

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ **Courier**

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ▪ www.starcouriernews.com

VOL. 67, NO. 04 - 50¢ © Copyright 2020

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Liberty County Internet Service Survey
- Barbers Hill Bank
- Beach City updates/news

.....And more, Page 3

★
IN THE STARS

EVENTS

MON. JAN. 27

Community Conversations

From noon- 2 pm. 1410 Lilton, Sonnier Ave. Winnie, Texas.

Hosted by United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County. Your opinion counts. Let's Chat! See ad, page 3 for more details.

WED. JAN. 29

Crosby Chamber Ambassador Mtg.

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at Pesos Restaurant, 6512 FM 2100 Rd., Crosby, TX

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 23-Tiffany Kirkwood Brad Loggins
- Jan 25-Jeffrey Langham
- Jan 26-Ida Mueller Charles Johnson
- Jan 27-Ashley Almanza JoAnn Blaskey William R. Patterson Tyler Wingate Jarret Cutbirth John Martin
- Jan 28-Cindy Fikes Johnnie Stotts
- Jan 29-Scott Marshall Michael Wettstein

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 25-Jim & Ronda Laut

DEATHS

- Father J.L. Mundadam Betty Marie Street Robert William (Bob) Morisak Rena Jamail Newton

Rev. Father Jose Paul Mundadam

Rev. Fr. Jose "Joe" Mundadam, 59, passed away January 6, 2020 in Westlake, Louisiana. He was pastor at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, Texas 77562

See Obituary on Page 5

Guy Gauthier Highlands Firefighter of the Year

HIGHLANDS- The fire department held their annual Recognition and Awards Banquet last Saturday evening, in Kemah. Originally scheduled for the Aquarium restaurant, a non-working elevator forced the dinner to be moved next door to the Flying Dutchmen.

ESD#14 president Jim Strouhal presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Guy Gauthier.

This award is given in memory of Cecil Kelly, who volunteered with the Highlands VFD for over 42 years before retiring in 1996. The recipient chosen by vote of the membership is a firefighter who performed above and beyond the call of duty.

A large crowd of firemen and families, friends, community supporters, and board members attended the dinner. Fire Chief Har-



Guy Gauthier receives his Firefighter of the Year Award. Pictured from left, ESD#14 board president Jim Strouhal, Guy Gauthier, and Fire Chief Harvey Little.

vey Little emceed the ceremony, introducing awards, guests, and honorees.

Chief Little reviewed the history of the department for 2019. He noted that there were a total of 2838 calls for service, com-

pared with last year's 2771. Of these 1991 were EMS calls compared with 2031 the previous year. Life Flight was called 27

See Firefighter of the Year, Page 6

Newport MUD bonds at issue for residents

By Lewis Spearman

CROSBY - A meeting at the Newport Municipal Utility District was held on Tuesday, Jan. 21 to inform residents of the price of water or the amount of tax residents will pay, to be decided by another bond election.

The board introduced themselves individually and told how they came to be at their position and why they serve. About 57 residents attended and

See Newport MUD Controversy, Page 8



Margarette Chasteen explains tasks that must be done to become compliant and options to achieve those tasks at the Jan. 21 public meeting. The bond dropped from a 10 year to a six year plan.

Highlands Rotary Congressman Babin reviews conservative accomplishments

By Gilbert Hoffman

HIGHLANDS - Brian Babin, Congressman for the 36th District of Texas, was in Highlands this week to speak with the Rotary Club.

His topics ranged from national to local subjects in which he is involved. He sits on the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, which includes NASA, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which includes the Port of Houston and the Ship Channel.

Locally Babin was instrumental, along with Congressman Gene Green, in getting the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River designated on the EPA's national Superfund List.

Babin noted that his district has a great number of transportation facilities that

Continued on Page 8



Congressman Brian Babin spoke to the Highlands Rotary last Tuesday.

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo 2020
Most of the 2020 Performers!

MARCH 3



Midland

MARCH 4



Willie Nelson

MARCH 5



Becky G

MARCH 6



Hip Hop - B&B

MARCH 7



Maren Morris

MARCH 8



Ramon Ayala

MARCH 9



Chris Young

MARCH 10



NCT 127

MARCH 11



Kane Brown

MARCH 12



Cody Johnson

MARCH 13



Hip Hop-Pop

MARCH 14



Jon Pardi

MARCH 15



Dierks Bentley

MARCH 16



Keith Urban

MARCH 17



Gwen Stefani

MARCH 18



Khalid

MARCH 19



Chris Stapleton

MARCH 20



EDM

MARCH 21



Brad Paisley

MARCH 22



Luke Bryan

TURNER CHEVROLET
Crosby, Texas
COMPLETE CARE
281-328-4377

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE
Jeremy Rosenkranz, State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
www.jeremyrosenkranz.com

WESTON G. COTTEN
Attorney at Law
O. 281-421-4050
F. 281-533-6032
weston@westoncotten.com

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR @ AOL.COM • FAX: 713-977-1188

SAME CAR. LOWER PAYMENTS!
Refinance your vehicle from another financial institution & get a LOWER monthly car payment!
Community Resource CREDIT UNION
Find out more at crcu.org/refi

Crosby woman dies from virus caught on Israel trip

CROSBY, Texas -- A 21-year-old Crosby woman died of the flu after a trip to Israel.

According to a friend's Facebook post, Yael Elizabeth Good was taken to an emergency room on January 6 with flu symptoms and was later transferred to an intensive care unit. Good suffered a heart attack the next day, according to the friend, and died after her organs failed during surgery.

A private memorial for Good was held in Huffman

last Monday.

Good's family said they were told her death was caused by the flu.

According to her obituary, Good was born in Beaumont and loved to travel.

This year has been a very active flu season that began earlier than usual.

"What we're seeing this year is a predominance early in the season of influenza Type B, which is unusual," said Dr. Catherine Troisi with UT Health. "Influenza Type B can of-

ten be more serious in children and young adults who may not have been exposed to it previously."

"Most people don't die from the flu," she said.

Two pediatric flu deaths were recorded in Harris County last year, and overall, nine children have died in Texas. While a flu shot is not a guarantee against the virus, it remains the best defense.

"It's important to get vaccinated to protect yourself and others around you," said Troisi.

Crosby ISD Band gets international award



Kevin Knight accepts the Sudler Flag of Honor award from the Jo'n Philip Sousa Foundation recognizing Crosby high school's concert bands of outstanding musical excellence. "This award is a great honor for our band program," said Knight.

Two new high school options added for eighth graders

Two new academies have been added to the options for Goose Creek CISD eighth graders when considering their high school plans, and the deadline to make their selections is February 2, 2020. Students now have the option of choosing one of nine career academies; a dual credit cosmetology program, housed at Robert E. Lee High School; or IMPACT Early College High School.

A help session in English and Spanish for students and parents needing assistance in completing the application, which is available online on the district's web page, will be held January 28 from 5-6:30 p.m. when completing the application, but it must be submitted online by February 2, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. They will be notified if they are accepted February 14.

One of the new opportunities is the Information Technology Career Academy at Stuart Career Tech High School (SCTHS), a P-



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman Cecilia Contreras watches as Leonardo Cantu takes her blood pressure during her Health Science Academy class at Ross S. Sterling High School.

Tech early college high school. By applying and being accepted for this academy, students will learn the skills required to begin a successful career in the network and computer systems/support industry.

Another new option is the Career Academy for Future Educators (CAFÉ) at Ross S. Sterling (RSS) High School, which prepares students for a career in education.

Altogether, Goose Creek CISD eighth graders may choose among 40 programs of study in all five endorsement areas. Very few districts offer these diverse and specialized educational opportunities, so Goose Creek CISD eighth grade students should carefully consider their options as they create their graduation plans and begin their high school experience.

Bus transportation is available for all students accepted to any of these options for high school.

More information and applications to the academies, and other programs such as Cosmetology program, Stuart Career Tech High School and IMPACT Early College High School are available on the Goose Creek CISD website at www.gcicisd.net.



CROSBY – The only band in the USA to receive the Sudler Flag of Honor for 2019 is the local high school band.

It was recently recognized of "The Big Red Machine" that "have demonstrated particularly significant high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years" by the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

More over "the band must have achieved and maintained a high standard of literature in the concert area over a period of several years."

The award went on the say, "The total program of music should

Ray Holder, Chair of the Selection Committee, will present the flag on May 19. The flag will be on display inside the band hall in Crosby High School.

exemplify what is considered a sound, viable, music education program for this level of endeavor."



281-328-5869



Home Health Care


Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker, Home Health Aide, Hospice Services
*Physical Therapy Position Available

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR MEDICARE FUNDED HOME HEALTH CARE
Physical Therapy Position Available
Locally owned and Operated by Tabatha and Jonathan Brady

Non-Discrimination Policy
No client shall be, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or status with regard to public assistance or veteran status, excluded from admission to services through Omnix Health Care Services, Inc.

CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Maximum Tax Savings



Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY
A DIVISION OF CORPORATE RECOVERY, INC.

TAX PREPARATION & CONSULTATION
All Federal, State, Foreign & Individual, Partnerships, Trusts, Estates, Corporations (C, Sub S & Limited Liability) & Payroll Tax Returns, Intuit Pro-Advisors, Service All Businesses & Individual Taxes
Specialists in getting late filers into I.R.S. Compliance
Business Solutions for New Tax Rules, Regulations and Tax Audits
Debt Consultation and Bankruptcy Protection as a Solution to your Debts
Other Services Rendered

Bookkeeping, Computer Systems, Financial Management, Investments, Payroll, Property Rendition, Real Estate & Business Brokerage
Normal Business Hours
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon – 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday By Appointment
ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR INCOME TAX ORGANIZER
JACK NOONAN, B.B.A., TREB, E.A. & STAFF
IRS Enrolled License # 2018 – 65282
6400 FM 2100 North Main, P.O. Box 1428, Crosby, TX 77532-1428
Telephone (281) 328-1755 Fax (281) 328-5280
E-mail: cri.tax.jhinson@gmail.com

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 25, NO. 04 - 40¢

© Copyright 2019

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

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

ROUND-UP

Boots and Bullets Event

Benefitting 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 - \$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.

Goss Library events

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of Monday, January 27, 2020.

•Tuesday, January 28 - 10:00, Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)

•Wednesday, January 29 - 10:00, Puzzle Contest Do you like working puzzles? Come join our puzzle contest for National Puzzle Day. Call the Library to sign up. (ages 18 & up)

•Friday, January 31 - 10:30 am & 2:00 pm, Storytime (ages 0-3 yrs) Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu, (281) 576-2245.

Jones Library events

•January 29th the library will be hosting a 1920's double feature in the community center. They 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 the licensing they cannot share the name of the movies they will be showing.

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

BAYTOWN HOSPITAL

Diabetes Education prevents serious conditions

BAYTOWN — (January 16, 2020) — The JDRF Gala, scheduled for Saturday, January 25, promises to be a great night out, highlighted by dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions, but it also will provide inspiration and information for those impacted by the disease.

The honorees for this year's gala, scheduled for 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Houston's Royal Sonesta Hotel, are Baytownians Laney-Grace Caylor and Darrell Lamb. Each will discuss the life changing nature of a diabetes diagnosis and will offer words of wisdom on managing the disease during the fundraiser that benefits the Baytown Council Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is a sponsor of this year's event.

With an estimated 30 million children and adults in the U.S. diagnosed with diabetes among the 415 million adults worldwide affected by the disease, Jennifer Litaker, RD, LD, CDE, diabetes educator at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, said learning your risk factors is vital. "Early diagnosis is critical to successful treatment and delaying or preventing some



The Houston Methodist Baytown Diabetes Education team, office coordinator Dinah Galvan (second from left), and registered dietitians Sherry Pritchard (far left), Jennifer Litaker (second from right) and Seemab Jamil.

of the complications of type 2 diabetes, including heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation and death," Litaker said.

Houston Methodist Baytown's Diabetes Education Program is recognized by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for quality self-management education. It is designed to individualize a treatment plan that diabetes patients can use to manage the disease and improve their health.

Patients at HMB receive extensive education on diabetes management in either a one-on-one appointment or in a group classroom setting that educates them on how to manage the disease through blood glucose monitoring, healthy eating, being active, taking medications (as applicable) and healthy coping.

Diabetes risk factors include being overweight, over

See Diabetes Education, Page 6

Barbers Hill student sent to in-school suspension for not cutting his dreadlocks

MONT BELVIEU — A Barbers Hill High School student, DeAndre Arnold, was sent to in-school suspension and told he couldn't walk during graduation until his dreadlocks are cut short to meet the district's revised dress code, which changed after Christmas break. Arnold said his refusal to cut his hair is due to his Trinidadian background.

Gary Monroe, with United Urban Alumni Association, spoke to board members on his opposition to the dress code. "You are in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as it pertains to religious beliefs," Monroe said.

At last Monday night's meeting, Arnold's family and several activists took to the podium to express their discontent with the district's current dress code policy. "Let's stop with the dress code. This is not about dress code, this is

about policing black boys," an activist said. DeAndre Arnold's father, David Arnold, told the board the continuous punishment of his son is a form of bullying. "I won't stand for anybody bullying my child. He has rights. All he wants to do is graduate," David Arnold said.

Despite several attempts by the family to engage the board into a conversion, the board chose not to place the topic on the upcoming agenda for further discussion.

"This is a public participation, not an action item dialogue," said superintendent Greg Poole.

Members of the Black Lives Matter organization turned their backs on speakers during the public forum who expressed their support for the current dress code policy that has now become a controversial topic.

Liberty County's survey to improve internet service

Liberty County is conducting a Survey to improve the internet. It is important that EVERYONE complete this survey. "As we continue to grow the demand on the internet will slow us all down, frustrating us all. The more input we receive from you the community the more serious we will be taken and the possibility for grants will be greater, saving us all money," recommends Dayton Chamber of Commerce.

Data gathering is the

first step for improving your internet connection. Choose a survey below that best represents your role in your community. You may take more than one survey if you have more than one role in the community, (e.g. your own a home in the community and own a small business or you own a home in the community and work at the library, etc.).

Survey site: <https://myconnectedcommunity.org/liberty-county>

Coyote alert in Beach City

There has been a significant increase in reports of coyote sightings in Beach City. Coyotes pose a danger to small pets that are allowed to roam outdoors, especially after dark or early morning. Coyotes are naturally fearful of humans but do pose a danger none the less, especially small children. I have contacted Texas Wildlife Services and TGS Cedar Port Management about this problem and they plan to begin trapping in the TGS property soon. In the meantime, we need to do our part in not attracting the coyotes to our neighborhoods. Texas Wildlife Services recommend that we don't leave pet food out overnight and secure your household garbage in containers that discourage coyotes from rummaging for food scraps.

IPHONE EMERGENCY SOS ALERT

I may have been the only one that didn't know this but in case there are others, I wanted to share this. IPHONES have a feature that will transmit an emergency call to local 911 operators alerting them of your SOS and your location. On my phone I just depress the 'on' button on the right side five times quickly to activate. You then have time to cancel if it was unintentional. Other models may have different ways to activate so check how yours works. This could come in handy some day.

Jackey Lasater,
Mayor, Beach City

Find out how to become a Baytown Habitat homeowner

BAYTOWN, Texas - A homeowner orientation is offered Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. for those interested in learning the qualifications required for the Habitat program. The meeting is

open to the public and will be held at Faith Presbyterian Church located at 3900 N. Main in Baytown. Applications will be accepted through February 15, 2020.

Community Conversations

hosted by United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County

Your opinion counts.

Attend one of United Way's community conversations to share your thoughts.

LET'S CHAT!



Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County

Register today.

RSVP to admin@unitedwaygbacc.org or call 281.424.5922 x 1001 if you are interested in participating. Snacks, sandwiches or breakfast items will be provided.

JAN 15
WEDNESDAY
4-6PM

Sterling Municipal Library
1 Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Ave., Baytown

JAN 22
WEDNESDAY
7:30-9:30AM

Sterling Municipal Library
1 Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Ave., Baytown

JAN 27
MONDAY
NOON-2PM

1410 Litton, Sonnier Ave.
Winnie

FEB 06
THURSDAY
1-3PM

Barbers Hill ISD Eagle's Nest
600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu

FEB 10
MONDAY
NOON-2PM

Wellness Center
2200 S. Main St., Anahuac



★ OPINION PAGE ★



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – When Should I Claim My Widow’s Benefit?

Dear Rusty: My husband passed away at the age of 52, and I was 53. I am currently 59. I've read about and been encouraged to file for widow's benefits from Social Security when I turn 60. My question is: does doing that impact when I should file for my regular Social Security benefits? In reading on many websites regarding my question, this never is addressed on what is best. Signed: Widowed Survivor

Dear Survivor: You have my sympathy for the loss of your husband at such a young age. I'll try to clarify your options for you.

Provided you have not remarried you can claim your survivor benefit at age 60, but if you do it will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67. As long as you are explicit when claiming your survivor benefit that you are not also applying for your own Social Security benefit, there will be no negative impact to your eventual Social Security retirement benefit when you claim that. But, determining which benefit to take, and when, requires some thought.

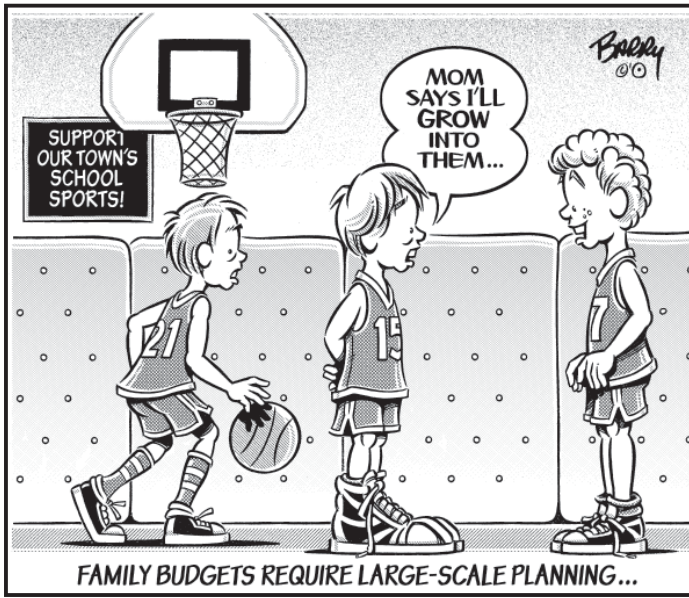
Your goal should be to get the highest benefit possible for the rest of your life. To help you decide how and when to file, you should first see what your survivor benefit will be at your full retirement age (100% of what your husband was entitled to at his death). If that amount is more than you are entitled to on your own at age 70 then you should consider waiting until age 67 (your FRA) to claim your widow's benefit, so you can get that higher survivor benefit for the rest of your life. Conversely, if your own age 70 benefit will be more than your widow's benefit at your FRA, then claiming your widow's benefit first and allowing your own benefit to grow until age 70 when it reaches maximum would be the more prudent choice. You can get estimates of both your survivor benefit and your age 70 retirement benefit by contacting Social Security. But if claiming the survivor benefit at age 60 is what you decide, or if you were to instead

claim your Social Security retirement benefits early (e.g., age 62) there's more for you to consider.

If you are collecting any Social Security benefits before you reach your full retirement age (FRA) and you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings limit" which restricts the amount you can earn before they take back some of your benefits (the earnings limit changes annually; for 2020 it is \$18,240). Up until the year you reach your FRA, they will take back benefits equal to one half of any earnings you have over the limit. During the year you reach your FRA the limit increases by about 2.5 times and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer a limit on your earnings. So, if you claim your survivor benefit at age 60 and are working, exceeding the earnings limit will result in you permanently losing some of your survivor benefits. If, instead, you claim your SS retirement benefit early (e.g., at age 62) you'll still be subject to the earnings limit until you reach age 67, but at your FRA they will give you time credit for any months you didn't get your retirement benefits and increase your benefit amount accordingly.

The important point to remember is that you have a choice of which benefit to take, and evaluating your options as described above should lead you to the right answer - whether you should claim your reduced survivor benefit at age 60, or to delay until it reaches maximum at age 67.

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.



FAMILY BUDGETS REQUIRE LARGE-SCALE PLANNING...

★ THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"The Cigar Box"

I spent the weekend in New York City.

I hadn't been to New York in quite a while. I was performing at a theater conference and so was traveling alone, without my husband, Peter.

New York intimidates me—as all big cities do. I am not a nervous traveler, generally, but I keep my possessions close at hand and my eyes open—which is why I noticed the young man in the black athletic shirt on the subway.

I was taking the subway for the first time in a long time and, so far, I was doing pretty well. Okay, I did choke when I got to my first turnstile. I pushed the bar too quickly and had to run my card through a second time. Two dollars! Down the drain! But I finally made it on the subway, in the late evening, my bags gathered close like little ducklings.

So, naturally, I noticed when a young man in a black athletic shirt started talking trash to the man across from him. They were having a heated discussion, topping each other by speaking louder and louder. I clutched my suitcase a little tighter. Then I saw the young man reach inside his bag. I watched closely as his hand disappeared into a large satchel and emerge with a cigar box.

If I now asked you to guess what was in the box, no matter how many guesses you were given, I'm betting you would be wrong.

Thread. In that box was every color of thread in the rainbow. The young man, without missing a beat in his argument, reached into the box and pulled out a spool of black thread and a needle, threaded it and—right before my eyes—began stitching up a small tear in the sleeve of his athletic jersey.

His satchel was full of sewing paraphernalia, I realized. He was clearly much better outfitted than my mother who, to the best of my knowledge, has never attempted a stitchery repair while on a moving subway.

I got to my Airbnb. When Peter and I travel together, we always rent an Airbnb we can have to ourselves but, as I was alone and New York is expensive, I found a place with one other room and a shared bath. It was neat as a pin and very convenient. The first night there was a sweet young woman named Emily staying there. She was interviewing for a job at a big publishing house. Emily checked out, the room was cleaned, and I had the place to myself until the second evening when the door opened and a large, swarthy young man with more than a five-o'clock shadow appeared. His name was Manu, he said, in a strong accent.

I said hello and went about preparing to go out for the night. I had to perform in a couple hours, so I had hair to curl and other equally important duties to perform. Manu parked his bag in his room and prepared to leave.

But just as he was about to go out the door, he stopped and turned.

In a deep baritone voice, he asked, "Is it safe? Will I be safe in this neighborhood?"

I studied the extremely capable looking Manu. I remembered the young man stitching on the subway. I thought of all the assumptions I make, every day, every time I encounter another person.

I smiled at Manu. "It's okay, I think you'll be safe," I told him. Manu grinned at me and headed out onto the streets of New York.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

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

Governor requests presidential disaster declaration

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Jan. 13 asked for a presidential disaster declaration for three counties that sustained widespread damage attributed to severe thunderstorms, straight-line winds, hail and tornadoes.

The stormy weather on Oct. 20-21 hit Cameron, Dallas and Erath counties. Abbott's request includes public assistance and hazard mitigation.

"The State of Texas is committed to ensuring the people of Cameron, Dallas and Erath counties have the resources they need to continue rebuilding the public infrastructure," Abbott said. "With the help of our federal partners, these communities can rebuild quickly and gain access to important recovery resources. I ask that the president swiftly grant this request in order to expedite valuable support to these counties."

If Abbott's request is granted, local jurisdictions will be eligible for federal reimbursement for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency measures to protect life and property and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, parks and publicly owned property.

Proclamation extended

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 14 extended the disaster proclamation he originally signed on Aug. 23, 2017, and amended several times thereafter, pertaining to 60 counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

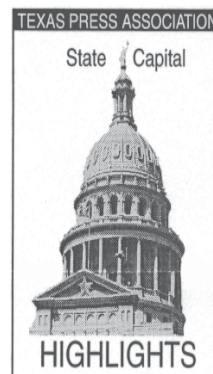
Texas law authorizes the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

Miller hails trade deal

When President Donald Trump signed the "Phase One" trade agreement with China on Jan. 15, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller called it "huge, Texas-sized news."

The agreement calls for China to increase its purchase of U.S.-produced goods by \$200 billion, in-

★ STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



contributions go and how they are handled," Paxton said. "The agreement reached today marks a recognition of the responsibilities charitable funds have to donors, and we are grateful for the new PayPal Charitable Fund provisions that will better inform all who choose to give to charity through the online platform."

Agency set record again

During calendar year 2019 the Texas Railroad Commission processed a record 11,654 new drilling permits.

The Lone Star State's oil and gas industry regulating agency announced its staff also set a record in taking just two days on average to process standard drilling permits, one day below the Legislative requirement.

Also, according to a Jan. 13 news release, the agency processed permits at this faster-than-required rate for two years in a row, beginning in calendar year 2018.

"The Railroad Commission's technological solutions enable operators to quickly apply for and receive drilling permits," said Wei Wang, executive director of the agency. "Nearly 99 percent of operators apply for drilling permits online. This allows our staff to thoroughly and quickly review each application to ensure operators meet all drilling permit requirements."

Texas leads the nation in oil and gas production, with the Permian Basin in West Texas ranking as the nation's top energy production region. In the last 12 months Texas operators reported 1.438 billion barrels of oil produced and almost 10 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the Permian Basin contains 66 billion barrels of oil, nearly 300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 21 billion barrels of natural gas liquids in the Midland and Delaware Basins.

"Texas will continue to be the nation's leader in energy production," Wang said. "The Railroad Commission's efficient, timely permit review processes are essential to the continued development of the state's energy resources and ultimately support Texas' economic prosperity."

cluding the import of agricultural products by \$40 billion to \$50 billion over the next two years.

U.S. negotiators agreed to cut tariffs in half on goods from China, from 15% down to 7.5%.

Goal: donor protection

Texas Attorney General Paxton on Jan. 14 joined the attorneys general of 23 states in an agreement with PayPal Charitable Fund Inc., the charitable arm of PayPal.

In the agreement, the states seek to ensure donors are given clear information and disclosures on where their money goes when making charitable contributions through the company's online payment platform.

Previously, the platform aggregated and distributed funds to the donors' chosen charities without collecting fees; however, charities that maintained a PayPal account received contributions more quickly than others. That fact was not disclosed to donors, nor was the fact that sometimes contributions were redirected away from the donor's selected charity and given to a different organization with similar purposes.

"Texans are generous people who selflessly give to countless charities and causes. They deserve to know exactly where their

W.B. AUCTION Company

Business & Farm Liquidations
Antiques · Estates · Mini-Storage
A Complete Auction Service
TXS.Lic. 10592

General Merchandise Auction
Every Sat. 6pm
2504 Fm1942
Crosby, TX 77532

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

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star **Courier**

USPS 244-500
and the
Barbers Hill **Dayton PRESS**

Editor & Publisher.....**Gilbert Hoffman**
Associate Publisher.....**Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman**
Assoc. Editor/Advertising Manager.....**Lewis Spearman**
Assistant Editor.....**Julietta Paita**
Production Manager.....**Luis Hernandez**
Asst. Production Manager.....**Gerardo Hernandez**

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER; Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Channel NEWS; North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 50,000. Readership exceeds 110,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones...713-977-0270
FAX Line...713-977-1188
email: grafikstar@aol.com
Member Texas Press Association

★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

OBITUARIES

Betty Marie Street

Betty Marie Street, 77, passed away January 15, 2020 at her home in Houston, Texas.

Betty was born in Houston on September 3, 1942 to parents Sam and Grace (Gates) Brinkley. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Houston. Betty always loved horses, and in her younger years she raised, showed, and even participated in barrel racing at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo held at the Astrodome. She married the true love of her life, Leon Street on December 17, 1960 in Galena Park. They enjoyed almost 60 years together raising their family and supporting their community where they were very involved and active in helping others.

Betty created several community programs in the community and in the Galena Park School District to help the disadvantaged. She founded Adapt Learning Systems where she taught GED classes and helped many people achieve their goals. She was honored to receive the Jefferson Award of Achievement.

Betty may have been best known for founding and creating Betty's Haven in the Northshore area where she helped countless domestic abuse victims for many years. Betty also cherished her church family at South Main Baptist Church where they have been members of for over 23 years. She was very family oriented and especially loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Betty is preceded in death by her parents; and brother-in-law, David Arnold. She is lovingly sur-



vived by her husband, Leon Street, children, Aaron Street and wife Kimberly, Elizabeth Steele, Lara Coronado and husband Stephen; sister, Beverly Arnold; grandchildren, Jason Godoy, Jeremy Godoy, Robert Crook, Nicole Kitts and husband Jay, Leah Steele, Brennen Coronado, Austin Coronado, Dillon Coronado; as well as numerous extended family members and many dear friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Monday, January 20th at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services officiated by Rev. Bobby Miller will be held at 11:00 AM Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 1:15 PM at Houston National Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

CARTER ★ CONLEY FUNERAL HOME
13701 Corpus Christi St., Houston, TX 77015
713-455-5100
www.CarterFuneral-Houston.com

Robert William (Bob) Morisak

Robert William (Bob) Morisak a resident of Willis, Texas, entered the presence of the Lord on Friday, January 17, 2020. He was born June 21, 1944 in Baytown, Texas. He grew up in Highlands, Texas and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1963; attended Lee Junior college in Baytown, Texas and completed his studies at Stephen F. Austin University in 1967 with a B.S. degree in Education and a minor in Business. He attended graduate school at Sam Houston University in the study of kinesiology. He began his career in education, teaching and coaching at Marshall Jr., High and was properly named "Coach" after being involved in coaching track, football and basketball for 10 years at Brazosport, Freer, Dayton, Northwest Academy and C E King high schools. He is remembered fondly by many on his early track teams.

He became a State Farm Agent in July, 1976 and retired December 31, 2017, after providing 41.5 years of "Good Neighbor Service."

His lifetime love for horses led him into breeding, training, and racing of thoroughbreds. Bob has had a ranch in Buffalo, Texas for the past fourteen years and previously owned a farm in Crosby, Texas. He enjoyed talking about and viewing all sports and "coaching" from his chair!

At the time of his death he was still actively training horses and faithfully riding his bicycle with his Australian Shepherd service dog, Hachi and son, Omaha. Bob was an avid reader, enjoyed the outdoors and all animals, and was a member of Benue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Texas.

He is survived by his wife of almost 25 years, Patricia (Patsy) Guillory Morisak of Willis, Texas, two daughters, Charlyn D. Morisak of Buffalo, Texas



and Robin L. Morisak of Panorama Village, Texas and their mother, Charlotte Belin, also of Panorama Village, Texas. Step children Erika G. Page and husband Charles of Milton, Georgia; Derek Guillory, M.D. and wife Tisa of San Antonio, Texas; and Daren R. Guillory and wife Jennifer of Houston, Texas. Grandchildren Nathan Montgomery, Makayla Legally, and Mari Otis. Step grandchildren Jackson and Kate Guillory, Payton, Garner and Sloan Guillory and Alexa and Elliana Page. Sister Shirley Ann Ulrich and husband Joe of Baytown, Texas; brother William R. (Billy) Morisak of Crosby, Texas. Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of family and friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Mary Satsky Morisak of Crosby, Texas.

A celebration of life will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, located at 10129 FM 1097 West, Willis, Texas 77318, on Saturday, January 25, 2020, beginning with visitation at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the service. Memorial donations may be made to the Youth Scholarship Fund of Benue Baptist Church, P.O. Drawer 250, Montgomery, Texas 77356 or to the SPCA. You are invited to leave a written condolence our website at www.shmfh.com.

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home
10129 FM 1097 W
Willis, TX 77318
936-890-0454

Rena Jamail Newton 1940-2019

Rena Newton passed away on December 28, 2019. She was born to Albert Jamail and Edith McCorvey on January 16, 1940 in Galveston, Texas.

Rena is preceded in death by her loving husband, Samuel Newton Jr. and her son, Charles Fade. She leaves behind two brothers, five children, thirteen grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Rena worked for Galena Park Independent School District in employee benefits for twenty seven years, retiring in 2003. A long-time member of her community she enjoyed and took great pride in serving her fellow employees. Family and friends that knew and loved her will greatly miss her strong spirit and personality. At her request, she was cremated on January 14, 2020.

Rev. Father Jose Paul Mundadan



Rev. Fr. Jose "Joe" Mundadan, 59, passed away January 6, 2020 in Westlake, Louisiana.

Fr. Joe was born in Angamaly, Kerala, India on May 15, 1960 to parents Kunjipaulo and Lilly Mundadan. He received his ordination into priesthood on December 8, 1984.

Rev. Fr. Joe came to America in 1999 to continue spreading the word of the Lord. He moved to Houston on June 20, 2013 and welcomed the honor of serving as becoming the priest at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church in 2015. Rev. Fr. Joe treasured his parishioners at St. Jude Thaddeus and enjoyed serving the community where he also lived.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Rev. Fr. Joe is lovingly survived by his brothers, Jojo Mundadan, Davis Mundadan, Martin Mundadan, Dicto Mundadan; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and many friends.

Services honoring Rev. Fr. Jose's life were held on Friday, January 10, 2020 with visitation at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Holy Funeral Mass at 7:00 p.m. and concluded by the Office of the Dead as well as bidding of farewell at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, Texas 77562, under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Services and burial followed at St. Joseph's Church, Joespuram, Angamaly, India.

CARTER ★ CONLEY FUNERAL HOME
13701 Corpus Christi St., Houston, TX 77015
713-455-5100
www.CarterFuneral-Houston.com

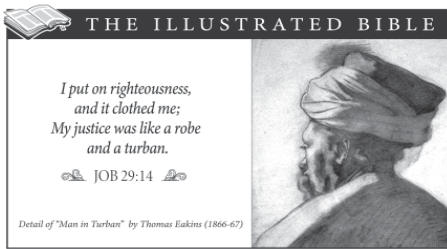
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Judges in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which member of David's army murdered two generals and was slain at a tabernacle altar as punishment? Heliz, Elik, Joab, Zalmon
3. From Acts 28, who got a snake bite on the hand as he laid sticks on a fire? Noah, Moses,

4. What prophet did mouth-to-mouth on a dead boy, restoring him to life? Jonathan, Silas, Elisha, Nahash
5. From Genesis 21, who put her child under a bush to die? Hagar, Miriam, Ezra, Sarah
6. What grandmother got commended by Paul for her great faith? Rachel, Lois, Dorcas, Delilah

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Joab; 3) Paul; 4) Elisha; 5) Hagar; 6) Lois*



WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY HIGHLANDS
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

SIGNATURE Select SERVICES
www.SigSelect.com

Select Services:
Personal Care In-Hospital Sitting
Social Outings Post-Surgical Assistance
Respite Care Pet & Plant Care
24 hr. Care Light Housework
Meal Preparation
Transportation

MONICA NELSON
COMMUNITY LIASON
346-216-8872
mnelson@sigselect.com
606 Rollingbrook Dr. #2G
Baytown, TX 77521
832-695-2328

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

Call **GRAFIKSHOP** for printing quotes
713-977-2555

LOVE NEVER FAILS
I Corinthians 13:8

STERLING ~ WHITE
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD., HIGHLANDS, TX 77562
(281) 426-3555 WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

JANUARY 2020 CEMETERY SPECIAL

BUY 2 PLOTS FOR THE PRICE OF 1

SELECT CEMETERY PLOTS ONLY
10% DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$54.00/MONTH
HURRY! LIMITED TIME ONLY! FOR DETAILS CALL

281-426-3555

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PREPAID FUNERALS VISIT WWW.PREPAIDFUNERLAS.TEXAS.GOV. COMPLAINTS CONCERNING PERPETUAL CARE CEMETERIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF BANKING 1-877-276-5554: WWW.DOB.TEXAS.GOV

www.starcouriernews.com
www.northchannelstar.com

Complete Line of Groceries
KWIK MART FOODS
14443 FM 1409 281-576-5788

STERLING ~ WHITE
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562
(281) 426-3555
WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM
"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

Siding & Roof Repairs
Mobile Home Skirting
Call Mr. Roofer
281-452-0000

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

ENVELOPES
Printed with your Address
1 or 2 colors
Special Rates 250 to 25,000
Please call for a Quote
Grafikshop at Star-Courier
713-977-2555

HIGHLANDS Fire Dept. 2019 Recognition Awards

HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Continued from page 1

times, compared with 20 last year. There were 847 calls for fire responses, compared with 720 in 2018, a significant increase. The department responded to 201 Motor Vehicle Accidents in 2019, compared to 157 the previous year.

Chief Little reported on accomplishments in the last year. The department replaced old Air Paks with new and improved ones, thanks to ESD#14. An important change was switching to East Harris County Emergency Communications Dispatch, a large benefit in responses.

Using HVFD equipment, the department held training sessions at the Baytown, Sheldon and Deer Park facilities. Combined training was held with Crosby and Mont Belvieu at the Baytown Fire Field.

The department was able to pay off the note on Tanker 27, which had cost \$315,000. The department plans on replacing an older ambulance with a new one this year.

Membership in the HVFD stands at 65. Of these 33 are regular, 6 apprentices, 16 retirees (not in the total), 8 EMS full time paid, and 18 EMS part-time paid.

Station #27 now is staffed with a night duty fire crew, and ESD#14 monthly meetings are held at the new building.



MASCOTS 2019 Daveah Asher, 2020 Brantley Duhon



15 YEAR SERVICE AWARD, Chief Harvey Little present award to Kyle Little



5 YEAR SERVICE AWARD, Christofer Contreras, Benjamin Hackler, Joseph Gamez, Ryan Lopez, Amber Moreton



ROOKIE of the Year, Chad Lowery



CITIZEN of the Year, Claudia Birdsong



BUSINESS of the Year, ZXP Technologies, Chief Little presenting award to CEO James Taylor, and Jaime Ruiz



ELECTED OFFICERS include Chief Harvey Little, Nate Scott, Guy Gauthier, Little, Ryan Hotchkiss, and Glenn Chisholm



BOARD OF DIRECTORS include Ben Coward, chair; Ben Hackler, Tim Covington, Ryan Lopez, Wayne Speaks, Wesley Campbell, Ruben Lopez



TOP TEN RESPONDERS in the HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2019 include Ruben Lopez 490, Guy Gauthier 410, Christofer Contreras 257, Nate Scott 211, Ryan Lopez 185, Matthew Bennett 184, Wayne Speaks 146, Chad Lowery 131, Patrick Brown 115, Ben Coward 109



ESD #14 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, Johnny Gaeke, Mark Taylor, Jerry Ickes, Chester Stasney, (with Marie Stasney), Jim Strouhal president (with Letha Strouhal)

Diabetes Education, Newport MUD bonds,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the age of 45, and leading a sedentary lifestyle. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and people who have a family history of the disease are at highest risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

“Working with your diabetes team helps you effectively manage the disease, keep up with advances in care and prevent serious complications,” Litaker said. “You should collaborate to tailor a program you can follow throughout the year.”

For more information on the full range of services provided by Houston Methodist Baytown’s Diabetes Education Program, call 281-420-8525.

For reservations and more information on the gala, contact gala board president Laurie Terry at laterry@houstonmethodist.org.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

asked questions of the board.

At a meeting last Nov. 22, the Board of Newport MUD voted to increase the water bill by \$35 following the residents voting down a \$70,000,000 bond last election day.

At the public meeting on Jan. 21, the board proposed a six year bond instead of the ten year bond that asks for \$59,450,000 or the pay as you go option would mean a \$270 a month water bill. The issue comes to a vote on May 2, according to board member Margaret Chasteen.

Districts must use more surface water according to subsidence laws, e.g. the 80 -20 law is one factor. The districts are tasked with using much more surface water from legislation passed in 1990 to contend with sinking land. Newport seeing this coming

built one of the first local surface water conversion facility by 1995.

Now, however there is a need for an \$18,705,176 surface water plant, a \$838,588 water plant, a \$12,283,766 water distribution system, a sanitary sewer system valued at \$10,847,294, lift stations and force mains \$1,757,929, a wastewater treatment plant \$18,223,765, and a new administration building to cost \$388,235, additionally, a new Compass Tract Defined area of 530 homes to be valued about \$250,000 each has been approved and supply to that development is to cost an extra \$4,270,588. The total runs \$67,315,341.

The bond if passed would add at estimate an extra \$700 a year to the average homeowner’s taxes as against over \$3,240

in fees. Either way, the money has to be supplied by 2023 to handle the burden of compliance with the Houston-Galveston Subside District.

Privately, many residents will say they are wary of H.O.A.s and M.U.D. boards that seem to act much more in the interests of developers and big money real estate than the homeowners. Some of that resentment came to the meeting a one resident was asked to leave early on as he refused to accept the premise and offered to audit the system for free.

“It just feel like boards are always selling residents a golf course when it starts losing money, but someone has to have one to sell property. Let the homeowners take all the losses, we are just in business to make money,” said one disgruntled resident.

Current tax rates are: Newport: \$0.59, Crosby: \$0.51, Barrett: \$1.09, Indian Shores: \$0.63, Lake Shadows: \$0.60, Spanish Cove: \$0.75, City of Baytown \$0.81, Houston \$0.58, Mont Belvieu \$0.43.

The arguments continue on social media throwing accusations back and forth but most all agree “that Newport MUD needs funding to address the state mandated requirements and to repair our aging infrastructure.”

However, Mr. Don Cox answered, “The bond must pass - but how much? I have a different way of looking at this. The board keeps saying our infrastructure is in bad condition and the previous boards did nothing to get us out of this situation. If you say the previous boards I was on did nothing about planning, we provided a successful bond election that provided our financing until the most recent bond sale. That is why it is now time for a

new bond election to carry us into the future. To do a bond election earlier was just not practical. So, I ask the engineer if the operator had been neglecting Newport all these years and what condition was Newport’s infrastructure in now. I guess no one was ready for that question because the engineer said the operator had taken great care of our system and our system was in good condition as of that day. The reason we need the bond is because of aging wear and tear. I don’t understand why it is necessary for this board to scare the residents and make them think our system has been so neglected that they have to pass this bond. The truth is we need this bond to pass, but we can get it to pass at a lower amount without all the hysteria.”

According to Board member Margaret Chasteen, the Six year bond is a compromise by the board with this viewpoint.

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money



281-428-1187
1-800-345-8471
Sales & Repair Service
Baytown, Texas
John Henderson
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.



CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS
FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
713-702-3200
JOHNNY GAEBE
OWNER-INSPECTOR
911 S. MAIN
HIGHLANDS TX, 77562

Free Estimates Financing Available




MR. ROOFER
Siding & Contracting LLC
281-452-0000
CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR
New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding • Mobile Home Skirting
P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530
Mrroofer@mail.com
= Major credit cards accepted =



Embroidery & Screen Printing
281-462-1200
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

OFFICIAL VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION



12502 FM 1960 E
HUFFMAN, TX 77336
281.324.2595
WWW.FNFINSPECTIONS.COM
INSPECTING ALL MAKES AND MODELS:
CARS & TRUCKS,
MOTORCYCLES,
MOTORHOMES,
& RV'S
M-F 8AM-5PM SAT. 8AM-2PM
OWNED & OPERATED BY RYCE NICHOLS AND JOHNNIE MESS



FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE
119 Listi Ln, Highlands hillmaterials.com
WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial

Commercial Printing
Call for a Quote
713-977-2555

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details

★ HOME IMPROVEMENT ★

Starting a Home Remodeling Project 7 tips for choosing a qualified contractor

(Family Features) Outside of the home itself, remodeling is typically one of the largest investments you can make as a homeowner. While some projects can be tempting to tackle yourself, many larger-scale projects may require hiring a qualified professional.

Because remodeling your home is a big undertaking, it's important to take steps to ensure the professional you hire to perform the work is qualified to complete it to the highest standards of quality and integrity.

Consider these tips from the experts at the National Association of the Remodeling Industry to help you make an informed decision when hiring a remodeling contractor.

Get Recommendations

One of the best ways to find qualified, professional help is through word-of-mouth referrals. Ask your relatives, friends, neighbors or co-workers – particularly if they've recently renovated their own homes – if they have any previous experience with companies they would recommend. Also consider searching online for reviews of companies in your area.

Stay Local

It's often best to consider established local remodeling companies first, as they are typically more



compelled to perform high-quality work, which allows their businesses to thrive and remain in the community. Local professionals are also likely to know permit requirements and building codes in your city or county, which can change from year to year.

Follow Your Design Aesthetic

Whether your home fea-

tures a mid-century modern, contemporary or farmhouse design style, it's critical to choose a remodeler who is knowledgeable in the construction and design of the style of your home. Additionally, a company that specializes in remodeling kitchens may not be suited for a bathroom or bedroom project.

Ask for Licenses and Insurance

Many states, but not all, require contractors to be licensed, bonded and insured. Ask for copies of licenses and insurance certificates for any remodelers you're considering to make sure they're current. Most states also require contractors to carry worker's compensation, property damage and personal

liability insurance for their crews. Contact your state or local licensing agencies to ensure the contractor meets the minimum requirements.

Check References

Once you've narrowed your list of potential contractors, ask for a list of references you can contact and a portfolio of work. A

typical reference list includes 10 or more jobs with dates as well as the customer's name, address and phone number, and a portfolio should also contain at least 10 projects with photos of the space before work began, during the project and after completion. If possible, also consider visiting a current job site to see first-hand how the contractor operates.

Search for Violations or Complaints

Because you can't always rely on a portfolio or references, it's important to also check with your local consumer affairs office or the Better Business Bureau to ensure there are no complaints on record for the contractors you're considering, which may help further narrow your list.

Compare Apples to Apples

While a number of different factors goes into every remodeling project, be sure all contractors you solicit bids from are using the same scope and quality of work requirements. Discuss any significant variations in price or timelines and be wary of any substantially lower estimates.

Find more tips for selecting a contractor at remodelingdoneright.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 120,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 40,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$16 for 20 words. A bargain!

AUCTION

LAND AUCTION – 25 Acres!
Saturday, February 1st 11AM. 3000 Holder Rambo Dr., Huffman, TX. Perfect for Development!
BARIGBY.com
800.582.1206

HOUSE FOR SALE

MOBILE HOME for sale, 913 Pauline St., Highlands, TX 77562. 2 bdrm/1 bth \$42K no financing. 832-289-3086.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 480660; Estate of JAMES EARL ARNOLD Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2020.

LINDA RUTH CLEMENTS
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 16, 2020

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

RENT/LEASE

3/2/2 HOUSE for rent in Newport Subdivision. \$1375/mo. Clean and in a quiet neighborhood. No pets. 713-817-9140.

LEGAL NOTICES

APPEAR IN THE HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR. CALL 713-266-3444 FOR MORE INFO.

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #20-02

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

2020 DISTRICT PROPERTY INSURANCE PROGRAM BUILDINGS AND CONTENTS/BOILER AND MACHINERY

Proposal forms may be found on the Barbers Hill ISD website. Questions on accessing the RFP may be directed to Kim Kunk at 281-576-2221.

Sealed proposals are to be returned to the BHISD Administration Building on or before 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with proposers as deemed advisable or necessary.

LEGAL NOTICE

Where can I pick up a Star-Courier?

HIGHLANDS:
Library
Food Town
Community Center
Backdraft Restaurant
Woodforest Bank
Exxon Station
Shell station
Chevron Station
Post Office (outside)

CROSBY:
Library
Post Office
Community Center
Race Track
Arlan's Market
Community Bank (2)
Woodforest Bank
Hungry Jack's
Dr. Roach Dr.
Chevron Station
Coffee Shop
Mobil Station
Newport package store
CRUCU

HUFFMAN:
Exxon Station
Community Bank
Texaco Station
Donut Shop
Valero Station

LEGAL NOTICE

Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction; February 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2005-24661; TRACT 1: LT 12 BLK 5 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836240000012; Property Address: 0 Laurelwood Dr, Channelview, TX 77530. Opening Bid: \$8,500.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information.

LEGAL NOTICE

Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction; February 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2007-20313; TRACT 1: LT 26 BLK 6 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD #0836250000026; Property Address: 0 Water Oak Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 and TRACT 2: LT 27 BLK 6 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836250000027; Property Address: 0 Water Oak Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 Opening Bid: \$16,000.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information

Classified ADS 713-266-3444

GALENA PARK ISD STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2019					
Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Local, Intermediate, and Out of State Revenues	\$ 112,477,669	\$ 28,837,329	\$ 1,595,839	\$ 2,676,447	\$ 145,587,284
5800 State Program Revenues	108,009,147	292,858	-	1,405,395	109,707,400
5900 Federal Program Revenues	6,704,976	-	-	31,150,916	37,855,892
5920 Total Revenues	227,191,792	29,130,187	1,595,839	35,232,758	293,150,576
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	115,506,266	-	-	10,481,748	125,988,014
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	2,462,602	-	-	54,344	2,516,946
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	4,447,989	-	-	3,290,803	7,738,792
0021 Instructional Leadership	5,905,690	-	-	589,347	6,495,037
0023 School Leadership	15,304,401	-	-	212,905	15,517,306
0031 Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	7,320,474	-	-	591,888	7,912,362
0032 Social Work Services	525,094	-	-	538,702	1,063,796
0033 Health Services	1,725,193	-	-	207,661	1,932,854
0034 Student Transportation	7,975,618	-	-	355,736	8,331,354
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	15,651,622	15,651,622
0036 Extracurricular Activities	4,050,165	-	-	822,144	4,872,309
0041 General Administration	8,911,109	-	-	59,335	8,970,444
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	26,893,734	-	-	259,264	27,152,998
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	2,999,075	-	-	350	2,999,425
0053 Data Processing Services	3,720,747	-	-	245	3,720,992
0061 Community Services	956,110	-	-	771,519	1,727,629
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long-Term Debt	344,959	13,505,753	-	-	13,850,712
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long-Term Debt	10,400	16,370,534	-	-	16,380,934
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Costs and Fees	2,310	7,500	-	-	9,810
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	3,910,656	-	41,558,194	2,052	45,470,902
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Payments to County Appraisal District	978,581	-	-	-	978,581
0630 Total Expenditures	213,951,173	29,883,787	41,558,194	33,889,665	319,282,819
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	13,240,619	(753,600)	(39,962,355)	1,343,093	(26,132,243)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7912 Sales of Real or Personal Property	127,633	-	-	24,022	151,655
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	127,633	-	-	24,022	151,655
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	13,368,252	(753,600)	(39,962,355)	1,367,115	(25,980,588)
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	153,104,931	11,195,980	72,179,567	3,990,330	240,470,808
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 166,473,183	\$ 10,442,380	\$ 32,217,212	\$ 5,357,445	\$ 214,490,220

Congressman Babin in Highlands,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are important to the economic strength of the nation. These include four port in his District TX-36, the port and ship channel, and Interstate I-10. He said the closing of lanes on the bridge is unacceptable, and harmful to the local and national economy. He said that TxDOT is working on a plan that would replace the highway and bridge at the river with a suspension bridge, anchored on each shore but with no supporting columns below in the river.

This is similar to Baytown's Fred Hartman bridge. He cautioned, however, that a project like this takes a long time to become reality. In the meantime, he is working with the Corps of Engineers to get more secure moorings for barges in the river, to minimize any possible damage to the bridge again. He is also working with the Corps to get legislation to dredge and widen the ship channel, important to continued economic

growth in the region. Babin touted the economy under the present Republican administration, noting that more people are working than in any past time, and that there were 6.2 million more jobs created in the Trump years. He indicated that he backed the Republican policies on such matters has healthcare reform, saying that the Democratic plan for single payer would result in "socialism takeover" and higher costs. He

said you can't have mandates, because you lose the freedom of the marketplace. Babin supported the recent trade agreement known as USMCA, saying it would create jobs and save jobs. He said "it is a major victory for American workers." He also supports the new trade agreement with China, and praised Trump for standing up to inequities that have existed for years. Other issues he supports include Second Amendment Gun rights, and the Pro-Life position against abortions. On immigration, he said that open borders are dangerous, letting in known criminals. He said there

are 1.2 million illegal aliens in the U.S. They have had deportation hearings, but just won't leave. He said that Democrats want to offer them free healthcare, but the average American ends up having to pay for this with increased costs for their health insurance. He also praised Trump for his recent position on allowing prayers in schools and public meetings. Babin answered questions from the audience, including several on the closing of the I-10 bridge, and the removal of toxic waste from the river. Johnny Gaeke pointed out that the area has had a restricted or closed bridge for one whole year,

with 3 major accidents. Although he doesn't think it is feasible to limit barges north of the bridge, he says they could be moored more safely. Working with the EPA Region 6 in Dallas, Babin said the timeline for removal of the Waste Pits was Oct. 2019 EPA will issue notice letters to the responsible parties to begin settlement negotiations for implementation of the final design; Feb. 2020 Maintenance activities are planned to repair erosion from Imelda and to place additional rock on the current cap; May 2020 EPA is to receive intermediate remediation designs; and Jan 2021 Final Designs documents are due.

NEW YEAR... NEW CHEVYS NEW WAYS TO SAVE BIG!



2019 CHEVY BLAZER
\$5,000
OFF MSRP



2020 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB
\$11,000 - OR - **0%** FOR 72 MONTHS
OFF MSRP



2020 CHEVROLET TRAX
\$5,000 OFF MSRP
- OR - **0%** FOR 72 MONTHS



TURNER

CHEVROLET
Crosby, Texas
281-328-4377
#OurPeopleMakeTheDifference

2020 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, STK#LZ106357. MSRP: \$58,805, \$2,510 dealer discount, 5,500 Factory rebate, \$2,000 Gm financing, \$1,000 Bonus cash, \$39,795 Final Price, plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150. With approved credit Must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 1/31/20 0% APR financing for 72 months with approved credit. \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed, APR in lue of rebates. 2019 Chevy Blazer, STK#KS695099. MSRP: \$48,915, \$2,416 dealer discount, 2,000 Factory rebate, \$750 Conquest rebate, must own 2006 or newer non-GM model. \$43,749 Final Price. 2020 Chevy Trax, STK#LL109029. MSRP: \$23,055, \$627 dealer discount, \$3,000 Factory rebate, \$750 Conquest cash must own 2006 or newer non-gm vehicle, \$750 DPA through GM Financial, \$17,928. Final Price, plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150. With approved credit. Must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 1/31/20.

Early detection starts with your **ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM**

Advanced Breast Care Close to Home

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

Our Breast Care Centers offer:

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

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