

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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

VOL. 67, NO. 22 – 50¢

© Copyright 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the **PRESS:**

• First Responders
Parade in Baytown
.....And more, Page 3

COVID-19 RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON

832-393-4220

HARRIS COUNTY

713-634-1110
ASK A NURSE

MOBILE TESTS
713-439-6000

PRE-SCREENING

HARRIS COUNTY
832-927-7575
readyharris.org

METHODIST
HOSPITAL BAYTOWN
Download mymethodist app.

MD MEDICAL
1-888-776-5252

COVID-19 Cases as of May 26, 2020

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

16,957 POSITIVE
413 DEATHS
6,803 RECOVERED

TEXAS

57,014 POSITIVE
1,540 DEATHS
35,292 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

1,676,401 POSITIVE
98,787 DEATHS
379,157 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

5,555,691 POSITIVE
348,541 DEATHS
2,271,268 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

May 28—Ellen Beck
Mrs. Mark Collins
Rufus Larkin
Blake McCain
Rusty Maxey
May 30—Justin Hodges
May 31—Danielle Grooms
Rodger Simmons
Jun 1—Brittani & Paige Car-
roll
Evelyn Wotipka
Jun 2—Martha Keyes
Bettie Woosley

ANNIVERSARIES

Jun 1—Harold & Janice
Harvard
Doug & Roxanna Phillips
Jun 2—Glen & Nell Salters

Construction planned in river near Waste Pits

TxDOT will rebuild bumpers, column fenders

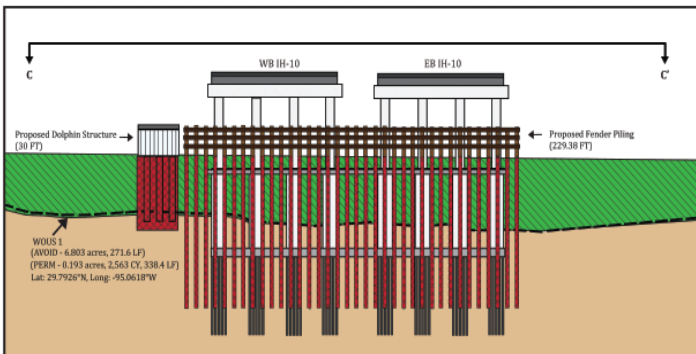
EAST HARRIS COUNTY The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has applied for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to reconstruct the bumpers and fenders in the San Jacinto River, to protect the structure of the IH-10 bridge. These structures have been damaged by repeated storms, including Tropical

Storm Imelda, and also by barges that hit them as a result of the storms.

In their permit application, TxDOT claims that the construction would not affect any adjacent land, because construction would be entirely from within the river. However, maps show activity quite close to the waste pits. See illustrations enclosed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: TxDOT proposes to

See Construction near
Waste Pits, Page 8



Cross section D of the Bridge shows rebuilt dolphin bumpers at left, and rebuilt fenders and rip-rap (stone) fill in Red color. See Reference plan on page 8.

Astros at Crawfish Shack



Popular Astros baseball players Josh Reddick, and George Springer, got their Memorial Day crawfish dinners from Crosby's number one rated Crawfish Shack. Owners Dan and Jen Meaux welcomed them as they delivered several coolers of crawfish and "the fixins." Crosby's Crawfish Shack reputation for great food has become well known around Houston. Reddick was quoted "Thanks to the Crawfish Shack for catering our Memorial Day get-together. Everything was cooked to perfection and it was delicious." (Photo courtesy of Josh Reddick)

Rotary raffle nets Adams a new truck



Lowell Everitt hands the keys to a New Chevrolet Colorado to Alice Adams, as the Rotarian who sold her the ticket, Wayne Oquin stands nearby at Crosby's Turner Chevrolet dealership.

CROSBY – On May 26 at about 11:30 a.m. Alice Adams came to Turner Chevrolet to claim her brand new Chevrolet Colorado that she had won with a raffle ticket from North Shore Rotary club, sold to her by Rotarian

Wayne Oquin.

It wasn't the only reason to be there that day, her son had ordered a new Chevy Tahoe.

Ms. Adams says she had purchased four tick-

See Rotary Truck
Continued on Page 6

HARRIS COUNTY & PCT. 2

Property Tax Relief via increased Homestead Exemption for seniors & disabled homeowners

Plan goes into effect for next years' tax bills

Harris County, TX — TODAY, Harris County Commissioners Court passed an expansion of the Homestead Exemption for seniors, disabled veterans, and homeowners living

with disabilities. The increased Exemption now applies to qualifying homeowners with homes valued up to \$286,250.

The plan passed by a vote of 5-0. It eliminates county property tax liability for seniors 65 years of age and older, as well as

disabled homeowners, and disabled military veterans, with homes valued at \$286,250 or less. Qualifying homeowners would save at least \$500 next year (and annually going forward) on their property tax bills. The plan takes effects for next year's tax bills.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said "Meaningful tax reform is coming to Harris County seniors and people living with disabilities. This population is particularly vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this will help

them. It also stems the tide of gentrification because of rising appraisal values in our historic neighborhoods. I'm proud to be the first Commissioner since 2008 to submit this and put money back into the pockets of hardworking families."

ERASE
YOUR
DEBT

with a Consolidation Loan from CRCU!

RATES AS
LOW AS

5.99%
APR*

36 MONTHS!

or

8.49%
APR*

60 MONTHS!

CRCU

Community
Resource
CREDIT UNION

crcu.org/debt

TURNER
CHEVROLET

Crosby, Texas



FIND NEW ROADS

TurnerChevroletCrosby.com

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

Virtual and in-person DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

HOUSTON
Methodist
BAYTOWN HOSPITAL

houstonmethodist.org/hereforyou
281.428.2273

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

VOL. 25, NO. 21- 40¢

© Copyright 2019

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

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

ROUND-UP

CORVID-19 CASES CHAMBERS COUNTY

As of May 24, 2020

Tested-1,329
Recovered-50
Hospitalized-0

East Chambers-6
Med Chambers-12
West Chambers-43

Fida named Medical Director of Heart Failure Program

BAYTOWN —
(May 21, 2020) — Dr.
Nadia

Fida, a cardiologist specializing in heart failure and transplantation, has been named medical director of the heart failure program at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital (HMB).

Fida, a member of Houston Methodist DeBakey Cardiology Associates, began practicing in Baytown in 2017. In addition to treating heart failure and transplant patients, she is an expert in a full spectrum of cardiology conditions and procedures, including coronary artery disease, valve disease, pulmonary arterial hypertension, cardio-oncology, angiograms, catheterization and mechanical circulatory support. She also serves as medical director of cardiovascular imaging.

Working in collaboration with the Houston Methodist Heart Failure Team, she has helped to establish the guidelines and standard operating procedures for cardiovascular imaging and heart failure treatment at HMB.

"It is my honor to serve as the medical director of the HMB Heart Failure Program," Fida said. "My goal is to

See Heart Failure
Program, Page 6

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Salutes First Responders

BAYTOWN — (May 22, 2020) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital staff showed their appreciation and support for Baytown area first responders during a parade through the hospital's parking lot on May 19.

The parade featured police cruisers, fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles representing several Baytown area agencies, including the Baytown police, EMS and fire departments, Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's office, and the Goose Creek CISD Police Department. The parade route began at the hospital entrance off West Baker Rd. and wound through the parking lot before the vehicles exited on to Garth Rd. The salute to first responders was included as part of the hospital's observance of EMS Week.

vance of EMS Week.

"The parade was organized to provide a safe and respectful way to honor the dedication, courage and sacrifice of our area first responders who are there for our community every day and especially those on the front lines during the COVID pandemic," said Julie DeTorre, Houston Methodist Baytown's business and community outreach specialist and EMS liaison.

Staff gathered along the route while observing masking and social distancing guidelines to display signs of appreciation and wave at the first responders.

Baytown Fire Chief Kenny Dobson said he was honored to participate in the event.

"We greatly appreciate the recognition we received



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital salutes First Responders with a parade in front of the Hospital last week. Baytown police, fire, and EMS took part in the celebration.

from the amazing hospital staff," Dobson said. "They are as much a part of emer-

gency patient care as we are and we are honored to serve beside them. Thank

you to the entire Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital team!"

Goose Creek CISD breaks ground for Green Junior School in Baytown

By Susan Passmore

In a small ceremony, Goose Creek CISD recently broke ground for Edward Franklin "E.F." Green Junior School at 5737 E. Wallisville Road in Baytown. The school is scheduled to open fall 2021.

Dr. Randal O'Brien, GC-CISD superintendent, welcomed guests and recognized Agustin Loredo III, president of the board of trustees; Howard Sampson, assistant secretary; Richard Clem, board member; Brandon Capetillo, mayor of Baytown; Dr. Lynda Villanueva, president of Lee College; Dr. Anthony Price, deputy superintendent; Chet Theiss, Citizens Bond Oversight Committee chair; Pfluger Architects; Pogue Construction; Brenda Garcia



Photo by Mima Trujillo

Shoveling dirt at the recent groundbreaking ceremony for Edward Franklin "E.F." Green Junior School at 5737 Wallisville Road are (from left) Dr. Anthony Price, deputy superintendent; Richard Clem, board member; J. Warren Singleton, Baytown historian; Dr. Randal O'Brien, superintendent; Howard Sampson, board assistant secretary; Agustin Loredo III, board president; Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Lee College president; Brandon Capetillo, mayor and Rev. Sherman Gray III.

and members of the GC-CISD Facilities Planning and Construction Department and Clem Medina with Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam project management team.

O'Brien thanked the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees for approving the \$335 million bond proposal to present to voters as well as community members who voted for the 2019 Bond, making the new school possible. Green Junior School will help alleviate overcrowding in the junior schools.

Reverend Sherman Gray III gave the invocation, followed by Loredo, who led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke about the influence educators have

See New School, Page 6

LyondellBasell Channelview Site donates protective equipment to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Baytown, TEXAS (May 15, 2020) – With hospitals seeing shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) around the country, LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex saw an opportunity to help those who help us all. The Channelview Complex donated more than 500 surplus protective coveralls it had on hand to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

The Complex donated the items last week. The protective coveralls were excess supplies allocated for a turnaround at the complex. The unused PPE were general purpose full body protective suits which are typically used for confined space entries at the manufacturing site. The suits are also ideal for use in a healthcare setting.

"With healthcare workers being in short supply of



The first week of May, 2020, LyondellBasell representatives took protective personal equipment to Houston Methodist Hospital in Baytown.

PPE, we felt this donation could go a long way in helping to protect those who are caring for the sick," said Chris Cain, site manager for LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex. "Rather than have them sit on a shelf, we were glad to send these items where they are needed the most. It's important that we do all we can to support our healthcare workers during these times and this is one small way we hope to help."

Hospital staff were appreciative of the gift.

"We are truly grateful for this donation of PPE," said Laurie Terry, administrative director of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "We are blessed to have the support of companies like LyondellBasell who recognize the challenges our industry is facing and step up to lend a hand."



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

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty – What will my Wife’s Survivor Benefit Be?

Dear Rusty: I am a 68-year-old retired male and had planned on waiting to collect Social Security benefits beginning at age 70. My wife is currently 53 years old. When I die, would my wife’s spousal benefit at her full retirement age be equal to what I would be receiving at age 70 or be reduced? Also, if I were to die before 70 and before collecting social security, what would be my wife’s survivor benefit at her full retirement age? Signed: Older Husband

Dear Older Husband: Your wife’s survivor benefit as your widow will depend upon two things – the amount you were receiving (or were eligible to receive) at your death, and the age at which she claims her survivor benefit as your widow.

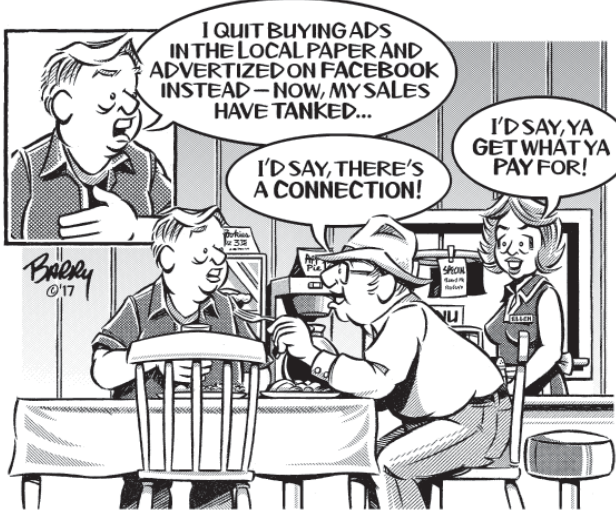
If you were receiving an increased benefit because you waited until age 70, your wife’s benefit - if she has reached her full retirement age - will be 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. If she hasn’t yet reached her full retirement age when she claims her survivor benefit (she could claim as early as age 60) the benefit will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to her full retirement age (FRA) that she claims it. The amount of reduction for claiming her survivor benefit before her FRA is 0.396% for each full month earlier, which is 4.75% per year earlier than her FRA, to a maximum of 28.5%. And for clarity, your wife isn’t required to take the survivor benefit immediately upon your death; she can wait until the benefit reaches 100% at her full retirement age, if desired and if financially feasible.

If your wife is also eligible for a SS benefit

on her own work record and you die before she reaches her FRA, she will have the choice to take either her own Social Security benefit or her survivor benefit from you. If her survivor benefit will be her highest possible benefit, she would have the option to take her own SS retirement benefit from her own work record first and delay taking the larger survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at her FRA. Or, if her own benefit at age 70 would be more than her survivor benefit from you, she could take the smaller survivor benefit first and delay taking her own SS benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 and switch to her own benefit at that time. The goal is for her to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of her life.

Finally, if you were to die before you started collecting your increased Social Security benefit at age 70, your wife would still have the same options, but her survivor benefit amount would be based upon the amount you were eligible to receive at your death, even though you were not yet collecting. In other words, all those delayed retirement credits (DRCs) you are now earning (and will continue to earn until you are 70) will not be lost – the benefit you have earned up to the point you die will be what your wife’s survivor benefit is based upon.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org / programs / social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



State of Texas enters second phase of reopening plan

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on May 18 allowed restaurants to increase occupancy to 50% and relaxed his earlier executive orders that limited certain other public activities over the last two months to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Reopenings, Abbott said, must adhere to restricted occupancy levels and minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Notably, public schools have the option to provide in-person summer school so long as they follow social distancing practices and health protocols laid out by the state health department. Classes may begin as soon as June 1.

"I ask all Texans to continue heeding the guidance of our state and federal medical experts and do their part to protect public health. If we all unite in our resolve, we will overcome this challenge," Abbott said.

The full list of guidelines, openings and relevant dates is available at gov.texas.gov/opentexas.

Certain counties where there are surges in COVID-19 cases will have their beginning date of Phase II delayed until May 29. Those Amarillo-area counties where a spike in cases has been confirmed include El Paso, Randall, Potter, Moore and Deaf Smith. Governor's Surge Response Teams are at work in those Panhandle counties to increase testing, maintain hospital capacity and ensure that COVID-19 is contained and mitigated.

Cumulative figures posted on May 21 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 52,268 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,440 deaths resulting from the virus pandemic had been confirmed.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Budget cuts ordered

Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen on May 20 sent a letter to state agencies and institutions of higher education directing each of them to submit a plan identifying savings to reduce general revenue-related appropriations by 5% for the 2020-2021 two-year budget cycle.

The three highest-ranking state officials urge agencies and institutions of higher education to pursue cost-saving strategies that will not affect the state's response to COVID-19, such as forgoing capital expenditures that can be deferred, avoidable travel expenditures and administrative expenses that are not mission critical, and keeping unfilled any open positions that are not essential to Texas' COVID-19 response.

According to the letter, certain agencies and activities are exempted from the directive "given the importance of the state's response to COVID-19 and the continuity of critical government functions."

TSTA: It's too early

The Texas State Teachers Association, in a May 20 news release, said June 1 is too early to reopen school buildings for summer school classes and demanded that the state and local school districts agree to enforce a detailed list of safety requirements for school campuses before reopening buildings to students and school employees.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to

rage across Texas, the health and safety of students, educators and our communities need to remain our first priority," said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. "The pandemic has struck in the vast majority of Texas' 254 counties and more than 1,200 new cases were reported yesterday. Fourteen people died of COVID-19 in Dallas County alone, a daily high for Dallas."

Candelaria said TSTA is demanding adequate supplies of protective gear for everyone in every school workplace, steps that must be taken to enforce social distancing and sanitation practices and strong enforcement. "Half hearted enforcement will endanger students and educators, and our members will not stand for it on their campuses," said Candelaria.

Child care funding is cut

The Texas Workforce Commission on May 19 announced the phase-out of a \$200 million emergency program to subsidize child care for Texas' essential workers.

Subsidies were put in place to assist both essential workers and child care centers during limited enrollment. With Texas reopening, essential workers who are already on the subsidized plan will continue to receive child care for the three-month period they were initially approved for under the program.

Effective June 1, the Texas Workforce Commission will reinstate the requirement for parents receiving financial assistance to pay for a portion of their costs.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Biscuits and Gravy"

All of a sudden, there are painted rocks along my path.

This has been going on for a while, I guess, but I never saw them in my neighborhood. Now, however, someone has more time on their hands, or a desire to reach out, or has lost their mind in isolation—whatever the reason—and little painted stones are appearing everywhere.

When I saw the first one, I didn't think much of it. I think it was a Star Trek logo (I won't swear to that). It was black and gold and looked kind of space age. Then I saw a rainbow. Then it registered. "Oh. Someone is leaving painted rocks!"

Then I saw a watermelon and several flowers and a few inspirational sayings. When I got home, I googled it. Yup. People were painting rocks. It's a thing.

One website reminded rock painters, "this activity is about gifting and not expecting to find a rock or get recognition when yours is found."

I like that. You paint a rock, you never know what it will do, how many people will see it, where it will end up. Once it's out of your hands, it has a life of its own.

Right now, there is someone out there who painted a small, rectangular rock with flowers in two shades of blue and a bright green center. It's a very nice rock. I should know. I put it in my pocket, took it home, and I'm looking at it (and writing about it) right now. I'm guessing the person who painted it did not expect there would be a newspaper column written about it and that's exactly why I like the idea so much.

Because I never know how what I do or say will affect another person. Social media has made it a lot easier to have a lot bigger effect on a lot more people in a lot less time. This is frequently not a good thing.

Yesterday, this was brought home to me when I made a less-than-complimentary comment about someone's photo of biscuits and gravy.

I immediately regretted it. In no time flat, there was a spirited discussion about the merits of biscuits and gravy going on that I never intended. I did not want to be the Great Enemy of Biscuits and Gravy. I didn't want to go to battle against all the Biscuit and Gravy Champions. I stood zero chance of ever persuading anyone that biscuits and gravy might not be the Very Best Thing in the Whole World and probably, as a result of my thoughtless comment, half a dozen folks were cooking up biscuits and gravy that night because they'd forgotten how much they liked them.

(Can we at least admit that biscuits and gravy are not the most photogenic food? Okay, never mind.)

So now I'm thinking, instead of trying to set anyone straight on biscuits and gravy ever again, I'm going to try to leave the equivalent of a painted rock. I try to say "hello" when I meet someone. I always compliment everyone's dog because I figure no one can be told too many times they have a beautiful dog. (And, for the record, all dogs are beautiful.)

I try to leave behind something positive and try not to worry where my painted rock ends up. I'm going to hope that someone will find it—like I found this one—and think, "Wow! I really like two shades of blue with a bright green center!"

And I'm keeping my opinion on biscuits and gravy to myself.

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

Need help Getting Social Security Disability Benefits?

We can help!

FIGHTING FOR YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR OVER 25 YEARS!

You Could Be Eligible To Receive:

Steady monthly income depending on your paid in amount

A lump sum payment of benefits owed from back-pay

Annual cost of living increases

- We simplify the process & strive for quick claim approval
- Starting the process is easy and takes only minutes to complete

844-509-9547

Helping thousands get the benefits they deserve

Bill Gordon & Associates, a nationwide practice, represents clients before the Social Security Administration. Member of the TX & NIA Bar Associations. Mail: 1420 NW 21 Washington D.C. Office: Broward County, FL. Services may be provided by associated attorneys licensed in other states.

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 Forest 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.....713-266-3444

FAX Line.....713-977-1188

email: grafikstar@aol.com

Member Texas Press Association

★

OBITUARIES

Nelda Ruth Powell Merryman

Nelda Ruth Powell Merryman, 59, of Crosby, TX was suddenly called home Friday, May 15, 2020. She was born July 14, 1960 in Baytown and moved to Crosby in 1980.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clark and Judy Powell; maternal grandparents, Roy and Eunice Mullinax; paternal grandparents, W.P. and Anna Clemetta Lamb, and Virgil Paul Powell; and two special pastors' wives who were her namesakes, Nelda Ruth Brumley and Nelda Ruth Gardner.

Survivors include her loving husband of 40 years, Darrell Merryman; daughters and sons-in-law, Kimberly and Travis Staudt, Jennifer and Andrew Franklin, and Kathryn and Melvin Butcher Jr; grandsons Aiden, Tyler and Dylan Franklin; sisters and brothers-in-law, Carla Powell, Janna and D.L. Sims, Deana and William "Mange" Lewellyn; aunts, Gail Stewart, Linda Bostic and Joyce Mullinax; many nieces and nephews along with their families; and special family friends.

Visitation will be held at Navarre Funeral Home, 2444 Rollingbrook Dr, Baytown, TX 77521 on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 from 6 to 8 p.m.



Service will be held at Central Baptist Church, 1800 King St, Baytown, TX 77520 on Thursday, May 28 at 10 a.m. with Rev. Beau Rosser officiating. The pallbearers will be nephews, Jeremy Lewellyn, Jayme Lewellyn, Caleb Sims, Jeffrey "Bo" Lewellyn, Elijah Sims, and sons-in-law Andrew Franklin, Melvin Butcher Jr and Travis Staudt. Grave-side service will follow at Sterling-White Cemetery, 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Rd, Highlands, TX 77562.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be mailed to Central Baptist Church of Baytown or to Second Baptist Church of Highlands.

NAVARRE FUNERAL HOME
2444 Rollingbrook Dr.
Baytown, TX 77521
282-422-8111

Crosby couple celebrates 62nd anniversary at HMB

BAYTOWN — (May 22, 2020) — Edwin "Ed" Slusser and wife, Bonita, have celebrated their share of wedding anniversaries, but the Crosby couple's latest marriage milestone was observed in a truly unique fashion.

With Edwin, 80, hospitalized at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for treatment of a non-COVID-19-related condition, his care team organized a celebration on May 20 to mark the couple's 62nd anniversary. The nursing staff provided a cake, cards and signs and invited Bonita, 79, to visit to participate in the small gathering in Edwin's patient room. They also arranged for other family members to join in virtually via FaceTime and played the Slusser's "song," George Strait's "All My Ex's Live in Texas" during the celebration.

"It was really great," Edwin said. "They did a great job of putting everything together."



Bonita and Edwin Slusser

Married in Clover Leaf, the Slussers lived in Channel View for many years before moving to Crosby in

1996. Edwin retired from Pasadena's Georgia Gulf facility in 2002, while Bonita is retired following a

career with Aramco. The couple have three children, Grant, Suzanne and Kallynne.

"She (Bonita) is the love of my life," Edwin said.

Edwin adds that the hospital staff provided excellent care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has implemented a number of precautions to ensure patient and visitor safety, including screening all patients and essential visitors when entering our facilities, requiring all patients, visitors and employees to wear a mask, implementing social distancing in waiting rooms and elevators, elevating cleaning and housekeeping practices, adhering to strict visitor policies and offering remote check-in.

"Everybody has been focused on protecting patients and making sure everything is clean. They have taken very good care of me and my family."

Goose Creek CISD selects Teachers of the Year

Elementary Teacher of the Year

Maribel Cancino (second from right) from Highlands Elementary is congratulated for being named Goose Creek CISD's District Elementary Teacher of the Year by (from left) Agustin Loredó III, GCCISD board president; Blanca Capetillo, Highlands Elementary principal and Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.



Secondary Teacher of the Year

Jaclyn "Jackie" Scales from Goose Creek Memorial High School (second from right) is congratulated for being selected Goose Creek CISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year by (from left) Agustin Loredó III, GCCISD board president; Susan Jackson, Goose Creek Memorial High School principal and Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.



All Campus Teachers of the Year will be honored at a June meeting of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Who had 900 iron chariots and made 20 years of life unbearable for the Israelites? Tobiah, Pilate, Sisera, Absalom

3. How did God evaluate His work after six days, as all He made was ...? Heavenly

divine, Righteous sake, Thine image, Very good

4. Who was the father of Apostles James and John? Zacchaeus, Zebedee, Zebulun, Zechariah

5. 27,000 men were killed when what city's walls fell on them? Sechem, Sodom, Aphek, Jericho

6. Who burned his son alive as a sacrifice? Achan, Ahaz, Moses, Shimei

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Sisera; 3) Very good; 4) Zebedee; 5) Aphek; 6) Ahaz

The Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step
-LaoTzu

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

Our promise to you is to always provide excellent service at the most affordable price



Where there is a definite difference!

CRESPO & JIRRELS

Funeral and Cremation Services

281.839.0700

6123 Garth Road | www.crespoandjirrels.com

www.starcouriernews.com
www.northchannelstar.com

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

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
-- 1 JOHN 4:18

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
--2 Timothy 1:7

★

ASK THE EXPERT

★

Crash on Miller-Wilson kills 23 year old Crosby youth

CROSBY – Early Saturday morning of Memorial Weekend, a local man was almost home when his truck bounded over into a ditch then out, landing atop the driver on the driver's side.

Although the investigation continues this is believed to be a single vehicle accident.

Jared Buck, 23 years old, in a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado was apparently returning home from an ATV outing on the

17,600 block of Miller-Wilson Road. Investigators determined that he went off the road on the east side, and after attempting to correct crossed back over the roadway and then plunged into a ditch.

Momentum carried the truck further into the ditch then the driver was partially pitched out at a bump and thrown onto the street. At this time the truck bounded out from the

ditch and land on the driver's side, atop of the man.

"Jared Buck was partially ejected from the vehicle and was found with no signs of life on scene due to the injuries he sustained in the crash," according to Deputy M. Amad, Accident Investigator.

This case remains open and is under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular C

Be Alert to stroke symptoms during Pandemic

BAYTOWN — (May 22, 2020) — Stroke does not take a vacation or care if a global health crisis is taking place. It can strike anyone at any time with no warning. Responding as quickly as possible to the signs of stroke, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, can save lives.



Dr. Ruby Parveen

With May designated as National Stroke Awareness Month, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital neurologist Dr. Ruby Parveen urges Baytown area residents to learn about the symptoms and possible prevention of this potentially deadly condition; the third leading cause of death in the U.S. As a Gold Plus Primary Stroke Center, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital provides world-class, multidisciplinary stroke care to help patients achieve the best possible long-term outcomes.

"One in 12 stroke patients is likely to have another stroke soon after the initial attack," said Parveen. "But research shows that patients experience better outcomes when taken to hospitals that are stroke centers because these centers follow specific, evidence-based treatment practices. In addition to how fast you get care, where you go can make a difference."

According to the American Stroke Association, a stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is shut off by a blood clot (ischemic stroke) or a ruptured blood vessel (hemorrhagic stroke). Lacking an adequate blood supply, brain

cells begin to die and brain damage occurs. Because early intervention can make all the difference, getting immediate medical care by calling 911 is absolutely crucial if you or someone you know shows symptoms of a stroke.

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association "Get with the Guidelines" stroke program helps to ensure consistent, evidence-based stroke care. The guidelines promote such practices as performing brain imaging quickly; administering the clot-dissolving medication called recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (rtPA) within three hours from the onset of ischemic stroke symptoms; administering anti-platelet or anticoagulant medications at prescribed intervals; risk factor management including high cholesterol; educating patients and caregivers about stroke prevention and warning signs; providing smokers with smoking cessation information; initiating stroke rehabilitation refer-

rals and screening stroke patients for swallowing problems.

If you think someone might be having a stroke, remember the "F.A.S.T" test from the National Stroke Association:

Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? Can he/she repeat the sentence correctly?

Time: If a person shows any of these symptoms, call 911 immediately. Carefully note the time when the first symptoms appeared. This information is critical for treatment decisions.

After a stroke, rehabilitative therapy—which generally begins within 24 to 48 hours after the stroke—is needed to help survivors relearn skills that may have been lost.

"Following a stroke, successful rehabilitation depends on how early rehabilitation begins, the extent of the brain injury, the support of family and friends and the rehab team's skill," Parveen said. "For survivors, the importance of maintaining a positive attitude should not be overlooked. It is essential."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital's stroke care team includes physicians, rehabilitation nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and vocational therapists.

Heart Failure Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

develop a multifaceted heart failure program by innovating community-based research in collaboration with industry standards of care and integration of research in cardiovascular imaging and heart failure."

Fida received her medical degree from the University of Health Sciences in Pakistan and completed a residency in internal medicine and advanced heart failure, as well as research fellowships at Albert Einstein Medical School in New York. She also completed a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Houston Methodist Hospital.

She has facilitated communication between the cardiology department and the medical staff at HMB to provide education and guidance on identification of patients for the heart failure program, in addition to

those requiring LVAD (left ventricular assist device) or transplantation.

"Congratulations to Dr. Fida on this well-deserved leadership position at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate cardiologist specializing in heart failure/transplant and cardiovascular imaging leading medicine in our community," said David Bernard, CEO, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

Fida, a champion of heart disease prevention, says heart failure is one of the most common, costly and potentially life-threatening conditions. According to 2019 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, approximately 6.5 million adults in the U.S.

have been diagnosed with the condition, and it is identified as a contributing cause in roughly 1 in 8 U.S. deaths.

"It is estimated that there is one board certified heart failure physician per 6,500 patients in the U.S. There is an urgent need for advanced heart failure physicians who can manage the complex care that these patients need," Fida said. "Our multifaceted heart failure program will benefit our patients by making these resources and services available to residents of Baytown and the surrounding communities."

For more information on the heart failure program, or to schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital cardiology specialist, visit houstonmethodist.org or call 281-837-7587.

Phase II Opening,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

parks that have video arcades must remain closed. Starting Sunday, May 31st, recreational sports programs for adults can resume, but games and similar competitions may not begin until June 15th. Driver education programs can resume operations immediately.

Food-court dining areas

within shopping malls can also immediately resume operations, but malls are encouraged to designate one or more individuals who are responsible for ensuring health and safety practices are followed, including: limiting tables to six individuals; maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals sitting

at different tables; cleaning and disinfecting tables between uses; and ensuring no condiments or other items are left on tables between customer uses.

Minimum standard health protocols outlined by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) are recommended and located on the Open Texas webpage.

New School,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on children, thanking J. Warren Singleton and others who supported naming the school for E. F. Green. Green was the first African American educator to become a district-level administrator. Former principal at Carver High School, he served as deputy superintendent for curriculum and guidance, retiring after 48 years in education.

"I think it's very important that we name schools

after people that made an influence – that children are able to see directly in front of them and know that there are people that that man had an impact on that are still with them that can carry on that legacy," Loreda said.

Singleton, who led the nomination efforts for naming the school Edward Franklin "E.F." Green Junior School, expressed his appreciation to Dr. O'Brien; Noemi Garcia,

board secretary, the board of trustees and Goose Creek CISD.

"The unanimous 7-0 vote that this board of trustees delivered Monday night, May 4, speaks highly for the type of board members that we currently have in place at this time, and we are so proud that they were willing to support an individual such as Mr. Green, who did so much for Baytown and the school district," Singleton said.

Rotary Truck,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ets to the good cause in total, two from Mr. Oquin and two from a lady at San Jacinto College.

According to Lowell Everitt, "It was a surprise how successful this raffle was after COVID-19 brought us from hosting a gala dining and auction affair as we always have, to a 20 prize give away raffle.

"We worked with ev-

ery body so that a lot of the companies that purchased multiple meals could convert to raffle tickets. Some companies, just to support the Rotary, buy 50 to 60 meal tickets to give to customers and employees. In total we raised over \$147,500 in a twenty prize raffle.

"I had figured we could subsist if we could make \$125,000. Before

COVID-19 we would have about \$115,000 in corporate sponsors. The great thing is we are going to have a Rotary Budget of about \$250,000 so we can keep doing the things we need to do for this community including scholarships, bike give-away at Christmas and our various senior assistance programs."

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save pTime & Money



HENDERSON GARAGE DOORS

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 GAEKE
OWNER-INSPECTOR

911 S. MAIN
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562

Free Estimates

MR. ROOFER

Siding & Contracting LLC

281-452-0000

CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR

New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding • Mobile Home Siding

P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530

Mroofer@gmail.com

= Major credit cards accepted =



Graphics Unlimited, Inc.

CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST

Printing & Promotional Products

281-462-1200

www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net

213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

Donate A Boat or Car Today!

BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"

800-700-BOAT
(2828)

www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel charity center STOP DRUGS. START HELPING.



HILL MATERIALS

119 Listi Ln, Highlands

hillmaterials.com

FILL DIRT

BANK SAND

ROADBASE

LIMESTONE

WE DELIVER TO YOU

(281) 843-5000

residential • commercial • industrial



WE BUY OIL, GAS, & MINERAL RIGHTS

Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)

Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.

CALL TODAY: 806.620.1422

LOBO MINERALS, LLC

PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800

LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

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

Construction near Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

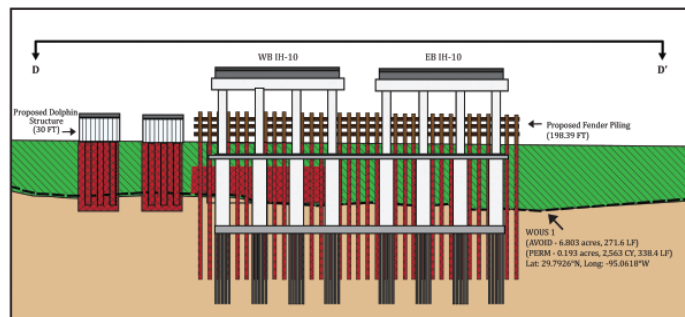
permanently discharge 0.193 acres of fill material in the form of pilings and rip-rap into 338.4 linear feet (LF) of the San Jacinto River, during replacement of damaged dolphin structures and fender systems.

Four dolphin structures are to be replaced by the proposed project. The existing damaged dolphin structures would be removed by heavy machinery on barges within the River channel and new dolphin structures would be installed in the same locations. Each proposed structure is 30 LF, for a total of 120 LF of impacts. The acreage of each proposed dolphin structure is 0.015 acre, for a total of 0.060 acre of permanent impacts. The fenders of the proposed dolphin structures are 18-inch-diameter steel coated with a marine-grade epoxy coating. It is undetermined if the pile fenders will be braced with either 18-inch to 24-inch-diameter braces and timber railroad ties or plastic lumbers (Concept 1) or braced with 24-inch to 36-inch-diameter bracings with pile fender wraps (Concept 2). Both concepts would include pipe sleeves around the pile and would result in the same amount of permanent impacts to the San Jacinto River.

To repair the navigation fender system, 77 steel pilings would be required. Each piling will be coated with a marine-grade epoxy coating and would measure approximately 1.5 LF, in diameter, and impact 0.00004 acre of the River. Of the 77 fender pilings, 15 pilings would be located within the proposed riprap so the linear feet of impacts are only calculated for 64 pilings as the linear feet of impacts of the 15 pilings within the rip-



Plan of construction shows the work area in green, and dolphin bumpers and rip-rap fill (stone) in red. TxDOT says all construction will be done from barges in the river, and only in the highway right-of-way, not on adjacent land. However, an access road borders the waste pit site.



Cross Section C of the Bridge shows rebuilt dolphin bumpers at left, and rebuilt fenders and rip-rap (stone) fill in Red Color.

rap are included in the rip-rap linear feet calculations. These pilings would total 96 LF in permanent impacts to 0.003 acre. Approximately 0.130 acre (1,454 cubic yards) of 24-inch stone rip-rap and 3-inch bedding material is to be placed along the proposed east fender, extending for 122.4 LF.

ALSO quoting from the permit application is the impact on adjacent river banks:

All work would be com-

pleted within existing right-of-way (ROW). No work is proposed along the banks of the San Jacinto River as the proposed construction techniques would facilitate completion of all work from barges or the bridge structure. No permanent or temporary construction easements are included in the proposed project. The project is considered necessary to increase the safety to ships utilizing the channel and to protect the bridge from

impacts.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by the following construction design techniques:

TxDOT proposes to complete the project via barge or from the bridge structure, thereby avoiding any impacts to the banks of the San Jacinto River or three Section 404 wetlands within the project ROW.

Buck Sloan celebrates 95 years with Parade



**BIRTHDAY PARADE FOR
BUCK SLOAN SAT. MAY 31**

BUCK SLOAN WILL BE
96 YEARS ON JUNE 1,
2020.

Buck is a World War II hero having won many medals including the Purple Heart and the very prestigious French Foreign Legion Medal of Honor. Last year, at age 95, he went to Belgium for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, which he fought in. In Belgium, he was honored at a United Nations Dinner and was on several other stages, including a radio program where he sang some of the many WWII songs he has written.

Last Memorial Day, Buck was invited to speak at several assemblies, a boy scout event, a senior luncheon in Pasadena and a celebration at a church. He donned his old uniform (yes, it still fits) and went off to enthral all of the participants. After he spoke at each event, he sang one of his war songs. At the church, Buck was interviewed by a 10 year old WWII buff who asked amazing questions. Buck was delighted to meet this young man and answer his questions. Buck was also honored last June, at a golf tournament in Atascocita for veterans, where they

flew him in to the 1st tee in a helicopter.

Buck also hosts a weekly country music show THE BUCKSHOT JAMBOREE, (which will reopen on May 30th, after the quarantine is lifted) where he plays the guitar, fiddle and almost any other instrument. This is a weekly show, Saturdays 6 – 9 pm, featuring local talent. We have 4-6 singers each week and along with the 4 band members, they do 4-5 old country or gospel songs. If you're lucky, you might even get to see Buck and his wife, Shirley, do a jitterbug! Buck is also a member of the Oklahoma Country Music Hall of Fame and the Bandera Hall of Fame and has played with many famous country music stars.

We will be having a parade for Buck on Sunday afternoon, May 31st. We will meet at the Jamboree, 7414 Hartman about 2:45 and leave there promptly at 3:00 p.m. to drive around the block to honk, yell, wave and smile and wish him a very happy 96th birthday.

For more information:
Emily Dennis
Emiden1845@aol.com
832-444-5000

WE'RE STILL HERE

for Your Orthopedic Care

COVID-19 UPDATE – We are committed to you, even during these challenging times. Our orthopedic specialists are available to safely see patients **virtually** or **in person**, as needed.



VIDEO VISITS
for new and
existing patients



IN-CLINIC
appointments,
when needed



SAME-DAY
orthopedic injury
appointments



**ORTHOPEDIC
IMAGING**
(X-ray or MRI)



HOME DELIVERIES
(Crutches, braces, walking boots)

HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
ORTHOPEDICS &
SPORTS MEDICINE

18 convenient locations across Greater Houston

Visit houstonmethodist.org/orthopedics
or call **281.428.2273** to find an orthopedic specialist.

