

# Star Courier

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P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

### From Crosby Superintendent Patterson

Hello, East Harris County and Crosby ISD residents! I am Paula Patterson and I am the new Superintendent of Schools for Crosby ISD. I am thrilled to return home to work with everyone in the district and communities to raise our standards to higher heights. I was officially hired as the new superintendent on April 7, 2021 with an unanimous vote.

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce myself to those who don't know me. I have worked in education for 21 years. I am a product of Crosby ISD, graduating from Crosby High School (Class of 1992). I began my career here as a first grade teacher at Barrett Primary. I also served our communities as principal at Crosby Elementary. I have worked in three other East Harris County districts (LaPorte ISD, Galena Park ISD, and Sheldon ISD), but remained a Crosby resident the entire time. I lived here, raised my kids here, and was a contributing citizen to our communities.



On a personal note, I am married to my Crosby High School classmate, Cedric Patterson, Jr, who is active in the Crosby/Barrett Station communities and Crosby ISD. We have two sons, also Crosby High School graduates. Cedric Patterson, III (Tre) is currently a graduate student athlete at Rice University and Jeremiah Patterson is currently a freshman at Texas State University.

My goal is to move us from good to great. I know the potential we have in Crosby ISD. We certainly can be a premiere district. As the Superintendent of Schools, I commit to the following:

I commit to make every decision based on what is best for students in our communities.

I commit to work collaboratively with the Board of Trustees with transparency, integrity, and mutual respect.

I commit to build a solid foundation of trust and respect with all of our communities.

I commit to strive for excellence in all areas of our district: academics, athletics, fine arts, and agriculture.

I look forward to meeting you all. When you see me around town, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me. We are one family and we will accomplish much as a united district/community.

Go, Coogs!

## San Jacinto Battle reenacted



ANAHUAC - Re-enactors here played the scenes from the 1836 Texas Revolution last weekend after relations with the Texas Historical Commission frayed at the San Jacinto Memorial Battlegrounds. The reenacting begins from above the disastrous retreat following the fall of the Alamo and Goliad known as the Runaway Scrape. Terror and panic as families tried to stay ahead of Santa Anna's troops swept eastward virtually unopposed. At right General Sam Houston lead his ragtag army eastward awaiting the "Napoleon of the West" to make a mistake.



From fretful retreat to galloping charge, the remembrance of the sacrifice and bravery of early Texans was remembered step by step augmented with displays and interaction with the actors playing historical roles. Below, Sam Houston lead a disgruntled army across from Washington on the Brazos to trap Santa Anna by securing Mr Lynch's Ferry and having Def Smith burn the bridge to Pasadena cutting Santa Anna off from some 5,000 troops that were attempting to catch the Texian government before they could escape to Galveston by ship. It was a desperate plan that was made more desperate when 400 Mexican militia arrived to support Santa Anna on the day of battle April 21, 1836. Continued on Page 3.

## COVID vaccination now available without wait

### Get Vaccinated at NRG Park Without an Appointment

HOUSTON - Effective immediately, anyone in Harris County or the greater Houston area will be able to receive the COVID-19 two-dose Pfizer vaccine at the FEMA Community Vaccination Center (CVC) at NRG Park with or without an appointment. Additionally, starting Wednesday, April 21, the CVC hours of operations are changing from 8 am to 5 pm to 12pm - 9pm to make it easier and more

convenient for residents to get the vaccine.

Although it is preferred for residents to register as it guarantees a vaccine is available at a time and location of their choice, people can show up, driving or on foot, at the NRG Park CVC to get vaccinated. Residents walking in or driving up into NRG Park without an appointment should enter via Gate 16A off of Main Street. Staff working the site are ready to receive and assist residents when they arrive. Residents can visit [ReadyHarris.org](http://ReadyHarris.org), [vacstrac.hctx.net](http://vacstrac.hctx.net) or call the HCPH Vaccine hotline at 832-927-8787 for assis-

tance. With the recent registration changes, residents who sign up for a vaccine from Harris County Public Health (HCPH) are now given appointment at all HCPH vaccination sites immediately after registering for a vaccine, while supplies last.

Harris County reiterates its commitment to providing vaccines efficiently, fairly and equitably by eliminating barriers to registration and providing information in multiple languages online and via phone. The county also continues to prioritize vac-

Continued. See VACCINATION, page 5

## Rotary receives small club award



Rotarians Tricia and Andy Scott display the Small Club of Year Award received at the District Conference last week. The club was cited for many projects, including flood relief to Louisiana, and a Mobile Book Van for the Highlands Library.

## Waste Pits delayed another 270 days Remediation work may not start until 2024

### NO TIME TO WASTE: A Call for Inclusivity and Transparency in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Process.

HOUSTON - Jackie Young Medcalf, president of the Texas Health & Environment Alliance (THEA) recently learned that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorized a 270-day extension to the design phase of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund process at the request of the responsible parties (International Paper and Waste Management subsidiary, McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corporation). This extension is on the heels of a 160-day extension authorized by the EPA in September of 2020.

Medcalf feels that the EPA needs to be more transparent and inclusive in these types of decisions. She feels the first extension allowed time for more testing and sampling, but thinks the new extension will just be an unnecessary delay and have the potential problem of moving remediation work back several years and conflict with a new I-10 bridge that TxDOT plans to build over the San Jacinto River.



Jackie Medcalf, THEA president, protests at the Waste Management offices in downtown Houston on April 15.

The Waste Pits Superfund Site is the result of paper mill waste disposed of along the San Jacinto River in the 1960s. The Waste Pits presented such a threat to the environment and to public health that they were listed for clean-up under the

EPA Federal Superfund program in 2008. Currently, remediation of the Waste Pits is in the design phase which was initiated in April of 2018 by a settlement between the EPA and the Waste Pits' responsible parties.

When the 160-day extension was authorized in 2020, THEA did not object to this allowance for further sampling and water treatability studies. Unfortunately, the EPA did not effectively utilize this time and require the responsible parties move swiftly on sampling. This misuse of time is unacceptable to local community members and it is critical that the EPA stop allowing time to be wasted and require expedient and thorough work be completed. Delays or poorly executed work may pose public health and environmental consequences in surrounding communities for generations to come.

The EPA has ultimate authority and oversight to see that the Waste Pits are removed in a reasonable timeframe and with best management practices to ensure a safe and efficient clean-up. The local community has been left in the dark while time has been wasted.

Continued. See WASTE PITS DELAYED, p. 5

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# Legion hosts crowds at Gun & Knife Show



## Thank You Mr. President

Commander Dan Webb and Sarge greet those coming into the David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658 in Crosby Hall for the Gun and Knife Show last weekend that was packed with customers and vendors from opening Saturday morning until 4:00 p.m. Sunday, they also had on display an array of knives and sheaths. A wave of mass shootings, prior to the event throughout the nation, had prompted the President to comment, "No one needs a gun that holds more than 10 bullets." It might have been the biggest gun sales prompter since the statement, "Hell yeah, we are coming to take your guns." at the national Democratic Presidential Debate. Anticipation of a national referendum on firearms has prompted several situations including massive purchases of ammunition from retail stores beginning in late October at retail prices that lead to a shortage of ammunition at present and therefore higher prices in bullets.

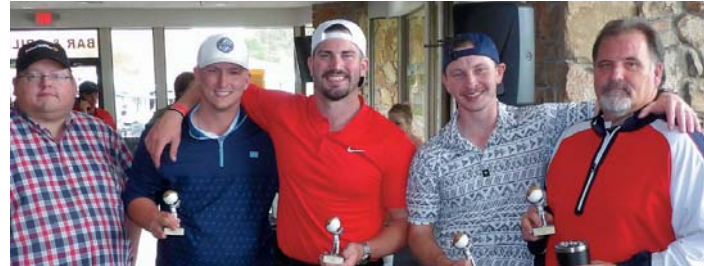


Usual suspects work the snack bar including Commander Gary Alston. A raffle of 3 pistols was held Sunday \$10 a chance or 3 for \$25 at stake a Kimber Ultra Carry II 9m.m., a Smith & Wesson 40 Cal. 40 2.0 and a Ruger 380 ACP2. The local Legion promises another Gun & Knife show in July and special dinners on Friday nights.

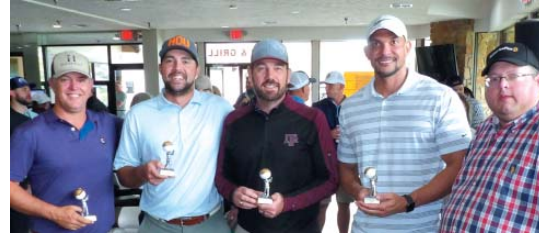
# Crosby-Huffman Chamber succeeds with Tees & Tails



Crawfish Shack was double the winners with First Place in the Tees & Tails golf Tournament and preparing perfect half shrimp half mud bug dinners. Scott Lund, Mason Evers, and Brandon Womach turned in a 51 score to again win the Tees & Tails Tournament. Golf Commissioner Justin League at left.



C-HCC's Justin League hands second place winners Kelly Willburn, Dillon Willburn, Chase Davis and Dillon Gray trophies. They came in with a 52 stroke victory.



Third place was Doug Cox, Clay Fullick, Jay Mackey with Spencer Ashton with a swat of 53.



Closest to Pin #16 was Cameron Alford, "That was a day - a straight up shot," he mused to the reporter. Sarah Otis had the longest drive on hole number 7.

STONEBRIDGE ON NEWPORT - Storm clouds held back just enough to allow the Crosby - Huffman Chamber of Commerce to host their annual Tees & Tails tournament and public dinner plus Live and Silent Auction for continued community service from and for the local business community.

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## Scenes from San Jacinto Battle reenactment



Sam Houston leads his army in retreat eastward carrying the Twin Sisters a gift from Cincinnati, Ohio to the cause of human liberty, in an effort to stay active and await a mistake by Santa Anna.



At about 4:00 p.m. April 21, 1836, having cut off the Mexican Army from more reinforcements the Texian Army attacked Santa Anna's larger force by surprise sneaking up through 5 foot tall grass until they fell upon the garrison in two prongs.



In about 20 minutes the Mexican resistance was subdued but the killing continued throughout the afternoon. About 750 Mexican Army were killed, 4 Texians died during the battle with 3 more were to die soon thereafter of wounds. That number nearly included General Sam Houston hit in the ankle by a .78 caliber ball.



Santa Anna in a private's uniform was identified when he was brought before a wounded Houston but all of the Mexican troops saluted and called out "El Presidente." Houston dealt to secure what would become more than 1/4 of the continental U.S.A. and sent Santa Anna to meet President Andy Jackson. Jackson snubbed Santa Anna de Lopez. Patriots put Houston on a ship to New Orleans where he almost died reaching much needed medical attention.



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★ OPINION PAGE ★



## Joining Forces for Our Children

Message from Sheriff Ed Gonzalez:

Earlier this week, we kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month at the steps of The Children's Assessment Center with our most dedicated partners in the fight against child abuse in Harris County.

As a close-knit community of child advocates, we work as a team to protect our most vulnerable.

You are part of this team. We rely on our community to report abuse and keep our children safe when they see the signs of a child in need.



Blue and silver pinwheels outside The Children's Assessment Center building were spinning in the wind, one for each of the 175 children who are victims of abuse in Texas every day.

Signs of abuse aren't always obvious, but they are often there if you know where to look. We are asking every adult in our community to help. Take actionable steps to create safer environments for the children in your life:

If you see something, say something. Reporting suspicions of child abuse can save a life, prevent further victimization, or stop more children from being victimized.

Learn how to recognize and report child abuse. Education and training are our best defense against those who harm children.

Talk to your children. Start the conversation early and continue the discussion throughout their upbringing.

Spread the message. Tell your neighbors and loved ones how they, too, can do their part to keep our children safe in a real and virtual world.

Our partners at The CAC offer free training and resources on the signs and symptoms of child abuse and share stories of survivors throughout the year. In April, they're hosting additional training and virtual workshops on child abuse awareness and prevention. For more information on what's in store and how to get involved, click here.

As first responders, we work tirelessly to investigate allegations of child abuse. We also work hard to identify and combat human trafficking cases, especially those involving a juvenile.

There aren't many jobs in our agency that are tougher than being a child abuse investigator. These incidents are horrific, heartbreaking cases of abuse and neglect involving an innocent and defenseless child.

But it's an important calling that offers the chance to make a difference in the lives of our community's great asset: our children.

Our investigators' role in child abuse cases spans the entire case from the initial call, through the investigation, and to the court proceedings. Our Crimes Against Children Unit stays involved in the investigation as the victim and their family receive the proper treatment, services, and support from advocacy centers to start their healing process. It's a coordinated response from the start.

Sadly, in 2020, nearly 4,000 children received services at The CAC. These experts provide high-quality care so children can thrive. Their work embodies the sentiment: "No future should be out of reach."

And while the work of our specialized unit is always essential, it is especially critical during a crisis. The disruption brought on by the pandemic made our children even more vulnerable to abuse. Some of those traditional safety nets have been removed with children not regularly attending schools, daycares, and after-school programs.

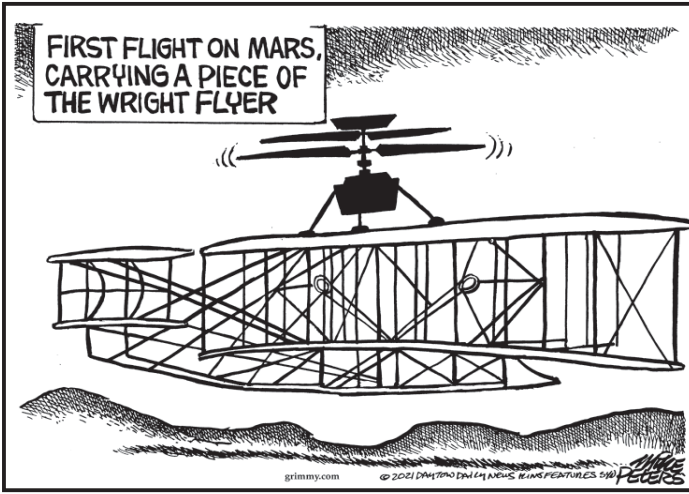
With violent crime on the rise over the past year, Harris County is investing in overtime pay meant to help our investigators target violent criminals in several key areas, including tackling child abuse investigations.

We have a shared responsibility and shared commitment to ensure every child lives a life free from abuse. Prevention through education is key.

If you're concerned about a child in your life, call us at 713-221-6000. If you want to remain anonymous, report tips to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS.

We are grateful for the opportunity to stand together with the many partners in our region who work to end child abuse for all.

Mounted Patrol Training  
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## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

### Early Voting underway Across State

Early voting began Monday for May 1 elections in county, city and school district elections.

Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughes encourages all eligible voters to take advantage of the early voting period, which runs through Tuesday, April 27. Texas voters can contact their respective county elections office to view a sample ballot, locate their appropriate polling place, and plan their trip to the polls. Additional information is available at [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).

#### NEW PUC COMMISSIONER CONFIRMED

Will McAdams, nominated by Gov. Greg Abbott to a slot on the Public Utilities Commission, was unanimously confirmed by the Texas Senate last week.

McAdams formerly served as president of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas and worked for legislators for more than a decade in various senior staff positions.

Abbott has also nominated Peter Lake to be the new chair of the PUC, which regulates the state's power grid operations. Lake now serves as chair of the Texas Water Development Board.

All three previous PUC members resigned after February's winter storm led to massive power outages across the state.

#### HOUSE PASSES BILL TO ALLOW HANDGUN CARRY WITHOUT A LICENSE

The Texas House voted 87-58 last week to allow handguns to be carried without a permit. Under current law, a permit is required to carry handguns either concealed or openly. If the bill becomes law, any Texas resident not already prohibited by state or federal law from owning a gun could



legally carry a handgun.

According to the Texas Tribune, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Texas Senate, previously expressed qualms about easing handgun laws. Numerous law enforcement officials and concealed handgun license instructors opposed the measure, citing concerns over safety. A number of El Paso-area lawmakers opposed the measure, recalling the mass shooting that left 23 dead at a Walmart there in August 2019.

#### STATE HALTS DISTRIBUTION OF J&J VACCINES

Use of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine has been temporarily halted in Texas following a recommendation last week from the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration.

The Texas Department of State Health Services issued the notice following extremely isolated reports of blood clots in a half-dozen recipients of the J&J vaccine — all in women between the ages of 18 and 48, according to the CDC.

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the United States. There is no word of when the

vaccine might be used again.

#### NUMBER OF TEXANS VACCINATED EDGING TOWARD 50%; CASES STEADY

Even with the halt in distribution of the J&J vaccine, the number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna two-shot vaccines hit 44.5% as of Sunday, according to DSHS.

A total of 6.37 million Texans are fully vaccinated — roughly 20% of the state's population. Texas is receiving more than 1.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas last week dropped slightly from the previous week at 23,521, while deaths dropped to 374, a decrease of 27%, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients currently in Texas hospitals increased slightly to 2,929. That number is down nearly 80% from the high mark in mid-January, when more than 14,000 Texans were hospitalized with COVID-19.

#### JOBLESS RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.9%

The state's unemployment in March remained steady at 6.9%, with the state adding 99,000 total nonagricultural jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. "Positive job numbers for March continue to show Texas is on track for continued growth," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "TWC will continue to provide flexible and innovative training programs to help provide all Texans with skills they can use for workforce success."

The 6.9% rate is more than double the state's record low of 3.4% in May 2019. Jobless claims have risen since the mid-February storm, and the state has lost more than 400,000 jobs since the pandemic began early last year, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### FEMA EXTENDS REGISTRATION FOR STORM DAMAGE CLAIMS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended the registration period for individuals whose property was damaged in the winter storm until May 20 in the 126 qualifying Texas counties. The state's emergency management agency made the extension request.

Individuals can apply online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 800-621-3362. The toll-free line is operated from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

## THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### The Last Box

"Oh my gosh. I don't want to open that box." Moving furniture and books and clothing is easy. It's moving memories that is hard.

I am going through the last of my boxes. I used to say I was not a packrat. I thought I was more like my mother than my dad. My dad might tuck a piece of wood away, thinking it would find a use someday. My mother would be of the opinion that it's easier to buy a board when (and if) it was needed. Generally, it wasn't.

This approach keeps my parents' house very tidy—with the possible exception of one small room in the basement where my dad keeps his wood collection.

It turns out, I am not at all like my mother.

I have filed things away that will never find any purpose whatsoever other than to remind me of things I did and used to care about that I no longer do. For the last few days, I've been emptying the box.

Photos from when we used to take real photos, letters from people who cared about me, certificates indicating I accomplished something or another, reviews that mentioned my name, currency from foreign countries I will never visit again, 100+-year-old spectacles (why?), a lovely handheld fan my former mother-in-law gave me, clever things I wrote when I was in the fifth grade (really?), recipes in my grandmother's handwriting, and even (I am embarrassed to admit) my old teddy bear.

My teddy bear feels crunchy. His exterior is badly corroded by time, I can't imagine what has happened to his insides.

All of it is in the last box, waiting to be emptied.

Some of it is easy to understand wanting to hang onto. I am scanning some of the photos and my grandmother's recipes, and they will move onto the great cloud in the sky. (That is where I imagine the cloud, not being savvy with computer matters.) They will likely get no more attention on the cloud than they did in the box, but they will gather less dust—and most importantly—they won't need to be moved.

But still I worry that some of this—some potshard from my past—will be needed. It will be necessary to remember something I did or someone I knew or something that was important to me and, if I lose it, I will lose some part of myself.

The fact that this is nonsense does not lessen the feeling.

I've heard the mantra that we should keep only what "sparks joy," and I cannot claim that anything in that box is sparking joy. In fact, the existence of that box is causing me a fair amount of angst.

Instead, I ask myself, "Would I experience great pain if I threw this away?"

Generally, the answer is, "No," and the item is tossed. But sometimes, for no logical reason, I hold something in my hand, and I feel I need it. I need the fan my mother-in-law gave me, I need those 100+-year-old spectacles and, yes, it is possible that I might still need my teddy bear—even though he has gone all crunchy on me. Heck, I've gotten a little crunchy myself.

It's not a perfect system. But the contents of the box are shrinking and the guilt for hanging onto so much stuff is dissolving, and I feel a sense of satisfaction, sending one after another of my grandmother's recipes through the scanner.

I just found her recipe for chocolate frosting. I'm going to make it sometime soon.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

# Star Courier

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★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

  
**OBITUARIES**

**CHRISTOPHER DEE MORRIS**

Christopher Dee Morris, 43 of Highlands, peacefully departed this life Wednesday, March 31, 2021 with his family and friends by his side. Chris was born on February 20, 1978 in Kirbyville, to the parents of Cherry Worry Morris and Curtis Dee Morris. He was a graduate of Anahuac High School, a member of the American Welding Society, The Houston Pipeliners Association, and the Serve Outdoors Matagorda Bay Chapter. Chris loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his boys along with his family and friends

Chris is preceded in death by his father Curtis Morris, grandparents Addison Morris and Norma



Clark, George and Edna Worry and nephew Matthew Morris. He is survived by his love Anita Barrientos, children, Cameron and Caden Morris and Alexander Eelbode; mother Cherry Morris, brother Clayton Morris and wife Olivia and sister Christina Hart and fiancé Donald Gray, nieces and nephews, Natalie and Hayes Hart, Joshua, Hannah, Grace, Christian,

Asher and Seth Morris, along with various family and friends.

Please join us in a family style Celebration of Life service on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 11:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Moose Lodge 3919 Pansy St, Pasadena, TX 77505. Crawfish will be served; but please feel free to bring a dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy. Chris always loved to get together with family and friends for a day of great stories, music, and laughter. This will be a day for celebration and great memories with the people dearest to him. Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar of the lodge.

The family has set up a GoFundMe page to help with future expenses for Anita and the boys. <https://gofund.me/a920f5e9>

**Waste Pits Delayed Again,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Problems are best solved with open and transparent communication – which we are lacking for this Superfund Site. It is our impression that the EPA has allowed the focus to be on a singular concept created by the responsible parties. These are the same parties who made their agenda clear for this site – they wanted to leave the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River and were forced by federal order to cooperate in this process and to fully remove the Pits.

The EPA must hold polluters accountable and must provide transparent communication to the community. The tension is mounting for local residents and with every hurricane season that approaches, fears heighten of the Pits being further disrupted by Mother Nature. Considering the 270-day extension and procurement time for remedial equipment, this pushes the estimated clean-up start to 2024. The Waste Pits are nestled to the immediate north and south of Interstate 10, which Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) plans to replace starting in the Spring of 2025. Unfortunately, it was announced in 2020 that the remedial timeline adjusted from 2 years to 7 years. Local residents are extremely concerned about how these two major

projects will impact one another, and how barge traffic on the River will impact the safety of these efforts. We need to see interagency coordination on these sensitive efforts taking place in the same timeframe, adjacent to one another on the navigable waterway.

The community and our elected officials need to hear from the EPA. We need to be informed and included in the process taking place that not only affects the future of Interstate 10, but the health and safety of the community and Galveston Bay.

**DIOXIN AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We know that dioxin is extremely toxic and that it can hold its toxicity for hundreds of years. We know it is present in extremely large quantities in the Waste Pits and that the most recent testing of the river surface water showed high levels of dioxin in the water column. And we know that rates of cancer in children are elevated in the communities surrounding the Waste Pits. We must stop wasting time. Our children have rates of rare eye cancer over 16x the state average. Our seafood is contaminated. Another hurricane season is quickly approaching. As long as the Pits are in the river, far too much is at stake.

The Texas Health and

Environment Alliance's mission is to protect the environment and public health from the harmful effects of toxic waste. We endeavor to establish an informed and engaged public movement to restore and protect environmental resources from historical contamination.

**ABOUT THE SAN JACINTO WASTE PITS/COALITION**

For many years, the Waste Pits along the San Jacinto River were a hidden crisis posing great danger to nearby communities. The abandoned, dioxin-filled pits threatened local seafood and the river for decades. In 2015 the Texas Department of State Health Services confirmed elevated rates of cancer in children and people of all ages living near the Pits. THEA's San Jacinto River Coalition, which is a community led group working to educate the public about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, was successful at urging the EPA to fully remediate the site.

On October 11, 2017, the EPA signed a Record of Decision for remediation of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. In addition to installing energizing controls like a cofferdam, the plan includes directives for the removal of dioxin-contaminated material down to a recreational standard of 30 parts per trillion.

**Vaccinations available without appointment,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cines for vulnerable communities by offering vaccines at mobile sites in hard-hit zip codes, conducting targeted outreach, offering transportation for those who cannot drive to an appointment on their own, and collaborating with community organizations to support vaccine

distribution.

The Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is not being administered at any HCPH site at this time, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA)'s recommendation

to pause its use.

NRG Park  
Starting Wednesday, April 21  
Open daily 12pm – 9pm  
Pfizer Vaccine  
NRG Park Yellow Lot, Gate 16  
9036 S. Main Street  
Houston, TX 77054

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**Driver License waiver has now ended**

AUSTIN – The COVID-related waiver on expiration dates for driver licenses (DLs) and identification cards (IDs) has now ended. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) continues to urge customers with an expired DL or ID to make an appointment or renew online today.

To assist customers with expired licenses who were unable to schedule an appointment prior to the waiver ending, DPS implemented a new procedure allowing them to request a temporary driving permit that will remain valid until their appointment date. For additional details on that process, please visit the DPS website.

The expiration waiver, originally granted by Governor Greg Abbott in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applied to DLs, commercial DLs, commercial learner permits, ID cards and election identification certificates that expired on or after March 13, 2020.

**Driving with an expired license**

The department cannot determine what action a law enforcement officer or the court may take if someone is stopped while driving with an expired license as both have discretion in these matters. That is why the department continues to encourage anyone with an expired DL to make a renewal appointment now and apply for the temporary driving permit in order to stay in compliance.

**Renewing online remains a convenient option**

Many Texans are eligible to skip the trip to the office entirely by renewing their DL or ID card or changing their address online at [Texas.gov](http://Texas.gov). As of April 1, 2021, there were approximately 858,000 expired driver licenses in the DPS system. Of those, roughly 130,700 are eligible to renew online. Customers can also renew by phone at 1-866-DL-RENEW (1-866-357-3639). The requirements and cost for online and phone renewal are the same as in-person transactions. (When you schedule an appointment, you will be notified if you are eligible to renew online.)

**Expanded office hours**

To assist customers needing in-office DL services, designated high-volume offices continue offering expanded hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday.

**Scheduling an appointment**

A reminder that all services at driver license offices are now conducted by appointment only. To schedule an appointment or check availability, visit the online appointment scheduler. If you are unable to find an appointment at the office of your choice, check back for availability at that office or other locations nearby. Please check often as availability does change.

If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please reschedule or cancel ahead of time. While the department is working to serve as many

customers as possible, people not showing up for their appointments continues to be a major obstacle. In March 2021, for example, approximately 28% of people (or more than 198,000 customers) were no-shows for their appointments.

The appointment system, which debuted in May 2020, is designed to provide additional convenience, reducing the time Texans wait in line. Customers can book appointments for a specific day and time, up to six months in advance, and show up 30 minutes or less before their scheduled time. Customers can check-in using the kiosk inside the office or from their mobile device.

All offices offer a limited number of same-day appointments. These appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers who book these appointments can leave the DL office until their designated time.

Additionally, most offices may be able to offer some customers without an appointment a spot on a "standby" list. These customers are required to wait in the office and are assisted in the event of a cancellation or no-show. The number of standby appointments available is limited to ensure all customers who are placed on the list will be served by the end of the day.

To ensure a safe environment, COVID-19 protocols have been implemented at DL offices.

**ADRIAN GARCIA**  
COMMISSIONER

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HIGHLANDS BLUEGRASS BAND

Join us for an afternoon of live music by Highlands Bluegrass Band. Don't forget to bring a chair, snacks, and your shades while we spend some time in the fresh air.

**Saturday, April 24, 2021**  
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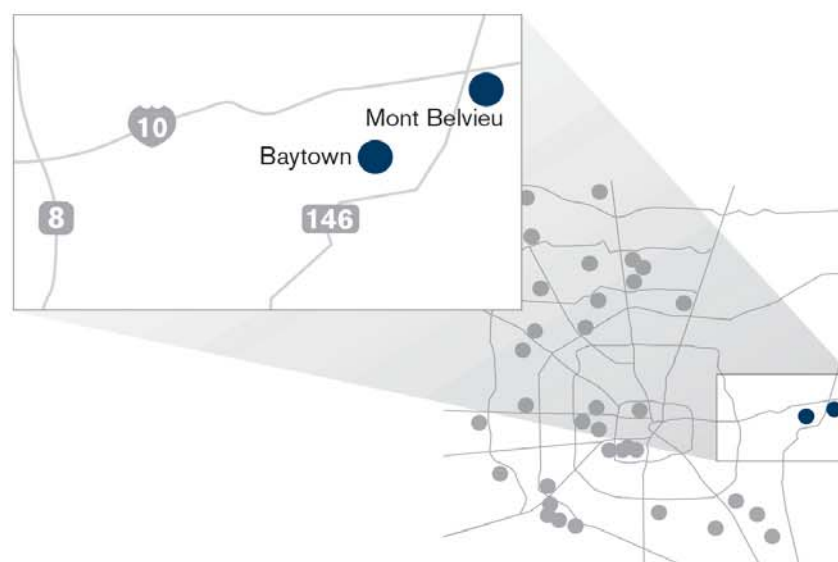
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Hull Water Well - Pump Service. 281-442-5630. 22-1fn</p> <hr/> <p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>PRINTING &amp; MAILING</b> Full Service Marketing Services. 713-977-2555 1fn</p> <hr/> <p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p>	<p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b> Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 492451; Estate of SHIRLEY JUNE WOODS A/K/A SHIRLEY WOODS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 15, 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PAMELA LYNN WOODS</b></p> <p>The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c/o Weston Cotten 1500 Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562</p> <p>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 APRIL 20, 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate</p> <hr/> <p><b>CAREGIVER WANTED</b></p> <p><b>CAREGIVER WANTED</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>CAREGIVER</b> Looking for a family, couple or individual interested in being a live-in caregiver for a stroke patient. Call Debbie at (281) 813-1428 16-21</p> <hr/> <p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p> <p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p> <p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consolidated Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit and Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants Proposed Registration No. 164513</p> <p><b>Application.</b> Coastal Ready Mix, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration No. 164513, which would authorize construction of a permanent concrete batch plant located at 7570 State Highway 124, Winnie, Chambers County, Texas 77665. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.725833&amp;lng=-94.376389&amp;zoom=13&amp;type=r">http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.725833&amp;lng=-94.376389&amp;zoom=13&amp;type=r</a>. The proposed facility will emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.</p> <p>This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 29, 2021. The executive director has completed the administrative and technical reviews of the application and determined that the application meets all of the requirements of a standard permit authorized by 30 TAC § 116.611, which would establish the conditions under which the plant must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the registration because it meets all applicable rules. The application, executive director's preliminary decision, and standard permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at the Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch Library, 108 East Fear, Winnie, Chambers County, 77665, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk Street, Suite H, Houston, Texas. Visit <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cbp">www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cbp</a> to review the standard permit.</p> <p><b>Public Comment/Public Meeting.</b> You may submit public comments or request a public meeting. See Contacts section. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. <b>The deadline to submit public comments or meeting requests is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.</b> Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.</p> <p>The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. If a public meeting is held, the deadline to submit public comments is extended to the end of the public meeting.</p> <p><b>Contested Case Hearing.</b> You may request a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. <b>Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 30 days from this notice, the executive director may approve the application.</b></p> <p>A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. To request a hearing, a person must actually reside in a permanent residence within 440 yards of the proposed plant. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and registration number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must be identified. You may submit your proposed adjustments to the application which would satisfy your concerns. See Contacts section.</p> <p><b>TCEQ Action.</b> After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The executive director's decision on the application, and any response to comments, will be mailed to all persons on the mailing list. If no timely contested case hearing requests are received, or if all hearing requests are withdrawn, the executive director may issue final approval of the application. If all timely hearing requests are not withdrawn, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. <b>If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.</b> Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.</p> <p><b>Mailing List.</b> You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive additional information on this specific application. See Contacts section.</p> <p><b>Information Available Online.</b> For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID) at <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid">www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid</a>. Once you have access to the CID using the link, enter the registration number at the top of this notice.</p> <p><b>Contacts.</b> Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <a href="http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/">www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/</a>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep">www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep</a>. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.</p> <p>Further information may also be obtained from Coastal Ready Mix, Inc., PO Box 759, Sour Lake, TX 77659-0759 or by calling Ms. Charolett Granger, Office Manager, Coastal Ready Mix, Inc. at (409) 287-3307.</p> <p>Notice Issuance Date: April 12, 2021</p>			

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## ON THE HILL

### Beach City Town Hall Meetings

Our Commissioner is having a Town Hall meeting at the Beach City Community Building on Wednesday April 21st at 7 p.m.

Below was posted by our Commissioner Billy Combs.

Townhall Meetings for Westside Complex and Road Projects.

As many of you have heard the county is considering issuing approximately \$49 million in certificates of obligation (CO) bonds to fund infrastructure projects in West Chambers County. More particular, road extensions and improvements, and what is referred to as the Westside Complex.

I would try to explain the projects and give some financial information in this post but there is a lot of information to share, and I am sure a lot of questions to answer.

Rumors and false, or incomplete, information are spreading over social media and I feel it is very important that the residents of Chambers County know the facts before they form an opinion. I also feel our residents should have a chance to have their voices heard. Truths tend to get twisted, and facts distorted on social media, so I prefer the old fashion Town Hall Meeting.

I plan to hold two Townhall Meetings, one in Beach City and one in Baytown. Unfortunately, the Cedar Bayou Courtroom is being used for the Lee Collage election so we cannot use it.

I will hold the first Townhall Meeting in Beach City at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 21st at the Beach City Community Building.

This is a very important issue so please show up. Once I find a location, I will post a time for a second meeting in the Baytown, 146 area. It may be at McLeod Park.

\*\*\*  
Thank you and God Bless

Ryan Dagley, MAI  
Mayor, Beach City\*\*

### Chambers County Youth Rodeo

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

## Chambers County plans \$49 million new complex on West Side of county

### Fort Anahuac Park also to benefit

CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS – On April 16, 2021, at a Special Called Meeting, Chambers County Commissioners Court voted to take the first steps toward funding several new public amenities and infrastructure projects on the West Side of the County.

The Court voted to begin the process associated with issuing Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation (CO). The total cost associated with this CO is estimated to be roughly \$49 million and will be applied toward the following projects:

- Kilgore Extension to FM 3180
- Kilgore Widening (SH 146 to SH 99)
- Old Needlepoint Extension to SH 99
- Needlepoint Rd Over-

lay  
- EW4 Frontage to CCID 1  
- Kilgore Drainage and Overages

- Purchase of Right of Way to Extend Old Needlepoint Rd from SH 99 to FM 3180

- New West Side Complex Including:  
- Road and Bridge Building  
- New Box Site/Citizen Collection Station  
- Site Work and Utilities

- Community Building  
- Baseball Complex and Additional Fields

This project will provide much needed transportation upgrades to mitigate congestion issues and traffic hazards caused by a booming population. The addition of the new Community Building Complex - in-

cluding baseball and soccer fields - will offer more safe outdoor play and indoor gathering spaces for Chambers County residents.

And what brought this development about? Several years ago the City of Mont Belvieu approached County leaders with a proposition to partner on the expansion of the Mont Belvieu Park. To do this, the County would need to relocate the Eagle Drive Road and Bridge Yard and Box Site so that the property could be transitioned to park facilities. Since the current City of Mont Belvieu facilities are utilized by youth from throughout the county, not just those who reside within city limits, this was deemed to be a favorable partnership. About that same time, Enter-

prise Products approached the County with their interest in purchasing McLeod Park, currently valued at approximately \$9.5 Million.

The need to replace the facilities currently in place at both locations led to the idea that a central complex could be built. The proposed CO will bring that vision to fruition.

Additionally, Chambers County Commissioners Court has pledged to use the funds earned through the sale of McLeod Park to fund the building and revitalization of facilities in Fort Anahuac Park. These improvements include a new library, soccer field and a four baseball field complex, with turf infield and centralized restrooms.

In order to secure a

maximum guaranteed price put forth by bidders, members of Commissioners Court also voted to award the bid pertaining to the construction of the proposed West Side Complex to Brookstone Construction Managers and General Contractors.

This award and vote to move forward does not guarantee the CO, however. There is still a multi-step process which must be completed before the CO is officially issued. Several public comment periods will be held so that the public has ample opportunity to voice their opinion regarding this matter.

For more information regarding the proposed West Side Complex, please visit the Chambers County website at [co.chambers.tx.us](http://co.chambers.tx.us).

## Chambers County scaling back COVID-19 Vaccinations

CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS – Chambers County will begin decreasing available COVID-19 vaccination appointments by the end of April at the designated Chambers County Public Health Vaccine Hub.

As the number of people attending vaccine clinics within the County has continued to decline, this Vaccine Hub has welcomed walk ins to fill open appoint-

ments and offered weekend and after hours appointments as alternatives.

The walk through POD, designated as a Regional Vaccine Hub by the Texas Department of State Health Services, has been committed to this public health initiative since January 2021. Having provided more than 18,000 first and second doses of vaccine, the County and its partners

have efficiently run the POD two to three days per week to vaccinate County residents and those in surrounding communities.

For the remainder of April, residents and nonresidents will be able to obtain their first dose on these days only:  
- Friday, April 16  
- Friday, April 23  
- Thursday, April 29 (Limited Availability)

After these dates,

Chambers County will no longer provide first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at the POD. Appointments will be required for all remaining dates.

To schedule your appointment, visit [bit.ly/chamberscovaccines](http://bit.ly/chamberscovaccines). If you need assistance registering or are homebound and need to schedule a mobile vaccine appointment, please email

[vaccine@chamberstx.gov](mailto:vaccine@chamberstx.gov). Please note: mobile vaccinations are available to Chambers County residents only and are provided to homebound residents and senior citizens through partnership with Chambers County EMS.

Chambers County remains committed to the vaccination effort and stands ready to reactivate the POD for any new vaccine indicat

## Chambers County has Anahuac Battle commemorative statue



Left to right: Valerie Jensen, Nell Northcutt, Darla Willcox, Jan Dubose Hasson, and Jackie Payne. Right side is Kathy Franssen, Donna Britt behind her, Sheryl Shaw, Gilbert O'Neal at right.

### Chambers County Historical Commission commemorates statue

April 18 prior to the Reenactment of the Battle of San Jacinto by the San Jacinto Volunteers. Chambers County Historical Commission secured the statutory titled "The First Stand," to commemorate Anahuac being the cradle of Texas. State Representative of House District 23, Mayes Middleton, spoke commemorating the crucial role of Anahuac in the Texas Independence at the unveiling.

## Dayton murder remains mystery

DAYTON+ A woman was arrested and charged in the fatal shooting of her father inside his Dayton home on the early morning of April 14.

Detectives report that Lauren Gayle Prather, 35, of Waskom, was arrested at a relative's home in Crosby hours after the shooting although no motive has been reported by Liberty County Sheriff's Office. However, a weapon was recovered. She was taken to Liberty County Jail.

A 911 call from Huff's son at about 7:15 a.m. dispatched Liberty County Sheriff's Deputies to the home of Dennis Claude Huff, 62, in the 100 block of County Road 6507. He told dispatchers that his sister had just shot their father inside the home.

Deputies found convincing evidence of violence before going inside the home, peering through a window and once inside discovered Huff's body on a couch. Evidently, a head wound had caused a massive



Texas Rangers and Liberty County Deputies guard premises, awaiting forensic science investigators.

blood splatter.

Liberty County Precinct Four Justice of the Peace Judge Larry Wilburn conducted the inquest and has ordered an autopsy the release said.

Investigators from the sheriff's office, the Texas Ranges and the Liberty County District Attorney's Office are assisting in the investigation.

Information about this crime could earn a cash reward of up to \$1000 by providing an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers of Southeast Texas. Call 833-TIPS (8477) or download the P3TIPS App on your mobile device to submit your tip anonymously.