

HIGHLANDS CROSBY  
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VOL. 67, NO. 03 - 50¢ © Copyright 2020 THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories  
in the **PRESS:**

- Dayton Schout Troop
- Lee College awards
- David Brumbelow
- Barbers Hill Bank

.....And more, Page 3

★  
**IN THE STARS**

**EVENTS**

**THU. JAN. 16**  
**Crosby Chamber 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.

**TUE. JAN. 21**  
**Congressman Babin at Rotary**

Congressman Brian Babin will speak at the Rotary luncheon at 12pm at Highlands Methodist Church. Public welcome.

**WED. JAN. 22**  
**Community Conversations**

From 7:30 - 9:30 am 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! See ad, page 8 for details.

**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 16-Connie Williams
- Aleta Bennett
- James Dammon
- Patsy Dammon
- Jan 17-Meledy Oviedo
- Jaxson Matthew Boyd
- Jan 18-Sharon T. Walker
- Gabe Welsh
- Jan 19-Hannah Hildebrand
- Cullen Gleason
- Lacy Robinson
- Jan 20-Gary Langham
- Brenda Weber
- Jan 21-Ted Bloom
- James Mills, Sr.
- Debra Shields
- Jan 22-Linda Craig
- Vernon Hassell
- Richard McKinney
- Reynaldo Perez
- Kristi Simmons
- Kathy Zadrava Stuart
- James Walker
- Beth Wotipka

Additions or Corrections are welcome: 713-266-3444

# New health center opens in Barrett Station

BARRETT STATION – Harris County Public Health and Commissioner Adrian Garcia are bringing health services to this historic community in East Harris County.

Residents will now have access to the new Health & Wellness Center at the Riley Chambers Community Center. The historic community, founded in 1889 by Harrison Barrett, a former slave, has more than 5,000 residents and has limited medical or preventative health services in the community. The closest ones are several miles away.

"Residents in Precinct 2 do not have quick access to these types of facilities. This year, I am



Members of the Chambers family, Precinct 2 Employees, Adrian Garcia Umair Shah, Justice Lucia Bate, Community leaders and members of the Barrett family cut the ribbon to open the clinic.

See *New Health Center*, P. 8

# Westbound side of the I-10 bridge reopens to traffic



TxDOT has re-opened the westbound side of the I-10 Bridge over the San Jacinto river, which was damaged by a barge strike last September during the tropical storm Imelda. The entry ramp from Crosby-Lynchburg Road was also reopened. All 3 eastbound lanes are scheduled to return to normal after realignment work is completed next weekend. TxDOT contractors had to build new support columns under the bridge to replace those damaged due to the barge strike.

# Tickets now available for Rotary Chili Feast on Feb. 1st



Highlands Rotarians display a new silver Chevrolet Equinox SUV that is one of the 16 prizes ticket holders can win at the 45th Annual Rotary Chili Feast. The event will be held at St. Jude's Social Hall at 808 S. Main Street in Highlands, on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Winner of the Raffle will have a choice of 3 vehicles from Turner Chevrolet, a Colorado Pick-up, a Chevy Camaro, or the Equinox shown above, with Jacob Perez from Turner. Tickets are \$7 for chili only, or \$100 for a chance to win the big prizes. Tickets are on sale from all Rotarians, or call 281-426-3558. Only 700 tickets are sold, so winning odds are quite good.

# Bizarre murder on New Year's

BARRETT STATION – A teenager has been charged in a stabbing murder of a teenager that was lured to his death by the suspect's girlfriend's text.

Christopher Coronado, 17, is charged with capital murder in the death of Eduardo Fernando Castro, 18. Castro, a C.E. King High School student was found dead early New Year's Eve in the 12,200 block of Saint Francis.

Coronado was arrested without incident Sunday at his home around 1:15 a.m. Sunday evening, Coronado stood before a judge to hear the charges brought against him. Prosecutors read many witness statements detailing the gory incidents of the slaying. Witnesses described Coronado's behavior shortly after the murder as "skipping in the street and laughing." Coronado was booked into Harris County Jail in lieu of a \$150,000 bond.

Following a bloody trail from Castro's body to a nearby trailer home, with blood stained walls in a bedroom, kitchen and living room, detectives saw a bizarre murder had been committed

and described as conceived and executed with the help of Coronado's girlfriend. She has not been named and as yet has not been charged.

She described barely knowing Castro, having casually met him about one year ago. She relayed that he had texted her about a meeting of the two of them. Coronado's girlfriend showed Castro's text to Coronado. Coronado decided to lure the victim to the trailer in which the couple were staying.

The girlfriend was with Castro in the trailer when Coronado burst in with a knife. A fight resulted that went into the street. Castro collapsed in the street, shirtless, in a pool of blood.

That was too much for our fem fatal, she fled the scene to a nearby home. She told the resident, an associate of Coronado, that he had just killed someone. The resident then accompanied the girlfriend to meet Coronado at a bridge in the neighborhood, according to prosecutors. They found Coronado, his face smeared with blood, holding an orange handled, blood stained knife with three cell phones.

# Rotary presents prestigious Paul Harris awards



The highest honor for a Rotarian is to receive a Paul Harris award, named for the founder of Rotary. Club members, past presidents and those who financially support Rotary International at a high level are eligible. Receiving this award for multiple donations recently were Weston Cotten, Teresa Martin, Robert Woodall, and Diana Weaver. Club president Sheila McDonald, at left, presented the awards.

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

**LETTERS FROM THE CONSTABLE**  
By Pct. 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton



# Welcome 2020

The Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office, a Texas law enforcement agency recognized through the International Chiefs of Police-Texas Best Practices Recognition Program, welcomes 2020. Another year is behind us. As we enter 2020, we reflect on this past year and move towards greater accomplishments. In 2019, we moved to create the program CASA (Constable Assisting Senior Adults). CASA caters to our Spanish speaking community and is the counterpart to the R U OK program. Since CASA's creation in July, the program has over 100 participants and R U OK has over 300 participants. These programs cater to the senior citizens in our community. Other community services include almost 6000 contacts made in the Meet the Officer/Citizen efforts.

Patrol accomplishments include over 11,000 neighborhood and contract checks, as well as 700 vacation watch checks, ensuring proactive patrol of the community. With 204

vehicles reported stolen, 187 stolen vehicles were recovered. Our patrol division operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 356 days a year to protect our communities. They also provide excellent performance in managing calls, traffic incidents and ensuring the safety of others.

Precinct 3 continues to progress with training. In addition to mandatory state requirement, leadership training, continues on a monthly basis in order to ensure the highest quality training for our deputies and supervisors. Additional training includes in excess of over 20,000 hours of police and tactical training.

The past year brought the creation of a new assessment program for supervisory promotions. The school resources officers participated in active shooter training regularly to ensure the continued protection of our children and the schools they attend.

The Crime Interdiction Unit (CIU) exhibits progressive success in seizures and arrests. Through numerous hours of covert surveillance, the unit recovered 78 weapons, 68 pounds of heroin and over 200 pounds of methamphetamine. Recovery of other narcotics include cocaine, heroin, crack and marijuana. Over 150 search and arrest warrants were executed in the quest of keeping members of the community safe.

The Warrants Division took in over eight-hundred thousand dollars, which is a three hundred percent (300%) increase from the previous year.

Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office continues to work for the betterment of the community it serves. As we reflect on 2019, and move towards a new year, you have our commitment to continue to serve you with the highest integrity and professionalism in this new year. Welcome 2020!

## Commissioner Adrian Garcia on Gov. Abbott decision to deny refugees

Garcia also plans to participate in Press Conference Tuesday Morning at Catholic Charities

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia condemns the decision by the Governor and issues the following statement:



Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Harris County, TX— Late in the afternoon Friday Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that Texas would become the first state in the U.S. to reject any additional refugees under President Trump's policy to allow individual states to determine whether to continue to accept them. Using the excuse that, in his opinion, the Federal Government's lack of Immigration Reform is to blame, Abbott is placing D.C. orthodoxy ahead of our shared Texas values -- by arguing that Texas "Texas cannot consent," to refugee resettlement this fiscal year, he said.

"Harris County has a long and storied history of accepting refugees into our community. Refugees living here have contributed in countless ways and have helped our county become the diverse, vibrant place in which we love to live and work. This cruel decision by Governor Abbott to make Texas the only state in the union to deny refugees from resettling here is not only disappointing; it does not represent who we are as Texans."

"Texas is a can-do state. We call on the Governor to reconsider this reprehensible decision."

"I also echo the words of Pope Francis, who said recently of refugees, 'we cannot remain insensitive, our hearts deadened, before the misery of so many innocent people. We must not fail to weep. We must not fail to respond.' I ask that the Governor reflect on the Pope's comments during his next attendance at Mass."

## Goose Creek CTE Department hosts 8th annual Career Night

Goose Creek CISD Career and Technical Education Department will host its 8th Annual Career Night Thursday, January 16, 2020, from 6-8 p.m. at Goose Creek Memorial High School. Open to all students, parents and community members, this event is designed to provide Baytown youth with an opportunity to meet professionals from a variety of career fields as well as representatives from

high school, post-secondary education programs and technical schools to help students and parents learn the pathway to a successful career of their choice, all in one location! This is also our biggest event to showcase GC-CISD CTE programs as well. Come out and join us!

Transportation will be provided to Goose Creek Memorial High School for students and parents from Ross S. Sterling High

School and Robert E. Lee High School. Buses will leave RSS and REL at 5:30 p.m. and return to the schools at 8 p.m.

Community members, business and industry representatives, and district employees may sign up to volunteer and participate by registering at <http://www.gccisd.net/cte>.

See Annual Career Night, Page 5



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020

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

## ROUND-UP

### Goss Library events

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, January 20, 2020.

- Tuesday, January 21 - 10:00 am, Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)
- Thursday, January 23 - 5:00 pm, Tween Craft - Canvas Art (ages 7-11)
- Thursday, January 23 - 5:00 pm, Adult Book Club discussing "Tony's Wife" by Adriana Trigiani (ages 18 & up)
- Friday, January 24 - 10:30 am & 2:00 pm, Storytime (ages 0-5 yrs)

Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu (281) 576-2245

### Jones Library events

• January 23rd from 4:30-5:30 PM we will be hosting a 3 little pigs event. We will have three piglets joining us at the library. Their owner will give a short presentation. The children can meet the pigs and take a selfie. We will also be reading a story and creating a craft.

• January 29th we will be hosting a 1920's double feature in the community center. We will be showing the 1974 and the 2013 versions of the literary classic; The Great Gatsby. This event will be held from 3:00 PM - 8:30 PM in the community center. Due to our licensing we cannot share the name of the movies we will be showing. In the poster provided we have cut off the names on the images.

Jones Public Library, 801 S Cleveland St Ste A, Dayton, TX 77535. 936-258-7060

### Boots and Bullets Event

Benefiting the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department. The event will take place January 25, at 6 pm at the Dayton Community Center, featuring live music and dancing, silent and live auctions and raffles.

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. Tables seat 10.

VIP Table for 10 people - \$800 (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.

## Lee College awards David Brumbelow

January 7, 2020 at Lee College, Baytown, TX, immediate past LC president, Dr. Dennis Brown, presented an award to David R. Brumbelow. It was in recognition for his serving as Baptist Student Ministry Director at LC for 28 years (since 1992). Dr. Brown also commended the churches of the San Jacinto Baptist Association that brought the meals, and the spiritual guidance the BSM has provided through the years. The occasion was the Convocation of administration, professors and staff gathered to prepare for the new year and to present the new president, Dr. Lynda Villanueva. The award



David Brumbelow receives awards from past Lee College president Dr. Dennis Brown.

read:  
"With Our Greatest Appreciation, We Hereby Present, David Brumbelow For your unwavering support and unrelenting guidance that has helped in leading our path to God. You are being honored with much Love, Appreciation, and infinite Gratitude. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." -Psalm 32:8 Lee College"

In receiving the award, Brumbelow thanked Lee College for this honor, and their gracious welcoming of him and the Baptist Stu-

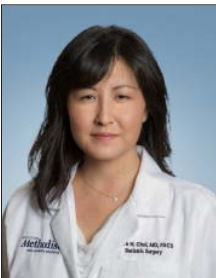
See Award, page 6

## Seminar offers help in sticking to your resolution

BAYTOWN — (January 10, 2020) — Vowing to lose weight in the year ahead is the primary New Year's Resolution for millions of Americans, but studies show very few people are ultimately successful in their pursuit of shedding pounds and improving their health.

According to a Harris Online survey, losing weight (21 percent), followed by improving finances and exercising more (both 14 percent) are the most common resolutions, but the survey indicates that merely 46 percent of Americans are successful in their efforts to stick to the plan after just six months.

Losing weight can be much more than simply a vanity issue. Conditions related to obesity include diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, obstructive sleep apnea, asthma and lipid disor-



Dr. Laura Choi



Dr. Kendell Sowards

ders. But help is available if you are dealing with weight-related health problems and are unable to lose pounds on your own by eating healthier and getting more exercise.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital hosts a free Bariatric Surgery Seminar on Thursday, January 16 that will offer information to Baytown area residents seeking to lose weight in 2020. The seminar will be

hosted by bariatric surgeons Dr. Laura Choi and Kendell Sowards, MD and will include information on ways to resolve weight-related medical conditions. They will discuss how losing weight can help reduce the risk of developing certain types of cancer, break

See Weight Management Seminar, Page 6

## Primary Care clinics provide convenient scheduling

BAYTOWN — (January 8, 2020) — With flu season in full force, the Houston Methodist Primary Care Group clinics in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide convenient scheduling that allows their expertly trained primary care providers to offer diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of conditions, including cold and flu.

From standard check-ups to advanced treatment of complex illnesses, Houston Methodist's board-certified physicians put your family's health at the center of everything they do. The skilled primary care doctors work with you to manage chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma and more.

The Houston Methodist Primary Care Group's Baytown Clinic is located at 1677 W. Baker Road, suite 2701 in Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital's Outpatient Center. It is staffed by physicians Greg Terry, MD, Irfan Dadabhoy, MD and Pooja Kulkarni, MD.

The Mont Belvieu clinic,

located at 8608 N. Hwy. 146, suite 600, is staffed by Dinara Abdueva, MD, Eleazar Flores, MD and Sanjeeda Jabeen, MD. This clinic provides same day appointments for treatment of numerous conditions including:

- Allergies
- Acne
- Cold or flu
- Cold sores
- Coughs
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Fevers
- Headaches
- Heartburn
- Joint sprains
- Minor skin infections
- Pink eye or red eyes
- Nausea/vomiting
- Rashes
- Sinus infections
- STD testing
- Sore throats
- Styes
- Sunburns
- Upper respiratory infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Vaginal yeast infections

To schedule an appointment at the Baytown Primary Care Clinic, call 832-556-6670. To schedule an appointment at the Mont Belvieu Primary Care Clinic, call 832-556-6936.

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.

## Dayton Scout Troop to retire over 1000 Flags

Dayton's Boy Scout Troop 8, part of the Three Rivers Council 578, Trinity District, will ceremoniously retire over 1,000 on January 25, at 10 am.

The troop's senior patrol leader, Christopher Lewis, will be Master of Ceremonies for the flag retirement ceremony, which will take place at THE CROSSROADS, located at 111 N. Church St. Parking and access to the plaza is located on Cook Street, and in the City Hall parking lot (117 Cook St.)

The flags, which were collected in the Crossroads Plaza flag box will be retired according to the United States Flag Code, which dictates that "the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." The Boy Scout of America Handbook states: "A national flag that is worn beyond repair may be burned in a fire. The cere-

mony should be conducted with dignity and respect and the flag burned completely to ashes."

Flags can also be retired by cutting the flag, avoiding the tearing of the blue star field. Once, the flag is cut, it is no longer an official flag and can be disposed of.

The Crossroads Plaza flag box is a collaborative project between the scout troop, the Dayton Enhancement Committee and the City of Dayton. Anyone who has a worn American flag is encouraged to drop it off in the box for proper disposal.

The public is invited to attend and learn more about proper handling of the American flag, and the local BSA troop, which has produced 15 local Eagle Scouts, with a 16th scout to achieve that rank in the spring.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled.

## Judge Lucia Bates to unveil State of Texas Seal

On Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Judge Lucia Bates will unveil the State of Texas Seal in her courtroom located at 701 W. Baker Rd., Baytown, TX 77521.



Judge Lucia Bates was elected to serve Harris County Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Place 2. On January 1, 2019 she was sworn into office. This year has been a transitional year and her office has undergone several upgrades and renovations to better serve the people. Within her first year she adopted new programs and attended community events throughout Harris County. She hosted and conducted various workshops and webinars to serve and educate the community in the courtroom.

In 2020 she is committed to continue serving justice and dedicated to public and community service. She looks forward to building relationships and collaborating with various organizations to better serve the public.

Please join her as she unveils the State of Texas Seal.





## Social Security Matters

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

### Ask Rusty – Can My Husband use the “Restricted Application?”

**Dear Rusty:** My question is about the “restricted application for spousal benefits only” I saw referenced in an article. I will turn 66 in February and have applied for my “full retirement benefit” and will continue to work full time. My husband turned 66 this month and has not yet applied for his benefits. According to the Social Security paperwork sent to us, I will receive about \$1900 a month and my husband, who is self-employed, would only receive \$500 to \$600. If my husband claimed “spousal benefits only” using the restricted application, would I still receive my \$1900 and he would receive 50% of that for an estimated total of \$2850? Doesn’t seem to make sense to me! As you can see, we must be in denial of our age and are not knowledgeable about Social Security!! Signed: Inquisitive Senior

**Dear Inquisitive:** Based on the amounts you quoted in your email (which I assume were recent estimates from the Social Security Administration), your husband should claim his own benefits this month and then claim his normal spousal benefit in February when your benefits start. Since your husband has already reached his full retirement age of 66, his spousal benefit will be the full 50% of the benefit you are entitled to when you reach your full retirement age in February.

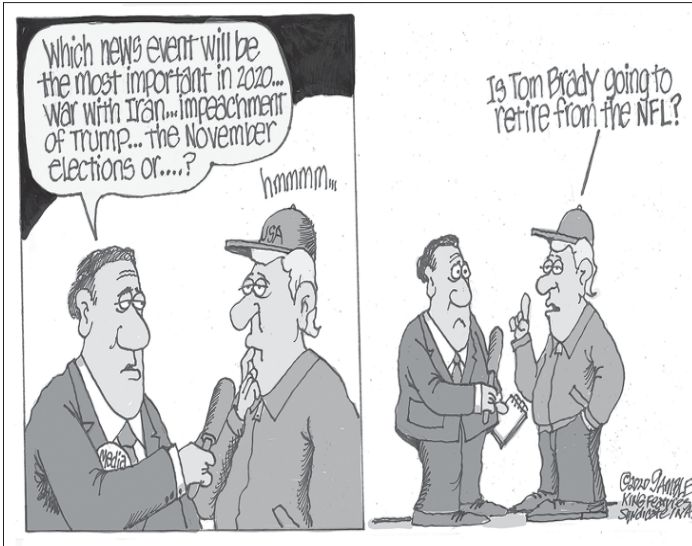
Although your husband qualifies for and can submit a “restricted application for spousal benefits only” (as described in the article you read), there is little reason for him to do so because his own benefit, even if he delays claiming it until he is 70, will be less than his spousal benefit from your record. Instead, since his spousal benefit from you will be the highest amount he will ever be eligible for, he can just claim his own benefit first and then claim his regular spousal benefit to begin when your Social Security retirement benefit starts.

Here’s why:

If your husband’s current benefit at his full retirement age (FRA) would be \$600 and he’s not yet collecting, he could earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at a rate of 0.667 per month of delay (8% per year of delay). That will mean his own benefit would be 32% more at age 70 then he is now eligible for at his FRA, which means his maximum benefit on his own earnings record will be \$792/month (\$600 plus 32%).

The only reason to file the restricted application (for which he is eligible only because he was born before January 2, 1954) is to let his own benefit grow while he collects a spousal benefit, so he can switch to his own higher benefit later. But since his spousal benefit from you will be about \$950 - more than the maximum benefit he can get from his own record at age 70 - his most prudent choice would be to simply claim his own benefit now and apply for his normal spousal benefit to start when your SS benefit starts in February. No need for him to file the restricted application because his own benefit will never be higher than his spousal benefit. And just for complete clarity, your husband collecting his spousal benefit from you will not affect your own Social Security retirement benefit in any way.

*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

### “Unexpected Cowboy”

I want to start out by making it clear that I have nothing against cowboys. One of the new developments in my life is that I recently got a manager, Bob, to book performances of my writing. I’ve never had a manager before, so I didn’t know what to expect. But Bob is a wonderful fellow. He says he thinks of the folks he represents as family—which is something a lot of people say, but I get the feeling Bob actually means it. So, I was eager to keep Bob happy. But then he suggested I perform with a cowboy.

“Carrie, I know this is a crazy idea, but I want you to think about it!” Bob said. “I will,” I said (wondering, as I said it, if I actually would).

Actually, I like cowboy culture a lot. But I don’t know a thing about it. I don’t write cowboy poetry. I don’t know how to use a lariat. (I only have the vaguest idea what a lariat is, to be perfectly honest.) I have a couple pair of cowboy boots, but the last time I was on a horse was a several decades ago. Simply put, I have no cowboy credentials. So, when Bob suggested I perform with a cowboy singer, I was more than skeptical—I thought it was a dumb idea.

But then I remembered this promise I’d made not to say, “no.”

You see, most of my life I’ve followed the prevailing advice that says a person should have specific and detailed goals. But then my life fell apart. After both my husband and my company dumped me, I realized that I actually knew very little about who I was or what it was I wanted out of life going forward.

I tried to start over again: I tried to create the kind of detailed dreams I had dreamt when I was in my twenties, but then a few things happened to change my mind.

First, I noticed that most of the really interesting things that were happening to me had not happened because I planned them. They happened by chance.

The second thing was that I realized there wasn’t a lot of time. Whatever it was that I still wanted to do in my life, I would be well-advised to get going because I’d been running the meter for a while by now.

The third thing was that I met my best girlfriend, Angel, who served as my unpaid life coach and constantly reminded me how important it was to say, “yes,” even when “no” was much easier to say—perhaps especially then.

The fourth thing that happened was that Angel died.

Angel died too young and she died only after a colossal fight—because there was still so much she wanted to do. It was then I realized—when I really understood—that the micromanaging style I’d used to plan my life had outrun its usefulness. It was time to let my dreams evolve. It was time to go with the current. It was time to simply say, “yes” to the universe and be prepared for the ride.

So, that’s what I’ve been trying to do... with occasional success. I like to know what’s going to happen next, so this is a huge challenge for me. Then—just when I think I’m sort of getting the hang of it—my manager, Bob, suggests I perform with a cowboy. I can hear Angel laughing now.

I’ll be performing next week in New York City with a cowboy. Wish me luck.

Till next time,  
Carrie

*Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.*

## Governor’s domestic terrorism task force meets at Capitol

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott last week convened the quarterly meeting of his Domestic Terrorism Task Force at the state Capitol.

“We must work together to develop meaningful solutions to fully eradicate domestic terrorism in the Lone Star State,” Abbott said in explaining the purpose of the meeting. “Just as domestic terrorism takes many forms, this task force is committed to developing comprehensive and evolving defense strategies to ensure a safe and secure future for every Texan,” Abbott added.

Abbott’s office said the task force analyzed prevention strategies against domestic terrorism in the form of cyber attacks and discussed the importance of good “cyber hygiene.”

Task force members include Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and other high-ranking state, county and federal officials.

### DPS releases reports

On Jan. 7, the Texas Department of Public Safety released two reports: the 58-page “Assessing the Mass Attacks Threat to Texas” and the 49-page “Texas Domestic Terrorism Threat Assessment.”

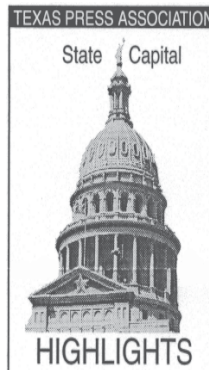
In releasing the documents, DPS Director Steven McCraw said it is critical to evaluate public safety vulnerabilities. To further its mission in preventing acts of violence and terrorism, the DPS is urging Texans to report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement or through the iWatchTexas program, a system that captures and connects potential criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats.

Both reports are available online at [dps.texas.gov/news.htm](http://dps.texas.gov/news.htm).

### Disaster is declared

Drought conditions have caused a state of disaster in 17 Texas counties, Gov. Greg Abbott declared on Jan. 3. The declaration applies to the

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



of work, while about 5% of the injuries required employees to lose 31 days or more of work.

The median time off for injured retail workers in Texas was five days. “There are more retail workers in the state getting injured than employees in construction, transportation or even on factory floors,” said Chris D’Amura, director of workplace safety at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers’ Compensation.

“We’re seeing a lot of retail workers with sprains, strains, tears and overexertion. According to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the longer workdays, expanded schedules and irregular shifts can negatively affect the mental and physical health of retail workers,” D’Amura said.

“When you add less sleep and more crowd stress, it’s not surprising we start seeing more accidents. Falls from ladders, slips on floors and trips over boxes and equipment were cited among the most common causes of injuries in the retail industry. Overexertion due to lifting, lowering and repetitive motion is also a high cause of injury in retail,” D’Amura added.

### Paxton reacts to ruling

State Attorney General Paxton on Jan. 6 welcomed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruling that parties protesting the relocation of Confederate monuments at the University of Texas do not have standing to pursue their lawsuit.

“This case was correctly dismissed months ago for lack of standing, and we are pleased that the Fifth Circuit agreed with our arguments and affirmed the district court’s decision,” Paxton said. “As the court recognized, the plaintiffs had no legal injury from the university’s decision to move property on its campus.”

The bronze statues of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston and John Reagan were moved in 2015 and 2017 to the Briscoe Center for American History on the university campus, where the figures are part of an educational display.

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☆ LIFESTYLE PAGE ☆

# Local store donates supplies to Goose Creek CISD *Huffman ISD students prepare for 2020 HLSR Art Show*



Fifth-graders at Bowie Elementary (from left) Kendra Gonzalez, Ja Shawn Laday, Genesis Hernandez Palma and Xavier Alaniz open a box of topper erasers donated by Walmart IDC 7042.

By Susan Passmore

Students are always in need of school supplies, so Walmart Import Distribution Center 7042 recently donated 283,772 items to Goose Creek CISD schools through the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation. Steve Byford, Walmart general manager, and Regina Cardona, MCO manager, coordinated the

efforts with Erika Foster, Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation director.

The first donation in November included topper erasers, mechanical pencils, zip binders, three-ring white binders and scissors. Highlighters and assorted notebooks comprised the second donation in December. Rafael Cantu, Goose Creek CISD warehouse manager, and the Central Receiving Department

picked up the items and delivered them to campuses. All elementary schools received a pallet of topper erasers, and the other items were distributed to different campuses.

"We appreciate Walmart IDC 7042 for helping us surprise our students before the Christmas break so they were ready to start off being successful in the classroom in 2020," Foster said.

Huffman ISD students of all ages are busy finishing up Rodeo Art entries. For many years, the school has participated in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program and this year is no exception. Participants range from Pre-K through 12th grade. The program is designed to encourage the

education and appreciation of our Western heritage. Students create Western-themed art entries that include paintings, drawings and sculpture.

This year's district Rodeo Art Show & Open House theme is "Once Upon A Time in the Wild

Wild West." The event is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2020 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Huffman Elementary School, room 319. All family members and friends can celebrate these winning works along with the student artists. Winning entries will be on display at Reliant Center.



Setup has begun for the 2020 Huffman ISD Rodeo Art Show coming up on Thursday, January 16, 2020. This year's theme is "Once Upon a Time in the Wild Wild West" the poster is being displayed by local supporters including Huffman Café, Los Compadres, Marsala's Italian Café and Huddle House.



Travis Elementary students are excited about the supplies their school received from Walmart IDC 7042 right before the Christmas break.

## Annual Career Night,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



Ian DeTorre, now an eighth-grader at Baytown Junior School, tries out a riot shield and baton last year while discussing career options with representatives (from left) Stacey LeBlanc, senior warden; Officer Robyn Lacy and Captain Bruce Katchmark from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at Goose Creek CISD's 7th Annual Career Night, held at Robert E. Lee High School. The 8th Annual Career Night is scheduled for January 16, 2020, at Goose Creek Memorial High School and is open to the public. Photo by Susan Passmore

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★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

# Harris County healthy food financing initiative coming to Precinct 2

HARRIS COUNTY - January 6, 2020 - Food insecurity is defined as the limited access or availability to nutritional foods, and is typically an economic and social indicator of the community's health. Two factors that predict food insecurities within communities are unemployment and poverty. According to a study done by Houston Food Bank and Harris County Public Health, there are approximately 724,750 food insecure individuals in Harris County alone.

With Precinct 2 having one of the highest rates of low-income families, food insecurity is a common occurrence for its residents. Thus, Commissioner Garcia worked to create an initiative that will help the communities suffering from this issue.

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) was passed by Commissioners Court on December 3, 2019. This initiative's primary purpose is to increase the availability of fresh and nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables, all across Harris County. Some communities that are most affected by this are located in Precinct 2, including Aldine, Crosby, and North Channel. The HFFI seeks to provide funding to support healthy food retail, nutrition education, and urban agriculture throughout the region.

"I want to help bring nutrition education into the families of Precinct 2 for better health," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "This creates an opportunity to improve the diets of our communities and

address an issue that many of our residents suffer from food insecurity due to the lack of accessibility to healthy foods," he continued.

Providing communities with nutrition education and access to fresh fruits and vegetables promotes the adoption of healthy eating behaviors, improves physical health as well as economic outcomes. Even though this initiative has passed, the Harris County Community Services Department (CSD) is still working to announce the official start date. Once announced, for-profit and non-profit organizations will have to apply for grant funding from the CSD to begin the process for their communities. For more information, continue to follow up with hep2.com for the latest updates.

## Award,

CONTINUED FROM THE PRESS

dent Ministry over the years. "One of the great things about America, and Lee College, is freedom of speech and freedom of re-

ligion," he said. "Through the years our local churches have provided lunch, good conversation, presented the gospel, the good news, of Jesus Christ, and offered spiritual encouragement." David also thanked Dr. Brown and Melissa Valencia for at-

tending the BSM when able, and for their outstanding support.

David R. Brumbelow also serves as pastor of Northside Baptist Church, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, TX nsbchighlands.org.

## Weight Management Seminar,

CONTINUED FROM THE PRESS

the cycle of long-term weight gain and bariatric (weight loss) surgery options.

"Surgery is a successful option for patients who qualify, but our set of options include medically supervised diets and nutritional supplementation programs as well," Choi said.

The rate of obesity in the U.S. continues to rise, and with it the negative implications and financial costs of conditions attributed to excess weight. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 36 percent of adults in the U.S. are classified as obese, with the estimated annual medical cost of treating conditions related to obesity totaling over \$150 billion.

Bariatric surgery procedures restrict the amount of food you can eat and/or change the route food takes through your body so that less food is absorbed. The number of Americans

choosing to undergo weight loss surgery has grown dramatically over the last several years. According to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), over 250,000 Americans undergo bariatric procedures each year.

"Although weight loss surgery isn't right for everyone, learning about it and talking to your doctor is the first step in determining whether it's right for you," Sowards said. "Advances in technology have made the procedures safer and less invasive. We also offer comprehensive after-care programs, focusing on nutritional counseling and exercise to help you deal with the physical and emotional changes."

The Bariatric Surgery Seminar will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the conference center classroom. To register, visit [houstonmethodist.org/events](http://houstonmethodist.org/events), or call 281-428-2273.

# Dredging starts at Lake Houston and San Jacinto River

Houston, TX - January 6, 2020 - Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin made District E residents aware the City of Houston has issued a Notice To Proceed (NTP) for debris removal services, specifically large silt deposits at the confluence of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston, commonly referred to as the "mouth bar".

The City of Houston, through its contractor DRC Emergency Services, LLC (DRC), will begin mechanical dredging of the mouth bar this week (Jan. 6, 2020). The total cost for this project is \$40 million dollars, which is funded through a combination of City of Houston Harvey Disaster dollars provided by Governor Greg Abbott, grant dollars from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and funding from the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Bond Program.

DRC will invoice the City of Houston in accordance with rates established and approved by the city to include final disposal. DRC must comply with all terms and provisions established by the Federal Emergency Management

## "Moore for your money"

# New Year—Renewed Focus on Human Connections

Do you ever wonder if in our tech-centered world, we are becoming more distanced from the human connection? Every day, we see so many businesses turning to software to automate more and more processes and services. Does this automation mean that the human connection is disappearing?

I'll be the first to admit that our banks rely on technology tools to do our job, from a simple email or text, to complex commercial loan analysis and loan closings. Our online banking platform and mobile banking apps have been upgraded with the safest and most convenient features. But I believe that people still like to deal with people, to engage human to human. And while this is especially true in the community banking industry, it is also important in most other industries.

### There are benefits to human interaction

We've all heard the potential negative impact on brain health. (Think about young people's addiction to computer games or even ask your teenager to forgo their smartphone for a day.) Human connection has the opposite effect on the brain and is very important to our overall well-being. Positive social

interaction helps prevent mental decline as we age. In addition, studies show that connecting with others has many benefits such as a boosted immune system, improved mental sharpness, and longer, happier lives.

### More change is coming, be open to new solutions

While people change slowly, technology changes rapidly. So, in order to be successful in the new year before us, we need to be open to new solutions. Applications continue to improve and expand in online education, credit building tools, cyber-crime prevention, smart devices and wearables for increased productivity, autonomous vehicles and appliances, artificial intelligence for more specialized tasks, and others. However, always be aware that with difficult issues and problem resolution, nothing is more reassuring to customers than an empathic human voice and demeanor. People crave the human connection while also placing a high value on convenience so stay open to technology tools that can streamline processes and expedite routine inquiries and requests.

### The human connection is crucial to a successful business

Building a business has many moving parts: the business structure, profitability, legal and compliance demands, marketing, etc. Yet your clients are people, your team members are people. Are you paying enough attention to people? How many conversations are you having a day? How much time are you spending building relationships? As you grow your business, don't forget about the human connection. Get out and expand your network, make new connections, offer to help others and don't be afraid to ask for help. The energy you invest in connecting with people will come back tenfold.

Here at Anahuac National Bank, we find that the most basic and powerful way to connect with others is to simply listen. Listening is an easy place to start in your personal and professional life journey and we strive to live it in every customer encounter. We wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2020 and please let us know if we can assist in any way.

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Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #14 Board of Directors General Election ballot may be filed during the following: Se notifica por le presente que las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de la Eleccion General de la Junta de Directores del DISTRICITO de SERVICIO EMERGENCIA #14 (ESD #14)
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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 479952; Estate of ZIGRIDA AUZINS VANSICKLE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2020.

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KENEETH ELMARS VANSICKLE II
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 January 9, 2020.

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# New Health Center,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Rev. Malcolm Barrett the Community Center Coordinator and the great grandson of the community's founder, Harrison Barrett, gave both Garcia and Shah copies of a book about Harrison Barrett, personally autographed.

making health care access a major priority. I want to improve access, increase resources, and investments to support our families who desperately need it," said Commissioner Garcia.

Community leaders and residents through the Center's grand opening Friday, January 10, at 10:30 a.m. inside the Precinct 2 Riley Chambers Community Center.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health (HCPH) spoke of the need for and concerning what is in store for residents before cutting a ribbon, and giving a tour the facility.

Harris County Public Health will be providing the Center's low-cost, preventative health services.

Commissioner Garcia presented facts concerning health in Harris County: life expectancy in

the county is about 78.7 years, however census tracts show as low as 65 years for low income while on the other side of town as high as 89 years. Several inside the county live more than 15 minutes away from a Trauma Center, including those with a high Social Vulnerability Index. About 1 in 5 adults lack health insurance county wide, some communities have more than 1 in 3 lacking health insurance. Local experts overwhelmingly agree that access is the primary challenge facing health in Harris County.

"So many diseases can be prevented through preventive health care, and we are looking forward to helping improve the health of this community. This center will provide physicals and sports exams, screenings for chronic diseases, family planning, immunizations and dental services," said Umair A. Shah, MD,

MPH, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health.

In addition to Commissioner Garcia and Dr. Umair Shah, Rev. Malcolm Barrett and members of the Chambers family also spoke of the monumental benefits of health in the community.

As defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Barrett is a low-to moderate income area, at least 51% of residents' median household income in 2015 was 80% or less than the median income of the county. In addition, 37% of residents had a household income of less than \$34,999.

The Riley Chambers Health & Wellness Center will begin seeing patients on January 13, 2020. Call 832.927.7374 to schedule an appointment, but Walk-Ins are welcomed.

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# More Texas youth to receive mental health services, remain with families

Health and Human Services Commission and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services are helping more children and youth receive mental health residential treatment services and remain in the custody of their parents or guardians through an increase in availability of residential treatment center beds.

"Supporting families and connecting children with intensive mental health services is at the heart of what this program is about," said Trina Ita, HHSC associate commissioner of Behavioral Health Services. "This additional funding will expand access to mental health care for Texas youth and help keep families together."

With an additional \$2.5 million from the 86th Texas Legislature and Governor Greg Abbott, HHSC is increasing the number of beds at residential treatment centers for children and youth with severe emotional disturbance. The increase brings the number available statewide to 50, up from 40.

"The investments we make in mental health services are critical to ensuring positive outcomes for Texas chil-

dren," said Sen. Jane Nelson. "As chair of Senate Finance, I am encouraged the Legislature's \$2.5 million investment this session is helping more Texas children access the mental health services they need to lead healthy lives."

A collaboration between HHSC and DFPS, the Children's Mental Health Residential Treatment Center Relinquishment Avoidance Project, helps parents maintain custody of their children in their effort to receive needed treatment services.

The project, established in 2013, is a successful alternative to parents legally relinquishing custody of their children to Child Protective Services. It provides care to children and youth with severe emotional disturbance who need intensive residential treatment services without placing them in foster care. This helps keep the child with their family due to the improvement of family relationships and ability of the caregiver to support and care for their child.

Increasing RTC bed availability is a key goal of the agency's strategy to help people access behavioral health services, as outlined in HHS' business plan. Blueprint for a Healthy Texas. HHS anticipates serving an additional 19 children and adolescents in FY 2020. The RTC Relinquishment Avoidance Project served 31 children and youth in FY 2019.

Children and youth receive room and board; intensive mental health services that include group, individual and family therapy; and educational and recreational activities. Meanwhile, parents or guardians receive family case management, family partner services and skills training from their local mental health authority.

"This is a terrific program, and will get these children, from very young to teenagers, the kind of help they need," said Kristene Blackstone, associate commissioner for Child Protective Services at DFPS. "It also eliminates the stress on parents that comes with being involved with CPS and the courts. That worry is no longer there."

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