

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ **Courier**

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THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories
in the **PRESS:**

- Chambers County: online resources as COVID-19 persists
- Chambers County: Bed space concerns
- Atlas air pilot may have caused fatal 2019 crash

.....And more, Page 3

**COVID-19
RESOURCES**

City of Houston Pre-Screening
832-393-4920
Harris County Ask a Nurse
713-634-1110
Harris County Pre-Screening
832-927-7575 or
readyharris.org
Harris County Mobile Tests
713-439-6000
MD Medical 1-888-776-5252
Methodist Hospital
Download mymethodist app.

**COVID-19
Cases as of
July 21, 2020**

**HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES**

90,754 POSITIVE
908 DEATHS
34,410 RECOVERED

TEXAS

343,783 POSITIVE
4106 DEATHS
177,871 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

3,858,686 POSITIVE
141,426 DEATHS
1,160,087 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

14,774,887 POSITIVE
611,599 DEATHS
8,386,145 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

- Jul 23—Sean Hedger
Elton Sanders
Gene Zadraba
Jorge Del Angel
Jul 24—Tony Boyd
Jackie Adams
Eric Clamon
Jul 25—Eddie Bayer
Leona Lightfoot
Rose Donnell
Jul 26—Elton Sanders
Heidi J. Shepard
Jul 27—Rick Galvan
Timothy Lamm
Casey Brooks
Jul 28—Lee Henning
Martin Hernandez
Joyce Holleman
Haley Jo Maxey

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jul 24—James & Brenda
Dennis
Jul 26—Kenneth & Lisa
Boudreaux
Jul 29—Marcelino &
Marie Estrada

Local schools adjust start dates for academics, athletics

CROSBY-HIGHLANDS – Crosby schools are scheduled to begin opening August 13 with virtual learning, and face-to-face classes on September 8 with an option for virtual or in-person classes. Goose Creek schools will start September 8 with three weeks of virtual classes.

Both virtual and face to face classes will happen in these districts, with face-to-face enrollment dictating the number of classes. Interactions in virtual learning will be real-time, pre-recorded and posted assignments in "Schoolology," a software program for handling such classes.

About 6 to 8% of Crosby students do not have access to on-line or virtual learning according to a

survey taken by the school. Another survey was due in back to Crosby ISD on Tuesday. Some school board members including Tanya Eagleton have advocated legislation to fund instructional virtual access for all students.

UIL SETS ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

On Tuesday, the UIL announced that high school athletics would be split into two group classifications, meaning larger class 6A and 5A, would be pushed back until at least Sept. 7 with the start of the playing season pushed to Sept. 24. Thus the traditional championships of December would be moved to January.

Huffman and schools 4A and smaller would stay at

previous practicing times before August 3 and begin playing on August 27 with the traditional championships to be held December 16 through 19.

The state said each school will have to make determinations for themselves of exact opening days for athletics depending upon their contagion situation. A small school in a big city with active COVID-19 is different than those in rural areas.

"Our goal in releasing this plan is to provide a path forward for Texas students and schools," said UIL Executive Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt. "While understanding situations change and there will likely be interruptions that will require flexibility

and patience, we are hopeful this plan allows students to participate in the education-based activities they love in a way that prioritizes safety and mitigates risk of COVID-19 spread."

"The UIL will continue to work with state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any potential modifications that may become necessary," Breithaupt added.

CROSBY COACHES TEST POSITIVE

When two Crosby coaches tested positive for COVID-19, strength and conditioning training were pushed back for 11 days and is scheduled to resume on July 29. The district

announced that 40 to 60 students may have been exposed. One coach was with football, volleyball and basketball athletes, the other with football and volleyball athletes. Both coaches were wearing masks during their teaching sessions.

"The coaches will be self-quarantining for 14 days. We will be suspending all Summer, Strength and Conditioning through Tuesday, July 28 and plan on starting back Wednesday July 29. Please do not hesitate to have your son or daughter tested if you are uncomfortable or if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms." was the release from Athletic Director Jerry Prieto.

Barrett Station celebrates its 34th annual Homecoming Parade



Barrett Station Homecoming Parade wagon.

This past week, the town of Barrett Station, Texas continued without fail, celebrating its 34th annual homecoming.

This has been a homecoming celebration like none other. If for no other reason, the pandemic environment in which the

celebration has taken place. The Barrett Sta-

See **Barrett Station Homecoming**, Page 8

SJRC/THEA continues virtual monthly meetings

HIGHLANDS – Due to the continuing pandemic, and restrictions on size of meetings, the monthly meetings of the San Jacinto River Coalition continue to be virtual, over the internet.

Last Tuesday, THEA director Jackie Young Medcalf brought the group up-to-date with a review of the status of several Superfund sites, including the waste pits in the river. Jackie discussed the

state cancer registry, and the discovery of cancer clusters throughout the area. Clusters are areas of elevated numbers of cases above the average. Clusters have been noted by the state health department in the Highlands, Channelview areas, and the fifth ward area of Houston.

No causal affect has been determined in these cases, but environmental pollution is an obvious contributor. In the fifth ward,

for instance, an old creosote factory used to treat wood railroad ties is thought to be the source.

Jackie is waiting to review the 30% remedial design report for the waste pits in the river, she said. This is due to be released soon, and will reveal the plan for remediation. (As of this writing, it has actually been released by the

See **SJRC meeting**, p. 6

Covid-19 testing now at Crosby Community Center



Free COVID drive-through testing at Crosby Community Center Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24 from 8 am to 4 pm. Pre-registration is required but can be done at the test site. Participants will hear via telephone within 24 hours to verify information and results should be received within 48 to 72 hours. Plans are working to make the center a permanent site for testing but has not been achieved yet. For more information, visit www.coronavirus.gov.



Nurses at the Crosby Community Center conduct the nose swab tests, as cars line up.

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COMPLETE CARE
TurnerChevroletCrosby.com
281-328-4377

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

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WAVE GOODBYE TO HOME LOAN FEES & SAY HELLO TO A NEW HOME WITH A LOW-RATE CRUC MORTGAGE!
cru.org/mortgage
NO LENDER FEES! FREE 45 day rate-lock
Community Resource CREDIT UNION

COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo: Delay 'In-Person Instruction in Schools' until October or later

Harris County, Texas - July 20, 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Executive Director of Harris County Public Health Dr. Umair Shah today sent a letter to school district superintendents across the County outlining a series of recommendations schools should take to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, and the community as a whole, including delayed opening for in-person instruction.

In the letter, Judge Hidalgo and Dr. Shah strongly urged schools to follow new Texas Education Agency provisions allowing an 8-week online instruction waiver, halting in-person instruction until at least October. The letter also requests school districts make accommodations for remote learning, cancel all extracurricular activities until in-person instruction resumes, and for written plans to be de-

veloped and shared with parents and community members regarding steps that will be taken to protect health and safety on campus.

"Today, our community remains in the midst of a severe and uncontrolled spread of COVID-19. The fastest way to reopen our schools over the long haul is to flatten and -- just as importantly -- substantially bring down our hospitalization curve.

"We commend local school districts who have made the hard decision to defer in-person instruction. We know that this has been a very challenging time for everyone in our community -- and particularly so for students, teachers and parents. In-person instruction is vital for the educational development and social wellbeing of children and young adults. In addition to their key roles in learning, schools promote the development



of social and emotional skills and offer opportunities for physical activities. For low-income families, schools also provide much needed food assistance by offering students healthy meals and access to resources they may not otherwise have. "We must come to grips with the fact that in order to learn and grow, students must be healthy and safe. That means not setting arbitrary dates for reopening schools that provide false hope, dates this virus does not recognize or respect. Instead, our focus should be on thresholds and on developing measured reopening plans."

Congressman Brady: Federal Ruling on Texas High Speed Rail Wrong; Fight not over

CONROE, TX - July 16, 2020 - Congressman Kevin Brady (TX-08) released the following statement after the Surface Transportation Board released a new ruling on Texas Central Railroad's (TCR) petition for exemption:

"While I strongly disagree with this decision, the good news is this doesn't give TCR eminent domain authority to seize property without landowners consent -- and finally forces TCR to publicly disclose their shaky financial projections to the Surface Transportation Board in

any future bid to gain authority to construct the project.

"This will reveal why private investors have abandoned the project and why taxpayers should not be on the hook when it ultimately fails."

BACKGROUND: Today, the Surface Transportation Board ruled that the proposed Houston to Dallas High-speed rail line is subject to Board jurisdiction. This is a change from previous ruling, in which the STB found TCR's project was not subject to the Board's

jurisdiction and therefore did not require Board approval.

However, the Board denies Texas Central's petition for exemption and finds that, should Texas Central wish to request Board authority for its project, an application process under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 would be required. The Board also notes that issues pertaining to eminent domain authority are matters of state law, and that the finding does not confer any federal power to take privately owned property.

Houston Health Department, partners announce free COVID-19 testing schedule for week of July 20

HOUSTON - The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the schedule for sites offering free COVID-19 tests the week of July 20, 2020.

Texas Division of Emergency Management

The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the department will operate drive-thru testing sites at:

- Sinclair Elementary School, 6410 Groveswood Lane,
- Eden Event Center, 7450 N. Wayside
- Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Road, Crosby
- Crump Stadium, 12321 High Star Dr.,
- HCC-Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Dr., and
- HCC - South Campus, 1990 Airport Blvd.

TDEM sites require appointments, available by calling 844-778-255 or visiting txcovidtest.org.

TDEM will also operate a walk-up site that doesn't require appointments at the Merfish Teen Center, 9000 S. Rice Ave, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

United Memorial Medical Center

United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) will offer weekday testing at drive-thru test sites at the Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star, Houston Community College-Southeast, 6815 Rustic, and Houston Community College-Felix Fraga, 301 N. Drennan St.

The sites don't require appointments and offer testing from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching its daily capacity of 250 tests. Other UMMC drive-

thru sites opening weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. are:

- UMMC Tidwell, 510 W Tidwell Rd.,
- Forest Brook Middle School, 7525 Tidwell Rd.,
- Cullen Middle School, 6900 Scott St., and
- Griggs School, 801 Regional Park Dr.

People needing information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit ummcscreening.com.

New York State

Walk-up sites set up by New York state will offer test weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon at two local churches:

- Fallbrook Church, 12512 Walters Rd, 77014 and
- Higher Dimension Church, 9800 Club Creek Dr.

Appointments are available by calling 1-833-697-4839.

Ibn Sina Foundation

The Ibn Sina Foundation will offer rapid result testing at two of its clinics, located at 11226 S Wilcrest Dr and 11226 S Wilcrest Dr.

The sites require appointments by calling 832-426-3760 and will run through September 30.

Houston Health Department/FEMA

The department operates two free drive-thru COVID-19 community-based testing sites open to anyone, regardless of symptoms. Each site has capacity for 650 tests per day and operates Monday through Saturday.

People can call the department's COVID-19 Call

Center at 832-393-4220 between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive an access code and directions to the nearest community-based site.

Federally Qualified Health Centers

The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to four local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand their COVID-19 testing capacity. The centers and phone numbers people can call to set up testing appointments are:

- HOPE Clinic: 713-773-0803
- Spring Branch Community Health Center, 713-462-6565
- El Centro de Corazon, 713-660-1880
- Avenue 360 Health and Wellness, 713-426-0027
- Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston, 346-348-1200, and

- Scarsdale Family Health Center: 281-824-1480.

FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to pay or lack of insurance.

The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 for current Houston test sites and information about stopping the spread of the virus.

Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

Advertisement for Omnix Health Care Services, Inc. featuring the company logo, phone number 281-328-5869, a photo of the staff, and text describing Home Health Care services including Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker, Home Health Aide, and Hospice Services. It also mentions Medicare funded home health care and is locally owned and operated by Tabatha and Jonathan Brady.

Advertisement for AT&T Direct TV. It features the slogan 'DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV. Where sports fans call home.' and promotes the 'SELECT™ ALL INCLUDED PACKAGE' for \$49.99 per month. It lists additional services like Free Genie™ HD DVR upgrade and HBO Max™, STARZ, and EPIX. The ad includes a call to action: 'Don't settle for cable. Call now! 1-855-376-4332' and identifies AT&T as a Preferred Dealer.

Advertisement for Medicare Supplement Insurance. It features the headline 'An Important update on Medicare' and 'Find out how it can affect you.' It lists key points: Know critical dates for Medicare eligibility, Get options that can help limit your out-of-pocket expenses, and Learn about Medicare benefits many retirees may not be aware of. It provides contact information for Physicians Life Insurance Company: 1-833-971-0705 or visit MedSupBenefit.com/nenews. A disclaimer states they are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program.

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ROUND-UP

CORVID-19 CASES CHAMBERS COUNTY

As of July 21, 2020

Tested-4,945
Recovered-492
Hospitalized-11
Confirmed Cases-735
Deaths-5

Residents encouraged to utilize Chambers County's online resources as COVID-19 persists

Chambers County residents are encouraged to utilize resources available on our website (co.chambers.tx.us) and complete transactions online when possible.

Due to COVID-19, many Chambers County Departments are experiencing staffing shortages due to employee illness, isolation and/or quarantine. As these difficult and uncertain times persist, residents are encouraged to remember that temporary office closures, reduced hours and other protective measures may occur and are often beyond the control of the County.

To ensure that residents are still able to receive necessary services, Chambers County offers a variety of online resources for conducting business online. Services include:

- Online property tax payments
- Online vehicle registration
- Online court case record searches
- Online deed searches and download
- Online filing and fee payment for court cases
- Online building permit applications
- Online ticket payment

• Online book reservation for curbside pickup at all Chambers County Library System Branches

Other services may be available soon. Residents are encouraged to contact Departments via phone with questions regarding online services and/or in person visits.

Baytown Little Theater Hold the date!!

You are hereby invited to the BLT 2020 Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 2:00pm. Due to COVID-19 constraints, this meeting will be held virtually. Call-in and additional information will be sent prior to the meeting in a separate email. Thank you for your continued support for BLT and its mission during this time!

Two COVID-19 cases overwhelm Chambers County hospital space

Patients airlifted to remote cities

By Samantha Humphrey
Chambers County PIO

CHAMBERS COUNTY – Over the past few days, several news outlets have reported that a Chambers County resident who tested positive for COVID-19 was flown by medical heli-

copter to a hospital in El Campo because closer facilities did not have emergent care bed space.

We have received several questions about this report and wanted to take the time to confirm that it is, in fact, true. Additionally, a second Chambers

County resident was flown via Careflight Jet to a hospital in Dallas. The reason was the same: bed space is limited in area hospitals.

COVID-19 has become a hospitalization and health-care crisis that is affecting everyone in need – both COVID-19 patients and

those with other illnesses.

In light of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Chambers County and the decreasing availability of bed space at region hospitals, Chambers County Public Health has issued a Public Health Statement.

Please direct questions regarding this Statement in the following manner:

- Health-Related Questions: 409-267-2731
- General Questions: 409-267-2440
- Media Inquiries: 409-267-2695

Barbers Hill ISD rejects hair appeal

Barbers Hill ISD School Board Denies Grievances on Discriminatory Grooming Policies

By Armand Viscarri
ACLU TX

HOUSTON – In a public meeting Monday afternoon, the Barbers Hill ISD (BHISD) Board of Trustees unanimously voted to deny grievances filed by the ACLU of Texas and the Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project of Texas (JCAP). The grievances challenged the district's hair policy as unconstitutional and discriminatory. "This is a disappointing

setback in the families' quest to change Barbers Hill ISD's policies that explicitly discriminate on the basis of race and sex. It is evident that this policy discriminates against and harms Black students," said Brian Klosterboer, attorney for the ACLU of Texas. "The school district had the chance to examine systemic racism and change its discriminatory policies, but instead chose to continue spending taxpayer dollars to maintain this grooming code."

The online meeting was held in response to grievances filed on behalf of Kaden Bradford and De'Andre Arnold, two stu-



DE'ANDRE ARNOLD

dents suspended in January for wearing their natural Black hair. The ACLU of Texas and JCAP asked BHISD to change its grooming policy and allow Kaden to return to Barbers Hill without being forced

to cut his dreadlocks. The school board was also presented with over 200 pages of photos of white male students who were seemingly allowed to wear long hair in their official yearbook photos, during graduation, and while participating in extracurricular activities.

"The Board's decision is very disappointing. De'Andre and Kaden have both been forced to choose between their right to an education and their identities as young Black men with locs," said Cristina Beeler, staff attorney for JCAP. "The Board had an opportunity to be on the right side of history by

changing their policy in response to the extensive evidence we provided, but they chose not to do so. Hopefully it will serve as a warning to other school districts as they consider how their dress codes can be more inclusive."

BHISD's school board denied the grievances immediately after the arguments concluded without asking any questions or engaging in discussion. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP are representing the Bradford and Arnold families in a lawsuit with a hearing set for Wednesday.

NTSB Report:

Cargo plane crash due to co-pilot error

NTSB: 'Extreme reaction' of Atlas Air pilot may have caused fatal 2019 crash

WASHINGTON – The pilot of an Atlas Air plane that crashed into Trinity Bay last year had problems during his training which may have contributed to his "extreme reaction" when a type of automatic control was inadvertently activated before the fatal descent, according to federal investigators.

Capt. Ricky Blakely, First Officer Conrad Aska and Capt. Sean Archuleta, who was riding in the jump seat, were killed in the Feb. 23, 2019, crash near Anahuac.

Federal investigators said Tuesday during a National Transportation Safety Board hearing that Aska appeared to have accidentally flipped the "go-around switch" while traveling through some turbulence during the approach to George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

"He's guarding the speed brake with his hand, reaching over, and, somehow or another, the turbulence may have jostled him, jostled his wrist so that he activates the go-around switch," NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

One of the investigators testified that there was plenty of time to evaluate what was going on with the aircraft after Aska activated go-around mode.

"The reaction to the slightly abnormal situation was the problem," NTSB investigator Bill English said.

Investigators also found evidence that Aska had a history of poor reactions to stressful situations in simulators, noting that at two



ATLAS AIR WAS FLYING AN AMAZON PRIME AIRPLANE SIMILAR TO THIS ONE.



CAPT. SEAN ARCHULETA, FIRST OFFICER CONRAD ASKA, AND CAPTAIN RICKY BLAKELY



RECOVERY WORK IN TRINITY BAY



PIECES OF THE AIRPLANE IN A WAREHOUSE IN CHAMBERS COUNTY.

of his previous employers, evaluators reported that Aska would become extremely anxious and push buttons without thinking.

"Here's two different airlines talking about the same person and they're using almost exactly the same verbiage," Sumwalt said.

Investigators also said that it appears several "red flags" were missed by an agent who conducted a screening of Aska for Atlas Air. They also said they believe it was inappropriate for Atlas Air to rely solely on the screening agent to catch those problems.

The plane was carrying cargo for Amazon.

Atlas Air statement

Atlas Air President and CEO John Dietrich issued the following written statement after Tuesday's hearing:

"The loss of Flight 3591 in February 2019 has had a profound impact on all of us at Atlas Air Worldwide. We remain heartbroken by the accident that claimed the lives of our three friends and colleagues and

See PLANE CRASH, p. 6

★ OPINION PAGE ★

NEWSPAPERS
By Texas Press Association

Need a great job? Buy a weekly newspaper

By Gary Sosniecki

It wasn't my idea to buy a weekly newspaper.

I was content having transitioned from political reporter to sports editor of a 30,000-circulation daily newspaper. The pay was good. I had become part of the management team. I had been allowed to hire some bright young reporters. We were making a name for ourselves journalistically in traditional sports coverage and in-depth pieces. And the sports-department ethics policy I had written was being recognized as one of the first in the country.

My wife was not so content. She was managing editor of a smaller, competing daily, a position she won after refusing to train the man her boss wanted to hire for it. The 1970s were not an easy time for young women breaking into the newspaper business. This was her second job out of college, and Helen had fought sexual discrimination in both of them. In this job, her boss even had told her she didn't need a raise because her "husband made good money."

It had been Helen's lifelong dream to buy a weekly newspaper. So she quit her job and started contacting newspaper brokers. We visited weekly newspapers in Wisconsin and Illinois before she learned of a weekly for sale only an hour from her hometown in Missouri.

Humansville, Missouri, had a population of only 907, but it had a solid business district – as in potential advertisers – that included two lumber yards, two hardware stores, a furniture store, two clothing stores, a pharmacy, four cafes, three insurance agencies, a physician, two dentists, a funeral home and, most importantly, a modern supermarket that bought a full-page ad every week and a bank that bought a quarter page. Several of the business owners were young like us.

The Humansville Star-Leader circulated to 1,500 homes in the corners of three rural counties. Newspaper revenue was supplemented by a print shop that, among other jobs, printed election ballots for its home county.

We bought the Star-Leader on Aug. 1, 1980, using our savings from seven years of employment as a down payment. We bought our first newspaper before we bought our first house.

Not surprisingly, Helen fell in love with owning a small-town newspaper. Surprisingly, so did this city kid. So much so that over a 27-year period, we bought and sold three weeklies, each in a town a little bigger than the one before.

We never were bored. We covered city councils whose members at times were on the verge of slugging each other or members of the audience. We forced school boards to hold open meetings. We covered train wrecks and murders. (One murder victim was a small-town mayor who supported an ordinance banning pigs from the city limits.) We reported on presidential visits and a sheriff who liked to pose with a machine gun. We wrote features, and we wrote investigative pieces. We covered a state-championship basketball team and a winless basketball team, the former more fun than the latter.

We helped one of our readers appear on David Letterman's show. We campaigned to build a new library and to improve safety at railroad and highway crossings. We attended school plays and concerts and helped organize local festivals. We ate at fund-raising pancake breakfasts, pork-steak lunches and fish-fry suppers.

Through our editorials, we were the town disciplinarians and the town cheerleaders. We weren't always popular, but we still made lifetime friends in each of our newspaper towns.

We also learned to sell advertising. Pretty well, in fact. Every one of our newspapers made enough money for us to live comfortably in small towns where the cost of living was low.

We worked harder than we ever had worked – sometimes seven days and six nights a week – but the rewards were enormous. If we were 10 years younger, we would buy another newspaper and do it all again.

In fact, it's a buyer's market right now for weekly newspapers. (You can buy one in our state right now, in a town of more than 2,000 residents, for only \$40,000. That's less than what we paid in 1980.) Unfortunately, some newspaper groups are shuttering small-town and suburban weeklies that don't meet their revenue goals. Even sadder, many owners of our generation waited too long to sell and – unable to find buyers – are shutting down their papers. In both instances, the community becomes a so-called "news desert."

According to 2018 study by North Carolina's School of Media and Journalism, 171 counties in the United States have no newspaper at all. One of them is the county adjacent to ours.

It's a conundrum that independently owned weekly newspapers are closing for lack of buyers at the same time that journalists who would make good weekly-newspaper owners are being laid off in record numbers by metro newspapers and national newspaper groups.

The challenge for our industry is to convince these unemployed journalists to explore the joys and rewards of owning a small-town newspaper.

Not every market that supported a newspaper in the past can support one now. But unlike many of their big-city brethren, weekly newspapers in healthy markets still can be good investments. If the population is stable, if most storefronts on Main Street are filled, if the town has its own school and the all-important sense of community, the prospects for a weekly newspaper succeeding long-term are good.

It's encouraging to hear of a partnership between West Virginia University's Reed College of Media and the West Virginia Press Association "to recruit, develop and train the next generation of independent newspaper owners." Hopefully, we'll see other journalism schools and state press associations partner in similar programs.

But you don't have to wait if you're unemployed now and uncertain how to stay in the newspaper business. Check out the press association website in your state and see if any newspapers are for sale. Call the press association manager and ask the same question. Do a Google search for newspaper brokers, and find one who handles papers within your budget.

Because owning your own newspaper can be the most satisfying job you've ever had.

This article is one of a series distributed by the Texas Press Association for its members. If you wish more information, call 713-266-3444 or email grafikstar@aol.com



RECORD TEMPS CONVERT A NAYSAYER...

Department of Defense sends teams to assist hospitals in COVID crisis

AUSTIN — COVID-19 turned aggressive to the point last week that the Department of Defense activated U.S. Army and U.S. Navy medical task force teams and assigned them to Texas at Gov. Greg Abbott's request.

Teams were deployed to support Houston and San Antonio hospitals and medical facilities in hard-hit Rio Grande Valley. The Texas Division of Emergency Management was on the job, too, working with local officials to line up additional hospital capacity in Cameron and Hidalgo counties and to identify other sites to house patients who are recovering from COVID-19.

Some \$41 million in federal funds are being put toward assisting cities and counties in the COVID-19 response, Abbott said. Those funds will be used by local government for first responder overtime and hazard pay, equipment and supplies for teleworking technologies, social distancing and personal protective gear, county jail costs associated with medical needs of inmates and as reimbursement for holding inmates awaiting transfer to the state prison system.

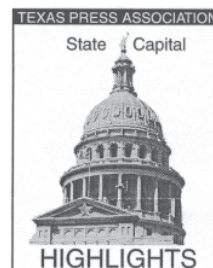
Cumulative figures posted July 19 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 325,030 people in Texas diagnosed with the deadly virus, and 3,958 confirmed deaths resulting from the disease.

TEA: Schools to open

Texas schools will open next month, but school systems will be allowed to limit access to on-campus instruction for the first four weeks of school, the Texas Education Agency announced July 17.

A school system may limit access to on-campus instruction for an additional four weeks with a board-approved waiver request to the TEA. Health and safety

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



Runoff results are in

Mary "MJ" Hegar of Round Rock won the Democratic Party runoff for U.S. Senate with 498,180 votes to 457,555 for state Sen. Royce West of Dallas, so Hegar will face incumbent Republican Sen. John Cornyn of San Antonio in the Nov. 3 general election.

In the only runoff for a state agency office, Texas Railroad Commission, Democrats chose Dallas lawyer Chrysta Castañeda over Robert Alonzo of Dallas, a former longtime member of the Texas House of Representatives. Castañeda received 575,460 votes to 353,399 for Alonzo. Complete election results are posted at sos.texas.gov.

It's hot, so be careful

With summer air temperatures reaching 100 degrees and higher, the Texas Department of Public Safety on July 14 reminded the public to take extra heat-related safety precautions.

Children, the sick, elders and pets should not be left alone in vehicles. Drivers should always check all passenger and cargo areas before walking away from their vehicle, the DPS said.

Jobless rate improves

Texas added 243,900 private sector positions in June, resulting in an unemployment rate of 8.6%, the Texas Workforce Commission reported July 17. The state's unemployment rate in May was 13.0%.

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the lowest non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June among Texas MSAs with 6%, followed by Abilene at 6.4% and College Station-Bryan at 6.5%.

The national unemployment rate stood at 11.1% in June.

Agency releases data

More information about oil and gas field cleanup programs are publicly available now, the Texas Railroad Commission announced July 15.

Data posted at rrc.texas.gov/data-visualization/ includes bar graphs, an interactive Texas map, a list of counties and other search options.

"These latest additions will help the public and energy industry operators easily see key aspects of the important work we do in protecting the safety of Texans and the environment," said Texas Railroad Commission Executive Director Wei Wang.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

"Birthday Blow-Out"

It's my birthday this week. This is not normally cause for a big celebration and this year it is less than usual. Still, unlike my husband, Peter, I actually do celebrate my birthday. I don't expect anyone else to celebrate—although it's nice to know my parents remember I was born and still seem to think it was a good thing.

But I'm puzzled by reports of people my age who have huge celebrations or pout if they don't get a party. My grandmother had a big party on her 100th birthday and I think that's an appropriate time for a "blow-out" (as she called it). Otherwise, I think the only person who has any reason to celebrate my birthday is me. It's good to have been given another year.

This year, Peter asked, as he always does, what I wanted on my birthday. The choices were more limited than in the past, but that really didn't matter. It's fun to receive one unusual thing that makes me happy. One year, I asked Peter for a new toilet seat. Peter saw nothing wrong with the existing one (he wouldn't!) but cheerfully replaced it on my birthday.

"Just don't go telling everyone I got you a toilet seat for your birthday!" he said. But now I have.

This year, my plans are less grandiose. I was thinking about cheese, specifically, a big pot of melted cheese. I know, the weather has been warm but the idea of fresh fruit dunked in a vat of nice cheese sounded irresistible.

"Fondue," I told Peter. "I'd like fondue for my birthday."

"Hot oil or cheese?"
"Cheese—good cheese!"
We ordered long forks and are all set. Peter is making cheese fondue.

I celebrate my birthday for the same reason I journal—to keep track of where I am in life. Peter says it would be better just to forget about that, especially as we get older, but I disagree. I like to know where I am and where I've been. I think that might be more important this year than ever.

I probably get this from my mom. She's kept a journal every day of her life since she was in college. She claims it is a profoundly dull document. She famously described it as, "an uninterrupted record of every dental appointment I've ever had."

But I know this is not strictly true because she does look things up to see what she was doing a year ago or five years ago on that date. She tells me, from time to time, about something she wrote a few years back.

"Oh! We were worried about you," she'll tell me. I had no idea my parents were worried, but her journal knew.

My daily journal rarely records anything as exciting as my dental appointments. Usually, I am just trying to figure stuff out, seeing where I am, where I'm going, noting what I've done and what I'd still like to do—both in the near term and before I run out of time for good. Journaling reminds me of how much I have to be grateful for. Birthdays do the same thing.

As an afterthought, I ordered a dozen cupcakes. I didn't figure a cake made much sense since there was no one to share it with, but I thought it might be fun to distribute cupcakes to friends and neighbors. I'm getting one dozen red velvet cupcakes with buttercream frosting. I'm having mine with a scoop of peppermint ice cream.

If that isn't a blow-out, I don't know what is.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

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★ OBITUARIES

Charles Edward "Charlie" Melton



Charles Edward "Charlie" Melton, 56, of Galena Park, Texas, found everlasting peace on July 13, 2020.

Charlie was born on June 29, 1964. He is predeceased by his parents, William T. and Lee Melton and son, Jacob. He is survived by his daughters, Patricia Holliday and hus-

band Zach; Samantha Nehls and husband Brian; twin brother, Michael Melton and wife, Andrea; sister, Susan Warren and husband, Jimmy; grandchildren, Molly, Zeke and Ezra; as well as nieces and nephews, Amy Baldwin, Chad Warren, Meghan Melton, Taylor Grimes; and great-nephew and nieces, Madelynn, Wyatt and Reese.

Charlie was the life of the party. He had an enormous passion for music, good food, laughter and above all his friends. He truly

embodied the phrase "Good Time Charlie." In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that contributions be made in Charlie's memory to Memorial Hermann Prevention and Recovery Center, 3043 Gessner, Houston, Texas 77080 or to a charity of your choice.

Due to current circumstances, his family will celebrate his life at a later time. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at <https://www.houstonmemorial.com/obituary/Charles-Melton>.

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



A Horse is a Horse?

I know many will agree with me when I say that the horse is one of God's most beautiful creatures. He designed it precisely, with a majesty that awes us. With its regal lines and fluidity of movement, it demands to be painted, drawn, sculpted, and more. From their youngest days, most children dream of riding horses, even owning horses, and many grow up to fulfill those dreams. I did.

The horse has been around Agforever, Ah of course. In Genesis 2:18-20, we learn that God created it and all of the other animals in the Garden of Eden while looking for a suitable helper for Adam. We all know how the story goes; they didn't find a Aghelper comparable to him Ah among the animals, so God then created Eve and the rest, as they say, is history.

Yet, though the horse wasn't the helper they were looking for at that time, God surely knew from the beginning that it would end up walking more closely with man than most of the other animals. With the horse to ride, man was able to move farther faster, not

being limited to staying at home. With the horse's assistance, man could more easily carry his belongings and trades people could travel far and wide with their goods. With the aid of a horse, the cowboy could manage large herds of cattle. When you really think about it, the horse is absolutely amazing.

It's so amazing that God used it as an example in Job 39:19-25 when He decided it was time for Job to stop complaining and accusing his Creator of being unjust. Here's God's way of asking, AgJust who do you think you are? Ah

AgHave you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed his neck with thunder?

Can you frighten him like a locust?

His majestic snorting strikes terror.

He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength;

He gallops into the clash of arms.

He mocks at fear, and is not frightened;

Nor does he turn back from the sword.

The quiver rattles against him,

The glittering spear and javelin.

He devours the distance with fierceness and rage;

Nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded.

At the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Aha!'

He smells the battle from afar,

The thunder of captains and shouting. Ah

This beautiful creature, with its ability to inspire artists, poets, and dreaming children, and its strengths while

working side-by-side with us, is yet another example of how carefully God has planned every single detail of this world, and it is only one such reminder! We serve an awesome God, an incredible God, a mind-blowing God who deserves to have us stop on occasion just to appreciate His unsurpassed handiwork.

A horse isn't just a horse. It's a sign from God that He cares about the details.

www.myhillsidefamily.com, @myhillsidefamily

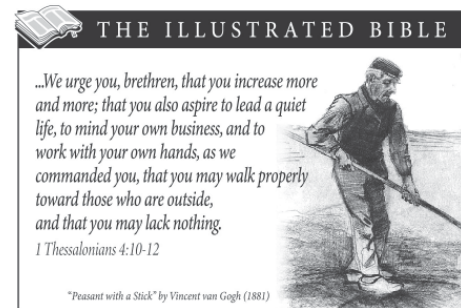
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

- 1) Is the book of Joshua in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2) In the parable of the 10 female virgins, five were called "wise, but why were the other five called "foolish"?" Washing stones, Forgot oil for their lamps, Daytime sleeping, Gossiping
- 3) From 2 Kings 9, what creatures ate the carcass of Jezebel? She-bears, Dogs, Frogs, Worms
- 4) What was the first bird released from Noah's Ark? Raven, Pigeon, Sparrow, Dove
- 5) In Proverbs 15, what does "a soft answer turneth away"?

Wisdom, Scorn, Wrath, Fear
6) From Joshua 2 who hid two spies on a roof? Hosea, Ezra, Satan, Rahab

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Forgot oil for their lamps (Matthew 25); 3) Dogs; 4) Raven; 5) Wrath; 6) Rahab



...We urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

1 Thessalonians 4:10-12

"Peasant with a Stick" by Vincent van Gogh (1881)

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

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

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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

Plane Crash,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

continue to provide their families with care and support.

"We have been working closely with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to learn what took place and why it happened. The NTSB's report provides valuable findings that will help our company and the aviation community as a whole as we continue to improve safety across our industry. Of critical importance is the need for an improved federal pilot records database to provide airlines with full visibility of pilot history in the hiring process.

"Since our founding more than 25 years ago, safety has been a core value of our company, and continues to be our top priority. In partnership with our pilots and their union representation, we have built a culture of safety and remain committed to continuously improving our operations. We regularly evaluate our practices and protocols, and since the accident, have made several important enhancements to our own hiring, training, and pilot review procedures.

"We thank the NTSB for its work, and for its conclusions and recommendations."

SJRC meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EPA, but with thousands of pages, a review has not been accomplished.) The report will reveal what types of "treatability" will be available.

Jackie reported on types of waste, and how they are classified. She takes issue with the early report that the toxic material is only Class I, Non-hazardous Industrial Waste, which allows lower standards of remediation.

She discussed the types of cancers, for both children and adults, that have been discovered in the TDHSD surveys.

Regarding the waste in the pits in the river, she spoke about the current studies which showed that the waste pits were deeper than first assumed, and

that the waste was in higher concentrations in some area. These facts indicate that the remediation will take longer and cost more than originally planned.

The PRP, or Potential Responsible Parties, have recently closed one of their websites, keepitcapped.org, and updated the other, sanjacintofacts.com. It is not known what their current interest is.

Jackie briefly reviewed other environmental concerns, including an oil spill on Church Street in Crosby, that is polluting waterways nearby, and has no known origin.

Also, she discussed a superfund site on Jones Road in Cypress, and its current status.

United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County Providing \$1,820,000 in Support of Local Programs

July 13, 2020 United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County announced that 30 local

programs will receive financial support from July 2020 through June 2021. This is made possible by

community impact grants and designations. These programs are managed by 24 agencies who have been

long-time partners with United Way. Total program support for this year is \$1,820,000.

Table with 2 columns: Local Programs and Agency. Lists various programs like Transportation & Disaster Response, Transitional Housing, Shelter, etc., and their corresponding agencies like American Red Cross, Bay Area Homeless Services, etc.

Community Impact funding puts the volunteers in the driver's seat. They are responsible for reviewing the funding requests, determining how and if they align with United Way's goals and are able to make an impact in the community. This thorough review of funds invested using the community impact model is a good choice for donors who do not have the time or inclination to vet out where their donations can make the biggest difference. The all-volun-

teer community impact committee reviews the requests and make the funding recommendations to the Board of Directors who have the final decision on funding. In February, the Board of Directors adopted Impact 2025, the strategic plan with a five-year vision that includes elements that will strengthen the capacity of UWGBACC and agencies, continue community impact efforts, build community engagement and work to enhance collective impact, which

will better align funding goals with major systems' goals such as health and education. "This will be a year of change that will create a stronger United Way and benefit our community," said Nick Woolery, assistant manager, City of Baytown and president of UWGBACC's Board of Directors. "Staff and volunteers will be taking the next few months to focus on building the plan of action that will include measurable goals which will ultimately enhance the

overall quality of health of our community." July begins the new campaign year. This year will be unlike any other because of COVID. Because of the social distancing required for safety, most, if not all workplace campaigns will be held virtually. The community's support will be needed more now than ever before. If you would like to support the mission of United Way, you are invited to register at https://volunteer.unitedwaygbacc.org/ and get involved today.

Advertisement for Bill Gordon & Associates. Title: Need help Getting Social Security Disability Benefits? We can help! Content: FIGHTING FOR YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR OVER 25 YEARS! You Could Be Eligible To Receive: Steady monthly income, A lump sum payment of benefits owed from back-pay, Annual cost of living increases. Includes phone number 844-509-9547.

Advertisement for Inogen. Title: One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel. Content: Introducing the INOGEN ONE. It's oxygen therapy on your terms. No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. Includes phone number 1-855-333-1888.

Advertisement for Leaf Filter. Title: CLOG-FREE GUTTERS OR YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEED! Content: 15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE LEAF FILTER PURCHASE. Includes phone number 1-346-299-9169.

Business Directory advertisement. Title: Business Directory. Content: SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money. Lists various local businesses including Henderson Garage Doors, Central Auto Inspections, Graphics Unlimited, Inc., Hill Materials, Mr. Roofer, Boat Angel, and Lobo Minerals, LLC.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE - RFP #21-02

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

2020 AUTO LIABILITY/SCHOOL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Proposal forms will be available July 20, 2020 on the Barbers Hill ISD website or may be picked up Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the BHISD Administration Building at 9600 Eagle Drive. Requests for additional information should be emailed to: kkunk@bhisd.net no later than July 27, 2020 at 11:00 am.

Sealed proposals are to be returned to the BHISD Administration Building on or before 1:30 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2020.

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

People Making Movies!

Don't you love to see a good movie? My favorite place to see one is at the drive-in. I like the giant screen and people-watching too. Read my clues to learn about the work of making movies:

- used to highlight areas of the scene, and create a mood
- used to capture sound of actors and effects
- person who chooses camera lenses and angles for shots
- all music and sound effects used in a film
- make-up _____ works on actors' faces
- _____ designer chooses actors' clothing
- writes the scripts - dialogue and movements
- used to film scenes from very high in the air
- raises funds, hires staff, makes things run smoothly
- combination of a script and shooting directions
- production _____ runs all sorts of errands for directors
- single recorded try at a scene; done on "first _____"
- metal rigs that hold a camera above the actors
- row of drawings to show how the movie will flow
- person who has complete control of filming
- shot taken a short distance from the actor's face

What Kind of Movie?

There are many kinds of movies! Do you like spooky or funny ones? Match each kind of movie below to what it is or does:

- action
- drama
- comedy
- scary
- musicals or dance
- science fiction
- documentary
- animated
- fantasy
- western

a. meant to spook you
b. uses song and movement
c. usually set in the future or space
d. set in the American frontier, often featuring cowboys
e. about something real, often used to teach about a topic
f. wizards, dragons and elves, filled with magic and swords
g. hand- or computer-drawn characters
h. fast paced: fight scenes, explosions and chases
i. with lots of jokes to make us laugh!
j. serious; strong characters and story

What do you think it means when someone calls a movie a "cash cow?"

Check Out These Movies

These movies are based on good books. You can read the book with your friends or family and then watch the movie. When you are done, talk about the differences between the book and the way the movie was made.

Match each movie to its description:

- The Little Prince*
- Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*
- Charlotte's Web*
- The BFG*
- The Jungle Book*
- Harry Potter*

A. A girl named Sophie befriends a gentle giant.
B. A young boy raised by wolves in the jungle of India is taught by a bear.
C. An orphaned boy goes to a school for wizards and learns about a world of magic.
D. A live-action film about farmyard animals and one very special spider.
E. The son of an Olympian god uses his powers to find Zeus' legendary weapon.
F. A girl becomes friends with her neighbor, a zany pilot, who tells her a whimsical story.

Movie Treats

When you go to the movies someone sells you a ticket, and then someone asks if you'd like to buy a treat. Follow the color code to see a favorite movie treat:

R = Red
Y = Yellow

POPORN

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It takes a lot of people working... ...together to make a movie. Kids: color stuff in!

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People Making Movies!

close-up, cinematographer, helicopters, lighting, soundtrack, screenwriter, microphone, screenplay, producer, carpenter, composer, director, computer, take, storyboard, actor, costume, assistant, cranes, artist.

What Kind of Movie?

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Barrett Station Homecoming,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion Community Development Organization, host of this year's homecoming chose to hold all of the weekly homecoming activities, virtually. And, the virtual activities presented to its residents in the form of Zoom Events on social media (at the AllAboutBarrettStation Facebook page and via Zoom, together), have proven quite successful, with a high rate of viewer participation (reference attached flyer for list of Zoom Events.)

The celebration ended with an actual parade, last Saturday --- from Gulf Pump Road @ FM 2100 and proceeding south -- and ending up at Riley Chambers Park. The procession began at 11:00 a.m. For safety reasons, the Riley Cham-



"Black Town Matters" painted mural.

bers Park was closed to prevent gathering due to COVID-19. In accordance with safety measures as handed down by local government, all parade participants were strongly encouraged to: practice social distancing, wear masks and wash

their hands. This year's homecoming theme was "One Community, One Voice"

To emphasize the town's participation in the #BlackTownMatters project, the host organization chose to extend its Juneteenth celebration

efforts by painting Black Towns Matter murals on two of its streets: Coy Street and Red Oak Avenue. The latter street contains the larger mural that was seen by all participants in the parade as they use said road to access the park. Addition-



Officers also participated at the Barrett Station Homecoming Parade.

ally, the Rev. Frank Joe Landry was chosen as the parade's grand marshal because he is a sitting mayor of another histori-

cally African American town, Old River Winfree, Texas. Who better than to lead the way this year?!

Constable Eagleton holds mask give-away at Drew Elementary



Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton with volunteers at his mask give-away program at Drew Elementary School last Friday. In concert with the Barrett Station Homecoming Celebration, Eagleton reminds everyone, "Your safety and well-being is our Number one priority. Together we will get through this."

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MISSING: PLEASE HELP US FIND FILIX AND BRING HIM HOME

HE WENT MISSING FROM OUR DRIVEWAY FRIDAY JULY 17, 2020 AROUND NOON

WE LIVE AT THE END OF HARRIS RD. IN HIGHLANDS

IF YOU SEE HIM PLEASE CALL US AT 281-426-8173

THERE IS A REWARD FOR HIS SAFE RETURN