

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star ★ Courier

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VOL. 68, NO. 24- 50¢ © Copyright 2021 THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Crosby Rodeo show set records

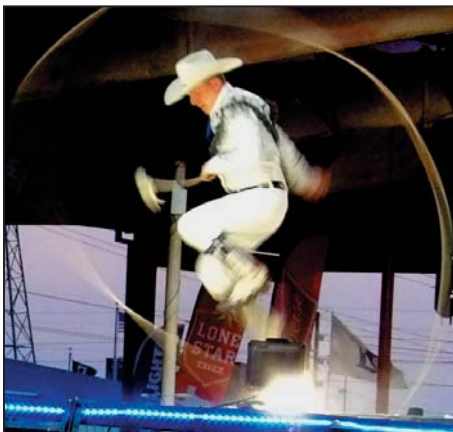
Livestock Auction raises \$456K+ Cowboy sports thrill



Abby Brady shows Harry, Grand Champion Steer bought by R L Duskocil, Inc. for \$14,000, a record.



Although official tallies are still being counted over \$456,000 all in all done went into the Livestock auction. Above Harper Loggins shows a Grand Champion Turkey with his little sister while dad auctioneers. Charlie's Ice House of Highlands bought the turkey for \$5,000.



Rider Kiesner shows us the Texas Jump Rope made popular by Will Rogers as he roped, twirled & shooters and showed whips cracking tricks to the crowd.

This year, cowboy skills like team roping, bronco bustin' and bull dogging this year with some bull fighting and a little bullriding on Saturday were played out inside the arena. The roping skills displayed were excellent. Considering that there are now eight other rodeos simultaneous north of here taking their toll of cowboys to other prizes, a fine display of the cowboy sports. See Crosby Rodeo Continued on Page 9.

Motorcycle crash fatal on FM 1942



A westbound 70 year old veteran died as a result of injuries sustained when he was struck by an eastbound Nissan Sentra trying to make a left turn onto Sralla Rd. at about 3:15 p.m. Thursday, June 10 on FM 1942.

Harris County Sheriff's Investigators determined that the Nissan failed to yield right of way causing the accident, the accident is still under investigation by the Vehicular Crimes Division. Witnesses may contact the Harris County Sheriff's Vehicular Crimes Division to impart additional information. David Sullivan, the operator of the red Harley Davidson motorcycle was taken by ambulance to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital where he was pronounced deceased from his injuries upon arrival.

County initiates program to help Homeless

HARRIS COUNTY - Last week, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzeles launched a workforce development program in collaboration with Harris County Precinct 2 and Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. that supports those experiencing homelessness in east Harris County.

According to the Coalition for the Homeless, nearly 4,000 people in the Houston area are experiencing homelessness. This innovative partnership - rooted in community development - empowers our



Homeless Program participants removing Graffiti in East Harris County.

most vulnerable neighbors with the tools, skills, and support to help them overcome barriers to success. It connects program participants to affordable housing, employment resources, and other critical services through Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. It also allows them to earn an income by completing community development projects.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia's Office funded the six-month pilot program, which actively recruits participants and provides them with transportation, meals throughout the workday, personal protective equipment, and the necessary training and tools to properly remove graffiti from bridges, roads, and buildings. Weather permitting, participants will have the chance to work on a first come, first served basis Monday through Thurs-

day for about \$50 a day.

Homeless Outreach Team deputies are in the community doing all they can to help those without housing. We have dedicated Deputy Medina to the program to coordinate with our partners on worksite locations, crew schedules, transportation needs, and other important logistics. He is serving as the program lead.

Their work continued this week in the Channelview and Cloverleaf areas and will eventually expand

Continued. See Page 9

WASTE PITS VIRTUAL MEETING:

EPA sees longer, difficult remediation work

EPA holds virtual meeting to update community on San Jacinto River Waste Pits EPA CONFIRMS LONGER TIME SCHEDULE, SLOWER WORK FOR SJRWP REMEDIATION

HIGHLANDS - The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) held a virtual meeting last Thursday night, June 10, to update the communities around the San Jacinto River on progress to remediate the Waste Pits. This is the first meeting to interface with the public since 2019, due to safety concerns with the Pandemic that limited the travel for the EPA. However, they did meet in person in April with the CAC, or



SINGLE WALL COFFERDAM, TOP, WON'T WORK. DOUBLE WALL BELOW IS NEW DESIGN.

Community Advisory Committee. For those unable to join the meeting by internet, two in-person viewing sites were set up by THEA, at the Highlands Community Center and the Channelview Fire Department.

EPA brought news that the original designs for excavation and dewatering would not work, and more investigation and planning was required. EPA had discovered that the toxic material existed much deeper than original sampling had indicated, not 12' but in some cases 35'. This meant much more material would have to be removed. The deeper excavation also meant that a double wall cofferdam would be required to safely excavate, and treating of ground water would have to be done "in the dry" by dewatering, not as originally proposed. All of this meant the project would require additional time, work, and money. The presentation from EPA was



ASHLEY HOWARD, EPA

made by Ashley Howard, the Remediation Project Manager for the Waste Pits. She was assisted by Janet Coats, Lauren Poulos, and Heather Davis. Howard succeeded Gary Baumgarten, who retired after many years

working on the SJRWP project. There were about 53 individuals on the Zoom connection, and 4 from EPA. Attendees included representative of TCEQ, Harris County Precinct 2, and others.

Howard started with a review of the history of the project, and showed some aerial photos of how the river has changed its course from 1966 to 1997 to 2006, and how the Waste Pits became eventually partially submerged. Then she stated that after the toxic pits were discovered in 1965, a plan eventually led to them being covered with a contain-

Continued. See WASTE PITS, page 4

TURNER CHEVROLET advertisement with logo and contact info: 281-328-4377

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE advertisement for Jeremy Rosenkranz, State Farm Agent: 281-426-3512

WESTON G. COTTEN Attorney at Law advertisement: 281-421-4050

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FIRST-TIME Home Buyer MORTGAGE advertisement for Community Resource CREDIT UNION: Free 45 day Rate Lock, Down payment as little as 3%

## Turner Chevrolet to support Highlands Little League



Turner Chevrolet GM David Mendez presents a check to representatives of the Highlands Little League.

HIGHLANDS – Turner Chevrolet Crosby is partnering with the Highlands Little League. Turner Chevrolet Crosby has joined forces with the national Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball program to provide new equipment, invitations to free instructional clinics and an opportunity for community members to earn donations for their league via a test drive fundraiser.

“Playing baseball and softball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation, and sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support. Turner Chevrolet Crosby and Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Crosby,” said David Mendez, General Manager for Turner Chevrolet Crosby. “Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball and softball instills in its players.”

2021 marks the sixteenth year of Chevrolet’s Youth Baseball & Softball program and has benefitted over 8 million players since it launched. In 2020, more than 1,300 Chevrolet dealers participated across the country.

Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present Highlands Little League an equipment kit that includes useful items such as equipment bags, first aid kits, batting tees, and ball buckets. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics featuring current and former MLB/MLB players and coaches, or instruction from Ripken Baseball.

In addition, Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present a check representing a one-time monetary contribution to Highlands Little League. Sponsored leagues across the country will have the chance to earn additional funds as community members take test drives at their partnering dealership to help support the league.

“Chevrolet vehicles are designed and built with busy families in mind, featuring a comprehensive suite of available safety features; technologies that make the journey more comfortable and engaging for the entire family; and the space and flexibility needed to haul people and cargo. We would encourage everyone to come take a look at what Chevrolet has to offer,” said Mendez.

For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball, please visit [www.chevrolet.com/youthsports.com](http://www.chevrolet.com/youthsports.com).

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**CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE**

# Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## ON THE HILL

### West Chambers Chamber News

Contratulations to our Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Recipients:  
JAZMIN LIPP  
KINLEY LOWERY  
MEAGAN BECK  
MIKAYLA  
MCMILLAN  
Way to Go Barbers Hill Class of 2021!

### Barrow Ranch Car Show & Golf Cart Poker Run

Saturday, July 17th. Annual Barrow Ranch Car Show and Golf-Cart Poker Run at McCollum Park, Beach City. Live Music 9pm-12am, Food, Vendors, Benefit Auction Live 3pm-4pm, 50/50 Fundraising Event benefitting Beach City VFD. Car Show 12pm-4pm, Poker Run begins at 5pm. From Ryan Dagley, Mayor Beach City: "Hello All! Please mark your calendars for the July 17th, 2021 Annual Barrow Ranch Car Show & Golf Cart Poker Run. This is a wonderful event benefitting the Beach City Volunteer Fire Department. Per the organizers, they are in need of Auction Items and Sponsors. Contact: Stephani Delker 832-514-8544.

### Rotary Shrimp & Catfish Festival July 10

Houston Raceway Park is the place to be on July 10, 2021 for the 11th annual Shrimp & Catfish Festival hosted by the Rotary Club of Baytown. The festival will be held from 11 am - 3 pm and includes live music as well as outdoor games and activities for children, a silent and live auction and raffle for many prizes including the grand prize, which is a vehicle. This year, the grand prize winner will select either a 2021 Kia Telluride SUV or a 2021 Toyota Tacoma truck. Raffle tickets are \$100 each and include two shrimp and catfish meals on festival day. Meal tickets are sold separately for \$10 each. You can take your meal to go or eat at the event and enjoy music and participate in the auctions. Visit [www.baytownrotary.org](http://www.baytownrotary.org) to purchase tickets or sponsor, or purchase tickets.

## BH Eagles capture state baseball title!



BARBERS HILL EAGLES Boy's Baseball Team, and Girl's Softball team, show their Victories celebrations as they both win state championships this month.

MONT BELVIEU — The Barbers Hill High School baseball team won its first ever state championship in school history Saturday afternoon in Round Rock in a tight

game against Hallsville High School.

The Barbers Hill Eagles took an early lead in the bottom of the first with a single from Brodey Williams. Fast forward to the



BARBERS HILL EAGLES Baseball Team gathers for a Team Photo after their 2-1 win over Hallsville in last Saturday's UIL 5A state championship game.

sixth inning and that's when the Eagles took the lead for good on a sacrifice fly by Josh Campbell.

The final score was 2-1. The baseball team now joins the Barbers Hill soft-

ball team as state champions. The softball team beat Aledo High School 4-1 in Austin last week.

CONGRATS, BARBERS HILL! The baseball boys not only join their

softball team as state champs but they're also going down in school history!

## Chambers earns Excellence in Safety Award

AUSTIN — Chambers County has earned a 2020 Excellence in Safety Award from the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP) for its record of excellence in involvement and commitment to safety in the workplace, as well as for controlling workers' compensation claims.

To qualify for the award, the county must participate in TAC RMP's Workers' Compensation Program, have a safety program or accident prevention plan and have an active safety committee.

Through its commitment to safe practices



**Pictured:** (Back) Chambers County Commission Billy Combs, Chambers County Commissioner Tommy Hammond, Chambers County Commissioner Mark Tice (Front) Lisa McCaig, Ryan Holzaepfel, R. Glenn Perritt, Joe Szweczyk, Chambers County Commissioner Jimmy Gore, Clem Zabalza, Chambers County Clerk Heather Hawthorne

among county employees, ChambersCountyworks to reduce employee injuries and obtain substantial savings for taxpayers by minimizing workers' compensation costs.

The county is one of 11 TAC RMP members statewide who have earned this award.

Governed by a board of county officials, TAC RMP has provided counties with protection against risks and liabilities for 47 years. TAC RMP's risk control programs and services, delivered to more than 412 members, help Texas counties promote safety and save tax dollars.

## Chambers Co. Library announces 2021 Summer Reading Challenge

Read anything. Track minutes. Earn badges. Get rewarded.

The annual summer program at the library will be a fun and engaging experience for the whole family. The 2021 virtual Summer Reading Challenge will take place June 9 - July 17 and the goal is simple: read. You can read anything from magazines to books to cereal boxes! Track your progress online using our online reading software called Beanstack. You can use their website, or download the app for your mobile device. Track multiple family members using one login. If you aren't comfortable with the technology, the library staff will be happy to register for you.

For every hour you read, you'll be entered into a drawing to win prizes each week! Complete all 10 hours to be entered into the grand prize drawing!

All programs will continue to be virtual and will take place live and pre-recorded on our Facebook page, YouTube, and other platforms. Don't forget! All libraries are open Monday - Friday, 8-5 and Saturday, 9-1. Curbside service is also available.

Don't miss out on this fun-filled summer! For more information, see the summer schedule below. Or check out the website at [www.chambers.lib.tx.us](http://www.chambers.lib.tx.us).

Chambers County Library at Anahuac: 409-267-2554  
Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch at Winnie: 409-296-8245  
Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch at Mont Belvieu: 281-576-2245.

Special thanks to our sponsors and underwriters for this year's program:

This year's sponsors include the following:  
Corporate Sponsors: ONEOK Entergy ExxonMobil Allegiance Bank Anahuac Cleaners Anahuac Municipal Development District Anahuac National Bank Barbers Hill Bank ESA Sorority Hill Butane Company Lucky Harvest Outreach Coffee Shop Prosperity Bank Seabreeze Beacon Sherman Home Center Wilcox Drug Store Wilcox Pharmacy

Programs offered this summer at your local library:  
Free cooking classes for kids and teens!  
Cook Learn Grow! FREE, on demand cooking classes for kids and teens! During June and July, access a full library of cooking classes. Unlimited streaming, and tons of great recipes with great instructors. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/tyufuwvs>

Kids! (Ages 0-11) All programs (except Read with Your Pet) will have a secret code to

listen for or find. Enter the secret code in Beanstack for a chance to win a prize!

June 9 - Make your own pet rock! Stop by any library and pick up supplies. Bring your decorated rock back to the library by June 12 and receive your secret code.

June 16-21 - Enjoy a storiwalk at your local library then come inside to pick up a craft!

June 23 - Zoomagination is back! Join us for a virtual visit with some fun animals. Even a sloth! Program will be presented on Microsoft Teams through your computer or the Teams app on your phone. Watch for the link on Facebook!

June 28-July 2 - Virtual storytime week! Anahuac, Winnie, and Mont Belvieu will dazzle you with their storytime skills! Bilingual storytime, Baby & Me, and Circle Time will be on our Facebook and YouTube pages for your viewing pleasure. Don't forget to listen for those secret codes!

July 5-7 - Read with your pet! Submit a picture of you reading with your dog, cat, horse, chicken, or any pet you have! Submit your photo on the library's website at <https://tinyurl.com/yf8dwysp> Photos will be posted on Facebook for voting July 8-10.

July 14-17 - Animal tracks at the library! Visit the library for an outdoor adventure! On display July 14-17 at any Chambers County Library System branch.

Teens! (Ages 12-18) Record your time in Beanstack! For every 1 hour you read, you'll be entered into a drawing to win prizes each week! Complete all 10 hours to be entered into the grand prize drawing!

Teen programs will all be "Grab & Go" activities!  
June 15 - "Bee" a friend to the bees and start your very own bee garden!

June 22 - Pick up your free mug, vinyl design, and recipe for mug brownies!

June 29 - Get creative with supplies to make your own air clay photo holder!

July 5 - Visit our Facebook page and guess how many gumballs are in the jar. Closest without going over wins the gum and a gift card! Submit your guesses July 5 through July 9. Winner announced July 10.

July 13 - DIY slime kit! Who doesn't like slime! Grab your supplies today, they're gonna go quick!

Adults! (Ages 18+) Record your time in Beanstack! For every 1 hour you read, you'll be entered into a drawing to win prizes each week! Complete all 10 hours to be entered into the grand prize drawing!

June 10 - Museum of Bad Art Show! View art seen in no other venue. Since 1993, the museum of bad art has collected art from thrift stores, yard sales, sidewalk trash, and even the artists who create it. They analyze, compare to classic art, and

share with thousands of fans around the world. Don't miss this entertaining program - \$50 gift card drawing (must be in attendance to win). Zoom meeting, 7pm

June 17 - Tales of early Anahuac. Enjoy a tour of the Chambers home and Dr. Nicholas Schilling office narrated by members of the Chambers County Historical Commission. 2pm on Facebook.

June 21-25 - Save our oceans, rivers, and coastlines. Tune into Facebook (June 21) to learn about the negative effects of plastic waste on marine life. Grab bags will be available at the library June 21-25 while supplies last.

July 1 - Household items scavenger hunt! Register on our website or by calling the library. \$20 Amazon gift card to the winner! Deadline to register is June 30. Live Teams event at 2pm.

July 8 - Storytime for adults! Lee Reeves-Perrin will read the short story "Blind Date" from the book, And Thereby Hangs a Tale, by Jeffrey Archer. 2pm on Facebook.

July 12 - Guess the number of sea shell candies in the jar! Closest without going over wins the candy and a gift card. Submit your guess between July 12 and July 16 on Facebook. Winner announced July 17.

Valerie Jensen, MLIS  
County Librarian  
Chambers County Library System

SUNDAY



**IN THE STARS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Jun 16—Steffany de la Cruz  
 Tim Grisham  
 Evelyn Del Angel  
 Jun 17—Garret Oviedo  
 Brandi Rutledge  
 Jun 18—Erica Castro  
 David Mata  
 Jun 19—Lara Sue Hill  
 Jun 21—Louise Cann  
 Eddie Marshall  
 Jun 22—Dixie Roffe  
 Randall Sloan  
 Robert Guillory  
 Jun 23—Gladys Cornelius  
 Ryan Dunlop  
 Janell Simmons  
 Jun 24—Jamie Triche  
 Jaylee Gomez  
 Jun 25—Pam White  
 Larry Marlin  
 Andrew Waldrip  
 Jun 26—C.L. Morgan  
 Jim White  
 Jun 27—Josh Lisenbe  
 George Welshimer  
 George Thurmond

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Jun 10—Christ & Pam Mosley  
 Jun 18—Cliff & Janise McKee  
 Jun 19—David & Susie Coffman  
 Jun 22—Larkin & Margaret McKay  
 Gene & Elizabeth Bulanek  
 Jun 23—Ben & Shannon Coward  
 Daniel & Jane Pratkan  
 Jun 25—Joe & Rene Anselmo  
 Jun 29—John & Jean Lee  
 K.D. & Linda Strickland  
 Don & Anna Mattingly



**Defibrillators installed in Crosby ISD stadiums**



The Cody Stephens Foundation teamed up with the Crosby Education Foundation to make our stadiums in Crosby a little bit safer. We got a Defibrillator for the baseball complex also. But this one was a priority because of the upcoming graduation. The Cody Stephens Foundation wants to thank all who have believed in us and have donated your hard earned dollars to us. We understand you have many choices for your charitable dollars. Let's pray this AED is never needed. But we will rest easier knowing our stadiums are heart safe.

**Cody Stephens Foundation**

Crosby, TX. — The Cody Stephens Foundation, a nationally prominent heart screening advocate, proudly dedicates two SaveStations containing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available for public use 24/7 in a heart emergency. The Cody Stephens Foundation teamed up with the Crosby Education Foundation to make the SaveStations available at the Crosby ISD Football and Baseball fields.

“Placing two SaveStations and AEDs at the Crosby ISD athletic fields could mean the difference between life and death. Every minute someone experiencing SCA goes without an AED, their chance of survival declines,” said Scott Stephens, Cody’s Dad and Foundation President, “I am proud of this milestone, especially since SCA is a leading cause of death in the U.S. in student athletes. AEDs save lives.”

The SaveStation are waterproof cabinets installed outdoors making an AED easily accessible during heart emergencies. The SaveStation is clearly marked for public use and will be available 24/7 for anyone to access any time of day or night. The technology built into this

SaveStation allows for monitoring of the AED to ensure it is always ‘ready for rescue’ and will take a picture when the cabinet is opened. This cabinet is also ventilated and will keep the AED cool in the summer. There is also a QR code on the cabinet that anyone can scan with a smart phone. It will link to instructions on how to do hands-only CPR and walks a user through how to use the AED.

Scott and Melody Stephens formed the Cody Stephens Foundation in 2012 after their son, Cody, died from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Cody was an 18 year old high school senior at Crosby High School, who loved FFA, country music and was looking forward to playing football at Tarleton State University in the fall. Since inception, the Foundation has provided over 145,000 youth with an ECG heart screening and placed 78 ECG machines in ISDs across the state. The Foundation’s mission is to partner with schools to implement heart screening programs with electrocardiogram as a part of pre-participation physicals and raise awareness that Sudden Cardiac Arrest is preventable.

**THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH**

By Dr. Mark Trice



**Stay Faithful**

I was driving down a road not long ago and found myself shaking my head at the nearly-finished overpass that seemed as if it had suddenly appeared out of nowhere. I’ve driven this same road for decades, and it just looks strange to see all the new construction crossing over what was a backroad a few years ago. But here’s the stranger thing; it won’t be long before I’m driving under it without even thinking about it. I’ll hardly notice it’s there because our brains are wired to casually dismiss those things we see constantly.

We react to sin in much the same way. The first time you see something that doesn’t line up with what God approves, you have that “This doesn’t look right” reaction in your spirit. Your urge, I hope, is to steer clear of it, to turn your focus to God and head off in the right direction. If you do, great, but if you don’t, if instead you choose to just skirt around the sin as you continue to check it out, you’ll grow comfortable with it.

And as you grow comfortable with it, you’ll let yourself get closer to it. Then you’ll find yourself hanging around it to the point where, eventually, it looks perfectly normal. Once it looks perfectly normal, it’s pretty much a given that you’ll end up taking part in the sin yourself. After all, “Everyone is doing it.”

If you doubt me, think about cursing. Perhaps you’ve always been one who guarded your tongue. But what if you get hooked on a specific TV show or something in social media where cursing is a common thing? At first it

makes you uncomfortable, but once you’re hooked on what you’re seeing you start ignoring that part of what you’re hearing – or you think you’re ignoring it.

But then perhaps you catch yourself thinking a curse word, or even letting one slip out. It shocks you. Maybe you even wonder where it came from. Well, it can only come from what you see, hear, or read...what you’ve exposed yourself to. You’ve let yourself get so comfortable listening to such language that the next step was to start using it yourself. Obviously, it wasn’t intentional, but it happened.

No one just falls into sin, and few people go running into sin on purpose. No, it’s a progression. First, they put up with the sin they see. Then, they casually accept it. Finally, they start taking part in it themselves. If they don’t catch themselves and draw away, repenting and turning back to God, they will grow increasingly comfortable with a life that takes them away from Him, away from Heaven and into the devil’s kingdom.

Remember, we’re all servants. Whether we want to admit it or not, we’re either serving God or we’re serving the devil. You can serve the devil “accidentally” (in a sense), but serving God requires staying close to Him and resisting temptation when it comes your way.

Stay faithful my friends. Jesus is coming back, and you want to be ready when He calls us home.

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**WASTE PITS VIRTUAL MEETING:**

**EPA sees longer, difficult remediation work**

Continued from Page 1

ment cap, with rock and a membrane in 2011.

Since then, the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) have agreed to remediate and remove the wastes, and have been working with a consultant on how that might be accomplished. The original schedule for this work was developed after a Record of Decision was accepted in 2017. It called for the removal of 212,000 cu. yds. of waste material. It is now expected that at least 250,000 cu. yds. of material must be removed. The Final Design for the North and South Impoundments was due in 2021, and contract negotiation and remediation could start after that.

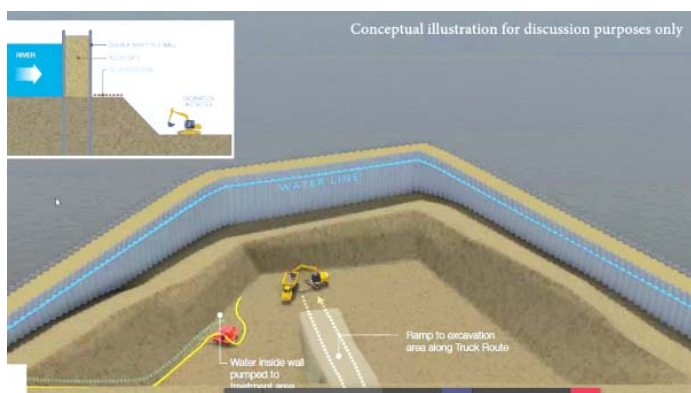
However, due to the discovery of deeper toxic material, and the unfeasibility of the water treatability scheme, the engineering consultant GHD asked for a time extension of 160 days, and later another 270 days. EPA granted these, which means that actual construction of remediation will not take place until 2023, and the Final Design calls for a 7 year project schedule. One year of mobilization, 5 years of excavation in 5 work zones, and one more year of demobilization until the land is deemed safe and free of

toxins.

Jackie Young Medcalf of THEA/SJRC commented on how “very frustrating to our group” these delays and extensions have been. It has now been about 10 years that the group has been working to remove the waste pits, and it looks like it might be another 10 years to completion.

Reasons that the EPA stated for granting the extension request include: 1. It has learned that treating the waste water in a flooded environment is “infeasible” and another method must be explored. 2. Deeper excavations mean more study for safe techniques is required. The consultant must investigate “barriers and risks”. 3. The original borings and sampling had “data gaps” and more information must be developed. 4. Work now starting on the Lake Houston dam and spillways may affect water levels around the waste pits. More information is required, and this may take time.

Most of the delay, Howard explained, involves the Northern Impoundment site. Work on the Southern Impoundment may precede the North, because the Final Design simply calls for a “cut and fill” technique, where toxic material can be excavated with a backhoe, loaded on trucks,



DOUBLE WALL COFFERDAM WILL BE REQUIRED FOR A DEEPER EXCAVATION.

hailed away, and clean fill material would replace it. The amount of material to be removed is only expected to be about 24,600 cu. yds. and the depth only 10'. Only a small area would require cofferdams to hold back the river water, according to the Final Design. The Final Design was approved on May 7, 2021 and now will move to the next step, negotiations for an “enforcement document”. It was revealed recently that the responsible parties for the two sites are different. The Northern Site PRP is Waste Management and International Paper, and the Southern Site PRP is International Paper.

Howard said that a TWG, or Technical Work-

ing Group, meets monthly to coordinate the responsibilities of different agencies in the area. This is becoming more important, since not only the work on the Lake Houston spillway affects the site, but TXDOT plans in the near future to replace the I-10 bridge over the river with a higher, wider new bridge and highway. TXDOT is also repairing, replacing, and adding to the bumpers or Dolphin structures in the river on either side of the channel, that are near the waste pits. That work is scheduled for this summer. The bridge replacement work is due to start in 2025, long before the Waste Pits remediation is complete. The two projects will exist beside each other,

with potential for interference.

The consultant is now reviewing his plan for the Northern site, with concern on these problems: — Excavation Depth —BMP design (retaining wall) — Water infiltration and risk of hydraulic heave —Additional Sampling requirements It is anticipated that the GHD consulting firm is going to recommend a double wall shue pile cofferdam, a much larger structure than originally anticipated. This is one of the reasons the schedule has been moved back. Another problem to consider is that any cofferdam must be removed later, and now it has become larger and deeper than originally planned. EPA has called

for 30 more borings as part of the new study.

In the Q & A session that followed, Howard said that if an environmental spill or disaster occurred, the national Emergency Response Center can be reached at 800-424-8802 and they handle all types of emergencies and are in contact with all relevant agencies, local and national. Question: What interaction does EPA have with the barge companies? Answer: None, we do not have jurisdiction. The Coast Guard does. Question: Where will the waste go for disposal? Answer: We will know when the Final Design is submitted. Question: Will workers be protected from the Dioxin? Answer: There will not be any actual contact with waste, and Dioxin will not be touched. Question: Why do you leave the waste material in place now? Answer: It is safe under the cap. It doesn’t leach easily, but sticks to the soil.

The Final Design for the Northern Impoundment is due Feb. 2022. Then an enforcement document must be negotiated, and the one year of mobilization and procurement will proceed. That means at best construction or remediation should not start until 2023. The Southern Impoundment may happen sooner, it is under study, said Howard.

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 494214; Estate of DOUGLAS WELNIAK deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on May 28, 2021.

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Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area
Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area.

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from June 21 to June 28 until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link

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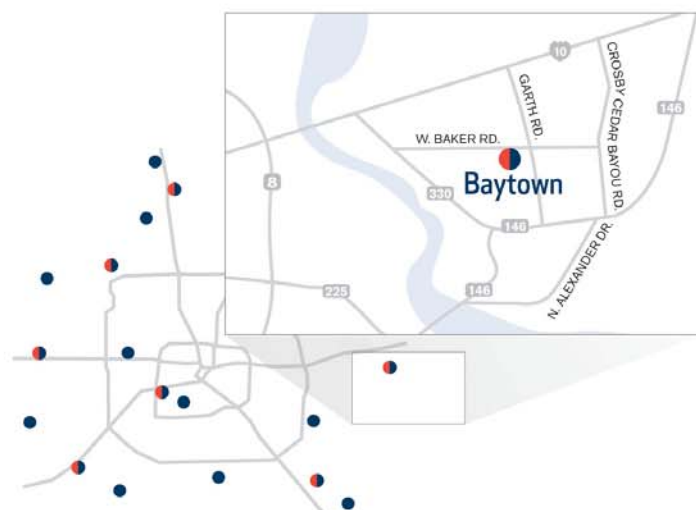


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## District Attorney opens 12 week campaign emphasizing Gun Safety

HOUSTON – Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg joined other elected leaders and gun-safety advocates, to unveil a 12-week advertising campaign to promote the safe storage of firearms in homes and elsewhere.

They wore orange and delivered the safe storage message as part of a nationwide effort to end gun violence. Free gunlocks were distributed and are still available from the District Attorney's office.

The Safe Gun Storage Campaign launched Saturday, June 5th at 7 p.m. at Houston City Hall in the Legacy Room.

Presenting were District Attorney Kim Ogg and gun safety advocates and gun violence victims, including U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston Council Member Abbie Kamin, Clear Channel Outdoor Vice President Lee Vela, and partners Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, Clear Channel Outdoor.

City Hall was lit orange to honor gun violence victims.

**GUN SAFETY TIPS:**

**Store Guns and Ammunition Safely**

—Store guns in a locked

location, unloaded, out of the reach and sight of children

—Store ammunition in a separate locked location, out of the reach and sight of children

—Keep the keys and combinations hidden to gun storage

—When a gun is not in its lock box, keep it in your line of sight.

—make sure all guns are equipped with effective, child-resistant gun locks.

—If a visitor has a gun in a backpack, briefcase, handbag or an unlocked car, provide them with a locked place to hold it while they are in your

home.  
—Leaving guns on a nightstand, table or other place where a child can gain access may lead to injuries and fatalities.

**Talk to Your Kids and Their Caregivers**

Explain how a gun your kids might see on TV or a video game is different from a gun in real life.

—Teach kids never to touch a gun and to immediately tell an adult if they see one.

—Talk to grandparents and the parents of friends your children visit about safe gun storage practices.



HOUSTON CITY HALL was lit with Orange on June 5 to promote Gun Safety.



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★ OPINION PAGE ★

**COUNTY NEWS**  
Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo



**Hurricane season is here, Voter restrictions fail, eviction intervention**

*Hurricane Season is Here*

Another hurricane season is upon us, and now is the time to make sure you are prepared for whatever storm the next six months may bring. Watch Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo outline the four essential steps to protecting your family and your property. For more information and resources for hurricane season, visit ReadyHarris.org.

**Bill Targeting Harris County Voter Rights Fails to Advance**

This past weekend, Texas legislators killed SB7, the most suppressive voter suppression bill in the nation. By staging a walkout as a united front, members broke quorum with an hour to spare — a remarkable, difficult action and the only one that would have kept this bill from passing. It's no secret that this bill was a direct attack on Harris County, our voters, and our communities. SB7 was the result of the "big lie" that falsely claims widespread voter fraud is occurring in Texas and throughout the nation. Many lawmakers have used this lie to delegitimize the record turnout at the polls that was a direct result of our innovative efforts to make voting in Harris County more accessible and safe than it has ever been.

Last election, our voting laws served as a national model for how local governments can provide increased and secure access to the ballot box. We tripled the number of early voting locations, extended voting hours and added a day of 24-hour voting, implemented drive thru voting, and used county-wide voting centers so that people could vote at any location on election day. The reforms we implemented in 2020 gave all kinds of eligible workers easier access to the polls. We had the highest turnout in a generation and almost 70% of registered voters voted. SB7 would have limited voting hours and completely eliminated 24-hour and drive-thru voting, shutting out thousands of voters such as first responders and medical workers who work nontraditional hours. It would have created laws that would make it a felony to supply residents vote-by-mail applications if they haven't requested one and allow for poll watchers to be present throughout the voting day, possibly intimidating and harassing voters. It would have lowered the legal standard for elections to be overturned and would have ordered polls shut before 1 p.m. on Sundays — when many African American churches conduct "Souls to the Polls" initiatives.

While the legislation has been defeated for now, there will likely be a special Texas legislative session later this summer to attempt to pass some form of this voter suppression legislation. Our fight continues.

**New Eviction Intervention Program Helps Families Facing Homelessness Avoid Evictions**

Though employers are gradually rebuilding their ranks, many people remain unemployed and/or significantly behind on rent from the months their workplaces were closed due to the pandemic. The new \$8 million Eviction Intervention Program, a division of the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), will work to divert eviction cases out of court, helping families avoid imminent homelessness and landlords recover overdue rent. The program will be run by The Alliance, a nonprofit agency helping refugees, immigrants, and underserved residents.

Tenants can apply for the Eviction Intervention Program by submitting an application for the Houston-Harris County Rental Relief Fund at [HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org). The application will ask if they have received a notice to vacate or a court summons, and, if so, requests the docket number. Qualifying applications will be automatically referred to the Eviction Intervention Program. Tenants who do not qualify for eviction intervention but who are still struggling financially because of pandemic-related wage reductions are still encouraged to apply to the Houston-Harris County Rental Relief Fund. The application portal remains open, and tens of millions of dollars in relief are still available. As of May 26, the Rental Relief Fund has pledged and paid over \$84 million to 23,146 tenants in need of assistance.

Eligible applicants to the Eviction Intervention Program must already have a docket number (or case number), cannot earn more than the income threshold (80% of area median income), and must prove pandemic-related financial impact. Both tenant and landlord must agree to participate. The Eviction Intervention Program offers up to six months of rent. You can view the eligibility requirements and FAQs, submit documents, and find other resources related to the Eviction Intervention Program and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program at [HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org). In addition, a phone line is available at 832-402-7568 six days a week: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders

**Governor Abbott vows to expand Border "barrier"**

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed last week at a border security summit to build a barrier to slow the flow of migrants through the state's southern border. Abbott said details would be forthcoming for the wall, which would be part of a new enforcement plan administered by several state agencies, ranging from the governor's office to the Texas Department of Public Safety. He said he intends to sign legislation appropriating more than \$1 billion for enhanced border security.

"While securing the border is the federal government's responsibility, Texas will not sit idly by as this crisis grows," Abbott said. "The state is working collaboratively with communities impacted by the crisis to arrest and detain individuals coming into Texas illegally."

The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) blasted Abbott's actions.

"Governor Abbott stated that he intends to use Texas state budget dollars not for education, improving our electric grid or for Texas roads and highways," said Domingo Garcia, LULAC president. "Instead, he says he will continue to build a wall and other barriers along the border with Mexico. This is a huge waste of taxpayer money, and very likely illegal."

LULAC plans to take legal action on grounds that the federal government has authority over immigration and borders, not individual states.

**LUMBER PRICE SURGE NOT AFFECTING TIMBER PRICES**

One economic consequence of the pandemic lockdown has been a surge in lumber prices of more than 300%, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. However, landowners who grow and harvest timber are still facing stagnant prices, as they have since the housing crash of



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Gary Borders

2008. At \$30 a ton in Texas, the price has remained about the same for the past decade.

The challenge for timber owners is an abundance of ready-to-harvest timber, according to TFS.

"Landowners have been struggling to get their timber harvested for a while," said Rob Hughes, executive director of the Texas Forestry Association. "The mills are producing more wood than they have before, but it's still not to the capacity of how much timber is being grown in their areas."

A consolidation of sawmills is partly to blame. In 1997 Texas had 168 active sawmills, a number that has dwindled today to about 50. Some landowners have opted to supplement their forest income through carbon markets, which are bought by companies or governments to offset greenhouse gas emissions. One drawback is that the credits can only go to timberland owners if the forest is at risk of being harvested.

"There are a few contracts now that are just a one-year deal," said Hughes. "These seem more tolerable to the production-minded forest landowners that we've talked with. You defer your harvest, and you get paid for that amount of carbon as you sequester it."

Landowners can contact a consulting forester or a

Texas A&M Forest Service office for more information.

**A WET MAY INCREASES RESERVOIR STORAGE**

May is historically the state's wettest month. This year was no exception, with above-average rain in much of the state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

By the end of May, drought conditions covered 25% of the state — down 45 percentage points from the end of April. The La Niña conditions, which are key factors in droughts in Texas, have dissipated and won't return this summer, Wentzel said.

"If you were trying to reduce drought in Texas, you couldn't pick a better month to have above-average rainfall," Wentzel wrote in a press release.

He added that besides greening up the landscape, May's rain increased reservoir storage to 84.6% of capacity, about normal for this time of year.

**NEW COVID-19 CASES RISE WEEK-TO-WEEK**

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week rose to 17,724, up 46% from the previous week, while deaths stayed steady at 213, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,600 hospitalizations of lab-confirmed cases, up about 100 from the previous week. Vaccinations continue to rise, with 10.85 million Texans fully vaccinated — 37.2% of the state's population.

**PUC LIFTS MORATORIUM ON UTILITY DISCONNECTIONS**

The moratorium on utility disconnections for non-payment will be lifted June 18. Last Friday the Texas Public Utility Commission cited a proliferation of financial support and the need for electricity, water and sewer providers to resume normal business operations.

"This is not an easy decision, and it was not taken lightly," PUC Chairman Peter Lake said. "But by acting now, customers will be able to take advantage of deferred payment plans or federal assistance ahead of the summer season."

There are numerous options for ratepayers having difficulties paying their utility bills. The PUC has created a one-page fact sheet that can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/4fdch5dt>.

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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By  
Carrie Classon

**Time to Spare**

"Do you have time for this?" my husband, Peter, asked.

Peter almost never questions what I'm doing unless I'm doing something particularly stupid. Yesterday, I had a meeting on Zoom. I figured I could finish my work, take my walk early, then run downtown and get my errands done all in time for my meeting.

"Sure!" I assured him. Peter looked skeptical. "Maybe I'll skip the stop at the hardware store," I added, to pacify him.

But the hardware store was right on the way, as I went from the library to the grocery store, so I dashed in, got my paint roller and potting soil, and dashed back out.

"Plenty of time!" I assured myself as I hit the grocery store, chose two graduation cards in record time, and grabbed wrapping paper, ribbon and a bunch of flowers.

It wasn't until then that I noticed there were people standing in the aisles.

"Why are people standing in the aisles?" I wondered. But I continued my high-speed chase and picked out two bags of grapes and six Honeycrisp apples.

Only when I had gathered everything from the four corners of the store did it dawn on me what those people were doing, standing in the aisles. They were waiting to check out.

"What?!" I said aloud, outraged.

"It's always like this at 4:30," a smiling fellow, standing in the seemingly endless line, said to me when he saw my face. "Half an hour earlier, there's no one in the store." Apparently, I had never been in the store at exactly 4:30 before.

"But ... I don't have time for this!" I said to no one who cared—or could do anything about it.

I raced to return my items to the four corners of the store, zipped out to my car, and made it to my Zoom meeting in the nick of time. The meeting was about the benefits of meditation; the speaker started out by talking about how meditation could alleviate stress.

The irony was not wasted on me.

I used to judge how well I had spent my time by how many items I had checked off my "to-do" list. If I arrived somewhere five minutes early, I figured there was something I could have done with those five minutes and then arrived on time—or maybe just a minute or two late, since everyone else would be late anyway. I felt gratified when I beat the clock, skidded in at the last possible moment, got more done than seemed possible. I used to think that when I was bathed in adrenaline, I was the most alive.

Now I think it's OK to have time to spare.

Because I've realized that it's only in those times when I don't need to hurry that I notice what is going on around me. Unexpected ideas occur. I see funny things. I have time to talk to people I meet. I take the time to stop and listen. I learn things. None of this happens if I am racing across the store in an effort to set the world record for the speediest purchase of a greeting card.

Manufactured emergencies are not the real thing. If the need arises to run from a predator, I'm pretty sure I'll still be able to do it. Purchasing wrapping paper should not rely on survival instincts.

"The store was crazy!" I told Peter. But really, it was me who was crazy.

Today I will go back to get my apples. I will make my selection carefully. I will have time to spare.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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

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# Crosby Rodeo continued...

## Rodeo awards bestowed



### Top Hands

President Sonny Armstrong, Junior Top Hand Delaney Klise, Board Chairman Ricky Larkin, Senior Top Hand Blake Larkin and Auctioneer Ricky Loggins at the Saturday awards.



### Honored Lifetime Members

Six ladies received the Honorary Lifetime Membership last Saturday, left to right are five with rodeo officers are Emily Erlish, Deeana Bartholow, Belinda Armstrong, Kerrie Larkin and Jennifer Loggins.

## Crosby's Eagle Scouts became official Saturday



Candidates that became Eagle Scouts last Saturday were: Matthew Jordan, David Jordan, Ryan Murrin, Richard Shephard, Joshua Sanchez, Patrick Hannan, and Landon Lewis. The Eagle Scout Court of Honor was convened June 12 at 5 p.m. at Stonebridge at Newport. This prestigious award is based upon accomplishing a high standards. About 6.02% of all scouts attain the Eagle rank. Photo by T.W. Gallop.

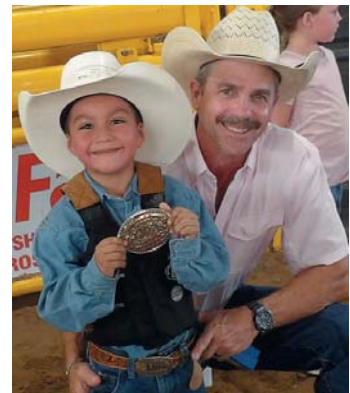


Shannon Nash Flag Rider was bestowed a Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.



James Blaha was honored as a Lifetime Member of the Crosby Fair & Rodeo at the Livestock Auction.

### Mutton Busters



J.R. Motley sponsored the Mutton Bustin' at left Colt Kubin hung on for 8 and more, winning. Saturday Armando Aragon held on best to win.

## Highlands woman shot at her own crawfish boil



Deputies repeatedly confer outside Highlands Apartment on June 6 concerning suspect having fled after shooting hostess in stomach.

HIGHLANDS – A woman was shot by an uninvited intruder at her own crawfish boil, she was rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

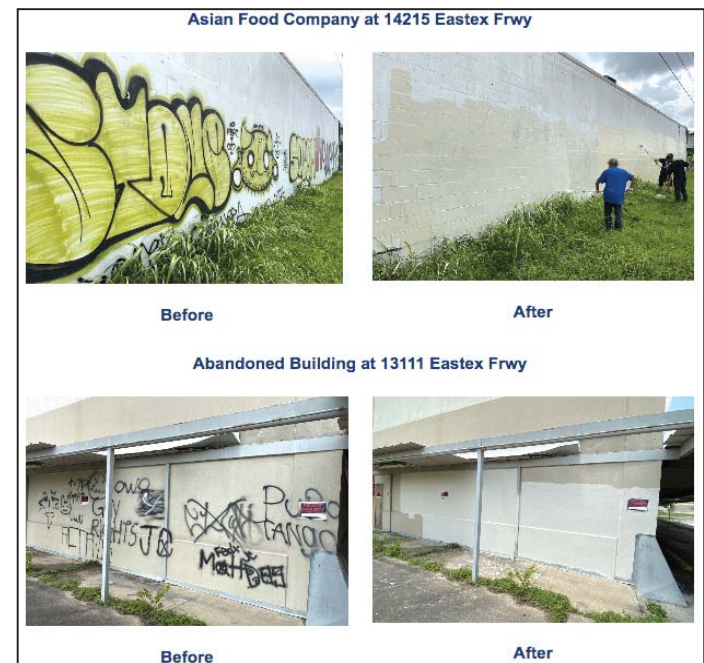
The Harris County Sheriff's Office says shortly before 10 p.m. Sunday, June 6, deputies responded to a call for a shooting at apartments in the 2500 block of East Wallisville. Deputies found a woman in her mid-20s shot in the stomach with a small caliber pistol.

Deputies say a group of people were attending a crawfish boil. Witnesses

say an unwelcome man crashed the party and was confronted by the hostess. An argument took place and the man shot the woman. The man fled, but witnesses were able to supply information on the man.

## Sheriff initiates Homeless assistance program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



to other quality-of-life and community beautification projects in east Harris County, such as removing trash from illegal dumping and maintaining clean parks.

On Thursday, participants started their day with warm showers and fresh clothes at Hope Center Houston before attending a Resource Day at Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. There, staff and volunteers shared more information about their comprehensive services, which range from job training to counseling and peer support. Participants also received on-site health screenings from UTMB Health and assistance applying for a Texas Identification Card and Harris Health's Gold Card, a lifeline for affordable medications and clinic visits.

Homelessness is among the most important, complex issues facing our criminal justice system today. The Sheriff said we must work together to address these issues through multi-faceted strategies and compassion.

This workforce development program is an example of community policing and what can be accomplished when law enforcement agencies and the community come together. The Sheriff's office is proud to be part of this collaborative approach setting a viable path forward for those experiencing homelessness. Although our partner agencies have different missions, we're all united around the call to serve our most vulnerable neighbors and keep everyone safe.

HCSO Continues Mental Health Training Aimed

at Helping Deputies Respond to Residents in Crisis

"Whether they go to detentions or patrol, (they) have to go through 40 hours of mental health training and then 16 hours of de-escalation training," said Sgt. Jose Gomez.

De-escalation training includes scenarios. In one of them, an inmate at a detention center threatens suicide and deputies attempt to de-escalate the situation.

150 deputies are also equipped with tablets that can connect people in crisis at a scene directly to a psychiatrist at The Harris Center.

"When they go to a call for service and they need to talk to a clinician or need an assessment, they're able to pull out the device," said Gomez.

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**"DENIM & DIAMONDS"**  
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