

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ Courier

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VOL. 68, NO. 25- 50¢ © Copyright 2021 THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**THURS. JUNE 24
Channelview CHIC holds meeting**

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition will be holding a community meeting this Thursday, June 24th, at 6:30 pm at the Channelview Fire Dept. Sta. 3, 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX. There will be a social time from 5:30 - 6:20 pm to allow for attendees mingling, refreshments and getting settled after which the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Bethany Dwyer, Atty with the Harris County Attorney's Office Environmental Division will give a presentation and be available to answer your questions regarding the HC Attorney's Office's role, needs and limitations when alerted to an issue in our community.

Please feel free to share this invite and information with other community members by any means you may communicate i.e. person to person, phone, text, email, Facebook, NextDoor, etc.

We hope to see you and welcome new attendees Thursday night.

**SUN. JULY 4
Crosby Church 4th of July Celebration!**

6pm-9pm on July 4th 2021 at the Crosby Campus on US90. Fireworks at 9:15pm. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for the evening. Entertainments and Concessions, Kids Games available. 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby. www.crosbychurch.com for more info.

**ONGOING
Precinct2gether Pct. 2 Summer Day Camp**

There is still time to take advantage of our SUMMER Day Camp over the next 6 weeks. Proof of income is the only thing required to attend for FREE!

9 different locations throughout Harris County Precinct 2!

Monday - Thursday 8am-3pm
Friday 8am- Noon
Sign up for 1 week or all 6 weeks you tell us
Just call 713-274-2222 to get registered.

**ONGOING
Free food at Branch Libraries**

Every Wednesday you can pick up Breakfast & Lunch for the week (7 boxed meals for each child under the age of 18) Courtesy Harris County Branch Library and the Houston Food Bank. Walk-ins welcome, no registration.

Goose Creek Memorial HS holds graduation



Ethan Rangel from Goose Creek Memorial High School shows off his diploma after graduating with the Class of 2021. Graduation ceremonies were held Sunday, June 12 at the Ford Park Arena in Beaumont.



Students in the Goose Creek Memorial High School Class of 2021 turn their tassels during the recent graduation ceremony.

Local Democrats meet with VP Harris Discuss Texas Voter Restriction bills

WASHINGTON, DC – Last week a group of Democratic state legislators met with Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss the ongoing fight to protect voting rights in Texas and to urge the US Senate to pass H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 to combat coordinated voter suppression efforts taking place across the country.

Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston), the chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, released the following statement after the meeting:

"Today the members of the Texas delegation had a productive conversation with Vice President Harris about the fight against voter suppression in the Tex-



The Democratic Caucus of the Texas Legislature, chaired by Senator Carol Alvarado of Houston, (in the green dress top left) meets with Vice President Kamala Harris, (top center in front of flag) to discuss federal and state legislation that is attempting to restrict voters' rights. Also around the table, Houston State Representatives Armando Walle, Senfronia Thompson, and State Senator Boris Miles.

as Legislature and the importance of H.R. 1 and H.R. 4.

We are grateful for Vice President Harris' partnership and support in our nation's capitol as Democrats aim to preempt Jim Crow style laws from every level of government. As we look toward the next special session in Austin, the Texas Senate Democrats will continue to do our part in the fight to ensure that our sacred right to vote is not taken away by blatant Republican voter suppression tactics."

The Texas Senate Democratic Caucus represents

Continued on Page 5. See Democrats meet VP.

Beat the Heat! Free A/C units from Precinct 2

Commissioner Garcia is committed to keeping seniors 60+ safe during the hot summer months and will be offering 100 portable A/C units to seniors who need it the most. Units will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Contact the Precinct 2 Call Center at 713-274-2222 Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM to see if you qualify.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Disabled Persons
- 60 years and older
- Fixed/low income
- Must be a homeowner in Precinct 2



- Must Apply by June 30

The A/C Units will be offered to qualifying seniors or individuals with disabilities who have not received a unit from any other program.

Call 713-274-2222.

Harris County Pct. 2 Community Centers, Libraries Reopen

HARRIS COUNTY – As the number of COVID-19 vaccinations approaches the goal of 70% of the population, Harris County has eased their restrictions on using county facilities for public functions, with most locations limiting attendance to 50% or 75% capacity, and masks being requested but not required if you are vaccinated.

In Precinct 2, Commissioner Adrian Garcia has opened all the community centers with the exception of Northeast Community Center on Bentley, which is being remodeled as part of



STRATFORD LIBRARY in Highlands

the new All-inclusive County Park being constructed.

Harris County Libraries are all open, too, including Stratford/Highlands Branch Library and Crosby Branch Library in this area. One exception is

the Galena Park library, which is closed for reconstruction of storm damage. However, the Curiosity Cruiser visits every Wednesday. Curbside service is still available at all libraries, but meeting rooms cannot be used.

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Recognizing our Primary School Teachers' hard work



HIGHLANDS LYNCHBURG CHAMBER on Friday, June 11 awarded teachers at B.P. Hopper Primary recognition for perfect attendance and their hard work with our children. Chamber Director Jessica Woods said "These ladies make a difference every day in the lives of our children." Celebrating them for perfect attendance for the year! Jessica Amezcus Turpen, Sandy Bocox, Deborah Rorie, and counselor Nieketta Batiste! Also pictured are Jessica Woods from the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce with Maria Rosas and Soledad Harding of Hopper!

Area Pilot Club presidents meet recently



Highlands Rotary Club Community Projects



Chinquapin senior Francisco Trujillo receives the JE Bird Scholarship for \$2500 from Rotary Chairman Larry White, and club president Andy Scott.

Highlands Rotary Club donates 8 bicycles to Highlands Elementary students for perfect attendance. **Congratulations** to the winners.



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE



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.

New Eviction Intervention Program helps families

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. 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. In addition,

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HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY houston foodbank

PICK-UP BREAKFAST & LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY

Each week this Summer, families can pick up **7 boxed breakfast & lunch meals for each child under the age of 18** at their local library branch.

VISIT WWW.HCPL.NET/KIDSCAFE FOR MORE INFORMATION

NORTH CHANNEL AREA FOUNDATION

ROARING 20'S CASINO NIGHT

TOGETHER AGAIN, OVERCOMING THE PANDEMIC TO RING IN THE TWENTIES.
HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE BILL PALKO SCHOLARSHIP & SUPPORT A LOCAL AREA STUDENT.

AUGUST 13, 2021 | 7:00 PM-11:00 PM
JACINTO CITY TOWN CENTER
1025 OATES RD @ CHALLENGER 7,
JACINTO CITY, TX 77029

★ OPINION PAGE ★



Not a weekend to remember

We usually play catch-up on the weekends, because around a newspaper there is always one more thing to do, getting ready for the next edition.

But this weekend was one I would like to forget. It started when we came into the office Saturday morning. A piece of our ironwork that secures our storefront was lying on the floor. Why we wondered. Then we saw it. A bullet hole in the front glass, and we discovered pieces of the bullet on the floor. I can tell you this is a disconcerting event. And although no one was hurt, nor any property other than the glass window, you begin to wonder why anyone would shoot at your building in the middle of the night. Our commercial street is usually quiet and safe. Was it random? Was it personal? The police came, but offered no more information than we had.

But things didn't get better. Later in the day, we learned that our right-hand man, our friend and colleague for over 25 years in the newspaper business, Lewis Spearman, had a heart attack, and was in the hospital recovering. Luckily with good care at Houston Methodist, and a stent in his heart, he will be fine.

Trying to get some work done, and not worry too much about these events, I sat at the computer. And then the power went off. Newspapers are highly dependent on computers, and with no lights and no computers, you are out of luck.

And this was a weekend that seems determined to prove we had no luck. Yes we fixed the power, but we could only wish that next weekend would be better, and we could forget this one in the past.



Defunding of the Legislature is Dangerous to Our Democracy

League of Women Voters of Texas President Grace Chimene issued the following statement in response to Governor Abbott's defunding the Texas legislature by vetoing Article X of the new state budget.

"Governor Abbott's defunding of the legislature is dangerous to our democracy and undermines the will of the people and the constitutional set of checks and balances upon which our government is built.

"House legislators were doing their job, patriotically representing their constituents. The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned about the undemocratic action taken by Governor Abbott in retribution for not getting his way on an anti-voter bill. The Governor's action is a dangerous step away from democracy, shows complete disrespect to the voters of Texas, to the staff who do the work of the government and for our system of checks and balances.

"Of particular concern is the upcoming redistricting cycle, which is mandated by the U.S. and Texas Constitutions. The Legislative Council provides technical and legal support to the Texas Legislature during redistricting; and by defunding this nonpartisan agency, the Governor has jeopardized the Legislature's ability to produce new district maps. This threatens our democracy. The census report comes out in August and a special session on redistricting is planned for early fall. Elected officials will now have to create maps without expert legal and technical assistance. The power of our votes is determined by how district maps are written.

Our government and the people of Texas rely on the staff of these and other legislative offices to do the necessary work of our democracy.

Legislative office staff - Each legislator's staff works hard meeting the needs of the public their legislators serve.

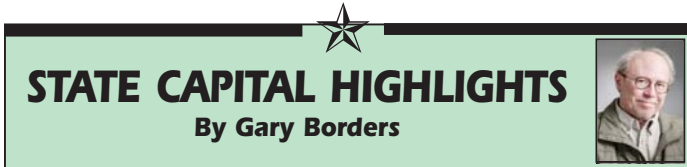
The Legislative Budget Board - This agency develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations, completes fiscal analyses for proposed legislation, and conducts evaluations and reviews to improve the efficiency and performance of state and local operations.

The Legislative Council - The Texas Legislative Council is a nonpartisan legislative agency that serves as a source of impartial research and information and provides technical and legal support to the Texas Legislature for redistricting. Its staff assists legislators in drafting and analyzing proposed legislation, and in obtaining information on specific legislative problems and on matters affecting the general welfare of the state. Council staff also handles the printing, processing, and distribution of legislative documents and provides computer support to the legislature and all of the other legislative agencies.

The Sunset Advisory Commission - Their mission is to enhance government accountability to the legislature and people of Texas by objectively evaluating the need for and value of state programs and services.

The State Auditor - Their mission is to improve government accountability by investigating allegations of illegal acts and improprieties involving any entity that receives funds from the state.

"The League of Women Voters will continue to monitor this dangerous step away from democracy and seek effective remedies."



Heat wave across Texas prompts conservation call

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas urged Texans to cut back on power usage last week when an unusually large number of power plants shut down for unexpected repairs as temperatures soared. ERCOT officials announced Friday that Texans could resume normal levels of electricity use, however.

ERCOT came under fire after widespread outages during the winter storm in mid-February, resulting in the CEO being forced out and much of the board replaced.

Saturday marked the official first day of summer.

BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION PLAN UNVEILED

Gov. Gregg Abbott last week announced several key facets of his plan for the state to build a wall on its border with Mexico. Abbott and other state leaders signed a letter during a press conference, allowing the transfer of \$250 million to begin construction and to hire a program manager and contractors. The program manager will hire contractors and subcontractors needed to build the wall and will identify available state land, as well as private land whose owners are willing to volunteer space for the wall.

Meanwhile, Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced approximately 591,595 acres of state-owned land will receive emergency authorization to be used to build part of the wall. Texas and Mexico share 1,254 miles of common border, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

The governor is also seeking donations for building a wall via www.borderwall.gov. State lawmakers allocated \$1 billion for border security



in the recently passed budget, but Democratic officials have pointed out most of that money goes to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

ABBOTT APPOINTS COBOS TO PUC

Abbott last week appointed Lori Cobos to the PUC. She fills a term scheduled to expire on Sept. 1, although she could be reappointed. Senate confirmation is not required since the Legislature is not in session. The PUC will have a full complement of commissioners for the first time since February.

"I am proud to appoint Lori Cobos to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, and I know that she will draw upon her wealth of experience and knowledge to faithfully serve the people of Texas," Abbott said.

Cobos has served in several senior-level posts at the PUC and ERCOT, including as chief executive and public counsel for the Office of Public Utility Counsel. As a commissioner, she will draw a salary of \$201,000 annually.

FOREST SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS SENT TO AID OTHER STATES

Texas A&M Forest Service has sent 25 firefighters, including two engine crews, to wildfires in Colo-

rado, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico and Florida.

"Texas state resources are supporting wildfire suppression efforts in multiple roles, including firefighters, engine support, prevention team members, aviation operations and support roles," TFS said in a press release. The release said TFS remains dedicated to protecting the state's natural resources from wildfire while assisting other states, a common practice.

Across Texas, the potential for wildfires remains low due to the copious amounts of rain this spring. For current conditions, visit the Texas Potential Outlook site: <https://tinyurl.com/3j84srd7>

VACCINE RATE CONTINUES TO SLOW

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 has hit 11.4 million, about 39% of the state's population, according to Texas Department of State Health Services.

Across the United States, 45% of the population is fully vaccinated. Texas ranks in the lower tier of states in percentage of population that is fully vaccinated. However, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped considerably from the previous week, with 8,414 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, along with 186 deaths. Hospitalizations dropped slightly, with 1,564 lab confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, according to DSHS.

STAAR TESTS SHOW DROP IN MATH RESULTS

Results from the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, which measures students' knowledge of several subjects, shows a sharp drop in math scores, the Texas Standard reported last week. The new scores came after a school year unlike no other, with many students taking classes online at home because of the pandemic.

Only 42% of high school students who took the primary high school math test were considered to be "at grade level," down from 66% last year. This year's STAAR results don't include all students, since some did not return to school in-person to take the exam.

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.



No News

Tanner wasn't waiting for me at the fence yesterday.

Dakota and Tanner, my two oldest dogs, are always waiting for me at the chain-link fence. Dakota can't hear and doesn't see well, so she stays close to the fence in the afternoon when I walk by in order to collect her treat. Tanner really can't see or hear at all, so he keeps close to Dakota. Yesterday he wasn't there.

The thing about giving out dog treats is that, even though I have a relationship with all these dogs, I don't know much about them.

"Where is your brother?" I once asked a long-legged hound that I always met with her sibling.

"We had to put him down yesterday," the hound dog's owner said, as his eyes filled with tears.

"Oh! I'm sorry. That was sudden," I said.

He nodded and wiped his eyes. The now-single hound looked up at me with big sad eyes, as if she knew what we were talking about. It was sudden for everyone.

Today I am worried about Tanner. He's 14, and it pulls at my heart the way he takes his treat so gently. He cannot see my hand. His teeth are old and worn. His muzzle is gray. He is so old and kind and careful. And yesterday, he was missing.

My heart was already tender.

My husband Peter's oldest sister, Shelley, has been in and out of the hospital for more than two months. She has made it out as far as rehab, and then had to go back to the hospital for more surgeries, more infections, more trouble.

Peter is still grieving the loss of his other sister, Lori, who died of cancer just this spring. He is worried—we are both so worried—about Shelley.

I try not to ask Peter, "Any news on Shelley?" because he would tell me if there was. And so I go for my walk and always in the back of my mind I'm wondering about Shelley. And then, yesterday, Tanner was missing.

"Where is Tanner?" I asked Dakota, as she ate her treat. She did not answer. I could tell she thought she should get a second treat, since I had another one in my hand, ready.

"This treat is for Tanner!" I told her. But she kept staring at me, giving me no clue where he might be.

I used to think bad news was the hardest thing to bear. Now I'm not sure if no news isn't a little worse. No news is a constant buzzing. It is hopeful one moment and doom-filled the next. It is pain and fear mixed together. It is the anticipation of loss, and it causes me to see ill omens and sadness everywhere.

There is still no news on Shelley. Her son and daughter-in-law can't know any more than the doctors, and the doctors don't know what is happening. She is tired. She is sad. I imagine she must be lonely. All we know is that she does not call and her voicemail is full and that is not like Shelley.

I brought a couple of extra-large treats with me on my walk today. When I got to Tanner's house, there was only one dog waiting outside. It was Tanner.

I hollered at him to no avail. I jumped up and down and waved my arms and finally caught his eye. He tottered over.

"Oh, Tanner. It's so good to see you," I told him.

"What's the big deal?" he seemed to say.

Sometimes no news is the best news of all.

Till next time, Carrie

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

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Democrats meet VP Harris,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Texas Democratic Caucus group at the White House, preparing to meet Vice President Kamala Harris regarding SB7 and HB1, bills that deal with voter restrictions in Texas and nationwide. Chairman Carol Alvarado, Texas State Senator, is at the center in a blue dress.

urban and rural communities across the state, serving nearly 12 million Texans. The current members are Chair Carol Alvarado (Houston), Vice Chair Nathan Johnson (Dallas), John Whitmire (Houston), Judith Zaffirini (Laredo),

Eddie Lucio, Jr. (Brownsville), Royce West (Dallas), Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (McAllen), José Menéndez (San Antonio), Borris Miles (Houston), Beverly Powell (Burlleson), Sarah Eckhardt (Austin), Roland Gutierrez (San Antonio),

and César Blanco (El Paso).

For questions regarding the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, please contact Sushma Smith by email at jasti.smith@gmail.com or (281) 772-9618.

It's Way Too Early to Claim Victory Over the Virus

Many Harris County Residents Still at Risk for Getting COVID-19

HARRIS COUNTY — Don't get too comfortable with Harris County's decline in COVID-19 cases. At this time, 58% percent of Harris County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine and almost 48% of ages 12 and up are fully vaccinated. However, that means nearly half are not and still at risk for getting the virus. To ensure cases continue to decline, more people must get fully vaccinated.

Vaccines are free at HCPH vaccination sites throughout Harris County and no appointment is needed. To find one near you, click here. If you prefer to make an appointment, go to vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787.

Twelve to 17-year-olds are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. They must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to be vaccinated or bring a consent form signed by their parent or guardian. Consent forms are at vacstrac.hctx.net.

Unvaccinated residents are not only at risk of contracting the virus but spreading it to others, including children under the age of 12 who can't be vaccinated. Be cautious when you're public with your family since most people are not wearing masks, more than half are not vaccinated and some could be infected. In addition, many people who are sick with the virus don't know they have it. Four out of ten infected people have no symptoms but are still contagious. Harris County Public Health recommends all adults get vaccinated and that parents of 12-17 year-old children get them vaccinated.

Parents with children under 12 should get them tested frequently to see if they have COVID-19. If they are infected, parents can monitor them to make sure they don't develop serious symptoms and keep them isolated, so they don't infect others. Testing is free, quick at HCPH sites and results come back in 48 hours. No appointments are needed, click here to find a site near you or call 832-927-7575.

Martha L Marquez | Media Specialist

IN THE STARS

BIRTHDAYS

- 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
- Jun 28—Jeanne Webb
- Ethan Hill
- Jun 29—Sarah Muldrow
- Peggy Smith
- Jun 30—Hannah Barron
- Alan Boudreaux
- Lisa Boudreaux
- Rosetta Farrar
- Jul 1—Susan Butler
- Deanna Hildebrand
- Otis McGaffet
- Levis Spearman
- Jul 2—Mark Whittaker
- Jul 3—Marsha DeLay
- LaHoma Johnson
- Bryan Sanders
- Josh Beck

ANNIVERSARIES

- 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
- Jul 3—Larry & Shirley Marlin
- Jul 6—Tommy & Jacqueline Criner

Key Legislation promoted by Highlands State Rep. Briscoe Cain

ELECTION INTEGRITY

IN THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

DEDICATED FUNDS FOR SECURE VOTING MACHINES, ELECTIONS TRAINING

The state budget provides \$34 million for reimbursements to counties for the retrofitting or purchase of new auditable voting machines and an increase of \$1.4 million for the training of county election officials.

POLL-WATCHER STATUS

HB 1128 clarifies who may lawfully be present at a polling place, early voting ballot board, and central counting stations.

Individuals who may lawfully be present at a polling place:

- + an election judge or clerk;
- + a watcher;
- + a state inspector;
- + a person admitted to vote;
- + a child under age 18 accompanying a parent who had been admitted to vote;
- + a person providing authorized assistance to a voter;
- + a special peace officer appointed by the presiding judge;
- + the county chair of a political party conducting a primary election;
- + a voting system technician;
- + county election officers, as necessary to perform election tasks; or
- + a person authorized by the presiding judge in accordance with the Election Code.

ZUCKERBUCKS BAN ON PRIVATE DONATIONS

HB 2283 prohibits election administrators from accepting large donations from private individuals (like Mark Zuckerberg) and organizations for the purposes of administering elections.

EFFICIENCY IN UPDATING STATE VOTER ROLLS

HB 1264 makes the process of removing deceased persons from voter rolls more efficient.

STRONGER PENALTIES FOR ELECTION FRAUD

HB 574 increases the penalties for conducting fraudulent activity in elections. The bill would make statute consistent by elevating some current election-related offenses from misdemeanors to felonies and would appropriately punish individuals who committed election fraud. The law takes effect on Sept. 1, 2021.

Classified ADS
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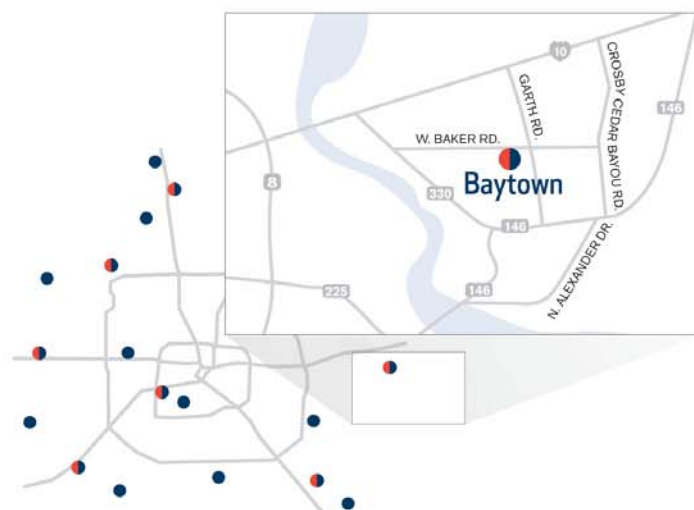


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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Dayton Chamber News

Monthly Luncheon Tuesday, July 13

Please join the Dayton Chamber of Commerce at our July Luncheon, sponsored by DayNet.

We invite the City of Dayton Residents and Dayton Businesses to come out and hear about the exciting new things coming to Dayton!

You must RSVP to this event due to limited space.

The City of Dayton is embarking on creating a new broadband Internet utility for servicing its diverse community. The DayNet network will encompass 110 miles of fiber giving every home, business, and community anchor the opportunity for access to ultra-high-speed broadband Internet, making Dayton a competitive place to live, work, learn, and play. By providing high-speed broadband services, the City could increase competition and choice for its community, while having a positive impact on economic development, education, and the technology amenities that are available to citizens and businesses. DayNet Fiber Internet will be available in Fall 2021.

If you're interested in signing up or learning more about DayNet, please join us at our July Chamber Luncheon, or visit their website by clicking here.

Tuesday, July 13th
11:30 AM

Dayton Community Center Ballroom
801 S. Cleveland St.
Dayton, TX 77535

Guest Speakers:
Marshall Daniels -
DayNet Fiber Internet
Chief Vine -
Dayton's new
Emergency Notification
System (RAVE and
Smart 911)

Caterer:
Tuscany Italian
Restaurant
Lunch will be
served at 12:00 pm

We are asking that you please RSVP by 5:00 PM Friday, July 9th to be entered in the drawing for a chance to win a door prize.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Honors June DAISY Nursing Excellence Award Winners

BAYTOWN — Four Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital nurses were recognized as recipients of the June DAISY Award.

Jesse Arellano, a member of the hospital's 2 East unit staff, Becky Ho (2 North unit) and Jaci Skrabanek and Michelle Trevino, both members of the 3 West unit, received the award that recognizes the "super-human" tasks nurses perform every day. The DAISY Award is given by the DAISY Foundation and Community Resource Credit Union sponsors the award program at Houston Methodist Baytown.

This marks the second DAISY award each for Skrabanek and Trevino, who both received multiple nominations from patients that cited their compassion, great communication skills and willingness to go above and beyond to care for their patients.

In his nominating letter, Arellano was praised for his attentiveness throughout the patient's stay and "even brought me



JESSE ARELLANO



BECKY HO



JACI SKRABANEK



MICHELLE TREVINO

coffee. He is a wonderful nurse."

A family member recognized Ho for taking "amazing care of my mother while on hospice."

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, Calif., and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died in 1999 at the age of 33 from complications of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Barnes and his family received from nurses

while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. Each month, a nurse is selected by a nursing committee to receive the DAISY Award.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is proud to be among the hospitals participating in the DAISY Award program. Nurses are heroes every day, and given the current national nursing shortage, the Daisy Award plays an important role in letting our

nurses know their work is highly valued.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with excellent medical care since its opening in 1948. The hospital continues to grow to meet the health care needs of its growing community through an ongoing construction and renovation program that has seen the opening of a new emergency center, outpatient cen-

ter and medical-surgical units. A new five-story patient tower is scheduled to open in 2023. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate care and providing a safe, patient-centered healing environment. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

CITY OF DEVERS OPPOSED TO DREDGE MATERIAL LANDFILL

Calls on Corps of Engineers to hold Public Meeting, and Start over on Application

By Gilbert Hoffman

The City of Devers in Liberty County is the proposed site for a landfill of dredged material, taken from the San Jacinto River near the toxic Waste Pit Superfund site. The site is located near Channelview on the west, and Highlands on the east. It is close to River Road and San Jacinto River Estates, and Precinct 2's Meadowbrook Park.

However, the city has sent two letters to the Army Corps of Engineers, objecting to the fact that the landowner, Holtmar Land LLC of Houston, is proceeding with only a Letter of Permission, not a complete public hearing for a permit, which the city contends is necessary. The Letter of Permission is based on an application that was filed 6 years ago, in 2015 with the Corps.

Residents and environmental groups have complained both at the dredge site, and the landfill site, of the lack of public input and the public desire not to have this project take place near their homes.

Carolyn Stone, a resident of Channelview and member of the CHIC (Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition) has led a fight to have the project stopped, at least until a proper application and public hearing determine if the project should be permitted.

Stone has questioned the Corps on whether the project and Letter of Permission were ever properly notices to the public. She and THEA's Jackie Young claim they were not. The Corps Regulatory Project



DEVERS MAYOR STEVEN HORELICA

Manager, Brian Bader, is quoted as stating that "all permit applications that require a Public Notice... are posted on our web site." Therefore, no public knowledge unless you know when and where to look.

In a letter sent June 9 to Brian Bader at the Galveston Corps of Engineers, Mayor Steve Horelica said that due to many concerns expressed by citizens and agencies, Devers was requesting that "the Corps return the Application to the Applicant as the Letters of Permission permitting option is not suitable for a project of this magnitude and one that has generated appreciable opposition."

He continues:
I. The Project is more appropriate under an Individual Permit Application

Letters of Permission are only applicable to projects that are considered minor and lack appreciable opposition. (1) As evidenced by the City's March 2021 resolution, and manifold opposition letters submitted by other stakeholders, significant concerns have been raised, generating opposition from

affected individuals/entities in both the proposed dredge site as well as the proposed placement area. Simply put, the Letters of Permission "abbreviated processing" (as provided in 33 C.F.R. § 325.2(e)) is inappropriate in this case, where affected individuals and entities like the City have flagged environmental concerns that merit a more searching permitting process that requires applicable evaluations and public input.

The City stands by its previous concerns, but notes that an individual permitting process would be appropriate to address many of the concerns, including avoiding the impacts to vegetation, water quality, runoff, flooding, impacts from the transportation of such materials, and other externalities as more specifically set forth in the City's earlier comments and adopted resolution.

At this point in Mayor Horelica's letter, he requests a Public Meeting.

II. Public Meeting Request

At a minimum the City requests the Corps conduct a public hearing to address the comments received and address necessary environmental and public interest evaluations necessary for a project of this magnitude. The Application should not be advanced without such input opportunity, and engagement with those who stand to be most directly affected by the Applicant's proposed activities. Such meetings are contemplated under the individual permitting process outlined in 33 C.F.R. § 325.2(a)(3) and are appro-



MAP shows the route that trucks must follow, to get from the Dredge site on the San Jacinto River near I-10, through either Highlands/Crosby or Mont Belvieu/Dayton, to reach the landfill site near Devers in Liberty County. The trip is over 35 miles, and would involve hundreds of truck trips to move 15,000 cu. yds. of material. Part of the trip would be by barge, according to the application.



THE LANDFILL SITE near Devers would involve environmental construction similar to this drawing. Earth berms and planting is meant to contain any deleterious materials.

appropriate in this instance to ensure adequate opportunity for dialogue and discussion on the Application. There is simply no reason to rush the Application forward under the Letters of Permission process when appropriate public input and health/environmental concerns are abundant. The City appreciates the opportunity for continued engagement on the

Application, and is willing to participate in a meeting at the earliest noticed opportunity.

Steve Horelica, Mayor

cc: Col. Timothy R. Vail,
Galveston District Commander

The Honorable Brian Babin

The Honorable Ernest Bailes