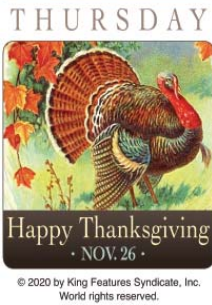


HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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Pct. 2 delivers 1400 Thanksgiving dinners

Harris County Precinct 2 — Commissioner Adrian Garcia hosted “Turkey Thursday” last Thursday, where he distributed turkeys to families at 10 Harris County Precinct 2 Community Centers.

Each location gave out 140 turkeys to registered families. This is the first time in Harris County history a precinct distributes a total of 1,400 turkeys in one day.

“Turkey Thursday” was possible thanks to partnership with non-profit Precinct2Gether, HEB Grocery Stores, and Partners in Primary Care.

Commissioner Garcia attended multiple giveaways, His first stop was



Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, at center, poses with workers and volunteers that gave out these food boxes and Turkeys for Thanksgiving to 1400 families that registered their need.

at North East Community Center (10918 Bentley St. Houston, TX 77093).

Locations of the turkey distribution were at these 10 Pct. 2 facilities:

- Barrett Community

- Center
- Crosby Community Center

- San Jacinto Community Center, Highlands
- Grayson Community Center, Channelview

- Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook
- May Community Center, Huffman

- J.D.Walker Community Center, Baytown
- Flukinger Communi-

- ty Center, Channelview
- East Harris County Activity Center, Pasadena

- Northeast Community Center, Aldine

Sponsors of the event included Precinct 2, Precinct 2gether, and HEB.

IN THE STARS

BIRTHDAYS

Nov 27—Doyle King
Nov 28—Louise Duncan
Jim Strouhal, Jr.
Nov 29—Vernon Searcy
Louis Williams
Nov 30—Kayce Culbreath
Dec 1—Andrew Guerrero
Dec 3—Evelyn Deck
Carolyn Ingram
Adams
Larry Lindstrom

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 2—Robert & Nelda Bailey
Dec 3—Bobby & Claudia Birdsong

COVID-19

Cases as of November 23, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

19 COUNTIES

272,221 POSITIVE
3,694 DEATHS
239,180 RECOVERED

TEXAS

1,159,863 POSITIVE
21,049 DEATHS
917,739 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

12,404,896 POSITIVE
257,616 DEATHS
4,633,600 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

59,106,877 POSITIVE
1,395,176 DEATHS
37,831,295 RECOVERED

Crosby MUD’s Harris tells Chamber about growth issues

CROSBY — Teague Harris of Crosby Municipal Utility District (CMUD) visited the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Thursday and spoke of neighborhood developments, annexation processes and potential provision of water and sewer to any big box commercial enterprises that wish to pay for part of the hookup outside of the CMUD current district.

Crosby MUD was established by the Texas Legislature in 1975. Their primary role is maintaining, repairing improving, and expanding the water and sewer ways. Historically, it does not concern itself with drainage issues.



Teague Harris speaks on local water and sewer.

It does not have the problems of deep ditch supply venues. Initially, CMUD financed all of its construction through revenue. Some neighboring areas were paying for water and sewer and construction while CMUD expanded only upon garnered revenue. The possibility of financing through ad valorem taxes for construction and expansion exists but CMUD has always been financially conservative. Another factor in the history of CMUD is that it had to go to surface water earlier than many districts, in the early 1990’s.

Mr. Harris first issued the statement that CMUD is pro-growth. He opened

his talk with the mention of CMUD now is supplying water and sewer to the new neighborhood near the new high school.

“Treating surface water is very difficult.” Mr. Harris stated as against ground water that is generally more clean.

“In early 2000 Crosby pushed through a tax bond, nobody like taxes but when you are a water district and you need to build things it is one of the ways to get things done. I think CMUD has acted responsibly with their bond funds.”

Another factor is that CMUD has applied for

Continued. See CROSBY MUD, page 5

Santa comes to Highlands Dec. 5

HIGHLANDS — Santa Claus is planning on arriving in Highlands on Saturday night, December 5th at 5:00 pm. He is expected to arrive on a fire truck from the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department.

In spite of the restrictions placed on public events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, children can expect to have their picture taken with Santa, and to give him a letter that the child wrote, listing gift wishes and other Holiday greetings. To keep everyone safe, distances will be maintained, and although Santa will be in the Gazebo in the park, children



Above, a walkway of Decorated Trees in Heritage Park last year.

At left, SANTA sits last year in the Park Gazebo with 2020 Miss Highlands Haley Maxey, and Jr. Miss Highlands Aubrey Bird, in preparation to listen to childrens’ Christmas wishes.

will only be able to stand outside near the entry.

Chamber president Jessica Woods said that there will also be the walkway of decorated Christmas trees.

In addition, the Rotary club is planning on serving cookies and hot chocolate at the fire station, as they have in previous years.

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90 second shopping spree grabs goods for the needy

Sacred Heart Church has kicked off their food drive for the needy in a big way using Arlen's Grocery and two local organizations as a basis to gather food in a 90 second shopping spree.

CROSBY – Steve Pullen got to be the energetic 90 second shopper last Saturday as the local Knights of Columbus joined forces with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to host a food for the needy gathering shopping spree at Arlen's Grocery in Crosby Town Square.

Dashing about the friendly local grocery store, he gathered expensive items to see how much value he could grab and stuff in a shopping cart to be given to the needy by the international Catholic laypersons to help feed the needy and poor with person-to-person involvement. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates a food pantry where the food will be distributed for the holidays to those lacking the means to provide for their families a holiday meal.

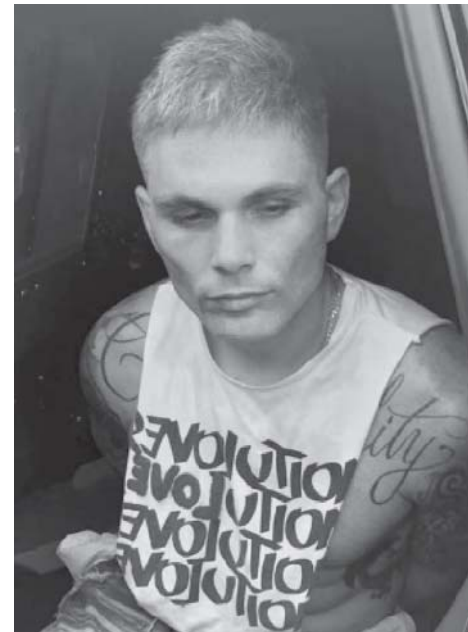
Supporters cheered him on his lively way and shouted suggestions for more expensive items.

Rev. Emmanuel Akpaide M.S.P. Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church watched amused and later said, "This is a fun way to gather food to give to the poor."

Mr. Pullen first made for the hams and large meat items, then canned meats, just in time he made it back to the register to turn in a total of \$446.66 as tallied by Arlen's checkout staff and checked by Terry Walkup, manager.



Feet and cars fail get away



HIGHLANDS – Precinct 3 Constable's Deputies got some exercise when the Crime Interdiction Unit spotted Cory Simmons at a local hang-out last week.

When they attempted to arrest Cory Simmons fled on foot and attempted to car jack two separate vehicles. Simmons was wanted on four felony warrants out of Nebraska, two felony warrants out of Montgomery County and two felony warrants out of Harris County. When Simmons saw deputies, he entered the passenger side of a second vehicle but fled on foot before deputies could apprehend him. It seemed he couldn't make a vehicular escape in the second car either.

Simmons was subse-

quently arrested by the Crime Interdiction Unit following a brief foot chase.

Simmons female companion, Jessica Harvey will be charged with hindering apprehension. Both subjects were booked into the Harris County Jail without further incident.

In Nebraska he had warrants for felony escape and twice for felony failure to appear in court.

In Montgomery County, Texas he had a warrant for being a felon in possession of a firearm, and another for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

In Harris County there were warrants for twice evading arrest, possession of a controlled substance and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

60,000 expected for closing of Texas Renaissance Festival on November 29

November 23, 2020 (Todd Mission, TX) – Warm weather and sunny skies welcomed patrons for Highland Fling weekend as the Texas Renaissance Festival concluded its eighth weekend of the 46th season with over 27,000 patrons in attendance.

Anticipated attendance for the final three-day weekend that includes Friday, Nov. 27, Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29, is over 60,000.

Thanks to the festival's pre-season COVID-19 planning, festival-wide Quality Assurance policies and protocols, and cooperation with local and state government officials and health agencies, the festival will be open from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. each day of the final weekend.

All tickets for the festival are date specific and must be purchased in advance online at www.texrenfest.com or Groupon and at H-E-B business centers. Kids 12 and under are admitted free each festival Sunday.

About the Texas Renaissance Festival

The Texas Renaissance Festival is the nation's largest Renaissance event. Each year over 450,000 patrons enter through the gates of the festival into a 16th Century European Village where performers immerse you in the enchantment of

the village that feature 21 stages of music and stage acts, 400 shoppes, artisans, and a world tour for the taste buds that of course include turkey legs! The Texas Renaissance Festival is

located one hour north of Houston. 2020 TRF season dates are Saturdays and Sundays, October 3 – November 29. More information can be found at www.texrenfest.com.



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At Carter-Conley Funeral Home, 13701 Corpus Christi Street

If you have lost a loved one and find the holidays to be a difficult time, please join us for some words of encouragement, followed by a candle lighting ceremony in memory of your loved one. This year's service will be LIVE STREAMED so you may join us virtually in the safety of your home. Visit our website to obtain access.

Our Christmas Remembrance Tree will be in our lobby from
November 28, 2020 thru January 2, 2021

We invite you to stop in and personalize an ornament with the name of your deceased loved one, which will be yours to keep following the holidays.

It is our hope to make this time a little more bearable as we remember those we have lost, during this especially difficult year.

For additional information, please call us at (713) 455-5100 or visit www.CarterFuneral-Houston.com

Sincerely, Carter-Conley Funeral Home staff





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★ OPINION PAGE ★



with Slim Randles

Old Jasper – hunting deer

Old Jasper Blankenship went out to hunt deer the other day, the same way he's done for decades now. Deer season has changed a lot for Jasper over the many years he's been at it. As a kid, he couldn't wait until he was old enough to get a license, because he wanted to bring a buck home to show his family. Not just any buck, either, but a big one.

As a young man, he wanted to see how many hunting seasons he could have in one year: duck, goose, quail, pheasant, deer, about anything that moved. As a middle-aged man, he turned to the technology of hunting and wanted to learn about the newest gizmo that would make you quiet, make you invisible, make you irresistible to deer.

But things are different these days. Oh, Jasper still enjoys going through all the outdoor magazines and orders catalogs, and each year he buys some new gizmo that guarantees to bring home the meat. But he just chuckles at them, even as he orders them. Hunting, to him, means a reattachment to nature, a return to his roots. It is a time to see if his personal skills are still adequate.

It is also a time to sit on a ridge and look around and appreciate what is there. And if what isn't there happens to be a deer, well, that's all right, too. Venison isn't getting any easier to pack back to camp after all these many seasons, either. But there is something in the hunt, something in being allowed to silently stalk the nameless essence of fall, something in moving in near invisibility. There is *something*.

Sometimes it's just nice to go out there and see what happens.

Brought to you by *The Backpocket Guide to Hunting Elk*, by Slim Randles. Practical advice from a registered guide, at www.amazon.com.

-30-

The Strand – Our local Movie Theater

Mickey Baker has owned The Strand – our local movie theater – since the new releases starred Virginia Mayo. The Strand, naturally, is an icon here. More than a few of our long-lasting marriages in the area began with a first date there. Most of us have consumed more than our share of Raisinettes and Jujubes while watching Duke Wayne whip the bad guys. We know every inch of The Strand. We know where the rips are in the used-to-be blood-red carpet, which of the seats don't fold all the way down, which seats are most secluded in case it's a smooching date.

It was ol' Dud, back when he was about four feet tall, who discovered how to combine chewing gum and the lock on the back door to provide five-figure discounts for friends wanting to watch Victor Mature run around in a loincloth.

The Strand, in other words, is a vital part of our past, if not of our lives today. We seem to just go rent those tapes and disks now and stay home and watch the newer films when we feel like it, and that might be because we now appreciate being able to stop the action for an occasional bathroom break now and then.

Attendance at The Strand dropped dramatically when home entertainment really hit a lick. But Mickey fought back. He tried the free popcorn route for a while. All he charged for was the butter. Attendance didn't really pick up, and the popcorn bill was ... well, appreciable if not staggering.

Mickey now thinks he has the answer. He bought a disk player thingie that works on a big screen. Then he bought some old movies and lowered the price. The first night he did this was a triple header, and we all turned out to see our old heroes vanquish Nazis, solve the bank robbery in Cactus Gulch, and find out who really killed the big-city mayor. We paid too much for popcorn, but who cares?

The Strand lives on, even if there is more gray hair there than at a Percheron horse show. Besides, when was the last time you saw The Duke standing 15-feet tall?

Brought to you by *A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right*, from

www.riograndebooks.com.

-30-

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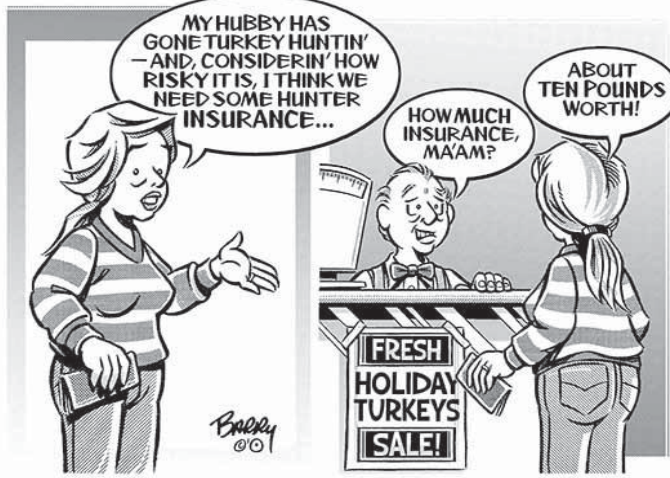
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler

Readers share many tales of Internet woe

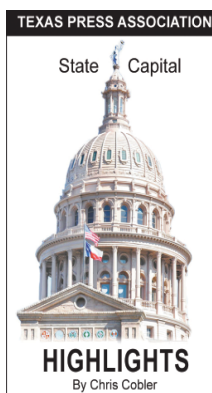
Rural Texans have a lot to say about the lack of broadband service in their communities. Since we covered the topic earlier this month, many readers have emailed to share their stories and pleas for help.

An example is the email from reader Kathryn Steuart of Freestone County, who reads the column in the Fairfield Recorder. In her east central Texas county of 20,000, she reports that cell phones don't even work well. She and her husband pay for internet via a high-priced satellite service, which isn't sufficient to allow her to work from home. An IBM AIX and Linux system administrator, Steuart said she has explored a variety of solutions, but found nothing.

"We were willing/ desperate to pay to have wire strung and present ourselves as a business to get decent speed internet," she wrote. "The rural phone companies are not incentivized to provide this service and quit answering calls. They go broke too often, as well."

She said she has some hope for Elon Musk's Starlink company, which is launching thousands of satellites promising accessible and affordable high-speed internet. Initial pricing is \$99 a month with an upfront hardware purchase of \$500. However, this project is in a testing phase dubbed "Better Than Nothing Beta," and the company warns customers of varying connectivity speeds and occasional outages during the startup period.

Most employers won't hire remote workers with only satellite connections, Steuart said. For more on the subject, watch a replay of the panel discussion "Broadband is a Lifeline" at TexasTribune.org.



"Capital Highlights" will monitor how state lawmakers address the issue when they convene in January. For resources on advocating for solutions, contact Connected Nation Texas.

COVID battle rages on

Gov. Greg Abbott touted some good news in Texas' fight against COVID-19. "Medicines are delivered this week – and every week going forward – to heal those who get COVID," the governor tweeted. "Vaccines to prevent COVID are expected soon. Medical teams are being surged to areas that need it most."

Earlier in the day, Abbott visited Lubbock, which is confronting a surge in cases. There, he provided an update on the distribution of bamlanivimab, an antibody therapy for COVID-19. The state is sending first shipments of the drug to hospitals in regions with the highest number of new case counts, new COVID-19 hospital admissions and total COVID-19 hospital patients.

Abbott emphasized he would not be ordering any new statewide business restrictions and encouraged people to follow the same health practices, including wearing a mask and

socially distancing, that helped during the state's spike in cases in July. Texas has reported over 20,000 COVID deaths since the pandemic began, the Texas Tribune reported, based on data from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

A Thanksgiving gift

Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp is encouraging all students to get a COVID-19 test before leaving campus for the Thanksgiving break. Sharp has asked the Texas Division of Emergency Management, which is part of the Texas A&M System, to help the system get testing vans and tents to all campuses before the holiday.

The greatest gift a student can give his or her family – including parents and grandparents – during this holiday season is the gift of a negative COVID test," Chancellor Sharp said. "Let's do all we can to stop this pandemic and get back to life as we knew it. Thanks to everyone who chooses to take a test before heading home."

Thankful and careful

The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is with only those already living in your household, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services advises. If you're planning to celebrate with others, the agency suggests that you take steps to make your celebration safer by following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They include:

Wear a mask that fits securely over your mouth and nose and around your face.

Stay at least 6 feet away from those who don't live in your household.

If inviting others over, have a small outdoor gathering rather than an inside meal.

The CDC also encourages people to consider other activities rather than a traditional meal with people outside their household. The agency's suggestions include:

- Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others. For example, leave them on the porch.
- Participate in a gratitude activity, like writing down things you are grateful for and sharing with your friends and family.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Working at Gratitude"

I have always loved Thanksgiving. I love that it is a holiday built around a full table and homemade treats. I love the recipes handed down on index cards that only get made once a year and traditions that bring back childhood memories and the chance to use linen napkins and the idea that sitting around a table—just sitting around a table—is reason enough to celebrate.

I think it might be my favorite holiday. I like that expectations are reasonably low and yet the holiday provides an opportunity for people who care about one another to get together.

Of course, things are different this year.

I'm told my extended family will have a "Zoom Thanksgiving," and I'm trying to be more excited about that than I am. Thanksgiving will be, by necessity, a significantly pared-down affair this year. But I am still looking forward to it. My husband, Peter, and I will celebrate with his sister, Lori, and her husband, Robert. Lori has been fighting cancer all this year and last. We'll be even more careful than usual so we can share this meal at opposite sides of a room with her. And, yes, we will be grateful.

Because we didn't know if Lori would be alive to celebrate this holiday. But she will be there, eating turkey and breaking her dietary restrictions to have a piece of pie and a glass of wine and I know there will be laughter and someone (probably Lori) will tell at least one rude joke and all of us, at our little gathering of four, will be more than usually grateful.

Cancer has been held at bay for another year. Yes, there have been deaths and losses, but there has also been a lot of laughter and some learning in this difficult year and (while it sounds cliché) a new appreciation for how important our relationships are.

My friend Marisa recently had a dream so powerful she felt compelled to share it on Facebook. She dreamed she had died and come back to life and was trying to tell everyone how special and amazing this was, how amazing life was, and no one would listen.

"Maybe you'll listen," she wrote. "Times are really rough, I know," she continued, "and more so for some of us than for others. But this life is a gift full of little gifts. I hope you find some of them in your day today."

Another friend told me he was suspicious of people like Marisa who were always looking for something to be happy about. If you had to "work to be happy," it wasn't "natural," he said. He may be right.

But just as we're able to extend Lori's life or replace a broken hip or clean our teeth—working at gratitude makes life a lot more pleasant, a lot more bearable, a lot more fun. If that's unnatural, I'm in favor.

This Thanksgiving, Peter will make the stuffing his grandmother always made. I will make at least two kinds of pie, rolling pastry the way my mother taught me. Lori will get out her family china and silver—although we won't be using many place settings this year. Robert will set the table because he's gotten good at that in these months of Lori's illness, and Lori will probably ask us, as she has at Thanksgiving gatherings in the past, to share something we are thankful for.

And, in spite of everything, I don't think any of us will have to work too hard to say up with something to

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

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Cougars maul Port Neches Grove 54-14

CROSBY – The Cougars defeated the Port Neches Grove Indians by a score of 54 to 14 here last Friday.

According to Head Coach Jerry Prieto, “I thought we came out and were the more physical team on both sides of the ball Friday night. Reggie Branch threw for over 300 yards and rushed for over 100 yards and Deniquez Dunn had 4 touchdowns. Our defense limited a very explosive offense to 14 points. This win keeps us in 1st place in the District and it also clinched a playoff berth for us.”

It was a physical game if any was with lots of popping leather sounds. Crosby put up 17 points to 7 in the first quarter.

Deniquez Dunn was

overall the most stand out starter. Wade Lewis was defensive star and of course credit Reggie Branch for leading the offensive attack. Tavor Howard exemplified the special teams.

Crosby would bring in two touch downs in the next two quarters and the Cougar defense allowed nothing until the end of the fourth quarter. By then in the final quarter, Crosby had a touchdown and a field goal.

On Nov. 27 the Cougars travel to Santa Fe, for a victory.

Although, it was the scheduled week for homecoming, Crosby will hold Homecoming Court here on Dec. 4 as the Cougars welcome Nederland.

Crosby MUD,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Harris County grants through the Harris County Bond Referendum, it is typically a matching funds grant and we qualify for a fifty fifty grant.

“We just finished expanding our waste water treatment plant.”

“We still struggle with water influx into that system.”

Upcoming is the replacement of six inch lines to 12 inch lines up and down FM 2100.

“What we are in the process of building now is a second surface water treatment facility. So that if we have a problem with one we have another one to operate. That project also benefitted from Har-

ris County Grant money. When both of those are in we should be very well set up for the next ten years, we are ready.”

“In terms of projects going on right now there are two residential projects: Crosby Park Village it is only 60 lots so it is relatively small, on Hare Road. Our biggest development so far is the Pecan Estates Development.”

It was in response to questions that Harris addressed that CMUD had supplied water services to the new Nabor’s petrochemical plant as they had agreed to share some of the expense of expanding the water lines.

HC Sheriff cracks down on Package Thieves

The Harris County Sheriff’s Office is ramping up efforts ahead of the holidays to combat package thefts across the county.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday kick off the holiday shopping season, a gold mine for porch pirates – or thieves who steal packages outside resident’s homes. This year, retailers are anticipating an uptick in home deliveries due to the ongoing pandemic.

As Harris County residents start receiving more mail and packages, the Sheriff’s Office’s Burglary and Theft Unit investigators are leading several porch pirate sting operations in Harris County with support from the agency’s patrol units and U.S. Postal Inspectors.

“Beyond catching porch pirates who come into our neighborhoods to snatch our holiday packages, our goal is to also deter this activity from taking place by letting would-be package thieves know that we’re out here,” said Burglary and Theft Investigator Javier Ureña. “This is one example of many proactive policing efforts aimed at reducing crime in our communities.”

Burglary and Theft Unit investigators will be placing multiple decoy packages with a tracking device on residential porches to help investigators identify and locate the perpetrators. If a porch pirate takes one of the GPS-tracked packages, investigators receive an alert and can follow it in real-time. And, when the porch pirate opens the package, the camera in the tablet will start taking photos of the suspect, giving investigators a description of them.

The sting operations target the most at-risk areas in Harris County identified from theft reports and tips from shipping companies. Last week, Investigator Ureña led an initiative in the Westlake



community in the Katy area. Although no porch pirates took the bait, it allowed investigators to test their new equipment.

Harris County residents are urged to take steps that will help avoid packages being stolen from their doorstep, such as signing up for tracking notifications, retrieving packages as soon as they arrive, or requiring a signature for delivery. Instead of having a package delivered to your home, investigators are asking residents to consider other delivery locations to pick up and return packages, including Amazon Hub Locker locations and postal boxes.

Mail theft is a federal offense punishable with up to five years in prison and fines. Call the Sheriff’s Office at 713-221-6000 to report stolen packages.

San Jacinto Elementary Groundbreaking Ceremony



Dr. Randal O'Brien tells the history of San Jacinto Elementary at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new school.



Rachel McAdam, principal of San Jacinto Elementary School, poses at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new school, scheduled to open December 2021.

Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman

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Thanksgiving weekend brings with it family, feasting and football

It’s Thanksgiving Week and although it may seem there hasn’t been a lot to be thankful for in 2020, it’s still time to count one’s blessings and what a better way to do that than by enjoying time with family, gorging on turkey and all the trimmings and watching a lot of football. And there will be plenty to watch starting Thanksgiving Day when the NFL gives us three games for our viewing pleasure.

The Texans will kick things off when they travel to Detroit to face the Lions in Detroit’s annual Thanksgiving Day game. Next up, the Dallas Cowboys will once again be featured in the mid-afternoon time slot when they host the Washington Football Team and things wrap up in prime time when the Baltimore Ravens visit the Pittsburgh Steelers in an AFC North showdown. While the first two games feature four teams playing for pride, the nightcap should be a good one, as the Steelers will be looking to remain undefeated on the season. Two weeks ago, they ran over the Bengals then played at Jacksonville. If Mike Tomlin’s team took care of business in Jacksonville, the Steelers should enter their Turkey Night tussle with Lamar Jackson and CO. with a 10-0 record.

In college action, Texas looks to keep its winning streak alive when it hosts Iowa State on Friday in Austin, while Notre Dame will put its No. 2 ranking on the line when it takes on Mack Brown’s high-scoring North Carolina Tar Heels, also on Friday. On Saturday, Auburn visits Alabama in a renewal of the Iron Bowl.

Aldine ISD’s five varsity programs will also be in action this holiday weekend as all five teams will play Friday games. This will mark the final weekend of play of the District 14-6A season for AISD’s five varsity squads, and it appears Eisenhower, Nimitz and MacArthur remain alive for the league’s fourth and final



playoff spot.

I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope you get to spend time with family and friends, even if it’s on a limited basis.

Before we take a look at this weekend’s games, let’s review last week’s results. A 6-3 week (Texas A&M’s game with Tennessee was postponed, as was the Alabama-LSU game) brought the season record to 68-33 (67%).

Now, onto this weekend’s games.

NCAA

Iowa State at Texas: Tom Herman’s team looks to keep its winning streak going when it hosts the Iowa State Cyclones on Friday in Austin. Texas should enter this game riding a four-game win streak (they played at lowly Kansas last Saturday) and UT fans would like nothing more than for the ‘Horns to win out to finish 8-2 on the season. The Texas defense will have its hands full with ISU QB Brock Purdy (1,477 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Breece Hall (1,034 yards, 13 TDs). Texas has some pretty fair weapons on offense as well led by quarterback Sam Ehlinger (1,834 passing yards, 22 TDs/584 rushing yards, 7 TDs), freshman running back Bijan Robinson (294 yards) and wide receiver Joshua Moore (22 receptions, 343 yards, 7 TDs). Robinson, a true freshman, has been compared to Longhorn great Ricky Williams. He’s a powerful back with good speed. Look for him to get carries as Herman looks to wear down the Cyclone defense and set Ehlinger up for some big plays in the passing

game. My pick, Texas 33, Iowa State 23

Notre Dame at North Carolina: Brian Kelly’s Fighting Irish take on Brown’s Tar Heels in what should be a high-scoring affair on Friday afternoon in Chapel Hill, NC. A win over the Tar Heels should position Notre Dame to go undefeated and earn a trip to the ACC title game against probably Clemson (ND closes the regular season with a home game against Syracuse and then plays at Wake Forest on Dec. 12. Two weeks ago, ND outscored Boston College 45-31 in Boston to hand Kelly his 100th victory at Notre Dame’s head coach. He joins Lou Holtz and Knute Rockne as the only three head coaches to amass 100 wins at ND’s head coach. Quarterback Ian Book (1,818 yards, 11 TDs) has been efficient under center all season long and has a strong running game led by Kyren Williams (777 yards, 10 TDs). He also has three quality tight end to throw to as well. The Tar Heels have a pretty talented QB as well in sophomore Sam Howell (2,631 yards, 23 TDs) and a strong runner in Davonte Williams (868 yards, 15 TDs). Wide receiver Joshua Moore (22 receptions, 343 yards, 7 TDs) is a big-play guy as well. The Irish defense has given up a lot of points, but so has NC’s. This should be a high-scoring game, but go with the Irish because they have much, much more to play for. My pick, Notre Dame 43, North Carolina 37

Auburn at Alabama: It’s payback time for Nick Saban’s Crimson Tide when they host their arch-rival Auburn on

Saturday in Tuscaloosa. A year ago, Auburn outscored the Tide, 48-45. This year’s Alabama team is much better on both sides of the ball. The offense is led by quarterback Mac Jones (2,196 yards, 16 TDs), running back Najee Harris (714 yards, 14 TDs) and talented wide receivers Devonta Smith (56 receptions, 759 yards, 8 TDs) and John Metchie III (24 receptions, 517 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the ‘Bama defense to harass Auburn QB Bo Nix (1,407 yards, 9 TDs) all afternoon as the Tide rolls to another trip to the SEC title game, and from there, the College Football Playoffs. My pick, Alabama 36, Auburn 18

NFL

Houston at Detroit: The Texans and Lions kickoff the NFL’s Thanksgiving Day triple-header with both teams looking for a much-needed win. Two weeks ago, the Texans’ offense mustered just one touchdown on the day during a 10-7 loss at Cleveland, while the Lions defeated Washington 27-24 on a 59-yard field goal by Matt Prater on the last play of the game. The Lions are actually still alive in the Wild Card hunt, so look for quarterback Matthew Stafford (2,403 yards, 17 TDs) and rookie running back D’Andre Swift (331 yards, 4 TDs) to attack a suspect Houston defense. The Texans run defense was gouged for 231 yards by the Browns two-headed running game led by Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt. Detroit doesn’t have that sort of rushing attack, but Swift is capable of putting up big numbers on any given day. The Texans will once again rely on quarterback Deshaun Watson (2,539 yards, 18 TDs) to once again carry the offense. Detroit usually plays well on Thanksgiving Day and I expect that to be the case come Thursday. My pick, Detroit 30, Houston 27

Washington at Dallas: This game pits two teams going nowhere in 2020. Injuries have decimated the Cowboys,

especially on offense, while Washington has been its usual inept self. It will be interesting to see who plays quarterback for Dallas on Thursday. Will it be Andy Dalton (452 yards, 1 TD) or Garrett Gilbert (243 yards, 1 TD)? Three weeks ago in their 24-19 loss to undefeated Pittsburgh, Gilbert gave the offense a bit of a spark and I would not be surprised if head coach Mike McCarthy goes with him against Washington. Alex Smith (752 yards, 1 TD) will probably get the nod for the Washington Football Team. He has some weapons in running back Antonio Gibson (436 yards, 7 TDs) and speedy wide receiver Terry McLaurin (57 receptions, 787 yards, 3 TDs). My pick, Dallas 23, Washington 20

Baltimore at Pittsburgh: The Steelers and Ravens close out the NFL’s Thanksgiving triple header with a prime time matchup on NBC. To say these two teams don’t like one another is an understatement. Two weeks ago, Ben Roethlisberger threw four touchdowns and for 333 yards in a 36-10 thumping of Cincinnati, while Lamar Jackson (1,513 passing yards, 12 TDs/419 rushing yards, 3 TDs) dropped a road game at New England (23-17). The Ravens must win this game if they hope to remain in the AFC North race, but I think Baltimore’s road struggles continue as the Pittsburgh defense, one of the best units in the league, will hound Jackson all night long. Look for Big Ben to attack a beat up Baltimore secondary with tosses to rookie wide receiver Chase Claypool (31 receptions, 444 yards, 5 TDs) and veteran JuJu Smith Schuster (45 receptions, 439 yards, 5 TDs). The Steelers roll and pretty much wrap up the division with a win on Thursday night. My pick, Pittsburgh 27, Baltimore 23

Chicago at Green Bay: The Bears and Packers renew the NFL’s oldest rivalry on

Sunday Night Football as QB Aaron Rodgers (2,538 yards, 26 TDs) looks to separate the Packers from the rest of the NFC North. Two weeks ago, the Packers struggled at home against the Jaguars, but pulled out a 24-20 win. The Bears have a solid defense, so running back Aaron Jones (493 yards, 5 TDs) might find it tough to get the running game going. Look for Rodgers to use the passing game to set up the run as he will hit strikes downfield to super-talented wide receiver Davante Adams (61 receptions, 741 yards, 9 TDs). The Bears are challenged on offense, but are very good on defense. This should be a close game, but look for Rodgers to be the difference maker in the fourth quarter. My pick, Green Bay 23, Chicago 20

Seattle at Philadelphia: Jeez, the Seahawks have been wracking up the frequent flyer miles this year. They’ve already played at Atlanta, at Miami and at Buffalo and now they head to the East Coast once again to take on the Eagles on Monday Night Football to close out the Thanksgiving Weekend schedule. Two weeks ago, Russell Wilson’s (2,541 yards, 28 TDs) team dropped a 26-13 decision to the Rams in LA, while Carson Wentz’s (2,091 yards, 12 TDs) Eagles dropped a 27-17 decision to the Giants. Look for Wilson to attack a weak Philly secondary with long strikes to DK Metcalf (43 receptions, 788 yards, 8 TDs) while speedy wide out Tyler Lockett (53 receptions, 615 yards, 7 TDs) will take care of things in the medium passing game. Wentz will need a big night from running back Miles Sanders (519 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Travis Fulgham (30 receptions, 443 yards, 4 TDs). Wentz should be able to make plays against a suspect Seattle secondary. Look for Wilson to make one or two more plays than does Wentz as the ‘Hawks pick up a nice road win. My pick, Seattle 30, Philadelphia 26

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Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei

Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841.



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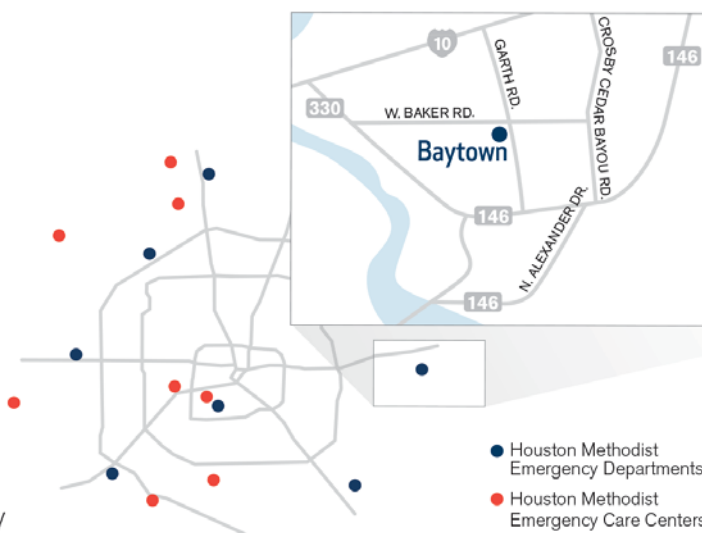


Flu season is here. If you need emergency care, don't ignore your symptoms.

With flu season coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to prioritize your health. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, don't ignore your symptoms — especially if you have severe flu symptoms, such as high fever, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or dehydration.

With enhanced safety measures in place at Houston Methodist Emergency Care Centers and Emergency Departments, you can rest assured your safety is our priority.

Visit houstonmethodist.org/er to find emergency care near you. If you are experiencing a serious or life-threatening medical emergency, please call 911.



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NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from November 24 to November 30 until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link <http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current> to sell for cash only the contents of Unit J-3, Lyza Camp and Unit H-2, Pamela Stone in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is house hold items and etc....

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CROSBY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Crosby ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2020, at the Crosby ISD Operations Center, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Crosby ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Barbers Hill ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2020 In the C. T. Joseph Conference Center, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Barbers Hill ISD's rating on the State's financial accountability system.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020

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ON THE HILL

Baytown Nature Ctr. Events

AUDUBON BIRD SURVEY

The monthly bird survey at the Baytown Nature Center provides an opportunity to collect valuable data on birds that breed, winter and migrate through the nature center. No previous experience is necessary; in fact, this is one of the best ways to gain experience in identifying birds. You may want to bring water, snacks, insect repellent and binoculars.

When: Third Thursday, September - May; 8 am

Where: Meet at BNC Visitors Center

Leaders: David Hanson; Chuck Davis

FULL MOON HIKE

Join us each month on the Saturday closest to the full moon to explore a different section of the nature center in hopes of seeing nocturnal animals.

We continue the series every month on the Saturday closest to the full moon. We ask that if you wish to bring a large group (more than 10) to call ahead and schedule a private hike. The monthly 90 minute hikes begin just after sunset. Hikers are asked to wear comfortable clothing. Small children should not attend since hikers have a better chance of viewing nocturnal animals in a relatively quiet atmosphere. Routes and start times vary monthly. Meet at the Visitor's Center unless otherwise stated. Hikes are weather permitting and free with general admission.

WINTER HIKES:

- Saturday, December 26, 5:30—7:00 pm
- Saturday, January 30, 7:30—9:00 pm
- Saturday, February 27, 6:00—7:30 pm

Chambers County Health Dept. offers advice for a safe Thanksgiving holiday

CHAMBERS COUNTY - The following information from the Southeast Texas Regional Health Departments addresses how residents of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, and Tyler Counties, including the City of Beaumont and City of Port Arthur, can safely celebrate Thanksgiving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like you, we in Public Health are tired of the COVID virus. We don't like the changes any more than you do. But over the last 8 months we have learned some things about this virus.

- It is shared person to person, as we do life together. It is shared when we gather to celebrate or eat meals. We share it with our co-workers, or when we gather for worship. It is shared as we practice and play sports or work out (even in the home gyms).

- Everyone responds differently to the virus. Many people only complain of 'sinus symptoms' or 'allergy symptoms'. 30% or more do not have a fever of 100.0; or higher. Most people, about 80%, have mild to moderate symptoms and don't need any help. But 20% are more severe and need some medical intervention of medication, oxygen or hospitalization. And, although the death rate is only 2-3% overall, it is up



to 30% or higher the older you get and the more medical problems you have.

Please Make the Holidays Safer:

As the Holidays approach we are asking everyone to do things a bit differently. The larger the family gathering, the higher your chances of being exposed to the virus. Try to keep your family gatherings to those that already live in your household or just the people you already interact with and already do life with.

If you are ill or have any symptoms, do NOT attend any gathering or be around other people. If you have COVID and have not met CDC criteria for release from isolation, or you have been around anyone with COVID, or who has been ill in the previous 14 days, do NOT attend any gathering or be around other people.

If you do plan to be with others outside your household, then:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 arm lengths) away from the other people and wear

a mask.

- Wear a face covering or mask that is at least 2 layers of cloth and covers your nose and your mouth. It should fit snugly against the sides of your face and should wrap under your chin. This is about protecting others from your germs.

- Wash your hands often, with soap and water for 20 seconds. If water is not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Wash or sanitize your hands before you touch your face or remove your mask.

If you are attending a gathering, please consider the following:

- Have the gathering outside. If it is inside, open windows and leave doors open to keep air moving.

- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups and silverware.

- Wear a mask. Wear the mask when dishing food. Keep the mask safely stored (not laying on the table) when you are eating or drinking.

- Consider using disposable items such as paper plates and glasses, and single serving condiments like ketchup, salt and pepper.

Governor reappoints Sjolander of Dayton to Coastal Water Authority

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed Jon "Mark" Sjolander to the Coastal Water Authority Board of Directors for a term set to expire on April 1, 2022. The authority is a conservation and reclamation district located within Harris, Chambers, and Liberty Counties, and has the power to transport and deliver water inside and outside the authority, to acquire and construct all necessary properties and facilities necessary for such purposes.



Jon "Mark" Sjolander

Jon "Mark" Sjolander of Dayton is the owner and president of Sjolander Resources and Development, LLC. He is a director on the Liberty County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors, vice-president of the Liberty County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and a member of the Southwest Association of Rail Shippers and the Trinity Valley CCA Board of Directors. Sjolander received a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University.

- Avoid food preparation areas - It is not the preparing of the foods, it is the talking, visiting and closeness as we prepare the foods that helps spread the virus.

- If you choose to share food, have 1 person serving that is wearing gloves and a mask.

- Clean frequently touched surfaces often (door handles, counter tops, backs of chairs).

After the Gathering: Consider staying in quarantine for 14 days,

particularly if you have traveled, or have been around travelers, or were around others not from your household. At a minimum, be vigilant about keeping your distance from others and wearing a mask properly. Everyone should monitor themselves for symptoms for 2 weeks after the gathering. If anyone does get ill, even mild illness, please let the others at the gathering know and consider getting tested.

The Path to a Healthy Pregnancy

BAYTOWN - The early stage of pregnancy, the first two to eight weeks after conception, is a critical time for fetal development—when a baby's facial features, brain, spinal column, heart and kidneys begin to form.

"Because you may not realize you're pregnant until three weeks or more after conception, your health status before pregnancy is key," said Dr. Faith Ighoyivwi, obstetrician-gynecologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "Caring for yourself before you conceive can help you avoid complications like preeclampsia (high blood pressure), gestational diabetes and preterm delivery, and reduce your chances for having a baby with birth defects."

The pathway to a healthy baby begins with a healthy mom, and the journey starts long before a positive pregnancy test. If you're thinking about having a baby, Ighoyivwi offers suggestions to help ensure good health for both you and your future little one.

Ighoyivwi says women should begin their pregnancy journey by visiting their doctor for a preconception visit. This checkup includes a complete physical exam and blood tests to look for infections and your immunity to certain diseases like rubella and chickenpox.

"Your doctor will update your vaccinations and discuss any medical issues, your medications,



Dr. Faith Ighoyivwi

family history, body weight, fitness level and lifestyle. It's a good idea to schedule a trip to your dentist now to have any needed X-rays or repair work done," Ighoyivwi said.

Eating a well-balanced diet that includes a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and protein-rich foods like lean meats and fish is very important. Starting your pregnancy at a healthy weight can reduce your risk for complications like preeclampsia, gestational diabetes or a difficult delivery. Cut back on caffeine by limiting or avoiding coffee, tea, sodas, chocolate and certain medications.

Studies show that women who don't get enough folic acid, a B vitamin, are more likely to have babies with neural tube defects, such as spina bifida or anencephaly. "Because the neural tube, which becomes your baby's spinal cord and brain, forms within the first three weeks of pregnancy, it's critical you get enough folic acid before you conceive. Take a daily

supplement or a multivitamin with 400 micrograms of folic acid," Ighoyivwi said.

When pregnant, women should get at least 30 minutes of exercise on most, if not all, days of the week. Being active before you conceive will help you improve your fitness, get down to a healthy weight, reduce stress, and gain strength and balance. Continuing to exercise during your pregnancy can reduce your chances for developing preeclampsia and gestational diabetes. It can help ease constipation, varicose veins, backaches and fatigue.

Ighoyivwi says quitting bad habits like smoking, drinking alcohol or abusing drugs, is essential. They can cause miscarriage, premature birth, infant death, birth defects, and growth and learning problems. Ask your doctor about programs to help you quit.

If you're thinking about having a baby, make the effort now to seek preconception care and improve your lifestyle to give your child his or her best start.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital 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



Dr. Faith Ighoyivwi says "The pathway to a healthy baby begins with a healthy mom."

equipment (PPE) while providing patient care

Asking all patients and visitors to wear masks while any staff member is in the patient room

Reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing

Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces

The Houston Methodist Childbirth Center at Baytown provides advanced obstetrics services, including prenatal education and childbirth classes, neonatology and pediatric support teams and lactation education. Dr. Ighoyivwi and fellow OB/GYN specialist Dr. Paul Redman provide compassionate, expert care in treating the full range of OB/GYN conditions, such as menopause and hormone replacement therapy, pelvic pain, ovarian cysts, abnormal uterine bleeding

and contraceptive care. To schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown, or call 281-420-5760.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with quality medical care since opening its doors in 1948. The hospital has grown throughout the years with the community, providing comprehensive care at all stages of life. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides some of the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate and patient-centered care. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.