

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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VOL. 68, NO. 7/8 - 50¢

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

EVENTS

THURS. FEB. 25 Crosby Chamber Luncheon

You are invited to attend our RESCHEDULED February Luncheon & Installation of Board of Directors for 2021. Thursday, February 25th 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. Luncheon price has increased to \$20.00. Judge Lucia Bates with Harris County Pct 3 will swear in our 2021 Chamber Board of Directors.

WED., MARCH 3

Newport Heroes Blood Drive

BLOOD NEED IS CRITICAL! From 1:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Community Room in Newport. Get a free T-shirt. Call 979-900-8033.

COVID-19

Cases as of
February 23, 2021

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

560,654 POSITIVE
5,606 DEATHS
494,990 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,616,768 POSITIVE
42,521 DEATHS
2,353,741 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

28,257,908 POSITIVE
502,594 DEATHS
--- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

112,085,967 POSITIVE
2,484,865 DEATHS
63,267,510 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 19-Stephanie Lane
Feb 20-Stormy Fulmer
Herman Bradford
Beau McCrary
Feb 21-Lyndsie Hennigan
Leah Moyer
Tera Smith
Feb 22-Calzin Rutledge
Diane Currie
Feb 23-Don Bird
Audrey Cornman
Christina Woodall
Feb 24-Will Oviedo
Feb 25-Mrs. Charles Marchard
Beth Phillips
Cheyenne Ward
Jackie Rosas
Feb 26-Alice Etzel
Shane Tappan
Feb 27-Joe Price
Terry Whittaker
Caleb Wingate
Kaylin Morgan
Elise Guidroz
Feb 28-B.E. Hales
Mar 2-Jennifer Abbott
Robert Harper
Dorothy Holy
Jennifer Moyer
Michelle Phillips
Mar 3-Theresa Abbott
Irene Fleming
Jahnise McKee
Jerry Thompson

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 24-Jim & Linda
Hildebrand
Feb 26-Thomas & Geenee
Parrish
Mar 3-Jimmy & Teri Gleason

Winter Storm Uri causes power crisis

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY – When the vortex that generally encircles the Arctic wobbled down to touch the US/Canadian border the state was smacked with paralyzing cold, far more frost than the electrical infrastructure was able to handle.

Snow invaded like a foreign army on Sunday, Feb. 15, Monday northeast Harris County began losing power in a freezing rain that slicked up roadways, at about 6:00 p.m. the power went out throughout the areas. Some locations, like Highlands, lost water soon thereafter and by Wednesday loss of water and burst water pipes was common place with all the fixings of destroyed sheetrock and indoor furniture. This Tuesday Highlands remained on a boil water notice.

Most municipal utility districts were not placed on a boil water vigil be-



Harris County Precinct 2 coats roads in a brine-salt mix clears ice from bridges Tuesday as temperatures were 15 degrees locally.

cause their generators kept the power going. About 15 million Texans had to endure the boil drinking water warning. Some local communities still had no water on Fri-

day, at least in isolated pockets due to pipe damage.

On Tuesday, Governor Greg Abbott said the situation was "unacceptable" calling for ERCOT executives to resign. Some legislators announced plans to investigate what led to the loss of power.

Wednesday about 4 Million folks in the greater Houston vicinity were without power. The answer may be that the electric grid was made for Summer heat to be lowered about 30 degrees while demand was to raise heat by 50 degrees or more for those homes using only electricity for heating.

The death toll seems to be about 80 for the state according to the Associated Press. But that same number was once reported just for Galveston County later determined to be tracked elderly having lost cell phone contact on power loss. Locally, there were multiple deaths attributed to medical conditions by the coroner but may in fact be more about conditions and the cold. It will take some time before circumstances of death can be fully flushed out. Cases that were tagged for review as possible freeze related will be sent to state epidemiologists.

State officials are estimating the monetary damages at about \$19 billion, what the state takes in from taxes annually.

The February 13 to 17 storm is being unofficially named Winter Storm Uri and is said to have reached into northern Mexico with a dozen people known to have died from the frigid blast. The 2021 Texas Pow-

*Uri causes Power Crisis
Continued on Page 5*



At the Barrett Station Community Center, a Precinct 2 hosts a registry required drive-through food distribution was held Tuesday, Feb. 23 with food from Houston Food Bank. Anyone needing to register should call (713) 274-2222 Monday through Friday 8 until 4:30 p.m. Watch Facebook.com/Harris County Precinct 2 for next scheduled distribution. Masks are required, trunks need to be open, distribution begins at 10:00 a.m. while supply lasts.

AOC raises \$5 million in Storm Relief

Historic Texas Ice Storm Victims Receive Aid From New York Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Saturday, February 20, 2021 - Houston's Food Bank (HFB) President and CEO, Brian Greene welcomed and introduced Congresswomen Sylvia Garcia, New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Sheila Jackson Lee to the facility. He said the HFB is a non-profit organization and the nation's largest food bank in the United States by size and distribution; providing access to 159 million nutritious



At a press conference at the Food Bank L-R: Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) & Sylvia Garcia (Allan Jamail photo)

meals in 18 counties in southeast Texas.

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia told how New York's 14th Congressional District Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) contacted her and said she'd like to help Texas' ice storm victims. Garcia invited AOC to Houston so she could visit the HFB and see how they provide meals year-round to the needed. She said about one in four children in our area are at-risk of hunger. Kids must have consistent nutritious food for the body, mind, and spirit in order to be suc-

See AOC raises \$5 million, page 5

Boil Water advisory is in Effect

Harris County Public Health Department has advised residents of 158 districts throughout the county that they should not drink, brush teeth, wash hands and faces, cook or make ice with water until it has been boiled for at least 2 minutes.

HCPH estimates that at least 300,000 persons are affected by this order. This includes residents of Baytown, Highlands, Jacinto City, Galena Park, and many local MUD districts.

The water was rendered unsafe after low pressures in the lines allowed foreign matter to enter the lines, causing possible contamination.

Chester Stasney passes

Chester Stasney, Sr. has passed away on February 18. He was 91 years old.

Chester is an honored patriarch of Highlands, having served on the ESD fire board for 20 years, a member of St. Jude Catholic Church for 68 years, Houston Rodeo volunteer for 40 years, and a Rotarian honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. The famous chili served at their Chili Feast is named after him.

A full Testimonial is on page 5.



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Hector ‘s chips in for Winter Storm victims



Marcos Sanchez, of Hector’s Mexican Restaurant in Crosby, volunteer Lisa and Mike Amador stand inside the restaurant with sacks of food to be donated to those in need due to the Winter Storm in last Sunday.

CROSBY – Almost everyone lost power here but some had more provision for such disasters than others and many were devastated without recourse.

Attending these facts Mike Amador and his aide and sidekick decided to mobilize to get food to some who needed it most, locally. Mike Amador, father of Pastor Richard Amador, has many charity irons in the fire, helping with Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, Churches United in Caring, various groups around and one of the founders of Eastside Veteran’s Celebration. Mike knows of local need. So, he went to Hector’s Mexican Restaurant in Crosby and purchased 15 varied dinners including enchiladas to distribute. That set him back

After learning of this, Marco Sanchez, with per-

mission from Hector Campa, owner of the restaurant, offered that next time the restaurant donate the food for the needy.

Mike and his sidekick returned the next day, picked up 15 more meals on Saturday and took them to locals, including elderly, widows, mothers with kids to feed, disabled and others all around Crosby and Newport. Hector’s Restaurant dished up some of their finest fair for the needy. Mike returned on Sunday to pick up seven more meals for distribution. Then on Monday he came back and retrieved six more for distribution donated by Hector’s Restaurant. Including Tuesday, some 47 meals were donated to feed hungry Crosby residents.

According to Mike Amador, “It really was a blessing to get this support for

our little effort from Hector’s Mexican Restaurant. They were so generous and Marcos was really good, he took the names and orders and put the names on the packages and listed them one to fifteen for me in order, so that all me and Lisa had to do was drive by and hand it to the people. I don’t walk so good anymore so that helped a lot.”

Mike and Lisa now support an emergency blood drive called Newport Heroes to take place Wednesday, March 3, from 1:30 p.m. until 6 p.m., to donate call Lisa Marie Smith at (979) 900-8033.

Hector’s Mexican Restaurant is located inside the Crosby Shopping Center, 105 Kennings Road, offering dine in, take out and delivery. A casual eatery, they feature Mexican Classics, a full bar and breakfast specials.

Texas Department of Insurance gives Winter Storm Insurance Tips

Winter Storm Insurance Tips

If your home has been damaged by a broken water pipe, fallen tree limbs or other winter damage, you should contact your insurance company to file a claim as soon as possible.

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) recommends the following tips to help make the process go smoother:

Make a list of damaged property. Take pictures or video of the damage. Don’t throw anything away until your insurance company tells you to.

Take steps to protect your home from further damage. Turn off the water and cover broken windows and holes in your roof if possible.

Save all receipts. Your policy may cover these costs.

Try to be there when the insurance company comes to inspect the damage. If you can’t stay in your home, leave a note with information on where you can be reached.

Keep a list of everyone you talk to at your insurance company. Be ready to answer questions about the damage.

Ask about additional living expenses. If you can’t live in your home due to the damage, your insurance policy may pay for some of those expenses.

For questions on how to file a claim, please visit the TDI website FAQ page or call the TDI Helpline from Monday to Friday between 8:00AM and 5:00PM at (800) 252-3439.

If you are unsure of who you should contact at your insurance company to file a claim, TDI has compiled a Company Lookup resource guide with updated information.

Icy 3 vehicle wreck on I-10 E. is fatal hit and run

According to Accident Investigator Deputy C.D. Capretta, February 15, at 7:10 p.m., Carol Williams drove her 1999 Chevrolet Silverado eastbound in the 14,800 block of I-10 East. The roadway was coated with ice, and due to the conditions she lost control of the vehicle and struck the retaining wall on the north side of the road causing the vehicle to rotate counter clockwise, coming to rest facing southeast. The collision stabilized and Ms Williams got out of the truck. At that point Eduardo Romero drove his 2016 Ford Fusion eastbound in the same dark icy location. He did not see the Chevrolet in the roadway and was unable to stop when he finally saw the truck. So, the Ford Fusion struck the Chevrolet on the right side. The force of that collision caused the Chevrolet to rotate clockwise striking the complainant, throwing her eastbound into the #3 eastbound lane. That collision came to a rest. At that time, an unknown make/model black four door sedan was driving eastbound in the #3 eastbound lane and struck the complainant as she lay in the roadway. The sedan failed to stop and render aid and left the scene. The complainant died at the scene due to injuries sustained in two of the collisions. The Harris County Sheriff’s Office has an ongoing investigation and seeks to know more of the black sedan please call (713) 221-6000.

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CROSBY’S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing Resume for week of February 22

Appointments are Required for Vaccinations and Testing

Houston – The severe winter storm that delayed HCPH's vaccinations and testing for days has finally left. People who had vaccine and testing appointments that were cancelled due to weather, will be re-scheduled.

Those with appointments for their first or second vaccine doses, or waiting for their second vaccine appointment, will be contacted soon. HCPH needs additional vaccine to vaccinate everyone waiting for their second doses.

People who had their first vaccination were given cards with the type of vaccine they received and the date their next dose is due. This is not an appointment. Appointments are sent as text messages with the date, time, location and a QR code.

A delay of a few weeks between the first and second doses does not reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Eligible groups being vaccinated at this time Groups 1A and 1B that include healthcare workers, people over 65 and those with underlying health conditions. If you are in an eligible group, register for the HCPH waitlist through: <https://vacstrac.hctx.net/landing>

Vaccine supplies are limited. If you are waiting to be vaccinated, don't get frustrated, get tested! Testing is still critically important to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Testing, wearing a mask and social distancing will help protect you and your family until there is enough vaccine for everyone. Testing is free and you get the results in 3-5 days. Children can also be tested at the sites listed below. Sign up at hpcptx.org or call 832-927-7575.

Monday, February 22 – Saturday, February 27

• M.O. Campbell Education Center
Open Mon-Fri 12 -7p.m.
Open Sat (2/27) 8a.m.-3p.m.
1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032

- St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
Open Tues- Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
2131 Lauder Rd, Houston,
TX 77039

• Parkway Baptist Church
Open Mon and Wed - Sat
8a.m.-3p.m..
12818 Tidwell Rd, Houston,
TX 77044

- Strawberry Park
Open Mon & Tues, Thur-Sat
8a.m.- 3p.m.
1114 Parkside Dr, Pasadena,
TX 77504

• Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
Open Mon-Thur and Sat
8a.m.-3p.m.
2322 Spring Cypress Rd,
Spring TX 77388

- Cathedral of Saint Matthew
Open Mon-Thur and Sat
8a.m.- 3 p.m.
9101 Airline Dr, Houston, TX
77037

• Faith Lutheran Church
Open Tues & Wed, Fri & Sat
8a.m.-3p.m.
4600 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire,
TX 77401

• Lone Star College-Cy Fair
Open Mon (2/22) 8a.m.-
3p.m.
9191 Barker Cypress Rd, Cy-
press, TX 77433

For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register at www.doineedacovid19test.com or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

Monday, February 22 - Sunday, February 28

San Jacinto College Central
Campus
Open Mon-Fri 7a.m.-2:00
p.m.
Open Sun (2/28) 10 a.m -
3:00 p.m.

8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena,
TX 77505
Lone Star College-Cypress
Center
Open Mon-Fri 12 p.m.-7
p.m.
Open Sat (2/21) 8 a.m.-
3p.m.

*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.

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PCT. 2 TALK
By Commissioner Adrian Garcia



Understanding Precinct 2

Dear Residents of Precinct 2

Even after living within the precinct lines for most of my life, now two years into my term as your County Commissioner, every day, I continue to learn so much about my neighbors I serve. For example, readers of this publication may not realize that the 4 publications that Gil manages (Northeast News, North Forest News, Highlands Star Crosby Courier, North Channel Star) ALL cover areas located within Precinct 2. On top of that, you all share a precinct with folks living as far south as Webster, just outside downtown in the East End, as well as parts of Huffman. None of my colleagues on Commissioners Court has within their precinct boundaries anywhere near as diverse of a geographic area as that of Precinct 2, not to mention that I also have more incorporated cities within my precinct than any other precinct in Harris County.

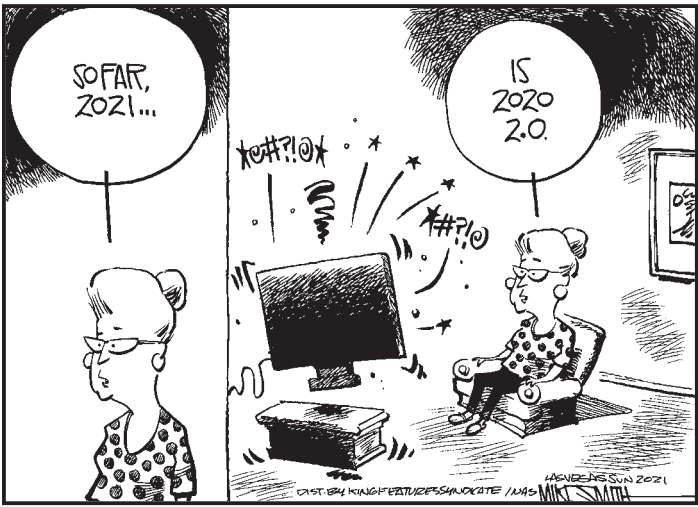
I've started this column because I want to speak directly to you and have you more connected to your county government. Many ask me what role the county has in their lives. To me, there are 4 pillars of priorities: infrastructure, economy/jobs, health, and public safety.

My top responsibility as your County Commissioner is managing infrastructure such as road, bridges, and flood control projects. When it comes to the economy and job issues, we focus on giving residents an opportunity to flourish and doing as much as possible to attract good paying jobs that will hire Precinct 2 residents. Finally, we work to improve health and public safety through investment in accessible care and law enforcement. As long as I have the opportunity to contribute this column, I will do my best to share the status of our work in each of the pillars.

I'm just about out of space for this introductory column, so I will close with the latest on the county's ongoing efforts to deal with the COVID crisis and distribute vaccines. Right now, supplies are extremely limited, so we urge everyone to be patient. The fastest way to get in line for the vaccine is to contact your current health care provider if you have one. Health care systems such as Methodist, Memorial-Hermann, or others are getting direct allocations of vaccines.

In addition, for anyone without a current health care provider, Harris County Public Health has opened a waitlist portal for anyone to sign up to be notified when doses allocated to the county become available. Please visit ReadyHarris.org or call (832) 927-8787 to get on the list. Again, supplies remain extremely limited, so exercise patience, and continue to follow protocols to keep you and your loved ones healthy until the vaccines arrive and can be delivered to your shoulders.

Hopefully soon, we will see either increased supply or other vaccines approved to be used. In order to achieve herd immunity and get back to normal, the shortage must end. Incidentally, I have sent President Biden a letter urging him to understand that Precinct 2 has challenges and that we need his administration to prioritize Harris County and our precinct. I'm not sure about you, but I look forward to the column I write celebrating the vanquishing of this vicious virus and returning to normalcy.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Millions of Texans dealing with water supply issues

Warmer temperatures over the weekend and continuing this week melted most of the snow from the state's roadways and roofs. But Texans are still dealing with broken pipes that flooded homes and businesses, damaged municipal water systems, and continued power outages in scattered areas, mainly in East and Central Texas.

At the height of the power crisis, more than 4 million Texans were without electrical service — a number that shrank to less than 32,000 as of Sunday, according to the PowerOutage.us website.

As of last weekend, more than half the state's population had some type of disruption in their water service, from having no water to low pressure, which made it necessary to boil water before safely using it for drinking, cooking or bathing. Tiffany Young, spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, reported Friday that more than 1,300 water supply systems and 62% of Texas counties were affected.

STATE'S POWER GRID 'MINUTES' FROM FAILING; ABBOTT URGES LEGISLATIVE ACTION

As electricity demand overwhelmed capacity last week during the height of the storm, the chief of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the power grid for most of the state, told the media that the grid came close to having a catastrophic failure that could have taken months to repair. Grid operators began rolling blackouts to cut demand. "It needed to be addressed immediately," said Bill Magness, president of ERCOT. "It was seconds and minutes (from possible failure), given the amount of generation that was coming off the system."

Abbott last Tuesday



added reform of ERCOT as an emergency item this legislative session, calling the organization "anything but reliable." Also, Attorney General Ken Paxton has issued civil investigative demands to ERCOT and 11 power companies demanding documents and data related to the power outages, emergency plans, energy pricing and other items related to the winter storm power failures. Paxton said in a press release that ERCOT and other entities "grossly mishandled" last week's winter disaster.

Abbott met with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dade Phelan and eight members of the Legislature on Saturday to discuss how to address the spike in energy bills affecting many Texans after the power outages.

The Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, also has begun an investigation into the outages. Chairman DeAnn Walker, said, "We must act swiftly to discover not only how this crisis came together, but also take meaningful steps to protect electricity customers."

TIPS ON FILING INSURANCE CLAIMS FOR DAMAGED HOMES

The Texas Department of Insurance offers several tips if filing a homeowner's claim for damage caused by broken water pipes, downed tree limbs or other

er damage from the storm. TDI advises contacting your insurance company or agent as soon as possible to file a claim. Also:

- Make a list of damaged property. Take pictures or video of the damage.
- Take steps to protect your home from further damage. Turn off the water, cover broken windows and holes in your roof if possible. Keep receipts on anything you spend to make temporary repairs.
- Try to be present when the insurance adjuster comes to inspect the damage or leave a note on how you can be reached.
- Keep a list of everyone you talk to at your insurance company.
- Get more than one bid, check references, and don't pay up front.

STORM SLOWS RATE OF VACCINATIONS ACROSS TEXAS

Scheduled COVID-19 vaccinations were rescheduled in metro areas and vaccine hubs throughout the state due to the storm.

People in Texas vaccinated with at least one dose passed the 3 million mark, and 1.313 million people were fully vaccinated as of Sunday. COVID-19 vaccine distribution will ramp back up as the state recovers from the winter storms, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Nearly 600,000 first doses are coming this week from the Centers for Disease Control and are being shipped to 563 providers in 230 Texas counties.

In addition, the state has ordered 364,830 second doses intended for people first vaccinated a few weeks ago. A TDSHS news release stated that people who had their second dose appointments delayed by the winter weather "should rest assured knowing that vaccine will be available, and their appointments will be rescheduled."

For more information, go to this site: <https://tinyurl.com/duocrcgb>. People without internet access can dial 2-1-1 to access information about vaccine providers.

COVID-19 CASES IN STATE CONTINUE TO DROP

While some reporting may have been delayed because of the storms, the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine reported 33,423 cases in Texas last week — fewer than half reported the previous week. The number of new deaths also dropped by more than half, with 892 reported. Again, the numbers may be skewed by the storm's effects on power outages at Texas hospitals and other factors. We'll see what next week's numbers indicate.

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THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Entertaining Remington

I remember, a long time ago, when I used to have a social life.

My husband, Peter, and I have been visiting his sister, Lori, once a week while she battles cancer. She was in yesterday for another radiation treatment, and we are waiting to hear if she will be feeling well enough for a visit this weekend. And so we stay home, as we have since March of last year.

Lately, we have taken to picking up our groceries at the curb. I was skeptical. I'd never had another person choose my broccoli for me. They did a surprisingly good job, and it's one more thing we can do to feel a little safer while visiting Lori. But it's also a little sad because the grocery store is the only place I go.

Now, I go nowhere except on my long daily walk and to visit Lori. And the only person who comes to our house is our neighbor, Yvonne, and the dog, Remington.

Yvonne's dad is 90 and frail. He hasn't been out of his house other than for a couple of doctor appointments and the occasional drive around town. Yvonne is keeping extra safe so she can bring him meals and groceries. Yvonne just retired and thought she'd be going places and doing things she couldn't do while she was working. Instead, she's walking her son's dog, Remington.

Our twice-weekly visits from Remington have become the center of our social life.

Yvonne rings the doorbell and then steps back off the stoop. But Remington strains on his leash in anticipation. Yvonne confirms these visits are the highlight of his week.

Peter makes a wonderful smoked salmon, and we save the skin for Remington. I bring it out on a plate, along with a bowl of water. Remington eats the salmon and has a drink and then waits, poised, for the entertainment.

Entertaining Remington has become an elaborate affair.

Peter brings out exactly six "pub snacks," which are crackers he has renamed "pup snacks." He tosses them high in the air and Remington catches them. Peter calls this Remington's "circus trick," and Yvonne and I cheer wildly every time Remington catches a cracker. You can see Remington's fierce concentration as he performs for three adults, focused on his performance. It's a lot of pressure for one young dog, becoming the center of three adults' social calendar.

This routine has become so firmly established that, one day, I was late with the salmon and Peter tossed the crackers before its arrival. Remington was visibly confused but caught the crackers. Then, one by one, he carefully placed them on the step to eat after the salmon because he knew that was the way it was supposed to be done.

And all the while we have been entertaining Remington, we have missed important milestones, experiences we will never have, moments lost forever.

My parents are in their 80s and I missed both their birthdays. My niece turned 18, which is impossible to believe. I hardly recognize my nephew on Zoom. He seems to have grown a foot and his voice has changed. I have missed attending the theater, missed seeing the ocean, missed entertaining friends, missed going to restaurants, missed hugging my family. And those are just things I know I have missed.

Meanwhile, Remington competes twice weekly for the title of "World's Best Circus Dog," my only live entertainment for the past 11 months. "See you soon!" Yvonne says when she leaves.

"Goodbye, Remington!" I say, and Remington leaves, tail wagging.

I hope he comes back soon. Till next time, Carrie

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

top ten

Creative Hobbies During COVID

1. Trying new recipes

2. Gardening

3. Painting

4. Photography

5. Drawing

6. Creative writing


7. Dance

8. Interior design

9. Digital design

10. Non-fiction writing

Source: Canava



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USPS 244-500 and the Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

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OBITUARIES

CHESTER J. STASNEY

October 6, 1929 ~ February 18, 2021 (age 91)

Heaven gained a beautiful angel as Chester J. Stasney, Sr. received his wings on February 18, 2021. He was a wonderful husband, Daddy, and PaPa. Chester was born to Frank and Vera Stasney of Crosby, Texas on October 6, 1929. While drafted into the Army, in 1951, he married his high school sweetheart, Marie Martin. They shared nearly 70 wonderful years of marriage. Chester and Marie moved to Highlands in 1953 and were pillars of the community. He and Marie belonged to St. Jude Catholic Church for 68 years and were among the oldest parishioners. Chester was instrumental in starting the annual church bazaar where he was head cook and his barbecue recipe was regarded as one of the best.

Chester worked for General Tire and Rubber Company followed by Bell Telephone prior to enlisting in the Army in 1950. After his service to our country, he returned to General Tire and Rubber and then Shell Oil Company. He spent the remainder of his career, 30 years, at Harris County Precinct 2. At the time of his retirement, he was administrative superintendent for the road and bridge department.

Chester was a proud member of the Highlands Rotary Club for 54 years, where he was the oldest surviving member. He was a co-founder of the Highlands Rotary Club



Chili Feast in 1975 where Chester's chili recipe became famous. He received the highest honor bestowed by the Rotary Foundation and was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Chester made meaningful contributions to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo through his 40 years of service on various committees. He became a lifetime member in 2001. Chester also was appointed to the Emergency Services District #14 Board by Commissioner Jim Fonteno where he served for 20 years.

Chester is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Wilson, Lawrence, and James, his in-laws, Jordan and Pearlle Martin, his son-in-law, J.E. Bird, and grandson, Scott Bird. He is survived by his wife Marie, children Chester Joseph, Jr., Alabama, Elaine Marshall and husband Eddie, Highlands, Paul Stasney, Highlands, Leah Stasney, Houston, LaVern Kittsley and husband Dodd, New York, grandchildren, Christopher Bird, Brett Marshall, and wife Jessica, Seth Stasney, Payton, and Cooper Kittsley, great-



grandchildren, Aubrey Bird and Fitzgerald Marshall. He is also survived by his two younger sisters, June Ann Smesny and Malba Smesny, and numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

Honoring the family as Pallbearers are Eddie Marshall, Dodd Kittsley, Christopher Bird, Seth Stasney, Brett Marshall, Payton and Cooper Kittsley, and Roy Selensky. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Highlands Rotary Club and ESD #14.

Arrangements are being handled by Sterling White in Highlands. All services will be held at St. Jude Catholic Church in Highlands. Visitation will be held Thursday, February 25, 2021, from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm with a Rosary at 6:00 pm. The funeral services will be held Friday, February 26 at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to Highlands Rotary Club, P.O. Box 892, Highlands, Texas 77562 where they will establish a scholarship in Chester's name.

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RONALD "RON" DALE DAVENPORT

Ronald "Ron" Dale Davenport, 71, of Dayton, Texas, passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2021, in Clear Lake, Texas. He was born on November 15, 1949, in Houston, Texas to the late Kenneth Davenport and Ira Rue Jones Davenport. Ron attended Glenna Park High until the age of 17, where he then joined the United States Army, proudly serving his country in the Vietnam War. On September 12, 1970, Ron married the love of his life, Debbie, and they began their lives together, raising their family in Channelview, Texas.

Ron was a person who pursued many interests, some of which included playing golf, mowing his yards, hanging out and swapping stories with his buddies and his brother, and tinkering around the house. Above all though, he truly loved fishing. In fact, while at the lake house, if it were raining and he could not fish, he could be found at Academy buying new fishing gear. Ron was extremely enter-



taining and naturally funny person who could always make you smile. He could walk in a room and light it up with his personality or charm a group with a great joke he heard at the plant. Ron was a tough man who instilled values in his children that they will be able to pass onto to their children as well. His family was his pride and joy and he worked very hard to ensure they were always taken care of.

Ron was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to many who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Robert Lynn Davenport and Deborah Ann Shubert; his niece, Carla Sisney; and two best friends, Kenny Arnold and

Melton Scroggins. He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory, his beloved wife of 50 years, Debbie Davenport; his children, Brandi Lynn Davenport, of Montgomery, Texas; Angie Lee Crew and husband Zachary, of Huffman, Texas; his grandchildren Trey Kosut and Bayley Kosut, of Montgomery, Texas, and Jayden Crew, of Huffman, Texas. He also leaves behind his brother, Buc Davenport and wife Jennifer, of Mont Belvieu, Texas and their daughters, Samantha, Sarah, Kaleigh, Kasey, and Keytee; his niece Monique Flaten, of Sheldon, Texas and a host of other loving relatives and friends which include his close patchwork brothers; Craig Wade, David Askew, Randy Goedrich, Mark, James and Lynn Faltysek, and Chris Bumpas.

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THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

Written by God

I'm sure you've seen a few different versions of the Ten Commandments over the years, including some that are pretty entertaining. I came across a copy of the Cowboy 10 Commandments not long ago. It keeps things fairly simple...because, you know, we cowboys are simple people.

1. Just one God.
2. Honor yer Ma & Pa.
3. No telling tales or gossipin'.
4. Git yourself to Sunday meet-ing.
5. Put nothin' before God.
6. No foolin' around with another fellow's gal.
7. No killin'.
8. Watch yer mouth.
9. Don't take what ain't yers.
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff.

This particular "translation" might make you smile, but the Ten Commandments are no joke. The fact is we sometimes take these ten sentences, in whichever form we read them, somewhat for granted – especially in today's culture. But have you ever considered that God Himself wrote them on stone? If not, look at Exodus 31:18: "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." GOD wrote the Ten Commandments with His own hand.

That in itself testifies to their importance. They really are rules to live by. With that in mind, it pays to stop on occasion and honestly consider our lives in relation

to these words God wrote down not once, but twice. (Yes, thanks to Moses' loss of temper, he had to go back to God for another copy.)

Just look at #1. We know there is only one God and He reigns supreme, but it's easy to let other things get in between us and our relationship with Him – to "put other gods before Him." And I mean it when I say "us." As a minister, I stress the importance of putting God first because I face the same challenges everyone else does and recognize the dangers. I know that I have to ensure I don't risk walking into the same trap most of the world and much of Christianity falls into, that I'm not letting my personal time with God slide because the horses need tending or I'm exhausted from an especially long day or...

We all face that particular issue, whether the "thing between" has to do with school or kids' schedules or work or anything else. The traps are out there, lining the road. The key is to recognize them for what they are, know how easy they are to fall into, and avoid them at all cost. In other words, Christian, we must stay on high alert.

Checking ourselves against the rest of the Big Ten is important too, obviously. I trust you learned to honor your parents years ago, and hope you guard your heart from listening to gossip and your tongue from sharing it, that you're faithful to attend church services, etc.

Because when it's written by God you know it's vital for man.

www.myhillsidefamily.com
@myhillsidefamily

Uri yields Power Crisis,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

er Crisis is what they are calling the state's condition.

About 75% of the continental United States was covered with snow by the storm. Temperatures reached as low as 7 degrees on several nights. Grocery store supplies were depleted of milk products and

meats by the time the roads became usable for most.

Local first responders were tasked. Crosby's ambulance crews attended patients on medical devices by finding power support or supplying oxygen. Some patients were transported to Dayton for dialy-

sis as Crosby at that time had no water and private ambulances were unable to get them. Many patients were treated in their homes. Hospitals, in some cases, were unable to take patients due to power and water issues.

AOC raises \$5 million,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cessful.

Garcia told of how AOC began raising funds to aid the ice storm victims. The first day AOC quickly raised over a million dollars so she then decided to continue raising donations. On the second day, the day before her trip to Houston AOC had raised over two million and Saturday on the day she arrived here AOC had raised 3.2 million dollars. After leaving the HFB Garcia's took OAC out to some Houston communities to

visit and see first-hand how devastating the brutal storm struck millions of people.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez said, "Many Texas families and those across the country are already on the brink of financial collapse because of the COVID 19 pandemic that's preventing them from working. They can't afford another emergency like these ice storms. This can set people back for years, not just days." She said the funds raised will go to non-

profit organizations to help the elderly, homeless and hunger victims.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee said so many of the ice storm victims are essential workers, living on a low income budget, this places them in danger more so than others. These folks went without power and or water for days; we know they suffered and are still suffering. They're our brothers and sisters, let us not let them go hungry or without decent shelter.

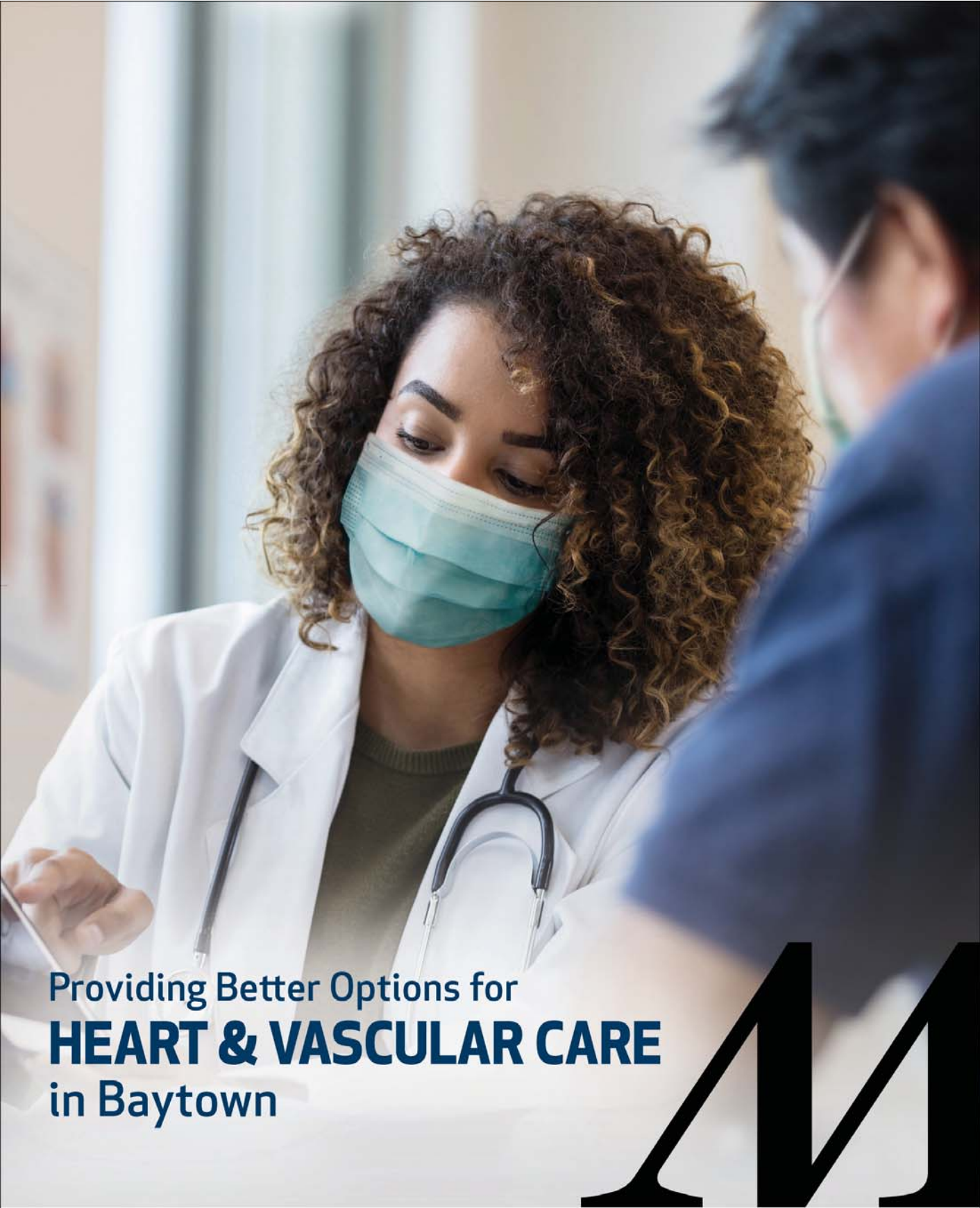
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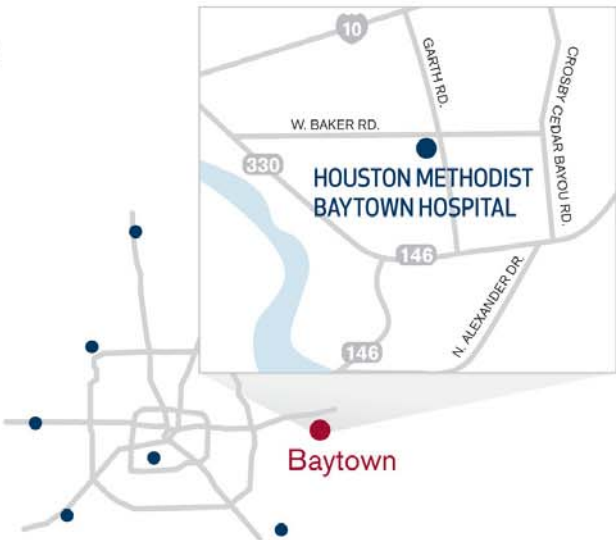
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MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

West Chambers Chamber News

Small Business

Lunch Rush

March 9 10:30 a.m.
until 1:00 p.m.

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Friday, April 16
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Dayton Chamber News

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.

Real Heroes Don't wear capes, they wear badges

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Sheriff's Office K9s Molly and Harvey have new body armor

Chambers County Sheriff's Office K9s Molly and Harvey has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Molly's vest was sponsored by Jeanne Ryan of Greer, SC,

And embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.". K9 Harvey's vest was embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Keith."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United



Deputy Ethan Kahla, K9 Harvey, Sheriff Brian Hawthorne, Deputy Dan Summers, K9 Molly

States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is

U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest

in K9s, Inc. has provided over 4,183 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-

year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

"Our K9's are put in harm's way for the good of our citizens and receiving these ballistic vests to protect the life of our animals, that are interacting with criminals, is a blessing for the Chambers County Sheriff's Office. I appreciate Vested Interest in K9s and the people making donations to this worthy cause," said Sheriff Hawthorne.

Catastrophic Winter Storm Power Disruptions

By Mayes Middleton

Millions of Texans were without power for days, with lives lost and many more put at risk. The words anger and frustration do not do justice to what we are experiencing. Over the last several days, I have been working with CenterPoint, Entergy, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to improve our power situation in Galveston and Chambers Counties.

There are two major failures. First, ERCOT has clearly failed. Our state's electrical grid operator has shown unparalleled incompetence during this critical time and Texans are paying the price. The "R" in "ERCOT" is for "reliability" and that did not happen.

Second, CenterPoint energy's rolling blackouts were not made in a fair "pro-rata" manner. Instead, Galveston and Chambers Counties have disproportionately suffered. Centerpoint is in control of which areas are turned on

and which aren't. Overall, Galveston County was 88% out and the west side of Chambers County was 76% out, while Harris County was just 16% out at times. Some communities were hit even worse, Galveston and San Leon/Bacliff approached 100% outages. Centerpoint said 1.2 million of their 2.5 million customers were out and that only essential circuits were left on, so the question remains why are so many homes in Harris County on essential circuits and so few in our area?

BOLIVAR AND ENTERGY OUTAGE

The Bolivar Peninsula is serviced by Entergy and the non-ERCOT grid operator known as "MISO." MISO initiated less severe rolling outages than ERCOT, however the initial outage was unrelated to these rolling outages. Many residents have been without power since Sunday night but, after monitoring Entergy's progress, I am hopeful all Bolivar customers

are restored today. Despite this, we were the first to go out in the system, so we should have been the first back on, but this did not happen.

DRINKING WATER

We have requested help from Texas Division of Emergency Management with the water supply which is limited or down in Galveston, Bolivar, Bacliff, Anahuac and elsewhere. Thank you Light-house Charity Team for helping me source several pallets of water for McGuire Dent Center. This is critical situation I am working closely with emergency management on providing additional bottled water.

MOVING FORWARD

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS AND HOUSE ENERGY RESOURCES HEARING NEXT WEEK TO INVESTIGATE OUTAGE CAUSES AND DETERMINE SOLUTIONS

The House State Affairs and House Energy Resources

Committees will hold a joint hearing (see below) on February 25th to review what happened with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). This will be the start of the Texas Legislature addressing this problem to ensure that this never happens again. Time for answers on how this happened and solutions to never have it happen again. <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/schedules/hmtml/C2502021022509001.htm>

31,000 MW of conventional generation such as natural gas and coal generation, primarily "peaker" plants brought on for high demand times went down during this event. This represents a high 39% rate of failure. Texas produces 25% of the nation's natural gas and we have over 500 Billion cubic feet in storage in salt domes and depleted reservoirs. We should not be having these issues with base load generation because of abundant fuel supply. Additionally, in our time of great-

est need, during the peak of the cold Monday night, just 900MW was being produced by wind energy despite 30,000MW of capacity. In other words just 3% of wind energy capacity was generating. It is clear wind power generation failed at a disproportionately higher rate compared to other non-subsidized sources of energy, which is something we must investigate. Sadly, the state's largest investment in the electric grid in the last 10 years was \$7 Billion for the CREZ transmission lines for wind power, on top of large federal subsidies and billions in local school and county property tax abatements. Clearly this investment failed us as well. What prevented total grid failure was conventional generation and nuclear (see attached chart).

Regardless of cause this must never happen again and Texas must take steps for reliable and secure base load power generation, so millions of lives are not put at risk again.

Stress Can Wreak Havoc on your Stomach

BAYTOWN — (February 5, 2021) — Stress, worry and anxiety can take a toll on the stomach. Intense life situations like going on a job interview, getting pulled over for a traffic ticket or waiting on the results of a medical test are examples of events that can trigger nervous butterflies in the belly that are hard to ignore.

"The enteric nervous system, a collection of neurons in the gastrointestinal tract, makes up your gut's 'brain.' This system works with the endocrine system, which is responsible for hormones that affect metabolism and how the digestion and elimination process works," said Dr. Yassir Ashraf, a gastroenterology-hepatology specialist with Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates at Baytown.

The entire system is sensitive to moods—and stress is a major contributor to many digestive problems. Ashraf offers a look at common conditions and how they're affected by stress.

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is an intestinal disorder that's marked by cramping, gas, bloating and a change in bowel habits. Stress doesn't cause

the condition, but some IBS sufferers find that it brings on flare-ups. "This may be because the colon is partly controlled by the body's autonomic nervous system, which responds to stress," Ashraf said.

Heartburn occurs when the lower esophageal sphincter muscle relaxes, allowing stomach acid to back up into the esophagus. According to the National Heartburn Alliance, stress can cause problems with the way food makes its way through your digestive system, causing food to move upward instead of down. Research shows that heartburn sufferers who recently experienced a life-changing event were more likely to develop severe symptoms.

Indigestion can trigger bloating or nausea, belching, gas and diarrhea. It's often caused by eating too much or eating too fast, consuming high-fat foods or eating during stressful situations. It can also be a sign of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) or ulcers. Indigestion tends to get worse during stressful times and improves in times of relaxation. "Stress can worsen underlying health conditions and trig-



DR. YASSIR ASHRAF

ger unhealthy eating and smoking, both of which are known to worsen indigestion," Ashraf explained.

Ease Anxiety and Bello-aches

You can't always avoid stress, but you can manage it and help ease your stomach woes. Some key strategies include:

Exercise. Regular activity helps reduce stress, control weight, regulate bowel function and improve your overall well-being. Just make sure to exercise before eating or wait at least one hour after a meal.

Biofeedback. This mind-over-matter technique helps you learn to control certain body functions that may have fallen into an abnormal pattern—including bowel function—and

bring them back to normal. Biofeedback also helps reduce muscle tension and slow heart rate, promoting a relaxed state.

Relaxation and breathing techniques. Try yoga or meditation, taking slow, rhythmic breaths to lessen stress and, in turn, cramps and pain.

To ensure your safety, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you and our staff members safe, including, screening all patients, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office; wearing masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) while providing patient care; reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing, and implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces.

Now located in their new, spacious office located conveniently on Houston Methodist Baytown's Garth campus (4301 Garth Rd., Suite 200, Independence Plaza 2), the specialists with Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates—Dr. Ashraf, Ludie Hernandez-Buck,

MD, Dr. Rashid Khan and Samir Nath, MD—diagnose and treat the full spectrum of gastroenterology conditions, including irritable bowel syndrome, fatty liver disease, hepatitis, acid reflux disease, colon and rectal cancer screening, and diverticular disease. To schedule an appointment with a physician, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281-422-7970.

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