

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star Courier

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the PRESS: Dayton scene of 3 murders, 2 wounded; Battleship Texas; Beach City Mayor will not run again; And more, Page 3

COVID-19 Cases as of August 18, 2020 HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES 146,052 POSITIVE 1,721 DEATHS 95,916 RECOVERED TEXAS 561,485 POSITIVE 10,452 DEATHS 405,817 RECOVERED UNITED STATES 5,454,333 POSITIVE 170,905 DEATHS 1,805,580 RECOVERED WORLDWIDE 21,943,183 POSITIVE 775,439 DEATHS 13,924,472 RECOVERED

IN THE STARS

BIRTHDAYS Aug 20-Patti Farmer, Ruby King, Ronald Phillips, Gertrude Rutledge, Natasha Webb, Pastor Phillip Morris; Aug 21-Gary Jackson, Alice Seaburg, Jimmy Ray Slot, Patrick Williams, Rick Ross, Sheri Ross, Jessica Cain; Aug 22-Lacie Paige Burton, G.A. Kearney, James R. Townsend, Tonia Watkins; Aug 23-Tarshira Harper, Daniel Stone, John Wilson; Aug 24-Donche Webb, Alex Catie Maxey; Aug 25-Cameron Adams, Carley Hurta, Curtis Hunter, Catie Rynn Maxey, Alex Russell Maxey, Joshua Stuart, Madie L.White; Aug 26-Derek Elkins, Rebecca Moye; Aug 27-Craig Nelson; ANNIVERSARIES Aug 20-Carl & Myrtis Richard; Aug 23-Greg & Angie Basquez, Kaylin & Caleb Morgan; Aug 26-Lee Ward & Jo Ann Hammac; Aug 28-Gilbert & Meiling Hoffman

Tax increase scare much ado about little County, ESD considering minimum additional revenue needs

By LEWIS SPEARMAN

HARRIS COUNTY - It looks like property owners have dodged a tax increase due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Last week talk throughout the northeast areas was of increased property taxes. However it seems this was mostly based on a review of budgets and not any decisions by the Harris County Commissioner's Court. Locally in Crosby, talk of a 41% property tax increase for local emergency services turned out to be discussion on August 20 and August 24 where the ESD is likely to adopt the same rate, only with several more people paying it. It was Precinct 2 Com-



County Commissioners deliberate as Sam Houston watches over them. Currently Commissioner's Court is being held virtually, not in person.

missioner Adrian Garcia that mentioned in Harris County Commissioner Court that the county could look at an 8% property tax increase but says, "There is zero chance that during a pandemic and an economic crisis an 8% tax increase would be proposed or passed." According to Judge Lina Hidalgo "There is no way we could go to 8%, but we do have to make sure how we're going to be able to

afford the additional services, the additional support that people are going to need." Republicans Steve Radack and Jack Cagle credit themselves with blocking the tax increase by being absent from the court's meeting. That revenue debate with no increase could mean a reduction in services and even layoffs for the county. Commissioner's Court is going to wait until the end of this month to decide the economic measures they will take after the Harris County Appraisal District provides a certified roll. It seems that everyone is dreading tough times next year and attempting to deal with tougher legis-

See TAX INCREASE, page 6

County rent assistance available Commissioners vote \$25 million; application info here

Harris County, Texas - Friday, August 14, 2020, The Harris County Commissioners and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo unanimously approved a \$15 million emergency rental assistance program to help individuals in Harris County suffering economic hardships due to the effects of COVID-19. Due to the overwhelming demand for rental assistance in Harris County, Judge Hidalgo and the Commissioners subsequently increased the amount of assistance to be provided through this program to \$25 million. "Our community continues to suffer great economic damage resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with many people unable to cover basic necessities, including rent," said Har-

ris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "This program will bring relief to those across our region who so desperately need it, allowing families to stay in their homes while addressing the collateral impact on property owners." The program will assist applicants with rent and associated expenses for payments and/or late fees occurring after April 1, 2020. Selected applicants will be eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$1,200 in assistance. Landlord enrollment will begin on August 17th, with tenant applications opening for a 7-day period beginning August 24th. Applications will be available online at www.harriscountyprenthelp.org, and assistance will be available by phone. To be eligible for assis-

tance through this program, applicants must meet the following requirements: Landlord must be registered as a program participant; Applicant must reside within Harris County. Applicants residing within the City of Houston within Precincts 1 & 2 are eligible. However, City of Houston residents within Precincts 3 & 4 are not eligible for the Harris County program. Total household income must be at or below 50% Average Median Income. Cannot have received other Harris County related COVID-19 assistance or rental assistance through City of Houston COVID-19 rental program. Applicant cannot be currently receiving other gov-

See RENTAL ASSISTANCE, page 6

THEA protests for stronger EPA remediation Group wants higher standards for San Jacinto River Waste Pits

Houston, TX - August 6, 2020 - As part of the ongoing fight to remediate the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Jackie Young Medcalf of THEA is calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to hold polluters to a higher standard of accountability through ensuring more integrity in the remediation process. On Thursday, August 6 at 10am a press conference was held at Waste Management Headquarters, and it highlighted the recent discovery of how omitted sample data and a skewed site analysis have slanted the outlook towards the site's remediation and ultimately the disposal of the toxic waste material. The Waste Pits Superfund Site is the result of dioxin and PCB contaminated paper mill waste



Jackie Medcalf and protestors at the Waste Management Headquarters in Houston

that was disposed of along the San Jacinto River in the 1960s. The Waste Pits presented such a great danger to the environment and public health, they were listed for clean-up under the Federal Superfund program in 2008. Recently, the EPA released documents from the responsible parties consultants and our review of the 30,000+ pages of technical reports found that the samples collected for analysis of dioxin disposal classification were almost all

collected from areas known to contain no dioxins, and that the consultants requested data be omitted from the lab reports. Joint community, advocate and governmental efforts have made profound progress in protecting aquatic life and public health within the region. However, now there is an overwhelming need for sampling and analysis which address all contaminants of concern and the EPA's oversight to ensure this process is done with integrity. What is at Stake? The longer the waste remains the greater the potential for increased risks of cancer and autoimmune diseases among locals and further contamination to the environment. A location known as the sand separation area of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits showed higher levels of dioxin than previous reports, and these will not degrade in toxicity for decades—possibly centuries. The extra five years added to the remediation timeline, is simply five years of open contamination that our communities and environment cannot endure. This is a call for EPA to recharacterize the site through sampling and analysis which addresses the known dioxin sites, AND an appeal to the moral character of the parties whose dishonesty means that pollutants have more time to poison our communities and environment. Enough people have needlessly passed

See WASTE PITS, page 6

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Jamail golf tees-off 22 years of scholarships

Although 2020 has been a very different year for all of us, we are looking forward to getting back to something we know. The Jared Jamail Golf Tournament will be held on September 26 this year. It may look a little different but nonetheless, we are excited to bring people together again for a helpful cause.

Since our first tournament in 1999, we have been able to give away over \$330,000 to 132 Crosby High School seniors. We began awarding 4 scholarships each year at \$1,500 each, and we are now able to award 4 scholarships at \$5,000 each! The family has truly enjoyed getting to know these recipients and following them through their next journey in life. 20% of our sponsors in 2019 were past recipients of our scholarship. Thank you to all those recipients that have given back to the tournament and foundation over the years.

With all the hardships 2020 has brought, we will not be asking for any donations for the raffle this year. This year will just be the golf tournament, lunch, and awards. With that being said, we still plan to have some fun! Turner Chevrolet will be sponsoring the Hole in One with a 2021 Chevy Trailblazer. Remember breakfast, coffee, and lunch are included in each golfer's entry fee. You will have to earn an award!

Registration is now open on our website for anyone who would like to golf, sponsor, or simply donate money. We are asking that all golfers pay ahead of time this year due to the current pandemic. You may register and pay on-



The 22nd Annual Jared Jamail Memorial Golf Tournament is to be held September 26 at Stonebridge at Newport, registration needs to be accomplished by Sept. 24. One hundred thirty two scholarships have been provided to Crosby High School students thus far requiring \$330,000. Awarding 4 scholarships each year at \$1,500 each, and now able to award 4 scholarships at \$5,000 each. Last year there were 44 sponsors and sponsorships are still available with on course advertising. Best if registration were done before Sept. 21. Turner Chevrolet will be sponsoring the Hole in One with a chance to win a 2021 Chevy Trailblazer. Breakfast, coffee, and lunch are included in each golfer's entry fee. You will have to earn an award! www.JaredJamailScholarship.com is the location to begin registering.

line by going to www.JaredJamailScholarship.com and clicking on the tab, "Tournament Info", at the top. There is a 2.9% processing fee that is applied for paying through the website but if you wish not to pay it, you may send Pam Johnson a check. We ask that all golfers register and pay by September 21. If you have not paid by the 21st you will be asked to pay through the website. If you do not have

Pam Johnson's contact information already, her email and phone is listed on the website.

Please visit our website for more information on the tournament, how we have given back to our Crosby High School seniors, and to learn more about who Jared was. We look forward to this event every year and are ever grateful for the support we have received over the past 22 years.

Crosby ISD sets up wi-fi in virtual back-to-school mode



On August 13 the first day of back to school was virtual for the students although teachers had to attend to put their classroom performances online. Students started virtual back to school and that process was aided by Crosby ISD offering "Park N' Learn" or constant, secure WiFi access in the parking lots of campuses throughout the district using their laptops and the same accounts they would use in actual class. Following a survey by the administration into online access, the district discovered that most area students were in good shape. A few students however have no or insufficient access to complete their school work. Normative alternatives like the county library isn't internally accessible. The district has ordered some 400 "hotspot" or MiFi devices are now on order and soon to arrive to grant access to those students without sufficient access. This hot-spot and computer initiative was made possible by a \$32 Million dollar initiative proposed by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to go along with a county road map to re-opening schools safely.

Deputy busts trafficker



Precinct 3 Constable Deputy E. Vasquez conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Indian Shores and interacted with the vehicle's occupants. The deputy discovered that passenger, Denzel Taylor was wanted for trafficking of a child, prohibited contact, which is considered a particularly heinous human trafficking rap. Taylor was then arrested and booked without incident into the Harris County Jail.

If you suspect human trafficking report it immediately to the local authorities. 24HR DISPATCH 713-274-2500, Tipline 832-927-8477

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CROSBY'S HOME
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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

CORVID-19 CASES CHAMBERS COUNTY

As of August 18, 2020

Tested-6,446
Recovered-940
Hospitalized-8
Confirmed Cases-1,054
Deaths-8

Baytown EXPO is postponed

BAYTOWN EXPO POSTPONED, 38th Annual Community Collision Baytown Business Expo will be held on Jan. 14, 2021. Contact Rikki Wheeler for details (281) 422-8359.

Dayton: Jones Public Library

SUBJECT: Memorials, Honorariums and Donations
FROM: Sidnie Srader, Library Programs Coordinator

HONORARIUMS:
In Honor of:
Bode, Danny: *This is Me*, given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Shook, Sheila: *I Knew You Could Do It*, given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Weaver, Carla: *The Silk Roads*, given by Lambda Alpha Sigma

MEMORIALS:
In Memory of:
Berry, Kenneth: *The Rose Rustlers*, given by Liberty County Master Gardeners
Scott, Bobby: *Kingfisher Animal Encyclopedia*
Homebody: *A Guide to Creating Spaces You Never Want to Leave*, given by Williamson & Till Families
Brown, Dale: *Forest Life*, given by Jay & Jan Knight
Brown, Trudy: *Cravings Hungry for More, Pull Up a Chair* given by Williamson & Till Families
Irwin, Janette: *The Joyful Home Cook*, *Whiskey in a Teacup*, *Magnolia Table, Volume 2*, *Maybe, Because I had a Teacher, You are Home*, *Roar like a Dandelion*, *A First Book of the Sea* given by Dayton High School Class of 1973

Kopecky, Richard Lee: *Tom Clancy's Code of Honor*, given by Mike and Debbie Boltin
Krigar, Charlotte: *The Path Made Clear*, *Magnolia Table* given by Williamson and Till Families
Krull Robert: *Silmans Complete Endgame Course*, *WWII Illustrated Atlas* given by Williamson and Till Families

Mitchell, Peggy: *Finding Home*, given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Mittell, Peggy: Monetary donation to the Summer Reading Program, given by Margaret Unkel
Ripkowski, Franklin: *Korean Dream*, *History of Tank Warfare*, *History of Air Warfare* given by Deanie McClosky

Salgado, Anabel & Isabel: *Los Tres Reyes Magos*, *Cuahtémoc*, *Frida*, *Evita*, *Zapata*, *Guadalupe*, *La Catrina*, *Selena*, *Loteria*, *El Chavo*, *Cantinflas*, *De Colores* given by Bastilio, Amy, & Carla Salgado

Dayton Man charged with shooting 5, Killing 3

DAYTON - A man is being charged with capital murder for shooting five people at three successive scenes in the vicinity of County Road 4901 that all began about 11:00 a.m., on Monday August 17.

Michael Wettstein, 60, that lives in a nearby cul-de-sac is jailed without bond pending arraignment for capital murder. He was said to have a swastika drawn on his forehead when taken into custody.

According to Liberty County Sheriff's Office Captain Ken DeFoor a lengthy investigation will be necessary to sort out many of the details. He also acknowledged the help of Dayton Police Department when taking Wettstein into custody.

Early on, reports indicated that Wettstein had telephoned the Sheriff's office and claimed responsibility for the shooting.



Liberty County Sheriff's deputies and Dayton police investigating one of the shooting scenes on County Road 4901.



Sheriff's deputies and Dayton police converged on the scene, taking Wettstein into custody without resistance.

But when deputies arrived at the residence he was found hiding in the woods. He surrendered to officers without incident.

A shotgun and a rifle were discovered at the residence that might be related to the shootings.

It appears that the first shooting was of a dog at the home of Misty Herndon, 38. A grandmother, she was said to be a former girlfriend of Michael Wettstein, she was shot and killed. Also shot and killed was Richard Lamm, 56, at the residence on County Road 4901, near US 90, at the corner with FM 1413.

A man and his daughter heard someone approach from the rear of their homestead on an ATV and fire a shotgun. Both yelled at the person not to shoot as there were people there. To their surprise, it is said that Wettstein began an



Michael Wettstein

argument about dogs. Another shotgun blast rang out and both of them were struck by shot. Marvin Rumley, 66, and Amanda Rumley, 32 were transported to Houston by Lifeflight helicopters.

Deputies allege that Wettstein then killed Bruce Mercer, 59, in a house down the street, for unknown reason.

Foundation takes over control of Battleship Texas

Prepares move to shipyard for repairs

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Transfers Operational Control of the Battleship Texas to the Battleship Texas Foundation

HOUSTON - Effective August 1, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has transferred operations of the Battleship Texas to the Battleship Texas Foundation (BTF).

In 2019, the BTF and TPWD entered a memorandum of understanding/lease (MOU) with TPWD whereby the BTF would operate and maintain the Battleship TEXAS for TPWD and the State of Texas. Under terms of the MOU between these two long standing partners, the operational control is transferred via a 99-year lease to the Foundation.

The Texas has been closed to the public since August of 2019 to allow preparations for her transport to a shipyard for extensive restoration.

Currently, the BTF and



Members of the BTF (Battleship Texas Foundation) celebrate taking control of the ship.

TPWD are preparing the ship for transportation to a shipyard where her hull will be replaced from the waterline down and repainted, along with other necessary repairs and improvements. The ship is tentatively scheduled to depart her current berth between November-December 2020 and be in the shipyard for a period of approximately 12 months. Once the battleship leaves the shipyard, we anticipate the ship arriving in the new berth around January-February 2022. Following a period to prepare the ship for reopening, the plan is to have it receiving visitors by 1st Quarter 2022.

Once the Battleship TEXAS is reopened to the public the BTF will operate the ship with the highest standards of preservation, maintenance, and will consistently offer

See *BATTLESHIP TEXAS*, page 6

Beach City mayor will not run again



The current Mayor of Beach City, Jackey Lasater, has announced in the Beach City newsletter that he will not run again for that position.

He explained that he has been receiving treatment for throat cancer, and although his doctor's assure him that he caught the cancer at an early stage, and he should be able to defeat it, nevertheless it has prompted Lasater to re-evaluate his mortality and plan to use his time for family and personal matters, he said.

The full text of his message is on Page 4 of this issue of the Press.

Don't Ignore Stroke Risk factors

BAYTOWN - (August 7, 2020) - The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our lives in countless ways, but ensuring that it does not delay treatment for acute stroke and conditions that may lead to stroke is essential.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and a personal family history of stroke may all increase the risk of stroke. Scheduling regular checkups, being alert to symptoms, eating a healthy diet and getting regular exercise may help to reduce your risk of

stroke.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital neurologist Dr. Ruby Parveen says stroke can affect anyone at any time with no warning, but being educated about risk factors and the signs of stroke can save lives.

"It's very important to understand your risk factors. Many of these, including smoking, drinking, obesity and high cholesterol, can be controlled with lifestyle changes," Parveen said. "Being alert to the symptoms of stroke could save your life or someone suffering from stroke."

In July, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital earned the AHA's Get With the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus With Honor Roll Elite and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll Achievement Award. The honor recognizes the hospital's continued success in applying the most up-to-date, evidence-based treatment guidelines to



Dr. Ruby Parveen

improve patient care. As a Gold Plus Primary Stroke Center, Houston Methodist Baytown provides unparalleled, multidisciplinary stroke care to help patients achieve the best possible long-term outcomes.

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 oc-

curs. 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.

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.

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

Houston Methodist Baytown Ensures Patient Safety

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has implemented the following enhanced safety measures in all of its doctors' offices and clinics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and wellbeing of our patients:

- Screening all patients to ensure only those without COVID-19 symptoms

See *STROKE*, page 6

★ OPINION PAGE ★

**LETTERS
To The Editor**

**Message from Jackey Lasater,
Mayor of Beach City**

As you know, I am currently receiving radiation treatment for cancer that was discovered earlier this year on one of my vocal cords. I am very blessed to have found it early and should be clear of this disease when I complete my treatments in September.

I must confess, when my Dr. said the words "you have cancer", It scared the heck out of me initially. After being reassured by the Dr. that we have caught it early and we should be able to beat this type of cancer and that it probably hasn't spread, which scans later proved to be true, I was able to return to normal thinking.

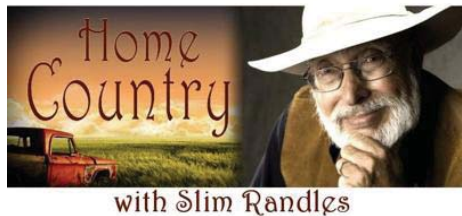
After coming face to face with my mortality, priorities have begun to change in my mind. One is the quality time that I spend with my wife Marilyn.

Because of these events, I have decided to not seek re-election as Mayor of Beach City in November. This was not an easy decision as I have loved representing you as an Alderman, Mayor Pro-Tem or Mayor since May of 2009. I was warned early on that it would be, usually a thankless job. I have not found that to be true at all. Many of you seem to go out of your way to make sure I know that I am appreciated. For that I will always be grateful.

I look forward to helping the new Mayor make the transition as seamless as we can. As with the former Mayors, I will only be a phone call away if help is needed. Beach City is in good hands. Our city council is one that most cities would be jealous of. It is amazing that a town as small as Beach City could produce such talented and dedicated citizens on one council.

Thank you all for your encouragement and prayers.

Jackey Lasater,
Mayor, Beach City**



Mrs. Forrest

Mrs. Forrest has always been a compulsive feeder. Before she retired, she was cooking for the Mule Barn truck stop's customers, and is singularly responsible for about three flabby tons of avoirdupois on this nation's truck drivers, and may have been marginally responsible, third-hand, for a cardiac event or two.

But now she's retired, and a widow, and her kids all have kids and are scattered like a covey of quail. Local bachelors of a certain age know if they should just happen to be chatting with Mrs. Forrest on her front lawn along about supper time, there's a dang-near dead certainty they'll get a meal out of it.

And, through the magic of telepathic communication and the synchronistic wave lengths of humanity, the message about Mrs. Forrest's unstoppable feeding compulsion had somehow reached the psyches of the homeless.

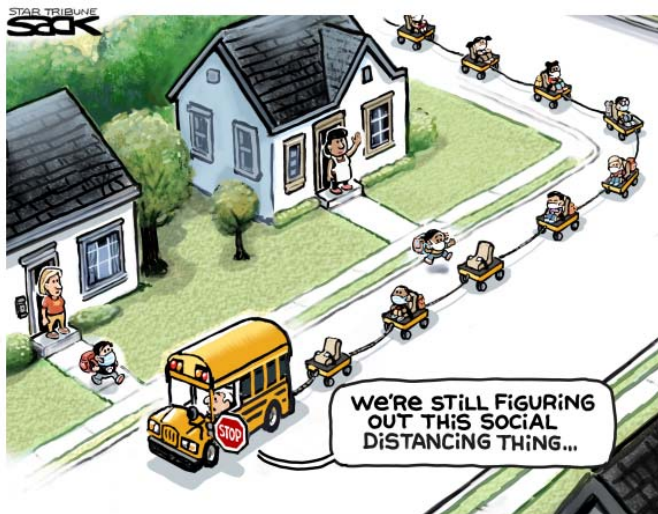
At any rate, two of the aforementioned drifters had knocked on Mrs. Forrest's door and asked if there were any chores she needed done in exchange for some food. Well, you should've seen her eyes light up at that question. She said she had a bunch of firewood that needed to be split into kindling and if they didn't mind doing that, she'd fix them a chicken dinner with cream gravy. Mrs. Forrest puts cream gravy on everything.

So she busied herself in the kitchen, and then went out to see how these fellows were doing. And there, leaning on an axe handle, was one of them, and the other was doing gymnastics in and around the woodpile. It was amazing. He'd come out of a round-off flip flop and then gracefully go into a full layout Sukuhara with a right-hand twist. She watched in awe for a few minutes before whispering to this gymnast's partner.

"I had no idea your friend was an acrobat," she whispered.

He looked at her and whispered back, "Neither did I 'til I cracked him on the shin with this axe."

Brought to you by Ol' Max Evans: The First Thousand Years, by Slim Randlez. www.unmpress.com.



**THE
POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon**

**"More Dog
Stories"**

It seems I have acquired a reputation.

I have been handing out dog treats for three months. Every day, I take the same trail, and every day, I meet many of the same customers. Dogs have an amazing memory when it comes to getting a treat—particularly from a stranger.

One dog is not allowed treats. "No treats!" his owner says.

Before I knew her better, I suggested, "Maybe he'd like a treat?"

"Wouldn't we all?!" she said. (That lady sounded like she could really use a treat.)

But she is the only one. There is a Bernese Mountain dog, appropriately named Bernie, who always gets a treat. He does not even stop to greet me. He does a drive-by, taking the treat from my hand, then hurrying on to his important dog appointments.

There are two runner dogs, Fergus and Luna, who I see twice a day because their owner runs roughly the same route I walk in the opposite direction. I decided two treats every day was a bit much, so I only give them a treat on the second leg. Then one day, they took a different route home. When I saw Fergus the next day he looked at me like I'd cheated him out of a treat.

Usually, the last dogs I see are two border collies, Ray and Cruiser. But yesterday, there was a big change. There were no longer two border collies—there were three. And the third was a puppy.

"A puppy!" I more or less squealed.

The border collies' owner, Ruthanne, was out with them.

"She's not ours!" Ruthanne told me. The puppy, another border collie, was their daughter's. The daughter was training to be a physical therapist and had a six-week rotation where her accommodations would not permit dogs.

So, the puppy, whose name was Scout, was staying with Ruthanne. Scout was only nine weeks old, which means she was nothing more than a black and white puffball of cuteness. Scout had been through a lot in the last twenty-four hours. She was scared of the new surroundings, scared of the new dogs, scared of the new people. At the moment, she was scared of me, offering her a treat.

I waited.

"Come on, Scout," Ruthanne coaxed. Scout got close to my hand and then scampered away. We spent five minutes this way: Ruthanne holding Ray and Cruiser while I sat on my haunches with the treat extended.

Finally, Scout took the treat. She looked surprised.

"Now, that was worth it, wasn't it, Scout?"

I don't see the border collies every day so I thought it would be a lot to hope for to see them again today. But when I came through the woods, there were Ray and Cruiser. They ran up to me and sat looking at me, with that intensity peculiar to border collies.

Then Scout saw me. She came running, on her little fluffy legs. She scrambled through the woods until she got to the two dogs, sitting at attention. She stood on her tiny back legs and squeezed herself between the two big dogs, who did not budge until she was wedged in the middle. I'm not sure when I have seen anything so adorable.

"Scout! You have to sit!" Ruthanne told her.

I gave a treat to Ray. I gave a treat to Scout. I gave a treat to Cruiser.

"Well, she's only nine weeks old," I reminded Ruthanne. "The rules don't kick in until she's ten weeks old."

Somehow, I'm pretty sure Scout will have it down before then.

Till next time,
Carrie
CarrieClasson.com.

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Chris Cobler**

**Texas tries nation's first
virtual criminal trial**

A Texan's speeding ticket put her in the legal history books last week.

To combat the backlog in criminal cases created by the pandemic, a Travis County justice of the peace conducted the nation's first virtual criminal trial. The case was livestreamed on YouTube, and the jurors deliberated in a private Zoom room.

Legal experts debated whether trial by Zoom properly balanced constitutional concerns such as the right to a speedy trial and the right to confront witnesses.

The test case? A nurse's misdemeanor ticket for speeding in a construction zone. The jury found the nurse, Calli Kornblau, guilty of speeding but acquitted her of the construction zone violation. She received a deferred sentence and was ordered to pay a \$50 fine, plus court costs.

The jury is still out on whether Zoom is the courthouse of the future. The Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association had some fun on Twitter with the practice: "A JP is having a virtual jury trial this morning on a speeding ticket. Does that mean the JP will have to have virtual coffee with the police officer before the trial starts, too?"

Texas docs: Get your shots

Texas doctors are taking their best shot at encouraging people to get immunized.

August is National Immunization Month, and the Texas Medical Association is distributing a series of columns by physicians in support of vaccinations.

"Vaccines are among the safest and most effective tools available to and used by physicians. Yet vaccine hesitancy and even refusal are increasing," Dr. Sue Bornstein, a Texas Medical Association board member, wrote in her column.

Doctors should make recommending vaccina-



By Chris Cobler

...tions a part of routine patient visits, she said. The pandemic makes this even more important as researchers race to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, she added.

This job will take you places

SpaceX aims to put people on Mars from its launch site near Brownsville. First, though, the spaceport needs an out-of-this-world resort.

The company placed an unusual help-wanted ad last week: for a resort manager in the tiny unincorporated Boca Chica Village near Brownsville on the mouth of the Rio Grande River. The right candidate will develop the resort from inception to completion, according to the ad.

The job requires a bachelor's degree and five-plus years of experience in construction management. One additional requirement: Must be able to travel for short and extended trips as needed.

SpaceX, which made history recently as the first private company to send astronauts safely to space and back, also released footage of a successful 150-meter hop Aug. 4 by its Starship SN5 prototype.

Ports-to-Plains plan
The Ports-to-Plains corridor study of Interstate 27 will be navigated during a virtual public hearing at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, and Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Texas Department of Transportation officials will make the presentation

and allow time for public comment. People also may mail or email comments about the study until Sept. 10.

The Legislature approved last session a study of expanding I-27. The interstate runs from Amarillo to Lubbock. The plan calls for extending the road north of Amarillo and south about 500 miles from Lubbock to Laredo.

To join the WebEx public hearing, go to TxDOT.gov. For questions, call 512-486-5106.

How many hats can a Texas deputy wear?

People who live in Texas small towns are used to wearing a multitude of hats.

But the Culberson County attorney isn't sure a chief deputy also can serve as an elected alderman, or city council member. County Attorney Stephen Mitchell filed a request last week for an opinion from the Texas attorney general's office. He attached a 1975 AG opinion that such wearing of multiple hats was not legal.

The deputy ran for and was elected as an alderman in Van Horn, the Culberson County seat in West Texas. He has since been promoted to chief deputy.

"Issues have been raised about 'dual-office holding,' inasmuch as both 'offices' pay sums of money to the deputy on a monthly basis," the county attorney wrote. "Additionally, there appear to be issues regarding common law or constitutional 'conflicts of interest.'"

The yin and yang of ranching

"The Future of the Wildlife Enterprise" will be at your fingertips through a free Zoom symposium offered by two departments at Texas A&M-Kingsville.

The Oct. 29-30 sessions will highlight the challenges and opportunities of balancing ranching and wildlife resources. Registration is required and free. Visit krirm.tamuk.edu/symposium to register and download the complete agenda.

Correction

The Texas Primary Care Consortium sent an open letter to Gov. Greg Abbotts to ask him to take a variety of steps to increase residents' access to health care. Last week's column incorrectly reported the organization's name.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

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★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

★ **OBITUARIES** ★

Howell Dean Coleman

Howell Dean Coleman, 85, of Crosby passed away Friday July 31, 2020 at his home in Crosby, Texas with his loving wife of sixty years, Martha, by his side. Howell was born in Temple, Texas on September 25, 1934 to Miladie and Earl Coleman. On July 17, 1960 he married Martha Ann Necas of Rogers, and together they raised two daughters, Sandra Kay and Shari Lynn.

Howell graduated from Huntsville High School in 1951. After attending Victoria Junior College, he proudly served in the U.S. Army from June 1954 – June 1956. After his military service, he attended Sam Houston State University and received both his Bachelor of Science degree in 1958 and Master of Science degree in 1963.

Education was important to Howell, and he spent thirty-two years as a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and principal in school districts in Rogers, George West, Weslaco, and Crosby.

Faith was an important component of Howell's life and he served as an usher and member of various committees with the Crosby and George West Unit-



ed Methodist Churches. He also served on various committees in the Lake Shad-ows Community.

Howell seemed to know a little bit about almost everything and could be counted on to help friends and family with home repair or construction projects. His favorite pastimes were vegetable gardening and barbecuing for family gatherings. He cooked a mean brisket and over the years family, friends, and neighbors all had occasion to enjoy Howell's hospitality and cooking.

He was an avid fisherman who particular-

ly enjoyed weekends on Lake Mathis when he and his family lived in George West.

Howell was preceded in death by his parents, Miladie and Earl Coleman and his brother Doyle Ray. He is survived by his wife Martha; daughter Sandra Benoit; daughter Shari Coleman and wife Erin Enlow; grandchildren Holly Kay Benoit, Carlin, Ross, and Ben Enlow; and a great grandson Cyrus Swangle. He is also survived by brother Dal Coleman and wife Maureen; brother Kenneth Coleman and wife Bernice, sister-in-law Velma Coleman; aunt Dorothy Kuban; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials in honor of Howell's life may be made to Crosby United Methodist Church, American Cancer Society, or American Heart Association.

Condolences and memories can be shared online at www.sterlingwhite.com.

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Steve Edward Kotal

Steve Edward Kotal was born to Ruth and Stanley on a Tuesday in November during the Great Depression.

He was born in Galveston, where his parents happened to be visiting family.

He was the fourth of five, weighing only four pounds at birth, the smallest and youngest boy.

He grew up in Sheldon on 20 acres gifted to his Dad from Great Grandma Antonio Kotal.

Growing up during the Great Depression, he was used to hard work but said, "boy, we had a lot of fun."

Dad was blessed with a great memory.

As a little boy, he knew everyone's name and impressed family, school mates and neighbors – and, back then, neighbors were far-flung and used to traveling long distances on a daily basis.

Friends walked miles to attend school, church, house parties, barn dances and sing-ins.

They played baseball in pastures until the sun went down and then gathered under the pecan trees to bust open big 'water-melons from their garden and pop the caps on iced-down Cokes.

He told stories of getting up early to feed and water the animals, milk the cows and work the fields.

Once a month on Saturdays, they hitched up the mules for a trip into Houston and made the trip downtown in a wagon, always returning that same night.

The other Saturdays each month, he and his Dad prepared their church for next day's service.

That service, paired with his involvement in Sam Houston High School's ROTC, prepared him for Air Force life.

He served as Staff Sergeant during the Korean War, stationed in Kun Son, South Korea, and was honorably discharged in 1954.

He relished working as a mechanic and radio operator, 8th B Squadron.

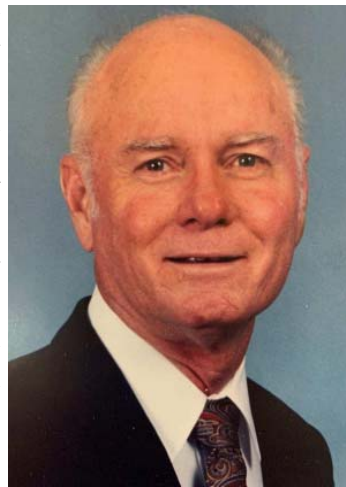
He said that he and his buddies were "housed" in tents with wood floors – each tent having an oil-burning heater, but still very, very cold.

He had his 19th birthday headed to Korea and, coincidentally, his 20th birthday headed home.

A footnote to Dad's service life involved his departure from Korea, along with about 5,000 GIs and another 2,000 civilians and dependents, aboard the US Breckenridge.

The second day out, he met his Uncle LeRoy – a striking coincidence, given the number on board.

Dad caught sight of him on deck as they crossed paths, and servicemen hustled to prepare for an



Hearing that they were hiring at the Warwick, he beat a path to the art district.

The Warwick was being renovated following a fire and, after waiting to talk with the foreman, Dad modestly offered his service.

Something about his demeanor struck the foreman, and he asked if Dad had brought his tools along.

They made a quick walk out to Dad's truck.

One good look, and he was hired.

Dad ended up working on the Warwick – and the Presidential Suite, to boot!

He, like many others, grew up during the Great Depression, with only the essentials.

He said the family barely had a Christmas when he was small.

Other than a small hand-made toy and piece of fruit, there were few gifts, and, he said, they "were glad to get 'em!"

He never looked for praise or reward, but highly valued respect.

In turn, if he felt you earned it, he showed it.

He "wore many hats," as seen in his service and support of the first South Lake Houston EMS.

From helping pour the foundation, to completing interior work – even building the kitchen cabinets and installing them by himself.

As Harris County, Precinct 3, Election Judge in Sheldon, Dad logged many a meeting leading up to elections and worked late into the night accompanying results downtown to ensure secure delivery.

He served the Second Baptist Church of Channelview faithfully from 1956 through 1966, as an ordained Deacon, choir member and Sunday School Director –

then, relocating to the First Baptist Church of Sheldon from 1966 through 2011, he faithfully served as an ordained Deacon and choir member –

until, finally, settling in service at Bellville United Methodist in 2011, where he signed up as a volunteer community taxi driver and sang his heart out as a member of the Chancellor Choir.

He was a dedicated, willing and happy servant throughout his life in the service of God's work – praising Him in music and song.

Above all, he loved to laugh – good, clean jokes that were told – and retold...He kept that sense of humor until the end.

Dad was honest, sincere, dedicated to good work and hard as a task.

"If a task is once begun

Never leave it 'till it's done.

Be the labor great or small,

Do it well or not at all."

That was Dad.

approaching typhoon.

Dad said it was like nothing he had ever experienced or would ever experience.

Uncle LeRoy took him under his wing and, later, up to the bridge.

Dad was glad he didn't have to ride it out amongst the havoc below, as the effects of the sea sickness sloshed up against the ship's inner walls.

The ship tackled cavernous waves – slowly climbing one and two waves and then shuddering up to crest the third before racing straight down into the trough as water flooded across the bow.

As conditions worsened, Uncle LeRoy took the precaution of attaching a rope to Dad's waist and, for a time, tying him to a pipe.

Ten days after departing Korea, the Breckenridge limped into San Diego with five busted seams.

Upon returning to Houston, he reconnected with Ora Lee – a striking young woman who appeared to have absolutely no interest in him, but – as Dad told his friends – she was the woman he was going to marry.

He asked Mom to wait one year so that he could build their home.

She agreed, and that's just what he did.

Dad never carried any debt and continued to give thanks to God that he was able to pay more than his fair share throughout his life.

As promised – he and Ora Lee married in November 1956.

He always called her his "first wife."

They were a loving team, in the most basic and truest sense.

Steady and strong, they worked hard to build a home and raise a family.

Diane in 1957, Patti in 1959, Steve in 1960 and Mark in 1970.

Dad worked for steady pay and benefits at Shell Refinery in Deer Park, but was always happiest at his work as a skilled carpenter – skills he began acquiring at an early age working alongside his Dad.

Those skills came in handy during a union strike when he relied solely on work as a master carpenter.

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★ ASK THE EXPERT ★

Tax Increase discussion,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

due to the region two changes in the last legislative session so all the tax offices, the appraisal districts were scrambling to get everything in time because the timeline was squeezed from two months to three weeks. When the ESD#5 commissioners meet to discuss the tax rate they didn't have the certified numbers from the tax office yet so our office recommended that they propose at their maximum rate and when they adopt they could adopt at a lower rate. You can propose at

a high rate and adopt a lower but you can't propose at a lower rate and adopt a higher rate."

Generally, ESD#5 is at one of the lowest tax rates of all ESDs throughout the State of Texas, especially for an ambulance service. Probably ESD#5 will adopt a \$0.01766 which is actually less than last year's rate.

Their meeting is to be August 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the building at the EMS Building, 5915 FM 2100 in Crosby to consider adoption of a tax rate. It is not

a requirement to hold a public meeting.

Meanwhile, under the same conditions Harris County Emergency Service District Number 80, the taxing entity for the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department, is proposing a tax rate of \$0.05 per \$100. They will hold a public hearing on August 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Station on South Diamondhead Blvd.

That proposal is greater than the voter approved rate of \$0.047879 per \$100 valuation but less than the "de minimis" rate of \$0.068766.

Rent Assistance program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This pandemic knows no stranger, and it continues to devastate thousands of hardworking individuals in their ability to earn a living and provide for their families. Our neighbors are struggling to pay their bills, including rent. For that reason, I will not stand by and let the economic fallout from the virus put families on the street and potentially make them homeless," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "I am proud that we are putting our CARES funding to work, and I wish the State of Texas would join us to keep families in their

homes."

The program will be administered by BakerRipley who will be responsible for application intake, review and approval of tenant applications, and payment processing. BakerRipley is also administering the City of Houston's COVID rental assistance program.

"No one wants to see our neighbors evicted from their homes or property owners unable to collect their rents," said Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. "Thanks to federal CARES Act funding, we can help avoid that for hundreds of Harris County residents who have fallen

on hard times through no fault of their own. I encourage those who need help to apply for it, and we in county government will continue to look for other responsible ways to help."

During the application window, grant applications can be submitted online 24/7 at www.harriscountyrenthelp.org. Applicants will need valid photo identification, proof of residence within applicable service area (i.e., lease agreement), documentation of lost wages, and a copy of statements showing rental amounts due or a notice to vacate.

Waste Pits protest,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from environmental negligence, but we have a choice to ensure the safety of generations of Texans and our environment through reprioritizing the site based on accurate dioxin assessments and through restoring the immediacy to the site's clean up timeline.

About Texas Health and Environment Alliance

The Texas Health and Environment Alliance's mission is to protect water resources and public health by advocating and collaborating for the safe remediation of toxic contamination. We endeavor to establish an informed and engaged public movement to restore and protect environmental resources from toxic contamination.

About the San Jacinto Waste Pit/Coalition

For many years, the Waste Pits along the San Jacinto River were a hidden crisis posing great danger to nearby communities. The abandoned, dioxin-filled pits tainted local seafood and the river for decades. In 2015 the Texas Department of State Health Services confirmed elevated rates of cancer in children and people of all ages living near the Pits. THEA's San Jacinto River Coalition, which is a community led group working to educate the public about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site was successful at urging the EPA to fully remediate the site.

About the EPA and their Decisions to Remediate the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Sites

On October 11, 2017, the EPA approved a clean up plan to begin remediation of the San Jacinto Waste Pits. In addition to installing energizing controls like a cofferdam, the cleanup plan includes the removal of dioxin contained materials from the waste pits to be off-site for disposal. The approval of this plan and the preceding \$115 million agreement to remove the site's toxic sludge successfully removed the San Jacinto Waste Pits from the "Emphasis List" of superfund sites. Unfortunately, the recent omissions found in the EPA's reports impacted this progress. The recent adjustment of the remediation timeline to 7 years is a dangerous blow to project, which poses ramifications for local communities and the environment.

Don't Ignore Stroke,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are seen in office when scheduling appointments

- Minimizing the number of patients we are seeing per day in our clinics by expanding virtual services and staggering in-person appointments
- Using Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended

testing for our employees

- Screening all patients upon arrival with temperature checks and an exposure questionnaire
- Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) while providing patient care
- Reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to

ensure social distancing

- Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces

To learn more about stroke care and stroke rehabilitation at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, call 832-556-6535, or visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

TEA and GC CISD team up for technology



Goose Creek CISD Technology Department employees (from left) Steve Koester, Jose Garcia, Heidi Morgan, Denice Massengale, DeeAnne Fagala and Lisa Gauthreaux prepare iPads for deployment to students.

By: Susan Passmore

Goose Creek CISD will move closer to its goal of placing an iPad in the hands of every student thanks to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Region 4 and the Texas Education Agency's state-wide initiative Operation Connectivity to deliver internet connectivity and device solutions for school districts, families and students in Texas. With support from Governor Greg Abbott, the program was launched in Dallas ISD in May to address the lack of high speed internet and/or home laptops as the district turned to digital learning due to COVID-19.

Goose Creek CISD's director of technology Matt Flood recently received notification that TEA would pay half the cost of the 16,000 iPads requested by Flood, which came to \$3,088,000.

"This is an amazing opportunity for the district to overcome the challenges of the pandemic and to provide our students with the technology they need. We appreciate the school board and the community for their support of our technology program," Flood said.

The Goose Creek CISD Technology Department, working to deploy the devices the district has to



Matt Flood, director of technology for Goose Creek CISD, works to sort iPads, which will provide students access to virtual learning, which begins September 8 for the 2020-2021 school year.

students, plans to receive the new iPads in September and the cases in November. The staff will inventory them, put cases on and work through assigning and distributing them to the campuses for students to check out. High school students at IMPACT Early College High School received 1:1 iPads in 2012, followed by all seniors in the district being given the opportunity to check an iPad out in 2013. In 2014, Goose Creek CISD rolled out the 1:1 iPad program to all high school students, and the program is expanding to junior school students for the 2020-2021 school year.

"Of the roughly 17,000 iPads we have district-wide, some need to be re-

tired, but we are hoping that this purchase will get us to 1:1 for the district, including elementary students," Flood said.

While the new devices won't be here to start school virtually with the nearly 24,000 Goose Creek CISD students September 8, just knowing they have been ordered makes everyone feel more comfortable about the upcoming year.

"We are grateful that our elected officials at the state level recognize the funding shortfall of our annual budgets and have stepped up to the plate to provide this wonderful matching grant program, which stretches the local taxpayers' dollar twofold," Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent said.

Battleship Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new experiences and programs for the ship's visitors to enjoy.

The BTF is a nonprofit foundation that was founded in 1999. Its mission is to preserve and enhance

the Battleship TEXAS and develop this historic ship into a premier museum and visitor attraction. In 2019 the BTF and TPWD (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) entered a 99-

year memorandum of understanding/lease (MOU) with TPWD whereby the BTF would operate and maintain the Battleship TEXAS for TPWD and the State of Texas.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 485509; Estate of CARL PRESTON G U Y M E S Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on July 27, 2020.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District #14 ("District") is located 2301 E. Wallisville Road, Highlands, TX 77562. The District's mailing address is PO Box 96, Highlands, TX 77562. The District holds regular meetings on the **fourth Monday** of each month at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department located at 2301 E Wallisville Rd, Highlands, TX 77562 at 12:00 noon. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings. The Board of Commissioners are Jim Strouhal, President; Chester Stasney, Vice President; Jerry Ickes, Secretary; Treasurer, Johnny Gaeke; Member, Mark Taylor. www.hcesd14.net

The attorney for the District is Weston Cotten, Law Offices of Weston Cotten, P.C., 1500 E. Wallisville Road, Highlands, TX 77562, telephone number 281-421,4050. Email address weston@westoncotten.com, 5050\012\notice of adm2

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Bonnie Dail Chandler

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:
c/o Weston Cotten
1500 Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this August 12, 2020

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The Harris County Emergency Services District #14 will hold a meeting at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, 2301 E Wallisville Rd, Highlands, TX 77562 at **12 noon, on Monday, August 24, 2020**, to consider adopting a tax rate for tax year 2020. The public may attend. The proposed tax rate is 0.0500 per \$100 of value.

No change in the tax rate is planned. The proposed tax rate for the 2020 tax year is the same rate of 0.0500 per \$ 100 the value that has always been in place for ESD#14 since its formation in 1999. 5050\012\notice.2007

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$ 0.05 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.050000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.045935 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.047879 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.068766 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** exceeds the voter-approval rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80**.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80**, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80**.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., at Crosby Fire Station No. 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77532.

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE HEARING AND ADOPTION MEETING MAY BE CONDUCTED VIA CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO COVID 19 MEETING RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE REVIEW THE MEETING NOTICE POSTED ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE 72 HOURS BEFORE THE HEARING TO DETERMINE IF THE HEARING AND ADOPTION MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON OR VIA CONFERENCE CALL.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** may petition the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** will be the voter-approval tax rate of the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80**.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: **Raymond St. Julian, Kevin Pipes, Derek Elkins, Buddy Brewer and Randy Foster**

AGAINST: **None**

PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: **None**

ABSENT: **None**

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** this year.

	2019	2020	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) \$0.00000 OR 0.00%	\$0.05000	\$0.05000	decrease of
Average homestead taxable value 6.74%	\$143,636	\$153,328	increase of
Tax on average homestead \$4.84 OR 6.74%	\$71.82	\$76.66	increase of
Total tax levy on all properties \$105,948 OR 10.54%	\$1,004,828	\$1,110,776	increase of

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@covelcer.com or visit www.hcesd80.org for more information.

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Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Fresh Water Supply District 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on September 09, 2020 at 15902 Market Street Channelview TX 77530 at 07:00 PM. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value

FOR:
Gary O'Brian
Durrell Fry

AGAINST:
None

PRESENT and not voting:
None

ABSENT:
Jerry Thayer

Carl Green
Edgar Granados

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	0.227540	0.210450
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-0.017090
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-7.51%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$86,206	\$96,462
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$12,930	\$14,469
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$73,276	\$81,993
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 166.73	\$ 172.55
Annual increase/decrease if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase(+/-)		\$ 5.82 3.49%

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



2020 Highlands Rotary Club SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Rotary Club of Highlands congratulates all the Scholarship winners. Due to the Pandemic, we were unable to have our Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet, so we salute these students with this public recognition.



OLIVIA DAVIS
Crosby High School
Pat McPhee Scholarship



KEIDDRICK FIZER
Chinquapin Prep School
J. E. Bird Scholarship



MORGAN FORSYTH
Sam Houston State
W. L. Herndon DDS Scholarship



ABRAHAM MONTOYA
Goose Creek Impact HS
R. L. Creel Scholarship



OSWALD AGUIRRE, JR.
Goose Creek



ANDREA BARAJAS
Goose Creek



DAYTON BEREZOSKI
Texas A&M



GRACE GARCIA
Goose Creek Impact HS



MAYCIE GONZALEZ
Goose Creek Memorial



CHRISSA JACOBSON
Crosby High School



HALEY JIMENEZ
Goose Creek



KELLYE MARTINEZ
Goose Creek



GLORIA MEDINA
Goose Creek Memorial



MADISON MOYER
Goose Creek



SHALYN NGUYEN
Goose Creek



CAROLINA NUNEZ
Sam Houston State



JOSHUA PROTAIN
Texas A&M



NICOLLE TRUJILLO
In College



ANGELQUE VAZQUEZ
Goose Creek Memorial



SHAILY YADAV
UT Austin

WE WISH ALL OF THE RECIPIENTS SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE PLANS. This year there were 20 scholarships, totalling \$34,000. Scholarships were \$1500 , or \$2500 for named In Memoriam awards. We thank the community for their support. Our club welcomes your interest as a supporter or a new member.

