

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ▪ www.starcouriernews.com

VOL. 68, NO. 6 - 50¢ © Copyright 2021 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562



Community supports ROTARY benefit

Carolyn Mulloy wins Chili Feast Truck

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

THURS. FEB. 18
Crosby Chamber Luncheon
 You are invited to attend our February Luncheon & Installation of Board of Directors for 2021. Thursday, February 18th at Crosby Church. The address is 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby, Texas 77532. Lunch will be catered by IN HOUSE CHEFS and will begin at 11:30am. Due to increase in food prices our luncheon price has increased to \$20.00. Judge Lucia Bates with Harris County Pct 3 will swear in our 2021 Chamber Board of Directors.

COVID-19

Cases as of February 7, 2021

HOUSTON AREA

19 COUNTIES

530,278 POSITIVE
 5,208 DEATHS
 434,520 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,494,861 POSITIVE
 39,322 DEATHS
 2,091,113 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

27,004,529 POSITIVE
 463,433 DEATHS
 --- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

106,056,229 POSITIVE
 2,315,156 DEATHS
 59,144,675 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 12—Shelby Hodges
 Lori Osterman
 Jed Riser
 Aiana Kay Jones
 Ida Turley
 Joseph Bowen
 Feb 13—Lisa Brown
 Hannah Riser
 Tami Roe
 Christopher Salters
 Feb 14—Susy Cavazos
 Feb 15—Micheal Hance
 Lisa Henning
 Debbie Herman
 Terry Smith
 Feb 16—Sandra Gross
 Feb 17—Donnie Cravatt
 Feb 18—Fay Blackmon-Slot
 Ray Blackmon
 Rebecca Nibbe
 Mandy Carville
 Nakomi Stone
 Billy Nash

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 12—Donnie & Elonda Cravatt
 Feb 14—Larry & Jeannie Kelly

HIGHLANDS – The Rotary Club held a very successful 46th Annual Chili Feast last Saturday, in spite of the logistic problems caused by the pandemic, including the fact that they were unable to serve Chili due to restrictions on large assemblies. For the first time, the event was held at the Methodist Church, with only Rotarians present as the winning tickets were pulled from the rotating hopper.

The Chili Feast Chairman this year was the club's president-elect, Jerry Fallin, assisted by President Andy Scott and all the other Rotarians selling tickets, sponsorships, and other duties to make the event run smoothly.

Because of the pandemic, and the omission of chili this year, the club had some concern that they might not sell enough tickets to cover their expenses and have additional funds for community projects.



Chili Feast Raffle winner Carolyn Mulloy, right, with Rotary Chili Feast chair Jerry Fallin in front of her new truck, at Turner Chevrolet.



Rotarians Larry White and Diana Weaver check raffle tickets that are being pulled from the hopper at rear, by Miss Highlands Haley Maxey and Jr. Miss Highlands Aubrey Bird. See MORE on Page 6.

Highlands Rotary Chili Feast RAFFLE 2021

LIST OF WINNERS

TICKET DRAWING ORDER	PRIZE DESCRIPTION	WINNING TICKET NUMBER	NAME ON TICKET
Early Bird	\$500 Visa Gift Card	0284	KOLBY FENLEY
1 st	\$200 Gift Card	0115	SHERYL HERR
50 th	Toshiba 32" Smart TV	233	JERRY FALLIN
100 th	Portable Ice Maker	314	JERRY FALLIN
150 th	\$200 Gift Card	655	DON HILL
200 th	250 amp battery c/s	311	JACK ADCOX
250 th	Beats headphones	130	LETIA STROUTHAL
300 th	\$200 Gift Card	027	STUART NUNLEY
350 th	Fire HD 8" Tablet	630	JERRY FALLIN
400 th	65qt Arctic Cooler	366	MARSH SUTTON
450 th	Shotgun	450	JERRY FALLIN
500 th	\$200 Gift Card	628	MICHELLE BOHREK
550 th	Fire HD 10" Tablet	167	JACK ADCOX
600 th	Propane Fire Pit	700	PAULA WINTERS
650 th	GoPro Camera	145	JEREMY ROSENKRANZ
699 th	50" Roku/Smart TV	006	CRAG BEATSON
700 th	2021 Chevy Camaro or Colorado or Equinox	211	CAROLYN MULLOY

Highlands Rotary thanks everyone who helped make this 2021 Chili Feast a Success.

The official list of winners included 16 valuable prizes and the grand prize, a choice of a new 2021 Chevrolet Camaro or Colorado pick-up truck from Turner Chevrolet in Crosby.

However, the community turned out in great numbers and bought all 700 raffle tickets, which provided the same amount of income as previous years. As well as raffle tickets, their were a number of corporate sponsors that also contributed support.

Chairman Fallin said that they wish to thank all that participated including these sponsors:

Diamond level, Dependable Diesel Truck Services Inc, Eddie & Cathy Fraut-schi; Jerry & Julie Fallin.

Gold level, Mega Sand Enterprises Inc.
 Bronze level, BDI Resources, Gilbert Santana.
 Silver level, Edward Jones, Diana Weaver; Capital Bank, Sheila McDonald; Jannette Self, Photography; Central Auto Inspections, Johnny

Gaeke; and Charlie's Ice House, Charlie Ward.

The club will use the proceeds from the Chili Feast throughout the year, for various community projects, including scholarships, Partners in Education, Bay Area Homeless, Highlands Stratford Li-

brary, including a new bookmobile in the planning stage, Baytown Youth Fair, Crosby Youth Fair, Bra's for the Cause, Hurricane and flood relief, Highlands food pantry, the Cody Stephens Foundation for heart screening, and many more.

Concerns raised about new Construction near Waste Pits

CHANNELVIEW – Residents of the area near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site have become concerned with evidence of new construction that might threaten the neighborhood along River Road, and the waste pits themselves.

The investigation is being headed by Carolyn Stone, who lives in Channelview not far from I-10 and the Waste Pits, and is the director of an environmental action group known as C.H.I.P., or Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition. The group is monitoring progress at the Waste Pits, as well as water and air quality in the Channelview area.

Stone says in a letter widely distributed to government bodies and other interested persons, that



Construction activity along River Road includes piles about to be driven into the water to support a new set of berths for barges. To the left is Meadowbrook Park, and to the right the old Riverside Inn.

the construction that can be observed along river road and on the east bank of the river is proceeding without any evidence of permits from the County engineering Department or the Corps of Engineers, each of which has jurisdiction of this type.

Stone says that she learned that a company known as TimTom Land Holdings LLC is building



Piles are being driven across the river from the Waste Pits Superfund site, to repair and expand a fueling facility. Above the dock can be seen two storage takes, and buildings along Crosby-Lynchburg Road.

the barge facility, and plans a restaurant/bar adjacent. She says in her letter, "these two projects lay in a very vulnerable and low land area which is the first area to flood..."

She said the Pct. 2 plan for the area is to develop San Jacinto River Estates, the neighborhood adjacent

See SAN JACINTO RIVER work, page 5

TURNER CHEVROLET
 Crosby, Texas
 COMPLETE CARE
 Find New Roads
 TurnerChevroletCrosby.com
 281-328-4377

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE
 Jeremy Rosenkranz
 State Farm Agent
 440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
 281-426-3512
 jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com

WESTON G. COTTEN
 Attorney at Law
 O. 281/421-4050
 F. 281/533-6032
 weston@westoncotten.com

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

FIRST-TIME Home Buyer MORTGAGE

- Free 45 day Rate Lock*
- Down payment as little as 3%
- Family gifts accepted for down payment or closing costs
- Flexible terms available

Community Resource CREDIT UNION
 CRCU.ORG/FIRSTHOME

*All loans subject to credit approval. **Under certain circumstances, private mortgage insurance (PMI) and an escrow account for taxes and insurance may be required. Other eligibility includes a credit score of 640 or greater, no bankruptcy in the previous 36 months, debt-to-income ratio not to exceed 43%, and loan-to-value ratio not to exceed 95%. Other credit and income qualifications will apply. Minimum house amount of \$75,000. Investment properties and Junior Loans are not eligible for this offer. Verifiable employment required and time on job required of 1 year plus. Real estate commissions cannot be combined with any other offer. Certain credit and income qualifications may apply. CRCU reserves the right to cancel or change these promotions at any time. Please contact a representative for more details. CRCU membership required.

Academic Beginnings for Children places Free Little Library

Baytown, TX – Work in support of childhood literacy in the Baytown area by Academic Beginnings for Children has expanded to include placement this spring of a Free Little Library at Rosemont Apartments, 6033 Garth Road.

Tom O’Kuma, a recently retired Lee College physics instructor, donated books to the effort. O’Kuma said, “Reading is not only personally enjoyable; it is also beneficial to your success as a student.”

Maria DeLeon, Banuelos Elementary Campus Student Success Specialist said, “We are very thankful to Academic Beginnings for Children and Tom O’Kuma for making this Free Little Library possible. It is exciting to know that our students will have access to books just a few steps away from their home.”

Children are encouraged not only to read from the Free Little Library while in the office community room, but also to take a book for enjoyment and learning at home.

Academic Beginnings for Children, a broad-based coalition of Baytown area education, civic, business and nonprofit organizations working together to deliver the best solutions for children, has worked several years on multiple initiatives to advance childhood literacy.

The unit at Rosemont Apartments brings the total to more than 11,500 children’s books placed throughout Baytown since March 2017. The organization has placed and is maintaining 13 other Free Little Libraries at USA Washateria, 110 North Alexander Drive; Laguna Azul Apartments, 1200 Northwood; Baytown Housing Authority’s Alex-



Mitzi Oliver, Banuelos Elementary School Counselor; and Maria DeLeon, Campus Student Success Specialist.



Tom O’Kuma, recently retired Lee College physics instructor.

ander Place, 2401 Alexander Drive; Providence Apartments, 1710 James Bowie Drive; Marina Club Apartments, 1200 Missouri Street; Cedar Ridge Apartments, 2900 W. Baker; Bay Oaks Apartments, 1700 Bob Smith Rd; Avalon Bay Apartments, 925 Northwood; Sabor de Mexico, 208 W. Texas Ave; Motel 6, 4911 Interstate 10

East; Village Apartments, 4601 Village Lane; and Creekside Apartments, 3120 Decker, and Executive Residency by Best Western, 4602 East Freeway.

To support childhood literacy throughout the Baytown area with Academic Beginnings for Children, e m a i l domohlman@lee.edu.

Pct. 2 Garcia and Port Houston new Maritime logistics program

Harris County, TX – Commissioner Adrian Garcia joined Anthony P. Ambler, dean of the University of Houston College of Technology; Margaret Kidd, UH Supply Chain and Logistics Technology program director, Port Houston Commissioner Wendy Montoya Cloonan for a press conference. The event announced a port-funded grant to the University that funds 120 high school and 120 community college in a new certification program focused on Supply Chain and Logistics. The University of Houston program is the inaugural and exclusive site in the U.S. offering these certifications from the Chartered Institute Logistics and Transport.

This is the latest example of Commissioner Garcia’s support for workforce development programs across southeast Texas.

“The pandemic has wrecked several sectors of the economy, directly impacting thousands, and so many are searching for new skills that translate to this new normal. This UH program, funded by Port grants, is yet another way we and our partners are addressing that,” said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. “Hardworking people



need locally elected officials, educational institutions, and industry to help us get past these difficult times, which is why I am extremely excited about the launch of this program.”

Dean Ambler and Margaret Kidd from University of Houston said the program will enable high school and community college students to earn certification in fields that lead to good-paying jobs in the industries of supply chain logistics and technology.

“The College of Technology prides itself in providing degree programs that support the workforce – a workforce that both needs to expand in numbers to boost the economy, but also to provide a more relevant education for industry and commerce,” said Dean Ambler. “We are grateful to the Port Houston and its support of our technology

program which explicitly exposes students to how business operates so that they are able to be productive quickly.”

“Fully employed workers in the maritime logistics field have the opportunity to experience the ‘American Dream’ of homeownership and connectivity to the community. This is not only a positive impact on our region but more saliently a comment on the commitment of collaborative efforts to move the pendulum forward for economic prosperity for all people in the region,” said Program Director Margaret Kidd. “As Port Houston is an economic engine for the local, regional and state economy, it is relevant that our workforce has the necessary skills to keep our region competitive. The Supply Chain & Logistic Technology Program plays an integral part in preparing the next generation of workers.”

Also speaking at the event were Port Commissioner Wendy Montoya Cloonan, as well as Lisbeth Cabrera, a program participant working in the field of maritime logistics. For information about the program, click here.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Southwest Shipyard, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 43774, which would authorize modification to and continued operation of the Ship Building & Repair Facility located at 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

Maximum Tax Savings



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

CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

A DIVISION OF CORPORATE RECOVERY, INC.

TAX PREPARATION & CONSULTATION

All Federal, State, Foreign & Individual, Partnerships, Trusts, Estates, Corporations (C, Sub S & Limited Liability) & Payroll Tax Returns, Intuit Pro-Advisors, Service All Businesses & Individual Taxes

Specialists in getting late filers into I.R.S. Compliance Business Solutions for New Tax Rules, Regulations and Tax Audits Debt Consultation and Bankruptcy Protection as a Solution to your Debts Other Services Rendered

Bookkeeping, Computer Systems, Financial Management, Investments, Payroll, Property Rendition, Real Estate & Business Brokerage

Normal Business Hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon – 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday By Appointment

ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR INCOME TAX ORGANIZER JACK NOONAN, B.B.A., TREB, E.A. & STAFF

IRS Enrolled License # 2018 – 65282 6400 FM 2100 North Main, P.O. Box 1428, Crosby, TX 77532-1428 Telephone (281) 328-1755 Fax (281) 328-5280 E-mail: cri.tax.jhinson@gmail.com



281-328-5869



Home Health Care

Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker, Home Health Aide, Hospice Services

*Physical Therapy Position Available

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR MEDICARE FUNDED HOME HEALTH CARE

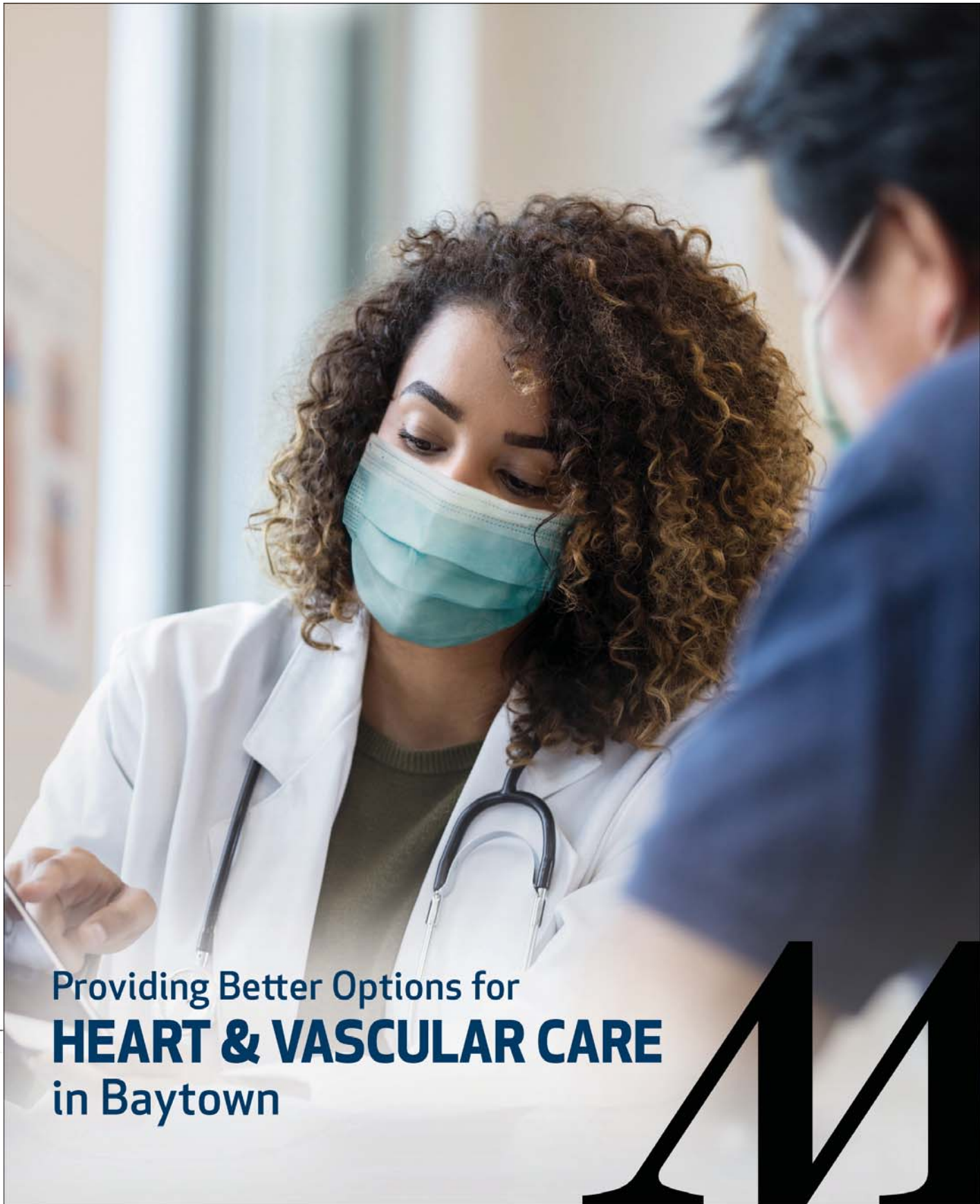
Physical Therapy Position Available

Locally owned and Operated by Tabatha and Jonathan Brady

Non-Discrimination Policy

No client shall be, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or status with regard to public assistance or veteran status, excluded from admission to services through Omnix Health Care Services, Inc.

CROSBY’S HOME TOWN HOME CARE



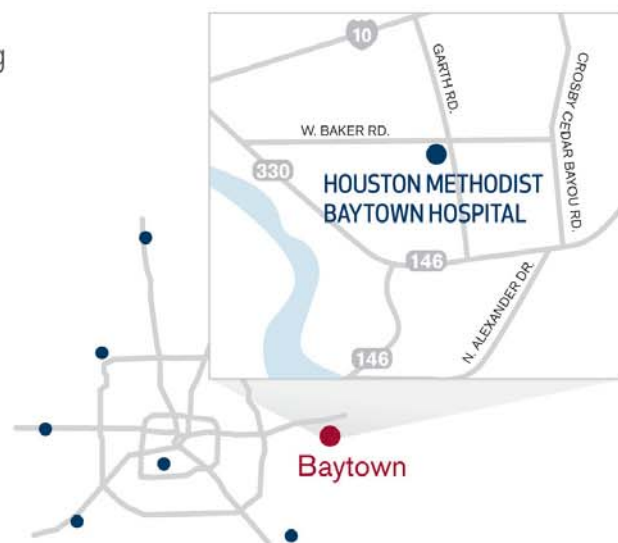
Providing Better Options for
HEART & VASCULAR CARE
 in Baytown

Through specialized programs, clinical trials and a commitment to challenging conventional thinking, our comprehensive team of cardiovascular specialists is improving outcomes and providing better options for heart and vascular care in your community.

Our doctors specialize in treating a wide spectrum of cardiovascular diseases and disorders, including:

- Coronary artery disease
- Heart failure
- Heart rhythm disorders
- Valve disease
- Vein and artery disorders

And, you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe throughout your visit.



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
 DEBAKEY HEART &
 VASCULAR CENTER

To find a doctor or schedule an appointment, visit
houstonmethodist.org/debakey/baytown
 or call **713.DEBAKEY**.

★ OPINION PAGE ★



Texas is Getting Shortchanged on Vaccine Distribution

Based on the CDC's vaccine distribution data, through yesterday 28,504,000 vaccines had been distributed to the states.

1. That works out to 8,684 doses per 100,000 people in the country. However, Texas has only received 7,262 doses per 100,000. If Texas had received its pro rata share, it would have an extra 412,000 vaccines to pass along to local providers.

2 That is five times the number of nursing home residents in Texas.

Overall, Texas ranks 48th in the number of COVID vaccines it has received on a per capita basis. New York has received 33% more than Texas. California, 23% and Florida 26%. And, of course, the District of Columbia has received a disproportionate share, getting 33% more than Texas.

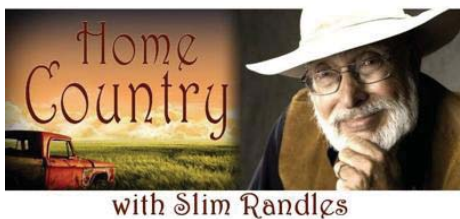
I contacted a number of Texas Congressional offices yesterday and found none that were even aware Texas is getting shorted. Two told me they were too busy with the impeachment to look into it right now. It is a sad day when the hyper-partisan wargames in the Capitol take precedent over saving the lives of constituents.

One office did call HHS and got a number of lame excuses, including that Texas was getting less because we have a higher percentage of our population under 18, who are not approved for the vaccine yet. So, I quickly ran those numbers and it makes only a small difference. But even if that is the basis, Texas has still been shorted by, at least, 300,000 doses.

Even being shorted, Texas is doing a better job of getting the vaccine out as compared to other states. It has vaccinated the most people and was the first state to surpass the one million vaccination mark. It also has vaccinated the most people on a per capita basis among the ten largest states and ranks 7th in the percentage of vaccines it has administered of those received.

If the federal government is going to vary from a straight proration of the vaccines by state, it should be sending the vaccine to those places currently suffering the worst outbreaks and to the states doing the best job getting the doses in people's arms. On both counts, Texas should be getting more, not less, of the doses available.

Hopefully, our U.S. Senators and House members will find some time next week to take a break from their hyper-partisan intramural games and ensure that Texans are getting their fair share of the vaccines. If you have some time over the next couple of days, you might give them a call and make that "suggestion."



Danged Virus Thingie

"You know," said Herb, "when this danged virus thingie is over and we all have our shots and are guaranteed to live longer than anyone else wants us to, there is only one thing I'll miss."

Doc, our morning coffee medical expert, put down his cup and looked at Herb, who was not our medical expert but a retired pawn shop owner.

"You mean you're going to miss this pandemic, Herb? It's terrible. What on earth will you miss about it?"

Herb glanced around the philosophy counter here at the Mule Barn truck stop and smiled.

"I will slightly miss its contributions to our more colorful swearing."

"Oh ... " said the cowboy, Steve. "because we cussed it so much?"

"Not a bit, Steve. No, it was in the use of new words and phrases. For example, as a cussing epithet, who could outdo someone who says, "I want that virus vaccination now, PANDEMIC!"

We nodded.

"Or ... why don't you just go COVID yourself ... 19 times!"

Doc nodded. "Good one, Herb."

"I know," said Windy, "how about let's VIRUSTICATE ourselves over to the bar and have a CORONA?"

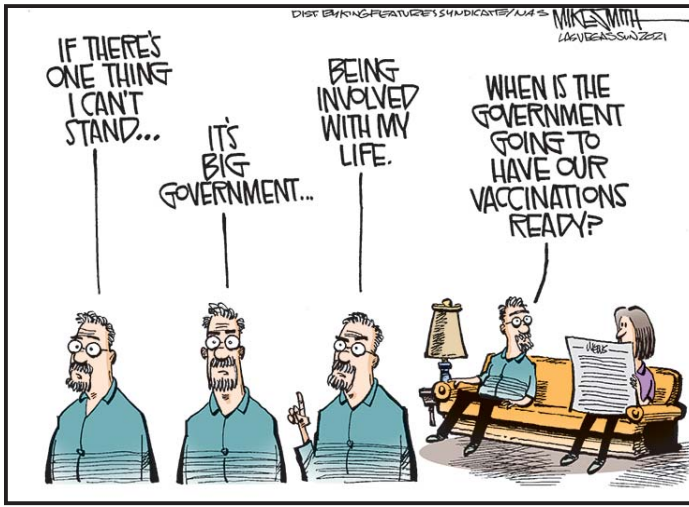
"That sounds like fun, Windy," said Doc, "but at my age it'd be just my luck to virusticate myself over to the bar and have a coronary, instead!"

Windy had a quizzical look on his old bearded face. "Well ... how about a Budweiser then?"

"That does sound wiser," Doc said.

Sometimes, there is a danger that expanding the language can create its own problems. That's why we drink coffee here.

Brought to you by Desperate Season, from award-winning author Maryann Miller, a mystery found at Amazon.com.



COVID-19 vaccine pace rises while statewide hospitalizations drop

The number of people in Texas hospitalized with COVID-19 has declined more than 28 percent in the past month, according to the Texas Department of Health Services. As of Feb. 7, Texas hospitals were treating 9,957 COVID-19 patients, down from nearly 14,000 a month ago. The number of new cases in the past week was 123,239 — a 22 percent drop from the record high of 158,922 the week of Jan. 10, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

At the same time new cases and hospitalizations were decreasing, the number of Texans getting their first dose of vaccine crossed the 2.3 million mark as of Sunday, according to TDHS. That's 700,000 more initial shots in a week. Those who are now fully vaccinated reached 733,287 as of Sunday.

The state received 401,750 first doses from the federal government this week, which are going out to 358 providers in 135 counties. That includes 85 hub providers, according to TDHS.

NOT EVERYONE IS ON BOARD TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE

About one-third of Texans polled in a recent statewide survey by the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs say they are unlikely to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. More than one out of five respondents were adamant they will not receive the vaccine.

Kirk P. Watson, founding dean of the Hobby School, said he hopes the survey will help public health officials address concerns of those unwilling to be vaccinated.

"More than 60% of people who are hesitant to be



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

immunized had concerns about potential side effects and worried that the vaccine is too new," Watson said in a news release. "Understanding why people resist immunization is an important step in reaching herd immunity."

Most of those polled who say they are certain or likely to refuse vaccination asserted they don't trust the government or pharmaceutical companies to ensure the vaccine is safe. Health experts say that between 70% and 90% of the population must be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, according to the press release.

On the flip side, more than 40% of Texans say they will get the vaccine when available, or they have already gotten at least one dose, while 18% said they would probably get it.

ABBOTT GETS BEHIND RURAL BROADBAND EXPANSION

Gov. Greg Abbott made expanded broadband service an emergency item during the current legislative session, saying it is necessary for providing telemedicine care to patients regardless of where they live, and for improving educational access.

"From medicine to education to business, broadband access is not a luxury — it is an essential tool that must be available for

all Texans," Abbott said in his State of the State address last week.

As previously reported, a pair of lawmakers intend to file legislation aimed at expanding critical broadband services throughout the state. Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, and Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, are calling for creation of a statewide broadband plan no later than a year after enabling legislation is passed. Texas is one of only six states that does not have such a plan.

One Capital Highlights reader, a Houston resident who owns a second home on Lake Murvaul in Panola County, recently wrote to bemoan the lack of connectivity in rural East Texas: "It's a no-internet/no cell bars jungle over there. At Lake Murvaul, I have installed a cell phone booster on a 20-foot antenna so that my phone has enough signal strength to be a hot spot. Then I had to upgrade my "unlimited" plan, only to find out that after 30GB of being a passable hot spot, it meters down to a trickle that won't even let me view the latest Bernie Sanders meme." He added, "I have parked in the lot at the library just to download Kindle books and Prime Video. Primitive!"

STATE REP SEEKS TO CLARIFY DEADLINE FOR TPIA REQUESTS

Rep. Giovanni Caprigliano, R-Southlake, has filed an open government bill designed to more clearly explain "business days" for governmental entities responding to the Texas Public Information Act. According to Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, during the COVID-19 pandemic some governments refused to respond to TPIA requests if their physical offices were closed, even if the staff was working remotely. This legislation would give clearer guidelines for response days. It's House Bill 1416.

EMERGENCY SNAP FOOD BENEFITS EXTENDED THROUGH FEBRUARY

Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits have been extended through February, with \$300 million in benefits provided. The move came after the Texas Health and Human Services Commission received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which funds the program. Recipients will also continue to receive a 15% increase in their total benefits, at least until June.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. Email: gbborders@texaspress.com.



Such a Good Book

I've always loved librarians.

I remember my first school librarian. Her name was Mrs. Scheau, and she rode a bicycle to school, back when this was still a novelty. She wore a plaid skirt every day, and she was enormously kind.

I had no idea how to find a book I would like to read (and isn't this still a challenge?) But Mrs. Scheau would always have a suggestion when I walked in.

"What should I read next, Mrs. Scheau?" And she would hand me the next book.

I remember the feeling of getting those books from the library and putting them in my book bag (school backpacks were not yet in vogue). We were not allowed to read in class, and we were not allowed to read at recess, so I had to wait until I got home to open the book. I remember that anticipation, the feeling that there was a treasure waiting for me under the protective plastic cover.

Recently, I noticed I was not reading at all. I don't know how this happened, but my attention span shortened to the point where I couldn't seem to read more than a few hundred words at a time. When I was tired, it was so much easier to watch a late-night comedian or a short documentary or browse Facebook. Before I knew it, it was time to go to bed, and I hadn't watched or read anything I cared about or would remember.

"Does anyone know of a book club I could join?" I wrote on a community Facebook page.

It should not have surprised me that the person who wrote back (within minutes!) was a retired librarian, Katy.

"We have one you can join. I'll send you the info!" Just like that, I was the member of a book club. What I did not realize until the first meeting was that this book club was comprised almost entirely of retired librarians.

It's called the "Any Book Book Club" because there is no assigned reading. Everyone just shows up and reviews whatever book they read that week. Because they are librarians, the books they read are interesting and diverse. An added bonus is that, on Zoom, I get a peek into the librarians' houses, filled with books. And they are almost always enthusiastic.

"It's such a good book!" Bernadette, one of the most enthusiastic of the librarians will say every week—sometimes more than once. "And the library has it!"

Katy, the leader of the group, says, "It doesn't matter what you read, but you have to read something!"

I'm still finding it hard to read. I've had to miss a couple meetings because I got no reading done that week. But most of the time now—when I am tempted to watch late-night television or catch up on cat videos—I think of my panel of librarians, earnestly talking about the books they love, and I go to my chair and make it past the first few hundred words until I am happily lost again in a good book.

This week, I am reading a sad book. It is beautifully written and brings me into a world I would never have seen if the book had not taken me. I know I will cry before the book is finished.

I am already looking forward to holding the book in front of the camera on my computer, showing my little panel of librarians the cover, and telling them enthusiastically, "It's such a good book!"

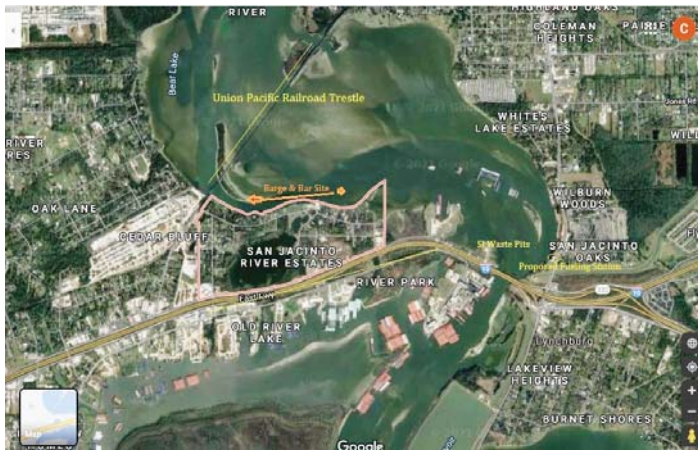
And then I'll ask them, "What should I read next?"

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

★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

San Jacinto River Work,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



On the map above, orange highlights show the San Jacinto River Estates, proposed barge facility at left, old Riverside Inn at center, Waste Pits Superfund site at center, and the marine fueling station work and storage tanks at right.

to these projects, as a flood mitigation zone and park. It is currently under a "buyout" by HC Flood Control.

Stone points out in her letter that the new barge site is located between the UP Railroad trestle to the north, and the I-10 highway bridge to the south. She suggests that under flood conditions, which are common with heavy storms or hurricanes, that both pathways are susceptible to damage, as has been seen last year with the closing of the I-10 bridge twice. She says that more barges, either from these projects or others, can only mean more chances for damage from break-away barges and ships.

She says that the TimTom Land company has applied for a liquor license from the state for a bar and restaurant, but she points out that the Riverside Inn is now closed due to heavy damage from previous devastating floods.

Stone points out that the area known as SJRE (San Jacinto River Estates) has numerous pipelines running through it, and they are subject to damage in flood conditions. In fact, in 1994 a flood ruptured pipelines under the river, and the resulting fires and flood waters took days to control, at the expense of the environment.

In her letter, Stone continues "Since the SJRE subdivision is to be developed by Harris County as a flood mitigation zone

and park and has suffered many devastating flood events the remaining residents have been informed they cannot receive any permits for construction or repairs. The barge facility construction and the restaurant/bar repair and construction has thus far taken place without permits or oversight by Harris County or the US Army Corps of Engineers. Harris County and Commissioner Adrian Garcia's Pct. 2 representatives were unaware of these developments until informed by our community members. On 01/15/21 HC Permits Lead Enforcement Coordinator Debjani Chakravarty issued TimTom Landings LLC a notice to stop construction immediately and a notice of forthcoming inspections. Despite the 1/15/21 notice and follow up stop construction notices construction has continued to present. A review of the US Army Corps of Engineers public notice page does not reflect TimTom Land Holdings or any other entity that has applied for a permit for this construction..." "The total disregard for all rules, regulations, laws and notices from Harris County to stop construction by the individuals involved in the barge facility construction and the restaurant/bar repair and construction raises additional concerns for our community members as to their future operation of the facilities since the individuals have already proven they do not

feel they are subject to any rule, regulation or law."

Stone says that TimTom Land also purchased the ZXP storage tanks on the eastern banks of the San Jacinto River a short distance from the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site and I-10 East SJ Bridge, for the purposes of creating a marine industry fueling station.

"This will conceivably increase the marine industry traffic in the area and bring fueling transmission lines and equipment into what is known to be the most hydraulically violent area of the San Jacinto River during a flooding event imposing the additional dangers of spills and explosions to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, the I-10 East SJ Bridge and our communities.

This area is also soon to be subject to a considerable amount of construction activity related to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site remediation, the new I-10 East SJ Bridge construction and I-10 East Improvement project, adding into this mix a marine fueling station and additional marine traffic would, logically, seem to be a very dangerous and unnecessary component."

Stone is opposed to all of this construction, and has asked the government entities to help stop the work.

Photos courtesy of Greg Moss and C.H.I.C. group.



This drone view shows the proposed new Barge area at the center, among the old wood pilings, Meadowbrook Park and River Road to the left, and the shuttered Riverside Inn in the foreground.



A pile driver and another crane are on site of the new Barge facility, ready to place and drive the steel piles shown under the crane arm.

★ OBITUARIES

WANDA J. GIDEON FALLIN

Wanda J. Gideon Fallin, 87, of Baytown, passed away Thursday, January 28, 2021, at her residence after a courageous battle with cancer.

Wanda was born April 2, 1933, in Chandler, TX, to parents; Avery and Vivian Welch Gideon. She is a former resident of Houston and has resided in Baytown for the past 10 years. She received her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Houston and was a retired teacher from Channelview ISD after 20 years of teaching fourth grade. Wanda also enjoyed cruises, gardening, crossword puzzles, and her cats.

Mrs. Fallin was preceded in death by her father: Avery Gideon, mother:



Vivian Welch Gideon Wilson, and her husband: Boyce Fallin. She is survived by her sons: Stephen Fallin and wife Carol, Richard Fallin and fiancée Miriam, and Jerry Fallin and wife Julie, grandchildren: Scott Fallin, Chris Fallin, Jason Fallin, Jeremy Fallin, Joseph Fallin, Alexis Fallin, and Jillian Fallin, great-grandchildren: Olivia Pribbanow, Malia Fallin, Grace Fallin, and Jackson Fallin, special friend: John Hesch, and numerous

other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, at the Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home Chapel. A private service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at the Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home Chapel with interment following at Brookside Memorial Cemetery in Houston. A celebration of life is planned for a later date.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Wanda J Fallin, please visit our floral store.

Crespo & Jirrels Funeral and Cremation Services

6123 Garth Rd., Baytown, Texas 77521 (281)839-0700 Ofc www.crespoandjirrels.com

Highlands Rotary Chili Feast,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



In charge of pulling the containers with the Raffle stubs were Miss Highlands Haley Maxey, and Jr. Miss Highlands Aubrey Bird.



Some of the Rotarians that worked to make the Chili Feast a success. Chili Chair Jerry Fallin in the rear with his hands up, and Miss Highlands in front.

Church Page Sponsors

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY
HIGHLANDS
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

STERLING ~ WHITE
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562
(281) 426-3555
WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

Siding & Roof Repairs
Mobile Home Skirting
Call Mr. Roofer
281-452-0000

Call 713-266-3444 to join to join sponsorship of this page. Thank you.

Free COVID-19 testing schedule for week of February 8

HOUSTON - The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the schedule for sites offering free COVID-19 tests the week of February 8, 2021. Seventeen FREE+FAST+SAFE testing sites across Houston are on the schedule for the week.

Houston Health Department The Houston Health Department will offer drive-thru testing at two surge sites affiliated with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive, and Houston Community College - North Forest, 6010 Little York Rd., will offer nasal self-swab tests.

The sites will open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Appointments are available at doineadacovid19test.com and on-site registration is also available. Each site has a daily capacity of 1,250 tests. The department also offers free drive-thru testing via self-nasal swab at the Aramco Services Company, 9009 W. Loop South. The mega testing site will open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The site has a daily capacity of 250 tests. People wanting to get tested at the Aramco site can call the department's COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220.

The department will offer testing at three community sites that don't require appointments. Each has a daily capacity of 250 tests:

- Acres Home Multi-Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery, Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., drive thru, self-nasal swab,
- Henington-Allief Regional Library, 7979 S. Kirkwood Rd., Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., drive thru and walk up, self-nasal swab, and
- Park Place Regional Library, 8145 Park Place Blvd., Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., drive thru, self-nasal swab.

The department will also provide drive thru, self-nasal swab testing at the METRO Addicks Park & Ride, 14230 Katy Freeway, and the Multicultural Center, 951 Tristar Drive, city of Webster. Appointments are available by calling the department's Call Center.

Texas Division of Emergency Management Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Houston Astros offer self-oral swab tests daily at Minute Maid Park (Lot C), 2208 Preston. The testing site's capacity is 1,200 tests per day.

The site features eight drive-thru testing lanes and four walk-up testing lanes. It will open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday and 12

p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Spanish-speaking staff is available on-site.

Visit curative.com to set an appointment or obtain more information. On-site registration is also available.

TDEM and the department will also operate drive-thru sites offering tests Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at:

- HCC - Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Drive, self-mouth swab tests, and
- HCC - South Campus, 1990 Airport Blvd., nasal swab tests by healthcare professionals.

TDEM and the department offer drive thru, nasal-swab tests administered by healthcare professionals at LeRoy Crump Stadium, 12321 Allief Clodine Rd. The site is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments for TDEM sites are available at covidtest.tdem.texas.gov. On-site registration is also available.

United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) will offer nasal-swab testing

by healthcare professionals at drive-thru test sites at:

- Plaza Americas Mall, 7500 Bellaire Blvd.,
- Houston Community College - Southeast, 6815 Rustic, and
- UMMC Tidwell, 510 W. Tidwell Rd.

The sites don't require appointments and will offer testing Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until reaching daily capacity of 300 tests. People needing information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit ummscreening.com.

Curative Curative will provide walk up, self-mouth swab tests daily at two sites:

- Memorial Park Running Trails Center, 7575 N. Picnic Ln., and
- Miller Outdoor Theater, 6000 Hermann Park Dr., opening Feb. 9.

Appointments are required and available at curative.com. The sites have a 900 daily test capacity.

Federally Qualified Health Centers The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand

their COVID-19 testing capacity. The centers and phone numbers people can call to set up testing appointments are: HOPE Clinic, 713-773-0803 Spring Branch Community Health Center, 713-462-6565 El Centro de Corazon, 713-660-1880 Avenue 360 Health and Wellness, 713-426-0027 Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston, 346-348-1200, and Scarsdale Family Health Center, 281-824-1480.

FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to pay or lack of insurance.

The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 for current Houston testing sites and information about stopping the spread of the virus.

Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei



Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil paintings by Mei Hoffman. The Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841. See more at paintingsbyme.com.

WE NEED YOUR TRADES

2020 MALIBU

5K OFF MSRP



2020 TRAX LOANER

6K AND NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS



2020 EQUINOX

5K OFF MSRP & 0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS



ALL 2021 TRAVERSES



0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS

ALL 2021 SILVERADOS



WE WILL GIVE YOU \$500 OVER BLUE BOOK FOR YOUR TRADE!

TURNER CHEVROLET

Crosby, Texas
281-328-4377
#OurPeopleMakeTheDifference

2021 Chevy Silverado 0% for 72 months, with approved credit. \$36.67 per every \$1,000 financed, credit through GM Financial. Other ends 3/29/21. 2020 Equinox, \$794,650 MSRP, \$76,475, \$736 dealer discount, 4,400 factory rebate, \$23,339 final price, plus title, and doc fee of \$130. 2020 Malibu 5K off MSRP, \$36.67 per every \$1,000 financed, credit through GM Financial. 2020 Malibu, \$24,945 MSRP, \$24,195, \$750 dealer discount, \$300 factory rebate, \$202 combined (based on 2020 or newer vehicles), \$11,500 final price, plus title, and doc fee of \$130. 2020 Trax Loaner, approximately 4,870 miles, \$17,445 MSRP, \$12,555, \$1,422 dealer discount, 4,000 factory rebate, \$750 computer credit over 2017 or newer (up to), \$16,903 final price, plus title, and doc fee of \$130. With approved credit. Must take from dealer stock. See dealer for details. 02/02/21

SAVE UP TO \$3,800 WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR DEPOSIT BY FEBRUARY 28.*
CALL 832-572-5592 TODAY!





A home that fits just right

OUR LEASING OFFICE IS OPEN WITH SPECIAL COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE

Our Independent Living cottages and apartments offer the ultimate Independent Living experience for active seniors. Enjoy your private, maintenance-free home with high-end features like vaulted ceilings, private 2-car garage and private patios for relaxing and entertaining! The Lodge at Pine Creek cottages and apartments aren't simply a residence, they are a home.

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE



825 Hunt Road
Baytown, TX
832-572-5592
LodgeAtPineCreek.com

©2021 Abby Senior Living. *Valid for qualifying new deposits placed between 02/01 and 02/28. Cannot be combined with other offers. Terms and restrictions apply. Talk with our Community Liaison for details.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 50,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 25,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$16 for 20 words. A bargain!

A/C & APPLIANCE REPAIR

All Major Brands. In-Home Service, 20 yrs. experience. Reparo electrodomesticos, todo tipo de modelos. Call Mario, 713-291-8286.

SERVICES

J.D. FENCE
We install & repair fences. All types of chain link, wood ornamental and iron. Free estimate. Small jobs welcome. Call Jose 281-221-0637.

SERVICES

PRINTING & MAILING
Full Service Marketing Services. 713-977-2555

PARTS SERVICES
R.F. Hull Water Well - Pump Service. 281-442-5630.

FOR RENT

In Galena Park- 2 bed/ 1bath central ac. Across from school. \$875/mo. 979-665-8768

LEGAL NOTICE

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 February 15 to February 22 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 H-15, William Rank, in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is house hold items and etc.....

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR IN THE HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR. CALL 713-266-3444

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS



"easyMedicare made getting the coverage I deserved easy."
- Joe Theismann
Joe Theismann
NFL MVP and Super Bowl Champion

You could be missing out on benefits like:
\$0 Copays - \$0 Deductibles - \$0 Premiums
Plus Dental, Vision, Hearing and more.
Call now to speak with a licensed insurance agent!
866-707-2763
TTY 711 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern, Saturday

American Standard
150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

ENJOYING A NEW SHOWER IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

NEW SHOWER DESIGN

SAVE \$1000⁰⁰
EXCLUSIONS APPLY



FREE IN-HOME DESIGN CONSULTATION-CALL TODAY
newshowerdeal.com/nenews | 844-793-0155

LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AMENDED NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT
PERMIT NUMBER: 43774

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Southwest Shipyard, L.P., 18310 Market Street, Channelview, TX 77530-3858, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 43774, which would authorize modification to and continued operation of the Ship Building & Repair Facility located at 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 15, 2020. The existing facility will emit the following contaminants: exempt solvents, hazardous air pollutants, organic compounds and particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at http://www.swslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Permit_43774_Public_Notice.pdf, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk Street Suite H, Houston, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The 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. You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID).

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. 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. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.789722&lng=-95.065277&zoom=13&type=r>.

MAILING LIST. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at 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 general record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Southwest Shipyard, L.P. at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Elizabeth Stanko, Project Manager at (713) 244-1039.

Amended Notice Issuance Date: February 1, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

HENDERSON GARAGE DOORS

281-428-1187
1-800-345-8471
Sales & Repair Service
Baytown, Texas
John Henderson
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS

FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
713-702-3200
JOHNNY GAERKE OWNER/INSPECTOR
911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX, 77562

Free Estimates Financing Available

MR. ROOFER
Siding & Contracting LLC
281-452-0000
CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR
New Roofs • Repairs • Painting • Hardi Plank Siding • Mobile Home Skirting
P.O. Box 914, Channelview, TX 77530
Mrroofer@mail.com
= Major credit cards accepted =

Graphics Unlimited, Inc.
CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST

Signs & Banners
281-462-1200
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

REYNALDO REMODELING

25 Yrs. Of Experience
Tel: 832-767-7701
Fax: 832-376-4520
FREE ESTIMATES REYNALDOREMODELING@YAHOO.COM

HILL MATERIALS

119 Listi Ln, Highlands
hillmaterials.com

WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial

Glorious Designs Unlimited
Custom Design & Beaded Jewelry Repair

Yolanda Peters
Owner & Designer
gdulp351@yahoo.com
Designed With You In Mind
Exodus 31:1-6 Jesus Is Lord
713-261-9457

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

VOL. 26, NO. 6 - 50¢

© Copyright 2021

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Dayton Chamber News

Real Heroes Don't wear capes, they wear badges
Tuesday, March 2, ballroom of the Dayton Community Center, 801. S. Cleveland St. Lunch served at noon

Dayton Chamber of Commerce 20th Annual Banquet
postponed to Saturday, February 27th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm in the Dayton Community Center Ballroom. Tickets \$40 table for 10 \$350.

West Chambers Chamber News

State of the Chamber Luncheon
Tuesday, Feb. 16 11:30 a.m. until 1:p.m. Eagle Point Golf Pavilion

New Member's Breakfast
Wednesday, Feb. 24 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Call for reservations (281) 576-5440

Small Business Lunch Rush
March 9 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Eagle Open Golf Touney
Friday, April 16 Eagle Pointe Golf Course Sponsorships and Teams Availalbe

Chambers County Vaccine Pre-registration
Call (409) 267-2460 Online portal and phones lines open at 1:00 p.m. and appointments are filled by 2:00 p.m.

Mont Belvieu Fire Prevention
to protect the lives and property of all those living, working or visiting the City of Mont Belvieu offering review of fire protection systems, review of construction and development, conduct annual fire/safety inspections and events email firemarshal@montbelvieu.net

Baytown Couple earns Hospital Honors

BAYTOWN — (January 12, 2021) — For many couples, the thought of being employed at the same workplace together is enough to induce conjure images of marital bliss destroyed by workplace friction.

But for Kasandra and Antionne "Twan" Stevenson, who married four years ago, working together at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for nearly three years now has brought out the best in each of them. Kasandra, PCA II/UAA, assigned to the observation unit, began working at the Baytown hospital 13 years ago. Antionne joined the staff in February 2018 in his role as a public safety security shift coordinator.

They were both recently recognized for their outstanding work ethic, dedication and leadership by each winning prestigious I CARE Awards in what is believed to be the first such case of a married couple winning the award on the same day.

"We were both shocked at our own nominations,



Antionne and Kasandra Stevenson

and extremely happy for each other," Antionne said. "We were even more shocked to find out that we'd both actually won."

I CARE is an acronym for Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Excellence that refers to a set of principles and best practices designed to guide each Houston Methodist employee in their interactions with patients, hospital guests and co-workers. The I CARE Awards are given annually to recognize employees who exemplify the ideals

championed by the I CARE values by going above and beyond their job description to help patients, guests or co-workers. Winners are nominated by their peers and announced to the public during an annual luncheon where they receive a special gold badge, pin, certificate and a cash award.

Antionne, 36, born in Greenville, MS, and New Orleans native Kasandra, 42, met in 2012 and have a blended family featuring five kids ranging in age from six to 17. Kasandra

said she is especially proud of what the award means to their children.

"Being an I CARE Award winner is truly an honor. I am so proud to be recognized as an example of what I CARE stands for," Kasandra said. "Winning as a couple is an unbelievable accomplishment for the both of us and is a great example to our kids that hard work doesn't go unnoticed."

In her nominating letter, Kasandra was praised for frequently offering to assist her peers and streamline processes throughout the observation unit and volunteering to re-organize a temporary holding area into a unit to meet a need for additional patient room capacity. Antionne was praised for never hesitating to go above and beyond his duties to help patients, guests or work colleagues without being asked, no matter how difficult, unique or extraordinary the situation may be.

Winning their dual awards during the COVID-19 pandemic tempered

their ability to celebrate the accomplishment, but Antionne said the turmoil of 2020 made them appreciate the honor even more.

"With all that the world is facing with the pandemic, I think that winning this award during this time sheds light on how much we all must display our I CARE values in everything we do, now more than ever. We need to come together to ensure that we all get through this historic time," Antionne said.

Kasandra and Antionne both say while working at the same hospital is a joy, it has created some interesting reactions from co-workers.

"All of my co-workers call Antionne 'Brother Stevenson' because that's what I call him at work," Kasandra said.

"When I first started working here," Antionne said, "I was commonly referred to as 'Kasandra's husband.' It's nice being recognized as 'Twan' now, but most of my department always threatens me with, 'I'm going to go tell Kasandra.'"

BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Racist sign throws school into controversy

MONT BELVIEU — Kids write the 'darndest' things on campus walls especially after a series of contentions and uncertainty locally and nationally has drawn taunt racial relations.

Barbers Hill High School had some graffiti painted on the wall that read "Black Lives Don't Matter" and some other incidental forms of protest are spoken of as happening not long after the November 3 election. Some parents want something done.

Fresh on the mind of many locals is the controversy of dreadlocks in Barbers Hill after each attending students had signed off on accepting the dress code to attend but two students were determined by the Superintendent to be in violation due to the length of their dreadlocks. The district suspended the two students. The issue went viral, Ellen Degeneres waded in for one student's plight and a suit determined that Barbers Hill ISD and administrators had racially discriminated. The students were back in school on August 20. One with a full ride scholarship. A protest up Eagle Drive was held related to the "Black Lives Matter" cause in which the dreadlock controversy was most mentioned by protesters. Uncovered issues include that one of the students had been attending Houston ISD without living in Mont Belvieu, used his grandparent's address to register, got in and according to some, played the system for a fool. Whatever the truth is, "Can't we all just get along?"

One issue is intimidation of minorities another is suppression of alternative views.

Now the charge is that racial relations inside the school have deteriorated as exemplified by the spray painted sign and other forms of expression having been quieted. Some say the district changed their face mask policy because some masks displayed the Amer-



Racist Graffiti sprayed inside one of the rooms in the high school, draws attention. (photo courtesy abc13)

ican flag. Somehow, a parent is alleging that flag would provoke black students and display alliance with former President Donald Trump. The Confederate Battle Flag of course would be thus offensive.

But the District disavowed any change in mask policy, indicating there had been no change in their mask policy and being unaware of the graffiti.

The parent said recent posters of Vice President Kamala Harris and former First Lady Michelle Obama were damaged after being put up for Black History Month.

And of course, on social media there would be posts displaying the most extremist of views, the parent pointed to this quote, "we couldn't even wear our damn flag on a mask at the beginning of the year bc it's racist no f*** you you don't like it get out."

It is that perspective and the belief that some are "teaching their children to hate," that is most disturbing to these parents.

A statement was released from the office of Deputy Superintendent Sandra Duree, "A disagreement arose amongst Barbers Hill High School Students Friday morning



Barbers Hill High School continues to be broiled in controversy over tensions with minority students.

when newly displayed posters were viewed as combative and divisive. The posters in question contained political rhetoric from conventions and speeches from the campaign trail with the emphasis being on those political issues that still di-

vide our county. These posters were removed. We all know how politically polarized our nation is right now and Barbers Hill ISD has and will continue to keep the political discord from interfering with our mission of always providing a safe and condu-

cive learning environment." According to one source with a national security background, "The political tensions in this country fed by frantic reactions and crazy, baseless conspiracy theories are a Russian wet dream."

Jordan/Creative holds Ribbon Cutting in Dayton



The Dayton Chamber of Commerce celebrated Amanda Jordan/Creative Consultants Photography and Party Rental at their ribbon-cutting on January 13, 2021, at 11 am. They offer in-studio and on-location photography, party room rental, and party hosting. They are located at 3890 N. Cleveland Highway in Dayton, Texas. You can contact them by phone at 936-681-8070.