

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ **Courier**

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VOL. 68, NO. 10 - 50¢ © Copyright 2021 THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 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 9, 2021**

**HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES**
587,652 POSITIVE
5,931 DEATHS
535,175 RECOVERED

TEXAS
2,704,712 POSITIVE
45,582 DEATHS
19,966,634 TESTS

UNITED STATES
29,093,946 POSITIVE
527,643 DEATHS
364,849,318 TESTS

WORLDWIDE
117,537,686 POSITIVE
2,609,992 DEATHS
66,600,236 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 12—Hope Dammon
Alexis Bowen
Mar 13—Dale Browder
Mar 14—Brice Abbott
Alvin Keyes
Kaci New
Vivian Sanders
Christopher Zadrapa
Mar 15—Jessica Luco
Sky Mespadden
Sandy Mullins
Mrs. L.P. Stevens
Rosa Ella Young
Angie Zadrapa
Mar 16—M. Edith Miller
Zachary Dunlap
Mar 17—Lyndsay Dammon
Mar 18—Kent Nelson

ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 16—Yvonne & Dale Browder
March 31—William & Susan O'Neal

CONTRERAS IS HIGHLANDS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

By Lewis Spearman

BAYTOWN— The Highlands Fire Department held their annual Recognition and Awards Banquet last Saturday evening, at the Baytown Youth Fair & Rodeo pavillion.

Firefighter of the Year award was presented to Christofer Contreras. This award is given in memory of Cecil Kelly, who volunteered with the Highlands VFD for over 42 years before retiring in 1996. The recipient chosen by vote of the membership is a firefighter who performed above and beyond the call of duty. Chief Little reviewed the history of the department for 2020



Christofer Contreras was chosen Firefighter of the Year (the night's top honor) by his peers. Pictured from left, Jerry Ickes of ESD#14 board, Mr. Contreras with Fire Chief Harvey Little.

against 2019. There were a total this year of 2,670 against 2,838 service calls. Of these 1976 were EMS calls compared with 1991 the previous year. Life Flight was called 24 against 27 times. Fire responses declined to 694 from 847. Motor vehicle accidents were down from 201 to 161.

The department can boast of keeping their response times low, strong staffing, receiving grants for insurance, purchase of a 16 foot inflatable power boat for high water rescues, quality training, using other facilities and combined training with nearby departments. The department now has a doz-

en firefighters complete FF1, 9 finished FF2 and 4 are TCFP Certified. They paid off their 800 handheld radio lease in October. Tanker 27 was paid off a year early.

Top Responders for 2020 were Tanner Scarbrough, 296, Christofer Contreras, 265, Ryan Lopez, 256, Ruben Lopez, 206, Chad Lower, 191, Nate Scott, 165, Thomas Coward, 159, Waye Speaks, 149, Ryan Hotchkiss, 126, and Patrick Brown each received a cash award. Door prizes were awarded. Year Service Pins went to Tanner Scarbrough, Christo-

See Firefighter of the Year, Page 5

Railroad work closes FM2100, starts 19th

HUFFMAN — The railroad crossing of FM 2100 near FM 1960 is scheduled to close March 19 at 1:00 a.m. for reconstruction.

According to Union Pacific's Elizabeth A. Graham, "Union Pacific will be conducting on a grade-crossing widening project on a grade crossing south of the intersection of FM2100 and FM1960. The work will require closing FM2100 south of the intersection, impacting traffic headed southbound from the intersection on 2100, and requiring a northbound traffic approaching the intersection to take a detour. The work should be completed by March 23."

The ambulance service for Crosby issued a statement for safety, "Harris County ESD 5 encourages motorists to study the road closures and routes closely. These routes are subject

to change frequently, including speed reductions and lane changes. Being prepared is the best option when encountering these changes as a frequent route user. Motorist often drive by memory as well as have much more distractions on the road. When encountering a sudden change at high rate of speed we see catastrophic outcomes. So far four motorists have died on FM 2100 during this widening project between the North Diamondhead and FM 1960 crossroads. Please be a friendly but also a safe motorist as you share the road during this necessary expansion. For updates on the most current road closures and changes please visit drivetexas.org or log onto to Twitter, Instagram and Facebook at @txdothouston and www.facebook.com/txdothouston."

Danny Perez of TxDOT stated, "The closure of FM 2100 Northbound and Southbound at FM 1960 is scheduled to take place between 1:00 AM on Friday, March 19, 2021 and 5:00 AM on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. This closure is part of the ongoing reconstruction of the FM 2100 corridor between Crosby and FM

See Working on the Railroad Continued on Page 5

Pct. 2 Medical SmartPod wins innovation award

Harris County, TX — Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Precinct 2 received the prestigious American City & County 2020 Crown Communities Award. Garcia and Precinct 2 were chosen for their entry, which described the purchase, installation, and deployment of two SmartPod mobile health care units designed by Baylor. Precinct 2's SmartPods are known as ACCESS2HEALTH.

Crown Communities Awards are based on uniqueness, short- and long-term value to the community and effective/innovative financing. The announcement cites ACCESS2HEALTH for its "Innovative COVID-19 Emergency Response." Though the two ACCESS2HEALTH units were purchased prior to the pandemic, once installed, their availability for remote COVID-19 testing was of



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia last October, dedicating first SmartPod in the Aldine area.

immediate value that continues today. Once COVID-19 is no longer the most pressing health issue of the times, ACCESS2HEALTH can be converted to provide clinical and behavioral health services, ultimately providing patients with a medical home.

"With all the debate over our state and nation's health care future, we decided to take matters into our own hands, bringing services directly to the Precinct 2

Continued on Page 2. See SMARTPOD AWARD

Waste Pits update by Zoom meeting

Waste Pits remediation schedule extended, disposal and classification of waste questioned

By Gilbert Hoffman

The San Jacinto River Coalition, and THEA have learned that the time line for remediation and removal of the Waste Pits in the river will take considerably more time than originally thought, due to a number of factors.

Pre-Design Investigation, or PDI, discovered that the depth of the waste to be removed was much greater than the original 12 feet. In some places in the Northern Impoundment it was as deep as 25 feet. The significance of this meant that more material would have to be re-

moved, and more water infiltrating from the river would have to be treated. The original time line had been to complete the project in 2 and one-half years, and now it looks like the schedule will be seven years. The Final Design plan called for one year of preparation to procure contractors and materials, 5 years to remove the waste material (the site would be divided into five zones, each separated from the

MAP at right of Southern Impoundment, shows excavation of toxic waste from 4' deep (green) to 10' deep (red).



others, and taking a year to remediate) and a year to mobilize.

However, in September THEA learned that the EPA had granted the PRP consultant's request for additional time for engineering, due to the increased scope and depth of the waste. EPA allowed them to take an additional 160 days to prepare their Final Design plan. The Pre-Final Design for the Northern Impoundment is now due in April 2021. The Pre-Final Design for the Southern Impoundment was submitted in September 2020. The Final Design for the Southern Impoundment was due in November

Continued. See Waste Pits Update, page 2

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Pct. 2 SmartPod Award,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Community. Harris County is home to the finest medical center in the nation. But, many residents of Precinct 2 cannot access services from The Texas Medical Center," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "My goal was to bring all the resources of the Texas Medical Center directly into our neighborhoods. That's what makes these SmartPod ACCESS2HEALTH units so great. We can provide free access to health care services to people in places where they are needed most. It fills my heart with pride that Precinct 2 innovates in ways that help traditionally underserved communities, and I am grateful for this prestigious award."

More information about why Precinct 2 and ACCESS2HEALTH was chosen as an award winner can be viewed at AmericanCityandCounty.com.

TOP TEN MOVIES —

1. The Croods: A New Age (PG) animated
 2. The Little Things (R) Denzel Washington, Rami Malek
 3. Judas and the Black Messiah (R) Daniel Kaluuya, LaKeith Stanfield
 4. Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13) Gal Gadot, Chris Pine
 5. The Marksman (PG-13) Kathryn Winnick, Liam Neeson
 6. Monster Hunter (PG-13) Milla Jovovich, Tony Jaa
 7. Nomadland (R) Frances McDormand, David Strathairn
 8. Land (PG-13) Robin Wright, Demian Bichir
 9. News of the World (PG-13) Tom Hanks, Steve Boyle
 10. The War with Grandpa (PG) Robert De Niro, Uma Thurman
- Source: Box Office Mojo (c) 2021 King Features Synd.

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Update,

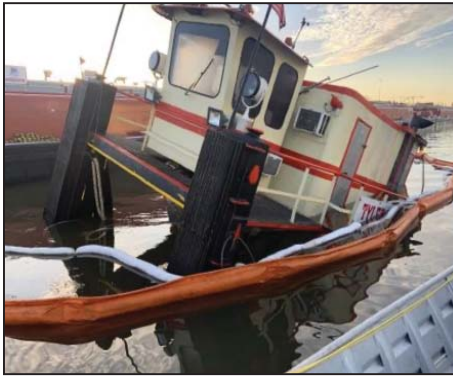
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2020. The Final Design for the Northern Impoundment is due this year, in June 2021.

A number of factors are controlling the extended schedule. One is that the EPA has agreed not to work on the site during extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes. But on analysis, it was decided to also avoid the rainy season when floods are historically recorded. Then only leaves about six months each year to work unrestricted. Other factors include access to the site from I-10, and TXDOT's plan to replace the bridge and highway over the river, starting sometime in 2024.

THEA is concerned about the extended schedule, because it exposes the site to more possible breaches of the containment cap. An example is just last December, when a tugboat named the M/V TYLER T sank on the morning of December 22 at the Cheryl K Marine San Jacinto River Fleet docks, near the Sand Separation area and the waste pits. The oil spill was investigated by Harris County Pollution Control and the Coast Guard. Although the pits were not damaged, the potential for this was illustrated in the accident.

The PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) and their consultant have a TWG (Technical Work Group) that meets regularly to coordinate their plan with other entities. These include TXDOT, US Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, and TCEQ. However, Jackie Medcalf of THEA believes it should have more local representation, including Harris County Pollution Control and Port of Houston. Although these groups are advised of



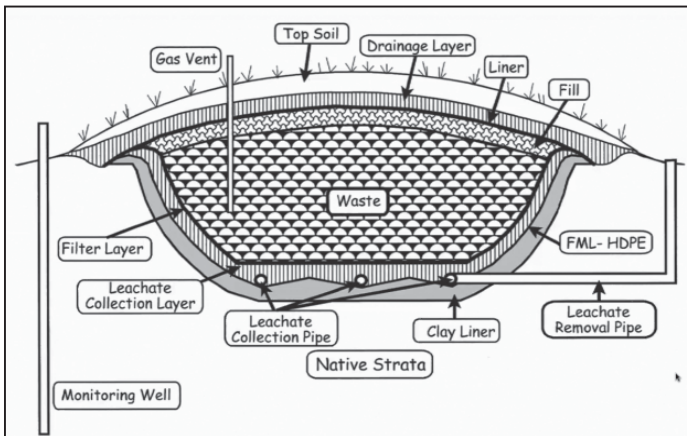
TUGBOAT M/V TYLER T sank near the Waste Pits in December, endangering them

plans, they do not participate "at the table."

The Southern Impoundment is not considered to have the extreme hazardous waste found in the Northern Impoundment, and will be remediated only to a clean-up level of 240 nanograms per kilogram, as the Northern Impoundment goal is 30 ng/kg. The map accompanying the 30% Design shows excavation sites varying from 4 feet to 10 feet in depth.

Soil borings in the PDI

phase indicated concentrations of toxins higher than originally thought, and the issue has arisen of where this waste will be sent for disposal, and whether it can be safely disposed. Medcalf believes that the classification proposed, non-hazardous Type II, allows it to go to Household Waste landfills that are not appropriate for the danger. These landfills, usually in Louisiana, only monitor the waste for 30 years, although dioxin has a life of 700 years. EPA



WASTE DISPOSAL requires this type of enclosure to be safe over a long period of time.

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
Open 8:30 a.m.

HIGHLANDS (Go to either Baytown or Channelview)
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Appointment Req.

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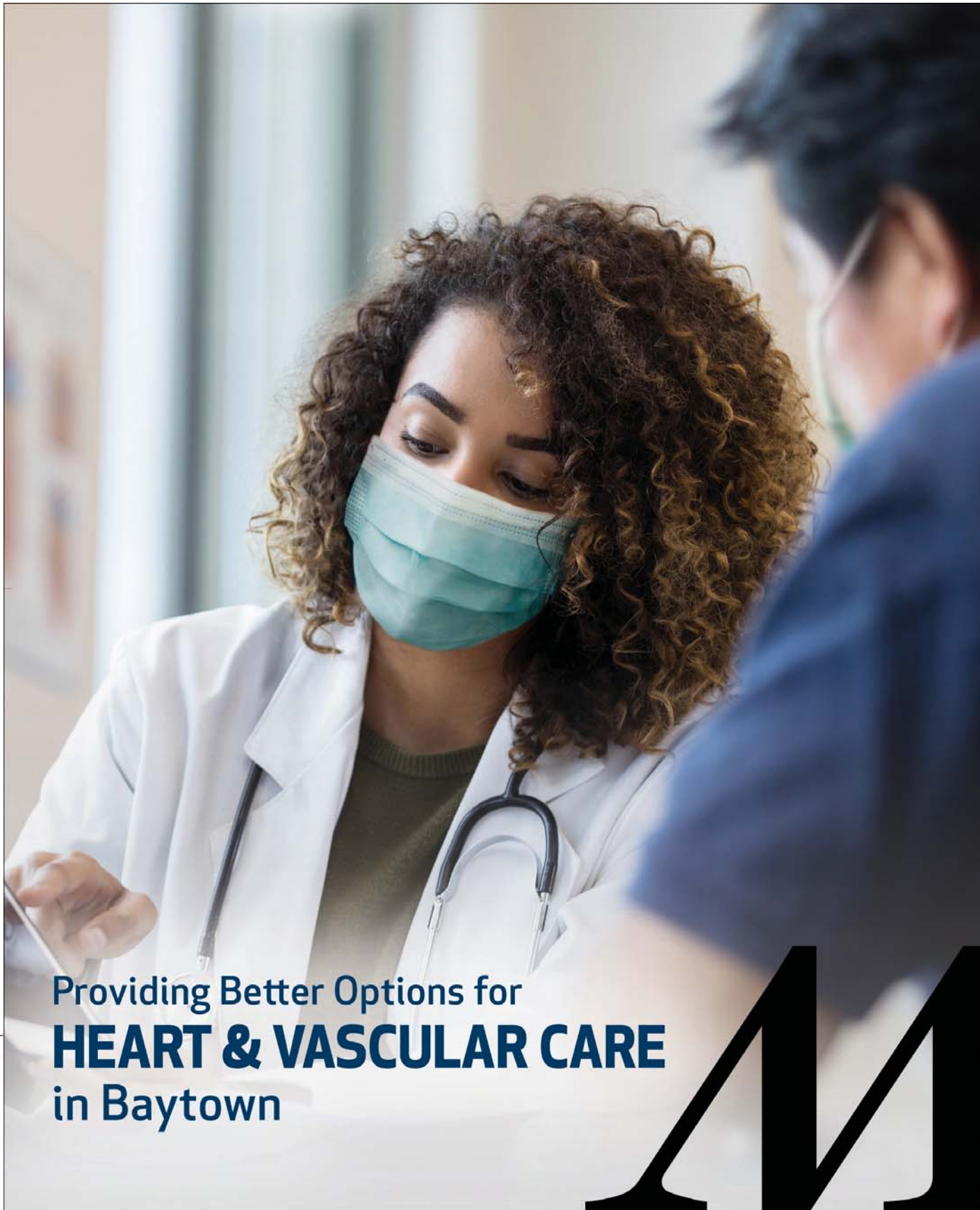
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★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION
Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



This is not the time to give up

This Wednesday, the state's decision to open everything at 100% and eliminate the mask mandate comes into effect.

For the vast majority of the community who have been following public health recommendations from the beginning, the state's ending COVID-19 precautions is a gut punch. As I said in a recent TIME Magazine Op-Ed:

"It is a heavy burden for a community to carry, to continue to sacrifice in spite of false hopes being offered at the highest levels of the state... I hope that people of this county won't allow pandemic politics to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and that we won't throw away a year of pain and sacrifice so that politicians can have their 'mission accomplished' moment."

I have received a lot of questions about what that means for Texans, and what our community should do.

The bottom line is this: This is not the time to give up.

Our positivity rate is sky high and still rising. Our COVID-19 hospitalizations are too high and would be the highest starting point ever for a climb in hospitalizations. We're still reporting around 600 cases a day in Harris County. Every time there has been a lifting of restrictions, numbers have worsened within a month or two.

Continue wearing face coverings. It saves lives.

Continue to avoid gatherings with people you don't live with.

Finally, support the businesses, the school administrators, the leaders who are being upfront and realistic about the situation.

A lot has been asked of you over the past year. We have to dig deep and continue our efforts a little longer.

If anyone can persevere, it's the incredibly resilient people of this County and of this State.



Cactus hairs; worse than Covid-19

Doc had just finished bringing us up to date on the world's fight against the covid-19 virus when ol' Windy Wilson raised his eyes.

"Now don't ya find, Doc," he said, "that the worse stuff in this old life is the junk ya can't see?"

Doc looked puzzled, so Windy continued. "Aw, you know. It's them mitrascopic stuff that are really dangerous to us."

Doc nodded.

"Now you jest take in there a braymer bull? He can stomp a guy inta furry, pink Jell-o. And then dance on them bullfighters whilst they're a-tryin' to git yer carcass outa the reenur. But see this here now. That there bull is purty dang big. Big enough to ride, right? So that means he's big enough so's you kin get outa his way if he comes a-stompin'."

Windy, our favorite camp cook, cowboy, philosopher, and interpreter of the English language, sipped on his coffee and looked at us each in turn. "Now, can you see them coronary vibration bugs? No way! Too dang small. They'll sneak up on a guy, get married and have pups and then kill ya deader'n a hammer!

"Thass why, at the conjugal finish a-my thinkin', I'm puttin' them bugs in secondary place on my list of all-time tiny mean stuff."

"Only second place?" said Herb, "What's worse'n dying, Windy?"

"Cactus hairs," he said. "A-course. Ya know, them miterscopic stickers that you can't see when your eyes is nekkid. But ya know they's there, doncha? Oh yes, Aunt Sarah, I'll say ya do!"

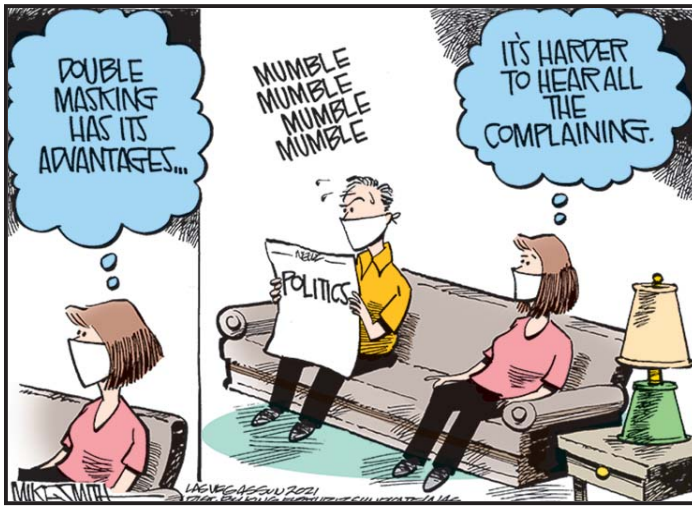
Windy nodded, agreeing with himself. No one else did, but that isn't really necessary with Windy.

"Only way ya kin tell ya got 'em is when ya brush up agin' somethin', like a shirt cuff or somethin'. Hurts like the Civilian War, it does, but ya can't see it."

He leaned forward and whispered. "It's flamistically insidulouss!"

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

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Mask mandate ends March 10; Many entities to continue requiring them

While Gov. Gregg Abbott has lifted the statewide mandate to wear a mask in public and allowed all businesses to operate at full capacity, many businesses, schools and other entities say they will continue to require that masks be worn. Abbott issued the order last week, effective March 10.

"With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," Abbott said. "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent." He urged Texans to take responsibility for themselves when it comes to wearing masks and following other health safety practices.

Political leaders in several of the state's largest cities criticized the decision. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner tweeted, asking (and answering for himself) whether Abbott's move was "an attempt to deflect from the winter storm system-wide state leadership failure. Yes." San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg urged residents to join him in continuing to wear a mask, a sentiment echoed by Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

Meanwhile, the Texas Education Agency revised its health guidance policies, saying that "local school boards have full authority to determine their local mask policy." Many of the state's college campuses announced they would continue to require that masks be worn, including The University of Texas, the Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech, Southern Methodist University and others.

Several large retailers announced they would continue to require customers to wear masks, including Walmart, Target, Costco and Whole Foods. Grocery retailer H-E-B will "strongly encourage" they be worn, according to a company statement, and employees will continue to wear masks.



HEB president Scott McClelland told the Houston Chronicle that antagonistic customers have caused nearly 2,000 in-store incidents regarding masks at Houston stores alone. He said customers not wearing a mask would be asked to do so, and an employee would offer them a mask if they didn't have one. Store employees will not escalate the situation if a customer refuses, he said.

TEXAS GETTING MORE THAN 1 MILLION COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES THIS WEEK

More than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses are shipping this week to providers across the state, a significant increase from previous weeks. That's largely due to nearly a quarter-million doses of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine coming to Texas. The single-dose vaccine began shipping last week. As of Sunday, more than 4.2 million Texans had received at least one dose and 2.319 million were fully vaccinated. That means about 22 percent of the state's population has gotten at least one dose. Teachers and school staff have been added to the list of those eligible for one of the three vaccines being offered.

COVID-19 CASES DROP, BUT DEATHS INCREASE IN PAST WEEK

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas in the past week dropped to 43,328, according

to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. That's down 22 percent from the previous week and down nearly 73 percent from the record high of 158,922 recorded the week of Jan. 10. However, recorded deaths in Texas rose to 1,730, up 17 percent from the previous week. Hospitalizations for lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients totaled 4,921, down from the record high of more than 14,000 during the week of Jan. 11.

MORE HEADS ROLL IN WAKE OF WIDESPREAD BLACKOUTS DURING WINTER STORM

As state and federal investigations continue into the massive blackouts during the Valentine's Day winter storm, leaders of both the Public Utility Commission and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas left their positions. DeAnn Walker, chairman of the PUC, resigned on March 1 and was replaced by fellow PUC member Arthur D'Andrea. Abbott will appoint someone to fill D'Andrea's position. ERCOT's CEO Bill Magness was fired a few days later by his board, which has lost nearly half its members to resignations. Magness, whose annual salary was at least \$800,000, soon said he would not seek or accept severance pay, which would have been equivalent to a year's pay, according to the Texas Tribune.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOT PENALIZED FOR HIGH ABSENCES, REMOTE LEARNING

The Texas Education Agency announced last week that it will "hold harmless" school districts that have seen attendance declines because of the pandemic, as long as they at least maintain current levels of in-school learning. Districts will be funded on attendance projections made before the pandemic, allowing them to retain teachers who might have faced layoffs because of lower enrollment. The state's top leaders announced their support for the hold-harmless provision in a March 4 press release.

TEENS URGED TO BUCKLE UP

Car wrecks are the leading cause of death among teenagers, and 41% of Texas teen drivers killed in 2019 weren't wearing a seat belt. That's why the Texas Department of Transportation is conducting a "Teen Click It or Ticket" campaign in March. TxDOT is sending out safety messages via social media, TV, radio and digital media. "Due to their limited driving experience, teens are far more susceptible to being in a crash," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "Far too many of these crashes are deadly because of the failure to buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash. Click it and be safe."

THE POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon

March Inspiration

I've never been a fan of March.

March is supposedly spring, but we all know it's not. In much of the country, more snow falls in March than any other month. But it doesn't have the courtesy to stay. March snow falls, makes us shovel it, then turns into a sloppy mess in three days. It becomes slush, mixed with mud. The sky stays gray. And all the... things (you know what I mean), things that were buried in previous snowfalls... all those things come to light. Whatever they were, they are never better for having spent a few months under the snow. I don't need to describe them. You know what I'm talking about.

March is filled with disappointment. Too early for things to bloom, too late for a frosty day, March is a party that is never going to happen, an event canceled in advance. I am an optimistic person by nature, but March always gets me down.

It seems nonsensical, but autumn is a more cheerful season. Things are dying, but they do it so colorfully! The air is crisp and there will be celebrations and bonfires and new sweaters to wear.

What do you wear in March? Something you don't mind getting muddy, that is my advice. You might as well wear those pants you plan on tossing out as soon as it is warm enough. Wear them with the boots that already have a hole in the toe. Your feet will get wet anyway. There is nothing you can do. It's March.

I realize this is not turning into an uplifting column. I do not feel inspired by March; it is true.

But maybe that is because March is when big changes start to happen, and big changes are often not pretty.

Starting a new habit, ending a bad one, getting rid of something that is not working and replacing it with something that works better—none of these things are pretty. Change is messy and fraught with mistakes, and it doesn't look or feel easy or glamorous. June is easy and glamorous. March is clumsy and embarrassing and lonely and dull.

Maybe that's why we need it.

Because change is necessary. The trees need it, and insects need it, and people need it most of all. We need to slough off the old stuff that isn't doing us any good anymore, and we need to awkwardly embrace the new stuff we want to become a part of our life. And we can't do that without some mud and some melting and some unpleasant discoveries under the snow.

I was thinking about butterflies recently, how they start out as caterpillars and emerge with brand new, beautiful wet wings. Then they take off and fly to another continent like they know exactly what they are doing—because they do. I admire everything about that. I admire their beauty, and assurance, and their ability to transform themselves.

But my sister-in-law, Lori, recently reminded me of something that I either didn't know or had forgotten.

"When they are in the chrysalis, they dissolve," she told me. "Their entire body turns to mush! If you open the chrysalis too soon, they never get wings."

I realized I've been admiring butterflies for all the wrong reasons.

I've been admiring those beautiful wings, after all the work is finished. I never stopped to think how it would feel to be mush inside a dark cocoon, making a change that will transform a worm into a magical creature.

Now I'm thinking, maybe that is what March is for.

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

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HIGHLANDS Fire Dept. 2020 Recognition Awards

HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Continued from page 1

pher Lewis, Pablo Camargo, Jessica Kenning, Bee Johnson and Jeremiah Starkey.

In memory of Mary Louise York, who passed in 2012 after serving for 20 years as a medic in the Highlands Community. The Rookie of the Year Award is presented to a person that has served less than two years and has been active since joining with the department.

Current membership is comprised of 30 regular members, 6 apprentice firefighters, 16 junior firefighters, 16 retired members (Active not total) 6 EMS Full Time Paid Members, 20 EMS part time paid members for an overall total of 62 members. The Board of Commissioners includes Jim Strouhal for 21 years, posthumously, Chester Stasney devoted 21 years, Johnny Gaeke with 14 years, Jerry Ickes with 4 years, Mark Taylor 2 years and Elane Marshall.

Chief Little also recognized Jeanette Thompson and Tommy McMorrow.

Citizen of the Year is Johnny Gaeke.

Business of the Year went to Napoli's Italian Grill, they also served the dinner at the Baytown Youth Fair Pavilion of surf and turf.

Firefighter of the Year is presented in memory of Cecil Kelly who devoted 42 1/2 years to Highlands.



MASCOTS 2020
Brantley Duhon,
2021 Addisyn Speaks



ROOKIE of the Year, Tanner Scarbrough



TEN YEAR SERVICE AWARD Guy Gauthier



TEN YEAR SERVICE AWARD EMS Mike Jones



ESD #14 COMMISSIONERS Jerry Ickes 4 years accepts for all Commissioners



ESD #14 LEGAL ADVISOR Weston Cotten



ELECTED OFFICERS include Assistant Fire Chief Bobby Birdsong, Ryan Hotchkiss, Nate Scott, Ruben Lopez, Kyle Little, and Chief Harvey Little



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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APPOINTED POSITIONS
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Working on the Railroad,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1960. The closure of FM 2100 at FM 1960 will impact many constituents of Partnership Lake Houston. We are anticipating traffic queues and changes in traffic patterns in and around the closure and the detour routes. To help with those potential queues, the TxDOT Houston District and the TxDOT Beaumont District will be monitoring the signal systems and possibly adjust the timing at three locations within the Houston District and at four locations within the Beaumont District. TxDOT's contractor began placing approximately 25 Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) to advise the travelling public of the closures yesterday. Placement of those signs will continue through tomorrow. Many of those signs are a considerable distance from the actual closure and will be re-messaged during the closure. This major closure will facilitate the removal and replacement of approximately 300 LF of existing UPRR track, as well as the placement of approximately 188 LF of new planking. This work will accommodate the proposed widening and lane assignments for the new FM 2100 roadway.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact TxDOT Public Information Officer Danny Perez at danny.perez@txdot.gov or 713-802-5077."

An executive meeting was held last Friday and Christy Ryan reports, "This is for 300' of track replacement that is also tied to the widening of FM 2100. The railroad is has to widen the track crossing for vehicles, also. That is why it is occurring at the same time as the construction that is happening on FM 2100.

Traffic will be diverted at Old Atascocita Rd. Those that live in the community that is just north of Old Atascocita Rd will be allowed to continue on, as well as people going to the

church that is a little further North.

For the people that live in the subdivision that is West of 2100, off of Old Atascocita Rd and Fairlake Ln, there will be off duty officers in various spots. At the railroad crossing, which the railroad is going to work on as far as replacing tracks, they are only going to allow vehicles to cross in one direction at a time. As I had said before, you will not be able to turn Westbound onto FM 1960 from Fairlake Ln. You will have a protected right turn, as the right hand lane of FM 1960 will be blocked off, starting on the West side of the bridge going over Lake Houston. They will have barrels in the middle to prevent people from attempting to u-turn, and there will be several officers there, also.

The official detour is 90 East to 321 North to FM 1960 West if you are trying to get to Atascocita from the Crosby side. If you are coming from Atascocita, the official detour is FM 1960 East to 321 South to 90 West. Please use this route, or if you want to use the Beltway, by all means, go for it. They are stressing for drivers to please not try to use Old Atascocita Rd. Remember that this cuts through a subdivision that has narrow roadways, kids playing, and local emergency services will need to use that route for mutual aid purposes. There will be nowhere for people to go if the roadway is packed with vehicles trying to cut through.

On FM 1960, all 3 lanes going West towards Atascocita will remain open. Going East, the 3rd lane will not open up at the beginning of the bridge as you leave Atascocita. The only openings along the way will be for the various businesses and apartment complex, as well as for Fairlake Ln.

At some point on Fri, 3/20/21, the tracks will be opened up for trains only. Vehicles will not be able to cross as they will not have

the crossing finished. If you hear trains on the tracks, don't get your hopes up. Not only are they getting trains to move, but they use the trains to help pack things down and make sure everything is good to go before they start finishing up the project."

According to TxDOT "Motorists should expect delays and are strongly encouraged to seek alternate routes. The closures are:

1) FM 2100 Northbound at FM 1960: Total Closure Continuously at Old Atascocita Rd. between 1:00 AM on Friday, 03.19.21 and 5:00 AM on Tuesday, 03.23.2021.

Local Traffic Detour: Turn Left, (West), on Old Atascocita Rd. Follow Old Atascocita Rd. to Fair Lake. Turn Right, (North), onto Fair Lake and follow Fair Lake to FM 1960. Turn Right, (East), onto FM 1960 and follow FM 1960 to FM 2100. (Please note that left, (west), turns from Fair Lake onto FM 1960 Westbound will be prohibited.

Thru Traffic Detour: Follow US 90 (Eastbound) to SH 321 Northbound (in Dayton). Turn Left, (North) on SH 321 Northbound and follow it to FM 1960. Turn Left, (West), on FM 1960 Westbound and follow it to FM 2100.

FM 2100 Southbound at FM 1960: Total Closure Continuously between 1:00 AM on Friday, 03.19.21 and 5:00 AM on Tuesday, 03.23.2021.

Local Traffic Detour: Turn Right, (West), on FM 1960. Follow FM 1960 Westbound to Fair Lake. Turn Left, (South), onto Fair Lake and follow Fair Lake to Old Atascocita Rd. Turn Left, (East), onto Old Atascocita Rd. and follow it to FM 2100.

Thru Traffic Detour: Follow FM 1960 (Eastbound) to SH 321 Southbound (in Dayton). Turn Right, (South) on SH 321 Southbound and follow it to US 90. Turn Right, (West), on US 90 Westbound and follow it to FM 2100.

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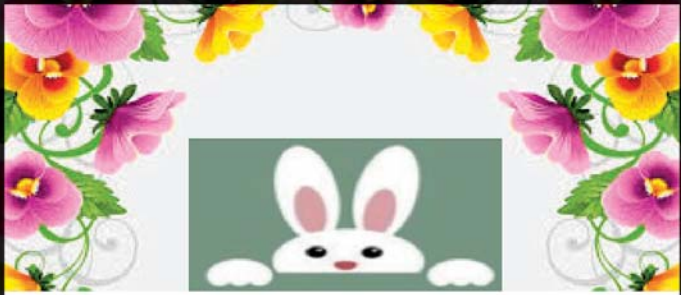
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COVID-19 Test Sites Move to New Locations and Vaccinations Ramp up

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 hcphx.org or call 832-927-7575.

- 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
- 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
- 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.

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

Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei





Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841 or Mei at 713-906-4585.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE ESTABLISHING OFFICES OF DISTRICT

TO THE RESIDENTS OF EAST LAKE HOUSTON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with V.T.C.A., Water Code, Chapter 49.062, as amended, the Board of Directors of EAST LAKE HOUSTON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (the "District") has, on February 8, 2021, established offices outside the boundaries of the District at Winstead PC, 600 Travis Street, Suite 5200, Houston, TX 77002-2900, Hawes Hill and Associates LLP, 9610 Long Point Rd, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77055 and Landev Engineers, a Binkly & Barfield Company, 1704 Seamist Drive, Suite 410, Houston, Texas 77008. Said offices are hereby declared to be a public place and the public is invited to attend any meeting of the Board held at such locations. Said offices may be used as a meeting place for the Board of Directors, a mailing address for the District, for the storage of District records, the receipt and opening of public bids for the construction of facilities for or on behalf of the District and for the transaction of such business as is not required to be done within the District. In addition, the District established offices at Winstead PC, 2728 N. Harwood Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75201, and Winstead PC, 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas 78701, both of which are located outside the boundaries of the District. Said offices are hereby declared to be public places. Said offices may be used as a mailing address for the District, for the storage of District records and for the transaction of such business as is not required to be done within the District. Furthermore, the District established an additional office at Arete Real Estate & Development Company, 340 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Suite 140, Houston, Texas 77060. Said office is hereby declared to be a public place and the public is invited to attend any meeting of the Board held at such location.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOREGOING FACTS.

February 8, 2021

East Lake Houston Management District
/s/ John Speer, Chairman

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Committee report recommends keeping Robert E. Lee High School name

West Chambers Chamber News Membership Luncheon - State of the Chamber

Date: March 16, 2021
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM CDT

Please join us at the March WCCCC "State of the Chamber" Membership luncheon. The Chamber will highlight 2020 accomplishments, and share all the exciting things happening in 2021. Whether you are a brand-new WCC Chamber member or a lifetime supporter, there will be something for everyone. Do you know someone who would benefit from joining the WCCCC? Bring them as a guest to this luncheon and their meal is on us!

SPECIAL GUEST: Aaron Cox, Vice President of Chamber Relations with the Texas Association of Business, will share important legislative updates for businesses and share why it's more important than ever to be a part of your local Chamber of Commerce.

*This luncheon was previously scheduled for February 16. If you RSVP'd for the February 16 Membership Luncheon, you still have your RSVP. Please contact the Chamber office, 281-576-5440 or Ashley@thewccccc.com to change your registration.

Location: Eagle Pointe Golf Pavilion
12440 Eagle Pointe Drive
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

Date/Time Information: Tuesday, March 16, 2021
11:30AM - Lunch is served
12:00PM - Program will begin

Contact Information: Ashley Wells
Send an Email

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.

BAYTOWN – A 42 person advisory committee charged with recommending name changes for Goose Creek CISD schools, has issued their final report. The result was a recommendation to keep all the school names, but transfer one name, Green Center, from an existing facility to a new school under construction.

The committee was formed last year, after a public debate over the removal of Confederate names on buildings and public facilities all over the nation. The issue surfaced in a GC CISD board meeting, and evoked much discussion over the ensuing weeks. The initial public sentiment seemed split on



The committee recommended leaving the Robert E. Lee name on the high school.

changing the name of Baytown's oldest high school, Robert E. Lee HS.

The advisory committee ended up not only dealing with the name on Lee high school, but advocating a whole new district-wide policy for naming build-

ings. The committee recommended that facilities be named after geographic areas, landmarks or physical attributes, or the instructional focus of the school. The report also said naming should include the principal's legacy, and be

sensitive to the diverse community they serve.

The chairman of the Facility Names Committee, Thomas Parent, said that the school board will make the final decision on changing or keeping the name on Robert E. Lee HS, and is "going to review the data, review the report and ultimately it's in the hands of the school board to make the decision as the elected officials for GC CISD."

The committee met five times in three months, the last meeting February 22. They proposed five outcomes, as follows:

1. Develop a pros/cons matrix to evaluate a name change;
2. Provide an estimate of costs to make the

change;

3. Propose parameters for future naming considerations;

4. Develop a list of facilities that should be considered for name changes;

5. Recommend to school board no action on name change at this time.

The facilitator for the committee was attorney Tony Resendez. Through a series of surveys and live presentations, similar to debates, the various attitudes and choices were presented to committee members. At the end, they were asked to vote on naming criteria to be recommended to the school board, but the committee did not decide the question of renaming.

Ethics Legislation bills filed by Middleton

Recently, Representative Mayes Middleton filed several bills aimed at bringing additional ethics reforms to state and local government.

"Government transparency is a basic taxpayer right. We must also ensure that politicians don't profit off their positions," he said.

House Bill 1702 stops legislators from becoming lobbyists immediately after they leave office and ends the legislator-to-lobbyist pipeline. Holding office should always be about public service and not self-service.

House Bill 1703 closes loopholes to disclosure of certain relationships with local government officers and vendors. The bill requires local government officers to disclose if

immediate family, a subcontract they are assigned, a business they own a stake in, or a trust they are a beneficiary of receives any benefits as a local government vendor.

House Bill 1704 requires that lobbyist activity reports be reported monthly. This reform would get rid of the yearly lobbying reports and bring more transparency to Austin lobbyists' activities.

Sunshine is the best disinfectant of government waste, fraud, and abuse. Taxpayers must know how their money is being spent. Holding office must be about public service not self-service.

These House Bills will be considered in the 87th Legislative Session, which began January 12, 2021.



Chambers County COVID safety rules

Per Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia, Chambers County will be modifying some of the safety measures currently in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in response to Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-34.

Effective Wednesday, March 10, the changes can be summarized as follows:

1. Face coverings will be encouraged for both staff and clients, but will not be required at most locations. (See number four for the exception to this rule.)
2. All staff and visitors will be asked to complete a self-screen when entering any County building.
3. For the health and safety of our staff, we ask that any person who has COVID-19 symptoms not enter any County building.
4. Masks will still be required for both staff and clients at all County clinical operations where face-to-face interaction occurs. This includes COVID-19 Vaccine PODs, WIC Clinics and the Employee Health and Wellness Center.

Effective Saturday, March 27, Cham-

bers County will reopen County-owned community buildings for public rental with the exception of White Memorial Park and McLeod Park Community Buildings. These two buildings will remain unavailable for rental for the foreseeable future.

All residents are encouraged to continue using their best judgment regarding their safety and the safety of their neighbors. All five variants of the COVID-19 virus have been identified in Harris County and two of these variants are already present in Chambers County. Additionally, Chambers County continues to see widespread community transmission of COVID-19.

Colon Cancer can strike Younger Patients

BAYTOWN — (February 26, 2021) — The death of actor Chadwick Boseman at age 43 from colon cancer last year underscored the threat of the disease to younger adults. With colon cancer increasing in younger adults, it's important to raise awareness about the risks and be proactive about prevention and early detection.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 12% of all new colon cancer cases in the U.S. will be diagnosed in patients younger than 50. Lifestyle factors, such as having a poor diet and being overweight may be contributing to the increase in cases in younger adults; however, much is not known yet. Adults ages 50 and older are still the highest risk group for colon cancer, but the risk of colon cancer for younger adults is rising faster.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

"Early screenings and detection of colorectal cancer make it possible to find the disease early when it's more treatable," said Dr. Ziad Kronfol, a colorectal surgeon with Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

The American Cancer

Society recommends colorectal cancer screening starting at age 45 for people with an average risk of colon cancer. If you have an increased risk for colorectal cancer, screening should start before age 45. You may be at increased or high risk for colon cancer if you have:

- A strong family history of colon cancer
- A personal history of colorectal polyps
- A hereditary syndrome that increases your risk

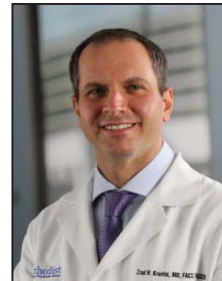
• Inflammatory bowel disease, including ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease

• Radiation to your abdomen or pelvic area to treat a prior cancer.

How do you know if you have a strong family history of colon cancer? "Having a first-degree relative (parent, sibling or child) diagnosed with colorectal cancer increases your risk. The risk goes up if your relative was diagnosed before age 50 or more than one relative was diagnosed," Kronfol said.

Lower Your Risks

Some of the factors that increase your risk for colon cancer are beyond your control. However, you have



DR. ZIAD KRONFOL

the power to make healthy lifestyle choices to help reduce your risk:

- Eat a healthy diet. A healthy diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains may help prevent colon cancer.
- Avoid highly processed foods. Lunch meats and foods containing added chemicals and preservatives may increase colon cancer risk.
- Exercise regularly. Having a sedentary lifestyle has been linked to colon cancer.
- Lose weight. Being overweight or obese can also increase the risk of colon cancer.
- Quit tobacco and limit alcohol. Both are linked to many cancers, including

colon cancer.

Watch for Warning Signs

"Colon cancer is more likely to be overlooked in younger people and tends to be more aggressive, so it's important to get checked out if you have concerns," Kronfol added.

Warning signs include:

- Rectal bleeding
- A change in bowel habits
- Unusual abdominal pains
- Unexpected weight loss

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.

In addition to providing colon and general surgical

expertise, Kronfol offers a full range of colorectal services, including colonoscopy, and treatments for a variety of conditions, such as constipation, diverticulitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. To schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/pgc/baytown, or call 346-292-1470.

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.