

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

MARCH 27 & 28 Crosby American Legion Post 658

8am - 4pm All ages invited, we supply shells, a winner every round of shooting, shotgun turkey shoots, Kids BB Gun shoots, food and beverages. Have fun supporting veterans.

April 17 & 18 Gun & Knife Show Legion Post 658

Vendors Contact Gary Alston (281) 328-1814 or write commander@legionpost658.org

COVID-19 Cases as of March 29, 2021

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

616,767 POSITIVE
6,419 DEATHS
566,780 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,789,638 POSITIVE
48,231 DEATHS
21,199,010 TESTS

UNITED STATES

30,391,747 POSITIVE
550,952 DEATHS
390,026,186 TESTS

WORLDWIDE

128,125,926 POSITIVE
2,801,858 DEATHS
72,656,781 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 4-Cory Hildebrand
Clydeen Valentine
Denise Hernandez
Robert H. Sparks
Apr 5-Fred Dunks
Apr 6-J.J. Worthen
Apr 7-Jean Oliver
Charlotte Yates
Apr 8-Thomas Earl Fabian
Marie Engle
Apr 9-Casie Russell
Damon Lay
Mitchell Thompson
Apr 10-Wendi Owens
Apr 11-Paul Bailey
Teresa Barker
Richard Lyons

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 1-Doug & Jackie Adams
Apr 5-Randy & Rose Donnell
Apr 9-Robert & Delana Matthews
Joshua & Kaylee Bradley
Apr 10-Rod & Anita Davis

DEATHS

Ina B. Welch, 102,
Highlands

State opens COVID shots to everyone

HARRIS COUNTY - March 23, 2021

All adults will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas beginning Monday, March 29. The Texas Department of State Health Services expects vaccine supplies to increase next week, and providers in multiple parts of the state have made great strides in vaccinating people in the current priority groups. The state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccination to everyone who falls under the current Food and Drug Adminis-

tration emergency use authorizations to protect as many Texans as possible.

"As a matter of fact, we in Houston had pretty much exhausted our waitlists and we wanted to have more real-time appointments available," said Houston Health Department director Stephen Williams. Texans can continue to find vaccine providers throughout Greater Houston and sign up on waitlists through the DSHS Vaccine Information page at dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine.



Houston Methodist, consistently one of the area's largest vaccine providers, will allow anyone to sign up on its waitlist but will prioritize those 50 and older for now.

"We are closing in on 10 million doses administered in Texas, and we want

to keep up the momentum as the vaccine supply increases," said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services and the chair of the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. "As eligibility opens up, we are asking providers to continue to prioritize people who are the most at risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death - such as older adults."

DSHS has directed vaccine providers to prioritize people 80 years old or older when scheduling appointments and accommodate anyone in that age group who presents for vaccination, whether or not they have an appointment, by immediately moving them to the front of the line. That will ensure vaccination of anyone 80 or older with as small a

Continued. See COVID SHOTS, page 8

Legion Shoot shows facilities



Terry Harley shows how to aim that M-1911 Colt .45 besting all comers in Saturday's pistol contest at the Turkey Shoot for David H. Mc Nerney American Legion Post 658. Harley, the owner of the Snack Shack, in front of the Legion Hall, immediately after besting this reporter in a match answers the question of how often he shoots by saying, "I haven't shot a gun in twenty years." smiles and says, "But, I used to shoot a lot." The new range has an U.S. Army standard of 33 yards pistol and shotgun range. Melissa McBride, the Legion Post's Financial Officer, won the pistol contest on Sunday. A Gun & Knife show is coming April 17 & 18.

Crosby ISD improves, seeks new CFO

CROSBY - As the school district moves forward to replace Dr. S. Davis with a new Superintendent, Lesa Jones, Chief Financial Officer for Crosby ISD has found another offer and the board has begun the processes of replacing her inside T.E.A. guidelines. Also, the district lost significant State revenues due to sudden growth per wording of House Bill 3, maybe someone made money on that.

The Principal of the Year is Dana Kratky, from Crosby, Texas with

See Crosby improves
Continued on Page 6



Crosby Education Foundation presented a check for \$92,765.58 to finance innovative educational courses inside the district.

McNair resident dies in fiery one car crash

A McNair resident died in a fiery one-car accident last Saturday morning. Derrick Tyler, 34, was returning home after work at a metal plate pipe yard, when he apparently fell asleep and drove into a ditch along the 2600 block of Broad Street in McNair.

The accident occurred about 9 a.m. in the morning, and neighbors saw the flames as the car caught fire. Shuntay Montgomery and two other neighbors, Keshla Montgomery and Edgar Johnson, attempted to save Tyler, as flames engulfed the car and the driver. They tried to open the door and help the driver out, but it was jammed because the car was wedged into the ditch. As the flames raged, they also tried to save Tyler by pour-



The burned-out shell of a car lies in a ditch on Broad Street in McNair, after the accident.

ing water on his body through the partially opened passenger door, to suppress the flames. Keshla Montgomery ran to her home, and brought back gallons of water that had been recently purchased, pouring the contents on

Tyler. Johnson tried to break a window, to no avail. Tyler was trapped in the car, yelling "help me, help me" but the rescuers were not successful, and

Continued. See McNair Man dies, page 6

Texas House considers Deep Freeze bills

Report by Rep. Ana Hernandez

On March 8, Speaker Dade Phelan announced the first phase of the House's legislative reforms to protect consumers and strengthen our state's electric grid in the aftermath of the recent, unprecedented cold weather event. Speaker Phelan highlighted the following key legislation filed by members of the Texas House of Representatives:

HB 10 - Reforming Energy Reliability Council of Texas Leadership

HB 10, filed by Representative Paddie, restructures the ERCOT board, replacing the unaffiliated members with members appointed by the Govern-



REPRESENTATIVE ANA HERNANDEZ

nor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House. HB 10 also requires all board members to reside in the state of Texas and creates an additional ERCOT board member slot to represent consumer interests.

HB 11 - Protecting Consumers and Hardening

Continued on Page 8

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CROSBY AMERICAN LEGION POST 658 Gun & Knife Show



Sat., April 17 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun., April 18 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*Proceeds support Post 658,
local veterans, community
projects and scholarships*

**\$5 Admission, Accompanied
kids under 12 free**

Dealers

**Early Registration Tables
\$45.00, 8'feet, 6 feet \$35.00
Regular Tables \$50.00 8', 6'\$40.00
Setup Friday morning
8:a.m. until 10:00 p.m.**

**DAVID H. McNERNEY POST 658, CROSBY
14890 FM 2100
www.americanlegionpost658.org**

**Gary Alston (281) 328-1814
or (409) 293-2611
email:
commander@legionpost658.org**



Street Racing Arrests top 200, some cars confiscated



Deputies confiscated and towed 12 cars.

HARRIS COUNTY – More than 200 people were arrested on charges ranging from DWI to reckless driving during a county-wide crackdown on illegal street racing this past weekend, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Thursday.

The arrests were the result of a joint initiative including the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Houston Police Department and other law-enforcement agencies.

Twelve vehicles were also seized.

"Flybys are being prosecuted. Street takeovers are being prosecuted. Street racing is being prosecuted. All of these crimes can land you behind bars because these actions can turn deadly," Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said. "It's wrong to put innocent people's lives at risk just for an adrenaline rush. This initiative saved lives."

The initiative focuses on arresting dangerous drivers to save lives on Houston's roads and highways.

"Hundreds of peace officers, prosecutors and support staff spent all of Spring Break protecting our community from dangerous street racers," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "Thanks to them, not one motorist lost their life because of a street racer. I personally thank each of them for keeping our streets safe and saving lives."

In addition to the Harris County District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and HPD, the initiative also included the Chambers County Sheriff's Office and Texas DPS.

The partnership also involved the Houston Raceway Park. Owner Seth Angel has urged car race fans to practice their hobby on legal race tracks, not on public roads.

This is the fourth year of the annual anti-illegal street racing program,

which took place from March 17-21, 2021.

Prosecutors with the DA's vehicular crimes division worked over 115 combined hours over the five-night event to assist law enforcement with charges, search warrants and evidence collection. There were 222 arrests.

Charges filed included:
Racing on a Highway: 56

Reckless Driving: 30
Obstruction of a Highway: 14

Deadly Conduct: 10
Evading Arrest: 12
Driving While Intoxicated: 53

Intoxication Assault: 1
Assault of a family member: 2
Child Endangerment: 1

Possession of a Controlled Substance: 14
Weapons charges: 18
Car Theft: 2

Theft: 2
Aggravated assault of Public Servant: 1
Interfering with a police officer: 3

Failure to Identify: 1

Maximum Tax Savings



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

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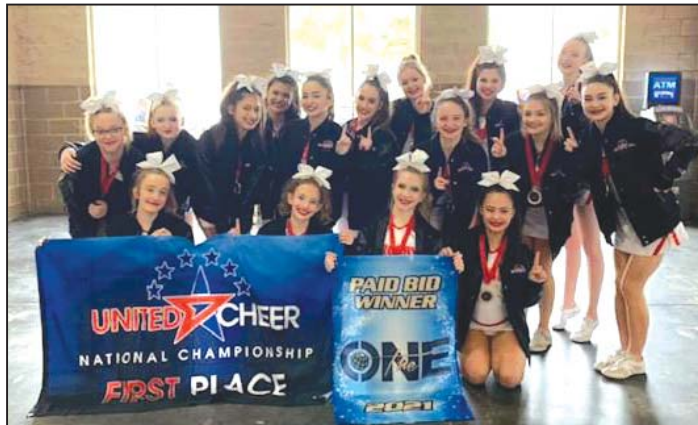
**CROSBY'S HOME
TOWN HOME CARE**

Crosby ISD recognizes Principal of Year



Dana Kratky, Fourth from right is Principal of the Year at Crosby ISD. She is Principal of Crosby Elementary and was tapped for her tireless efforts and dedication. She grew up in Crosby and has 22 years in education with 16 of those inside Crosby ISD.

Crosby Middle School Cheer Team wins Recognition



CROSBY MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEER TEAM WINS RECOGNITION

The Crosby Middle School cheer team competed this past weekend at Ford Park in Beaumont. They won their division and the judges were so impressed with their skills and routine they were also awarded a paid bid to to The One competition in Florida! They received their champion jackets and medals!

Huffman ISD Houston Rodeo Art Show Winners

Huffman ISD announces the winners of the 2021 district Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program. Students of all ages have participated for many years ranging from Pre-K through 12th grade. The program is designed to encourage the education and appreciation of our Western heritage. Students create Western-themed art entries that include paintings, drawings and sculpture. The 2021 district Rodeo Art Show & Open House theme was "Roped In." The event was held at Huffman Elementary School on February 4. Family and friends were invited to come celebrate the winning works along with the student artists.



Hargrave HS Best of Show Art - Isabella McClelland, 11th grade, "Pick of the Litter," colored pencil.



Hargrave HS Best of Show Sculpture - Savannah Sullivan, 10th grade, "Rust," ceramic.



Huffman MS Best of Show - Amy Trevino, 7th grade, "Jolly, Molly, Coco."



Elementary Best of Show - Hannah Binnig, 5th grade, "A Lonely Day," Huffman Elementary School.

Hargrave High School winners were: Best of Show - Isabella McClelland, 11th grade, "Pick of the Litter," colored pencil; Gold Medal - Kaitlin Martin, 9th grade, "Sisterly Love," mixed media; Gold Medal - Reese McBurney, 11th grade, "More Food Please?," mixed media; Special Merit - Skylar McCrary, 11th grade, "The Chase," acrylic painting; Best of Show - Savannah Sullivan, 10th grade, "Rust," ceramic sculpture; Gold Medal - Jeremy Rangel, 10th grade, "Azabache," ceramic sculpture. High school students are instructed by Victoria Parker, HHS Art Teacher.

Huffman Middle School winners were: Best of Show - Amy Trevino, 7th grade, "Jolly, Molly, Coco"; Gold Medal - Cheyenne Cunningham, 8th grade, "Mamzy Moo Cow's Flower Crown". Middle school students are instructed by Andrea Avelar, HMS Art Teacher.

Elementary level winners were: Best of Show - Hannah Binnig, 5th grade, "A Lonely Day," Huffman Elementary School instructed by Cinnamon Leslie, HES Art Teacher; Gold Medal - Keira Blankenship, Kindergarten, "Miss Bella," Falcon Ridge Elementary school instructed by Veronica

Hallum, FRE Art Teacher.

While the exhibit had a limited occupancy due to Covid 19, attendees had plenty of room and time to see the numerous district artwork. For those who could not attend in person, a "Roped In" Virtual Exhibit was set up by art

teachers as well. This allowed for many family and community members to see the creative artwork from both near and far.

Winning entries will be on display at Reliant Center.

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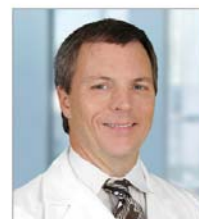
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Irfan Dadabhoj, MD
Family Medicine



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★ OPINION PAGE ★



Sheriff Gonzalez: to better serve and protect

A Message from Sheriff Ed Gonzalez:

At the Sheriff's Office, we have been working hard to implement strategies and solutions to better serve and protect our residents and to keep building trust.

We recently formed the Community Problem-Oriented Policing Unit, also known as CPOP, to foster meaningful relationships with residents, gain insight into the unique needs of each community, and empower people with knowledge and resources through our partners.

Each patrol district will have two dedicated deputies who will spend their time getting to know the businesses, schools, houses of worship, and neighborhoods in their area. They will start to establish relationships with the neighbors that make up the community.

In all of these efforts, the goal is to get the community involved before a crime takes place; to create a bond before a crisis erupts. This way, residents feel more empowered to share what's on their mind and what public safety concerns or issues on their block keep them up at night. And that makes us all safer.



We're using community policing and data to drive down crime and enhance our quality of life. We want to ensure that the residents we serve are our partners; that we're all working together to tackle problems, especially the hard ones.

Last week, we announced the move toward a greater reliance on data analysis to identify the nexus of crashes and crime. The proven operational model called Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) improves deployment decisions, keeps deputies and residents informed, and demonstrates the power of data to address disproportionately affected areas.

As an agency, we're always exploring innovative approaches that align with our core values, promote transparency and accountability, and focus on engaging residents in a deeper way.

Our neighbors should bring concerns to the deputies patrolling their community. Our deputies should actively include their voices – even those critical of law enforcement – in conversations around strategies for resolving problems in their neighborhood.

CPOP deputies will be knocking on doors, reviewing calls for service, working collaboratively with district commanders and various units across our agency, and seeking community input through surveys and forums. They will be following up with residents to make sure their issues were properly resolved. They will connect people with critical resources through our partners, such as the United Way of Greater Houston and BakerRipley, to assist them with their needs.

Over the next several weeks, the CPOP Unit will attend training focused on the relational policing and community policing models and will work with patrol district leaders on an action plan to rollout in their areas.

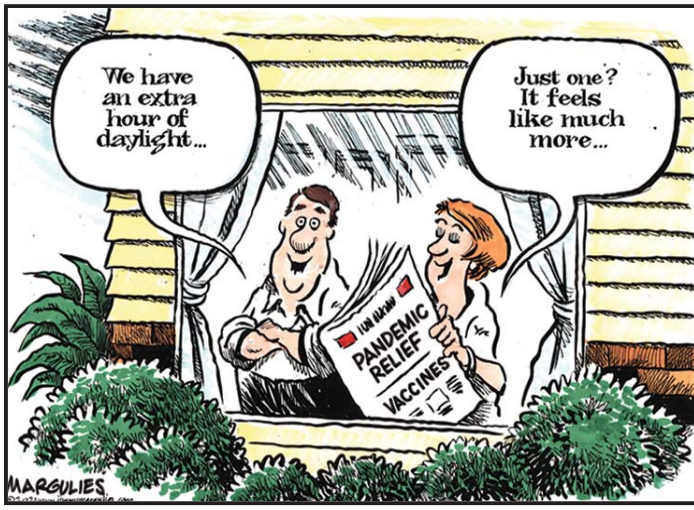
As peace officers, our actions must be driven by our training and love for our community. Over the past year, civil unrest over racial justice has led to countless demonstrations across our country. For some, it meant an erosion of trust in law enforcement. Our deputies must be ready and determined to meet this moment. Their work must be an extension of our core values.

We want to help build a foundation so that we can trust each other and rely on each other. And that's what community is about – the idea that we're all in this together. That's the ultimate goal.

During the recent winter storm, you may have seen a social media post from District V Patrol Commander, Capt. Kinnard-Bing, that went viral. Our deputies responded to a call at a hotel in northwest Harris County where they learned a patron couldn't afford the room for the night. The deputies covered the overnight cost for the hotel room to keep the patron and his family safe and warm.

Their actions were met by a flood of supportive posts from our followers who thanked the deputies and offered to pay for more nights at the hotel if the family was still in need. And that's not just a testament to our deputies – because when the act of kindness went viral, folks across our county began asking how they could help, too.

That's Harris County at its best. That's good police work. That's what so many of you in our community represent. Let's keep pushing our world in the right direction – toward lending a helping hand to those in need; toward being a good neighbor; toward equity and fairness.



THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Out Like a Lion

March is winding down and my sister-in-law, Lori, is going with it.

There is too much food and too many flowers because that is what we do when someone is dying, when we don't know what else to do as, gradually, the unthinkable becomes accepted and even ordinary. We make more food and bring more flowers. But there is too little time. There is always too little time.

Lori is spending most of the time she has left sleeping, which means she is not in pain but also that no one can talk with her and we miss her already, while she is here among us.

There are circles of grief, as I've heard it explained. Her husband, Robert, is at the center, and one ring out are her children and my husband, her brother. I am a bit further out in orbit, in Lori's solar system of sorrow, missing her ready laugh and irreverent observations.

"Take a brownie, if you want one," her son, Bobby, tells me. I haven't had a brownie in ages, and so I do.

There are casseroles in the freezer and desserts on the counter. Lori's daughter has made a mix tape of Lori's favorite music that is playing. A group of women friends have made a collage with Lori's photo at the center, made to look as if she is a giant purple butterfly.

And, because it is March, there are vases of tulips and crocuses on every level surface. Pink and yellow blooms are everywhere, and everyone is waiting and watching and trying to be helpful. There is so much to do. There is so little to be done.

I remember when I first met Lori. We were not the best of friends. She was a strong woman with fierce opinions, some of which I did not share.

But after her illness, we grew close. The circumstances were unusual. We spent many hours talking about things that people may not get a chance to talk about—unless they happen to be alone together during a pandemic and dying. I learned to love her seemingly bottomless capacity for empathy and her adventurous spirit. I knew, almost from the beginning of the pandemic, that I was experiencing something special. I felt genuinely blessed.

The last time I spoke with Lori, she was so tired. I told her we had just come by to tell her how much we loved her. She said, very softly, "I'm going to haunt you, you know."

"I hope so," I told her. She smiled and closed her eyes. And it's true, I do.

Lori rode motorcycles and flew planes and even jumped out of one once. She talked to strangers at every opportunity. She was open to new ideas and changing her mind and always giving people the benefit of the doubt. I would be happy to be haunted by her curiosity and her caring and her ribald humor and her insatiable thirst for new experiences and new insights.

And, if such a thing were possible, I would love to have her looking over my shoulder, prodding me. "Can't you be a little braver, a little more honest, a little less proper? What have you got to lose?"

What have I got to lose? Right now, losing Lori seems like a terrible loss.

I had the privilege to be with Lori as she died peacefully in her sleep on the first day of spring. And while, at this writing, I don't know how March will end, I know my sister-in-law, Lori, went out like a lion.

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Bill tightening voting restrictions in Texas passes Senate committee

A Texas Senate committee on Friday passed an elections bill that would tighten the state's voting rules by limiting extended early voting hours, requiring proof of disability to qualify for mail-in voting and prohibiting drive-thru voting. Senate Bill 7, sponsored by Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, is one of Gov. Gregg Abbott's legislative priorities this session.

During testimony Friday, the committee received opposition testimony from AARP, the League of Women Voters, NAACP and other groups. Hughes described his bill as attempting to strike a balance between "maintaining fair and honest elections with the opportunity to exercise one's right to vote," according to the Texas Tribune.

ANY TEXAN OLD ENOUGH TO LEGALLY DRIVE CAN RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE

More than 10.2 million Texans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as of Sunday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The pace is expected to quicken now that anyone 16 years and older can receive one of the three versions available in the state. A total of 3.57 million Texans are fully vaccinated — about 12% of the state's population. DSHS has directed vaccine providers to give priority to people 80 years and older.

To that point, a new outreach partnership between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and several partners was announced last week by Gov. Gregg Abbott. Among those participating to expand the state's Save Our Seniors program launched in February are the Texas Employee Retirement System, Texas Teachers Retirement System, AARP and various Medicare health plans.

More than 1 million doses of the vaccine are being



shipped to Texas providers this week. Texans can call 2-1-1 or go to <https://tinyurl.com/9dvpem9> for more information about getting the vaccine.

COVID-19 CASES IN TEXAS DROP SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped to 27,185 last week, with 741 deaths reported. Both are down just slightly from the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations of confirmed COVID-19 cases also showed a slight decrease to 3,308, according to DSHS.

HEALTH CARE FRAUD CASE ENDS WITH PRISON TIME, \$82.9 MILLION RESTITUTION

The state's Department of Workers' Compensation announced last week that the remaining defendants in a health care fraud bribery scam were sentenced by a federal judge. The case involved surgeons, physicians and hospital administrators at Forest Park Medical Hospital in Dallas. It began in 2016 and involved 14 defendants, who were sentenced to a combined 74-plus years in prison and ordered to pay \$82.9 million in restitution. According to a news release from DWC, the department's fraud unit identified health care providers at Forest Park who billed the state's workers' compensation system. The

unit turned over the data to the FBI.

"Fraudulent billing within the health care system drives up the costs of health care for everyone," Debra Knight, DWC deputy commissioner, said. "These significant sentences demonstrate that health care fraud will not be tolerated."

FOREST SERVICE ACQUIRES ACREAGE THROUGH LEGACY GRANT

The Texas A&M Forest Service has acquired Fox Hunters Hill, a \$1.6 million conservation easement of sustainably managed forest adjacent to the Sabine National Forest in Deep East Texas. The acreage was acquired through the U.S. Forest Legacy Program, which acquired more than 23,000 acres throughout the South to protect forestlands at risk due to urban development or clear cutting.

TFS works with landowners on a "willing buyer/willing seller" basis to obtain the lands and enhance sustainable forest management. "A conservation easement is an interest in land acquired to protect certain conservation values," explained Gretchen Riley, the Forest Legacy Program Coordinator at Texas A&M Forest Service. "It is a good way to assure important, vulnerable landscapes – and the benefits they provide to Texans – are sustained for the future."

Fox Hunters Hill borders 213,000 acres of protected lands in the Angelina and Sabine National Forests, including one of the last undeveloped coves of Toledo Bend Reservoir.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SOCIAL MEDIA IDENTITY THEFT

The Texas Department of Insurance has some advice on taking simple steps to protect social media accounts and thus avoid most scams. Those tips include:

- Don't post ID cards, including a COVID-19 vaccination card.
- Watch out for online quizzes and surveys that ask for personal information, such as the model of your first car, name of your first pet, or your hometown. Those are often also security login questions.
- Don't overshare. The more a scammer finds out about you, the easier it is to create a fake account.
- Limit app sharing and close old accounts.
- Protect family members, especially teens, who are the most likely to overshare.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

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★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

★
OBITUARIES

INA B. WELCH, 102

Ina B. Welch age 102 of Highlands, TX passed away on 2/24/2021. Ina was born on 11/30/1918 in Wallisville, TX the daughter of Robert and Winnie Munger. During her life, Ina was a hairdresser for many years; she also enjoyed painting and being with her family and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Highlands, TX

Ina is preceded by her husband, R.V. Welch, their son Reggie Welch, sisters; Alma Robinson and Valda



Carter, brothers; George and A. Munger.

Ina is survived by her son, Joseph Welch, and his wife Lois of Highlands, TX, grandson, Eric Welch and his wife Shara of Alpine, TX, granddaughter,

Toni Kuntz of Bandera, TX, grandson, Chad Owen of Mt. Pleasant, MI, daughter-in-law Mary Welch of Bandera, TX, and great-grandchildren; Austin and Olin Welch of Alpine, TX

Visitation for Ina is Monday, March 29, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM with services following at 12:00 PM at Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery.

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★
THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH
By Dr. Mark Trice



At the Top of Your Lungs

It's not often that I bring a song to our music minister's attention, but when I discovered Crowder's "Good God Almighty" I had to. It's one of those songs that demands your attention. Think about these words.

Good God Almighty
I hope You'll find me
Praising Your name no matter what comes

'Cause I know where I'd be
Without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs

YES! I think we all have a pretty good idea of where we'd be without His mercy, and it's not something any of us really care to think about. Knowing this, how can we do anything less than praise Him at all times, in all situations, no matter what?

Dear Lord, if we had no guarantee of anything beyond the fact that our eternal destination lies with Him, it would be worth praising Him every day of our lives, but we have so much more! The Bible is filled with promise after promise; He loves us and wants the very best for us.

The song also exhorts us to...

Praise Him in the morning
Praise Him in the noon time
Praise Him when the sun goes down

You probably realize that worshipping God three times a day was common Hebraic practice. It's what God Daniel in trouble – the fact that he was all in with God to such an extent that he faithfully prayed three times a day regardless of the fact that it was against the law. How many Christians would do that today?

Do you have what it takes to stand up for Jesus even when the rest of the world is bowing to other gods? We may not be in a situation quite like Daniel's...yet...but the possibility is definitely there. We have seen the threat clearly in the shutting down of churches during COVID, and in many other parts of the country the attack on the church is absolutely mind blowing. So is the fact that churches across the nation are giving up without a fight.

Christians, we can't give up! He is a GOOD God, and He is ALMIGHTY, and our only option, as His faithful children, is to live praising Him. Praise Him at the top of your lungs.

www.myhillsidefamily.com @myhillsidefamily

Precinct 2 Vaccination Sites Open April 1 - No appointment required

Starting today all adults (18 years and older) are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. This week, I'm bringing the vaccines directly to the Precinct 2 community. I invite you to take a look at the flyer below to find the location nearest to you. You may register for one of the three locations ahead of time OR walk in on a first-come, first-served basis, and our

staff will get you registered on-site.

Remember COVID-19 is still among us. Continue to wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, and practice social distancing. I encourage you to share the following information and help get the word out.

Working for you, Adrian Garcia, Harris Co. Precinct 2 Commissioner

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PACITY.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
9am-4pm

North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church
444 Maxey Rd. Houston TX 77013

Northeast Community Center
10918 1/2 Bentley St. Houston, TX 77093

COVID shots open to everyone,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

burden on themselves as possible.

Also next week, DSHS will launch a website to allow people to register for a shot through some public health providers. The public will be able to enroll in the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler to identify upcoming vaccine clinics hosted by DSHS or a participating local health department and be notified when new clinics and appointments become avail-

able. People can continue to find additional providers through the DSHS Vaccine Information page at dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine.

Online registration will be the best option for most people. For those for whom that is not an option, DSHS will launch a toll-free number to provide assistance making an appointment with a participating provider or locat-

ing another provider that has vaccine available.

To date, Texas has administered more than 9.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, equating to more than 6 million people with at least one dose and more than 3 million fully vaccinated. Most vaccines are authorized for people 18 years old and older; the FDA has authorized the Pfizer vaccine for use in people 16 and older.

COVID 19 Testing Sites in NE Harris County

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Crosby American Legion
Make Appointment (936) 333-3333 ; walk ups welcome
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Texas Mobile Medical Labs

Crosby ISD
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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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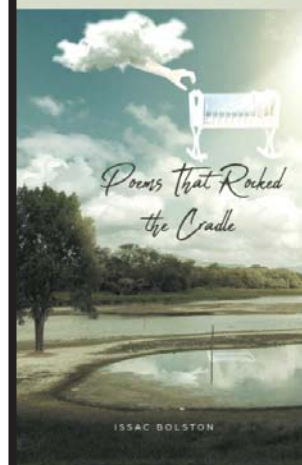
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Poems That Rocked the Cradle

By Issac Bolston



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About The Author
As one who has come from very humble beginnings and overcome many obstacles, I struggle daily to achieve the quest for happiness and inner peace.

Issac Bolston

On that journey toward happiness and inner peace, there are obstacles placed in one's path daily. Often times one has to go inside oneself to remove the obstacles. The answers are not always outside the person but on the inside.



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CHARLOTTE'S WEB



It Feels So Good

Do you remember being a child and enjoying the long summer breaks? There was something special about the memories made from playing outdoors and not having a set routine that as children, we loved. But by the time we reached our teenage years, we longed to be around our classmates and have a more defined schedule. We knew that much of our high school years were planned around football and that included lots of practice from those who played football, to the award-winning drill teams and certainly for the high school bands. There were many weekend afternoons spent with classmates painting banners for pep rallies as well as for the game on the following Friday night.

Perhaps you went off to college after high school. It was an entire new experience for many. Suddenly there was no structure of bells ringing or lining up for lunch in the cafeteria. There was a new-found freedom in not being on a schedule for doing your assignments. There was more time than ever to meet new people and begin to "grow up" and make your own decisions. Yet, most of us who went away to college will tell you that coming home for holiday breaks and the summer, felt great. There was a sense of being independent yet having that familiar comfort of being at home with family.

Like many others, I have recently returned to the office after working remotely for 364 days. Yes, almost a year to the day. I found myself happy at first that I did not have to worry with uniforms going to the dry cleaner or having to get up early enough to drive to work. In talking with neighbors as well as coworkers who were working from home, we all felt a sense of peace in the beginning. We were thankful that we worked for employers who wanted to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by allowing us to work from the safety of home. We found our commute time being replaced with many zoom meetings. By the end of the first month, our workspace had become a center of activity. I realized that I was often working harder at home, as I wanted to be sure to stay busy. There were no coworkers stopping by my office to share details of their busy weekends. It seemed like I blinked and lost count of birthdays, anniversaries and other important events. I talked to more and more people who were feeling down at not being able to attend graduations, weddings, funerals or to plan vacations. The days suddenly ran into each other. Before we knew it the holidays had come and gone. We spent many hours registering for COVID Testing and then eventually COVID vaccinations.

Numbers were beginning to slow down, and it was as if we could finally take a deep breath and come out of our homes. By returning to work, things slowly began to feel better. Being blessed to celebrate a birthday with cake and flowers with coworkers, lunch with friends and an evening with others made me more grateful than ever.

I pray that as we begin to experience the new normal, we will remember just how good it feels to live each day.

Texas House on Freeze bills,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Facilities for Extreme Weather

HB 11, filed by Representative Paddie, requires electric transmission and generation facilities in this state to be weatherized against the spectrum of extreme weather Texas may face. Utilities will be required to reconnect service as soon as possible and prevent slower reconnections for low-income areas, rural Texas, and small communities.

HB 12 - Alerting Texans During Emergencies

HB 12, filed by Representative Raymond, creates a statewide disaster alert system administered by Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to alert Texans across the state about impending disasters and extreme weather events. The alerts will also provide targeted information on extended power outages to the state's regions most affected. This system builds off the model used in Amber, Silver, and Blue Alert systems.

HB 13 - Improving Coordination During Disasters

HB 13, filed by Representative Raymond, establishes a council composed of ERCOT, Public Utility Commission of Texas, Railroad Commission, and TDEM leaders to coordinate during a disaster. The committee will identify challenges with fuel supplies, repairs, energy operations and prevent service interruptions from the wellhead to the consumer.

HB 14 - Weatherizing Natural Gas Infrastructure

HB 14, filed by Representative Goldman, requires the Railroad Commission to adopt rules requiring gas pipeline operators to implement measures that ensure service quality and reliability during an extreme weather emergency, which covers winter and heat wave conditions.

HB 16 - Defending Ratepayers

HB 16, filed by Representative Hernandez, bans variable rate products like Griddy for residential customers. These types of speculative plans resulted in exorbitant bills. This bill will provide consumer protection to residential customers while still allowing the competitive market to flourish.

HB 16 is scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, March 18 at 8:00am.

To watch the hearing live, please follow this link: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>.

HB 17 - Protecting Homeowner Rights

HB 17, filed by Rep. Deshotel, prevents any political subdivision or planning authority from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, regulation, code, or policy that would prohibit the connection of residential or commercial buildings to specific infrastructure based on the type or source of energy that will be delivered to the end user.

Crosby improves,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

22 years in education and 16 years at Crosby ISD and is Principal of Crosby Elementary School. Her award was for tireless dedication, also the school had another successful year in the Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive with Crosby Elementary leading the way.

The district is staying masked and social distancing for now regardless of the Governor of Texas lifting mandatory orders. This decision based upon health science advice and the Texas Medical Center recommendations that the pandemic isn't over.

Tax collections are 0.97% behind during this time of pandemic.

The Interim Superintendent Karen Grey received a letter from the Texas Education Agency regarding the annual financial and compliance report for the year ending June 2020. It referenced the \$27,526,701 deficit in unrestricted net position against the prior year deficit in unrestricted net position of \$31,410,896 and total net position.

The actual meaning of this is that there is, according to Ms Jones,

\$6,852,721 improvement of financial condition. The letter says this is due to implementation of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 75 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions. Also a deficit of \$24,550 in the internal service fund was discovered. Meaning that they saved more on internal operations.

The letter concludes. "The TEA has assigned a monitor to the district as of March 20, 2019. Your district's independent auditor should review correspondence between the district, the monitor, and the agency to determine the scope of future audits."

The board seemed to be seeking a way to have the Trustees more involved in the picking process for a new C.F.O. but the T,E,A, monitor determined to limit that involvement to J.R. Humphreys listening in as a monitor without voting capacity.

Ms. Jones was the primary financial advisor as Crosby ISD climbed out of the exigency fiduciary problems of the past.

McNair man dies in car fire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had to stop when the car exploded. The rescuers desperately needed help, but McNair has not had a fire department for over a year, and even the firehouse has been torn down. Highlands Fire Department was called, and Fire Chief Harvey Little said that an ambulance reached the scene in about five minutes from receiving the 911 call, and a fire engine arrived in about 14 minutes. But it was too late, the fire had consumed the car and killed the driv-

er. Lt. Kim Fonville with the Harris County Sheriff's office said they were investigating the accident, including when a call for help was made, and how long it took to respond.



DERRICK TYLER

Back Issues are available in PDF format on our websites: www.starcouriernews.com and www.northchannelstar.com

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3		6						5
8			3		2			
	4			2		9		
2		7	3		7			8
4				9			6	1
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9		5					3	
7				6	1			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTWOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Lamp is different. 2. Chair is missing. 3. Stairs are missing. 4. Picture is missing. 5. Chair is different. 6. Stairs are missing. 7. Picture is missing. 8. Stairs are missing. 9. Picture is missing. 10. Picture is missing.

King Crossword

Posting Date March 29, 2021

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
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51											

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tub session
 - 5 Petrol
 - 8 Microwaves
 - 12 Jai —
 - 13 Dadaist artist
 - 14 Vicinity
 - 15 Home to the Buccaneers
 - 17 Fish feature
 - 18 Evening hrs.
 - 19 Whirl
 - 21 Jazz genre
 - 24 Crossword hint
 - 25 Former mates
 - 26 Turquoise-like color
 - 30 Mimic
 - 31 Rib
 - 32 Ltr. holder
 - 33 Pentagon
- DOWN**
- 1 Cudgel
 - 2 Pie — mode
 - 3 Highland hat
 - 4 Zoo heavy-weights
 - 5 Yaks
 - 6 Coach
 - 7 Parseghian
 - 8 Capital of
 - 9 Operatic solo
 - 10 Hide
 - 11 Auction
 - 16 Sound booster
 - 20 Year-end celebration
 - 21 Tempo
 - 22 Big fair, for short
 - 23 Pager sound
 - 24 Stop
 - 26 Trucker in a union
 - 27 Floral rings
 - 28 Nullify
 - 29 Always
 - 31 Helen's home
 - 34 Impudent
 - 35 Orville's brother
 - 37 Moving day rental
 - 38 Starting
 - 39 Olympic sled
 - 40 Lusty look
 - 41 Employ
 - 44 Path
 - 45 Epoch
 - 46 License to drill?
 - 47 Dine
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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- SCIENCE: Where is the world's most active volcano located?
- TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV drama invented the catchphrase "The truth is out there"?
- MATH: What is the total of numbers 1-100 added consecutively (1+2+3, etc.)?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do the 100 folds in a chef's hat represent?
- LITERATURE: In which Harry Potter book does the Whomping Willow make its first appearance?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many countries in Africa have only four letters in their names?
- MOVIES: In the animated movie "Up," to which scouting group does Russell belong?
- ARCHITECTURE: Who designed the famous Fallingwater House in Pennsylvania?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "hyper" mean?
- MEDICAL: What is the common ailment classified in medical terms as singultus?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. Hawaii (Mauna Loa); 2. "The X-Files"; 3. 5,050; 4. 100 ways to cook an egg; 5. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"; 6. Three; 7. Chad, Matt and Togo; 8. Wilderness Explorers; 9. Over, excessive; 10. Hiccups

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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 491209; Estate of KEVIN MICHAEL BRINKMAN Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 11, 2021.

LEGAL NOTICE
SHANNON BRINKMAN
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

LEGAL NOTICE
Proposals for RFP-MA 21-002 Fundraising Items will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM CST. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Administration Building, 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud.

LEGAL NOTICE
Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at purchasing@galenaparkisd.com or on our website: galenaparkisd.com/Page/1155

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Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.



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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 MARCH 24, 2021.

Shannon Brinkman
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Dayton Chamber Luncheon

April Luncheon
Please join us for our luncheon Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 11:30 AM in the ballroom of the Dayton Community Center at 801. S. Cleveland St. Our guest speaker this month is Meagan Croker with Bridgehaven Children's Advocacy Center.

Lunch will be catered by Italiano's Restaurant and served at 12:00 pm Don't forget to stick around after lunch for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to welcome our new member Deena Ritchie with eXp Realty!

We are asking you to please RSVP by 5:00 pm Friday, April 2 to be entered in the drawing for a chance to win a door prize.

West Chambers Chamber News Eagle Open Golf Tournament

Date: April 16, 2021
Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM CDT

Event Description: Our Annual Eagle Open Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, April 16, 2021! Stick around for a Crawfish Boil provided by the City of Mont Belvieu.

Event Sponsors:
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ExxonMobil Mont Belvieu Plastics Plant
Gallant Builders
Targa Resources
Community Toyota, Community Honda, Community Kia
LANXESS Corporation
Enterprise Products Operating LLC
Purcell Construction, Inc.
Barbers Hill Bank

Location: Eagle Pointe Golf Club
Mont Belvieu, TX
Date/Time Information: Friday, April 16, 2021 8:30AM - Registration & Breakfast 10:30AM - Shotgun Start
Contact Information: Ashley Wells
Please contact the Chamber office, 281-876-5440 or Ashley@thewccc.com for your reservation.

Chambers County Youth Rodeo starts April 16 through May 1

CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS – Chambers County is excited to announce the resumption of the annual Chambers County Youth Livestock Show and Ranch Rodeo this spring. The 2021 Show, which will take place April 28 through May 1, will feature several updates to ensure both exhibitor and visitor safety. "We have been working closely with Chambers County Public Health and others to make adjustments to the show format so that we can ensure everyone's safety," said Kirk Sherman, Chambers County Parks Superintendent.



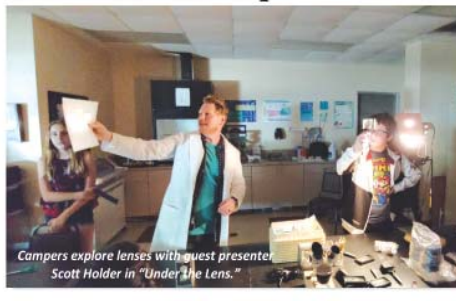
A few of the planned modifications include the cancellation of the Queens Contest, elimination of the Ranch Rodeo's BBQ Cook Off and increased hand washing stations throughout the facility during all events. "After the cancellation of the 2020 Show due to COVID-19, it was really important to the County, the CCYLSRR Committee and my office that we continue onward with the 2021 event," continued Sherman. Updates and safety guidelines will be released once more information becomes available. Exhibitors, buyers and

community members are encouraged to remember that all announcements, rules and guidelines are subject to change due to COVID-19. Save the date for the 2021 Chambers County Youth Livestock Show and Ranch Rodeo:
• Chambers County Ranch Rodeo – Friday April 16 through Sunday April 18, 2021
• Chambers County Horse Show – Saturday, April 24, 2021
• Chambers County Youth Livestock Show – Wednesday, April 28 through Saturday, May 1, 2021

Baytown Nature Center Summer Science Camp 2020



Jocelyn Burch uses her sense of touch in "sensational" as she holds Ziggy, the bearded dragon.



Campers explore lenses with guest presenter Scott Holder in "Under the Lens."



"Hook, Line, and Sinker" campers transform into super heroes while fishing at Pine Gully Fishing Pier.



Jenna Johnson went back in time during "The Past" to learn about dinosaurs.

BEACH CITY NEWS Dredging problem returns - to Devers

Hello Neighbors
Let's All Help Devers, Texas
Our neighbors in Liberty County need our support !! The same company that tried to bring dredge waste to Beach City is applying for permission to again take dredge material from the San Jacinto River (near the area of concern for the San Jacinto Waste Pits SUPER-FUND SITE) and place it in Devers, Texas. We had a massive amount of support in our fight and I felt our Beach City Spirit is needed to help our neighbors out. If you have time please write an email or letter of opposition to the placing of any dredge material in Devers, Texas.

Below is a message from the San Jacinto River Coalition.
From the San Jacinto River Coalition: Remember the proposed dredging that would've brought dredge spoil to Beach City? They're at it again. This time, they are proposing to bring the material to Liberty County, City of Devers.
Contact Brian Bader at the US Army Corps of Engineers by March 19 to let him know your concerns: 409-766-3037 or by email: Brian.J.Bader@usace.army.mil

Thank you and God Bless
Ryan Dagley, MAI
Mayor, Beach City

Conquering Sleep Problems at HMB

BAYTOWN — (March 12, 2021) — Lack of sleep can contribute to more than a bad mood; it can also negatively affect energy levels, the ability to concentrate and even overall health. Most adults need seven to eight hours of sleep a night. If you regularly have trouble falling asleep, waking up in the middle of the night, or feeling drowsy during most days, you likely aren't getting the sleep you need. Sunday's (March 14) beginning of Daylight Savings Time may also disrupt sleep patterns for many people. "Some simple changes in your daily habits may be effective in helping you rest easier," said Dr. Skantha Manjunath, a pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine specialist with Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. She offers some helpful tips on getting a good night's rest. Exercise early. Activity too close to bedtime can make it difficult to relax. Try to exercise in the morning or early evening. Regular exercise at these times may even help you

sleep better. Be aware of what you eat and drink. Eating a large meal or drinking caffeinated beverages a few hours before bedtime can keep you up. Drinking alcohol may make you feel sleepy at first, but it could disrupt your sleep. Help your mind stop racing. Try not to take problems to bed. Instead, make time earlier in the evening to write down worries and potential solutions, or make a to-do list for the next day. Stick to a sleep schedule. If possible, try to go to sleep and wake up at the same times each day — even on weekends. Create a pre-bedtime routine. Reading a book, listening to soft music, dimming the lights, brushing your teeth and washing your face can help your body slow down before going to bed. Avoid using electronic readers, if possible, as they may be more distracting than calming. To improve sleep, resist the urge to work in bed and stop using electronics at least a half hour to an hour before you go to sleep. Si-



DR. SKANTHA MANJUNATH

lence your phone and turn it over so the backlight won't interrupt your sleep. Make your bedroom comfortable. Many people sleep best in a room that is cool, dark and quiet. A fan or white noise machine can help block out distracting noises or help lull you to sleep. Focus on your breathing. Take deep breaths; you may even want to count them. Relax the muscles in your body — slowly working your way up from your toes to your head. Get out of bed if you can't sleep. If you're still awake after 20 minutes, go into another room to read or participate in another quiet activity. Go back to

bed when you feel sleepy. Keep a sleep diary. "If you need more help to break the cycle of poor sleep, start a sleep diary to identify problems that you can discuss with your doctor," Manjunath said. "Your doctor may also do a physical exam." Common sleep disorders include insomnia, sleep apnea and restless legs syndrome. Not getting enough sleep can put you at higher risk for conditions, such as high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. It can also lead to falls or slow your reaction time when driving, increasing your risk for an accident. In some cases, medication or behavioral therapy may be prescribed. Talk to your doctor before taking any over-the-counter sleep aids or herbal supplements to avoid a bad interaction with other medications you're taking. Your doctor may recommend an overnight sleep study in a sleep lab to help rule out sleep disorders and/or determine effective treatment. 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. The Houston Methodist Sleep Center at Baytown, located in its new, technologically advanced facility (4201 Garth Rd., Independence Plaza 1, suite 112), is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. It is staffed by experienced, registered polysomnography technologists and features a quiet, four-bed facility for conducting sleep studies. To learn more or to schedule an appointment with a sleep specialist, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281-428-4510.