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Greg Abbott today held a

press conference at the Al-

ternate State Operations Center in Austin where he

provided an update on the

state's response to Hurri-

cane Laura. This hurricane is expected to bring heavy

rainfall, flooding, high winds, and storm surge.

He announced that he has

added 36 counties to his

State Disaster Declaration

due to the threat of severe rain, wind, and flooding.

During the press conference, Governor Abbott an-

nounced that reception centers in San Antonio,

Dallas-Fort Worth, and

Austin are open. The state

is providing buses to trans-

port Texans that are evac-uating. There are also over

225,000 hotel rooms avail-

able across the state to pro-

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

### These stories in the PRESS:

## • Hurricane

Evacuations • Barbers Hill loses

•Possible 8% tax hike

..And more, Page 3

## COVID-19

Cases as of August 25, 2020

## **HOUSTON AREA**

**157,469 POSITIVE 1,916 DEATHS** 111,702 RECOVERED

#### **TEXAS**

604,286 POSITIVE 11.935 DEATHS 466.550 RECOVERED

### **UNITED STATES**

5,777,304 POSITIVE 178,465 DEATHS 2.053.699 RECOVERED

### **WORLDWIDE**

23,813,181 POSITIVE 817,373 DEATHS 15,479,539 RECOVERED

### X IN THE **STARS**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Aug 28–Jimmy Fincher Steve Norris Aug 29-Alex Creel Myra Hedger Pamela Lewis Rebecca Rosas Aug 30--Tara Hilde-

brand Aug 31–Ben Coward Kelli Rossow Santrice Shepherd Gary Lee Slot Lynn Ray Svec

Sep 1-Hunter Enlow Sep 2–Craig Zadropa Sep 3–Jenelle Cooper Mildred Johnson

Sep 4--L. Virge Black Clara Fulmer

obert McCown Sep 5-Matthew Abott

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Aug 28-Gilbert & Meiing Hoffman Aug 29-Kent &

Barbara Nelson Aug 30–Gene & Vi Aug 31–Glenn & Linda

Sep 2-Skip & Thelma

Conard

Bauman Sep 3–Caroll & Louise

Johnson Sep 7-James R. &

Kathy Townsend Sep 12–Randall & Lisa

Henning Sep 17–Johnny & Lana Gaeke

Sep 18-Tommy & Janet Nelson

August 24, 2020

HOUSTON-GALVESTON MARINE SAFETY INFOR-

Four push-boats will



**HURRICANE LAURA HEADS FOR TEXAS** 

This map from the National Weather Service shows the likely path of Hurricane Laura, and how it is gaining strength as it crosses the Gulf of Mexico. It is expected to be a Category 3 hurricane, with winds of at least 75 mph with gusts to 115 mph. The expected landfall is the border between Texas and Louisiana, but the cone of possibility indicates Houston may

full list of mandatory and voluntary evacuations can be found on the Texas Hurricane Center web page. Governor Abbott urged Texans to take action now to protect themselves and their property.

"Hurricane Laura is rapidly intensifying and poses a major threat to communities in Southeast Texas and along the coast," said Governor Abbott. "Texans in the path of this storm should waste no time preparing for the impact of Hurricane Laura and take immediate action to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. I urge our Southeast and coastal communities to heed the

See HURRICANES,

## Barge fleet gets ready for hurricane HARRIS COUNTY -

The following information has been received from the executive vice president of the San Jacinto River Fleet, who own or manage most of the barges in the San Jacinto River near the I-10 bridge.

COAST GUARD SECTOR MATION BULLETIN 33-20

The San Jacinto River Fleet, L.L.C. (SJRF) has implemented the following additional precautions regarding our Emergency Response Procedures Response Procedures 5.080 HURRICANE 08/24/

1. Tier Three and Four have been temporarily closed for the USCG subject weather events.



Barges of the San Jacinto River Fleet are seen in the river to the north of the I-10 bridge. In the distance past the barges is the navigation channel for the river, and beyond that, the trees and shoreline of Highlands.

be on station in the fleet monitoring moorings.

will be on-site for the duration of the weather

We have taken the same steps that were taken dur-Senior Management ing the Hurricane Harvey weather event where we experienced 28' +/- flood waters above normal, **See Related** Letter on Page 3

where we experienced no barge break aways or prob-

Sincerely, Brian Darnell Executive Vice Presi-

San Jacinto River Fleet, L.L.C.

ATTACHMEN<u>T</u>: EMERGENCY RE-SPONSE PROCEDURES 5.080 HURRICANE

The Safety Bulleting was also sent to the follow-ing parties with an interest in safety in the river: Cc: USCG, Sara Kristine Rousseau, Waterways Management and Facilities Inspections Division

USCG Tyson Muniz, Port Security Recovery Specialist (PSSR) Sector

Houston-Galveston TXDOT Melody I. Galland, P.E., Southeast

Gary Baumgarten, EPA

# Pct. 2 wants input on Parks & Trails

PCT. 2 HARRIS COUN-TY - Commissioner Adrian Garcia plans to hold a Zoom public meeting next Monday night, if hurricane weather allows. He is interested in the public's ideas for further development of the precinct's park

You can join him for the cinct 2 Parks & Trail Plan! The goal of the project is to develop a long-term vision and a near-term plan for priority investments in parks and trails based on YOUR FEEDBACK!

For more information on this project, visit: https:// www.pct2parksandtrails.com/

To join the Englishspeaking meeting, see details below:

Aug. 31st at 7:30 PM



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Meeting ID: 916 0199 8480  $By \ \ computer/Zoom \ app: \ https://$ zoom.us/j/91601998480

Or to call in: (346) 248-7799 To join the Spanish speaking meeting see details below: ¡Acompañeme para el inicio virtual del Plan de Parques y Caminos del Precinto 2! El objetivo del proyecto es desarrollar una visión a largo plazo y un plan a corto plazo para las inver-

siones prioritarias en parques y caminos basados EN SUS COMENTARIOS Para más información sobre este proyecto, visite: https://www.pct2parksandtrails.com/

Para unirse a la junta en español, consulte los detalles a continuación:

31 de Agosto 2020 a las 6:30 PM Meeting ID: 932 9372 0355 Por computadora/Zoom app: https:// zoom.us/j/93293720355

O llame al: (346) 248-7 Adrian Garcia, Harris Co. Precinct 2 Commissioner

Parks and trails in Precinct 2 provide opportunities for communities to safely come together, play, exercise, and connect with nature.

Now more than ever, parks are a vital resource for all residents.

In order to ensure that open spaces in

the Precinct meet the community's needs for years to come, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office is working with community members and key stakeholders to develop a long-term plan for priority invest-ments in parks and trails. Through a collaborative process involving in-depth community engagement, research, and analysis, the Parks and Trails Plan will outline how the parks and trails system will best serve the diverse communities in Precinct 2, including an examination of existing parks and trails. recommendations for new and improved facilities. and the development of clear goals and objectives for the future of the parks and trails system.

Precinct 2 maintains and operates over 3,800 acres of parks and 27 miles of trails, providing resi-

See PARKS & TRAILS,









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



#### COMMUNITY NEWS \*

## **Harris County COVID test** sites closed by weather

Testing Site Schedules Change due to Possible Storm Impact

Starting Wednesday, Mobile and Stationary Sites will Close for a

Houston - Hurricane Laura is expected to make landfall early Thursday morning on the Texas or Louisiana coast,

but we don't know where. Due to the uncertainty and to protect the public and test site staffs, HCPH sites will be

closed for a few days starting Wednesday, August 26. After the storm makes landfall, we will decide on a

All mobile test sites will be closed at least Wednesday, August 26 and Thursday, August 27. After the sites reopen,

register for the mobile sites at www.hcphtx.org or by calling 832-927-7575. Keep the authorization code to

show at the test site. Children can also be tested at mobile sites.

Mobile locations for August 26-29, Wednesday-Saturday are:

-- Christia Adair Park 15107 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77047

Closed Wed & Thur, August 26-27

M.O. Campbell Education Center 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032

Closed Wed & Thur, August 26-27

-- Iglesia Faro de Luz 4900 Greenhouse Rd, Houston, TX 77084

Closed Wed & Thur, August 26-27

-- Mangum-Howell Community Center 2500 Frick Rd, Houston,

Closed Wed & Thur, August 26-27

-- Lindsay/Lyons Park and Sports Complex 2310 Atascocita Rd, Humble, TX 77396

Closed Wed & Thur, August 26-27

The 2 stationary sites in Pasadena and Cy Fair will be closed at least Wednesday-Friday, August 26-August 28.

When the sites re-open, sign up for the stationary sites at, www.doineedacovid19test.com or call 839-997

7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these sites. Keep the assigned voucher ID to be tested and the username and password used to register to get test results, in 3-5 days. Stationary sites are open Monday- Saturday.

# Highlands man shot at softball game

HOUSTON - A man from Highlands was gunned down at Houston Sportsplex on August 13.
According to Houston

Police Department, the shooter claimed it was a case of self-defense. Shepherd Schumaker,

32, expired at a nearby hospital from gunshot wounds. Detectives say the shooting at 12631 South Main Street began at about 10:40 p.m. Witnesses indicated a

fight errupted inside the parking lot of a softball game following a game.

Witnesses told police that Schumaker drew a pistol and threatened several by pointing the weapon at them. Among them a 45year-old suspect that witnesses indicated was trying



Shepherd Shumaker

to break up the fight.

The suspect then drew his own pistol and shot Schumaker at point blank

Houston Police indicate

that Schumaker was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead sometime after. Some 300 people were still at the scene when po-lice arrived and about that number were there when the shooting started. They are looking for anyone that would speak of or may have video recorded the shooting

The 45 year old stayed at the scene and cooperated with investigators. His statements to police indicated that the suspect shot Schumaker in fear for his

case to the District Attorney's Office without charges. A grand jury will make the decision of whether to charge the suspect in the

# County urges schools to stay closed for in-person

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has made it abundantly clear that current indicators are not safe to resume in-person school activities in Harris County due to COVID-19. HCPH has taken into consideration a variety of factors in making this decision including the importance of in-person activities for students. In-person activities for schools are indeed valuable for the social fabric of children and communities. Data and evidence remain the cornerstone of decision making.

Since issuing the Harris County School Reopening Roadmap, HCPH has received a joint letter from several Harris County ISDs. In its guidance HCPH has recommended that in-person activities be phased-in until communi-ty spread of COVID-19 declines. To monitor and inform phased-in approaches for in-person ac-tivities, HCPH has recommended a set of benchmarks and metrics to monitor for public health trends. These indicators do not mean that in-person activities for schools will be closed indefinitely until a vaccine is available and the pandemic is over. Rather it is up to all of us to as-sure that our schools can

go back to in-person learning sooner than later.
These recommendations

are not taken lightly but are offered with the full Harris County community in mind. Ultimately, school leaders and administrators are responsible for using these metrics and making the decisions to resume in-person activi-ties in a way that keeps schools, students, faculty and staff safe. HCPH remains committed to working with its partners in helping Harris County move forward with its goal of reopening schools safely, responsibly and sustain-

## **Maximum Tax Savings Open for appointments**



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

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# **Barbers Hill** \* Dayton

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

## ON THE HILL

#### **BEACH CITY NEWS**

### Hello, Neighbors! Hurricane Laura

All of Chambers County is under a hurricane warning and you should make appropriate plans to act accordingly to insure you and your family's safety. DO NOT take this lightly as Laura is predicted to make landfall as a very dangerous storm. The latest from the National Weather Service has the center of the cone of probability track aimed at the Texas Louisiana border with a Cat 3 hurricane making landfall sometime late Wednesday/early Thursday.

The following is a news release from Judge Sylvia this afternoon.

OFFICE OF THE COUN-TY JUDGE Chambers County, Texas
– August 25, 2020

267-2461 Health-Related Questions: 409-267-2731 Media Inquiries: 409-267-

General Questions: 409-

2695 Chambers County Judge Issues Mandatory Evac-

uation Order for Low Lying and Flood

Prone Areas Among Oth-

CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS - On August 25, 2020 Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia issued a Mandatory Evacuation Order for at risk areas of Chambers County, effective imme-

Per the order, residents who reside in low lying and flood prone areas and those who live in trailer/

manufactured homes are required to move to a safer location.

"We have been evaluating weather updates and have determined that it is in the best interest of

order," said Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia.

Residents who do not reside in areas indicated in this order are encouraged to use their best judgment regarding evacuation of their

"Hurricane Laura is predicted to bring extremely high winds," continued the Judge. "All Chambers County residents should take stock of their homes and make an educated decision to ensure their own safety."

When evacuating, citizens should follow the Hurricane Evacuation Routes developed by the Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Department of Public Safety. Additionally, Chambers County recommends that those evacuating bring clothing and supplies for several days.

Chambers County does not have plans to open a shelter at this time.

Jackey Lasater Mayor, Beach City\*

# **Hurricane evacuations underway**

## Emergency declarations issued

SOUTHEAST TEXAS -Counties and cities from Chambers County to Louisiana were issuing evacuation notices, in the anticipation that the coming Hurricane Laura would bring high winds and heavy rains, with flooding similar to previ-ous devastating hurri-

Mandatory evacuations have been issued for Galveston, Chambers County if you live in a



JUDGE JIMMY SYLVIA

flood-prone area, Galveston County for lowlying and beachfront areas, Jefferson County, City of Kemah, Orange County, and City of Port Arthur.

Also, voluntary evacua-tions have been ordered in parts of Baytown, Harris County flood-prone zones, La Porte, Lake Jackson, League City, Nassau Bay, and Seabrook. Although all of these areas will require shelters after the evacuation, in general they have

not been designated as yet.
School districts and
COVID-19 testing sites
have shut down for the

next three days. This includes schools in Barbers Hill, Anahuac, Chambers County, Goose Creek, and Crosby, as well as many others. Community Colleg-es have also closed on Wednesday and Thursday, and some on Friday. This includes Lee College and San Jacinto College.

First responders and

Emergency Management personnel have pre-positioned rescue and water rescue vehicles, as were needed in the last few hurricanes.

Authorities have urged residents to prepare for several days away from home, by packing a "to go" kit with necessary items. See a list of suggested items on page 6 of this issue of the newspaper.

## Judge rules Barbers Hill ISD's dress code discriminatory after 2 Black students suspended over length of dreadlocks

Barbers Hill ISD Student Hair Controversy **HOUSTON** – After

three days of consideration, a judge ruled Monday night that the Barbers Hill Independent School District's dress code is discriminatory after two Black students were suspended over the length of their dreadlocks.

A U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas made the ruling Monday night.

According to court records, "The Court held an evidentiary hearing on the motion over the three days spanning July 22, 2020, through July 24, 2020. After careful consideration of the parties' written submissions, the extensive evidentiary record developed at the hearing, and the other filings in the case, K.B.'s motion is granted."

The lawsuit was filed after Deandre Arnold, a former Barbers Hill High School student, was sus-



KADEN BRADFORD & DE'ANDRE ARNOLD

pended his senior year Amendment over the length of his hair. Arnold, his mother and other family members, filed the lawsuit against the district, alleging the following causes of action: intentional race discrimination, intentional race discrimination, sex discrimination, retaliation in violation of the First Amendment and several other violations under the

Constitutional

How the dreadlock controversy began Barbers Hill ISD re-

vised its dress code policy over winter break. Arnold, a senior in the class of 2020, who is described as an A and B student, was sent to in-school suspension and told he could not walk at graduation until his dreadlocks were cut short to meet the new dress code. Arnold took a

stand and refused to cut his dreads due to his Trinidadian background.

Members of the Black Lives Matter organization along with Arnold's parents and several activists attended a school board meeting to voice their displeasure with the revised dress code, but the board members chose not to bring the topic up for dis-cussion during the meet-

ing. Barbers Hill ISD released a written statement at the time:

"We do have a community supported hair length policy & have had for decades. Barbers Hill is a state leader with high ex-

pectations in all areas!"
Arnold's mother **Sandy** Arnold chose to with-draw her son from the school district in his final semester of high school due to the response from the school district.

As the controversy brewed, more Barbers

Hill High School students and their parents gathered to show sup-port, saying Arnold was not the only one being targeted by the dress code. Other male students said the district's policy is bi-ased against boys. Many students said the district didn't start cracking down on the dress code until after the Christmas break for one main reason.

"Once we first got on the news with Deandre (Arnold) then it just started becoming a problem," said student Brandon Hernan-

National support for Deandre Arnold

Deandre Arnold's story captured national attention with many celebrities voicing their support.
Houston Texas

star DeAndre Hopkins tweeted his support.

See BHISD POLICY, page 6

## **Barbers Hill teen returns to school after** district bans on dreadlocks ruled discriminatory

MONT BELVIEU, Texas – One of two boys at the center of a hair controversy at Barbers Hill ISD returned to school for the first time since a judge ruled the district's dress code policy was discrimina-

tory.
"If you're angry about it, because I know what I'm doing isn't wrong," said Kaden Bradford.

Bradford, now a junior at Barbers Hill High School, is the cousin of now graduated Deandre Ar-

"I feel really excited to

be reunited with all of my friends that I've missed over these past few

months," said Bradford.

The district suspended Bradford and Arnold be-cause they refused to cut their dreadlocks.

Arnold, a then senior, at graduation.

When we talked to him back in January, Deandre said he had always followed the school dress code, until they had recently changed it.

They say that even though my hair is up and

follow the regulations, that if it was down it would be out of dress code, not that I'm out of dress code, but if was to take it down, I'd be out of dress code, which doesn't make any sense," said Deandre Arnold in

January. "I don't take it down at school." Their families are Trinidad and said the dreadlocks were a repre-

sentation of their heritage and culture. They both enrolled in

Sterling High School, where Deandre graduated. The controversy gar-

nered national attention

from celebrities and athletes, including former Tex-ans' player DeAndre Hopkins, who has dreadlocks himself.

Arnold was even invited to the Oscars and to The Ellen Show, where he received a scholarship for \$20,000.

The cousins and their mothers filed a lawsuit alleging racial discrimination, naming Barbers Hill ISD and Barbers Hill High School administrators

"Honestly, me and my entire family were over the moon," said Bradford. "We got the news late at night

but we woke right up once we found out that we won."

On Monday, a federal judge ruled in the families' favor, allowing dreadlocks at Barbers Hill ISD

"I think it shows that no matter where you come from or what you look like it doesn't really matter what people want you to look like, it's really about how you want to express yourself," said Bradford.

The district had not responded to the court's de-

## **OPINION**

## Chambers County Commissioners vote to allow 8% tax increase, but don't enact hike

Chambers County Commissioners Court has noted to allow a Property Tax hike of up to 8% without a vote of the Taxpayers!

They have wrongfully exercised a loophole to deny Chambers County voters a say at the ballot box on tax increases above The legislature fought hard to pass property tax limits last session and our county is working overtime to get around



MAYES MIDDLETON

those limits! Sadly, Commissioners Court cut and pasted this resolution from the corrupt, taxpayer-funded lobbying group Texas Association of Counties (and County Judges and Commssioner's Association of Texas as well), which the County pays dues to and buys single bid/no-bid insurance from. We are paying for them to work hard to lobby to raise

our taxes!

the signed order attached because they REFUSED to give me a copy without a public information request!

Please make your voice heard, demand this resolution be rescinded and the county adopt the NO NEW REVENUE RATE (0% tax increase). People are hurting from the shutdowns and raising taxes at this time is fundamentally

### CORVID-19 CASES

**CHAMBERS** COUNTY

As of August 25, 2020

Tested-6,446 Recovered-1.001 Hospitalized-8 Confirmed Cases-1,103 Deaths-10

## OPINION

## **LETTERS** To The Editor

### Storms near the San Jacinto River require better protection from disaster

With the approaching storms possibly headed directly to our community we ask what precautions, preparedness, marine industry instruction and community alert systems are currently being worked on or put in place to protect the I-10 East San Jacinto Bridge, the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site, River Terrace Park, and the residents in the immediate areas adjacent to the San Jacinto River and Old River along Lakeside Dr.? Among other marine incidents, during Hurricane Harvey a multitude of barges broke loose and traveled freely down Old River towards River Terrace Park endangering the immediate residents and homes along Lakeside Dr. and the surrounding neighborhoods and communities.

....Prepared as we were, our tugs rescued 30+ barges at an adjacent company which had come loose from their moorings. At least twice, the barges came down in groups of eight and once, even a group of 13 barges came down on our fleet. ..." Harley Marine Gulf newsletter Soundings September 2017

### See Related Story on Page 1

As these incidents occurred no effort was was made by the marine companies involved or responding nor by any emergency or governmental entity to alert the residents in their homes just a few feet away of the platoons of barges traveling freely through the waterway filled with barges containing a hazardous cocktail of chemicals, hydrocarbons and compressed gases, in essence a floating chemical storage facility, of the fact they were one barge strike away from disas-

During last summer's Tropical Storm Imelda barges broke loose striking and lodging on the SJR Waste Pits Superfund site and striking and damaging the I-10 East San Jacinto bridge resulting in several months of impaired and lost of use a major Texas & National traffic artery severely handicapping and endangering the surrounding communities of Channelview, Highlands, Baytown, Barrett Station and Crosby making it nearly impossible for the residents to conduct commerce, obtain health, social and emergency services, and travel to and from their places of employment.

Since these events the marine industry and barge and tug mooring within the San Jacinto River and Old River waterways has increased substantially. Old River inclusive of Market St., River Terrace Park and Lakeside Dr. is a continuous row of barges multiple barges deep along the banks extending far into the waterway and a maze of moored barges in the waterway itself difficult to traverse in fair weather conditions and a danger filled obstacle course for any marine vessel out of control, especially in foul weather. The barge fleeting and mooring on the north and south sides of the I-10 bridge have been allowed to remain and expand. These conditions are increasing the potential for a more devastating and dangerous event resulting in extensive loss of life, health. property and irreparable damage to the environment. For your reference and use are photos taken today, 08/21/20, depicting some of the current dangers and conditions are attached, but we adamantly request you visit these areas for the best understanding of the dangerous conditions in place.

As residents and community members in close proximity to and therefore directly affected by any adverse outcome of any incident occurring within the San Jacinto and Old River waterways we feel it is our duty to make you exceptionally aware of these potentially dangerous conditions and feel it is our right and a necessity to be informed prior to, during and after what measures are being taken to ensure our health, safety and welfare.

As the storms are expected to arrive Tuesday your expedient attention and response to this matter is a necessity.

Sincerely, Carolyn Stone

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition, Channelview, Texas



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Chris Cobler**

## School year brings an Apple for Students, too

Students across Texas returned to campuses last week as schools and universities scrambled to put into place new lesson plans that best accommodate a pandemic

For many school districts, this meant greatly expanding the technologi cal resources of their students to support a mix of in-person and online education. For example, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District east of Houston announced plans to buy 16,000 iPads for almost \$3.1 million. The Texas Education Agency's statewide initia-tive, Operation Connectiv-

ity, will pay half the cost. Gov. Greg Abbott also announced the TEA had obtained more than 1 million personal devices and internet WiFi hotspots as part of the initiative. The effort is financed by a pre viously announced \$200 million allocation of Coro-navirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to the TEA and matched by school districts. It will ensure that students attending a Texas public school will have both a device and connec throughout the school year and beyond, Abbott said.

In other tech-related news last week, Apple became the first U.S. company to be valued at \$2 trillion.
RAISE YOUR HAND FOR

### **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Texas Association of School Boards endorsed via Twitter a column urging people to keep support-ing public schools despite the pandemic.

In the column, Michelle Smith, vice president of policy and advocacy for Raise Your Hand Texas. wrote, "Enrolling your student in your public school ensures they still have access to the best-prepared teachers, access to the best resources and systems de signed to help meet the needs of all students, and, whenever we can all get school experience, access to



all the other things we sports, arts, academic, extracurricular, and other offerings only provided by our public schools." **MEAN GREEN WELCOMING** 

Meanwhile, college students across Texas moved into residence halls with new social distancing protocols in place. Amanda Lee, a resident

assistant at the University of North Texas, encouraged Mean Green students and their families arriving at the dorms in Denton. "I would say that, even

though this year is going to be pretty different, I would still say to put yourself out

#### **CALORIE-FREE DESSERTS** Big Tex will be lonelier

but perhaps slimmer this year as the State Fair of Texas plans for a virtual event instead of a midway packed with people and deep-fried Twinkies. Fair organizers are still

trying to generate some virtual fun, announcing decidedly different arts, crafts and cooking contests. The four virtual arts and crafts contests are for face masks sidewalk chalk art, nail art and a decorated mantel or shelf. The three cooking contests are for cake decorating, cookie decorating and mini butter sculpture. Because the cooking contest can't be tasted this year, entries will be judged on their ap-

Participants may enter

their photo submissions for the virtual contests at <u>Creative.BigTex.com</u>. Online submissions will open Sept. 21 and run through Oct. 4. Winners will be announced Oct. 9. FROM ANTIQUES TO **AMAZON** 

Forney, proclaimed by the Legislature as the antique capital of Texas, is getting a thoroughly mod-

ern makeover.
Officials announced Amazon would build in 2021 a 1 million squarefoot fulfillment center in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex suburb, bringing 500 jobs to the city of 26,000. Amazon also is planning in Forney 200,000-square-foot delivery station, which is antic ipated to open later this

ear.
"Bringing a transcendent company such as Amazon to Forney is a huge step for our community Forney Mayor Mary Penn

#### THAT'LL BE THE DAY Texas music is a cure for

what ails most anything. With this prescription in mind, the Texas Music Office encourages people to drive the Texas Music Trail through the Panhandle Plains region. You can download or stream the music office's Spotify play-

The first stop is the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock. The center is celebrating the rock pioneers's 84th birthday from

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 7. Other stops include the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center in Pampa, the Jimmy Dean Museum in Plainview and the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo.

Pop singer Rihanna paid a surprise visit last week, stopping by the Ca-dillac Ranch to spray-paint an obscenity about President Trump on one of the 10 vehicles buried nosedown in the unusual public art installation. No one independently confirmed seeing the international singing sensation in Amarillo, but she posted the photos to her Instagram page, which has 98.1 million followers.

Her message did not "shine bright like a diamond" with the president's supporters. Ronny Jackson, the former White House physician who is running for Congress in the 13th District, tweeted in response that he had fixed her "art" by spraypainting over her message

The Cook Partisan Voting Index identifies the 13th as the most Republican district in the country, delivering 80 percent of its vote to Trump in 2016. Jackson took note of this fact, tweeting: "Next time you're in Texas, don't forget, THIS IS TRUMP COUNTRY!"

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



### Reading to Lor"

I've been reading to

Lori.
Lori is my husband, Peter's, older sister. She has cancer and has been battling it for a while now. She uses oxygen to help out and catching this virus would be terrible for her, so Peter and I are extra careful, in large part because I'd like to keep reading to

Lori.
I've been writing a novel. It's the first time I've written fiction, so I honestly don't have any idea what I'm doing. It's the sort of thing a person learns how to do by doing — and so I've been doing it, pretty much alone, since the end of January. Except that, sometime in there, I started reading it to Lori.

Peter has been cooking. Peter is an excellent cook. I strongly recommend, if you are a writer and it's not too late, you marry someone who cooks because sometimes I get so wrapped up in my imaginary little world. I forget about cooking meals and, when I come downstairs, Peter always has a pot of something on the stove. He's good about things like that and, since about the first of the year, Peter has been bringing food to Lori.

Unlike me, Lori has a ood excuse not to be cooking. She's not always hungry and her diet is restricted and sometimes. she just doesn't have the energy to think about making food. Peter brings over food and when he does, I

this virus has stretched on, these days of reading have become more important to me and, I suspect, to all of us. Sometimes I dress up a little. It feels good to put on a sun-dress for a change. We sit outside on opposite sides of her deck. Lori's husband, Robert, puts Peter's food in the fridge, and we find out how Lori's been feeling and what treatments

been on most recently.

"Shelley called," Lori
will say. And she'll tell us about phone calls she's had from family.

Then the conversation sort of winds down because, let's face it, none of us are doing much these days. That's when I'll read

Sometimes the neighbor mows the lawn and I have to speak up. Sometimes we get some competition from ravens squawking in the trees. Occasionally, a little rain comes in. Lori and Robert sit under the patio umbrella and Peter and I sit under the overhang of the house. We let the rain pass and I keep reading.

Lori laughs out loud — which makes me happy. She laughs at both the funny and the gruesome parts. When I am finished, she and Robert ask questions and Robert (who is not generally a fiction reader) asks some excellent ones.

We leave before it gets too late. I have a hike to take. Lori gets tired. Rob-ert needs to heat up whatever Peter has brought for dinner. And when I get home, I always feel better than when I left.

I've come to think of the little gatherings on Lori's deck as a sort of distillation of everything we need as humans. We need nutritious food and we need to sit together and we need to share stories. And we need to laugh. We need to laugh a lot more than we have

Over the next few days, I write a little more and Peter keeps on cooking, and we keep in touch with Lori by sending a text or

Then Peter will ask, "When would you like to read to Lori?"
"Anytime," I say. "Any

day that works for her." Till next time,

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



Asst. Production Manager....

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## LIFESTYLE PAGE

## Super loop and US 69 closed at same time

MONT BELVIEU and HOUS- closed he Westbound frontage TON – "Too Bad you can't get there from here."

Would have been the thing to say to a travellor trying to get home from Sugarland last weekend overnight hours as part of Interstate 10 and Highway 59 closed at the same timealong with part of US 610.

Bridge beams were brought in for the section of I-10 at Highway 99 Saturday. Panels were set along with deck panels and concrete was poured.

It all began locally as early Saturday the left lane of eastbound I-10 closed between Highway 99 and Highway 146, part of the detour used Highway 99 with some motorists reluctant to use the tollway adding to confusion. Then, about midmorning, they

roads at Highway 99 for a bunch of U-Turns.

That night, beginning about 11:00 p.m. there were 30 minute closures of all of Interstate 10 Westbound until 4:00 a.m. They used the Highway 99 exit ramp to detour to frontage roads. And on FM 3180 the frontage roads were closed.

At 4:00 a.m. the Interstate Reopened and at 7:00 a.m. the frontage roads reopened.

US Highway 69 (Highway 59) closed all weekend for construction of fly-over roadways near IH-610, said to now be the busiest stretch in Houston for traffic from South Rice to 610. US 59 northbound ramp to 610 and I-610 ramp to Highway 59.with an I 610 closure at Interstate 10.

## BHISD Policy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Hopkins, who also has dreadlocks, wrote, "Never cut your locks Dean-dre Arnold."

Arnold was also invited to the Ellen Degeneres Show where he was presented with a **check for \$20,000** from singer Alicia Keys for "standing up for what is right." Degeneres said she believed male students should be able to wear their hair as

long as they wanted.

He was also invited to the Oscars in January 2020 by the creators of 'Hair Love,' including Matthew A. Cherry and co-producer Gabrielle Union and her NBA-star husband, Dwayne Wade.

Teachers union backs Arnold

In February, the Texas American Federation of Teachers said it was standing with Arnold saying, "We urge Barbers Hills ISD to begin immediate steps to change the dress code policy so that it is not discriminatory on any grounds."

The group then said the district owed Arnold an apology

## **ART GALLERY:** Mei uses recycled wire and CDs to make wire sculptures







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#### ASK EXPERT ✮ THE

## **Precinct 2 Hurricane Planning Guide:**

PCT. 2 COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA: I hope you are staying safe and preparing for the upcoming storms. As of this morning, the **National Hurricane** 

Center reported Laura has become a hurricane.

It is imperative that you and your family are prepared for potential impact. If you haven't, please start doing it NOW.

Forecasters are predicting heavy rain, high ties and strong winds in our area Experts are asking residents be prepared for power outages starting Wednesday evening

A few updates about what we have been doing to prepare:

#### SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM:

Last week we announced suspending our senior meal delivery program for today (8/25) and tomorrow. In response to this, I asked my staff to send two meals yesterday and a box of shelf stable food to support our seniors through the rest of this week. Due to the current forecast and for the safety of my staff, I'm extending the suspension of the meals until the end

#### CLOSURES:

Sylvan Beach Park including the pier has been closed

Other facilities may close pending on the trajectory of the storm.

List of School Districts and colleges closing due to Hurri-

## SUPPORTING WITH TRANSPORTATION:

My team is assisting with transportation/ evacuation of constituents identified by the State of Texas Emergency Accessibility Registry to San Antonio.

#### READY TO RE-SPOND:

Our Road and Bridge crews are on standby and ready to respond in the event of down trees flooding and potential

high water rescues. We are also in discussions with the American Red Cross to set up shelters at our community centers, if needed.

## IMPORTANT STEPS YOU SHOULD TAKE

\* Review your Hurricane plan with your family

\* Ensure your kit has everything you need

#### \* Make sure you have all your prescriptions

\* Keep a list of all your prescriptions with names

and dosage amounts
\* Put all your impor tant documents in a waterproof container

\* Fill up your tank \* Have food that won't spoil due to power

outages
\* Have your Covid-19 supplies such as masks, and hand sanitizers

\* Remove, store or tie down any items from the outdoors that may shift due to high winds. \* Items such as: BBQ

furniture, hanging plants hoses, flowerpots, garden Make sure you have flashlights, batteries and

pits, toys, trampolines,

\* If you have a generator, have it ready for potential power outages

\* Check your evacua-

Please take time to prepare and do not forget to check on the elderly. If you would like to report down trees, flooding or if you have any questions that we can help answer please call our Harris County Precinct 2 call center at 713-274-2222

Your Commissioner.

## CROSBY RESIDENT Motocycle miracle finds McLean alive after head-on crash

CREEDE, COLORADO A Crosby man was seriously injured in a head-on collision between his motorcycle and a truck on Col-

orado 149, north of South

Colorado State Patrol er vehicle when a head-on collision occurred. The

continues to look into the amazing survival of Donal McLean August 18 at about 11:15 am when a black, 2002 Ford F-150 pickup was passing anoth-

truck driven by Craig Hoff-

man, 35, from Canyon City

had passengers Emma

Hoffman, 30 aboard. The truck was south-

Hoffman, 3, and Taylor

bound and McLean, 64, northbound. The impact threw McLean from the motorcycle, he came to rest 75.7 feet west. The motorcycle was thrown through the southbound lanes for over 33 feet while rotating clockwise and turning onto it's left side facing east on the road shoulder of the southbound lane. The truck went off the northbound shoulder for about 30 feet and came to rest on its wheels facing east.

Ambulance helicopters transported McLean from the roadside to Mercy Hospital in Durango due to the nature of his wounds re-

sulting from the accident.
Occupants of the Ford said they were uninjured in the accident.

The crash remain under investigation and investigators at the Colorado State Patrol are seeking more information Sergeant Kelly Rippe leads the investigation. He may be contacted at (79) 589-5807.

## Hurricanes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

guidance of local officials. follow evacuation orders, and remain vigilant as we brace for the impact of Hurricane Laura. The State of Texas will contin-ue to monitor this storm and provide the resources needed to keep Texans

Hurricane Laura is expected to gain strength to a Category 3 or 4 hurricane as it makes landfall over Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana late Wednesday or early Thursday. These areas are expected to experience tropical storm force winds, heavy rain, significant storm surge, possible flash flooding, and rising water levels. Heavy rainfall begins over Southeast Texas on Wednesday will shift into Northeast Texas on Thursday. The primary water threat will be from storm surge. Texans are urged to remain vigilant and aware as Hurricane Laura continues to head

towards Texas. HARRIS COUNTY -Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia stated to the Highlands, Crosby, Galena Park, North Forest and Channelview vicinity residence, "I hope you are staying safe and preparing for the upcoming storms. As of this morning, the National Hurricane Center reported Laura has become a hurricane. It is imperative that you and your family are prepared for potential impact. If you haven't, please start doing it NOW

Forecasters are predicting heavy rain, high ties and strong winds in our area. Experts are asking residents be prepared for powoutages starting

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My team is assisting with transportation/evacu-ation of constituents identified by the State of Texas **Emergency Accessibility** Registry to San Antonio

Our Road and Bridge crews are on standby and ready to respond in the event of down trees, flooding and potential high water rescues.

We are also in discussions with the American Red Cross to set up shelters at our community centers, if needed.

Review your Hurricane plan with your family. Ensure your kit has everything you need, make sure you have all your prescriptions filled, keep a list of all your prescriptions with names and dosage amounts, put all your im-portant documents in a waterproof container. fill up your gas tank, have food that won+ft spoil due to power outages, have your Covid-19 supplies such as masks, and hand sanitizers ready, remove, store or tie down any items from the outdoors that may shift due to high winds, including; BBQ pits, toys, trampolines, furniture, hanging plants, hoses, flowerpots, garden decor, make sure you have flashlights, batteries and matches. If you have a generator, have it ready for potential power outages. Check your evac-uation zones. Please take time to prepare and do not forget to check on the elderly. If you would like to report down trees, flooding or if you have any questions that we can help answer please call our Harris County Precinct 2 call center at 713-274-2222. Stay

safe, your Commissioner, Adrian Garcia On the night of Aug. 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey roared into Texas as a Category 4 hurricane leaving a path of devastation in its wake. Three years later, work to repair Harvey's damage remains, but with

great determination and perseverance, Texas communities have made strong progress in their recovery.
According to the Feder-

al Emergency Manage ment Agency (FEMA) Harvey is the second-cost-liest U.S. natural disaster only Hurricane Katrina that struck the Gulf Coast in 2005 caused more damage. Although the damage estimates are high, federal, state and local funds along with non-profit assistance, volunteer hours and donations have helped Texans continue their re

Texans to date have been provided with \$14.5 billion in federal funds including grants, loans and flood insurance payments to assist in repair and replacement of their homes and their belongings. FEMA Public Assistance has awarded, and the Texas Division of Emergency Management has disbursed, more than \$2.1 billion in grants for debris removal, measures taken to prepare for Harvey and ermanent repair or replacement of public infrastructure. And, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has funded \$246 million for projects to limit damages caused by future disasters.

Three years after Harvey, Texans find themselves in the midst of another hurricane season. This should serve as a great reminder to buy or renew a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program. After the storm, about 92,000 Texans received flood insurance pay outs for an estimated \$9 billion. Many Texans without flood insurance, howev er, had to rebuild their lives with personal savings and whatever federal as sistance they were eligible

to receive.

There is not a better time to plan for the unexpected than now. For more information on preparing a disaster, visit ready.gov.







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#### EXPERT THE

# Help Available for Irritable Bowel Syndrome

BAYTOWN — (August 13, 2020) — Frequent bloating, cramps and unpredictable bowel movements force millions of Americans suffering from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) to stay close to a restroom at all

Often called "spastic colon," IBS is a common intestinal disorder that causes abdominal cramps, diarrhea, gas bloating and constipation. Although help is available, embarrassment causes many people with IBS to suffer in silence rather than seek treatment.

The Root of the Problem "The condition occurs when the delicate interplay among the nerves, hormones and electrical activity that link the bowel and the brain is disrupted," said Dr. Yassir Ashraf, a



DR. YASSIR ASHRAF

gastroenterologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. If you never thought about the connection between the brain and the stomach before, just imagine the butterflies you feel before making a speech or the bellyache that might come on during a heated argument.

"In IBS, pain sensors in the colon are more

sensitive than normal, causing them to respond strongly to stimuli that don't affect most people,' Ashraf said. In short, a breakfast of scrambled eggs and milk can spell disaster for those with the disorder. Ashraf suggests taking these steps if IBS

to disrupt your life:

• See your physician as soon as symptoms appear. Your physician will know what treatment course is best for you. And since the signs of IBS may mimic those of a serious disease, it's important to rule out any underlying disorder.

• Write down the foods that seem to bring on symptoms and discuss your findings with your doctor. Once you identify the foods that trigger symptoms, scale back your intake. Common

culprits are dairy products, caffeine, beans, cabbage, fat and alcohol. Remember that many of the nutrients you need may be in the foods you are avoiding, so be sure to make healthy substitutions

• Limit spicy foods. • Since large meals often cause cramping and diarrhea, try eating a few small meals throughout the day instead of three

large courses.
• Control tension levels. Because of the brainbowel connection, high stress levels can trigger IBS symptoms. To unwind, go for a daily walk, talk with a friend. dust off an old hobby or listen to music. Although antidiarrheals and laxatives may ease symptoms, they are not a long-term solution. Instead, your doctor may prescribe antispasmodics for relief. In severe cases,

medication may help soothe distress Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is open and caring for all of our community and 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 well-being of our patients:

Screening all patients when scheduling appointments for symptoms and exposure

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 checkin lines to ensure social

distancing
• Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces For more information on the full range of gastrointestinal services available and to schedule an appointment with a gastroenterology specialist with Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates, visit houstonmethodist.org/ baytown or call 281-422-

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# **Crosby Eagle Scout** candidates make stands for sanitizers



Ricky Shephard, 17, Patrick Hannan, 16, Joshua Sanchez, 15, and David Jordan, 14, Life Scouts, near Eagle Scouts stand behind their sanitation stands that they are donating to Crosby ISD for kids to clean their hands without having to touch anything. One simply steps on the next to bottom rung and the sanitizer squirts from bottles into hands. They were assisted by members of their Troop 264 in production where seven scouts are earning their Eagle this year.

CROSBY - Local Boy anything is the weapon Scouts are stepping up to aid in the combat of the unseen enemy COVID-19

at Crosby ISD campuses.
The leaders in the effort are Life Scouts working on their Eagle Merit badges with Troop 264, this troop has been in Crosby since the 1970s Production of not require hands to touch

they are making to fight the spread of the virus.

According to Scout Mas-ter Mark Owens "We draw mainly from the Newport neighborhood, with a Cub Scout program so we target K through 5th grade, from there they rank up to the Boy Scout Troop."

Anyone looking for a

Scouting program can con-

tact them through their website, pack264.org and they have a facebook page Scouts BSACrosby, manned by several volun-teers. The facebook location answers questions about the Cub Scout K-5th grade, the Scouts BSA Program 6th through 12th grade or Troop 264Program or Troop 265 for the girl's program.

## Pct. 2 Parks & Trails,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents and visitors with many different opportunities for exercise and recre-

Precinct 2 is very diverse! 60% of Precinct 2

residents are of Hispanic origin, 27% are White, 9%of residents are Black 2% are Asian, and 2% are an-

Parks and trails in Pre-

cinct 2 have a variety of amenities to meet community needs. For instance, Sylvan Beach Park has a playground, beaches, picnic areas, a fishing pier, boat ramp, an air-conditioned pavilion, and wifi!

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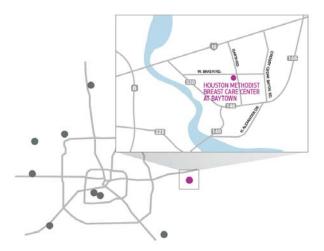
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During the coronavirus pandemic, we are:



Screening all patients, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office.



Wearing masks and other personal protective equipment while providing patient care.



Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces.



Redesigning waiting rooms and check-in procedures to ensure social distancing.

