

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

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

VOL. 67, NO. 08 – 50¢

© Copyright 2020

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Baytown Police Self-defense classes
- Fatal accident at SH 146
- Houston Methodist Hospital opens new Emergency Clinic
-And more, Page 3

IN THE
STARS

EVENTS

TUE. FEB. 25

Ferry to close

Lynchburg Ferry to close starting Tuesday, February 25 until late 2020 for necessary improvements. For updates, please follow "Lynchburg Ferry on Facebook"

THUR. FEB. 27

Crosby Awards Banquet & Board Installation

Under the Big Top Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet & Board Installation Banquet, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Baytown, 4910 Chase Street, Baytown, TX 77521.

SAT. FEB. 29

Crosby Historical Society book signing

The Historical Society will be distributing several of their recently released book at Crosby Brethren Church from 1-6 pm. See Ad, page 2 for more details.

FRI. MAR. 27

Crosby EF Annual Golf Tournament

11:30 a.m. registration & lunch. 1:00 shotgun start. At Stonebridge at Newport. 281-328-9200

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 20—Stormy Fulmer
Herman Bradford
Beau McCrary
Feb 21—Lyndsie Hennigan
Leah Moye
Tera Smith
Feb 22—Calzin Rutledge
Diane Currie
Feb 23—Don Bird
Audrey Cornman
Christina Woodall
Feb 24—Will Oviedo
Feb 25—Mrs. Charles Marchard
Beth Phillips
Cheyenne Ward
Jackie Rosas
Feb 26—Alice Etzel
Shane Tappan

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 24—Jim & Linda Hildebrand
Feb 26—Thomas & Geene Parrish

Highlands Chamber of Commerce

O'Brien wins Terry Davis Award

HIGHLANDS – The Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Installation and Community Awards Banquet last Thursday evening, at the Monument Inn. The room was decorated with a Valentine Theme and red table cloths and roses.

There were Community Awards given to six outstanding individuals and organizations that have contributed to the life of the community.

The top award is the Terry Davis Award, and it was given to Goose Creek CISD school superintendent Randal O'Brien for his work in improving the community. A special award was given to Betty



Goose Creek Superintendent Randal O'Brien received this year's Terry Davis Award from outgoing president Jim Wadzinski. At right is the new president of the Chamber, Randy Casey.

Brewer for her 36 years of supporting the Chamber, and service awards were given to outgoing board members Betty Michalsky and Jim Wadzinski.

Executive Director Jessica Woods helped Judge Lucia Bates install the new Board of Directors.

The emcee for the evening was Chamber president Jim Wadzinski. Opening remarks were made by vice-president Gary Guy.

The guest speaker for the evening was also the Terry Davis Award winner, Dr. Randal O'Brien. He spoke in some detail about his career path, from a young boy mowing yards, to his first job as a welder's apprentice and more.

Much of his career was involved with retail sales companies, working on their financial accounting.

This lead him to a job offer to join the Goose Creek administration, where they were planning a large bond issue and construction budgets. From there he was next offered the superintendent's position, having been a teacher and a coach with previous districts.

O'Brien characterizes his Leadership as "the ability to influence others for good."

Other awards were presented for Firefighter, Constable, Sheriff's Deputy, Business of the Year, and board installation.

See photos on Page A5.

Crosby Band wins
more national awards

State Rep. Briscoe Cain R. presents a state award to the Big Red Machine.

CROSBY – In addition to receiving the Sulder Flag of Honor, the Crosby High School Band has been selected as a Program of Excellence by the National Band Association.

The National Band Association regularly honors band programs regionally and nationally through their initiatives. The NBA Programs of Excellence

Blue Ribbon Awards is a national award recognizing high levels of band program excellence in high school bands.

"As a past NBA Presi

See National Award, Page A6

Erosion of Waste
Pits cap evaluated

HIGHLANDS – Jackie Young brought the San Jacinto River Coalition up to date on developments regard the removal of the waste pits in the river.

She said that after several months of little activity or communication from the EPA, she was now receiving new information and expected several events in the next three months.

The EPA has conducted new tests or probes that indicate that the grounding of a barge on top of the waste pits during the tropical storm Imelda did not tear the textile membrane or seriously dislodge the stone cap. However, the force of the river flow did cause some erosion of stone material and its deposition



JACKIE YOUNG

elsewhere. The EPA said that this indicated the pits are a "Dynamic Environment" and subject to further changes.

The EPA said the Responsible Parties had made some repairs to the cap, but asked them for

See Waste Pits, Page A6

What has Sherman Eagleton accomplished?

Restructured the department for the betterment of Precinct 3. In doing this, he has increased the number of patrol deputies on the streets by more than 45%.

Implemented the "Are You Ok" and CASA Senior Programs that currently protects nearly 400 seniors and its numbers continue to grow each month. Caring for the seniors in our community has been and will continue to be a priority.

Created the Crime Interdiction Unit to combat the distribution of illegal drugs, target wanted felons and investigate criminal activity in our community. To date, CIU, Patrol, and Warrants have cleared over 100 parole violators, stopped multiple theft rings, and confiscated over 350 pounds of drugs.

Recognized for compliance with the 166 Texas Law Enforcement Practices by the Texas Police Chiefs Association.



★ RE-ELECT
SHERMAN EAGLETON
CONSTABLE PCT. 3

EXPERIENCED, QUALIFIED AND ALREADY WORKING FOR YOU!



FIND NEW ROADS
TurnerChevroletCrosby.com
281-328-4377



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

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE



Jeremy Rosenkranz
State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com



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

ERASE
YOUR
DEBT
with a Consolidation Loan from CRCU!

RATES AS LOW AS 5.99% APR* or 8.49% APR*
36 MONTHS! or 60 MONTHS!

*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Monthly payment would be \$484.20 on \$15,000 borrowed for 36 months at 5.99% APR, including all applicable discounts. All loans subject to credit approval and some restrictions apply. Payment also includes monthly premium for Payment Protection, which includes Credit Life and Disability Insurance. Credit Life and Disability Insurance is not required. Membership required. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.



Community
Resource
CREDIT UNION
cruu.org/debt



Crosby ISD reviews Special Education

CROSBY – Among other events at the Crosby ISD School Trustee meeting last Monday, the board reviewed their Special Education reports and the Accountability Annual Report from the Texas Education Agency.

The Special Education Report indicated that when the federal government reviewed all of Texas records that the State was failing to recognize sufficient special education students and so currently, they are increasing and Crosby has seen a dramatic increase in Special Education Students. The students must have grown in number from 451 in 2012 to 682 in 2019.

The students must have one of the 13 disabilities recognized by the State

and have need for instruction of an educational nature.

There are state and federal funding available to assist in special education but it must be supplemental to other funding. Districts are required to “maintain effort” first and use government funding for students with disabilities. Students must be placed in the least restrictive environment possible and only taken out of general education classes when necessary.

New and expanding programs in Crosby include a Social Mentoring Program for those with social difficulties, after school. Positive Approach to Student Success classes to support kids in grades one through 12 for kids with behavior-

al challenges. Crosby has two structured learning classes. One is highly structured for students with cognitive defects and need extensive structure to be successful and Small Class Size that have visuals built in to assist skill development.

There are nine new Life Skill Classes for students with cognitive and adaptive deficits that use modified curriculum at a lower level, realizing that medical needs are not uncommon.

There are two Applied Skills Class for students with cognitive deficits and these focus on academics more than adaptation.

Crosby is now providing 18+ programing for kids needing post secondary education life.

Crosby student wins Capital recognition



Crosby High School student Diana Vaca’s artwork was selected to be part of the Texas Art Education Associations Youth Art Month State Capital Exhibit. Here she is backed by the Board of Trustees of Crosby ISD and close to her art teacher Amy Gladner who said of her student, “She has lots of promise as an artist.” She was selected of 61 District entering the contest to be displayed at the Staet Capital this month.

This recognition was at the Board meeting on Feb. 17.

You are invited to the Crosby Historical Society’s book signing and presentation ceremony!

February 29, 2020
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Crosby Brethren Church



The Historical Society will be distributing several hundred of their recently released book, entitled *200 Years; Crosby’s Bicentennial Story*. All book sale proceeds will benefit the Crosby Historical Society.

Have a Heart



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

Lamar Elementary students (from left) Olivia Favela, second grade; Leah McKinney, kindergarten; and Jayden Espinoza, third grade, hold up some of the heart notes written by parents to their children telling them why they love them. The hearts were displayed on the window wall outside the office.

Endorsed by Gov. Greg Abbott and the NRA

Re-elect

BRISCOE

CAIN

Our State Representative

★ **Briscoe Cain passed a bill** that provides over 3 billion dollars in Hurricane Harvey recovery along with a state flood prevention plan.

★ **Briscoe Cain wrote a bill** to allow school districts to arm teachers and make our schools safer and voted to legalize carrying firearms at houses of worship.

★ **Briscoe Cain fought against liberal efforts** to shut down Chick-fil-A. Cain passed a bill that prevents government discrimination of businesses based on religious beliefs.

Rated the #1 Most Conservative Legislator in the Texas House!

*As determined by the nonpartisan scientific voting record study by Rice University



Pd. Pol. Ad. by Briscoe Cain Campaign

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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

VOL. 25, NO. 08- 40¢

© Copyright 2019

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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

ROUND-UP

Bird Travels

*by George Regmund

How much duller our lives would be without the changing of the seasons. Just as we are getting tired of the summer heat, autumn arrives with pleasantly cool temperatures, and spring's warmth is welcome after the winter chill. If you enjoy watching birds, the seasons bring back old friends as they follow warmer temperatures from north to south and back. These changes in birdlife are almost as noticeable as the change in the weather if you are watching for them. The sometimes amazing seasonal journeys which birds undertake are known as migration.

Many species of birds take longer trips twice each year than we humans would take on a major vacation. Consider, for instance, the Tennessee Warbler, a tiny bird weighing less than an ounce. It leaves its wintering grounds in Central and South America each spring and migrates north to Canada and the northern U.S. to breed - a journey of more than 3000 miles for some individuals. This species is seen commonly around the Houston area during April and May as it passes through. A rarer species of warbler here, the Blackpoll Warbler, is an example of a land bird which flies over the open ocean for long distances on its migratory journey. Some individuals fly from Central and South America over the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean to the east coast of the U.S. rather than taking the much longer coastal route. This non-stop flight takes this mighty mite more than eighty hours to complete - a distance of as much as 2300 miles over the sea.

And then there are the mileage champion migrants such as the American Golden Plover, a shorebird which visits us primarily in April as it passes north to its breeding grounds on the tundra of northern Alaska and Canada. After breeding season, the birds move to the south and east into Labrador and Quebec from where they jump across the western Atlantic Ocean and fly 2500 miles to Brazil and then on to their final winter destination in the pampas of Argentina. From Argentina to North Canada is 8500 miles, a trip taken twice each year by the plover on its nine-inch wings.

A surprisingly large number of our small birds make ocean crossings. The route which some of these birds take from Central America to the southern U.S., for instance, was for many years a mystery. The possibility of their flying over the Gulf of Mexico seemed so implausible that it was discarded by many. Then through banding and tracking efforts, it was determined that many, many of them in fact cross the Gulf from the Yucatan. Research has shown that at the peak of migration in early April as many as 31,000 migrating birds per mile of coastline arrive along the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

Why do birds undertake such journeys? Migrating places birds where more food is available and where days are longer for nest building and breeding activities. A milder climate during nesting season is a benefit gained for young birds, increasing their chances of survival. These benefits are not obtained without some hardships for the birds. Migration is not a leisurely journey even for those birds which move shorter distances than the mileage champions. Hazards such as storms claim the lives of thousands of birds each migration. Walking along Galveston beaches in the spring will sometimes turn up dead songbirds washed in from the Gulf. Because most songbirds migrate at night, power lines, guywires and radio antennas are particularly dangerous to them.

Migration is one of the natural wonders of the world, and it so happens that this area is right on one of the major migratory paths in North America. This April and May, do yourself a favor and step out in your backyard or travel to a good birding spot like the Houston Audubon High Island Sanctuaries and observe these migrating creatures as they stop on their incredible journey northward.

Baytown Police to offer self-defense classes for women

The Baytown Police Department will offer two Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Self-Defense training classes for women 15 yrs and older.

The classes are free and will be held in March and April at the Baytown Community Center. The comprehensive program is taught by officers who are nationally certified R.A.D. instructors that aims to teach techniques, tactics, awareness and risk-reduction that can aid in self-defense. The class is 12 hours long divided into four 3-hour sessions. The dates for the Self-Defense training are:

-Class #1- March 17th, 19th, 24th and 26th, 2020

R.A.D. SYSTEMS OF Self Defense

-Class #2- April 14th, 16th, 21st and 23rd, 2020

Classes will be held 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each night at the Baytown Community Center, Tejas Room, 2407 Market St., Baytown, TX

Participants must be able to attend all four sessions of the class. A \$25 deposit is required to hold a spot.

To register or for more information, contact Cpl. Kenneth Hockless at kenneth.hockless@baytown.org or 281-420-5841, or Mrs. Ferni Greene-Small at Ferni.Greene-Small@baytown.org or 281-420-5870.

4 people die in car crash in Dayton

On February 17, 2020, at approximately at 6:30 am, officers of the Dayton Police Department were dispatched to the 10,000 blk of SH 146 in reference to a major vehicle collision. Upon arrival, officers found that three vehicles were involved in the crash. A Chevrolet Silverado and Ford F250 were heavily damaged, and a Chevrolet Cobalt had minor damage.

Officers and first responders found the three occupants of the Ford F-250, Ricardo Martinez, 41, Alfredo Cuellar Jr., 40, both of Beeville, TX, and David Cortes, 27, of Hatch, NM were deceased upon arrival as well as the driver of the Chevrolet Silverado, Blaine Springer, 25 years of age of Houston, TX.

Based on witness statements and an investigation, officers determined that the Chevrolet Silverado was traveling southbound on SH 146 when it veered into the inside northbound lane. The Ford F-250, which was traveling in the inside northbound lane, was struck head-on. The Ford F-250 continued a short distance before rolling over onto its side. The Chevrolet

Cobalt, which was traveling adjacent to the F-250, was struck by debris from the other two vehicles. The driver of the Cobalt was transported to the hospital for minor injuries.

The investigation of the cause of the accident is still on-going. However, it was determined the Chevrolet Silverado driven by Blaine Springer had been reported stolen out of the City of Pasadena, TX earlier that morning.

Texas Department of Public Safety, Dayton Volunteer Fire Department, Liberty County Sheriff's Department, Liberty County Pct. 2 Constable Office, and Liberty County Haz-Mat were assisting with investigating the crash scene.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital opens new Emergency Department



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital held a ribbon cutting in celebration of the opening of the new expanded emergency department. Photographed (from left) Dr. Shawn Tittle, chief medical officer; Mike Wilson, Texas First Bank; Gilbert Santana, board member; Krystal Garza, nursing education specialist; John Newsome, board member; Pete Alfaro, board member; Courtney Lewis, director, human resources; Becky Chalupa, chief nursing officer; Dr. Neil Gandhi, ED medical director; Charyl Bell-Gordon, director, emergency services; Anita Arizmendez, manager, ED nursing; R.D. Burnside, board member; David Bernard, CEO.

BAYTOWN — (February 14, 2020) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital recently celebrated the opening of its expanded emergency department, tripling its capacity to better serve the Baytown community.

A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the completion of the second phase of the ED expansion project, which includes 42 private treatment rooms, along with a spacious waiting

area.

"The new facility provides Baytown and the surrounding communities with one of the largest emergency departments in the Houston Methodist system," said Houston Methodist Baytown CEO David Bernard. "This facility reinforces our commitment to providing new and innovative ways to deliver the highest quality emergency care when our pa-

tients need us most."

The new ED, located on the first floor of the hospital's new three-story patient tower, is the centerpiece of the ongoing extensive construction and renovation program that began in 2017. The first phase of the ED expansion was completed in June of last year. The tower is also home to new, state-of-the-art operating rooms, the neonatal intensive care

unit and the 2 North medical/surgical unit. The expansion project also includes:

- An outpatient center opened in February 2019
- A renovated Houston Methodist Cancer Center, also opened in February 2019
- A 20-bed observation unit, opened in 2018, that provides patient care—generally for up to 24 hours—including diagnosis-

tics, treatment and monitoring following an emergency department visit.

"Our expansions will continue in 2020 with groundbreaking scheduled to take place later this year on a new patient room tower and additional parking," Bernard said. "These new facilities will allow us to provide unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation to our community for many years to come."

Shah accepts teaching position at Stanford University

BAYTOWN — (February 11, 2020) — For Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital's Dr. Atul Shah, it was always about more than treating patients dealing with gastroenterology and hepatology conditions. The foundation of his practice was built upon earning the trust of his friends and neighbors in the Greater Baytown area. It's those deep community roots that Shah says will be the toughest to leave behind as he departs Baytown after 28 years in practice to accept a faculty teaching position at California's Stanford University. His final day at Houston Methodist Baytown is March 31, 2020.

"I never thought I'd leave Baytown," Shah said,

"but my passion for teaching is very strong. Baytown will always be in my heart and mind and I will make it a point to visit as often as I can."

Shah, a native of India, relocated from New York City to Baytown with his wife and two young children in December 1991 and opened his practice in January 1992. He says despite having no connection with the Baytown medical community at the time, the residents of the area quickly embraced him.

"It feels like yesterday that we arrived here and the reason why is the love and support we've received from the people of Baytown and surrounding communities who trusted me to take care of their health. I



Dr. Atul Shah

am sincerely thankful to the residents of this area from the bottom of my heart," Shah said.

Shah moves on to Stanford to accept a faculty position as a clinical

associate professor at the School of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Academics have played an important role throughout his life. Shah earned his doctor of medicine from Baroda Medical College in Vadodara, India before completing a fellowship in gastroenterology and serving as the chief medical resident (internal medicine) at the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn (NY).

In 2018, Shah earned certification in transplant hepatology (liver) from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). Recently, he served in a preceptor role for several years providing educational guidance in the gas-

trointestinal fellowship program at Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.

"I'm grateful to my colleagues and the entire hospital staff for supporting me and encouraging me to pursue my passion for education and learning while also practicing here," Shah said.

Shah says his current patients will continue to have access to excellent gastroenterology and hepatology care thanks to his partners at Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates: Dr. Samir Nath, Dr. Yassir Ashraf, Dr. Ludie Hernandez-Buck and Dr. Rashid Khan. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call 281-422-7970.



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Why Did My Social Security Payment Go Down?

Dear Rusty: Upon reading a magazine article about the 2020 COLA increase, I thought I'd share the following: Like others, I received the 1.6% raise in my Social Security benefit. However, after their manipulations with Medicare, the net result was a reduction of \$124 in my Social Security payment. I can't afford their "raise." I now pay double for Medicare! Signed: Disgusted

Dear Disgusted: Actually, Social Security and Medicare are two totally separate and financially independent programs, but the Social Security Administration handles enrollment and premium payments on behalf of CMS (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). For 2020, your gross Social Security benefit went up by 1.6% as a result of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), but at the same time the standard Medicare Part B premium went up by \$9.10 to \$144.60 per month. Most Medicare beneficiaries pay the standard premium amount.

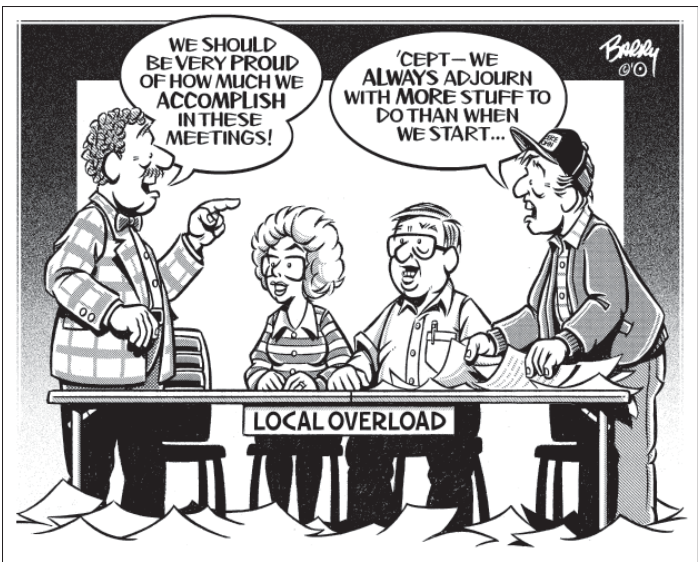
If your Medicare Part B premium is deducted from your Social Security benefit you would normally be protected by a provision known as "Hold Harmless," which prevents your Social Security payment from decreasing as a result of an increase in the standard Medicare Part B premium. But if you have any change (other than a COLA increase) to your Social Security benefit amount, or if you pay an "IRMAA" surcharge on your Medicare Part B premium, the "hold harmless" provision doesn't apply to you. In either of those cases your net Social Security payment could go down as a result of an increase in your Medicare Part B premium.

"IRMAA" is Medicare's "Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount" which is a surcharge assessed on Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums for those with higher incomes (the surcharge varies depending

upon your IRS filing status and income level). I suspect that you are suddenly subject to IRMAA because of a sudden increase in your income and the 1.6% COLA increase to your Social Security was applied to your new Medicare premium. That, however, fell short of covering your entire IRMAA Medicare premium increase and, since you're not protected by the Hold Harmless provision, the remainder was taken from your Social Security benefit.

Most Medicare enrollees pay the standard Part B premium (\$144.60 for 2020) and are protected by the hold harmless provision from a decrease in their Social Security payment. But higher earning Medicare beneficiaries are affected by IRMAA, and I believe that is what happened in your case, especially because you say you suddenly "pay double" for Medicare. This might typically happen if you took a large one-time distribution from a tax-advantage investment, or received some other form of significant, but temporary, income. The good news is that if your premium doubled because you had a temporary increase in your income in one year, the Medicare premium increase will also be temporary, and you will automatically revert back to the lower premium the following year.

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.



Governor charges agency heads with developing workforce plan

AUSTIN — Requirements in House Bill 3, the sweeping school finance law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2019, require the state to plan for long-term workforce development.

On Feb. 13, Gov. Greg Abbott cited HB 3 in assigning the commissioners of three state agencies to identify strategies to meet the state's future workforce needs through his 2016 Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative. He instructed them to deliver a report to him by Sept. 1.

"The passage of House Bill 3 marked the most significant transformation of our education system in decades and an unwavering commitment to shaping the future of our workforce," Abbott said. "We must continue in our efforts to ensure Texans of all ages have access to high-quality education and workforce skills training that empowers them to achieve their full potential."

Abbott assigned Commissioners Mike Morath, Texas Education Agency; Harrison Keller, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and Bryan Daniel, Texas Workforce Commission, to:

—Recommend strategies to ensure students are prepared for future growth at each stage in the educational pipeline;

—Ensure students who pursue higher education and workforce educational programs can complete those programs in a cost-efficient and timely manner;

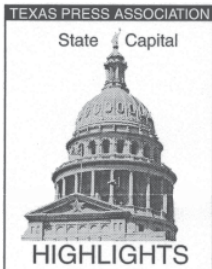
—Analyze and make recommendations regarding strategies to streamline educational pathways, ensuring students can seamlessly transition into high-wage and high-demand careers;

—Improve the capacity within the state to produce credentials of value aligned with the needs of high-wage and high-demand occupations;

—Analyze and make recommendations to increase the supply of highly qualified and well-trained individuals entering the teaching profession across the state;

—Explore and recommend options for increasing economic activity in

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



rural Texas, reducing regulatory burdens, and expanding educational partnerships between businesses, school districts and colleges; and

—Identify strategies to align agency operations, increase program efficiency, improve data analysis and capacity.

AG sues over travel ban

Texas is on a list of 11 states banned by a California law for state-funded travel. The law, Assembly Bill 1887, applies to states that since June 26, 2015, have enacted laws that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Feb. 10 filed an original action against the State of California in the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking to strike down the travel ban for states that uphold First Amendment protections for religious liberty.

What put Texas on California's list was HB 3859, a 2017 law allowing faith-based foster care and adoption agencies to decline placements they believe would violate their religious beliefs.

"Boycotting states based on nothing more than political disagreement breaks down the ability of states to serve as laboratories of democracy while still working together as one nation — the very thing our Constitution intended to prevent," Paxton said.

Revenue is distributed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 12 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$1.04 billion in local sales tax allocations for February, which was 9.4% more than the amount distributed for February 2019.

The allocations are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2019 sales by businesses that report tax annually.

In his announcement, Hegar pointed out that Christmas shopping typically occurring in November was shifted into December due to the relatively late date of Thanksgiving (Nov. 28), helping make the February allocations substantially higher than in previous months.

Report: Coronavirus case

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported Feb. 13 that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed one case of COVID-19 in a person who has been under quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland since returning from China on a U.S. State Department-chartered flight.

The individual reportedly is currently isolated and receiving medical care at a local hospital. Authorities said that because the patient has been under quarantine, the case does not change the risk of infection for people in San Antonio or other parts of Texas.

Meanwhile, federal and state health officials ask that travelers stay home, monitor themselves for symptoms and contact their health care provider if they develop fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of being in China.

The Texas Department of State Health Services offers additional information on COVID-19 for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Raising the Roof"

The roof fell in on the church I started attending

The collapse occurred after I'd been coming only a couple of weeks. While I have not always been a regular churchgoer, I thought this was kind of an over-the-top response to my unexpected appearance in church.

The collapse was pretty serious, as it turned out. Several roof joists snapped and the rest were badly compromised and we were not permitted to return to the sanctuary. So, services had to be held in the basement (which was not directly underneath). The roof came down in January—of last year—we are still in the basement.

"What's our word for the year?" one of the church's two pastors would ask at the start of every service.

"Flexibility!" the congregation would reply, in unison.

It might have been my imagination but I sensed that a fair portion of the parishioners felt that yoga class would be a better place to practice this than church.

The first few weeks were a bit disorienting. The basement is long and narrow so it was hard to know how to set up the folding chairs. One arrangement was tried the first week but when we arrived the second week, the chairs were in an entirely new set-up. Older parishioners would enter the room and stand for several long moments, surveying the landscape, to get their bearings.

When the formation of the building committee was announced, there were plenty of eager volunteers. The thing about church committees is that they almost always involve: 1) cooking something, 2) visiting very sick people or, 3) asking people for money.

No one actually likes going to the hospital or asking for money and going to battle with an insurance company beats making a tuna noodle casserole any day of the week. But, as the months went by, I began to worry that this committee was, perhaps, having just a little too much fun. They spent months going back and forth with the insurance adjusters and the committee chairman became a minor celebrity. He'd announce who'd won the latest round in church and folks would cheer as if it were some new kind of competitive sport.

Apparently, we are now getting close.

The project grew, as projects like this almost always do. The pews were in need of refinishing and the radiators needed an upgrade and the lighting was pretty badly damaged when the roof dropped down like the underside of a boat.

"I think we'll be in for Easter!" the chairman announced. That will be sixteen months after the collapse, and far longer, I am sure, than anyone imagined it would be.

On the way out last Sunday, I looked at the pews, lined up in the narthex with a new coat of stain and brand-new cushions on them. It's going to be nice, no question.

But I wondered if I would be the only one to feel a little nostalgic for our year of "flexibility." I wondered if joining this new church would have been as rich an experience if I'd been comfortably sitting in a pew the whole time.

Every week, we've had to move and adapt to change. Every week, the church has faced the challenge of how it can fit everyone in and still accomplish its many other functions the other six days of the week. Every week the congregation has had to work together in ways they never have before.

While I'm certainly not wishing for the roof to fall in on anyone, I'm not sure it's been such a bad thing.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

NATALIA CORNELIO
for Judge
351st District Court
HARRIS COUNTY

DEMOCRAT

Election Day March 3rd

Early Voting Feb 18th - 28th

Feb 18th - 22nd → 7am - 7pm

Feb 23rd → 1pm - 6pm

Feb 24th - 28th → 7am - 7pm

NATALIA CORNELIO'S ENDORSEMENTS

Natalia Cornelio has legal expertise, community experience, and criminal justice experience. As a judge, she will deliver thoughtful and well-reasoned rulings and decisions grounded in this experience and expertise.



www.nataliacornelio.com @NataliaCornelioForJudge351
Political Advertising paid by Natalia Cornelio 351st District Court Candidate

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Targa Midstream Services LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Amendment of Permit 101616 Amendment of Nonattainment Permit N214M2 This application would authorize installation of a Fractionation Train within the Mont Belvieu Fractionator located at 10319 Highway 146, Mont Belvieu, Chambers County, Texas 77580. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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
wbuctioncrosby.com

Goose Creek ISD Rodeo Art Winners



Goose Creek CISD Rodeo Art Gold Medalists, pictured with Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent (back) are (from left) Khorl Jones, kindergarten, Lamar Elementary; Lily Phillips, 8th grade, Highlands Junior and Jackelyn Fernandez, 10th grade, Robert E. Lee High School. Not pictured is Via Cabanez, 2th grade, Goose Creek Memorial High School.



Goose Creek CISD students receiving Rodeo Art Special Merit Awards are (front, from left) LaKeisha Barajas, 10th grade, Robert E. Lee High School; Jennifer Ceja, 10th grade, Robert E. Lee High School and Skylar Newton, 12th grade, Goose Creek Memorial High School. Not pictured is Myreya Avia, 11th grade, Goose Creek Memorial High School. They are pictured with (back, from left) Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, and Susan Chiboroski, director of fine arts.



Goose Creek CISD Rodeo Art Best of Show Awards went to (front, from left) Grethel Carrillo, 7th grade, Highlands Junior; Nola Gaines, 3rd grade, Crockett Elementary; Jodee Prigmore, 11th grade, Ross S. Sterling High School and Jose Alcala, 9th grade, Ross S. Sterling High School. They are pictured with (back, from left) Susan Chiboroski, director of fine arts, and Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent.

Photos by Mima Trujillo

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet Thursday, February 13, 2020



BOARD MEMBERS PICTURED at the Awards Banquet, Sherry Lee, John Vann, Blanca Beltran, Jamie Ruiz, Sarah Davis, Gary Guy, Virginia Woods, Patrick Courtney, Julie Rodriguez, Gretchen Knowles, LaNelle McKay, Kathy Jeager (behind), Weston Cotten, Randy Casey.



RANDY CASEY in the new Chamber President.



RANDY CASEY was sworn into office by Judge Lucia Bates.



Firefighter of the Year was Guy Gautier, Jr.



Constable of the Year was Sherman Eagleton.



Business of the Year was Attorney Weston Cotten.



Outgoing President Jim Wadzinski reviewed his 17 years with the Chamber.



BETTY BREWER was recognized for 35 years supporting the Chamber.



Outgoing board members Betty Michalsky and Jim Wadzinski were recognized for their service.

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
Social Outings
Respite Care
24 hr. Care
In-Hospital Sitting
Post-Surgical Assistance
Pet & Plant 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

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Which book could be summarized, "God will hold us accountable for all our actions"? Daniel, Hosea, Zephaniah, Haggai

3. In Genesis 28, who had the vision of angels going up and down a ladder reaching into Heaven? Joseph, Ahab, Ehud, Jacob

4. What does Paul say is the supreme gift of the spirit to believers? Faith, Love, Holiness, Eternity

5. In Genesis 19,

where did Lot encounter an angel? Wilder-
ness spring, City gate,
New temple, Tent
door6. Where did Jesus
turn water into wine?
Bethany, Nazareth,
Cana, Gethsemane

ANSWERS: 1) Old;
2) Zephaniah; 3) Jacob;
4) Love; 5) City gate; 6)
Cana

DEBORAH
FLORUS

★★★
FOR CONSTABLE PCT.3
2020

"FLORUS IS FOR US!"

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY THE DEBORAH FLORUS CAMPAIGN FUND

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

Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

further work. Jackie said that “repairs are still needed on the channel side of the pits.”

Progress was indicated by the fact that 30% PDI, or Pre Design Investigation, packages are due to be submitted to the agency, the South Impoundment information by April, and the North Impoundment by May. She said that the PRP had actually finished about 39% of this work.

The EPA has scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the Harris County Pollution Control offices in Houston, to discuss the status the the waste pits removal and to coordinate with all parties, and inform the public of current activity. This meeting is also going to discuss the needed channel repairs.

Jackie noted that another serious problem is the condition of the dolphin or bumper structures meant to protect the I-10 bridge from river traffic. The three dolphins are in advanced disrepair, subject to falling apart, but they belong to TxDOT, who has indicated they don’t plan on repairing or replacing them for about two years.

The SJRC and its members have said for several years that they believe barge traffic and berthing should be eliminated north

of the I-10 bridge. However, Jackie indicated the the Corps of Engineers in Galveston has said that it has “no authority” on river traffic north of the bridge.

However, she said that the Coast Guard has recently instituted a “safety zone” and issued a “Marine Safety Information Bulletin” which defines an area from north of the waste pits to south of the Southwest Shipyard, as an area where barge movement is restricted to 7am to 7pm, and barges must check-in and check-out of this area.

Considerable more information is expected to be released by EPA after the community meeting.

National Award,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dent, Mr. Roy Holder will present the band with the award at their Spring Concert in May. The Crosby High School Band is the only band in the nation to ever receive the Sudler Flag and the NBA Award in the same year. We would love for the Crosby Community to join us for the concert and presentation. The CHS Band Spring Concert is on May 19th at 7:00pm in the CHS Performing Arts Center.” said Kevin Knight, Crosby’s Head Band Director.

Mr. Knight was also recognized as having an outstanding program in the Southwestern Program.



“I am privileged to teach some worthy students,” said Knight, an FSU graduate of the recognition. Crosby High Band students earned numerous All-Region, Area advancements, TMEA All-State and Solo & Ensemble medals each year. The band performed in Los Angeles, California, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Walt Disney World Parade in Orlando and New York City. In 2018, the Crosby High School Symphonic Band was chosen to perform at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.



TRUCK MONTH



2020 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB
\$11,000 OFF MSRP



2019 SILVERADO
\$24,999



2019 CHEVROLET CORVETTES **0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS**



2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX **\$6,000 OFF MSRP**

TURNER

CHEVROLET
Crosby, Texas
281-328-4377
#OurPeopleMakeTheDifference

2020 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, STX#L6135931, MSRP: \$46,490, \$2,779 dealer discount, 5,500 Factory rebate, \$1,000 Consumer cash, \$750 conquest (must own 2006 or newer non-gm), \$1,000 down payment assistance must finance through GM financial, \$35,461 Final Price, plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150. With approved credit Must take from dealer stock. 2019 Corvettes 0% APR for 72 months. 0% APR for 72 months on 2019 Chevy Corvettes, \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed, with approved financing see dealer for details. 2020 Chevy Equinox STX#L6133769, MSRP: \$27,830, \$1,341 dealer discount, \$4,250 factory rebate, \$750 conquest (must own 2006 or newer non-gm), \$21,489 Final Price, plus TT&L and doc fee of \$150. Must take from dealer stock, see dealer for details offer ends 02/29/2020

Houston Methodist Primary Care Group

Same Day Clinic



Don't Wait to Get Care

Houston Methodist Primary Care Group offers same-day appointments with a nurse practitioner or physician assistant for specific conditions listed below.

Our Same Day Clinic in Baytown treats the following conditions:

- Acne
- Allergies
- Cold or flu
- Cold sores
- Coughs
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Fevers
- Headaches
- Heartburn
- Joint sprains
- Minor skin infections

- Nausea or vomiting
- Pink or red eyes
- Rashes
- Sinus infections
- Sore throats
- STD testing
- Styes
- Sunburns
- Upper respiratory infections
- Urinary tract infections (women)
- Vaginal yeast infections

CAUTION: If you are experiencing a serious or life-threatening medical emergency, please call 911.



Houston Methodist Primary Care Group
Same Day Clinic in Baytown
8608 N. Hwy. 146, Suite 600 | Baytown, TX 77523



HOUSTON
Methodist
PRIMARY CARE GROUP

Feeling sick? Call us for same-day care at **713.394.6638**.

