

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star  Courier

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Year in Review 2019
- United Way of Baytown check presentation
- Wreaths Across America
-And more, Page 3

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

THU. JAN. 16
Crosby Chamber Monthly Member Luncheon
Monthly luncheon, Thursday, January 16, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Stonebridge at Newport

SAT. FEB. 1
Highlands Rotary Club Chili Feast Raffle & Auction at St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 S. Main St., Highlands. 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Live auction 12:30 p.m. Raffle tickets \$100.

Most Common New Year's Resolutions

- Exercise more
- Diet or eat healthier
- Lose weight
- Get organized
- Learn a new skill or hobby
- Quit smoking
- Spend more time with family and friends
- Live life to the fullest
- Save more money/ spend less money
- Travel more
- Read more

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1—Linda Strickland
Jan 2—Eleanor Prescott
Cris Taylor
Jan 5—Bernice Leissner
Marvin Baker
Marie Bobalik
Brandon Taylor
Jan 6—Janci New

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 2—Bruce & Theresa Abbott
Jan 5—Dale & Natalie Smith

DEATHS

Joseph Andrew Gebhardt

Additions or Corrections are welcome:
713-266-3444

Rotary Chili Feast Feb. 1
Raffle to feature choice of 3 vehicles



HIGHLANDS - Preparations are underway for the 45th Annual Highlands Rotary Club's Chili Feast.

The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the social hall of St. Jude's Catholic Church, on Main Street in Highlands.

Chili Feast Chairman Andy Scott has made arrangements to bring back a popular vehicle in the raffle, a Chevy pick-up truck. The winner of the raffle will have a choice of this, or another vehicle, such as an SUV Chevy Equinox, or a sporty Camaro. Vehicles are being furnished by Turner Chevrolet in Crosby.

See *Chili Feast*, page 8



The winner of the Chili Feast Raffle will have a choice of the Chevy Colorado pick-up, above, or a Chevy Equinox or Camaro, from Turner Chevrolet, as seen below.



Hurricane Harvey's impact on healthcare

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY - The U.S. Census indicates that this area of Harris County from Kingwood to Lynchburg went from 14% without health insurance to about 21% following Hurricane Harvey. This is generally thought to be a product of locals having to make the difficult choice of spend the money to have health or spend the money to restore living.

Recently leaders in the health field and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, along with other public officials, addressed the state of health in Harris County on November 13 talking

See *Healthcare*, page 8



Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Adrian Garcia, and State Senator Carol Alvarado, address the problems of inadequate healthcare in Harris County.

Northeast's worst traffic, looking ahead
Navigating is more difficult east of Beltway

As Northeast Harris County continues to burgeon; filling roadways with more and more vehicles, locals have spent more and more time going to work and coming home.

With exceptional aggravation of two crafts crashing into the Interstate 10 bridge, extreme weather, extreme sea fog, larger divots pockmarking US 90 and freak accidents it has grown difficult to navigate the areas. In February locals were sure authorities had learned lessons about

See *Traffic*, page 8



Cleared trees and roadway markings indicate that widening FM 2100 is coming but construction delays and a general lack of access in and out of small sections means traffic delays are also ahead before the congestion can be relieved.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

Compiled from the files of the STAR COURIER

JANUARY

- CISD Superintendent Davis holds Community Convocation
- Reception held for retiring Congressman Gene Green
- Huffman ISD cites shoddy school construction
- Crosby EMS recognized for life-saving efforts
- Judge Bates holds reception to start her term
- Entertainers for Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo announced
- Highlands Firefighter of the Year is Ruben Lopez
- Rotary Chili Feast will be on Feb. 2
- Crosby Firefighter of the Year is Anthony Guzzo

FEBRUARY

- Bras for a Cause raises over \$200,000 for cancer fighters
- Frankie Brewer wins Rotary Chili Feast car
- Crosby Kroger store closing in April
- Crosby basketball coach Michelle Trotter named Coach of the Year in S.E. Texas
- Barge damages I-10 bridge, traffic on one side of highway only
- San Jacinto River Coalition stops permit for dumping in Beach City
- Crosby ISD audit finds false reports, cost over-runs / Former superintendent Keith Morrow apologizes to board and public
- Crosby AD Jeff Riordan, most winning coach, resigns for better offer from Tyler
- Highlands Rotary Club wins Terry Davis Award for community service from Highlands Chamber
- Crosby Chamber awards CRCU as Business of the Year, Dan and Jennifer Meaux as Citizen of the Year

MARCH

- Coby Carter to play the Crosby Rock'N C Roundup venue
- Jackie Young meets with EPA in Washington DC demanding action at Superfund site
- Huge ITC fire in Deer Park affects surrounding areas with air and water pollution
- Goose Creek CISD proposes \$335 million bond issue
- Cody bill passes Texas House by 145-0 votet
- Baseball and softball seasons open with parades in Highlands and Crosby
- ZXP CEO James Taylor speaks to Rotary about importance of the company to Highlands history and economy
- Crosby ISD ends financial crisis and need for layoffs.

APRIL

- KMCO plant in Crosby has explosion and fire, one dead and two injured
- Barrett Station Economic Development lead by Jerry Bluiitt, who spoke to the Rotary club about plans
- KMCO shut down by County Attorney after explosion
- President Trump visits Union training center in Crosby, community turns out to welcome him
- New pipeline fire on Crosby's Sralia Road adds to environmental concerns
- Judge Hidalgo announces Hurricane Harvey Recovery Program at news conference in Barrett Station
- Arkema refinery in Crosby, and its CEO Mike Keough, face felony charges from the fire during the Hurricane Harvey flood
- Performers announced for this year's Crosby Rodeo
- Crosby ISD names new Athletic Director/ Coach, Jerry Prieto

MAY

- I-10 Bridge lanes will reopen after repairs from Harvey barge collision

Continued on Page 8

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

Peso's, best Tex-Mex food prepared by real Tex-Mexicans

On the north end of Crosby a staple for a generation has grown in customer base and remains refreshing for patrons.

"There are diverse reasons why you come to restaurants," said Sergio Rodriguez, "A lot of first time customers say, 'It feels warm and welcoming here because of the way you guys treat people,' I say we want to do the proper things, making sure the food is good, the price is good, the drinks are good and do what we can to make sure customers know they are appreciated."

"We recently put in a room in the back that serves multiple purposes for public meetings, extended family gatherings and as a center for our patrons to gather in groups. We also cater, so you don't necessarily need to be here to get the

great quality we are so proud of serving."

There is a variety of ways to have your event catered also, they can simply drop the food off, they can have servers, or customers can simply pick up their own orders.

One can begin that process by calling (281) 328-4216, or go to their website www.pesostexmex.com.

"Most of the people really love our fajitas, when we cater – generally we offer the fajitas, unless otherwise specified. For our catering we make certain to provide everything everyone is going to need for their serving. We can offer specialty dishes but whatever the food choice we concentrate on appeasing the palate."

The steam table lunches attract lots of cash conscious locals the price just

went to \$7.99 at the start of the new year.

"Where you going to find a quality lunch with as large of portions as \$7.99? We offer that because it is the thing to do for our patrons," Sergio smiled. "That is available from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m."

The owner recommends a variety of dishes for the Tex-Mex customer, "We have a great tasting tender steak, a wide variety of Mexican dishes, we have specialties for women's taste in dining, right now the enchiladas and fajitas are the most popular. Both of those come in chicken or beef or both."

Beverages are another matter Sergio mentioned the margaritas but for the discriminating margarita consumer it is extra wonderful to experience the Cadillac.



Family and Friends of Sergio and Ofelia Rodriguez welcome all to fantastic margaritas, great fresh food and excellent service at Peso's Mexican Restaurant 6512 FM 2100 in Crosby, Texas. It isn't just the warmth and the great food, there is lots of fun to be had at this Crosby mainstay. When you are trying to bring a newcomer to Crosby be sure they experience Peso's to learn what it is all about to live in a bedroom community.

Commissioner Garcia announces Historic Public-Private partnership to monitor air quality in Harris County

\$1 million dollar grant to purchase air monitors and provide up-to-date air quality information

HARRIS COUNTY, TX – December 17th, 2019 – This week Commissioner Adrian Garcia announced that Harris County and Precinct 2 will receive a \$1 million dollar grant from the American Chemistry Council Foundation (ACC) to purchase air quality monitors, more stringent data analysis and collaboration with industry partners. This is the first time the ACC Foundation has developed and awarded a local government grant for a community air-monitoring network.

"This grant is a result of conversations that began



PCT. 2 COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA

in the wake of a series of industrial incidents in Precinct 2. We learned how potentially vulnerable our industry partners were and that more needed to be done to ensure their success and not their failure," said Commissioner Adrian

Garcia. "Residents need access to reliable and timely air-quality data at all times, and especially during a chemical emergency. Thanks to this collaboration, the County will be able to address data and communications gaps to ensure residents have the information they need to make decisions about what actions to take for their families' wellbeing in the unfortunate event dangerous chemicals are released," he continued.

The joint effort of members of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCM), Texas Chemistry Council (TCC), American Chemistry Council (ACC) and Harris County will enhance the

availability, transparency and interpretation of air monitoring data. The grant will support the following initiatives:

-The purchase of one stationary air monitor with gas chromatography capabilities. Estimated cost \$350k.

-Provide funds to support the ongoing engagement of the Houston Area Research Council to receive, analyze, interpret and communicate air-monitoring data in the event of significant safety events that could affect air quality. Estimated Cost: \$200k

-Provide funds to purchase handheld air monitors or other air monitoring equipment deemed appropriate to

augment current and future County air monitoring capabilities at key locations around the Houston Ship Channel. Estimated Costs: \$450k

"The chemical industry is deeply integrated into the communities and economies of Harris County. Our companies take their responsibility to be good neighbors very seriously," said Chris Jahn, President and CEO of ACC.

"Local industry reached out to Commissioner Garcia soon after several incidents in the first quarter of 2019 and shared with him our commitment to learn from the events. In 2020 and beyond we will be focused on encouraging strong safety performance

throughout the chemical industry and among our commercial partners including those in the transportation, distribution and storage sectors. We look forward to collaborating with Harris County, Precinct 2 and the citizens of east Harris County," added Jahn.

"Chemical manufacturers operating in Harris County have high standards of operational safety and environmental performance. Process Safety Management ideals and lessons learned have helped industry continuously improve safety performance over the past

See Partnership, PAGE 5



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Barbers Hill ★ Dayton **Press**

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

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

ROUND-UP

Goss Memorial Library events

Happy New Year! These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, January 6, 2020.

- Tuesday, January 7 - 10:00 am Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)

- Tuesday, January 7 - 6:30 pm Cork Dork Book Club @ Yopez Vineyard discussing "The Farm" by Joanne Ramos (ages 21 & up)

- Friday, January 10 - 10:00 am & 2:00 pm Storytime (ages 0-5 years)

Call Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu at 281-576-2245.

Boots and Bullets Event Tables Now Available

Get your boots ready to scoot, the annual Boots and Bullets event, benefitting the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department, is just around the corner. This premier Dayton event will take place on January 25, at 6 pm at the Dayton Community Center, featuring live music and dancing, silent and live auctions and raffles.

"We're really excited about how things are coming together. We're going to have some terrific entertainment and great auction items," said Captain John Coleman of the Dayton Police Department and event Co-Chair. "Everyone's guaranteed to have a good time."

Entertainment will be provided by Austin Tellez and local favorite, The Southern Breeze Band. VIP tables, which include a steak dinner, and wine or whiskey of choice, and Reserved tables should be reserved early; space is at a premium. The deadline to reserve a table is January 15. Tables seat 10.

VIP Table for 10 people - \$500 (Include steak dinner, two bottles of wine or one bottle of whiskey)

Reserved Table for 10 people - \$300 (Include two bottles of wine or one bottle of whiskey)

Single Tickets at the door \$15. All proceeds go to the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department, an all-volunteer organization that proudly protects an estimated 22,000 people living in an area of 144 square miles.

For more information or to reserve a table contact:

John Coleman: 936-346-1584, Tammy Alexander: 936-641-0100 or David Rodgers: 832-473-9880.

Robert E Lee HS

Four years later a plea deal in kidnap murder

Of four men charged in the February 2015 murder of two Robert E. Lee High School students one has been convicted but recently another had accepted a plea deal from District Attorney Cheryl Lieck.

Valentin Lazo, 32, accepted a plea that puts him in the penitentiary with a twenty five year sentence for his association with the murder of Alejandro Chavez, 18, and Jarvis Morgan, 17.

Also charged in the murder are Juan Jose Chavez, 21 and Brandon Flores, 23.

The teens were shot to death allegedly after Lazo and Richard Gonzales, 25, wrestled a gun from Jarvis Morgan and subdued the teens, threw them into the trunk of Morgan's vehicle and drove the students to a remote location in Chambers County, the property of Juan Chavez's grandmother.

Lazo's role in the murder include the struggle



VALENTIN LAZO

with the students, and using his truck to break open the locked gate at Chavez's grandmother's property. Lazo will likely get credit for the four years he has served in jail. But, the district attorney seems confident that he will serve most of the twenty five years he has agreed to serve.

Meanwhile, Richard Gonzales is awaiting his trial scheduled for April of this year in the Chambers

County Jail. Last April District Attorney Lieck convicted Jose Juan Chavez of Capital Murder.

After flight to Mexico to avoid prosecution for the murder, Brandon Flores was extradited to Chambers County in 2018 in time to testify against his former friends.

Gonzales was no-billed by a grand jury but in 2017 Gonzales was sentenced to 13 and a half years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon. Charges related to Gonzales going back into the store with the other charged suspects after the murders were committed.

The testimony of Brandon Flores, charged with capital murder, that fled to Mexico after the murders has been crucial in the gathering of evidence in the case but has been born out by video and other evidence as to what all transpired in the kidnaping and murder.

Liberty-Dayton Chamber participates in Wreaths Across America



The Liberty-Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is honored to be part of the annual Wreaths Across America event at Sam's Distribution Center #6698 in Dayton on December 13. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, wreath-laying ceremonies are coordinated at Arlington National Cemetery as well as more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad, honoring and remembering the men and women of our armed forces. The wreaths carried by the truck below are bound for the local ceremony at Houston National Cemetery. www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

United Way receives gift from Beta Sigma Phi

Women United, a United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County (United Way) affinity group, received a donation from the Baytown Chapters of Beta Sigma Phi. Melody Oviedo, immediate past president of the Beta Sigma Phi's XAGZ chapter said, "The Chapters' members wanted to donate the proceeds of their annual kickoff event to a local organization. They made their decision after learning about ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) and the Women United's mission to empower women." She presented the donation to Jennifer Walsh, who chairs the affinity group for United Way. Mrs. Walsh thanked her for the generous gift saying, "Women United is working on plans to host an outreach program. This gift will help support that pro-



Pictured (L-R): Melissa Reabold, CEO, United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers Co., Melody Oviedo, Beta Sigma Phi, Jennifer Walsh, Chair, Women United, and Traci Dillard, Director, United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers Co.

gram." Mrs. Oviedo spent time to learn more about Women United and United Way and hopes to engage Beta Sigma Phi to support the efforts helping

people improve their quality of life.

To learn more about ALICE and Women United, please visit www.unitedwaygacc.org.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

Compiled from the files of the
BARBERS HILL DAYTON PRESS

JANUARY

- Beach City concerned about dredge material disposal
- Hotchkiss will sponsor Diabetes Gala
- New Solar powered charging station in Mont Belvieu park

FEBRUARY

- San Jacinto Battleground expands by 23 acres
- New plant manager at Covestro industrial park
- Beach City dredging permit disposal site is cancelled

- WCC Pilot Club makes BrainMinders presentation
- Houston Methodist Baytown opens new Cancer Center

- Goose Creek CISD is celebrating its 100th Anniversary

- Boeing 767 Cargo jet crashes near Anahuac
- Las Vegas entertainer coming to Liberty Opry

MARCH

- Human remains and Debris recovered from cargo jet crash site
- Refinery fires occur at Exxon Baytown and ITC Deer Park

- Environmental concerns continue over ITC fire

APRIL

- San Jacinto Day Festival cancelled over ITC fire pollution concerns
- Baytown Youth Fair holds Cook-off

- Barbers Hill ISD tries to secure its own Community College

- WCC Pilot Club holds annual Gala
- Dayton Ole Tyme Days held inspite of inclement weather

MAY

- Goose Creek CISD holds election for bond issue, trustees
- ExxonMobil advances on \$2 Billion Baytown expansion

- Battleship Texas to have overnight ghost hunts
- Head Start opens new building
- WCC Pilot Club awards scholarships

JUNE

- Couquitts win Baytown Rotary raffle car
- Baytown Rotary awards \$24,000 in scholarships
- Boat crash leaves 3 dead, 4 injured near Old River-Winfreesy
- New staff and board at West Chamber County Chamber

JULY

- Astros Orbit visits Jones Library summer program
- Wire theft on 565 leads to Highlands pair
- Deputy Whiten honored by Congressman Babin
- Sheriff Hawthorne concerned about jail overcrowding

AUGUST

- Beach City will vote on 1.5% sales tax
- Illegal parlor on SH146 closed for prostitution
- ExxonMobil faces lawsuits over second fire this year
- Chambers County Sheriff's drug sting nets over 100 busts
- Three children drown at Sylvan Beach
- Two inmates escape Liberty County jail, recaptured

SEPTEMBER

- Pilot Club of Baytown installs new Board of Directors
- GatorFest brings out crowds, gators
- Protestors on Hartman Bridge arrested
- Heavy rain, tornados rip Baytown and Dayton
- Lee Machala of Crosby found murdered in house on Tri-City Beach Road

OCTOBER

- Old River-Winfree celebrates Founders Day
- Liberty County man, Andrew Bass, shoots 3 friends, charged with murder
- Barbers Hill holds Fall Festival
- Rupert Howard arrested in murder of Lee Machala of Crosby
- Dayton police officer David Myers delivers baby in pickup truck

NOVEMBER

- Body found at oil well site in Chambers County
- Girl Scouts hold gift wrapping fundraiser
- Body of Tamara Rivera of Baytown found in Chambers County
- Campaign starts to move Battleship Texas to Baytown
- Goose Creek CISD holds College Night
- Woman attacked and killed by feral hogs

DECEMBER

- Baytown Pilot Club holds Deck the Halls Tour of Homes
- Dayton home displays spectacular Christmas lights
- Children's Museum coming to Chambers County
- Mont Belvieu holds Christmas on the Hill parade
- San Jacinto Mall holds Last Christmas before closing



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – How Can We Change Social Security’s Earnings Limit?

Dear Rusty: How do we change the Social Security earnings cap amount? Do I need to go through my Congressman? Social Security is withholding my benefit because they say I earned too much. The system is very unfair! Signed: Disgruntled Worker

Dear Disgruntled: The Social Security earnings test has been a part of Social Security’s rules and regulations since the original Social Security Act of 1935. In fact, benefits were originally paid only if someone was not working at all, and if a beneficiary worked after they started collecting, they lost all benefits. The law has undergone changes over the years to bring it to where it is today, which is to limit the amount of earnings someone can have while collecting Social Security prior to their full retirement age before taking back some benefits.

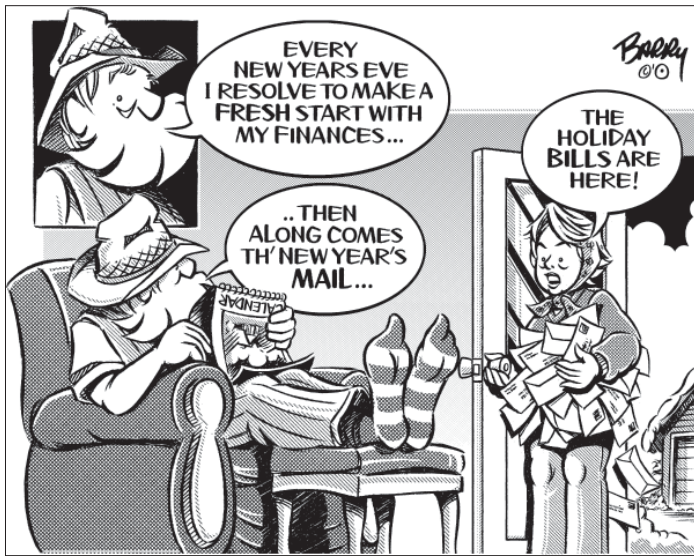
If the earnings limit is exceeded, and you have not yet reached your full retirement age, Social Security typically withholds your benefits until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. The limit is adjusted annually based upon changes to the National Wage Index, and the annual limit for 2020 is \$18,240, up from \$17,640 last year. There is also a “first year rule” which will subject those who haven’t yet reached their full retirement age and claim benefits mid-year to a monthly limit (1/12th of the annual limit) for the remainder of that year. The earnings limit increases significantly (by about 2.6 times) during the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA), and goes away entirely once your FRA is attained.

As you are probably aware, exceeding the limit will cause Social Security to take back \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit, or if you’re subject to the “first year rule” they will take back your entire benefit for any month you exceed the monthly limit. In the year you reach your FRA (but before your FRA) the “penalty” for exceeding the limit is less severe - \$1 for every \$3 over the limit. What you may not be aware of is that when you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will give you time credit for any months you did not receive benefits because

you exceeded the earnings limit and receiving that time credit at your FRA will result in your benefit being increased. For example, if, over the years before you reached your FRA, Social Security withheld 12 months of benefits due to you exceeding the earnings limit, when you reach your full retirement age Social Security will recalculate your benefit to account for those 12 months by changing your claim date to 12 months later than when you actually applied. That will increase your benefit somewhat and, as a result, you may be able to eventually recoup some, or all, of the benefits which were withheld (depending upon your longevity).

How can we change the earnings cap? Well, the earnings limit already increases automatically each year with changes to the National Wage Index. But if you mean how can we eliminate it, I’m not optimistic that is possible since it would require full Congressional approval as well as Executive Branch approval to do so, and since Congress is now more focused on Social Security’s broader issue of the Trust Fund being depleted in about 2035 (which will result in an across-the-board cut in benefits unless Congress acts sooner). Nevertheless, you should certainly feel free to bring your concerns about Social Security’s “earnings cap” to the attention of your Congressional Representatives. Congressional Representatives are always willing to hear and understand the concerns of their constituents, and Social Security is very much a topic of discussion in Congress today.

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



THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Sparkles”

I glanced up as the bells rang to herald new customers walking into the used clothing store. I was looking for a pair of warm dress pants. Visiting my parents in Minnesota, I had forgotten entirely about the possibility of extreme cold and the idea of going out that night in tights and a skirt seemed preposterous.

Luckily, I found a like-new pair of black jeans with just a little sparkle on the pocket for a good price. I was wandering around the store with these jeans in my hand—just in case I saw something else that I might need—while I waited for the line at the check-out counter to get a little shorter. Maybe I could find a silver jacket. I thought, that would look nice on a cold winter night.

A woman and man had parked their pick-up outside and come into the store. The woman marched in a determined fashion to a rack in the middle of the store. She was a heavyset woman and it looked as if she had located this rack on a previous visit. She approached with a grim determination.

She and the man she was with were standing in front of the rack of dark colored clothing as I slipped by with my sparkly jeans in hand. The woman was holding out an article of clothing for the man’s inspection.

“They’ll all be wearing sparkly clothes,” she said, sounding dejected. “This is just black... not sparkly.”

I almost said, “Sparkles are fun!” because they are—and because she sounded so sad that I wanted to say something to cheer her up. But I realized this was probably not the right thing to say so I stood silent, my back to the couple reviewing the unseen, unsparkled outfit that I suspected was going to be worn very soon.

“I think it will look good,” the man said—rather unconvincingly, I thought.

The woman stood silent, holding the black garment, visualizing (I am quite sure) a room full of happy women in sparkly dresses.

She sighed. “Okay. Let’s go.” She took the black garment to the front counter without trying it on and moments later they were gone. They whole transaction took less than ten minutes and seemed completely void of holiday cheer.

I went home with my sparkly jeans and wore them out that night with an old friend. We stayed up late, laughing at the crazy things we had done together over the years and sharing crazy plans for the new year. But, after he was gone, for some reason I thought again of the unhappy woman I’d seen earlier in the day.

I wondered where she had gone, where this room of sparkly women had been and if the black garment had pleased her once she had finally tried it on. I suddenly felt unreasonably sad and wished that she had found something with sparkles on it—something silver or red or gold or green—something that would have made her happy and excited to greet the New Year.

There are so many expectations at this time of year. Sometimes it’s too much. Sometimes it is just too hard.

I watched the snow begin to fall and was filled with terrible feeling of tenderness and gratitude and a desire to try—to try a bit harder this year. I am going to try to be kinder. I’m going to try to slow down. I’m going to try to feel all of it in this new year—even the parts that hurt.

Maybe those in particular.

Till next time, Carrie
Carrie Classon’s memoir, “Blue Yarn,” was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Paxton lauds 5th Circuit ruling against Affordable Care Act

AUSTIN — After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit declared the individual mandate in “Obamacare” unconstitutional on Dec. 18, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton expressed his agreement.

“The Fifth Circuit’s holding is clear: the federal government cannot order private citizens to purchase subpar insurance products that they don’t want,” Paxton said. “The individual mandate is the centerpiece of Obamacare and I am glad the Fifth Circuit recognized that it is unlawful.”

Paxton said he looks forward to demonstrating in federal district court that the rest of the law cannot stand without the individual mandate, and added:

“Yesterday’s decision is a win for the rule of law,” he said. “Finally being rid of this law will be a victory for all Americans.”

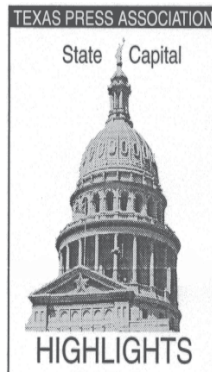
The lawsuit against the federal government was filed in U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Texas by Paxton and a list of other state attorneys general. Paxton said it would be up to the lower court to determine whether any part of the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, referred to as “Obamacare,” can remain, in light of the mandate’s unconstitutionality.

In Texas and 38 other states where the federal government administers health exchanges, health insurance premiums rose an average of 105 percent from 2013 to 2017, Paxton said.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld Obamacare in 2012, but a majority of the justices agreed that the law’s individual mandate was constitutional only because its accompanying tax penalty could justify forcing individuals to purchase health insurance under Congress’ taxing power. Devoid of that penalty, Obamacare’s individual mandate cannot be preserved as a tax, rendering Obamacare entirely unlawful, Paxton said.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



Meanwhile, according to U.S. Census data, an estimated five million Texas residents, or nearly 18 percent of the state’s population, do not have health insurance.

TPWD promotes hikes

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on Dec. 20 encouraged Texans “to kick off the next decade of adventures at a Texas State Park by participating in a First Day Hike.”

To foster the effort, the agency scheduled a variety of events on New Year’s Day. First Day Hikes aim to help visitors commit to their New Year’s resolutions to get healthy, the agency said.

First Day Hikes events include strolls on scenic trails, midnight walks, polar plunges, bike rides and short treks with four-legged family members and more strenuous hikes for experienced visitors.

Last year, according to Texas Parks & Wildlife, 77 state parks hosted First Day Hike events in which an estimated 4,000 participants walked, paddled and biked.

A list of events is posted online at tpwd.texas.gov.

Jobless rate stays low

The Texas Workforce Commission on Dec. 20 announced that the Lone Star State’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.4% in November.

The rate marks the sixth consecutive month of record low unemployment in the state. Also, 3.4% is the lowest unemployment rate since series tracking began in 1976, according to an agency news release.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) recorded November’s lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.1%, followed by the Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock MSAs each with an adjusted rate of 2.5%. The College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs each recorded the third lowest rate at 2.6%.

Reps vote on impeachment

The U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 18 voted to approve two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump.

The vote on Article I, Abuse of Power, was 230 for, 197 against and 1 present/not voting. The vote on Article II, Obstruction of Congress, was 229 for, 198 against and 1 present/not voting.

For Texas’ 36-member House delegation, the vote was partisan. All 23 Republicans voted not to approve both articles and all 13 Democrats voted to approve both articles.

As of the deadline for this column, the articles of impeachment had not been forwarded to the U.S. Senate, where the president would be tried in accordance with Article 3 of the U.S. Constitution, with the Honorable John Roberts, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, presiding.

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OBITUARIES

Joseph Andrew Gebhardt

Joseph Andrew Gebhardt, 93, long-time and proud resident of Jacinto City, passed away December 26, 2019 in Houston, Texas.

Joseph (Joe) was born on April 29, 1926 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to parents George and Margaret Gebhardt. He was a graduate of Myers High School and Penn State University. Joseph trained as a Navy pilot during WWII. He was a member at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, the Holy Name Society, Heritage Hall, and American Legion Craig Post 499. After a long career in the oil tool industry, he retired from Stewart and Stevenson in 1993. Joe became an



avid bridge player (he and Liz were hard to beat) and enjoyed gardening plus spending time with his family.

He is lovingly survived by his wife of 64 years, Helen Elizabeth (Liz); children, Laurie Wheway and husband Ashley, Helen Jackson and husband Chuck, Joseph Gebhardt Jr. and wife Donna; sister,

Margaret Ford of Waverly, PA; grandchildren, Charles Kinard and wife Kim, Elizabeth Bauman, Nicholas Jackson; great-grandchildren, Caden and Kinsley Kinard; as well as extended family members and friends.

Memorial services with military honors provided by the United States Navy will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the chapel of Houston National Cemetery where inurnment will immediately follow.



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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Nahum in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Acts 7, who recounts the story of Abraham along with the captivity and freedom of the children of Israel? Paul, Peter, Stephen, Andrew
3. From II Corinthians 3:17, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is ...?" Hope, Liberty, Love, Peace
4. Who went to sleep and fell out the window while Paul preached? Esua, Enid, Eutyclus, Eucyrus
5. In what Macedonian city were Paul and Silas imprisoned? Philippi, Neapolis, Jericho, Jerusalem
6. From Acts 13:6, Barjesus was a ...? Cousin of Jesus, Early priest, Sorcerer, Friend of Mark

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Stephen; 3) Liberty; 4) Eutyclus; 5) Philippi; 6) Sorcerer

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online. (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Students collect blankets for Hospital's patients



Fifth grade GATE students in Linda LeDay's class at Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary (from left) Maya Lilley, Addison Sanford and Julian Perez sort the blankets they collected during their "Keeping Hearts Warm Blanket Donation" project for patients in need at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

CHURCH LISTINGS

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown

ANGLICAN CHURCH

• Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-661-9693.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

• First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516

• First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170

• Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

• Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409

• Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470

• Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723

• Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223

• Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"

BAPTIST-Missionary

• Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565

• First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634

• Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650

• True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637

• Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

BAPTIST-Southern

• First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564

• First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551

• First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888

• Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, nsbhighlands.org

• Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557

• Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

• Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

• Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rock, Baytown, 281-426-8448

• Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871

• St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451

• St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422

• St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478

CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496

• Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742

• Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882

CHURCH OF GOD

• First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518

• Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

• Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

• Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Churhc St., Crosby.

INDEPENDENT

• Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310

• Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705

• New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315

• Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000

• Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

• Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

• Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616

• Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614

• Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION

• Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, TX. 77523. ☎281-576-5452.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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

Channelview, Jacinto City, Galena Park, Houston

• Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST

• New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-456-0082

• Second Baptist Church, 1913 18th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.

• Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.

• St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.

• First Baptist Church, 1505 1st St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

• Macedonia Baptist Church, 1230 Maxnie Street, Houston, TX. 77049. 713-674-6607.

BAPTIST-Southern

• Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.

• South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.

• First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.

• Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

• Church of Christ, 15821 2nd St., Channelview, TX. 713-826-2884.

• Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-7129.

• Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

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

HOLINESS

• Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City. 713-671-3500.

• Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.

• Jacinto City United Methodist, 10730 Wiggins, Houston, TX. 713-673-7132.

• Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, TX. 713-453-7203.

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Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

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--Jeremiah 17:14

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I Corinthians 13:8

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Pride only breeds quarrels,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Partnership,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

several decades," said Gary Piana, Chair of the EHCMA board. "Through this grant, we are pledging to both Harris County and the citizens of east Harris County that we are committed to making further enhancements to our safety performance, communication and transparency."

Piana also pointed out that industry is making private air monitoring data available to TCEQ and Harris County to ensure they have the data necessary to make informed decisions about public health and safety during industry events. The Houston Regional Monitoring network board approved providing monitoring data to Harris County during a recent board meeting.

Industry members reinforced a commitment to work with Harris County and to develop a model that can be used in other jurisdictions in the region and across the nation.

"Industry values the partnership with Harris County, especially Commissioner Garcia in Precinct 2 where many of our industry facilities operate," said Hector Rivero, President of TCC. "Our members are committed to working with Harris County and the local cities, and developing a model that will enhance similar collaborative working relationships in the region and across the nation."

In addition to the \$1 million grant, the industry group is also proposing to provide Harris County with specific air monitor data that can help inform public health and safety decisions in the event of an incident. Additionally, industry will develop an "Industry 101" program that can help educate government officials and first responders about industry facilities and operations.

"This is a significant first step toward ensuring Harris County becomes a national model and leads the way in collaboration between industry, community organizations and government to promote a healthy and economically strong area. Together we can work to ensure our residents feel safe, engaged and educated about our industry neighbors," said Commissioner Garcia.

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★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital recognizes Vasquez as DAISY Award Winner

BAYTOWN — (December 30, 2019) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital recognized Laura Vasquez as a winner of the 2019 DAISY Awards.

The DAISY Award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the "super-human" tasks nurses perform every day. Community Resource Credit Union serves as the sponsor of the DAISY Award program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

Vasquez, a nurse on the hospital's 3 West unit, was praised by a patient under her care for not only being attentive to her needs, including thoroughly explaining medications, but for also treating the patient's room "neighbor" with kindness and dignity on several occasions.

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, Calif., and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died in 1999 at the age of 33 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Barnes and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. Each month, a nurse is selected by a nursing committee to receive the DAISY Award.

At a presentation that includes the nurse's colleagues, physicians, patients, and visitors, the honorees receive a certificate commending them for being an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." The honor-



Laura Vasquez

ees are also given a beautiful sculpture called A Healer's Touch; hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe of Zimbabwe, Africa.

One day while Barnes was in the hospital, he asked his family to bring him a Cinnabon cinnamon roll plus enough for all the nurses in his unit. With the help of Cinnabon's parent company, FOCUS Brands, the DAISY Foundation carries on this tradition by serving Cinnabons to all the nurses in the award recipient's unit in thanks for everything they do for their patients and families.

Bonnie Barnes, president and co-founder of the DAISY Foundation, stated, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experi-

enced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide acutely ill patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human work they do. The kind of work the nurses at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of the DAISY Award."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is proud to be among the hospitals participating in the DAISY Award program. Nurses are heroes every day, and given the current national nursing shortage, the DAISY Award plays an important role in letting our nurses know their work is highly valued.

Houston Methodist Baytown achieves Surgical Milestone

BAYTOWN — (December 20, 2019) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital achieved a significant milestone this fall when colorectal surgeon Dr. Ziad Kronfol performed the hospital's 1,000th robotic surgical procedure.

Utilizing the da Vinci robotic surgical platform, Kronfol performed the minimally-invasive procedure on October 31 on a male colon cancer patient. Used by colorectal, general, cardiothoracic, obstetrics and gynecology and urology surgeons at Houston Methodist Baytown, robotic surgery procedures help reduce the risk of complications, pain and recovery time for patients.

"It was an honor to perform the 1,000th robotic surgical procedure at Houston Methodist Baytown," Kronfol said. "Robotic procedures offer improved visualization and instrument articulation, which enables a more precise dissection and utilizes the smallest incisions possible. This allows the patient to recover faster and return to normal activities much faster than before."

In robotic surgery, the robot translates surgical



Dr. Ziad Kronfol

movements to perform fine, controlled maneuvers inside the body through very small incisions. The robot improves the dexterity of the surgeon's hand, allowing for complex operations to be performed with increased accuracy. The da Vinci platform provides 3D, high definition vision and utilizes four interactive mechanical arms.

Denise Martinez, Houston Methodist Baytown's director of perioperative services and the ambulatory surgery center, says the milestone procedure is a testament to the trust Baytown area patients have placed in the hospital's skilled surgeons.

"Our patients benefit from the skill and exper-

tise of our surgeons' use of the da Vinci robotic system to perform minimally-invasive procedures that allow for quicker recovery, which helps them return to their normal activities much quicker," Martinez said.

Bariatric surgeon Dr. Laura Choi, chair of Houston Methodist Baytown's Robotic Committee, said surpassing the 1,000th procedure threshold is a celebration of the commitment the surgeons and the hospital have made to providing unparalleled care to the community.

"The 1,000-case milestone is important because it not only reflects the initial investment in this state-of-the-art technology by Houston Methodist Baytown, but the commitment of the surgeons and surgical teams to provide a value proven innovation to our community," Choi said. "It also shows the level of experience we have accumulated in a short amount of time with excellent outcomes."

For more information on the full range of robotic and general surgical procedures available at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 832-556-6046.

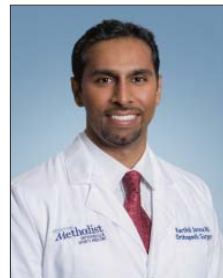
Resolve to End Joint Pain

BAYTOWN — (December 27, 2019) — Thousands of joint pain sufferers in the U.S. will find relief in 2020 thanks to technological advances that make total joint replacement surgery one of the most common orthopedic surgical procedures.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) reports more than 700,000 total knee replacement surgeries and nearly 400,000 total hip replacement procedures are performed each year in the U.S. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to be free from the agony of joint pain so you can get back to enjoying the things you love, Karthik Jonna, MD, orthopedic surgeon with the Houston Methodist Joint Pain Program at Baytown, says improvements in surgical techniques and artificial joint construction and materials make the procedures an effective option for combating joint pain.

"Joint replacement surgery is one of the true miracles of modern medicine," Jonna said. "It gets people back to their life doing the things they want to do and used to take for granted."

Younger patients are also opting to undergo joint replacement. A new study indicates the average age of hip replacement patients has declined from about 66 to just under 65, while the average age for knee replacement surgeries has dipped from 68 to



Dr. Karthik Jonna

under 66.

More than 63 million adults, or 26.3 percent of the population, suffer from chronic joint pain, according to a report from the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative. Knee pain is the most common, at 16.7 percent, followed by pain in the shoulder (7.8 percent) and hip (6.4 percent). Fingers, ankles, wrists, elbows and toes are other common targets.

Affecting one in five Americans, arthritis—primarily osteoarthritis—is the typical culprit in making joints so stiff, tender and painful that joint replacement surgery is often considered. But Jonna says there are other conditions that may trigger joint pain.

In addition to osteoarthritis, Jonna says conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, lupus, bursitis, gout, lyme disease, fibromyalgia and temporomandibular joint disorders, which cause pain in joints and

muscles controlling jaw movement and may sometimes accompany fibromyalgia, may all produce symptoms marked by various degrees of joint pain.

Jonna says because determining the cause of your joint pain is the first step toward getting the relief that can help you resume normal activities, scheduling an appointment with an orthopedic specialist is imperative.

"Early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent, minimize or delay joint damage and pain and enhance quality of life," Jonna said.

To schedule an appointment with an orthopedic specialist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown, or call 281-427-7400.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

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



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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 is 5915 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 is Crosby Fire Station No. 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 ("District")
The District's administrative office is located at 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas 77015.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 ("District")
The District's administrative office is located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, Texas 77530.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 480356; Estate of JUANITA P. FORD Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2019.

SULAIN BLACKBURN
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:
c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this December 17, 2019
Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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CALL 713-266-3444

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps
DAD, THE OLDER I GET IT SEEMS I ENJOY FIXING LITTLE THINGS AROUND THE HOUSE.
I'LL SPEND HOURS FIXING A LOCK OR CHANGING OUT AN OUTLET...AND ENJOY IT?
OH MY GOSH, I THINK I'VE OFFICIALLY BEGUN TO TINKER.
WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE MY AGE THAT IS WHEN YOU PUTTER.

R.F.D. by Mike Marland
5! 4! 3! 2! 1!
HAPPY SNOOZE YEAR!
Z Z Z

The Spats by Jeff Pickering
I NEED TO GET INTO SHAPE.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE MY BICEPS LOOK LIKE UNICEPS.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

		3		4	2	1		
	2		1					4
7			3		8			
	9		4			6		
		8	9			7		
6				3			5	
		2	5				8	
8				2				9
	5				6	4		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Woman's shirt is black. 2. Stars added to wall on right. 3. Woman is wearing hat. 4. Letters are black. 5. Window is missing. 6. Decorations added to wall on left.

Posting Date December 30, 2019

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Big fish story?
5 Chart
8 Chow —
12 Reverberate
13 Commotion
14 Loosen
15 Sense
16 Result of canonization
18 Liberty
20 Supermarket section
21 Fellow
22 Former M&M's color
23 O. Henry's specialty
26 Realm
30 Distant
31 Compete
32 Rage
33 Hollywood hope
36 140-character message
38 Conger, e.g.
39 Prohibit
40 Islamic decree
43 Ennui
47 Haphazardly
49 Church section
50 Active one
51 Gist
52 Family
53 Raced
54 Noshed
55 Maintained

DOWN
11 Alaskan city
17 Flatbread of India
19 Rotation duration
22 Dead heat
23 Conditions
24 Snitch
25 Man-mouse link
26 Basinger or Catrall
27 Conk out
28 Raw rock volume
29 Bumped into
31 Encyc. component
34 Finder's fee

35 Campus VIP
36 Pitch
37 Mechanic's tool
39 Layered ice cream treat
40 Crazes
41 On
42 Genealogy display
43 Match in the ring
44 "Over hill, over — ..."
45 Ellipse
46 Fix
48 "CSI" evidence

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What were the names of the villainous agents in "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"?
- MUSIC: Which rock group produced the album "Shout at the Devil" in the 1980s?
- LAW: What was the subject of the landmark legal case titled Furman v. Georgia?
- MEDICAL: What is a more common name for dyspepsia?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does a lepidopterist study?
- LITERATURE: How many ghosts appear in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"?
- LANDMARKS: What lies around the feet of the Statue of Liberty?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories?
- MOVIES: What was "Flipper" in the 1996 movie?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was Richard Nixon's middle name?

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers
King Crossword

1. Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale; 2. Motley Crue; 3. Capital punishment; 4. Indigestion; 5. Butterflies and moths; 6. Four; 7. Broken chains, symbolizing liberation; 8. Yellowknife; 9. A dolphin; 10. Mitohus

★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

Compiled from the files of the STAR COURIER

- Goose Creek passes \$335 million bond issue
- EPA holds meeting in Highlands to update public on Superfund site work
- Highlands Horizons awards 10 scholarships
- Crosby ISD names Top 10 graduating seniors
- Crosby Rodeo holds Lil Cowpoke pageant
- Highlands Rotary awards \$32,000 in scholarships
- Scott Stephens Cody Bill for heart screenings passes in Legislature
- Severed head found near Lake Houston
- Memorial Day celebrated at Sterling-White Cemetery
- Pet Dog savagely killed in Highlands
- Battleship Texas will be repaired, moved to new location

JUNE

- Crosby Rodeo holds Parade, Cook-off
- Hargrave HS wins State Softball Championship in 4A
- "Tough Enough" awards \$172,000 to Cancer organizations
- Baytown Youth Fair livestock auction nets \$19,000 for champion steer
- Crosby's Hunter Hearn signs baseball contract with Philadelphia
- Superfund Waste Pits cap needs major repairs
- K of C holds Klobasa Festival in Crosby

JULY

- Semi truck plunges off I-10 bridge, driver dies
- Boat crashes into bulkhead near Rio Villa, one boater dies
- Eastside Veterans hold Car Show
- Turner Chevrolet celebrates 5 years in business
- Barrett Station celebrates Homecoming
- Scott Stephens tells Rotary about efforts to pass Cody bill HB76

AUGUST

- Pct. 3 Constable's race has 3 entries, including Eagleton, Jones, Florus
- Machete wielding robber captured in Highlands
- Pct. 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia details improvement plans
- Crosby ISD will use bond funds to solve budget crisis
- Scott Stephens' goal for fundraiser is \$270,000 for heart screenings
- Two Highlands schools receive a "D" rating from the State TEA
- Bus service in East Harris County to expand

SEPTEMBER

- AMTRAK train hits semi truck in Liberty County, 20 injured
- Channel 13 will broadcast a program about Crosby
- Rotary holds annual Washer Tournament
- Crosby Education Foundation holds Casino Night
- Crosby ISD sets yearly budget at \$9.36 million in revenue
- Tropical Storm IMELDA flooding paralyzes Houston area
- Barge strikes and damages I-10 bridge, traffic stopped
- EPA holds Superfund update meeting in Highlands
- Crosby's Lee Machala brutally murdered in Chambers County

OCTOBER

- Highlands Jamboree "Celebrate Highlands" takes place first Saturday
- Crosby's CzechFest is held Sunday at the Fairgrounds
- Miss Highlands pageant names Haley Maxey as Miss Highlands, Aubrey Bird as Jr. Miss Highlands
- Driver killed in wrong-way crash on US90, family injured
- Highlands Rotary donates ECG machine to Goose Creek CISD
- Crosby Homecoming names Chrissa Jacobson as queen, Tyler Friday as king
- Highlands cyclist Devin Custer killed saving fiancée
- Crosby Church holds Extreme Machine event

NOVEMBER

- Crosby FFA students win highest national award at FFA convention
- Eagle Scout Logan Lopez will improve Heritage Park in Highlands
- Veterans saluted with parade in Crosby
- Harris County Judge Hidalgo gives State of the County talk
- Highlands Rotary prepares Holiday gifts for distribution
- Crosby woman Kelly Turner tried in Colorado for murder of her daughter
- Harris County Clerk opens branch office in Wallisville courthouse
- Water rates on the rise everywhere
- Pct. 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks at Crosby Chamber luncheon

DECEMBER

- Santa arrives in Highlands on a fire truck. Rotary serves hot chocolate, Pilot Club cookies to a large crowd of families
- Heritage Park in Highlands the scene of decorated Christmas trees and Santa in the Park Pavilion
- Crosby gets high tech traffic controls for emergency vehicles
- Liberty waste disposal site in Highlands is the subject of a presentation at the San Jacinto River Coalition meeting
- Crosby holds Christmas parade and Festival
- Crosby emergency Helipad gets flight path approval from the FAA
- Rotary president Sheila McDonald receives Master Builder Award from the Masonic Sampson Lodge in Highlands
- I-10 bridge traffic lanes will return to normal in January after repairs to support columns are completed
- Christmas is celebrated in Crosby with Clothe-A-Child, and in Highlands with Share Your Christmas involving the local clubs and churches

Traffic in East Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

craft hovering just above the I-10 Bridge on the San Jacinto River when the bridge had to be partially shut down after high water swept a craft into the bridge doing extensive damage. The locals were just wrong and in September it again happened. Most of the year the vital Interstate was below capacity. In mid-Summer a freak wreck plunged a 18 wheeler into the river killing the driver, traffic was affected from Mont Belvieu to Humble in each of these cases.

It seemed that any incident in the region stopped traffic everywhere. A protest on the Fred Hartman Bridge snarled traffic throughout and part of Chambers County.

As excitement grows for FM 2100 to be expanded,

FM 1942, the single east west corridor to the oil patch, overtook the Main Street artery for most serious accidents in 2019. Ask any first responder, the amount of traffic related accidents has grown rapidly in northeast Harris County. FM 1942 was a two lane shell road now handling traffic along a major pipeline throughout, now thanks to a parking lot and expanded industrial installations FM 1942 rarely flows near 5:00 p.m.

The promise and temporary annoyance of Highway 99 coming in remains mysterious but overpasses are now visible. About a mile west of Texas 146 a concrete wall juts from a frontage road as one of three new segments of the Grand Parkway begins. The wide open spaces of

country aspect of this vicinity soon will bloom into neighborhoods. Work is about 30 percent completed on the three newest segments of 99, adding about 53 miles of tollway. The expected result not only runs from Highway 59 in New Caney to Highway 146 in Mont Belvieu. It implies that FM 2100 in the northern section of Huffman will be calling for completion and construction delays near the Commons in the near future.

Certainly the traffic situation is going to get a lot worse before it gets better for commuters, a sure sign that growth is here, but preparation has not been accomplished.

Rotary Chili Feast,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Every year the club cooks some delicious chili for the community, as they wait expectantly for the winner of the raffle to be announced. Chester's Famous Recipe is reknowned as the best tasting ever since he first cooked it.

There are only 700 raffle tickets, at \$100 donation apiece, and 15 other valuable prizes. The chances of winning are quite high. Tickets are available from any Rotarian, many local businesses in Highlands and Crosby, or call 713-426-3558.

You can also come only for the chili lunch, at \$7.00 and stay for the silent and live auction, with many unique items. Tickets are



Last year's raffle winner was Frankie Brewer, center, with some of the Rotarians who put on the Chili Feast.

available at the door.

Club president Sheila McDonald reminds the public that proceeds from the Chili Feast are used for the benefit of the community, supporting youth project, scholarships, and other worthwhile events.

Sheila also said that sponsors are still needed, and will benefit from publicity and tickets to the lunch and auction. Contact her at 713-586-4888 if you would like to help, or also if you are interested in joining the club.

Health Care in Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about the economic impact and healthcare needs.

A survey provided a picture of Hurricane Harvey depriving locals of access to quality healthcare. In addition to the data and research on health care in Harris County the research suggests ways to improve it.

Some 32 Billion dollars was spent on unnecessary Emergency Room visits in America last year. Fifty-six percent of Hispanics are uninsured, four times the rate of whites and roughly three times that of blacks and Asians. Undocumented Hispanics accounted for only about six percent of the total.

Life expectancy varies widely depending on which part of the county one lives and the population has superseded regional health care infrastructure. Life expectancy in Harris County is said to be about 78.7 years. But it may be as low as 65 or as high as 89 depending on where you live in the county.

It was found that obesi-

ty, high blood pressure and diabetes were most numerous chronic health problems affecting county residents. Thirty-two percent meet the definition for obesity, 29 percent suffer from hypertension and 13 percent have diabetes, numbers that mask even higher rates in the disadvantaged areas.

Nineteen percent of responded they had trouble obtaining food in the last 12 months. More than 10 percent of black residents found it difficult regularly and a quarter of both blacks and Hispanics had the problem.

But there is a difference of opinion between private enterprise and county government as to what the nature of insurance problems are.

Freddy Warner, Chief Government Relations Officer at Memorial Hermann Health System, sees solutions to the healthcare industry somewhat differently but all agree uninsured contributes to an overall problem by driving

up costs.

In 2018, close to 5 million uninsured people lived in Texas, about 17.7% of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The uninsured rate in Harris County was 22% compared to a national uninsured rate of 8.5%.

According to Warner, "I think that it's important for the business community to understand some of the fiscal dynamics that underpin healthcare policy at the federal level and also at the state level. I think it's important for people to understand the challenges that healthcare providers, hospitals, physicians have in serving a state and serving a region that has such a high percentage of uninsured."

Warner said the focus should be on expanding healthcare to provide access and lower the costs of care so that there are better ways to prevent emergency-room-only patients and provide health care.

Highlands Rotary Club's

45th Annual CHILI FEAST

Raffle & Auction

St. Jude's Catholic Church
808 S. Main Street, Highlands

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live Auction 12:30
Saturday, February 1, 2020

Win a new Vehicle. Your choice of
2020 CHEVY CAMARO or 2020 EQUINOX SUV or 2020
COLORADO Pick-up from Turner Chevrolet.

Raffle Tickets \$100.00 Donation
Meal Tickets \$7.00

Raffle Tickets purchased prior to Jan. 14, 2020 will be eligible for an iPad Mini Drawing.
Winners need not be Present to Win!
Payment of all local, state and federal taxes will be the responsibility of the winner.
Proceeds donated back to our Community for Scholarships & Community Programs.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALL HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS

Tickets also available this year on FACEBOOK!

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MANY AREA & HIGHLANDS STORES

Early Drawing	IPAD Mini	450th Ticket.....	\$250 Gift Card
50th Ticket.....	Two Fit Bit Activity Trackers	500th Ticket.....	Waspper 3200 Gas Power Washer
100th Ticket.....	Bose Soundlink Speaker	550th Ticket.....	Shotgun
150th Ticket.....	Amazon ECHO	600th Ticket.....	Yeti 45 qt. Tundra
200th Ticket.....	\$150 Gift Card	650th Ticket.....	Rifle 6.5
250th Ticket.....	Ring Doorbell	699th Ticket.....	55" TV
300th Ticket.....	28" Blackstone Griddle	700th Ticket.....	2020 Chevy Camaro or
350th Ticket.....	\$200 Gift Card		2020 Chevy Equinox or 2020 Chevy Colorado Pick-up
400th Ticket.....	GoPro Hero 7		(Color & Model may vary from Pictures)

Posters Courtesy of the Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER