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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562



**IN THE STARS**

**COVID-19**  
Cases as of  
January 1, 2021

**HOUSTON AREA**  
19 COUNTIES

378,150 POSITIVE  
4,266 DEATHS  
308,860 RECOVERED

**TEXAS**

1,779,595 POSITIVE  
28,253 DEATHS  
1,435,164 RECOVERED

**UNITED STATES**

20,108,375 POSITIVE  
347,577 DEATHS  
--- RECOVERED

**WORLDWIDE**

83,924,941 POSITIVE  
1,826,176 DEATHS  
47,261,824 RECOVERED

**BIRTHDAYS**

Jan 10-William H. Smith  
Tristan Brumfield  
Jan 11-Tracey Browder  
Elizabeth Bulanek  
Jan 12-Dick Emery  
Veronica Henry  
Jan 13-Hunter Bradford  
Antonio Hernandez  
Jan 14-Harold Havard  
Haley Bradford  
Jan 15-JoAnn Johnson

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Jan 9-Vernon & Allie Skrabanek  
Jan 11-C.J. & Retha Meineke  
Jan 12-Troy & MaryAnn McCarty  
Jan 14-Mr. & Mrs. Connie Clark  
John & Verna Lee Shipp  
Jan 15-Lee Roy & Lydia Moore

**DEATHS**

Hugh Lee Baker, Jr. 87, Crosby  
Mary Elizabeth Cornelison, 88, Houston  
John Dennis Cotharn, 93, Channelview  
Jamie Mechelle McDonald-Fininis, 42, Crosby  
Kenneth R. McVay, 57, Baytown  
Frankie Harris Reyes, Sr., 74

# Crosby Cougars romp to semi-finals

When Crosby Cougars surprised the undefeated Huntsville Hornets 32 to 29 in overtime by a field goal, it was against a team that had not experienced more than a single touchdown against them per game.

Then they took on the Marshall Buffalos at Turner Field who boasted consecutive State finals and a 42 to 21 drubbing of the Cougars in a 2016 play-off. But the game last Friday ended 37 to 28 in favor of the Cougars with four of the Cougar touchdowns scored in the fourth quarter.

So the implication is simple, the Crosby Cougars are an improved team. This next game is not only a showdown between teams that have improved during the season distinguished themselves but a challenge to their coaching leadership as well. Jerry Prieto said, "Extremely proud of

See Crosby Cougars Romp, Page 6



QB #2 Deniques Dunn passes for TD with protection from #55 Tyler Thomas, late in the 4th quarter.



Running Back #1 Reggie Branch sprints toward the goal line, with blocking help from #55 Tyler Thomas. Crosby had 7.12 yards per rush, FB Marshall had 2.33.

Ruben Saucedo Photos

## COVID19 shots now available

### Houston Methodist Leads Vaccine Roll Out

BAYTOWN — (January 4, 2021) — Long time Baytonian and conservationist Eddie Gray received his COVID-19 vaccine at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital on Monday, January 4, becoming the first Baytown area resident to receive the shot as part of "Phase 1B" of the state's vaccine roll out.

Houston Methodist on January 4 began vaccinating patients who are 75 and older and have had any contact in the last two years with a Houston Methodist facility. Dr. Greg Terry, Houston Methodist primary care physician,

See VACCINE AVAILABLE, page 6

## County bus service hits 1 million riders



HARRIS COUNTY — December 2020 brought a milestone achievement for Harris County Transit's (HCT) Fixed Route bus service. They achieved their 1,000,000-passenger boarding milestone! The passenger boarding count commenced with the start-up on July 28, 2008 through December 16, 2020. Service began with a two-route system in Baytown and has grown into a twelve-route system serving 185 route miles in east Harris County, with

3,685,428 total miles driven since 2008. During the COVID-19 shut down, HCT has maintained the same level of service, and ridership has only decreased by seven percent. Nationwide, other transit agencies have had to shut down or reduce services and many have seen as much as a 50%-60% drop in ridership. All of the Harris County Transit services are following the Regional SITSAFE program to ensure maximum safety for passengers and drivers.

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## Judge Lucia Bates holds Truancy Workshop

BAYTOWN, TEXAS- The Honorable Lucia Bates recently held a Virtual Truancy Workshop with administrators and staff from 10 local school districts in the surrounding area. There were over 147 participants. The Harris County District Attorney's Office along with the County TRIAD Program Specialists were on hand to answer questions and gave helpful advice to the attendees. Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, a dialogue was necessary to address the challenges that school districts are facing. "Truancy has always been a challenge for all school districts but it is more so now, when we are all navigating uncharted waters due



JUDGE LUCIA BATES

to the unprecedented situation that we are living," said Judge Bates. The Virtual Truancy Workshop helped to answer many questions that lingered.

Judge Lucia Bates is serving her first term as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2. Her fellow peers recently elected her to be their representative on the Juvenile Board.

## One dead, one seriously injured in Christmas wreck

Deputies with the Harris County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a report of a fatal crash in the 21,200 block of FM 2100 on at about 2:50 a.m. Christmas day.

According to Deputy D. Dunn, accident investigator, a blue BMW was traveling northbound in the 21,200 block of FM 2100, operated by Joshua Rene Newkirk.

Traveling southbound in the 21,200 block of FM 2100 was a black Chevrolet driven by Lamarcus Donahue.

Measurements determined Newkirk failed to drive in a single lane and may have been speeding. Evidence indicates

that Newkirk struck the left front of Donahue's Chevrolet with the left front of his BMW.

Donahue was transported from the scene by Life Flight helicopters following attendance by ambulance crews to Hermann Memorial Hospital with serious bodily injuries.

Newkirk sustained life threatening injuries, and died at the scene. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division.

Witnesses are asked to contact the Harris County Sheriff's Office at (713) 221-6000.

## Woman accused in death of 4-yr-old

HUFFMAN - Houston Police Dept. Patrolmen took a woman into custody in connection with a deceased 4 year old last Saturday.

On November 29 a child was discovered dead at about 2:00 p.m. in the Lake Wood Townhomes on FM 1960 in Huffman.

Originally, a report indicated that the child had died of cardiac arrest but now, thanks to forensic science authorities indicated it died of blunt force trauma. Police allege that Melynda Davis, 41, abused the child and tried to hide evidence of the crimes.

The judge hearing the case indicated that several lacerations and bruises on the body of the child and that the child had been dead longer than the couple in custody of it were willing to admit.

Someone allegedly removed bloodstained clothing from the child's body, perhaps to hide abuse.

An ambulance had taken the child to HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood Hospital that Sunday. It was pronounced dead while at the hospital.

Police say evidence was found



MELYNDA DAVIS

consistent with abuse and hiding evidence from police of that abuse. The autopsy has yet to be concluded and charges may be even more serious.

She will be brought to court on Wednesday for arraignment. The father of the child and others were brought in for questioning on November 29.

The incident remains under investigation and anyone with additional information is asked to contact HPD Homicide at (713) 308-3600 or Crime Stoppers (713) 222-TIPS.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### Covid-19 Vaccine available in Chambers County

**CHAMBERS COUNTY** – The COVID-19 vaccine is currently available at four locations according to the Chambers County Public Health Department. However, following the Governor's guidelines, it is currently only being administered to persons in a 1A category. This includes medical personnel, first responders, and nursing home residents. When more vaccine is available, persons in the 1B category will be able to contact their provider, doctor, hospital or pharmacy to schedule an appointment.

Chambers County received 1000 doses, and these went to HEB in Mont Belvieu, Chambers County Public Health, Riceland in Winnie, and Brookshire Brothers in Winnie.

More vaccine is expected next month, according to the CPH department.

#### Chambers County Quarantine Guidance

**CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS** – On Wednesday, December 3, 2020 the CDC released a document titled "Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2" which allows local public health authorities to determine and establish quarantine options within their jurisdiction.

The overall guidance from the CDC regarding quarantine periods has not changed.

A 14-day quarantine period to control the spread of disease in the community remains the Gold Standard. However, the CDC has provided local authorities options to shorten quarantine as an alternative strategy based on their circumstances and resources.

This strategy includes: Those who are on quarantine and who do not have symptoms for 10 days can be released after day 10.

Those who are on quarantine and who do not have symptoms for 7 days, AND have a negative rt-PCR or Antigen test within 48 hours before the 7th day can be released after day 7. They may not be released before day 7.

Individuals must continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, consistently wear masks/face coverings and strictly adhere to all public health interventions for the full 14-day period, regardless of the quarantine strategy employed.

The purpose of quarantine is to keep someone who has been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. It helps prevent the spread of

Continued on Page 6

## Pardon for former Congressman

Back in my day we had a congressman synonymous with public corruption, wasteful abuse and fraud: and we liked it.

Stephen Ernest Stockman served as the U.S. Representative for Texas's 9th congressional district from 1995 to 1997 and for Texas's 36th congressional district from 2013 to 2015, the first term of District 36.

Now all you have is Bryan Babin, sometimes called the first Congressman in support of President Trump's efforts to overthrow the will of the voters; but let's face it. He isn't a crook.

Stockman ran on a Re-Elect Steve Stockman Campaign even though District 36 was brand new; made from the endless and



STEVE STOCKMAN

jerrymandering redistricting disputes in the Texas legislature that will happen again this year. No one takes full advantage of voter ignorance like that anymore.

Stockman ran in the Republican primary for the United States Senate in

the 2014 election but lost to incumbent Senator John Cornyn. Some of the activities of that Senate bid began a series of investigations that would lead to his conviction in 2018 of 23 felony counts related to money laundering and misuse of campaign contributions.

Stockman's last-minute decision to challenge Cornyn in the Republican primary for Senate was "sparked in part by Cornyn's role in helping end" the federal shutdown. But, Stockman pulled in the abortion card for Republican support. When Senator Cornyn was asked what the current Federal law on abortion was Cornyn recounted implications of Roe V. Wade. Stockman's campaign called the

statement a capitulation on abortion by Cornyn. Even if Cornyn was stating a fact, he didn't think we would like it.

That Senate bid however against the best lawyer in the State would belly out, losing by 40% of Republican voters. Funding with fraud caught up with Steve Stockman in March of 2017 as he was given a 10 year sentence and ordered to pay \$1 million in restitution.

We breathlessly await repayment of that money. Stockman was held in federal prison in Beaumont; but his sentence was commuted by President Donald Trump on December 22, 2020.

House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Subcommittee on

Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Energy, and Subcommittee on Environment were Stockman's playground. Each of these committee services raise questions as we later learn of certain inclinations.

Why back in 1995, Stockman proudly helped launch the federal government's shutdown. A 2010 Congressional Research Service report indicates the 1995-1996 government shutdowns impacted all sectors of the economy, health and welfare services for military veterans. U.S. tourism and airline industries incurred millions of dollars in losses;

See Congressman Continued on Page 6

## First baby of 2021 in Baytown



First Baby of 2021

**Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital extends a warm welcome to the first baby born at the hospital in 2021. Valeria Delacruz of Baytown gave birth to daughter, Valeria Delacruz, at 12:45 p.m. on January 1 in the hospital's Childbirth Center.**

## Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Provides Advanced COVID Treatment

**BAYTOWN** — (December 31, 2020) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital provides Baytown area patients diagnosed with COVID-19 a new weapon in the fight against the potentially deadly virus.

Following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval in December of an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a therapy consisting of monoclonal antibody—referred to as Bamlanivimab—in treating the coronavirus, Houston Methodist Baytown opened a new infusion unit dedicated to providing the intravenous therapy for adults who are at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms.

Located on the third floor of the hospital's main building off Garth Rd, the

clinic provides the experimental therapy that has shown to be effective in preventing mild COVID-19 infections from getting worse and helps reduce hospitalizations by interfering with the ability of the virus to infect the patient's cells.

While the treatment is considered "experimental," researchers and the FDA are confident regarding the safety and effectiveness of the monoclonal antibody cocktail that is similar to the treatment President Donald Trump received in October.

"This therapy is potentially a game changer in the treatment of COVID-19 patients in terms of being able to eliminate the virus from the patient's system and prevent them from needing to be hospi-

## Chambers County restricts businesses

Chambers County Forced to Reduce Business Capacity Due to TSA Hospitalization Rate

**CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS** – On Monday, December 21, 2020 Chambers County officials became aware that the hospitalization rate in Trauma Service Area R (of which the County is a member) had surpassed the limit set forth by Texas Governor Greg Abbott in Executive Order GA-32.

Per GA-32, areas with high hospitalizations are defined as those who have had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent.

Because TSA R has had sustained high hospitalization rates, all businesses currently operating at a 75 percent occupancy rate in Chambers County must reduce their occupancy to 50 percent, effective Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Exceptions to this rule may be found on the Governor's website: gov.texas.gov. Additionally – and due to this hospitalization rate – TABC has mandated that all bars and similar establishments in Chambers County close. Further, all elective sur-

geries are prohibited in Chambers County (and all other Counties which are part of TSA R) until further notice.

While the Governor and TABC both offer an appeal process for this reduction of capacity, Chambers County does not qualify. Per the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), a County must have fewer than 30 total cases of COVID-19 reported over the last 14 days. Chambers County has averaged 25 cases per day for the past 14 days, thus far surpassing the minimum allowed.

"The success of Chambers County businesses and continuity of our resident's livelihood is one of our utmost concerns," said Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia. "However, protecting the lives of citizens is our top priority and this mandate from the Governor's office is intended to do that."

With increasing case numbers and high regional hospitalization rates, Chambers County residents are encouraged to be mindful when making decisions regarding their own health and safety.

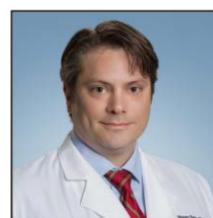
"The things that we do affect those around us," continued Judge Sylvia. "With Christmas quickly approaching, I'm encouraging each of you to include safety in your holiday planning. Social distance, wear face coverings and wash your hands regularly. Remember: slowing the spread of COVID-19 is the best way to get these businesses reopened at 75 percent capacity."

Per GA-32, this rollback in occupancy can be reversed once hospitalization rates in TSA R have been 15 percent or less for at least seven consecutive days.

Chambers County and Chambers County Public Health will continue to monitor COVID-19 data and will update residents as more information becomes available.

For more information regarding this update, please visit the following websites:

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov
- Texas Department of State Health Services: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/
- TABC: https://www.tabc.texas.gov/coronavirus/ga-32/



DR. SHAWN TITTLE

talized," said Dr. Shawn Tittle, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital chief medical officer/chief quality officer. "The idea is to reduce the need for further medical treatment."

High risk patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms are administered the therapy as soon as possible after a positive COVID-19 test result and within 10 days of symptom onset. High risk patients

are defined as those meeting at least one of the following criteria and who have:

- A body mass index (BMI) greater than 35
- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Immunosuppressive disease

Patients over 65 and those over 55 who have a history of cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, COPD or other chronic respiratory diseases are also eligible for the treatment.

An EUA refers to drugs that have not undergone the same type of review as an FDA-approved product. Because the FDA approval process is quite lengthy and given the critical nature of the pandemic, the emergency authorization

was granted to make the therapy available as quickly as possible to help prevent the need for hospitalization.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is offering its full range of outpatient and inpatient medical services during the pandemic and is taking every necessary precaution 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-

See COVID Treatment, Page 6

★ OPINION PAGE ★

**OPINION**  
By **BILL KING**



*My COVID Vaccine Trial Experience*

As some of you may have seen in the media, I am participating in the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine trial and just received my second injection on Tuesday (December 22). The AstraZeneca vaccine is one of four vaccines that are in late-stage development. Two of the others, Pfizer and Moderna, have already been authorized by the FDA for distribution. The final test results and approvals of the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will likely come in January.

In these late-stage trials, some of the participants are given the vaccine and some are given a placebo, i.e., a harmless but ineffective substance. In my trial the placebo is saline. The researchers then track the participants over a two-year period to see how many in each group (called "arms") come down with the virus and if there are any side effects. The trials are referred to as "double-blind" because neither the participant nor the person administering the vaccine knows whether the injection given is the vaccine or the placebo.

Typically, the participant will not be told whether they got the vaccine or placebo until the end of the trial. However, in the case of COVID, as soon as the participant qualifies for one of the approved vaccines, they can find out which one they received so they can get the vaccine if they received the placebo.

Normally, the two groups are about equal so your chances of getting the vaccine are about 50-50. However, in my trial, two-thirds of the participants received the vaccine and one-third received the placebo. But because these vaccines are so immunologically robust, most people have some reaction to them, giving you some clue as to whether it was the vaccine or the placebo.

However, guessing whether you got the vaccine on the basis of the reaction is not foolproof. In my trial, a doctor who was a participant had no reaction at all. Since he was a frontline health-care worker he qualified for the vaccine and they unmasked his results. To his surprise he had received the vaccine and had a high level of antibodies.

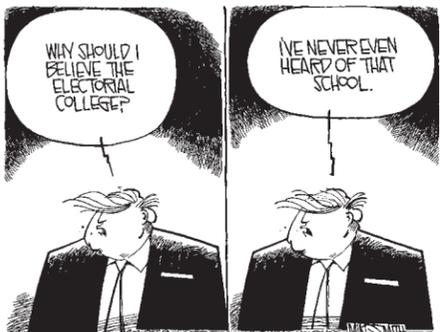
Similarly, there is a weird phenomenon known as the "placebo response" in which participants who received the placebo report responses consistent with receiving the active drug. This Stat article describes how this phenomenon may affect the COVID vaccine trials. The phenomenon is not well understood it is generally thought to be psychosomatic but also may just be coincidental. For example, in Pfizer trial in the 65-85 age group, the number of people reporting more body aches was only slightly higher in the vaccine arm than in the placebo arm. I can tell you from being in that age bracket I do not find that surprising!

I had a fairly strong reaction to both injections. I felt fatigued and lethargic on both occasions. On the second day after the first injection, I slept for five hours during the day which is highly unusual for me. I also had very noticeable body aches after each injection, with those following the second injection being worse than the first. I had a mild headache and chills both times but never recorded any fever. All of my reactions cleared within about 48-60 hours of receiving the injections.

I did not take anything to ameliorate the reactions because I wanted to be able to report exactly what I was feeling to the investigators. However, I would recommend that any of you who receive one of the vaccines take something like acetaminophen to ease the reactions.

That being said, the reactions are a good thing. They are a sign that your body's immune system is ramping up to fight what it thinks is an invasion by the COVID virus and in doing so, is prepping itself for when and if the real thing comes along.

I will keep you up to date as the trial progresses. Once I am eligible for one of the vaccines, I will ask the investigators to unmask my information and let you know if I got the vaccine or the placebo. However, based on my reaction, and assuming I am not psychosomatic – a debatable proposition to be sure – I think it is likely I got the vaccine. If so, my immunity should be at full strength about 10 days after the second injection, which would ironically be January 1. Not a bad way to start New Year, especially considering that millions of other Americans are not far behind.



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By **Carrie Classon**

*"Swedish Surprise"*

My 2021 calendar is hanging from the closet door. Every year I've lived in this house, I've gotten a cloth calendar, hung from a dowel. My mother's mother always had a cloth calendar hanging in the farmhouse kitchen. As soon as the year was over, the calendar would be conscripted into use, usually to cover cinnamon rolls as they rose, to keep them moist until they were large enough to put into the oven.

Arriving at the farmhouse and seeing "1963" covering a pile of soon-to-be-baked sweet rolls was a wonderful sight and I will forever associate those cloth calendars with the anticipation of sweet things. I guess that's why I have one now. It's good to anticipate sweet things in the coming year.

My 2021 calendar is from Sweden. This means all the months are written in Swedish, surrounded by wildflowers identified in Swedish. My grandmother was a Swede, so I thought this was appropriate. But the real reason I ordered the calendar was that it was the only one I could find with legible dates.

Cloth calendars have apparently come into vogue and I had more choices than in past years, many in jazzy and colorful patterns. Unfortunately, the graphic designers responsible for these works of art did not seem to expect that a person might use the calendar for actual reference. I use the calendar to find the date—an apparently antiquated idea.

All the calendars I found would require a strenuous search to locate the month of April amidst all the artwork and no easy way to tell how many weeks there were from April until a date in May. And so, while they were attractive, the calendars wouldn't be very useful until they were used to cover sweet rolls.

But the Swedes have a reputation for being a practical bunch and this calendar looked more legible in Swedish than any I found in English, so I ordered it.

It wasn't until it arrived that the problem became apparent.

Instead of seven columns for the seven days of the week, there were eight, with an additional column on the left for half the months and on the right for the rest. Someone finally explained that this column told me what week of the year it was. Saturday is in red, so it is possible to get one's bearings—but not without considerable effort.

But even before the calendar arrived, the year seemed filled with more uncertainty than any I can remember.

There is a carelessness confidence that comes with the making of plans. In the past, I have looked at my calendar on the wall and imagined I had some idea of what would happen in the weeks to come. Because the dates were neatly lined up, I couldn't imagine life becoming disordered.

This year, that whole idea seems a little preposterous.

Because I never really knew what would happen in the coming week—that was the lesson learned in 2020. This year, I won't be nearly so confident as *Januari* turns to *Februari* and then *Mars*.

Of course, I am optimistic, as I always am. I am hoping this new year will bring sweet things. But now I'm thinking having my weeks laid out oddly—with the months written in a foreign language, surrounded by flowers I can't identify—may be an appropriate way to look at the coming year.

This year may require some translation. It may require a little study. This whole year is a big Swedish surprise, waiting to happen.

And maybe that's not such a bad thing. Till next time, Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Chris Cobler**



*New year can't yet shake focus from COVID-19*

It's a new year, but the news out of the capital continues to focus on COVID-19.

Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last week that "a significant portion of vaccines distributed across Texas might be sitting on hospital shelves as opposed to being given to vulnerable Texans. The state urges vaccine providers to quickly provide all shots. We get plenty more each week."

Many health providers and county health department officials responded that they were working as quickly as they could to give shots to front-line health care workers and lacked the doses necessary to move to what Texas calls phase 1B recipients. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, phase 1B recipients include those 65 and older and those 16 and older with medical conditions that would put them at greater risk from COVID-19.

Various state news outlets reported Texans in phase 1B could not find any vaccine available to them yet. The state health department encouraged the public to check its website weekly for updates on vaccine availability.

In the meantime, people should continue wearing a face mask when in public and follow all social distancing guidelines, health officials said.

**AG BLOCKS AUSTIN**

The city of Austin and Travis County tried to impose New Year's weekend restrictions on restaurants, but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Gov. Abbott won the final round of a legal battle.

The local officials' order limited restaurants to drive-thru, curbside pickup, takeout and delivery services between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION  
State Capital  
  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Chris Cobler**

from Dec. 31 to Jan. 3. Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Andy Brown imposed the three-day restriction to limit social gatherings over the holiday weekend after the state reported a record number of hospitalizations and new cases.

"Mayor Adler and Judge Brown do not have the authority to flout Gov. Abbott's executive orders by shutting down businesses in Travis County and our state's capital city," Attorney General Paxton said in a statement.

District Judge Amy Clark Meachum denied Paxton's motion, saying the state had not shown "imminent and irreparable harm." The AG immediately asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to block the order, but that court rejected his appeal. Paxton then went to the Texas Supreme Court for an emergency stay of the order. The high court granted the injunction late Jan. 1 without comment.

**FOOD BENEFITS INCREASED**

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide \$204 million in emergency SNAP food benefits during January as the state continues its response to the pandemic. Recipients of the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also will see an additional 15 percent in their total benefits in January because of recently passed federal legislation.

"As we continue through the new year, these benefits offer nutritious food to those who need it most, especially in these trying times" Wayne Salter, of HHS, said in a statement.

The state received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum allowable amount of SNAP benefits to recipients based on family size. The emergency January allotments are in addition to the almost \$2 billion in benefits previously provided to Texans between April and December.

Beginning in January, recipients will receive a 15 percent increase in their total benefits, which will continue monthly until June 2021. The additional 15 percent increase and the emergency allotment amount should appear in recipients' accounts by Jan. 23. Administered by the state agency, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to 1.7 million eligible low-income families and individuals in Texas.

Texans in need may apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com).

**'I KNOW CHUCK'**

The new year brought another California company's headquarters to Texas.

Financial services firm Charles Schwab recently announced a \$26 billion merger with TD Ameritrade. As part of the merger, the combined company's headquarters officially moved Jan. 1 from San Francisco to Schwab's \$100 million campus in Denton County.

In a press release, Schwab said the Westlake location and facility in Denton were chosen and designed as a more centrally located hub for Schwab's nationwide operations. Before the merger, Schwab had more than 2,500 employees at its Westlake campus, and about 2,000 employees worked at TD Ameritrade's location in Southlake.

Gov. Abbott welcomed Charles Schwab in a tweet last week and reassured Texans that the influx of California companies wouldn't change the Lone Star state.

"I've talked to Chuck, I know Chuck," Abbott tweeted. "He wants to keep Texas, Texas."

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at [cobler@texaspress.com](mailto:cobler@texaspress.com).

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# ★ OBITUARIES

## HUGH LEE BAKER, JR.

Hugh Lee Baker Jr., 87, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2020. He was born August 3, 1933, in Crosby, Texas, to the late Hugh Lee Baker Sr. and Nannah Strawbridge Baker. He graduated from Crosby High School and received his B.A. Business Degree with a minor in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin in 1955. He was a proud member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

Hugh was a successful multi-business owner and a man who pursued many interests. He loved worldwide travel, snow skiing, ice skating, sailing and playing the piano. His love of flying began as a pilot for the U.S. Air Force and he later flew his own plane as a hobby.

He was a compassionate and giving man. Hugh's passion in life was caring for others, especially his extended family. He loved his nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

Hugh was a loving son, brother, uncle, great-uncle, great-great uncle, friend and



source of wisdom to many who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister Nannah Casey, his brother-in-law Lawrence Casey; and his niece Jannabeth Casey.

He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory his brothers and sister; a sister in law & brother in law, cousins, nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; great-great-nieces and nephews and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

There is no memorial service. To honor his memory the family request we all do something kind and unexpected for someone else

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## MARY ELIZABETH CORNELISON

Mary Elizabeth Cornelison, 88, passed away January 1, 2021 in Houston, Texas. Mary was born in Houston on October 12, 1932. She married her true love, Glen Austin Cornelison on March 5, 1948 and they enjoyed many wonderful years together raising their children, before his passing. Mary was a faithful member of Memorial Baptist Church in Channelview for many years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, Morris Beck and Betty (Bond) Dresch; husband, Glen Austin Cornelison; and son, Curtis Lee Cornelison. She is lovingly survived by her children, Cynthia Louise Cornelison, Clark Leslie Cornelison, Craig Lindsey Cornelison, Clay Lindel Cornelison and wife Marsha; grandchildren, Clark Leslie Cornelison II and wife Katie Lynn, Christopher Ryan Cornelison and wife Gabriela, Blake Randall Powers, Ashley Nicole Cornelison; great-grandchildren,



Kaydence Lynn Cornelison, Christopher Ryan Cornelison II, Clark Leslie Cornelison III, Carson Reed Cornelison; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for services on Saturday, January 9, 2021, beginning with visitation at 11:00 A.M. and a celebration of her life officiated by Rev. Ken Durham is to follow at 12:00 P.M. noon in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.



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Houston, TX 77015  
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## JOHN DENNIS COTHARN

John Dennis Cotharn, 93, went to be with the Lord on December 28, 2020. He was born on November 3, 1927 to parents John Wicks and Lula (Amason) Cotharn in Washington on the Brazos, Texas. John proudly served his country in the United States Army. Once he finished his service to our country, John worked for Champion Paper Mill as a shift supervisor for 39 dedicated years. John married the love of his life, Rita, in July of 1950 and spent 64 loving years together before her passing in 2014.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rita Cotharn; and sister, Velma Mae Knox. He is lovingly survived by his brother-in-law, Leland Knox; as well as nieces, nephews, other extended family members, and friends.

The family invites you to join them for a visitation at South Drive Baptist Church on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. with funeral services to immediately follow at



10:00 A.M. John will privately be laid to rest next to his wife at Wheat Cemetery in Millican, Texas under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made in memory of John to the Houston SPCA (7007 Old Katy Road, Houston TX 77024-2109) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (PO Box 50, Memphis TN 38101-9929).



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## JAMIE MECHELLE MCDONALD-FININIS

Jamie Mechelle McDonald-Fininis, 42, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. She was born October 23, 1978, in Houston, Texas to James Edward McDonald and Marilyn Rae McDonald. From the time she was 17, she worked at Southwest Oilfield Products, sweeping floors and cleaning. Over the years, she worked her way up to logistics manager and ended her career after roughly 20 years. She spent most of her time taking care of those she loved and attending meetings at Baytown's NA group KIC. Her pride and joy was her sweet grandbaby, who she adored dearly. She was proud of her family, friends, and will be dearly missed.

She is preceded in death by her sister Callie Rae Carlton-Soffes, Grandmother Rachel Lou Greer, Grandfather, Travis Wayne Greer, loving Uncle Alley Strokos, Cousin Randy Strokos, Grandmother Brucie McDonald, Grandfather John McDonald, Aunt Polly, and Uncle Marvin Fryman, Uncle Raymond McDonald, Uncle John McDonald Jr. In the year 2020, she lost Uncle Stanley Buckler to COVID-19, Aunt Debbie McCarty, Uncle Ray Buckler, and Uncle Paul Blankenship.

She is survived by her mother and father, James and Marilyn McDonald, brother, Jerry McDonald Harris, daughter, Rylee Rae McDonald



Fininis, son, William "Alex" Alexander Fininis III, ex-husband, William Alexander Fininis III, granddaughter, Jasmine RaeAnn Robins, nieces, Chelsea Karwowski, and husband Dave Karwowski, Taylor Beidekapp, Kori Harris. Nephews, Ty Harris, and wife, Hailey Harris, Cameron Soffes, and wife Stephanie Soffes. Great nieces and Nephews, Laikynn Karwowski, Bradley Soffes, Jackson Soffes, and Rilynn Karwowski. Along with many many distant family and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, from 10:00am until 12:00pm with funeral services following right after. Internment is in Sterling White Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Sterling White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562. To offer condolences to the family, please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com)

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## KENNETH R. MCVAY

Kenneth R. McVay was born on October 7, 1963 in Baytown, Texas. He passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 19, 2020. His parents were W. Lloyd McVay and Nelda McVay. He was the first of two children. Kenneth attended the University of Houston, earned his Bachelors in Math and Civil Engineering, and went on to obtain his Masters of Physical Science (Geology). After graduation, he began a career as a structural engineer and high school and middle school math teacher.

He was a member of the Chi Epsilon of Civil Engineering, was a Coach, member and teacher of the George H. Gentry Mustang Family.

Among his hobbies were target shooting, lock picking, painting pastels, leather working, classical and folk guitar, coaching and problem solving. He also enjoyed listening to country and folk/ Irish music.

Kenneth is preceded in death by his mother Nelda McVay. He is survived by his wife of 35 years Robin Creed



McVay; Father, W. Lloyd McVay; brother, Randall McVay and wife Juanita Blue McVay and nephew Philip Blue, and a host of many friends.

Per Mr. McVay's wishes, no services are scheduled at this time. Mr. McVay's friends and family are encouraged to leave a loving tribute to share a favorite memory for Mr. McVay's family below in the "Memories" section.

The staff of Earthman Baytown are honored to be entrusted with the care of Mr. McVay. If our staff can be of any assistance, please contact us at 281-422-8181.

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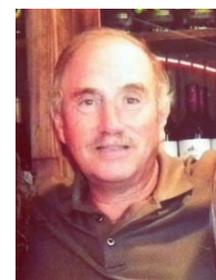
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## FRANKIE HARRIS REYES, SR.

Frankie Harris Reyes Sr., 74 years old, passed away on Monday, 12/21/2020. He was the husband of Maria De La Luz Gonzalez Reyes and shared 40 wonderful years of marriage. Born in Houston, Texas, he was the son of Jose Camarillo Reyes and Mary Irene Harris. He attended Furr High School and worked with his wife at Gulf States Toyota in Spring, Texas before retiring in August of 2012.

He was a member of St. Philip of Jesus Catholic Church and the Cursillo organization. Frankie embraced the world and all it had to offer. He enjoyed traveling, history, sports and practicing his faith by teaching catechism on Sunday's for the past 40 years. He will be remembered for his witty jokes, kindness, and giving heart.

Frankie is survived by his wife, Maria; siblings Jimmie Joan Longoria, Linda Martinez, Arthur Reyes; children Elisabeth Hayden and husband Jerome Hayden, Frankie Reyes



Jr. and wife Laura Reyes, Melquisedec Reyes and wife Denise Reyes, Mireya Garcia and husband Tito Garcia, and his eleven wonderful grandchildren. He is predeceased by his late brother Joe Reyes, and lives on by a host of relatives and friends who will cherish his loving memories forever.

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## Crosby Cougars romp,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our kids. They continue to be the underdogs against undefeated teams but it hasn't phased them. They have a special bond and fight together as a family. No matter what the score was yesterday we always felt like we could win the game."

The stubborn Cougar defense stopped the Buffalos four times on downs in the first half, three of those times within the 10 yard line.

The Cougars likewise specialized in the run confusing the opposition repeatedly but only having scored one touchdown to two clean one's with extra points by the end of the third quarter.

Down 14 to 9 the Cougars watched Fort Bend's most movie celebrated team score again early in the Fourth on a Ja'vion Matthews six foot dash and again add the extra. That is when the Cougars bounded back in fury. Reggie Branch and Deniquez Dunn completed drives capped by two near thirty yard sprints into the endzone tacking on 15 points when noting that Dunn went in back to back. Finally, Crosby had a lead at 24-21.

However, it looked to be over for the Crosby team to observers when at just less than four minutes left in the Fourth, Javion Matthews streaks in from more than a third of the field out to score another touchdown for Marshall.

Deniquez Dunn would answer with a throw to Reggie Branch from near-



Crosby established itself as a team that can run this season and above we see Reggie Branch doing exactly that, outpacing the Buffalos in a dead heat to score a TD.

ly two thirds of the field out scoring a touchdown and bringing everyone up to the two minute warning.

A turnover fumble would put Crosby back in play and Reggie Branch punched in a 35 yard dash with no extra. The final play saw the Marshall quarterback looking for a receiver being sacked.

State Semi-Finals are against Liberty Hill Panthers Friday at 7:30 at Merrill Green Stadium in Bryan.

**AT RIGHT, Crosby's #7Randolph Hubbard deflects a pass thrown to Marshall's #21 Runderick Dudley**

Photos by Ruben Saucedo for the Star-Courier



## Harris County COVID Test Sites open

Whether you attended large, small or no holiday gatherings at all, everyone should get tested as soon as possible. Harris County's COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are increasing at alarming rates. New infections from holiday gatherings and travel will add to those numbers in coming weeks. In addition, many people have the virus and don't know it, 4 out of 10 people don't have any symptoms but are still contagious. They can infect family and friends who may get extremely ill or die. It's going to be a while before everyone in our community is vaccinated, so help stop the virus from spreading even more – wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance and get tested.

Testing is free and quick at HCPH test sites, you get your results in 3-5 days. There are multiple locations in the county and children can also be tested at the sites listed below. Register at [hcphtx.org](http://hcphtx.org) or call 832-927-7575.

Monday, January 4 – Saturday, January 9

• **M.O. Campbell Education Center**

Open Mon-Fri 12-7p.m.  
Open Sat (1/9) 8a.m.-3p.m.  
1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032

• **Christ the King Episcopal**

Open Mon and Wed-Fri. 8a.m.-3p.m.  
15325 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77083

• **Sonrise Community Church**

Open Mon & Tues & Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.  
5609 E Mount Houston Rd, Houston, TX 77093

• **Hosana Lutheran Church**

Open Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
16526 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77090

• **Wat Buddhavhas of Houston**

Open Mon-Thur & Sat 8am-3p.m.  
6007 Spindle Dr, Houston, TX 77086

• **Cathedral of Saint Matthew**

Open Mon-Fri 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
9101 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77037

• **Lee College**

Open Wed-Fri 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
200 Lee Dr, Baytown, TX 77520

• **Iglesia Cristo Viene**

Open Tues & Sat 8a.m. – 3 p.m.  
400 Cedar Bayou Rd, Baytown, TX 77520

• **New Hope Presbyterian Church**

Open Sat (1/9) 8a.m. – 3 p.m.  
1350 N Mason Rd, Katy, TX 77449

For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register at [www.doineadacovid19test.com](http://www.doineadacovid19test.com) or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

Monday, January 4 – Sunday, January 10

**San Jacinto College Central Campus**

Open Mon-Fri (1/4-1/8) 7a.m.-2 p.m.  
Open Sat (1/9) 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

**Katy Park**

Open Mon-Fri (1/4-1/8) 12p.m.-7p.m.  
Open Sun. (1/10) 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Pardon Congressman,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than 20% of federal contracts, representing \$3.7 billion in spending, were affected adversely. The first of the two shutdowns caused the furlough of about 800,000 workers, while the second caused about 284,000 workers to be furloughed. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stopped disease surveillance. Toxic waste cleanup at 609 sites stopped. 368 National

Park sites closed and resulted in the loss of some seven million visitors. You just can't do damage like that without a fuse, but Steve did and we backed him all the way.

He ran as an Independent candidate for Texas's 22nd congressional district, Tom DeLay's former seat in 2006. He turned in plenty of signatures to qualify to run but the Texas Secretary of State inval-

idated enough signatures to make him ineligible. Stockman registered for the special election to fill out of DeLay's term; he was one of five candidates. He finished third, with 10.75% of the vote. Who gets away with false signatures like that anymore; yeah, maybe them, but nobody has been able to prove any of that.

## Advanced COVID Treatment,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in lines to ensure social distancing

• Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces

Houston Methodist provides a wealth of coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine information at [houstonmethodist.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-resources](http://houstonmethodist.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-resources).

About Houston Method-

ist 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](http://Houstonmethodist.org/baytown).

## Quarantine Guidelines,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

disease that can occur before a person knows that they are infected, especially if they do not have symptoms.

People in quarantine should stay home, separate from others, monitor for symptoms and follow all instructions given to them by local or state public health departments.

Chambers County Public Health (CCPH) recognizes there is an increased likelihood that the shorter the quarantine duration, the higher the risk of disease exposure to others. The CDC warns that there is risk of residual post-quarantine transmission with the alternative optional strategy:

5%-12% with the 7-day strategy and 1-10% with the 10-day strategy.

Although Chambers County Public Health strongly supports the 14-day quarantine monitoring period and agree it should be maintained whenever possible, we are acknowledging the alternate strategies presented by the CDC to ensure accountability to the residents of Chambers County in weighing reduced burden of quarantine against the possibility of increased spread of disease. We will actively monitor the optional quarantine strategies by performing extensive data

analysis through epidemiological case investigations and evaluation of transmission rates. This will allow us to make informed public health recommendations and ensure local testing capacity and healthcare resources.

With evidence of widespread community transmission throughout Chambers County and a 7-day testing positivity rate of 22.2 percent, we urge you to do your part to protect yourself and each other by wearing face coverings, social distancing, hand-washing, avoiding gatherings, and environmental cleanings of frequently touched surfaces.

## COVID-19 vaccine available,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

administered the shot to Gray, 85, on the first day of eligibility for residents identified in Phase 1B of the state's distribution plan. This group consists of people age 65 or older and those with serious conditions who are at greater risk of serious effects from the coronavirus.

"I think it's very important for everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is available to them," Gray said. "I support Houston Methodist in all they are doing to get the vaccine out to everyone as soon as possible."

Vaccines are provided by invitation and appointment only. Houston Methodist is notifying eligible patients via text message to schedule their vaccine in the following order:

- Patients age 75 or older
- Patients age 65 to 74
- Patients younger than age 65 who have at least one Class 1 condition, or at least two Class 2 co-morbid conditions

**Class 1 conditions include:** cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac conditions (congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy), obesity (BMI 30 or



Eddie Gray gets his vaccination shot at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

higher), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, smoking, solid organ transplant and Type I or II diabetes. **Class 2 conditions include:** asthma, cerebrovascular disease, hypertension, use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive agents.

"Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our community and we are proud to take a leading role in offering the COVID-19 vaccine to Baytown area residents," said David Bernard, Houston Methodist Baytown CEO. "We encourage everyone to be patient as the roll out continues and get the vaccine as soon as it is available to you."

If you have questions about the vaccine, Houston Methodist provides a wealth of information at [houstonmethodist.org/](http://houstonmethodist.org/)

vaccine. **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](http://Houstonmethodist.org/baytown).

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Fergie's Baytown Bar & Grill has filed for a Change of Location to open a restaurant/bar at 3615 FM-1942. Owned by H.M. Beverage, Inc., the company's President Martin Ferguson, Vice-President Christopher Westra and Secretary Michael Davis hold a TABC Mixed Beverage Permit.

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF JACINTO CITY**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED TWO VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. 10302 MUNN - MS. ROSITA HERNANDEZ IS WANTING TO BUILD A STRUCTURE IN THE BACK OF THE LOT FACING MERCURY TO OPEN A DAY SPA BUSINESS.
2. 1106 DACUS - MR. JOSE TAMEZ IS WANTING TO HAVE A BUSINESS ON THE MERCURY SIDE AND A RESIDENCE ON THE DACUS SIDE.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

**NOTICE OF STREET ADDRESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

The street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is 13410 Holly Park Dr., Houston, Texas 77015.

**NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 ("District")

The District's administrative office is located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, Texas 77530.

**NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 ("District")

The District's administrative office is located at 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas 77015.

**NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5 is 5915 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532.

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT**

PERMIT NO. WQ0010831001

**APPLICATION.** City of Galena Park, P.O. Box 46, Galena Park, Texas 77547, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010831001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0057185) to authorize altering the metals limits. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1107 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Galena Park, in Harris County, Texas 77547. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to the Panther Creek portion of the Houston Ship Channel (Buffalo Bayou Tidal). TCEQ received this application on September 28, 2020. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Galena Park City Hall, 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.  
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afb-e468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-95.231111%2C29.735833&level=12>

The application is subject to the goals and policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program and must be consistent with the applicable Coastal Management Program goals and policies

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Galena Park at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Mark Havran, P.E., LJA Engineering, Inc., at 713-657-6014.

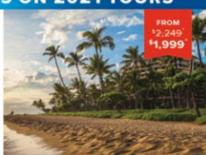
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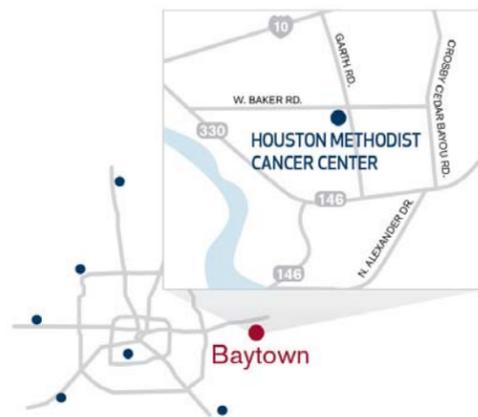
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