

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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VOL. 68, NO. 9 - 50¢ © Copyright 2021 THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

★
IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**THURS. MAR. 18
 Crosby Chamber Luncheon**

Monthly Member Luncheon! Thursday, March 18th at The Crawfish Shack, located at 5822 FM 2100 in Crosby. Lunch will begin at 11:30am. \$20.00.

This month will be a Member Business Showcase Luncheon! Members will be able to set up vendor tables and talk about their business and offer member to member discounts at no charge.

RSVP by March 16th. Call 281-328-6984, or email chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

SAT. MARCH 20

Crosby Fair & Rodeo Concert

Rock'n C Roundup CONCERT 7:00pm. George Dearborne performing. Tickets \$15/\$25 couple. Crosby Fairgrounds, 14920 FM 2100 Crosby, TX.

**COVID-19
 Cases as of
 March 2, 2021**

**HOUSTON AREA
 19 COUNTIES**

572,627 POSITIVE
 5,756 DEATHS
 512,350 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,668,091 POSITIVE
 44,186 DEATHS
 2,441,882 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

28,717,629 POSITIVE
 516,476 DEATHS
 --- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

114,794,551 POSITIVE
 2,547,493 DEATHS
 64,868,267 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 4—Evelyn Banks
 Cathie West
 Jamie Yarbrough
 Eric Wood
 Mar 5—Drexel Rohde
 Mar 6—Theresa Abbott
 Mar 7—Shirley Brantley
 Michelle Cavazos
 Don Stone
 Dustin Stone
 Mar 9—John Boehm
 Terri Martin
 Mar 10—Eric Groce
 Mar 11—Marcille Robinson

ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 5—Raymond & Mary Helen James
 Mar 16—Yvonne & Dale Browder

OBITUARIES & TRIBUTES

James Edward Stasney, Jr.

Governor lifts Mask mandate, opens business 100% against heavy criticism

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott stirred up a major controversy today, by issuing an Executive Order (GA-34) lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent. The Governor made the announcement at Montelongo's Mexican Restaurant in Lubbock in an address to the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

The announcement immediately drew criticism from County and City governments, labor unions, and public health officials that have been attempting for over a year to reduce the number of illnesses and deaths caused by the COVID-19 virus. This highly contagious virus is



GOVERNOR ABBOTT makes announcement at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Lubbock.

spread through human contact, and masks and social distancing, and "lockdowns" are the major elements in the fight

against the disease. Abbott said "With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas

now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," said Governor Abbott. "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent. Make no mistake, COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations, and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed. Today's announcement does not abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it is a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others. With this executive order, we are ensuring that all business-

es and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny."

During his remarks, the Governor discussed the incredible advancements that Texas has made that allow the state to open fully and lift the mask mandate—noting the rapid increase of vaccines. Nearly 5.7 million vaccine shots have been administered to Texans, and the state is now administering almost one million shots each week. By next Wednesday, about 7 million shots will have been administered in Texas and over half of seniors in Texas will have received a vaccine shot. By the end of March, every

See **ABBOTT OPENS TEXAS**, page 2

President Biden tours Houston Relief sites

HOUSTON - President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden traveled to Houston last Friday, February 26 as Harris County slowly recovers from the winter storm and power and water outages.

The president was greeted at Ellington Airfield when he landed by a delegation including Mayor Turner, Governor Abbott, and Congresspersons Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee. They met with Gov. Greg Abbott at the FEMA



TOUR of the Harris County Emergency Center included L to R, Mayor Turner, Governor Abbott, President Joe Biden, and HC Judge Lina Hidalgo, explaining the details of operation in the emergency center.

vaccine super-site at NRG around 5 p.m. Friday. This will be Biden's last stop after touring several locations, including the Houston Food Bank and the Harris County Emergency Management Center.

Biden earlier surveyed damage and recovery efforts following the deadly winter storm.

White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki said this is not a partisan issue for the president.

"The president doesn't view the crisis and the millions of people who have been impacted by (the storm) as a Democratic or a Republican issue" Psaki said. "He views it as an issue where he's eager to get relief, to tap into all the resources in the federal government, to make sure the people of Texas know we're thinking about them, we're fighting for them,

Continued, see **Biden tours Houston**, page 5

Murder in Highlands

HIGHLANDS - A man was found gunned down in the 100 block Del Monte Lane, near Bluebell Street before 2:50 a.m. Sunday, the last day of February.

Harris County Sheriff's Office District III deputies discovered the victim, who was identified by family members at the scene, lying in the driveway, unresponsive from an apparent gunshot wound.

It appears Rene Hernandez, 53, was shot in his sister's front yard upon returning from a bar unannounced, according to Sergeant Sidney Miller of the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division.

Highlands Fire Department EMS arrived on the scene and pronounced Hernandez deceased.

Witnesses told deputies of hearing a loud argument then at least two gunshots.

Witnesses say they went outside to see the victim's black Dodge Charger and possibly another vehicle, called to be a black Ford Ranger, flee the scene. The Dodge Charger drove northbound while the Ford Ranger drove southbound. The victim's Dodge Charger was later recovered approximately 1 mile from the shooting scene. No description of suspects was provided by witnesses.

The Sheriff's Office Homicide and Crime Scene Units were called to the scene to conduct the investigation. The case is currently under investigation and anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stopper at (713) 222-TIPS (8477) or the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit at (713) 221-6000.

Chamber installs new board members



Rev. Larry Koslovski of the Brethren Church, Justin League of Sparks Insurance, Toni Handley, Chelsey Stringer of Community Resource Credit Union, Tiffany Muller of Crosby Church and Eric Jennings of DOC Resources after standing election are sworn in by Precinct 3 Position 2 Justice of the Peace Lucia Bates. J.P. Bates also swore in returning Chamber Board members. March 18 the monthly luncheon will be held at Crawfish Shack for a Business Showcase Luncheon. Tees & Tails Golf Tournament is April 15 at Stonebridge.

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Abbott Opens Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

senior who wants a vaccine should be able to get one. The vaccine supply continues to increase so rapidly that more and more Texans will soon be eligible to receive a vaccine.

The Governor noted that Texas has a surplus of personal protective equipment and can perform over 100,000 COVID-19 tests a day. The state has invested in a variety of anti-body therapeutic drugs that have kept thousands of Texans out of hospitals. Texans have also adopted daily habits that reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection. More than 2.5 million Texans who were lab confirmed for COVID-19 have recovered since the beginning of the pandemic, and experts note the total number of Texans who have recovered from COVID-19 is likely 4-5 times that amount. The number of active COVID-19 cases is the lowest since November—meaning more Texans are recovering from COVID-19 than contracting it.

This executive order rescinds most of the Governor's earlier executive orders related to COVID-19. Effective next Wednesday, all businesses of any type may open to 100% capacity. Additionally, this order ends the statewide mask mandate in Texas. Businesses may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols at their own discretion.

If COVID-19 hospitalizations in any of the 22 hospital regions in Texas get above 15% of the hospital bed capacity in that region for seven straight days, a County Judge in that region may use COVID-19 mitigation strate-

gies. However, County Judges may not impose jail time for not following COVID-19 orders nor may any penalties be imposed for failing to wear a face mask. If restrictions are imposed at a County level, those restrictions may not include reducing capacity to less than 50% for any type of entity.



Judge Opposed

County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued this statement on the Governor's announcement:

"Taking away critical public health interventions that we know are working won't make our community safer, nor will it hasten our return to normalcy. Quite the opposite, every time public health measures have been pulled back, we've seen a spike in hospitalizations. If we start the climb now, we'd be starting from the highest starting point ever when it comes to our hospital population, an unacceptable and dangerous proposition. With the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, we're inching closer to the finish line of this pandemic - now is not the time to reverse the gains we've worked so hard to achieve.

At best, today's decision is wishful thinking. At worst, it is a cynical attempt to distract Texans from the failures of state oversight of our power grid.

Crosby Fair & Rodeo celebrates 75 Years!

Crosby Fair and Rodeo is celebrating 75 years in 2021. Thanks to the support of our generous sponsors CF&R has been able to keep the tradition going through generations of exhibitors, participants and spectators.

We will begin celebrating with the Round-Up March 20th, see attached Flyer. Our main celebration will be in June with the Youth Fair, Auction and then Rodeo. The Board of Directors heard the supporters and made a few changes in 2021's calendar of events. We will kick off the Fair and Rodeo starting Friday June 4th and 5th with the Cook-off, come support your cook off team and enjoy some entertainment. Then Monday June 9th the Fair begins with youth shows each day/evening concluding Thursday June 10th with the live auction at 6:00 p.m. This year we will have 2 nights of Rodeo and Entertainment Friday June 11th and Saturday the 12th to round out our celebration. Visit our Facebook or web page for information and updates on coming events.

If you are interested in being a member of Crosby Fair and Rodeo you can purchase a membership badge at the office by contacting Kris or one of the Directors. Membership this year is \$60.00 per badge and gets you admission to Round-up, both nights of Cook-Off & Rodeo as well as the annual Membership Feed in September and voting eligibility during the annual members meeting also in September. If you plan on attending multiple events this is a good value and will also be a collector's item for the 75th anniversary.

If you and/or your business are in a position to sponsor CF&R, attached is a document with many ways to contribute and help CF&R as they support the Youth and Education in our area. Packages start at \$200.00 for arena signs and go up from there. You can contact the Fair Office to let them know you are interested in a particular package. If you don't find a package that fits you, please let Rick Loggins (Rick@logginsincrosby.com) or myself know (dwright.klise@hakmetrology.com) and we can build a package to fit your business.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Dwight Klise
Director

COVID 19 Testing Sites in Northeast Harris County

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Crosby American Legion
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Mobile or On-Site Testing
Texas Mobile Medical Labs

Crosby ISD
Apt. Necessary (281) 328-9200
14670 FM 2100 Crosby,

Urgent Care MDs
No appointment needed 9 until 9
14405 FM 2100, Crosby
(832) 821-9780

Neighbors Emergency Center
No appointment needed
14120 FM 2100, Crosby, TX
(281) 328-7770

Crosby Community Center (when open)
409 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX
(281) 462-0543

Nova Medical Ctr.
Apt Req. (713) 453-7788
13469 East Freeway, Houston, TX 77015
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Appointment Req.

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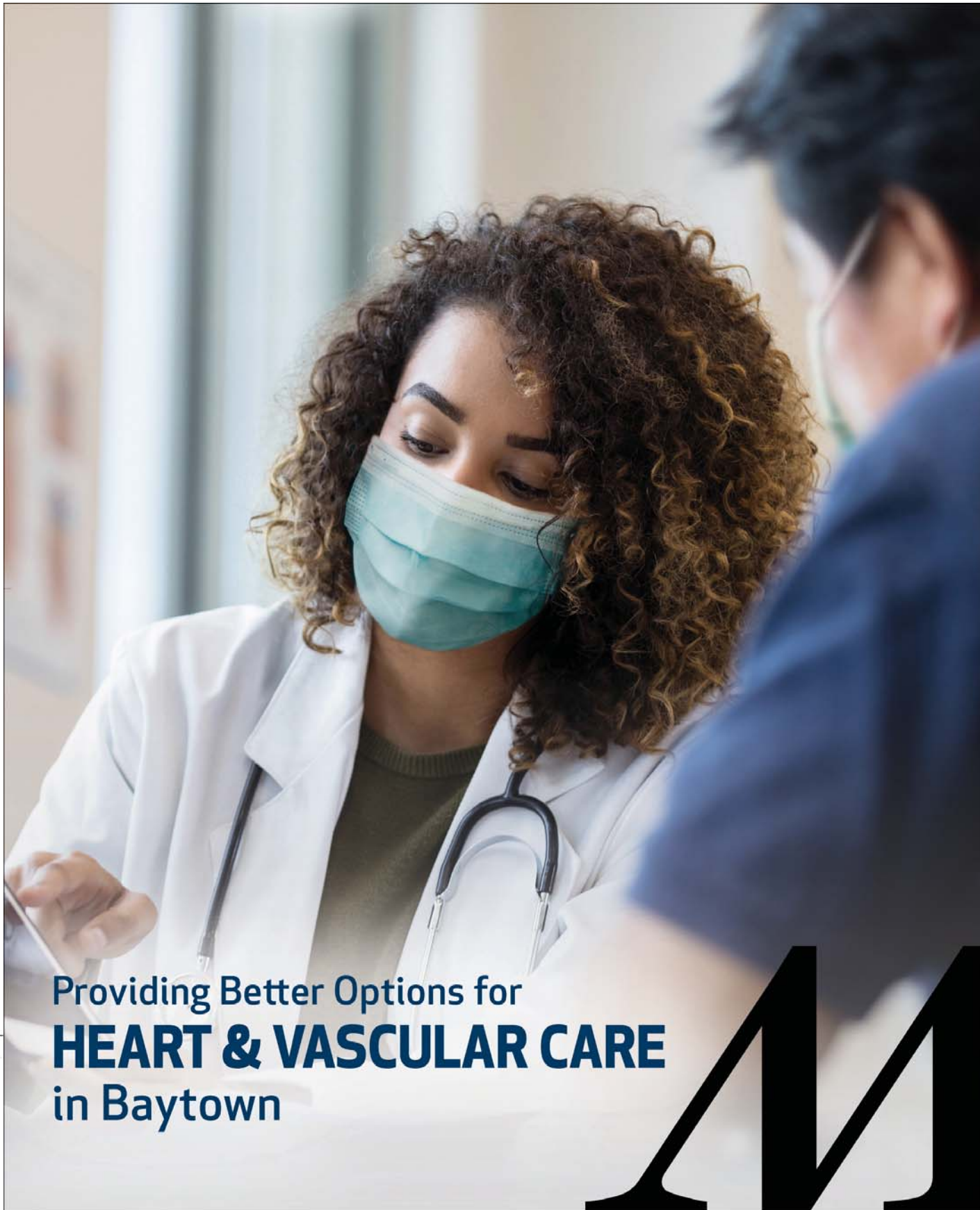
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★ OPINION PAGE ★

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OPINION
By The Metropolitan Organization

Current Disaster is Not an "Act Of God" But a Lack Of Action by State Leaders

TMO, The Metropolitan Organization, denounces the lack of state leadership which has produced a desperate and dire situation for Texas families. Cities have nursing homes without electricity, apartments and mobile home parks have no water and power, and whole counties are without shelters or warming stations.

"Ideology, greed, and incompetence at the state level have come together as a perfect storm to threaten the lives of Texas families," said Bob Fleming, TMO leader.

Texas saw similar power and infrastructure failures in 1989 and again in 2011 as a result of similar weather events. Notwithstanding these warnings, state leaders failed to prevent it from happening again.

"The storm may have been an act of nature, but the devastation of the electrical grid shut down is an act of sheer negligence", said Pastor John Ogletree of First Metropolitan Church with TMO. "It was foreseeable based on similar occurrences in the past, and so a failure on the part of state leaders to address the basic energy infrastructure needs of a growing state. There needs to be a full accounting by state leaders as to what happened and what is being done to address this critical need."

TMO and the Network of Texas IAF Organizations calls on Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, and state leaders to immediately supply Texas communities with power, water, food, supplies and emergency shelter.

- Release state funds to local governments for direct assistance in food, water, supplies.
- Work with federal government and FEMA to bring immediate national assistance to Texas.
- Force ERCOT to get service running and ensure that PUC prevents further rate spikes.

Over the long term, TMO calls on state leaders to invest in "winterizing" our power, water, and other utilities to prevent future disaster. TMO leaders demand that state leaders own up to the anti-regulation ideology that has done damage to Texas's infrastructure, and to take action to turn it around.

TMO is a non-partisan organization of institutions that works on issues coming out of hundreds of face-to-face conversations in our communities. TMO brings together institutional leaders across lines of race and class to work on issues of their choosing to create the common good.



Dad-gum ol' Doc

Nature hates a vacuum, and so does Windy Wilson. The other day, emerging from the drug store, he looked around, and, finding no handy audience, spoke instead to the world.

"Dad-gum ol' Doc, anyway," he said. "He's one-a my bestest pals, but if you go to him for a mizz-ry, he makes you do some things and quit doin' some other things. Them things Doc wants you to do you don't wanna do, and the things he wants you to quit doin' are stuff you bin savin' up to do a buncha years now.

"Now ol' Doc didn't even know he done it, but he proved to me that we had some a-them space alienated bein's for ancestors. Oh, they's hidin' out now, but they got a job ... as pill namers!

"Doc told me to quit shoein' horses, which was jest fine with me. Missable back-breakin' nasty work, anyway. But then he give me two subscriptions for pills that I am 'sposed to take for my mizz-ry.

"And when the nice girl here at the drugstore give 'em to me, she asked me if I had any questions about 'em. And I ast her how to say the pill names. And she told me, and thass when I knew.

"Ya see, ya can't jest name them pills in American. Oh no. First off ya gotta give 'em a name that's too much and a half too long ... like oh ... syna-broliam-fester-ine.

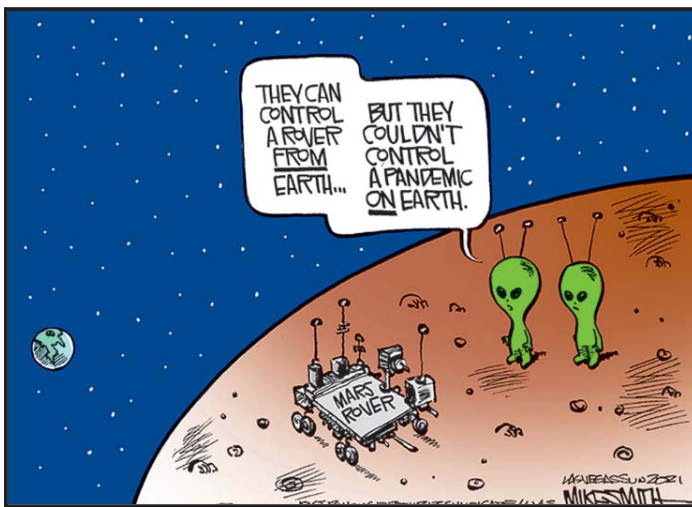
"We should take pill namin' back from them alien guys and create jobs for Americans! Give them pills names people can actual say.

"It wouldn't be too awful dang hard to remember a pill for pain if you called it

Mizzryfixer, now would it? And for a hangover cure, ya jest pop ya a happy little pill called Betcha-wish-yahadn't. If ya come down with the sugar diabeets, ol' Doc could tell ya to bullsnake down some pills we could call Too-sweet-by-half-odone. Now, for a instance, if you get plagiarized by them roamin' 'round peewaddles, you could take a pill called Limp-be-gone, or mebbe-so Gimpy-blocker, and you'd know jest what it was for, wouldn't ya?

"Betcha them space guy's jest laughin' theirselves sick. But hey, at least Doc told me to quit shoein' horses, and that there's a constellation dee-voutly to be wished on.

"And you kin tell 'em I said so."



★
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Political fallout from Winter Storm continues

As Texans across the state continue to deal with the damage from the mid-February winter storm, so does the political fallout in Austin.

So far, seven of the 16 board members of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas have resigned. CEO Bill Magness defended ERCOT's decision to order widespread blackouts while testifying before a joint hearing of two state House committees last week.

Meanwhile, the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, says it has opened an investigation into retail electric providers whose flexible pricing plans inflicted electric bills in the thousands of dollars on some Texas customers in the wake of the storm. In a televised address on Wednesday, Gov. Greg Abbott said he had ordered that Texans will not have their power shut off because of unpaid bills until the Legislature has had time to act. He acknowledged that power generation from all sources failed under the harsh weather, including natural gas, coal, nuclear, wind and solar. Abbott has made it a legislative priority to mandate and fund winterizing the Texas power infrastructure.

However, the head of Irving-based Vistra energy testified at last week's committee hearing that winterizing power plants could backfire in summer months. According to the Texas Standard, Curt Morgan said, "We don't put structures around our equipment down here. Why? Because in the summer when it's 105 degrees you'd bake inside there; the equipment would fail."

Additional hearings are scheduled this week in the Texas Senate.

MORE COUNTIES ADDED TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has



added an additional 31 Texas counties to the federal disaster declaration, making a total of 108 counties covered. Abbott originally asked that all 254 Texas counties be included. Texans across the state are urged to fill out a form to help the state identify damages that occurred during the storm, which can be accessed at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/warming-center/>.

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS AFFECTED BY STORM

The State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association and legal aid providers remind Texans that free legal assistance is available through a toll-free hotline to help folks pursue government benefits, insurance claims, home repairs and other issues. The hotline — 800-504-7030 — is available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. It connects low-income callers with local legal aid providers.

Push to expand broadband continues

The latest issue of Fiscal Notes from the state comptroller's office provides a comprehensive look at the issue of expanding broadband, which Abbott made an emergency legislative priority item in early February. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated demand for broadband Internet service as

schools went virtual and telemedicine became more common. As of January, educators had paid for more than 4.5 million broadband devices and Wi-Fi hotspots, using funds from the Texas Education Agency, local school districts, businesses and federal funding.

A bipartisan group of 88 Texas legislators in November recommended that the state create a comprehensive broadband plan and establish a state broadband office. Jennifer Harris is state program director of Connected Nation Texas, which partners with private and public entities to push for expansion of broadband. She noted, "The pandemic has shown everyone how important broadband is. Ten years ago, we had to tell people why broadband would be good for the community. We don't need to tell anyone that anymore."

AFTER STORM, COVID-19 VACCINES RAMP UP AGAIN

Nearly 700,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are coming to Texas this week, with 429,600 second doses arriving as well, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Providers quickly resumed vaccinations after power and water service were restored across the state. The state continues to provide shots for health-care workers, long-term facility residents, people over 65 and those with existing medical conditions. TDSHS says vaccines are limited to the capacity of vaccine manufacturers to produce them, and there is not enough vaccine to supply every provider every week.

The Centers for Disease Control this week is shipping doses to 522 providers in 199 counties. As of Sunday, 3.4 million Texans had received the first dose and 1.728 million were fully vaccinated, according to TDSHS. More than 40% of adults 65 years and older have received the first dose, and nearly 20% in that age group are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS UP FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

The winter storm likely muddied last week's reporting, but new cases of COVID-19 in Texas totaled 55,547 in the last week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. A total of 1,478 deaths were reported. Both figures are considerably higher than what was reported the previous week, but that could be a result of delayed data due to the storm. A better comparison can be made next week, with two weeks of relatively normal weather conditions. Regardless, health officials across the state are still urging Texans to wear masks in public, practice social distancing and wash our hands frequently.

★
THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Travel Fantasies

I know I am not the only one having travel fantasies. My husband, Peter, and I were not planning to do a lot of traveling in the past year. That was our plan, and we certainly made good on it. We didn't realize at the time that, "not a lot of traveling," would mean a bi-weekly trip to the grocery store. Like a lot of folks, we've been tracking how many months we're getting on a gallon of gas.

Now, however, traveling is sounding better all the time.

My parents are also making travel plans. Over the past year, they decided to sell the little cottage they have in Florida. Instead, they have a list of places they'd like to take their RV.

"There are too many other places we want to go!" My mother explained.

A year of sitting in their cabin has made them realize how many places there are to see and how little time there is to see them.

It's true. A year of sitting and watching the months fly by makes a person realize how quickly the time passes. Sometimes, without the normal milestones, I completely lose track of time. I've caught myself glancing out the window with a feeling of panic, looking at the trees to give me a clue what season it is. (I am embarrassed to admit this—but now I have.)

Peter's oldest sister, Shelley, lost her husband to Alzheimer's early in the pandemic. She's now living with her son and daughter-in-law, waiting for a return to something like normal before finding a place of her own. She missed the trip to Norway two years ago, where Peter and a bunch of his older cousins all went to the small town his grandfather emigrated from. We met the Norwegian relatives who still live there, and they were unbelievably welcoming. It's a sweet town, nestled in the mountains, sitting on a river, miles away from any major city.

"I think we should go back," I told Peter. "And I think we should bring Shelley." Peter liked the idea.

So, the next day, we called up Shelley. She had just gotten home from a dental appointment and had a sore mouth.

"Shelley! You are coming with us to Norway in September 2022!"

I held my breath, but I didn't have to wait long.

"OK!" she said. And, yes, it is more than a year and a half away, but it still feels wonderful to have a plan to go somewhere other than the grocery store. Just thinking about seeing a new landscape fills me with excitement.

Later in the day, I went for the hike I take every afternoon. It seems as if I've seen every tree along the way, noticed every rock, and as I walked, I thought how nice it would be to hike in completely unfamiliar surroundings.

But just as I was thinking this, I stopped and looked at the tree directly in front of me, caught in the afternoon light. I don't remember ever really looking at it before. It's a beautiful tree, in a forest of beautiful trees, and I have walked by it thousands of times without giving it a second look.

"You are a beautiful tree," I told it (just in case it was listening).

Norway will be wonderful, I am sure. And I am sincerely looking forward to more travel in the coming year. But as I stood before that one beautiful tree, I promised myself I would try to pay more attention to the place I am visiting now—right here, today.

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

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star Courier

USPS 244-500
and the
Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

Editor & Publisher.....**Gilbert Hoffman**
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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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

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★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

★
TRIBUTE

JAMES EDWARD STASNEY JR.

Tribute

James Edward Stasney Jr., 73, of Highlands, Texas, passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020, in Highlands after a lengthy battle of cancer and Parkinson's disease. He was born on June 18, 1947, in Liberty, Texas, to the late James Edward Stasney Sr. and Mary Lou Michalsky Stasney. James graduated from Robert E. Lee in Baytown, Texas, in 1965. Afterwards, he went on to proudly serve his country during the Vietnam War in the United States Army. He spent his career as a crane operator with US Steel and afterwards he went on to become a maintenance coordinator for Albemarle



Corporation.

James pursued many interests, some of which included fishing, playing poker and working on lawnmowers. He was one of the most laid-back people you would ever meet. Although he was quiet, he loved to eat various types of foods and was always trying something new. He was a life time member of St. Jude's Catholic Church

in Highlands.

James was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to many who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory his beloved wife of 41 years Jodie Stasney; his children Jessica Grant and husband Eric, Justin Stasney and wife Tiffany; his granddaughter Kara Stasney; his brothers Ronnie Stasney and wife Carolyn, Dale Stasney and wife Theresa, Richard Stasney and wife Gwen, Robert Stasney and wife Dixie, his cat Sophie, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

Biden tours Houston sites,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and we're going to continue working on this as they're recovering."

According to the White House, the president and first lady arrive at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base at noon. Then they will make stops at the Houston Food Bank, Harris County Emergency Operations Center before taking a tour at the FEMA super-site.

Here is a look at their full schedule:

9:40 a.m.: President and the first lady depart the White House en route Joint Base Andrews 12 p.m.: The couple arrives in Houston

12:50 p.m.: First lady visits Houston Food Bank

12:55 p.m.: Biden tours Harris County Emergency Operations Center

2:20 p.m.: President, the first lady tour Houston Food Bank and meet volunteers

5 p.m.: Biden delivers remarks at the FEMA COVID-19 vaccination facility at NRG Stadium 6 p.m.: The couple departs from Houston en route to Washington, D.C.

Governor Abbott said he will join the president during the tour to discuss several key issues impacting Texans.

"The first thing that we will talk about will be the winter disaster that occurred," Abbott said. "And



THE BIDENS were greeted upon their arrival at Ellington Airfield by Congresspersons Al Green, Sheila Jackson Lee, and Governor Abbott with his wife Cecelia. Joe and Jill Biden are at right in the photo.



HOUSTON FOOD BANK president Brian Greene explains how they operate, during a tour by Jill and Joe Biden.

then, on top of that, we will be visiting one of the vaccine super sites they have located in Houston."

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo told people to

expect traffic delays throughout the day, especially along Loop 610 where most of the tour will occur throughout the afternoon.

GCM JROTC places 3rd in Competition



Goose Creek Memorial MCJROTC Unarmed Drill Platoon finished 3rd place at the Pasadena High Schools Marine Corps Drill Competition Feb. 13, 2021. Pictured are Cadet's Major Katherine Cash, Captain Alexa Rodriguez, Staff Sergeant Cassidy Zavala, Staff Sergeant Maria Guerrero, Staff Sergeant Adrianna Escalante, 1st Sergeant Ty McAlister, Corporal Samantha Padilla, Staff Sergeant Mary Castanon and 1st Lt Brianna Monsalve.

Senator Alvarado organizes relief for Storm Victims



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, (UAF) President John Alex and Senator Carol Alvarado. Also present was Judge Joe Stephens. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – February 22, 2021 – State Senator Carol Alvarado, Judge Joe Stephens and New York City's United Aid Foundation (UAF) President John Alex teamed up to help the North Channel areas residents with food, water and household essentials.

Hundreds of citizens lined up in vehicles for blocks to get the free supplies. Most of them having to maintain with shortages brought about from the February 15th ice storm that paralyzed the state over a week. The storm brought a halt to millions of Texans to be able to go to work. With their home's electricity out their refrigerated food had to be tossed out causing a food shortage. Public water suppliers weren't able to maintain a safe pressure to

prevent bacterial infiltration from seeping into the resident's water system. This health concern forced millions of Texans to have to boil their water to make it safe for consumption. The large demand for bottled drinking water caused a shortage that eventually ran out.

Senator Carol Alvarado hosted and organized the event and Judge Joe Stephens arranged to get the use of the parking lot of the Uvalde Baptist Church on Uvalde Street to distribute from. I'm very grateful to my friends at United Aid Foundation who traveled from New York to bring water, food and other essential to East Harris County. So many people in need, happy our office can assist. Appreciate Congresswoman Garcia and Judge Joe Stephens for their efforts," Alvarado said.

United Aid Foundation (UAF) out of New York City provided the funding for everything given away. John Alex, UAF President is no stranger to helping Houstonians, he came here in August of 2017 after Hurricane Harvey to help the flood victims. It was then during his Harvey work he met Senator Carol Alvarado. When he learned of Texans devastated by the ice storm and hunting empty shelves for food and water he contacted Alvarado to give UAF's helping hand.

Knowing Houston had low supplies of food and water Alex and team members Cenovio Villa, Louis Cordona and Abby Hayo flew to New Orleans they bought all the supplies there, they loaded it in a rented Uhaul truck and drove it to Houston in time for the planned distribution day.

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COVID-19 Test Sites Move to New Locations and Vaccinations Ramp up

Testing and Vaccinations Will Deliver a One-Two Punch to COVID-19

Houston – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is again vaccinating several thousand people a week at clinics across the county and helping support a large, new Federally operated site at NRG. Six thousand people a day will be vaccinated over the next couple of weeks, a total of 126,000 people. Those being vaccinated at NRG are chosen from the Harris County Wait List <https://vacstrac.hctx.net/landing> or 832-927-8787, and the City of Houston Wait List. Vaccine supplies are still limited, so only people in the 1A or 1B groups are eligible – health care workers, people over 65 or those with chronic underlying health conditions.

For people who can't be vaccinated yet, get tested! Four in 10 people who have COVID-19 don't know it because they don't

have symptoms but are still contagious. The more people who get tested and vaccinated, the faster we can stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

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 hcphtx.org or call 832-927-7575.

Monday, March 1-Sunday, March 7

• M.O. Campbell Education Center
Open Mon-Fri 12 - 7p.m.
Open Sun (3/7) 10a.m.-3p.m.

1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032

• Grayson Community Center
Open Tues- Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
13828 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015

• Christia Adair Park
Open Mon & Wed-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
15107 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77047

• St. Hyacinth Catholic Church
Open Mon & Tues, Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
2921 Center St, Deer Park, TX 77536

• St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Open Mon & Tues,

Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
527 S Houston Ave, Humble, TX 77338

• Redeemer Lutheran Church LCMS
Open Mon-Fri 8a.m.-3 p.m.
1200 E Lobit Ave, Baytown, TX 77520

• MAS Katy Center
Open Mon-Wed 8a.m.-3p.m.
1800 Baker Rd, Houston, TX 77094

• Life Changer Community Church
Open Fri & Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.
3115 N Fry Rd #407, Katy, TX 77449

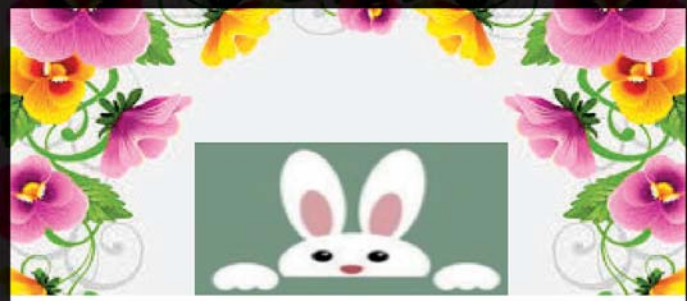
For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register at www.vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

Monday, March 1 – Saturday, March 6

San Jacinto College Central Campus
Open Mon-Fri 7a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Open Sat (3/6) 8 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 (3/6) 8 a.m.-3p.m.



March Madness Festival at Crosby United Methodist Church

March 20, 2021
10am to 3pm

Everyone is welcome!!

- kids games
- kids train ride
- vendors
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- silent auction
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LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR IN THE HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR.
CALL 713-266-3444

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 489296; Estate of GLORIA ELAINE PIERCE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 12, 2021.

THOMAS MATHEWS PIERCE

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this FEBRUARY 25, 2021.



by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Guardianship for Docket No. 483814; In the Guardianship of SUSAN TERI CRAIG, Incapacitated; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 4, 2021.

RUSSELL CRAIG

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this FEBRUARY 24, 2021.



by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Notice of Intention to Introduce a Bill in the Legislature of Texas

Notice is hereby given of the intention to introduce in the regular session of the 87th Legislative of Texas a bill relating to amending Special District Local Laws Code, Chapter 3930.154 to authorize the Barrett Management District to impose and collect an assessment for any purpose in all part of the district.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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

10336 PALESTINE – BRIAN ALVAREZ & STEVE RAZO IS WANTING TO OPEN UP A LIQUOR STORE AT THAT ADDRESS.

11900 MARKET – DANIEL VAZQUEZ IS WANTING TO PUT A WAREHOUSE ON THAT PROPERTY.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON MARCH 9TH, 2021 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.



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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

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.

Eagle Open Golf Tourney

Friday, April 16
Eagle Pointe Golf Course
Sponsorships and Teams Available

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.

Habitat for Humanity

FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A HOMEOWNER

Homeowner orientation is offered Saturday, March 6th at 10am for those interested in learning the qualifications required for the Habitat program. Seating is limited and reservations are required by contacting 281-427-0866 or email info@baytownhabitat.org.

Dayton Chamber News

Dayton Chamber Leadership 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Jordan Thibodeaux
Past President: Tammy Alexander
President-Elect: Lucas Gaskamp
Secretary: Howie Howeth

DIRECTORS: Staci Wise, Ann Miller, Bill Monk, Jim Cullars, Jordan Thibodeaux, Howie Howeth, Lucas Gaskamp, Sherisa Hoy, Constance Onemany D.M.D., Bottom Left: Nellie Lunsford, Meadow Noyer, Jessica Sims, Amanda Wessels, Sherri Schmidt, Emily Forster, Gabrielle Keene, Tammy Alexander.

Jessica Sims, Executive Director
Staci Wise, Assistant Director

Two Storage Unit burglars nabbed by joint work of Sheriffs in Liberty and Chambers County

Chambers County Sheriff's Office became aware that a beaten up, nearly broke down, nasty Dodge truck was cavorting a male and possibly a female burglary pair to break into local storage bins last month but on February 19 Sheriff Hawthorne ruined that gig with detective work.

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne reports that on January 28, 2021, Deputies with the Chambers County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to Eagle Drive Storage, 8724 FM 3180, in reference to a burglary of a building. Detective Orlando Jacobs with the Criminal Investigations Division learned through viewing surveillance foot-

age that a white male and white female arrived at Eagle Drive Storage at approximately 4:58 A.M. in a white Dodge pick-up truck. The two forced entry onto the property and into a storage unit, where they took several thousand dollars' worth of pool equipment and tools.

During the early morning hours of February 19, 2021, the same Dodge truck arrived at the Eagle Drive Storage facility again and the same suspects entered a different storage unit. The suspects hooked up a cargo trailer with an attached generator that was inside the storage unit to their Dodge truck, as well as an orange/black



Michael Anthony Kitchen



Carey Lynn Moore

go-cart inside the trailer before leaving the scene. No doubt the couple was thrilled with the multiple vehicle get away.

Chambers County law enforcement launched a joint effort and investiga-

tion. Detective Jacobs discovered that the Liberty County Sheriff's Office had located the suspect vehicle, pulling the stolen trailer, within their jurisdiction. The white female and white male were still in the

vehicle as emergency lights danced about their dusty white ride like some kind of psychedelic justice descended upon them.

Once Liberty County Deputies effected the traffic stop, the occupants were identified as Carey Lynn Moore, 53, and Michael Anthony Kitchen, 44. Liberty County Sheriff's Office arrested the subjects for possession of stolen property and transported them to the Liberty County Jail. Detective Jacobs placed a hold on the suspects' vehicle and the stolen trailer while he continues his investigation in hopes of recovering more of stolen property.

Senator Creighton files 4 bills in 87th Legislature

Deal with 2nd Amendment, Emergency Alert, Fraud Protection, and Buy American

Austin, Texas—Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) has filed several bills, including legislation assisting school marshals, cementing Texans 2nd Amendment rights during disasters, safeguards for Lone Star cards, and an expansion of his signature 'Buy American' policy for Texas colleges and universities.

"These 4 bills are part of my legislative package that spans election integrity to tax reform, 2nd Amendment rights to flood infrastructure projects, targeted investments in higher education for a skilled workforce, securing the border, and reform and consequences from last month's freeze and blackouts," said Senator Creighton. "The work is well underway, and I won't stop until we have delivered



SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON

bold solutions and conservative results for Texans."

Second Amendment Protections During Disasters: SB 18 has been identified as a Top 30 priority for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and is backed by the National Rifle Association. The bill establishes that firearms and ammu-

nition manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, suppliers and retailers are essential businesses that shall not be prohibited by state or local officials from operating during a declared disaster or emergency. This bill prevents any future infringements, ensuring that guns and ammunition will never be limited during disaster, further cementing that Texas is the freest and safest state in the nation

Buy America: SB 783 expands Senator Creighton's signature 'Buy America' legislation that he passed in the 85th Legislative Session (SB 1289). Currently, the law requires large state projects to purchase iron and steel from an American supplier if the cost doesn't exceed 20 percent more than the

price of cheaper, foreign imports. Building on the success of SB1289, this bill expands the requirement to Texas public colleges and universities, ensuring large projects that are funded with taxpayer dollars support American jobs and companies.

Statewide Disaster Alert: SB 865 will study the efficacy, benefits and implementation of a statewide disaster alert system. This bill is in response to last month's severe weather, where communications failures throughout the state were exposed. Similar to an Amber Alert, Texans will receive notifications on their phones warning them of severe weather, giving them the tools to plan and prepare. When completed, if the study shows that it

can be done effectively, the Lieutenant Governor and Governor can approve the new alert system, and then work with local governments to choose to participate.

Fraud Prevention: SB 866 Requires Lone Star Cards to include photo identification of benefit recipients, preventing fraudulent use of the cards, and ensuring TANF and SNAP benefits are being used properly to benefit those in need. There have been cases of Lone Star Cards being sold for cash, and this measure will add extra security and prevent misuse. This bill was filed in the 86th legislative session, but did not ultimately pass.

Advanced Relief for Hernia Pain

BAYTOWN — (February 12, 2020) — A hernia can trigger immense pain that can become debilitating if left untreated, but living with this pain can be a thing of the past thanks to advanced hernia repair techniques.

A hernia occurs when tissue pushes through an opening in the abdomen (ventral hernia) or groin area (inguinal hernia). Common symptoms include pain in the abdomen when coughing, bending, twisting or lifting objects; a bulge or lump in the abdomen or groin; heaviness, weakness or dull pain in the groin or abdomen; nausea, vomiting or both; and an inability to have a bowel movement or pass gas.

Dr. Robert Ochoa, a critical care/general surgeon with Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, says there are many possible causes of hernias.

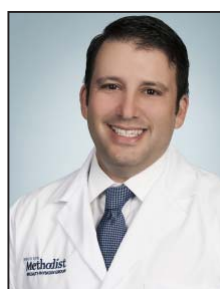
"Hernias may be caused by a variety of factors, including congenital defects, age, chronic coughing, damage from injury or surgery, or lifting heavy objects. Pregnant women may be susceptible to hernia due to the pressure placed on the abdomen," Ochoa said.

While many people attempt to deal with a hernia by putting up with the pain, the agony often becomes too much to bear and begins to negatively affect their daily life. Ochoa utilizes robot-assisted, minimally invasive surgical procedures to repair hernias and eliminate the pain.

Robotic-assisted surgery gives surgeons the ability to utilize the pinpoint accuracy of the device's robotic arms, as well as a 3-D view of the surgical area and increased magnification, to perform minimally invasive surgeries that produce small incisions, less post-surgical pain and quicker recovery times.

"The system gives surgeons a magnified, 3-D view of the incision site and allows us to control multiple robotic arms for more precise movements," Ochoa said. "In the past, these procedures required open surgery, which resulted in larger incisions, increased pain and a longer recovery."

Robotic-assisted surgery—Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital surgeons use the da Vinci Surgical Robot



DR. ROBERT OCHOA

System—allows the surgeon to operate from a console while viewing a three-dimensional image of the surgical field. It translates the surgeon's hand, wrist and finger movements into precise movements of tiny surgical instruments inside the patient's body. It allows surgeons to perform minimally invasive laparoscopic—surgery that uses a thin, lighted tube inserted through very small incisions—procedures.

"The system increases the degree of freedom ergonomically because now you have multiple instruments functioning as your hands," Ochoa said. "It allows us to perform major surgeries through dime-

sized incisions. The system's camera allows me to see things I normally wouldn't be able to."

Other benefits of robotic-assisted procedures include less post-surgical pain, lower risk of infection; reduced loss of blood, which reduces the need for transfusion during surgery; and a shorter hospital stay.

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.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital features 15 state-of-the-art operating rooms. In addition to hernia repair, Ochoa provides surgical expertise to treat

a wide range of conditions, including Crohn's disease, gallstones, appendectomy, cancer and biliary disease.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call 832-556-6046, or visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

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