildren, Bodhi Savell and Briar Savell

A visitation was held on Saturday from 1:00 P.M. until service time. Services were held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. at Mc-Cauley Funeral Home Chapel in Franklin, Texas. Burial followed the services and a processional to the Shiloh Cemetery in Robertson County.

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Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served after the service

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY

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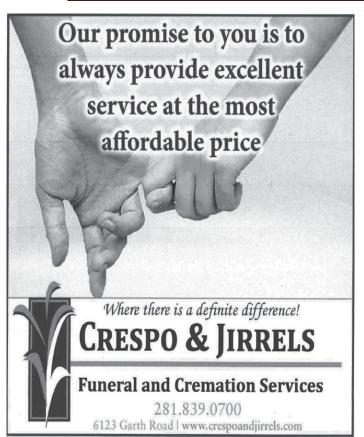
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EXPERTS ASK THE

Deputies recognized,

On Thursday, September 19, 2019 an Emergency Declaration was implemented in Harris County due to Tropical Storm Imelda. District III, specifically the Crosby area and Newport subdivision, received a downpour of rain which caused flash flooding. The flooding stranded motorist in their cars and people inside their

need of rescue and were Police Academy Alumni rescued.

Evacuees were taken to Crosby United Methodist Church for shelter. An immediate need for supplies for evacuees was identified and addressed by Sergeant Donnie Williams. He commandeered help from Deputies Mitchell and Guidry.

The Harris County

and sacrifice made to the citizens of Harris

County that were in

homes. People were in Sheriff's Office Citizen's

Association (Ron De-Lorge, Bernadette Beauchamp, Karen Foster, Eddie Foster & Becky Moon) along with Captain Morrison recognized and showed their appreciation to all three of them for their bravery

Drive By shots hit 14 year old

McNair - According to Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales, a 14 year old male was shot in the leg Sunday, November 17, in a drive by shooting at a local park playing basketball.

It all transpired at about 9:00 a.m. at J.D. Walker Park, at 7613

Wade Road, the victim and three other males were shooting some hoops when a vehicle drove by and began shooting bulllets at the group

The victim was taken by private automobile to the hospital and the wound is believed to be

Babin files for re-election in the race

non-life threatening At the current time no

description of the vehicle or identification of the shooters has been released. Deputies are still searching for suspects and are in need of any information that the community can pro-

Crosby fights for Rooks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CROSBY - Charlie Rooks Senior was diagnosed with advanced ade-carninoma of the carninoma of the esophagus last June and he and his family formed Warrior Team Rooks, and were rapidly joined by much of the Crosby com-

munity shortly thereafter. Charlie has been an active Crosby Fair and Rodeo participant and supporter for decades. So at his benefit last Saturday there were fried chicken dinners, raffles, music and dancing, a silent auction, a wine pulling, a bake sale, a washer tournament and a giant live auction with Bill Busby at the mike inside the Knights of Columbus Hall, that was near capac-

ity.
His wife, Tina Rooks posted, ""There are no words to describe how Charlie and I felt Saturday as our friends and family came through the doors, one behind the other. Charlie was very humbled, and just blown away at the outpouring love and support is at this difficult time. I don't guess anyone is prepared for cancer to

strike, and surely not the second time. One thing we do know - that in our time of need, you all, along with our kids and family have shown us love and support we could ever imagine. How do we ever find words large enough to thank you? Saturday will be embedded in our hearts and minds forever. We humbly thank you from the bottom of our heart and know we are blessed with your friendship and continue presence in our life. Love you All!

for Texas Congressional District 36

Congressman Brian Babin (R-Woodville) has officially filed for re-election to seek a fourth term representing the 36th Congressional District in the U.S.

House of Representatives. "There has never been a more important time for strong conservative leader-ship in Washington than now. The Democrat Party has been hijacked and coopted by the most radical socialist fringe elements in American society. Along with their like-minded cohorts in the fake news industry, they have been working to undermine and destroy Donald Trump since the day he announced for President," said Babin. "If we don't fight back against this ridiculous Schiff/Pelosi imneachment scam re-take the House, strengthen our majority in the Senate, and deliver four more years for President Trump, we don't have to guess what our country will look like they're showing us right

"Our country's economy and employment numbers are better than they've ever been, our military has been rebuilt after eight years of neglect by Obama, and Texas is leading the way among all its peers.



Congressman Brian

But there's so much more to do, especially finishing the border wall and providing much needed border security to stop illegal immigration. I also want to continue rebuilding our communities better and stronger than ever from Harvey and Imelda and keep NASA's Johnson Space Center at the forefront of the next genera-tion of space exploration. That's why I'm asking my employers - the people of the 36th District - for a chance to be their voice in Washington for another two years. Except for a few years serving overseas in the military, Southeast Texas is where I have lived all my life. It's where Roxanne and I raised our five

with sixteen beautiful grandchildren. My Christian faith and my desire to leave this country a better place for them and all our children is what guides every decision I make in Congress," Babin conclud-

ed. Dr. Brian Babin, D.D.S., was first elected to the U.S. House in 2014. Born in Port Arthur and raised in Beaumont, Babin graduated from Lamar University and the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston. After serving in both the Army National Guard and the Air Force, Babin and his wife Roxanne returned to Texas and opened a dental practice in Woodville, where he was one of the pioneering leaders of the local Republican Party and served as a councilman, school board member, and as mayor.

The Republican primary election will be held on March 3, 2020 and the general election on November 3, 2020, just under one year from now. In addition to the elections for every seat in the U.S. House and several key U.S. Senate races (including Senator John Cornyn's seat), President Donald J. Trump will also be seeking a second term on the November bal-

State of the County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is strong," said Judge Hidalgo. "But being strong is about much more than having a low unemployment rate or a strong bond rating. It's about making sure that all of our residents enjoy equal access to the great opportunities available to them in Harris County. Over the past year we've made county government more trans-parent, made strides to reform our criminal justice system, and have begun to make up for lost time when it comes to investing in our flood control infrastructure. But there is much more to do, and we look forward to another year of ambitious, meaningful initiatives, including a focus on what we can do to improve early childhood development and education

Drawing from the "Talking Transition" initiative, Judge Hidalgo will kick off a community engagement series next year as the first step towards a larger goal of a meaningful early childhood development initiative in Harris County. Programs that focus on early childhood development have one of the strongest returns on investment for any type of public program. Children who benefit from initiatives like subsidized childcare and early education tend to have higher high school graduation rates, fewer arrests lower rates of substance use, and higher rates of employment as

During her remarks Judge Hidalgo also provided updates on key priorities since her swearing in. Some key areas of progress include:

. Sped the delivery of flood bond projects by allocating local funds to jump-start construction instead of waiting for federal match dollars.

Passed the most stringent flood detention requirements possible so that new development doesn't flood people down-

stream.
Fixing our broken cash-bail system. By tak-ing action to settle an expensive, three-year old lawsuit under which federal courts had deemed the County's bail system unconstitutional, the County eliminated practices that often made wealth the sole basis for how someone accused of a misdemeanor

crime was treated. Reformed environmental protection, monitoring, and enforcement. The County has allocated over \$11 million to build a state-of-the-art air monitoring network, increased the size of the pollution control department by over 50%, and added resources for HazMat First Respond-

Passed common-sense gun safety measures. The County has taken action to expand programs designed to keep weapons away from domestic violence abusers, expedite checks to keep gun dealers from unknowingly selling to people convicted of crimes and encourage the use of gun

locks to keep guns from the hands of children. Made voting easier by allowing residents to vote anywhere on election day. The County has also expanded early voting

hours and locations, including increased access for students with early voting polls opened at the University of Houston and Texas Southern Universi-

Directed the county to create a 3-1-1 system to make county information easier to receive.
Launched Harris

Thrives, an initiative to execute a faster, fairer, and smarter flood control policy. As part of this commitment, the County Judge's office is sharing real-time information on construction progress for flood bond projects, including how and where dollars are being spent HarrisThrives.org.

Stood up against the Trump administration's effort to instill fear in our immigrant communities. Judge Hidalgo has worked to fight against family separation policies, planned immigration raids in the County, and the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. Additionally, the County filed a successful amicus brief against the Federal Government's proposed "public charge rule" designed to threaten safety net services for immigrants and which would also overburden our county safety net

For a more comprehensive list of county initia-tives and accomplishments, and a full copy of Judge Hidalgo's speech as prepared is available on her county website at County Judge Hid algo.com

systems.

Huberty files for reelection and receives • Governor Abbott's endorsement

kids who have blessed us

HUMBLE, TEXAS -State Representative Dan Huberty filed for reelection to House District (HD) 127 this weekend. "It has been my honor to serve the residents of HD 127 in Austin since my initial election in 2010 and I look forward to returning to the Capitol building to continue to represent them," Huberty

Huberty authored and passed monumental public school finance reform in the 86th Legislative Session in the form of House Bill (HB) 3. "HB 3 was the first major rewrite of school finance laws undertaken without the threat of a court order, and it put a stop to decades of patchwork fixes by creating a more equitable public education system," said Hu-

Following the filing, Governor Greg Abbott announced his endorsement



State Representative Dan Huberty

of Huberty's reelection bid stating, "As Chairman of the Public Education Committee, Representative Huberty demonstrated incredible leadership by ushering in monumental reforms to our school fi-nance system. Representative Huberty also helped secure property tax reform, and he has proven to be a trustworthy conservative leader. I urge the people of Harris County to join me

in supporting him for re-

"I thank Governor Abbott for his endorsement. and I will continue to work with him to build a better future for my constituents and for all Texans," added

Huberty.

Huberty is active in the community. He is a board member of the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Com-merce; a member of the Knights of Columbus, and the Humble Intercontinental Rotary club; in addition he is a board member of

the Be an Angel Fund. He and his wife, Janet have been married 24 years. They live in Walden on Lake Houston with their two sons, Ryan and Dylan, and yellow labs, Rocky and Bullwinkle. Their eldest child, Brianna, is currently living in Lubbock, TX, while she attends Texas Tech Univer-



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Screenings to Identify Disabilities

CISD Special Education department provides screenings for children with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. Crosby ISD is committed to providing excellence in education to all students, and the screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs. Eligible students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special education services are also available starting at birth for eligible children who have a visual and/or auditory impairment.

If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281 328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star & Courier USPS 244-500

Barbers Hill *Dayton **PRESS** Editor & Publisher Gilbert Hoffman

Luis Hernandez Asst. Production Manager..... .Gerardo Hernandez

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Posting Date November 18, 2019 **King** Crossword

14 Firetruck need 15 Barbecue fuel 17 One side of the Urals 21 Police officer 22 Has potential 23 Should, with 10 "Yeah, right" 11 Defeat 35 No stay-at-

16 Coagulate 20 Rotating part

22 Oft-tattooed

word 23 Chances, for

short 24 Last (Abbr.)

"Gosh!"

26 Vagrant 27 Upper limb

21 Role

52 "Help!" 53 Maravich of basketball

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- sistently 30 Entreaty 31 "Delish!" 32 Small wagon 33 Breastbone
- "It's mine!" 36 Diving bird 37 Two, in

ACROSS Netting 5 Personal question Grouch 12 Liniment target 13 Chop

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7 1 6 8 6 9 1 7 Answer меекій гороко

Solution time: 21 mins. Answers - King Crossword test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MUSIC: Who composed the "1812 Overture"?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the sixth gift in the song "The Twelve Days of Christ-mas"? 3. SCIENCE: What is the softest mineral? 4. GOVERNMENT: Which amendment to the

U.S. Constitution abolished slavery?

5. ENTERTAINMENT: Who are the only two people to receive an Oscar award and a Nobel Prize? 6. U.S. STATES: How many states border Okla-

homa?
7. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel fea-

8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president's famous speech included the line, "Tear down this wall"?

9. GEOGRAPHY: Which country lies directly south of Venezuela?

10. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which fillmaker and author once wrote. "Don't you love New York."

and author once wrote, "Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address".

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Publisher's Birthday,



Gilbert and daughter Kristan

Gilbert with Carol and their

and quickly set about expanding the business. Their daughter Kristan was born soon after, and her childhood was spent playing happily among the print-ing presses. She drew pictures on paper samples and made dollhouses out of

empty shipping containers.

Meanwhile, Gilbert continued to practice architecture both as a consultant and independently. He and Mei-ing established their own firm, Hoffman-Liu Design Associates

NEWSPAPER MAN

Through the printing operations, Gilbert learned of a community paper for sale, and somehow convinced his wife to let him buy it. Ever since then, he has devoted his days to covering the news in several Houston area communities, including Aldine, Channelview, Crosby, Highlands, Jacinto City, and many more. You are likely to see him at neighborhood water with a common word bind.

hood events with a camera around his Gilbert as a kid, Pauline and Nana neck and a notepad in hand. Along with his dedicated staff, Gilbert documents high school football games, attends chamber of commerce meetings, and interviews local politicians. To integrate with the communities he covers, he has become a Rotarian and served on various boards of directors. His work as a journalist has been more meaningful and rewarding than he imagined, and has connected him with some of the

has connected him with some of the kindest and most interesting people he has ever known, many of whom he is proud to call his friends. With so many passions pursued and dreams fulfilled, it's hard to imagine what more Gilbert may do in the future that he hasn't already done in these past

80 years... This story was written in collabora-tion with his loving family.

 ${\it Happy\ birthday!!!}$

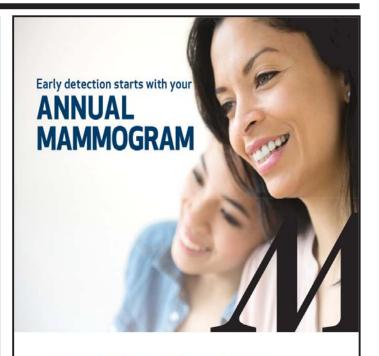




Gilbert and Mei Hoffman

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-Briscoe Cain, R. Texas House of Representatives District #128



Advanced Breast Care Close to Home

At Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown, our specialists review your mammogram history and track results over time - detecting changes earlier. That's why scheduling your mammogram starting at age 40 — or earlier, if you have a family history — is so important.

Our Breast Care Centers offer:

- The latest diagnostic technology: 3D mammograms and breast MRIs
- · Board-certified breast imaging radiologists
- · Acceptance of most major insurance plans

Visit houstonmethodist.org/breast-care and 844.454.PINK (7465) to schedule your mammogram at one of our eight convenient locations.









Volunteer Fire Department is Accepting Applications for Volunteers

- No previous experience required
- All training and gear provided
- Fast Track program for experienced firefighters Out of District program for those that do not live within Highlands, TX

Download application at www.highlandsfire.com or pick up a copy at Station 17 (123 San Jacinto St. Highlands, TX)

Email completed Fire Application along with signed background check authorization form to rhotchkiss@hcesd14.net or drop it off at Station 17 (123 San Jacinto St. Highlands, TX)

Apprince from Pearly Share 2/31/2019 (Next apprentice class starts 1/7/2020)