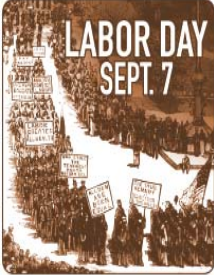


HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ **Courier**

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MONDAY



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COVID-19
Cases as of
September 1, 2020

HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES

167,641 POSITIVE
2,118 DEATHS
133,105 RECOVERED

TEXAS

636,485 POSITIVE
12,893 DEATHS
507,499 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

6,068,139 POSITIVE
184,450 DEATHS
2,184,825 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

25,587,737 POSITIVE
852,851 DEATHS
16,882,698 RECOVERED

★
IN THE STARS

BIRTHDAYS

- Sep 4--L. Virge Blackmon
Clara Fulmer
Robert McCown
- Sep 5--Matthew Abott
Ralph Brewer
Jim Elmer
- Sep 7--Phillip Cumbie
- Sep 8--Janice Havard
Annastacia Nichols
Lorie Taylor
- Sep 9--Lori Howard
Nicholas King
Maegan Lindsey
Allison Little
Edwin Sheffield
Michael S. Sullivan
Cynthia Wotipka
- Sep 10--Connie Cook
Patty Mueller
Kelly Whatley
Patrick Wood
John D. Cutbirth Jr.
- Sep 11--Brittaney Branch
Laura Kaune
Chase Nelson
Randy Sloan
- Sep 13- Leon Bowen

ANNIVERSARIES

- Sep 3--Carol & Louise Johnson
- Sep 7--James R. & Kathy Townsend
- Sep 12--Randall & Lisa Henning

Hurricane relief to Disaster areas

ORANGE – Texas Senator Ted Cruz capped a day of looking into the remnants of Hurricane Laura by saying, “Texans all across the state, Texans here in southeast Texas are breathing a giant sigh of relief right now. This hurricane could have been much, much worse. We just completed an aerial tour of the region and the damage is much more contained than prior hurricanes have been. Obviously, our hearts are heavy for our neighbors in Louisiana. We toured some of that damage as well. The damage in Louisiana is significantly greater, but given the magnitude of this storm, it



President Trump, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, FEMA officials, and others walk through the debris of the hurricane Laura disaster that struck Lake Charles, and other portions of Southern Louisiana.

could have been so much worse.”
And the storms will get worse: Hurricane Harvey almost exactly three years before holds the record for fastest and strongest intensifications in the Gulf of Mexico, for two weeks it held the record for fastest and strongest intensification anywhere then Hurricane Irma beat that. Laura went from tropical storm 35 miles per hour winds to 150 miles per hour overnight.
Hurricane relief is needed by neighbors in eastern Louisiana area who are

See Hurricane Relief, page 8

Hurricane revives talk of Ike Dike

HURRICANE LAURA BRINGS RENEWED PITCH FOR IKE DIKE

As thousands fled southeast Texas ahead of Hurricane Laura, Texas A&M promoted an Ike Dike as a critical way to protect the region from devastating damage.
Texas escaped a direct hit from Laura, which made landfall as a Category 4 storm in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, just east of Port Arthur. Despite the state's luck this time, Texas A&M marine scientists urged action on their proposal to build a series of barriers, levees and gates that would close off Galveston Bay from storm surge.



The IKE DIKE would include two huge swinging gates, that would block the storm surge from a Hurricane, and protect the development around Galveston Bay.

William Merrell, a professor at Texas A&M-Galveston and a former president of the school, helped develop the plan after Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston in 2008, resulting in \$30 billion in damages and killing more than 50 people.
Cost estimates for the Ike Dike range from \$10 billion to \$20 billion. The Army Corps of Engineers and Texas General Land Office are finishing a major feasibility study for the Texas Coast that includes a coastal surge protection plan that incorporates many features of the Ike Dike. The plan is expected to be available for public

See Ike Dike, page 6

New Principal at Highlands Junior

HIGHLANDS – Dr. Bernie Mulvaney, is the new principal at Highlands Junior School. Mulvaney began his career in education in 1997 as a U.S. History teacher and coach at Furr High School. His experience at Channelview, Houston Christian, Clements, George Bush and Alief Taylor high schools further established him as an instructional leader focused on student success, teaching AP Economics and AP Government and serving as Social Studies Department Head and Senior Team Leader. He also was selected by his teaching peers as leader of the Campus Based Leadership Team. At Aldine MacArthur High School, he served as summer school principal, athletic coordinator and head football coach and was honored by the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees for exemplary leadership.
Mulvaney came to Goose Creek CISD in 2013, where he has served as director of athletics and physical education as well as interim principal. Among his responsibilities as director were overseeing the construction of 10 athletic turf fields,



DR. BERNIE MULVANEY

working with the Citizens Bond Advisory Committee and developing a walk-through protocol for gathering data for physical education. He received the Joe Bill Fox Distinguished Service Award from the

See PRINCIPAL, page 6

Crosby ISD changes athletics, bus policies

Athletic physicals at Crosby ISD this year have undergone policy changes related to the COVID 19 outbreak, UIL has modified the requirements for students who are involved in extracurricular activities to the following:
All incoming 7th graders who are interested in athletics are required to get a physical.
All incoming 9th graders who are interested in band are required to get a physical.
All students who did not have a physical for the 2019-2020 school year are required to get a physical.
All students who have a physical on file with the Athletic Trainers for the 2018-2019 (band only) and 2019-2020 school year are only required to complete a medical history form.
In addition to the requirements listed above, Crosby ISD and UIL have additional steps that must be completed by students to be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities.

All incoming 7th graders must have a heart screening.
All students who have never had heart screening must have one.
If you would like to have a heart screening for your child and have had one in prior years, please set up an appointment with the Athletic Trainers, and we will be happy to provide one.
All students must complete all UIL forms that is on Rankone. <https://www.rankonesport.com/content/>
The forms can also be found on the athletics webpage under quick

See CROSBY ISD< page 6

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★ COMMUNITY NEWS ★

SENATOR CAROL ALVARADO & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PRESENT

SENATE DISTRICT 6 VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

Save the date
SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2020
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Employers and job seekers can email Michael.Gutierrez@wrksolutions.com for more information

Laura shows pollution mounts in Gulf Coast

The security of petrochemical plants during hurricanes comes into question even as some predict more powerful and frequent storms.

Hurricanes Laura and Harvey set records for fastest and strongest intensification for the Gulf Coast from 35 miles per hour to 150 miles per hour winds, also both initiated significant releases of pollutants.

Laura's are estimated at about 4 million pounds and Hurricane Harvey had over twice that amount. Many will remember 2017, Hurricane Harvey caused French-owned Arkema plant in Crosby, to lose power, igniting a fire and produce a large pillar of acid, black smoke; residents within a 1.5 mile radius were evacuated.

This time most of Texas was spared although Beaumont and Port Arthur plants had to prepare for and shut down before the storms. Louisiana was it by intensive winds, flooding, and a chemical fire was recorded in Westlake.

The shut down of a plant quickly often requires the release of compounds and gases in excess of what a plant is allowed in a year. Plants filed notices to regulators and a single methanol production plant accounted for most of the pollutants released. A burn off of 3.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide was accomplished before workers could leave, spills be avoided, and even worse emissions allowed.

Texas discharged over 13 million pounds of toxic chemicals into waterways in 2007. More than 87,000 pounds of those toxoids were cancer-causing chemicals like arsenic, chromium and lead.

The Environmental Protection Agency declares overall, hazardous impacts to air quality from Hurricane Laura in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area have been limited. After screening 21 of 28 facilities that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) referred to EPA, ASPECT made two detections, both of isoprene. Only one of these detections, at 1.55 parts per million, exceeded TCEQ's AMCV of 1.4 parts per million. Both detections were west of Port Arthur. Results from air monitoring were reported above the detection limit at two locations of 84 for total volatile organic compounds. The detections were temporary and do not seem to indicate a contaminant plume.

With the plant ablaze in the background alarms and the governor's warning to turn off their air conditioners, seal their homes and stay indoors, was not quite as reassuring as the EPA Dallas office. Early Thursday a BioLab plant with an unknown amount of chlorine began to decompose, it ignited. A small crew from BioLab tried to extinguish the flames before calling state police for help shortly before 10 a.m.

Chlorine gas can be toxic and cause blistering of the skin, burning sensations in the nose and throat and respiratory distress. Local fire crews rushed to the scene, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality hurriedly installed air-quality monitors, and the Environmental Protection Agency got a plane to monitor the situation from the air. The fire had been extinguished by Thursday night but a second one erupted, and the radius of the shelter-in-place order was expanded.

Damage resulting from Hurricane Laura's most illustrious example, where petrochemical plants, Superfund sites, refineries, oil and gas wells, and a network of pipelines are found. While some major oil producers, including Exxon, denied being damaged by the storm, other companies were still assessing damage.

The Gulf Coast is plagued by steadily increasing runoff pollution from industry, roads, agriculture, and septic tanks. Urban development near the Gulf has only made this problem worse.

Just under three quarters of the nation's chemical production occurs within the Gulf Coast, which has led to multiple chemical and petroleum spills within the last decade.

Many municipalities don't safely dispose of pesticides, acids, paints, and solvents, they wind up in the Gulf Coast, too.

Since the 1950s, most of the sea grass beds in Galveston Bay have been lost, damaging marine life habitats. Agricultural runoff and septic system drainage contribute to excessive algae growth that shades the grass and sucks oxygen from the water.

More than 25,000 acres of freshwater wetlands around Galveston Bay were lost due to development in recent years. The bay loses more than 2,500 acres of freshwater wetlands per year.

Harris County test sites

Testing Helps Protect You and Your Family from COVID-19

New HCPH Mobile Test Site Locations for August 31-September 5

Houston – You could have COVID-19 and be spreading it to your family and friends without even knowing it! About 40% of infected people have no symptoms, so get tested to know if you need to protect the people around you. It's now quicker to get tested and to get your test results back, available in 2-5 days.

There will be 6 mobile locations, open Monday-Saturday and closed 1 day. Children can be tested at mobile sites. Register at www.hcph.tx.gov or call 832-927-7575. Keep the authorization code to show at the test site. All locations are drive-through, so sites may need to close temporarily due to extreme weather.

Mobile locations for August 31-September 5, Monday-Saturday.

- Thompson Elementary School
12470 Walters Rd, Houston, TX 77014
Closed Tuesday, September 1
- Pirates Bay Waterpark
5300 E Rd, Baytown, TX 77521
Closed Wednesday, September 2
- George Bush Park - Fun Fair Positive Soccer
20150 Westheimer Pkwy, Houston, TX 77082
Closed Thursday, September 3
- Sam Houston Race Park
7575 North Sam Houston Pkwy W, Houston, TX 77064
Closed Friday, September 4
- M. O. Campbell Education Center
1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032
Closed Wednesday, September 2
- San Jacinto College - North Campus
5800 Uvalde Rd, Houston, TX 77049
Closed Saturday, September 5

The two stationary sites in Pasadena and Cy-Fair are still offering Surge Testing, with greater testing capacity and quicker test results, in 2-5 days. These sites also have extended hours from 4-8 pm one day a week: Tuesdays in Cy Fair at Pridgeon Stadium and Thursdays in Pasadena at San Jacinto College Central Campus.

For testing at the stationary sites, visit www.doineedacovid19test.com or call 832-927-7575. Register and select an appointment time. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these sites. They need to keep their assigned voucher ID to be tested and remember the username and password they registered with to get their test results, in 2-5 days. The stationary sites are open Monday-Saturday.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on **September 15, 2020 at 06:00 PM**. It is anticipated said hearing will be held via Zoom telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Zoom teleconference/videoconference is: 1-346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 915 0231 6820, Passcode: 487431.

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 of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Ray Mullins, Bobby Birdsong, Harvey Little, Kenneth Boudreaux, and John Wright
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

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)	0.260000	0.340000
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-0.020000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-5.56%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$116,676	\$132,617
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$116,676	\$132,617
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 420.83	\$ 450.90
Annual increase/decrease if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase(+/-)		\$ 30.87 7.35%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYER'S RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Dayton Blood Drive in September

City Teams with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to Host September Blood Drives

Dayton's Police and Volunteer Fire Department are teaming up with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host 4 blood drives during the month of September in recognition of Childhood Cancer Month. Drives will be held each Tuesday, from 8 am - 11 am in the Volunteer Fire Department's training room, located at 2004 N. Cleveland St in Dayton.

Although appointments aren't required, they are preferred as they help to social distance donors. To sign up, visit daytontx.org/giveblood. Masks are required. If you do not have one, the staff will offer you one.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and it's the perfect time to sock it to cancer. When you step up to give blood in September, you'll also get an awesome pair of The Blood Center socks as a "thank you" for helping children in our community fight cancer.

Patti Jett, CPC
City of Dayton

Taste of Dayton

Dayton Chamber of Commerce presents "Taste of Texas."

Take a Vacation at the Taste of Dayton, a Business Expo with a Twist.

Thursday, September 10 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the Dayton Community Center Parking Lot, 801 S. Cleveland Street, Dayton.

General Admission Tickets \$5, Children 12 and under \$2. Masks and Hand Sanitizers will be available.

Sponsored by First Liberty National Bank, Community Resource Credit Union, Chicken Express, Dayton Community Development Corporation, and West Chambers Medical Center.

Beach City organizes hurricane relief

By Jackey Lasater
Mayor, Beach City

Hello, Neighbors!
LAURA VICTIMS
SEND HEART FELT
THANK YOU!

All of your donations were greatly appreciated by those that you helped. Many have told us that if they had known sooner they would have also donated. So we are going to collect again and make another trip this weekend. You can drop off at the community building all week. If after hours, set outside the door of the community building or BCVFD. We have a more focused list of needs:

BUG SPRAY
WATER
HEAVY DUTY
TRASH BAGS
TOILETRIES
FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
BABY WIPES
BABY DIAPERS

(ALSO ADULT DIAPERS)

FLASH LIGHTS
BATTERIES
FIRST AIDE SUPPLIES
CHARCOAL and LIGHTER
TARPS
WORK GLOVES
LYSOL/BLEACH
WIPES
GENERAL CLEANING SUPPLIES
2X4's (LUMBER)
AMERICAN FLAGS

Please package items in totes or boxes for transportation. If you are purchasing hygiene items, please make individual care bags, this is not required but does help in the distribution process.

Again, I want to thank everyone who has/will donate and worked to make this successful. I also want to mention Chris at the Alexander Kroger's for



President Trump met with Senator Ted Cruz and Governor Greg Abbott to tour the devastation from the Hurricane in East Texas and Orange.

making a store donation of 25 cases of bottled water. On short notice, he didn't have enough time to get a corporate approval for a larger donation.

JOIN THE CHAINSAW BRIGADE

I am inviting anyone that has a chainsaw and/or an RV and/or a desire to work to help

those in need. There is a need for chainsaw teams in the Lake Charles area to work with the United Way to clear fallen trees for victims of Laura. I am planning on heading to Lake Charles on Friday afternoon and returning Monday. We need a head count as soon as possible in order to

make plans and accommodations. We also invite ideas as well. Call me at 281-414-7613 or email me at MAYOR@BEACHCITYTX.US to join up or get more information. Any level of participation is welcome.

Jackey Lasater,
Mayor, Beach City

Dayton schedules work in Daniel Park

Daniel Park Road Resurfacing

Daniel Park, located on Arnold Drive, off of FM 1008, will be closed to all traffic and activities beginning tomorrow, September 1, as the parking lot and driving

circle are resurfaced.

The park has been closed to most activities since May, however, remained open to those wishing to use the trails. The work that is about to begin will close the parking areas, closing the park completely.

Renovation of the park includes:

The total renovation of the concession stands

Replacement of the electrical system

Replacement of field lighting and poles

Replacement of scoreboards

Reconditioning of all ball fields

Resurfacing and asphaltting the main drive, parking areas, and the

drive leading to the softball fields

Drainage improvements

"This work will complement the new playscape equipment that was built in November as a partnership between the City, Ka-Boom! and the Rebuild Texas Fund," said City Manager Theo Melan-

con. "Our Master Park Plan identifies Daniel Park as an important part of the quality of life in Dayton, now and as the city grows. We're already seeing exponential growth in our youth sports, and this renovation will help accommodate all of our young ballplayers."

Dayton resident credits yearly mammogram for detecting cancer

DAYTON — (August 28, 2020) — While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many disruptions to our daily lives, scheduling an appointment for a yearly mammogram is one routine that should be maintained at all costs.

You may know about the importance of regular breast cancer screenings, but do you take the time to have a yearly mammogram?

If it's been a while since your last exam, consider Barbara Fregia's experience with breast cancer. She credits her passionate commitment to yearly mammography with helping her reach survivor status after she was treated for breast cancer in 2019 at the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown.

Fregia, a 62-year-old Dayton resident, was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer in January 2019 despite not having a family history of the disease.

"Since I didn't have a family history of cancer, I never thought it could happen to me," Fregia said.

"Exams, such as mammograms, are able to find cancer when it's very small and often before



BARBARA FREGIA

symptoms are present," said Dr. Esther Dubrovsky, breast surgeon with Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and a member of Fregia's treatment team.

Recommendations on when women should begin screening mammograms and how often they should be done vary, so it's important to check with your doctor.

"Talk with your doctor about your risk factors and personal preferences on a screening schedule that is right for you, especially if you have a family history of breast cancer," said Dr. Ana Benveniste, breast radiologist with Houston Methodist Baytown, and another member of Fregia's care team.

After her diagnosis, Fregia's treatment began



DR. ESTHER DUBROVSKY

with surgery, followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In addition to Dubrovsky and Benveniste, other members of her treatment team included Dr. Cesar De Las Casas, medical oncologist-hematologist and Dr. Mary Goswitz, radiation oncologist.

This team, together with the nursing staff, guided Fregia through the treatment regimen that concluded with her "ringing the bell" in November 2019 to signify the end of her chemo and radiation treatments.

"If you're diagnosed with breast cancer, it's so important to take care yourself," Fregia said. "Many women are so busy taking care of their family that they forget to take care of themselves."



DR. ANA BENVENISTE

These days, Fregia does not hesitate to offer advice for women who aren't as diligent in scheduling yearly mammograms.

"Women shouldn't wait to schedule their mammograms. They might not find the cancer in their self-exams, so there's no telling how widespread it could be by the time it's discovered."

A healthy lifestyle and regular breast cancer screenings are good ways to keep your health in check. Partner with your doctor to discuss your health history and stay on top of your recommended screenings.

Getting your annual mammogram is one of the most important steps you can take to stay healthy. That's why the Houston Methodist Breast Care

Center in Baytown is taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you and our staff members safe. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are:

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

The Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown is a nationally accredited facility offering comprehensive imaging services, including all-digital mammography, 3D imaging, breast ultrasound and breast MRI. We do not require a doctor's order for your annual screening mammogram. To schedule a mammogram, visit houstonmethodist.org/breast-care or call 346-292-PINK (7465).

★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Hurricane Laura's Wake-Up Call for Houston

In 2009, I served on a State task force to study the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and to make recommendations to mitigate the damage of future storms. At one of those task force meetings, a disheveled Texas A&M professor appeared and calmly announced that he had the solution to the problem – a coastal barrier that would prevent a hurricane storm surge from ripping through the Houston area.

Frankly, we had heard a lot of kooky ideas at the task force meetings and my first reaction to Bill Merrill's proposal was that it was just one more. But as he began to lay out his proposal, the more it became apparent to me and others on the task force that he might be on to something. Thus, the Ike Dike was born.

The task force chair, former County Judge Robert Eckels, and I soon became advocates for Merrill's plan and we helped form an intergovernmental corporation between several coastal counties to begin laying plans for a coastal barrier. We asked then Governor Rick Perry to hear out Merrill's proposal and he too was persuaded and promised action on it.

Because the project was so audacious and massive in its scale, it took a while for the public to digest Merrill's plan. I remember one environmental activist early on telling me that Merrill was a "crazy old man." Several years were lost in a sort of silly academic tussle between Texas A&M and Rice University over competing designs. But eventually the concept of Merrill's coastal barrier was recognized as the only realistic strategy to protect Texas coastal cities, and Houston in particular, from the killer hurricane that will inevitably show up on our shores one day.

Since then, virtually every elected official has voiced their support for a coastal barrier, including our current governor. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted a detailed study of the proposal, which was partially funded by the Texas General Land Office.¹ The Corps has put the estimated costs at \$31 billion. While that may seem like a huge number, and it is, it is just a small fraction of the damage a major hurricane, making landfall just the west of Galveston, would do in the Houston area.

But now a decade down the road, precious little, other than the study has been done. In an interesting and revealing aside, President Trump in a Dallas meeting a few months ago, mentioned that Governor Abbott had asked him for \$30 billion to build the Ike Dike. Trump was vague in his response, seemingly not really sold on the idea.

Hurricane Laura was the latest near miss that should be a wake-up call for all of us. A major hurricane making landfall in the San Luis-Freerport area, which was a 40% chance at one point during Laura's track, is an existential threat to our region. Thousands would die, damages would run many billions and, as my friend Terry O'Rourke outlined in a recent Texas Monthly article, it would cause the greatest environmental disaster in history. If you want to get some idea of the destructive power of storm surge CNN has posted some great "before and after" images on this website showing the devastation from Laura. Such a storm would permanently alter Houston's future, much like the 1900 Storm did Galveston's.

Until the federal government makes a large commitment to fund such a project, it is going nowhere. Every candidate for federal office that represents the Houston region should be pressed on their support for funding a coastal barrier. Every incumbent officer holder should be questioned on what they have done to secure funding for the project. And any candidate that does not enthusiastically support moving forward as soon as possible does not deserve your vote.

There have several revisions to the original plan including a redesign of the Bolivar Roads gate structure that allow for greater water exchange between the Galveston Bay and the Gulf and another that would move the barrier from the centerline highways on Bolivar Peninsula and the west end of Galveston Island to a dune structure on the ocean side of each. There will undoubtedly be further refinement as the process moves forward.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

The Bear

The two women told me about the bear when I was on my hike.

They were on trail bikes and saw the bear in the direction I was headed. "It was scary!" one of the women said.

We were all a little nervous. There had been a bear attack just a few weeks earlier up on the ski hill. A couple had gone up to see the comet. They didn't bring food. There were no bear cubs. There was no reason to think they were in any danger. They were just sitting and watching the sky when a bear attacked, seriously injuring the woman.

Their dog ran away, and folks assumed she would not make it through the night. Miraculously, the dog was found by some hikers the next morning, still trailing her leash. The woman was still recovering, and it was expected she would be for a full year.

This was on our minds, even though we were nowhere near where it had happened. We talked about how terrible things can happen, out of the blue, when no one is at fault.

"It's scary to know something like that could happen!" the biker said.

I agreed, but asked her, "What are the options?"

If I'm going swimming in the ocean, I will research to see if there have been any sharks in the area. But if no one has been bothered in 100 years, I figure I'm not likely to be the first.

"It's like getting hit by lightning," I added. "We know it can happen, but we also know it is a small chance. I can't remove all risk. I can just be smart, research the dangers, and live my life as safely as I can."

The two women agreed. They were going to keep riding their bikes. But they were also going to keep their eyes open. I thanked them and said I would too.

I discovered the limits to my rational approach about thirty minutes later when I came upon a surprisingly large black bear.

First, I saw a deer take off right in front of me. It was scared of something and it wasn't me. I looked up and saw the bear sitting quite close, right on the trail. The bear looked at me.

When I've seen bears before, they immediately run away. It's good to know the bear is as scared of me as I am of it. The bear directly in front of me did not move.

I looked at the bear. The bear looked back at me.

I backed up, slowly, until I was several yards away. Then I made my way up a hill, to the cemetery, so I could do a big detour around the bear. The bear did not move.

"There's a bear on the trail!" I told a man riding a bike, once I got to the cemetery.

"Really?" he said, then fell off his bike.

"Darn these toe clips!" he laughed.


We talked about how food was scarce for bears in the forest. I felt a lot calmer, just talking to someone about the bear. The next day, I was on the trail again.

But if I am going to tell the truth (and I try to) I was a little afraid. Because I do my best to be smart and be careful, and I count on my cleverness to keep me safe. And, of course, I never really am.

It is probably a good thing to remember—no matter how clever or careful I think I am—the bears are always there.

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Chris Cobler**



Remember the Alamo

Operators of the Alamo are looking for the public's support to preserve Texas' historical landmark.

Texans are being urged to contact their lawmakers on behalf of the Alamo Plan, which would preserve the Alamo Church and Long Barrack, reclaim the historic battlefield, relocate the Cenotaph and build a new visitor center and museum.

The renovations are projected to cost \$450 million and are being supported by the city of San Antonio and the nonprofit Alamo Trust, which is overseen by the Texas General Land Office.

As part of the plan, Alamo officials are seeking a permit from the Texas Historical Commission to allow for disassembly, repair and reassembly of the Cenotaph 500 feet from its existing location. The commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 22, but details are not yet confirmed.

Some politicians and others have opposed the renovation plan and, in particular, the relocation of the Cenotaph, a 60-foot-tall monument added to the site in the 1930s.

"The Alamo walls need your support if they are to continue to stand," the Alamo officials wrote last week in an email to supporters directing them to supportthealamoplan.com. "Write a letter and tell our Texas officials to act now to support the only plan that will make sure that future generations of Texans will Remember the Alamo!"



Pumped up in Fort Worth

Convenience store retailer Yesway is planning a new way that will move its headquarters to Fort Worth.

Yesway, which bought Allsup's 304 stores last year, is closing its three offices in Abilene, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; and Clovis, N.M., to consolidate its operations in Fort Worth.

Yesway has 407 stores in Texas, Iowa, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company said it plans to grow to more than 600 convenience stores during the next several years.

The long and meandering boundary

Texans are known for their fanciful language, but this can lead to confusion when it comes to divvying up water rights.

Charles Perry, chairman of the Senate Committee on Water and Rural Affairs, is seeking clarity from the Office of Attorney General about what

"meanders" meant to lawmakers in 1951.

The Legislature created the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District with a boundary "along the meanders of the caprock" of the High Plains Escarpment, which describes the geographical transition point between the flat ground and the surrounding rolling terrain.

The meandering definition has led to a dispute between the High Plains water district in Potter County and the neighboring Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, according to Perry, a Republican who represents Senate District 28 in West Texas.

Presumably, an AG decision can mend the fissure.

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



MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel—

On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States is signed by 38 of 41 delegates present at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. It would not become binding until it was ratified by nine of the 13 states. Nine months later, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the document.*

On Sept. 18, 1793, George Washington lays the cornerstone to the United States Capitol building. It would take nearly a century to complete, as architects came and went, the British set fire to it and it was called into use during the Civil War.*

On Sept. 16, 1893, the largest land run in history begins with more than 100,000 people pouring into the Cherokee Strip of Oklahoma to claim valuable land. Towns like Norman and Oklahoma City sprung up almost overnight.*

On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key pens a poem that is later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem was written after Key witnessed Fort M'Henry being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812.*

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OBITUARIES

John Douglas Stacey



John Douglas Stacey left his earthly body for everlasting glory on August 13, 2020. As God promises to his faithful servants in Psalms 90:10, "The years of our life are seventy", that was very true in John's case. He was just five days shy of celebrating his 71st birthday when God decided to call him home to be with him and spend eternity. John was born in the rural town of Century, Florida on August 18, 1949, to parents JD Curtis Stacey and Nettie Louise Smith Stacey. He was their ninth child.

John graduated from Ernest Ward High School in '67. After which, he moved to Houston and started working for Champion Paper Mill, for the next 25 years. He then entered the transportation industry doing hot shot work. In 1996, John began his career at Delta Steel, working his way up to Transportation Manager; where he remained employed until his retirement in 2014.

John lived life to it's fullest. He tried many adventurous things in his younger days and was known as a speed demon

around town. He loved driving his Ford's fast. John went on to do other dare-devilish things, like acquiring his pilots license. He flew a model 150 Cessna from '78-'79. Then when the price of fuel went up, he decided he'd had enough and would go enjoy other activities with his family. He enjoyed the water and ocean also, as he lived along the coast his entire life and many trips were taken to Florida to see his family. Like all his other hobbies, he drove his boat fast too and God help you if you went water skiing when he was behind the wheel! He spent numerous hours building projects, from furniture to carports, with his daughter and she was the one who somehow always got hurt. John was an exceptional marksman and he enjoyed going to gun shows and Skeet shoots with his son. He found absolute joy while riding his motorcycle and for many years he volunteered his time escorting the Wreaths Across America trucks to the local veterans cemetery.

Throughout John's life the most important things to him were God and his family. You didn't have to be blood to be family either. He had made family out of many neighbors, his brothers and sisters at New Hope Baptist Church, and the folks at Hungry Jacks, the hometown hangout he visited regularly. Hungry Jacks even named the Christmas morning breakfast gathering, "The John Stacey Christmas Breakfast"! He was known to carry peppermints in his pocket and pass them out to everyone. One thing was certain, he always dressed sharp. He took pride in everything he did and he made sure we all knew he loved us.

John is preceded in death by his parents, his loving wife of almost 25

years, Ginger Lynette Marie Dausatz Stacey, and siblings, Mae Dell, Helen, Eloise, Faye, and Curtis "Buck".

Those left to cherish his memory are his son, John Douglas "Doug" Stacey II and wife, Angela; daughter, Peggy Lynn Marie Dausatz Knight and husband, Earl; grandchildren, Breanna Thomas and husband, Zach; Tori Rein and husband, Dalton; John-Anthony Knight, Jett Knight, and Justin Knight; great grandchildren, J.D. Thomas, Caroline Rein, Julia Thomas, and Scarlett Rein; brothers, Elvin Stacey, Doyle Stacey and Ronald Stacey; sister, Linda Peacock. Thank you George Conrad, Craig Brodd, and Phil Breckling for the years of friendships you gave to him.

Whatever you called him: John, JD, Jake, Dad, Big John, Pawpaw, Poppa John or Big Paw, he made a lasting impact on all of us and he left us with many great memories to carry us along, until we are once again with him. Just keep the faith and always hold dear John 3:16 and you will surely see him again.

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



The World Around Us Keeps Changing

It's Essential For Us To Adapt Our Businesses For Success Today

2020 has thrown us all some curveballs. One thing we know for certain is that none of us can afford to wait for things to get back to the way they were before. The new business normal is now and there are many ways we are already equipped to handle the changes and grow our business in the new workplace of today.

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★ ASK THE EXPERT ★

New Principal,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas High School Athletic Directors Association and has served as UIL District Executive Committee Chair. Mulvaney also has served as an adjunct professor at Lee College and the American College of Education.

Mulvaney and his wife, Stefanie, have two children – Madison, 14, and Kaitlyn, 11.

“I am excited and honored to take on the role of the educational leader for Highlands Junior School. I plan to continue the educational excellence that Mr. Guy started. The Highlands staff and community is second to none, and I

look forward to being a member of the HJS family,” Mulvaney said.

Dr. Randal O’Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent:

“I believe that Dr. Mulvaney will bring the global perspective that a district-wide director has to the campus. He has served as GCCISD athletic director for the past seven years, including a few stints as interim principal at my request, and I am confident that he will continue the legacy of servant leadership that Mr. Guy exuded throughout his tenure at HJS.”

Don't Let Fear Delay Your Healthcare

Many people are postponing medical procedures or avoiding lifesaving emergency care because of concerns about the safety of hospitals and emergency care facilities and the risk of getting COVID-19.

Jeanna Bamburg, CEO of HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast, wants everyone to know that HCA Houston Healthcare facilities are safe and continually focus on providing all patients with outstanding care.

“HCA Houston Healthcare began preparing for COVID-19 in January and instituted many resources to ensure the safety of our

patients and our colleagues,” Bamburg said. “Our facilities are continuing to abide by strict health and safety standards, as well as guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).”

Some of the enhanced precautions in place to protect patients, visitors and colleagues include:

- **Mandatory screening and universal masking for all patients, visitors and staff**
- **Heightened infection prevention policies, including removal of high touch items, access to hand sanitizer stations, frequent**

sanitization of common areas, social distancing in all waiting areas and limited essential visitation

- **COVID-19 positive patients and those with symptoms receive care in separate, designated units**
- **Non-COVID-19 patients are treated in separate areas by caregivers who adhere to strict infection control protocol**

The risk associated with avoiding emergency rooms when you're sick often far outweighs any potential exposure risks. Don't delay your medical care. HCA Houston Healthcare hospitals and 24/7 emergency

care centers are safe, and fully committed and prepared to care for patients experiencing medical emergencies and those patients who have been waiting for medically necessary surgeries and procedures.

If you have concerns about exposure to COVID-19, HCA Houston Healthcare offers diagnostic testing to determine if a COVID-19 infection is currently present at all CareNow Urgent Care locations.

Visit our Coronavirus Resource Hub at HCAHoustonHealthcare.com/covid-19 for more information.

Ike Dike,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

comment starting in late October and in final form by next spring.

The forecast for the massive project is a lot farther off than the next hurricane during an active season. Congressional approval and matching local funds are still needed.

A&M officials say the investment is well worth it to protect about 6 million people and prevent \$100 billion in damages from a direct hit.

“The Ike Dike would work, I am sure of it,” Merrell said in a news release. “If you stop the storm

surge at the coast, you protect everyone – Galveston, Houston, everybody.

“Obviously this is a very busy and probably record-breaking season – I believe it's the fifth above-average season in a row. There are theories that suggest that in the future, we might get more major hurricanes and that there are now many more intense rainfall events. Also, there is evidence that many storms are slowing down as they approach the coast – more flooding and longer duration surges. The flooding threat is getting worse and worse.”

Crosby ISD Policy changes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

links. <https://www.crosbyisd.org/Page/718>

All questions regarding physicals, heart screenings, and Rankone forms, as well as completed physicals or medical history forms can be emailed to the Head Athletic Trainer at wbennett@crosbyisd.org

According to Dr. Scott Davis, Superintendent, “We will begin face-to-face instruction on campuses for those students whose parents have already indicated that in fact next Tuesday, September 8th.

Parents may still choose remote instruction at any time by communicating with your child's campus. Switching from remote to face-to-face instruction will occur, again by parent choice, after the end of the first grading period on October 16.

We will communicate bus route pick-ups/drop-offs on the website at 8:00 a.m. on 9/3. Again, many of the dropoff/pick-up locations have changed due to needs we all have for timing of routes and the delays that will come with

screening students prior to getting on the buses. Also, please remember that students in grades 5 and lower must have a responsible adult/parent accompany them to the stops and remain with them until they get on the bus. We will require face masks/face shields on all students and this involves transportation.

We will also be taking temperatures of each student getting on the bus and give them a dose of hand sanitizer. This will be different, so please be patient

and encouraging with your child and your drivers. CISD updates the number of staff COVID cases and the number of staff COVID quarantines each day. We had indicated that this would be weekly, but it is just as easy to do on a daily basis, so please note that change. This school year is very different that anything we have ever experienced. It is up to everyone to be patient, understanding, and thoughtful in how we go about each and every day with each other. Obviously, we wish this school year was “just like normal.” I am sorry that it is not. But we are facing every challenge as it presents itself. I would like to say that CISD has thought of everything, but this global pandemic has shown us, time and time again, that we must remain flexible and ready to face challenges on a daily basis. We can and will do this for our students. We can and will do this together.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Highlands Little League

will be holding elections for their **2020-2021 Board of Directors** at **7:00pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2020** at the **Baytown Boat Club**
1600 Clear Lake Rd, Highlands, TX 77562

The board election meeting is open to the public and anyone who lives within the HLL boundaries and wants to help make a difference in the lives of our youth can be elected to serve.

The following proposed HLL Constitution changes will also be voted on at this meeting:

Article III – Membership: Section 3
Other Affiliations: Subsection 7: J – Junior Coordinator / K – Senior Coordinator (adding the following to the section)

Article VI Board of Directors: Section 3
Election Qualifications/Criteria: Jr. Coordinator, Sr. Coordinator (adding the following to the section)

Election Qualifications/Criteria: To be elected and serve as President of Highlands Little League, Inc. an individual must have served two out of the last three years as a member of the Highlands Little League, Inc. Board of Directors.

Article VI Board of Directors: Section 7 (adding the following to each section)

Roles and Responsibilities:
Field Vice Presidents: This includes all aspects of the field, the bleacher area, and the score booth area. Responsible for oversight of tryouts for their respective division. They also responsible to assist Player Agents in contacting non-returning players respective to their divisions.

Jr & Sr Coordinators: Each Coordinator is responsible for addressing any issues that may occur within their respective division. Coordinate with the Player Agent assigned to their division with respect to player shortages prior to the season, as well as during the season. Coordinate with the Jr/Sr. Field VP concerning Board Duty schedule, field issues/concerns, and the Umpire in Charge concerning umpire issues, including scheduling. He/she will act as the liaison between concerning any issues that arise between teams or managers/coaches.

Player Agents: Provide to the Field VPs, a list of players that have not returned, the week prior to the last day of tryouts so the VPs can assist the Player Agents in contacting them.

HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE • 925 E. Canal • Highlands, TX 77562

Job Fair at TexFenFest

Todd Mission, TX (August 24, 2020) – The Texas Renaissance Festival will hold their annual Job Faire on September 5 and 6, 2020 at the Texas Renaissance Festival grounds starting at 9 a.m. each day.

The two-day Job Faire is an opportunity for vendors to fill their staffing needs for the 2020 season. Different vendors could be on hand each day of the Job Faire, so those interested in securing a spot are encouraged to attend both days.

Be prepared to fill out an application, bring a resume and a face mask as many vendors will hold interviews on-site at their shops. If hired, you will be directed to go to the TRF Pass Office for your parking pass and ID, and face masks are required in the pass office.

More than 4,000 jobs make up the Texas Renaissance Festival. Independent vendors will be interviewing for many positions such as hawkers, food and merchandise sales, food prep, games, rides, and more. Applicants should be prepared to work nine (9) consecutive weekends, dress in costume, wear a face mask, and learn the King's English.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 485591; Estate of A L B E R T FRANCIS LYNCH Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on August, 19, 2020.

KELLY LYNCH

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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

Harris County ESD No. 50 is selling a 2006 Ferrara Intruder II Pumper from the Channelview Fire Department's fleet through sealed bid process with a minimum starting bid of \$50,000. ESD 50 will be accepting sealed bid from September 4th until 5pm CST on September 18th. The bids will be opened at a public meeting on September 21, 2020 at 6pm at the Channelview Fire Department located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530. The bidding process is being hosted by Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. Further details are available at <https://www.firetruckmall.com/AvailableTruck/13663/2006-Ferrara-Intruder-II-Pumper> or by calling 256-776-7786. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to: Channelview Fire Department
ATTN: Truck Bid
1210 Dell Dale
Channelview, TX 77530

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of 0.774604 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Jacinto City.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.774604 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.726136 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.774714 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.823322 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 City of Jacinto City from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Jacinto City may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for City of Jacinto City exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for City of Jacinto City.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for City of Jacinto City, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for City of Jacinto City.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that City of Jacinto City is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on September 10, 2020 at 5:30 PM at 10301 Market Street, Houston, TX 77029.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Jacinto City is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City of Jacinto City at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES 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 proposed tax increase as follows:

FOR:	
Jimmy Rivas	Gregg Robinson
Allen Lee	Carmela Garcia
Mario Gonzales	
AGAINST:	
PRESENT and not voting:	
ABSENT:	

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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Jacinto City last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Jacinto City this year:

	2019	2020	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.783554	\$0.774604	decrease of -\$0.008950 OR
Average homestead taxable value	\$60,915	\$68,140	increase of 11.86%
Tax on average homestead	\$477	\$528	increase of \$51 OR 10.58%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$3,637,228	\$3,921,392	increase of \$284,164 OR 7.81%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Jacinto City at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

Hurricane Relief to Disaster Areas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recovering from Hurricane Laura. The following items are needed: 1. Tarps, 2. Non-perishable food items, 3. Batteries, 4. Water, 5. Diapers (size 3, 4 and 5), 6. Baby wipes, 7. Disinfectant wipes.

Private efforts including Project Hope (844) 349-0188, supporting health-care workers worldwide, Samaritan fund, and others like the Red Cross re gathering donations.

Saturday, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner indicated the city is partnering with several local businesses and entities to gather donated supplies for residents who were hit by Hurricane Laura.

The city's Health Equity Response Task Force, Kroger, Gallery Furniture and Relief Gang are coordinating a hurricane relief effort called "Houston's Paying It Forward."

"After Hurricane Harvey displaced many of our family and friends in 2017, people from other cities and states helped Houston recover by donating their time, money and supplies," Turner said. "Today, we are being called to action for our neighbors who were in the path of Hurricane Laura and are now experiencing great suffering and loss. We cannot sit idly by while they are in need."

All donated items given to the drive will be sent to Port Arthur, Orange and Beaumont, Texas, as well as Sulphur and Lake Charles, Louisiana. Supplies will be distributed to residents trying to recover after their homes and personal belongings were damaged or destroyed by the devastating category 4 hurricane.

The task force started taking donations on Tuesday, September 1.



HTown Meals for Hurricane Laura has a goal of \$12,000 from online donations plus water, cleaning products, hygiene and non-perishable foods are getting collected from the George R. Brown Convention Center and Krogers and Gallery Furniture.

National efforts include that President Donald J. Trump amended the emergency declarations for Louisiana and Texas. The President's action expands the declarations to cover emergency protective response actions that state, local and tribal officials take in the areas affected by Hurricanes Laura and Marco beginning Aug. 22, 2020 and continuing.

FEMA received a request for a disaster declaration from Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Tuesday night. The Governor is specifically requesting emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program statewide. The request is under review.

FEMA has mobilized federal response teams to support Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas response efforts to the Hurricane. Re-

gional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs) are in place in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas state operations centers. National IMATs are also deployed to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Denton, Texas. Additionally, several members of the national IMAT are deployed to Louisiana.

In Louisiana, Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis,

Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne,

Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana parishes, are eligible for reimbursement for eligible emergency protective measures (Category B). These parishes were previously limited to direct federal assistance, and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support.

EPA approves release of GMO mosquitos in Harris County

Approval by county, state needed before release

HOUSTON — A project involving the release of millions of genetically modified mosquitoes beginning in 2021 has been approved by federal authorities, and Harris County is one area in which the pilot program could go forward, according to a report by CNN.

Oxitec, the U.S.-owned, British-based company that developed the engineered species, announced the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted the company an experimental use permit (EUP) to field test the use of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. The company's aim through the test is to protect public health from mosquito-borne illnesses.

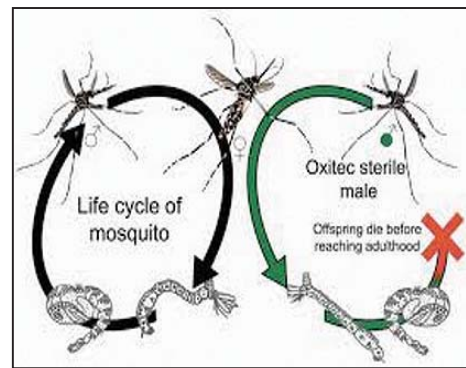
According to CNN, "the genetically engineered mosquito, named OX5034, has been altered to produce female offspring that die in the larval stage, well before hatching and growing large enough to bite and spread disease."

According to a media statement by the EPA, field tests will first be conducted in Monroe County, Fla. following state and local authorities' approval.

"The EUP is designed to test the effectiveness of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes as a way to reduce mosquito populations in a controlled en-



GMO Mosquito



GMO Mosquitos die before maturity.

vironment with appropriate safeguards as a first step to potentially wider use in the United States," the statement reads.

The genetically engineered mosquitoes are approved to be released into Harris County beginning in 2021. To go forward with this pilot program, state and local approval would be needed, but that's not yet been granted, according to Harris County Public

Health's Sam Bissett, who spoke with CNN.

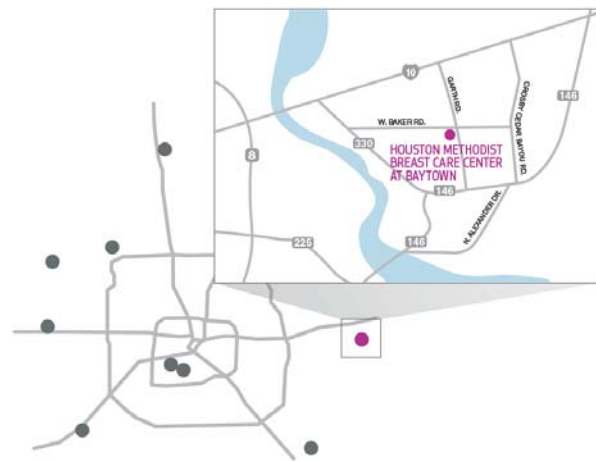
"Local health officials confirm that there is no agreement in place or plans to move forward with the project at this time," Bissett told CNN. "Our focus is on our efforts with the Covid-19 pandemic."

The planned release in Florida is not without controversy, with local residents and a coalition of environmental advocacy groups speaking out.

Getting your annual mammogram is still important.

Houston Methodist can see you safely.

Getting your annual mammogram is one of the most important steps you can take to stay healthy. That's why our Breast Care Center in Baytown is taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you and our staff members safe.



Visit houstonmethodist.org/breast-care or call **346.292.PINK (7465)** to schedule your mammogram today. We do not require a doctor's order for your annual screening mammogram.

HOUSTON
Methodist
BREAST CARE CENTER

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.

