

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Mont Belvieu Farmers Market
- First baby of 2020
- Barbers Hill Bank

.....And more, Page 3

★
IN THE STARS

EVENTS

WED. JAN. 15
Community Conversations

From 4-6 pm at Sterling Municipal Library, 1 Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Ave., Baytown. Hosted by United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County. Your opinion counts. Let's Chat!

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. Speaker Richard Robbins with the United States Census 2020.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

- Jan 10—William H. Smith
- Tristan Brumfield
- Jan 11—Tracey Browder
- Elizabeth Bulanek
- Jan 12—Dick Emery
- Veronica Henry
- Jan 13—Hunter Bradford
- Antonio Hernandez
- Jan 14—Harold Havard
- Haley Bradford
- Jan 15—JoAnn Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jan 9—Vernon & Allie Skrabanek
- Jan 11—C.J. & Retha Meineke
- Jan 12—Troy & MaryAnn McCarty
- Jan 14—Mr. & Mrs. Connie Clark
- John & Verna Lee Shipp
- Jan 15—Lee Roy & Lydia Moore

Additions or Corrections are welcome: 713-266-3444

Primaries start 2020 Election season

Early voting begins Feb. 18

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY – Locally, many are anxious to vote in the 2020 November 3 election so their vote will solve the Presidential question.

March 3 Primary voting begins for early voters on February 18 and runs until Friday, February 28, according to the Texas Secretary of State. The last date to register to vote in primaries is February 3. March 3 being the last day to vote in person. Any run off is to be completed by May 26. Candidates must achieve 50% or more to avoid run off elections.

Few local candidates are unopposed this year. Dan Huberty R., **Texas House #127** after a highly successful year with House Bill 3 (school funding) and



J.R. Boatman

locally House Bill 76 is opposed by a Republican, Dwight Ford.

Briscoe Cain, R., **Texas House #128** of Pearland, Highlands, Baytown and Crosby is challenged by Robert C. Hoskins formerly of Baytown City Council in the Republican Primary and Josh Markle and Mary E. Williams both



Brian Babin

Democrats.

District #128, a little research will show is comprised of about 172,221 folks that are 58.2% white, 38.7% black or Hispanic and 3.1% other. Ethnically, District #128 is 70.8% non-Hispanic and 29.2% Hispanic.

See Elections, Page 6

I Dead in Crosby gunstore heist

CROSBY – Gunshop owner Raymond Balcerowicz heard a noise outside his house Tuesday morning about 4:30 am, and when he investigated he saw several young men tearing the door off his adjacent gun shop.

The burglars exchanged gunfire with the shop owner, and then fled the scene. Balcerowicz said that

this was not the first time his building has been broken into. Last November he suffered a loss of a large quantity of guns, valued at about \$25,000.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez led the investigation, and said "He encountered them pretty quickly. A lot of shots were fired."

See Gunshop Robbery, p. 6



Burglars tore the door off the front of the building by chaining it to a pickup and pulling it out.

ESD#5 recognizes life saving, dedication

CROSBY – When the local ambulance service went to their awards banquet in Kemah's Aquarium last Friday the focus was on saving lives and dedication to the life saving service performed by EMS and all that serve the ambulance service.

According to Christy Graves, Director of Operations and EMS Chief of Crosby there is emotional, and physical sacrifice to serve the citizens of Crosby and surrounding area.

In 2019 Harris County Emergency Service District #5, name of Crosby's taxing entity and also ambulance service experienced babies born to personnel, 3 captains promoted internally and one ambulance was stolen by a man identifying himself as God.



Christy Graves awards DPS Trooper Jamie Neault for his heroic life saving CPR efforts to save a neighbor.

Again there was a plant explosion and the service was able to save people. The President visited without incidents even before blast debris could be cleaned from the vehicles. Netflix filmed a documentary locally and Hernando Andrada was filmed saving a baby's life. Tropical storm Imelia visited and the service was able to put together emergency shelter. Six times the State of Texas put the service on standby for emergencies. Twice they were deployed, West Texas fires and Port Naches Grove TTP fire during Thanksgiving. There were 3,436 911 incidents, 156 more than last year. That is about one more month of running

calls on average than last year, a banner year of calls that were about one and a half months more than years before.

They treated 156 more patients this year and of those 45 were dead on scene when the ambulance arrived. Life flight helicopters landed 38 times and 51 patients were loaded aboard those helicopters. June to September most of the helicopters landed but from September to November 27 Life flights were recorded. The majority of those life flights were results of acts of violence against another person.

See EMS.

Continued on Page 8

East Harris County inaugurates new bus service

Five New Transit Bus Routes Target Underserved Sections of Eastern Harris County

Free Ridership the first 60 Days

Houston, Texas - Nearly 200,000 northeast Harris County residents now have access to public transportation thanks to \$3.8 million in Hurricane Harvey disaster recovery funding. Harris County Transit Services will expand its existing bus service to some of the communities hardest hit by floodwaters from the hurricane.

The new service will primarily serve areas of Channelview, Cloverleaf and Sheldon and provide



Harris County Commissioners Adrian Garcia, left, and Rodney Ellis speak at a ribbon-cutting ceremony announcing expansion of Harris County Transit Services' bus routes to Channelview, Cloverleaf and Sheldon – areas that were devastated by Hurricane Harvey. The service is funded by \$3.8 million in Hurricane Harvey disaster recovery

an additional scheduled bus to the route serving Crosby/Barrett Station.

A soft launch of the new service occurred on December 2. The first 60 days are free to riders. After that, rides will be \$1. The inaugural ceremony to mark the launch was held Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Joe V's Smart Shop parking lot, 5609 Uvalde, Houston.

Precinct Two Commissioner Adrian Garcia said "East Harris County has many needs. Public transportation is just one and for many, essential! I heard early in my administration how badly this area of my precinct was in need of a transportation system. I worked with our

See New Bus Service, Page 6

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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020

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

ROUND-UP

Baytown Nature Center Programs

-FULL MOON HIKE: January 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m. Join them every month as they explore a different section of the nature center in the hope of seeing nocturnal animals inhabitants. All sort of things have been seen: no lions, tigers or bears, but definitely raccoons, opossums, coyotes, owls, fireflies and even flying squirrels. Meet at the visitor center. Questions? Please contact

Christina.Butcher@baytown.org or call 281-420-7130.

-AUDUBON BIRD SURVEY: January 16, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

Baytown Nature Center, 6213 Bayway Drive.

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.

First Baby of 2020



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital extends a warm welcome to the first baby born at the hospital in 2020. Weighing in at 7 lbs., 3 oz., Santos Dylan Ramos Ramirez was born to Ermina Orinda Ramirez Lopez of Highlands at 11:50 a.m. on January 1, 2020. "I was surprised and very happy to hear that my baby is the first to be born in Baytown this year," Ramirez Lopez said through an interpreter. "We are filled with much happiness and joy."

Houston Methodist Baytown employees share inseparable bond

BAYTOWN — (December 31, 2019) — It was just another night on the graveyard shift for Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital registered nurse Nila Entienza. But when things took an unexpected turn, little did she know it would be the start of a unique, 40-year friendship.

Seven years prior, Entienza had moved from her home in the Philippines to the Houston area and was in her third year working in the labor and delivery unit at what was then called San Jacinto Methodist Hospital on Decker Dr. She was accustomed to assisting physicians in delivering babies, but she was forced into a leadership role on this particular night.

Meanwhile, Baytown native Stephanie Frank had been a member of the hospital's housekeeping staff for three years. She arrived at the hospital earlier that day, not for work, but because she had gone into labor with her first child. But as day changed to night, the women's lives would soon intersect in the most personal of ways.

"I came in to deliver at around 4 o'clock that afternoon, but it was taking a long time," Frank recalls of that fateful night in October 1982. "I think it was about three in the morning when Nila came and told me, 'I think you're ready to have this baby.'"

Entienza called Frank's obstetrician, who said he was on the way to the hospital, but she knew the baby had other plans.

"Some patients deliver very fast. You can tell the mother not to push, but there's no way to stop the baby when it's ready. I knew there wasn't enough time for the doctor to arrive, so I just had to deliver the baby," Entienza said.

Frank's doctor arrived shortly after delivery to find mother and baby resting comfortably and Entienza nearby checking on her newest patients. Though co-workers, Frank



Nila Entienza



Stephanie Frank

and Entienza only knew each other in passing, but they both realized they were now linked by an inseparable bond.

The two relived the story recently when they celebrated their 40th anniversaries as Houston Methodist Baytown employees at what's called the Service Awards; an annual event held at all Houston Methodist hospitals that recognizes the dedication of employees who have worked for the organization for at least five years.

Houston Methodist Baytown CEO David Bernard was not aware of the story until he asked the women if they had any interesting stories to tell after 40 years at the hospital.

"When Mr. Bernard called me up and asked if I had any interesting stories, I was on the spot and kind of froze up," Frank said. "I could tell he was real surprised to hear our story from so long ago and

See *Inseparable Bond*, Page 6

Mont Belvieu's Farmers Market



The Mont Belvieu Community Farmers Market held its first session of the year on January 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at City Park. Shoppers could enjoy the fresh air and the fresh food sold: including meats, treats, fruits, and vegetables from close to 20 different vendors. Crafts, collectables and other merchandise were sold by vendors as well. The community of Mont Belvieu hosts this Farmers Market on the first Saturday of every month. The next market will be featured on February 1st, 2020 and will occur from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. also. This event has been a tradition for almost 4 years now and hopes to continue many more in the near future. If you would like to participate in the Mont Belvieu Farmers Market, contact the Parks and Recreation department at City Hall.

Hotchkiss Family Sponsors Diabetes Gala

BAYTOWN — (January 6, 2020) — As vice president of Baytown-based Hotchkiss Disposal, Sammy Hotchkiss has plenty on his plate, but making time to do his part to help find a cure for diabetes is a no brainer.

For the second straight year, the family-owned business supports diabetes research and treatment programs by serving as the "Big Island Presenting" sponsor of the annual gala benefiting the Baytown Council of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDRF), scheduled for Saturday, January 25 at Houston's Royal Sonesta Hotel. Hotchkiss and wife, Terri, had attended the soiree for many years before deciding in 2019 to increase their commitment to the cause.

"We are blessed to have the support of the community in our business," Hotchkiss said. "This is our way of giving back to hopefully find a cure for



The Hotchkiss family (from left) Ronnie, Daphna, Terri and Sammy

this disease."

Helping to further the JDRF's mission is also a personal choice for Hotchkiss, who was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 2012.

"When you become a diabetic yourself, it changes your perspective pretty quick," Hotchkiss adds.

With nearly 1.4 million Americans diagnosed with diabetes each year, funding research, including clinical trials, and advocating for faster regulatory approval of new devices for diabetics, to deliver a cure for diabetes and its complications is the primary focus of JDRF. In Baytown,

the organization offers a support group for patients and families dealing with diabetes.

While being diagnosed with the disease certainly changed his life, Hotchkiss has approached managing it methodically in order to maintain his hectic life as a father and business own-

er. "You learn to monitor your food intake to minimize the impacts," Hotchkiss said. "Diabetes is life changing, but it does not stop life. You need to do your research so you can deal with it properly."

While the gala offers a fun evening filled with dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions, Hotchkiss hopes that attendees will come away with a newfound appreciation for how the disease affects patients and their families, as well as the need for continued research and support systems.

"The gala is definitely a great social gathering for people coming together to enjoy a great night out, but it's also a night for people to come together in support of the common cause of increasing diabetes research," Hotchkiss said.

This year's honorees are

See *Gala Sponsors*, Page 6

★ OPINION PAGE ★

**LETTERS
To The Editor**

Things change at rapid pace

Dear Editor,
Pay close attention to things that are changing at a rapid pace here in America. Newspapers used to report the actual news and did not often get involved in opinions. They instead gave you the facts and let you decide. 'IT STARTED' when writers and many reporters giving their obviously biased opinion, often changing or trying to change public opinion. Opinions that can often be based based solely on biased reporting. Newspapers are now blatantly engaged in pushing their own agenda, often regardless of the facts. The public is listening and information is being skewed to mold to a sometimes hidden agenda.

Gun manufactures are now being sued for selling their products, although completely legal, this is an attack on the US 2nd amendment, "the right to keep and bear arms," something that forged US independence from the British in 1776 and again in the war of 1812. Are the politicians trying to disarm America? Why? Think about how many counties disarmed the citizens and then elected a dictator? During most of the decades following Venezuela's adoption of a democratic government in 1958 through the 1980s, the country was the richest nation in South America. In 1989, Caracas exploded into protest, riots, and looting. Somewhere between an estimated few hundred to 3,000 people were killed, mostly at the hands of a brutal crack-down by government security forces. The public could not fight their own government because they had been disarmed. It happened again just a few years ago. Before that, were you aware that Hitler was actually elected? We know how that turned out, with the killing of millions of people that "he" did not like. "IT STARTED" with Hitler's military following orders, regardless of the consequences. Not everyone supported Hitler, but again, being disarmed, they could not fight their

own corrupt government. Credit Card companies are refusing to allow "YOUR" business to accept debit and/or credit cards. This can make it more difficult to own a business and for your business to thrive. "Your" business could be anything deemed politically incorrect like gun stores. It started by several CC companies refusing to do business with a gun store, or a gun manufacture. What kind of business could be next and where does it end? "IT STARTED" should bring fear to Americans since "anyone" could then become their next target depending on the political winds. Is this an attempt to put politically incorrect business out of business? Government can't discriminate but private corporations do so often, and with little or no recourse by the public.

There are currently no laws that force companies to permit free speech. Facebook, and others, are limiting free speech as they deem fit. That's right; "they" make the sole decision as to what is acceptable "on their platforms." Yet another dangerous precedent since "they" now control what is being said and/or seen on many different sites. Imagine your phone carrier turning off your phone because they did not like what you were talking about. Wow. "They" make the decision that "they" don't like something and then attack that product on many levels. Often attacks can be fake news to meet a certain agenda. Many Americans will read the news and take it as Gospel since if they saw it on the internet it must be true. This is a war for information, to control the future since he who controls the media can also control elections. Wake up, speak up, learn the truth because the truth is often "what they say it is."

Jerry Fallin

Jerry Fallin is born and raised in the North Channel Area, attended Galena Park High School. He and his wife now live in Baytown.

Caring about the community

Dear Editor,
To LIVE UNITED you first need to care about your community. Then you take it a step further and get involved in positive actions that make the community better. You may join a group that is working to disrupt the causes negatively affecting family members and friends. You might make a thoughtful donation that is then invested in solutions to the community-wide issues. Some do both. It's your choice on how you LIVE UNITED.

I think all who are reading this are community-minded and have concerns about their community. Many would like to be involved in the solutions in a manner that fits their lifestyles. Your United Way invites you to be part of the solution.

United Way works for the betterment of our community and is making a difference. This is possible because of volunteerism and funding

for the three focus areas - education, financial stability and health that drive United Way's mission. In 2019, community impact funding helped nearly 50,000 residents who utilized local program services, which were funded by donations from individuals, businesses and foundations. As the disaster recovery group for our region, United Way repaired 63 homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey. United Way's impact is evident in human service program collaborations and positive results of the capacity-building efforts of local programs.

To further our efforts, your United Way needs you to participate in one of the upcoming community conversations. The full schedule is found online at <https://www.unitedwaygbacc.org/uw-host-community-conversations>. To learn more, please call 281.424.5922 x1001.

Melissa Reabold

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Abbott, Patrick react after shooting incident at church

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick released statements following a deadly shooting on Dec. 29 at West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, a city of 16,000 people on the west side of Fort Worth.

Two church members were killed in the shooting, which occurred during Sunday services. A possible motive for the shooting is under investigation.

The shooter was shot and killed at the scene by a member of the congregation who is a member of the church's volunteer security detail and is a firearms instructor.

"Places of worship are meant to be sacred and I am grateful for the church members who acted quickly to take down the shooter and help prevent further loss of life," Abbott said.

Patrick said the Texas Department of Public Safety is leading the investigation in cooperation with the White Settlement Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

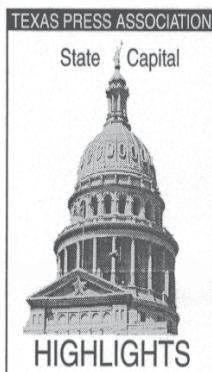
Revenue total is higher

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Jan. 3 reported that state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.01 billion in the month of December, 4.8% more than the amount reported for December 2018.

"Growth in state sales tax revenue was led by receipts from the construction, information services and restaurant sectors," Hegar said in a news release. "While revenue growth was slightly buoyed by collections from remote sellers and online marketplace providers, collections from retail trade were depressed due to significantly fewer Christmas shopping days in November this year compared to the previous year."

The majority of December sales tax revenue is

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



those transactions will increase to 50% of the base rate paid by all toll users. Motorists with a TxTag account will experience an even larger comparative discount on tolls — a discount of 33% compared to Pay By Mail rates, the agency said in a late-December news release.

The 50 percent surcharge for Pay By Mail transactions helps defray the rising administrative costs associated with these mailed payments, such as viewing license plate images, generating and mailing invoices and processing payments. Raising the surcharge to 50% also brings TxDOT Pay By Mail rates in line with other toll authorities in Austin and Dallas and across the country, and further incentivizes having a TxTag account.

Flu season hits hard

In its weekly update on Jan. 2, the Texas Department of State Health Services encouraged "everyone to get vaccinated now."

The most recent flu surveillance report shows widespread flu activity in Texas and high levels of influenza-like illness. There have been eight pediatric flu-related deaths reported in the 2019-2020 flu season.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by one of a number of related viruses. The flu vaccine is made up of strains similar to ones likely to be circulating in North America, and vaccination is especially important for people with chronic health conditions and weaker immune systems and their caregivers, the DSHS said.

Additional information about influenza and ways to stop the spread of the flu virus can be found online at texasflu.org.

Ag chief hosts show

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller in mid-December announced he would host a new weekly television show to premiere on the RFD-TV network. The first show is set to air on Jan. 21.

The show, Texas Agriculture Matters, will spotlight Texas agriculture for 52 million viewers nationwide, according to Miller's office. The show is produced by RFD-TV in agreement with the Texas Department of Agriculture and recorded at the RFD-TV/The Cowboy Channel studio in the Fort Worth Stockyards, with Miller hosting in his capacity as Texas agriculture commissioner and receiving no compensation for his participation.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

A Night at the Funeral Home

"What do you think?" my husband, Peter, asked about the link he'd sent me as we prepared to head home from the holidays. "The funeral home?" I asked. "Yeah, that one."

"I thought it was a joke." "No, it's right on our way." "We're going to spend the night in a funeral home?"

"It's very inexpensive!" I suddenly felt like I was in the opening scene of every horror film I'd ever watched.

Peter wanted us to spend the night in a historic funeral home on our way home. The funeral home had been converted into an Airbnb. It was both right on our way and suspiciously cheap. Peter and I drive home on two-lane roads. The roads are slower, but the route is more direct. The problem is that the few motels on the way are very much the worse for wear. We've tried virtually every one and I can no longer keep them straight.

"We stayed there," Peter will say as we drive by.

"Was that the one with the really loud heater?" I ask.

"No, that was the one with the toilet that rocked—and not in a good way."

If a person stayed in a bad funeral home, I figured, at least the experience would be memorable. We pulled in about sunset. There was a bare weeping willow out front. The proprietor, a woman about my age named Cheryl, met us at the door. We'd been having trouble with our car battery, so we asked if we could plug a trickle charger into the unusually large garage.

"Boy!" Peter said, "This is a big garage."

"They stored the coffins here until the hearse picked them up." "Huh," Peter said.

We entered the house and noticed the front hallway was at an odd angle. I asked Cheryl why this was.

"There are three parlors, all with pocket doors to close them off and separate entrances," Cheryl explained. "So they could have three funerals at once!"

"Did they really have three funerals at the same time?" I asked. That seemed like a lot of simultaneous casualties in a town this size.

"I don't know if they did, but they could!" Cheryl had four cats. One was black and named "Old Scratch."

"You know, that's a nickname for the devil," I told her—certain she already knew.

"No! I didn't know. He used to have a sibling named 'Sniff,' who died years ago and now I just call him 'Old Scratch.'"

There was a life-sized skeleton at the pump organ in one of the parlors and a figure in Victorian dress looking out the window. Our room upstairs was filled with antiques. There was also a skeleton in our closet, I discovered, when I put our luggage away.

Cheryl told us about the purported paranormal activities that had occurred in the house and the people who had stayed there, looking for them. There was, she told me, a persistent report of a woman on the back stairway.

"I don't know if it's haunted or not," Cheryl concluded cheerfully. "If I hear something funny, I just say, 'Oh! It's the cats again!'" This seemed to me like a practical response.

I slept very well in the funeral home.

The house was quiet and bed was comfortable and I cannot tell you anything unusual that occurred during the night. Except this:

I had a particularly vivid dream. I was flying and felt fearless and full of joy and humor. I was learning new things and surrounded by friends.

So that's what haunting feels like, I'll take it. Till next time, Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS



Houston Museum of Natural Sciences at Rotary

Rotarians heard about the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences at their weekly luncheon last Tuesday, Dec. 10. Temple was accompanied in his presentation by Chuck Leah, a grammy nominated musician who also works at the museum.

Temple has been with the museum for 27 years, and shared his depth of knowledge with the Rotary members. He is a paleontologist, and studied archeology at the University of Houston.

As a spokesperson for the HMNS (Houston Museum of Natural Science) he introduced the group to the many varied aspects of the museum, some new and some traditional.

Examples of current exhibits include a model of Stonehenge made from Lego blocks, and a model train show.

The museum has 17 permanent exhibit halls, the Cockrell Butterfly Center, the Burke Baker Planetarium, and the Wortham Gian IMAX Screen Theater. In just one visit you can investigate dinosaurs, mummies, the stars, and butterflies.

Exhibits are designed for both young learners and older adults. Children like to have birthday parties there. The museum charges admission, but also has



David Temple
Assoc. Curator of Paleontology

family memberships to help with the cost. Temple gave out guest passes as an incentive to the Rotary audience. He also distributed a game board with images of the various features of the museum, and challenges to find things in the artwork.

Temple said he specializes in cooking insects, and promised to return to a future Rotary luncheon to demonstrate.

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members



Please join us in welcoming our newest member Cayne Roofing. They are located at 6707 Miller Wilson Rd in Crosby and can be reached at 713-842-0802. They would love to help you with all your roofing needs.



Please join us in welcoming new member, Kat's Kitchen without Borders. They are a non-profit organization helping with micro-loans/grants to young children and women, sustainable organic resources and business education, and assistance to the homeless(people and dogs). To learn more about this organization please contact Kathleen O'Toole at 201-966-0073.



Please join us in welcoming new member, Yard Date to our chamber family. They are a wonderful family owned business and a great addition to our community. They offer landscaping services, hang Christmas lights and numerous other services. You can reach them at 281-947-5517 for all your yard needs.

Happy 99th Birthday



Sara Rupp of Highlands will be 99 years old on January 22, 2020.

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

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Heal me, LORD,
and I will be healed;
save me & I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise
--Jeremiah 17:14

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I Corinthians 13:8

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later
ROMANS 8:18

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★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★



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.

New Bus Service,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

partners to make this happen for those in my precinct. I am thrilled to see this happening in a deserving community.

Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis added, “Mass transit is important to our community’s success as our region continues to rapidly grow. The Sheldon area in Precinct One is a good example of a growing community where the addition of transit services will help the community thrive. Even if you own a car, I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this new service and our mass transit options.”

The new service will add roughly 65 additional route miles to the Harris

County service map for a total of 185 miles. Five proposed new routes serving the Channelview, Cloverleaf and Sheldon areas and an added bus scheduled along the current route through Crosby/Barrett Station are being expanded with service for a conditional three-year period. If ridership levels are high enough, Harris County Transit services will request more funding to continue the routes beyond the three years.

“We have worked with the Metropolitan Transit Authority to assure these routes provide connectivity to bus routes that make the Houston area accessible,” said Harris County

Community Services Department Director Daphne Lemelle.

Harris County Transit bus routes have served the East Harris County Community since 2008 with the launching of routes in Baytown, a service that now includes La Porte, McNair/Barrett Station, Crosby and the Highlands, areas outside the Metro service map. The proposed new routes will expand Harris County Transit by an estimated 50 percent.

Project Partners are Harris County Transit Services, Harris County Precinct One, Harris County Precinct Two, Harris County Community Services Department and METRO.

Inseparable Bond,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that we’re both still here.”

Now 37 years old and employed by the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD), Frank’s son, Jamaal, had heard about his unusual arrival years ago, but has never met Entienza.

“Whenever I would see Stephanie, she’d say something like, ‘Your baby’s in college now,’ or ‘Your baby got married.’ She always kept me up to date on how

he’s doing over the years,” said Entienza, who would go on to deliver two more babies during her tenure.

Frank worked in housekeeping for over 30 years at HMB before earning her degree in phlebotomy from San Jacinto Junior College in 2010 and getting hired as a phlebotomist in 2011. Meanwhile, Entienza, who retired in December, worked 25 years in labor and delivery before transitioning into a position in admission, observation

and discharge in the hospital’s outpatient day surgery unit.

At the time, Entienza’s impromptu delivery didn’t raise many eyebrows, but since re-telling the story this year, they’ve become hospital celebrities.

“We’ve become kind of a hot item in the hospital,” Frank laughs. “People come up to me and say, ‘Oh my god, it’s hilarious you two still work here and she delivered your first baby!’”

Elections,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Two local US Congressional elections are to be decided by voters. One is **US Congressional District #2**, formerly Ted Poe’s District and still includes the wealthier houses on Lake Houston, Dan Crenshaw, R., age 35, born in Aberdeen, Scotland is being challenged by three Democrats Elisa Cardnell, Travis Olsen and wait for it, Sima Ladjevardian.

US Congressional District #36, the rest of Ted Poe’s District #2 including the rest of Crosby, Highlands, a little Baytown, to Beaumont is now represented by Brian Babin, R., he is challenged by R.J. Boatman a Republican and Democrat Rashad Lewis. The single difference in rhetoric between Babin and Boatman is that Boatman promises to impose his own term limit.

Of course, the biggest election of local consequence is who will be **Precinct 3 Constable**. That job is now in the capable hands of Sherman Eagleton, D., being challenged by Democrats Deborah Florus, a Sheriff’s Deputy; Ken Jones, retired from the office; Michel Pappilion, a

retired Houston Police Department officer; John “Jay” Portillo, police officer, formerly of Precinct 3 and Deputy Eric Reed. A Republican challenger is Andre Hines, a deputy.

Precinct 3 is 56% non-Hispanic and 43% Hispanic. Of the 347,174 residents, 53% are white, 25% are black, about 1% are Indian and 1.5% are Asian.

Kim Ogg, a Democrat is **District Attorney** being challenged by Carvana Cloud, Democrat and Attorney; Audia Jones, a Democrat and Attorney; Todd Overstreet, Democrat and Lawyer; and Lori Deangelo, Republican Attorney; Mary Huffman, Republican Attorney; Lloyd Wayne Oliver, Republican Attorney.

Harris County - County Attorney Vince Ryan a Democrat is challenged by Attorney Ben Rose, Democrat; Attorney Christian Dashaun Menefee, Democrat; Attorney John Nation, Republican.

Harris County - Sheriff Ed Gonzalez a Democrat, is challenged by Democrat Jerome Moore, a Deputy Constable; Demo-

crat Harry Zamora Houston Police Lt. Ret.; Joe Dana, Republican Deputy Sheriff Paul Day, Republican Patrol Deputy; Randy Rush, Republican retired law enforcement.

Senator John Cornyn, Incumbent, is polling weakly with about 45% against everybody and is running against four Republicans and ten Democrats. Virgil Bierschwale, John Castro, Dwayne Stovall and Mark Yancey are Republican candidates against the former Senate whip and former best prosecutor in Texas. Chris Bell former Highlands and Crosby US Congressman is polling best now for the Democrats. Royce West, Michael Cooper, Amanda Edwards, Jack Daniel Foster, Victor Hugo Harris, M.J. Hegar, Sema Hernandez, Adrian Ocegueda and Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez fill out the Democrat candidates.

Of course this is not nearly all the candidates to be on the ballot like Judges and Clerks but are the result of local election coming to Primaries according to Ruth R. Hughs.

Gala Sponsors,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Laney-Grace Caylor, the 10-year-old daughter of Baytonians Jake and Courtney Caylor, and Darrell Lamb, 57, of Baytown. Caylor was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2015,

while Lamb was diagnosed at age 27. Both will speak on their experiences in navigating the disease.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Royal Sonesta Hotel (2222 W. Loop

South). Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is a gala sponsor. For more information, contact Laurie Terry at lterry@houstonmethodist.org. To learn more about JDRF, visit jdrf.org.

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by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

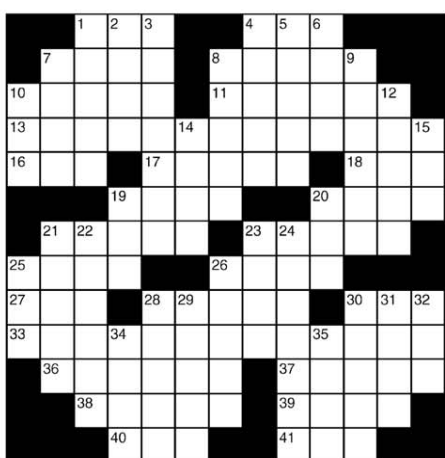
King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Possesses
- 4 Cribbage scorer
- 7 Ringlet
- 8 Preclude
- 10 "M'A'S'H" setting
- 11 Scents
- 13 Kitchen pair
- 16 — and outs
- 17 "The — Show With Jon Stewart"
- 18 Whopper
- 19 Citi Field team
- 20 Marching musicmakers
- 21 Topper for Miss USA
- 23 Rushmore or Rainier
- 25 Responsibility
- 26 Cried
- 27 Lawyers' org.
- 28 Memorable mission
- 30 Shooter ammo
- 33 13-Across, e.g.
- 36 African desert wind
- 37 Ointment
- 38 Military subdivision
- 39 Unattractive
- 40 Mauna —

DOWN

- 1 Throws hard
- 2 Neighborhood
- 3 — : spoken :: libel : written
- 4 Danger
- 5 Black wood
- 6 Ready for action
- 7 Quarter, e.g.
- 8 CSA president
- 9 Overcoat
- 10 Japanese pond carp
- 12 Epithet for Simon Templar (with "The")
- 14 Information
- 15 Scarlet
- 19 Spring month
- 20 On the other hand
- 21 Big brass
- 22 Slanted, as lettering
- 23 Viral Web
- 24 One skilled in playing dead
- 25 "— Kapital"
- 26 Goes up a few degrees
- 28 Worship
- 29 Parkinson's treatment
- 30 Doctor's orders?
- 31 Jealousy
- 32 Iron or Bronze
- 34 Out of control
- 35 Long story



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 the numbers from one to nine.

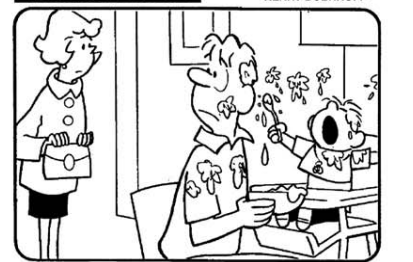
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!


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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Button on shirt is missing. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Foot spat is missing. 4. Chair back is lower. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Hair is different.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are female elephants called?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the oldest brewery in the United States?
3. MOVIES: To which destination is the McCallister family traveling in the movie "Home Alone"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states are named after a president?
5. MUSIC: In the song, what did Frosty the Snowman do after a magic hat was placed on his head?
6. ANATOMY: Where is the glabella located in the human body?
7. LANGUAGE: What did the Russian Space Station "Mir" mean in English?
8. LITERATURE: What are the names of the young bunnies in "The Tale of Peter Rabbit"?
9. HISTORY: In what year was the sound barrier broken by a jet aircraft?
10. LANDMARKS: Which presidents are depicted in the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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Trivia Test Answers

1. Cows; 2. Yuenling; 3. Paris; 4. One, Washington; 5. He began to dance around; 6. Between the eyebrows; 7. World or peace; 8. Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter; 9. 1947; 10. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln

EMS Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Blake Milnes, Theresa Aldy, Hernando Andrada, Rhannon Long, Keith Kline front row, Ken Robbins, Randy Wooten, Robbie Leo Briggs and Christy Graves are ambulance personnel that aided or first hand performed successful resuscitations this year.



John Strawbridge had 15 years of dedication and more. Luther Brady received a five year award. Larry Hall got a 15 year award for dedication. Not pictured is Sharon Colton who also was recognized for 15 years of dedication.

Crosby Gunshop Robbery,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

About 10 minutes later, Sheriff's deputies were called to a scene in the 3800 block of Morelos, off Wade Road. This scene was about 7 miles from the robbery at the gun shop, but deputies soon determined that the two scenes were related.

There they discovered a dead body lying in the road, near a car with its doors open. Two other suspects were detained at this site, the Sheriff said.

Upon investigation, deputies determined that the body was one of the

suspects in the burglary in Crosby. Several guns were also found at this scene, and it was determined that they had been stolen from the gun shop.

Sheriff Gonzalez said that the case is being referred to a grand jury.

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