

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ Courier

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SUNDAY



IN THE STARS

EVENTS

TUE. JULY 6
Lewis Spearman Memorial Service at Crosby Church
 The public is invited to come to a Memorial Service at Crosby Church to celebrate the life of Lewis Spearman. Service at 7pm. Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby. www.crosbychurch.com for more info.

SAT. JULY 10
Lewis Spearman Benefit Event
 To help cover funeral costs, Crosby friends are holding a benefit on Saturday, July 10 starting at 4:00pm at the Crosby Fairgrounds. Live DJ, Silent Auction, Bounce House, Bake Sale, and \$12 Fish Plates are available. You may also donate through Venmo or Cash App. See page 9 for more information. You may also donate auction items or baked goods.

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.

SAT. JULY 10
Turner Chevy 7 Year Anniversary Celebration
 You are invited to an Anniversary Celebration, Customer Appreciation Event, and Hot Rod & Classic Car Show. Saturday, July 10 from 10am to 3pm. Prize giveaways and more. 21001 Crosby Freeway, Crosby Texas. More info 281-328-4377.

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.

Rotary installs Jerry Fallin as President

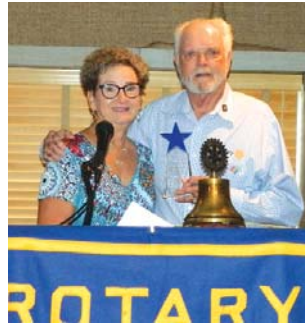
The Highlands Rotary Club held their annual installation of officers last Friday night, at a banquet at Monument Inn. Jerry Fallin, a commercial real estate broker from Baytown, was installed as the new president.

Guests at the ceremony included State Representative Briscoe Cain, Rotary District Governor Scott Rainey, Past Rotary District Governor Bob Gebhard, and realtor Jeff Walters.

Briscoe Cain presided over the swearing in of new officers and board, and Bob



State Representative Briscoe Cain, right, pins the President's medal on the incoming Rotary president Jerry Fallin.



Award chair Patricia Scott presents Rotary Rotarian of the Year award to outgoing president Andy Scott.

Gebhard presented Rotarian and Veteran Charlie Ward with a 50 year Vietnam War medal from the U.S. Congress.

Outgoing president Andy Scott was honored as the Rotarian of the year. In his acceptance, he reviewed the accomplishments of his term, including a new van for the Stratford Library, 19 scholarships totalling \$32,500, hurricane relief for residents of Louisiana, support of needy families in Highlands through the Food Pantry, and bicycles for students at local schools with perfect attendance.

We lose Lewis Spearman

CROSBY – We are sad to report that our friend and colleague, Lewis Spearman, passed away on Friday June 25 peacefully at home. Lewis had been recovering from a cardiac procedure the previous week. Lewis has been an important part of the newspaper team since our start in 1994, and his contribution will be sorely missed. He had many friends in the Crosby and East Harris County area, and was active with the Crosby/Huffman Chamber and the Crosby Fair & Rodeo, and others.

Memorial arrangements will be announced later, but a service is planned at Crosby Church



LEWIS SPEARMAN

for friends in the community to pay their respects. Time and date will be announced in the near future. A go-fund-me account for expenses has been established at <http://gofund.me/7ac91f54>. See also Page 2 inside.

State GLO sends \$1.1b to Harris County

Harris County receiving \$1.1 billion in infrastructure and mitigation projects

AUSTIN – Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush has announced plans to sub-award \$750 million in light of a denial by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of a direct allocation of mitigation funding for Harris County. The General Land Office (GLO) will be drafting an action plan that will include a set aside of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding for \$750 million and direct at least \$500 million in additional funds to be distributed through the Regional Mitigation Program. Additional details will be released as the action plan amendment is finalized in accordance with HUD rules and federal requirements.

“Money from the federal government is, as always, tied up with endless mounds of red tape and bureaucracy,” said Commissioner George P. Bush. “During Hurricane Harvey, Texans in Harris County undoubtedly suffered some of the costliest damage in the state. After considerable back and

forth with the Biden Administration’s Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Land Office will allocate \$750 million in funding for mitigation efforts in Harris County and continue to work around the federal government’s ever-changing bureaucratic demands.”

This brings the total infrastructure and mitigation investments in Harris County to more than \$1.1 billion. HUD gave a direct allocation of \$61,884,000 to the City of Houston in the CDBG-MIT. If approved by HUD, the

Continued. See \$1.1b to Harris County, page 9

4th of July Celebration!
 6pm-9pm Sunday – July 4th, 2021 @ Crosby Campus – Fireworks at 9:15pm. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for the evening. Entertainment and Concessions, Kids Games Available. Crosby Church is located at 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby, Texas 77532.
www.crosbychurch.com

TURNER CHEVROLET
 FIND NEW ROADS
 TurnerChevroletCrosby.com
 281-328-4377

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE
 Jeremy Rosenkranz
 State Farm Agent
 440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
 281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com

WESTON G. COTTEN
 Attorney at Law
 O. 281/421-4050
 F. 281/533-6032
weston@westoncotten.com

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR @ AOL.COM • FAX: 713-977-1188

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A TRIBUTE TO LEWIS SPEARMAN

From Gilbert Hoffman:

We are sad to report that our friend and colleague, Lewis Spearman, passed away on Friday June 25 peacefully at home. Lewis had been recovering from a cardiac procedure the previous week. Lewis has been an important part of the newspaper team since our start in 1994, and his contribution will be sorely missed. He had many friends in the Crosby and East Harris County area, and was active with the Crosby/Huffman Chamber and the Crosby Fair & Rodeo, and others. Memorial arrangements will be announced later, but a go-fund-me account for expenses has been established at <http://gofund.me/Zac91f54>. More of the story is also at this address.

From Mei Hoffman:

In Memory of Lewis Spearman
By Mei Hoffman

On the morning of June 20, 2021, Gil and I were watching our usual "Sunday Morning" TV program when a text came in from Lewis: *I am at Methodist Hospital downtown, had a stent put in my heart.* He also sent a selfie, looking well. Then he texted again: *I can still come to work on the paper Tuesday.*

Although any surgery has risks, I never suspected his life would be in danger, because Gil has had stents put in three different times over the past 15 years and never had any problems. Unfortunately Lewis was not so lucky.

Lewis Spearman worked for us for 27 years, just about from the day we took over as publishers of the *Star-Courier*. He started out helping with binding, and worked his way up to a full-fledged newspaperman. He was an invaluable part of our team, always ready to pitch in, always working hard and late.

He devoted his time and heart to this newspaper, and to the community he called home. Even throughout his stay in the hospital, and at home during recovery, he never stopped thinking about what he could do for all of us.

Now he is resting in peace. A friend of mine once said, "To die is to rest. To rest is the best."

Thank you with all my heart, Lewis. You are family.

TRIBUTES POSTED ON FACEBOOK:

Karen Tullos Foster
Still trying to find the words I need to say about our dear friend / family member Lewis Spearman. I will miss our Friday night shenanigans, camping trips, fishing trips and all of our visits and talks. The Crosby community has suffered a great loss.
Rest easy my friend, until we meet again. We love you. You will be missed and will never be forgotten!

David Mendez
Lew always had people smiling. One of a kind! RIP Amigo. Crosby will never be the same.

Crosby Fair & Rodeo
It's with our deepest sympathy that we mourn the loss of Mr. Lewis Spearman, a lifetime member of the Crosby Fair & Rodeo. "Lew," as everyone called him, made sure the media surrounding our events was a #1 priority over the course of many years. Our prayers and condolences go out to his friends and family, as well as the entire Crosby Community. He was one-of-a-kind and will truly be missed.

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber just lost a good friend and board member, we are so saddened of this news. Lewis Spearman was a character and always kept you laughing. Rest in Peace Lewis you will be missed.

Scott Stephens
I'll miss you bud. See you on the other side. Rip and thanks for telling my stories.

Eric Jennings
Today I want to remember a really good friend Lewis Spearman. He will be missed by many. I shared some good times with him. Had a lot of



From JR Humphries:

RIP, Lew. He was always a reporter for At least part of our many conversations, but he knew when he wasn't going to get anything out of you, and then we could just be great friends again. He had an awesome, though unique, sense of humor, and I'm going to miss him.
Many conversations went a lot like this- "Mr. Humphries! I've been needing to talk to you. I heard some interesting information"
"I'm sure you did, Lew, but are you sure about the source?"
"Well, that's why I'm checking with you, my good sir"
"Uh-oh, you're calling me 'good sir'... it must be serious..."
And, the interrogation phase of our dealings would always end the same- "Lew, you know I love ya, but you should really contact the school if you need an official statement."
"Alright, J.R., I will... Can't blame me for trying, though."
(Once he called me 'J.R.', I knew I wasn't talking to the reporter from the *Courier* anymore, and we could move on to shooting the bull about History, piracy, or some strange philosophical whim he was thinking about...and laughing)
No sir, I don't blame you for trying- I will always respect your search for truth and accurate reporting- something that seems terribly lacking these days...but never from you. RIP, my good friend, and thank you. Crosby is a better place for having had you with us for so many years.

Jerry Jones
I know where you're coming from J. R. My early years on the Huffman School Board had many of the same kind of conversations. He was a nice guy. Always respectful even when we disagreed

Bobby Horn
First Don Hendrix, now the Lewman. Crosby is having a bad year

Christy Sanders Graves
This is spot on how our conversations went at the ambulance. Thank you for sharing this! I could hear his voice in my head. May God our Father give him eternal glory.

Dina Padgett Grant
Thank you for sharing..

Mary Keaton Alexander
I am so sorry to hear this!

Laura Jo
I rode the bus with him to high school. He was always a nice guy.

Pamela Jamail Johnson
Omg! You nailed it! That was the Lewis we all knew and loved! You did make me laugh!

Amy Ulrickson Law
Yup. This is exactly his game.

Mitchell Spann
Wait. How did he die?
We went to college together, been taking a good bit with him here, didn't know he had a problem

Reecie Holub Plocheck
So very sorry to hear. Thank you for sharing.

Betty Michalsky
By sweet Lewis your in heaven looking down at saying hope who ever takes my job takes care of Highlands you were a Great person friendly, down to earth sweet. I'm going to miss you so much my Sweet Friend, Betty Michalsky

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, JULY 1 & 8, 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.

Sheriff's arrest nets \$880,050 in drug money

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne reports that last Thursday at approximately 2:00 p.m. Deputies with the Chambers County Sheriff's Office Criminal Interdiction Unit, observed a white in color 2011 Ford F-250 traveling westbound near the 814 Mile Marker of Interstate Highway 10 near Anahuac, Texas. Deputies observed the vehicle commit a traffic violation and subsequently conducted a traffic stop.

The driver was identified as, 35 year old, Antwone Smith of South Carolina. Deputies conducted a



roadside investigation which led them to believe that a crime may be occurring. Deputies requested a Deputy with a K-9 respond to the scene. A K-9 unit with the

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, arrived on scene and gave a positive alert for the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which resulted in

Chambers County Deputies locating two large black bags containing \$888,050.00 in U.S. currency. A records check indicated that Smith had prior convictions

for narcotics violations. It is believed that the U.S. currency found inside the vehicle is proceeds from the illegal sale and distribution of narcotics and subsequently seized. Smith was taken into custody for Money Laundering greater than \$300,000 and transported to the Chambers County Jail without incident.

"Many thanks to the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the Chambers County District Attorney's Office for their assistance in this investigation," said Sheriff Hawthorne.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Nursing Program Honored for Excellence

BAYTOWN — (June 25, 2021) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital attained Magnet recognition again on June 17, a testament to its continued dedication to excellence in nursing practice.

The Baytown hospital first earned Magnet recognition in 2016. The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program® distinguishes health care organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence. This recognition is the highest national honor for professional nursing practice.

"Magnet recognition is a tremendous honor and reflects our commitment to delivering the highest quality of care to our community," said Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital CEO David Bernard. "To earn Magnet recognition in 2016 was a great accomplishment and an incredible source of pride for our organization. Our redesignation in 2021 demonstrates our constant pursuit of perfection in patient safety, quality and outcomes. It further underscores our faith-based, values-driven culture of excellence that drives our entire staff to strive harder each day to provide unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation to the community we serve."

Magnet recognition is the gold standard for nursing excellence and provides a framework for nursing practice, research, and measurement of outcomes. Through this framework, ANCC evaluates applicants across a number of components and dimensions, including nursing administration, education, clinical practice, research and quality.

"This recognition is a tribute to each and every one of our team members who have dedicated themselves to our patients and their families," said Becky Chalupa, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital chief nursing officer. "I



Houston Methodist Baytown staff celebrate the announcement of Magnet re-designation. (From left) Laurie Terry, administrative director; Dr. Alexis Rose, Magnet Program analyst; Dr. Kathy Arthurs, Magnet Program director; Becky Chalupa, CNO; Jennifer Vera, assistant CNO; Adrienne Joseph, chief operating officer; Dr. Shawn Tittle, CMO.

would like to recognize the contributions of our Magnet Team, Dr. Kathy Arthurs, Dr. Alexis Rose, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer Jennifer Vera, our Magnet Ambassadors and Magnet Champions for their hard work."

Magnet recognition is the gold standard for nursing excellence. Just 547 hospitals around the world, including 53 in Texas, earn this recognition.

"We're a better organization today because of the Magnet recognition we first achieved five years ago," Chalupa said. "Magnet recognition raised the

bar for patient care and inspired every member of our team to achieve excellence every day."

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 emergen-

cy center, outpatient center 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.

WCC Pilot Club recognizes Autism graduates

By Linda Gilmore,
West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc.

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. recently presented 2 Graduating Seniors from the Baytown Autism Spectrum Support Group with cakes and small gifts and gift cards.



Pictured l-r) Madison Toler, Ashli Toler, West Chambers County Pilot Club President Angela Fackler, and Zachary Toler.



Pictured l-r) Rhonda Mullenix, Latisha Rhodes, Ayion Rhodes and West Chambers County Pilot Club President Angela Fackler.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

COUNTY NEWS
Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



Commitment to Houston Food Bank to Fight Food Insecurity

Harris County Commissioner's Court has approved extending a contract with the Houston Food Bank to provide county workers and funding to purchase and distribute food for Harris County families in need. The contract was originally meant to last until July and will now be extended until September and provide an additional \$2.6 million in funding. Funds provided are reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). From March 2020 to March of 2021 the Houston Food Bank has provided food to an average of 131,683 households each week which is an increase of 85% from the year prior.

Tracking Catalytic Converter Serial Numbers to Prevent Thefts

Harris County will be tracking essential pieces of your car that have become a target for thieves during the past year. Local catalytic converter thefts are up more than 400 percent and have mainly targeted Toyota Sequoias, Tundras, and Priuses because these vehicles have two catalytic converters. Catalytic converters contain precious metals, including platinum and rhodium, and local thieves have been able to get between \$50 and \$875 for converters and converter parts at recycling centers. Last month, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and the Commissioner's Court took action to stop this crime wave in our region by passing new regulations requiring metal recyclers to verify the origin of the converter and upload serial numbers to a law enforcement database, making it much more difficult for thieves to profit from their thefts by selling the stolen converters to metal recyclers in the unincorporated areas of Harris County.

Harris County Honors George Floyd Day on June 9th

As a nation, we have collectively grieved for the loss of George Floyd and were outraged at the injustices committed against him. Though nothing can change the tragic circumstances of his murder, Harris County Commissioners Court last month passed a resolution supporting his posthumous pardon for a 2004 drug conviction concerning the alleged sale of \$10 of crack cocaine. The primary evidence in the conviction of this drug case solely relied on singular testimony by former Houston Police Detective Gerald Goines. The Harris County District Attorney's Office has since reviewed and dropped hundreds of cases linked to former officer Goines' involvement and testimonies, and court investigation of cases involving former officer Goines' testimony have already resulted in vacated convictions. Due to his death, Floyd is unable to advocate for himself in this case and file a post-conviction writ of habeas corpus issuing a false evidence claim, and, therefore, the Harris Public Defender's Office submitted an application for a full pardon on behalf of Mr. Floyd and his family. The County District Attorney agrees that these circumstances warrant a posthumous pardon. We will continue to fight for justice and fair treatment by our legal system for every Harris County resident.

This month in Harris County we honor the memory of Mr. Floyd and the movement against racial discrimination and police brutality sparked by his tragic death. Last year, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo declared June 9th George Floyd Day. The date marks the one year anniversary of Mr. Floyd's memorial service.

Resolution in Support of Transgender Youth

Despite pressing concerns like Texas' faltering energy grid and a global pandemic,

Texas lawmakers have recently focused their efforts on limiting the rights of transgender children. More than two dozen discriminatory bills were considered in the Texas Legislature this past session targeting young transgender people, part of a wave of anti-transgender bills across the country. Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo last month presented Commissioners Court with a resolution opposing any such anti-trans bills, and will continue to support inclusivity for all people in Harris County.

Resolution to Urge Medicaid Expansion in Texas

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner's Court last month approved a resolution encouraging the State of Texas to expand access to Medicaid to individuals who don't qualify for either Medicaid or Obamacare. While Obamacare expanded access to Medicaid for people who have incomes above their state's eligibility threshold but still below the poverty line, the Supreme Court ruled that states could choose to not expand Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility for adults in states that did not expand their programs is very limited—the median income threshold for parents in these states is the equivalent of an annual income of \$8,905 for a family of three in 2020. Nearly all childless adults remain ineligible. About 1.4 million more Texans would become eligible for Medicaid coverage if the state were to expand its program, and about 75% of them would be people of color, according to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Almost 20% of Texans lack health insurance.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon

Good Memories

My husband, Peter, is looking around our empty living room.

"I'll always have good memories of this place."

"I will too," I assure him.

We are packing up the last of our possessions and heading across the country in a few days. We won't be coming back.

This is the home Peter bought as a single person, when he retired a bit early. He wasn't sure how much he could afford, but he bought this condo in the town where his sister, Lori, lived, sight unseen.

Lori drove by the house and sent him a text. "Buy it!" she told him. Lori was his bossy older sister, and so he did. He never regretted it.

But now Lori is gone, and we have decided to move closer to my parents and Peter's family. All our furniture has been sent ahead of us, and we have been more or less camping in our home. It has not been as hard as I feared, sleeping on a futon and eating off a few leftover plates, as Peter painstakingly prepares the house for sale. Peter ran a summer camp as a young man, and this home is like his campsite; he wants to leave it better than he found it.

And Peter is sad. He has not even seen our new place yet, so he is moving into a foggy, unknown future, and I know that is hard for him. I took some pictures when I was there, with our furniture in place. I told him how quiet it was, how there were church bells ringing in every direction, how friendly everyone was, and how nice the grocery store was. Peter believes me, but it's not quite real. This place is real, and so is his sadness in leaving.

Change brings a combination of sadness and excitement. Peter and I are both a little sad but both—in our way—looking forward to the move.

"I will enjoy it once I get there," Peter assures me. He knows himself, and he knows what he likes. Most of all, he knows we enjoy our life together and we will be together.

And, while I am excited, I wonder how many more new homes, if any, I will have in my life.

I was there when my grandmother moved into her final home. She was 99, and her health had finally begun to slip. She moved into a place that, while it was not called a nursing home, certainly was. There was a bed and a dresser, a handful of personal items, a couple of chairs for visitors, and little else in her room. She had to know (as we all did) that this was the last place she would live.

I felt the sadness and the finality of it, but that feeling did not have long to settle because, as my grandmother was wheeled into the room, she looked out the window at a brilliant red maple tree.

"Oh!" my grandmother said, "Would you look at that tree!"

Our eyes left the drab little room, and we looked out at the tree, caught in the afternoon light, a brilliant blaze of red outside her window.

I think that is how she got to be 100 years old.

My grandma always looked for the good in change, even at the end, even when the change could not be a harbinger of anything but the end. Because even at the end, there was a brilliant red maple tree to look forward to. There was something beautiful. There were still good memories to be made.

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Democrats sue over defunding of legislative branch

House Democrats filed a petition with the Texas Supreme Court on Friday, seeking to overturn Gov. Greg Abbott's veto of funding for the legislative branch.

As the Austin American-Statesman and other media outlets reported, House Democrats were joined by the AFL-CIO and caucuses representing Black and Latino lawmakers in asking the court to determine the governor's actions were unconstitutional.

Abbott used his line-item veto power to abolish funding for the legislative branch in the next biennial budget, which takes effect Sept. 1. He was angered by the last-minute walkout of House Democrats to stop consideration of various voting law changes pushed by the governor and Republican legislators.

"Abbott's veto is an abuse of power, an act of legislative coercion and a threat to democracy, the result of which is clear and immediate harm to the people of Texas," said Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus.

"The Legislature is a co-equal branch of government and the separation of powers is enshrined in our state constitution," Turner said. "The governor doesn't get to simply cancel another branch of government when he doesn't get his way."

Abbott's veto struck \$410.2 million allocated for the Legislature and numerous agencies that provide support to lawmakers.

Besides state lawmakers, who make \$600 a month, Turner said the veto could affect up to 2,000 employees of the Texas Senate and House and those agencies.

SPECIAL SESSION SET FOR JULY 8

Abbott has called for a



special session beginning July 8, his office announced last week. He said in a press release that the items to be addressed "will be announced prior to the convening of the special session."

Abbott had said previously that he would ask legislators to work on two priority election bills that died when the Democrats walked out, as well as a bail bill that also failed.

On Friday, Abbott urged county judges across Texas to submit their two-year projected budget for expenses related to what he terms the "ongoing border crisis." The projections, submitted online, will be used by the state to request additional border security funding during the upcoming special session.

On Friday, the governor also urged jailers statewide to assist border sheriffs with operating detention facilities and providing jail beds for people arrested on state charges related to crossing the border illegally.

PUC OUTLINES DISCONNECTION PROCEDURES AS MORATORIUM ENDS

The Texas Public Utility Commission met Thursday with its newest member, Lori Cobos, being sworn in by Chairman Peter Lake.

As previously reported, the PUC has ended the moratorium on disconnections in effect since February. The first day for potential disconnections is June 29. Customers have specific rights under PUC rules when it comes to potential disconnections for nonpayment.

The PUC publishes a "Know Your Rights" page on its website, which can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/6byxdy97>.

The PUC also said the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which it oversees, will have to release information about power outages more quickly.

Right now, the state's main power grid operation has 60 days to release information about power plant outages, such as occurred recently during a June heat wave. That has been reduced to three days.

However, as the Texas Tribune reported, ERCOT could include which power plants were down and for how long, but not much more detail about why the outage occurred.

NUMBER OF VACCINATED TEXANS EDGES UPWARD

The number of Texans fully vaccinated has reached 11.7 million or 40 percent of the state's total population, according to Texas Health and Human Services. Meanwhile, hospitalizations in the past week of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas stayed roughly the same as the previous week at 1,481. New cases of COVID-19 in the state in the past week totaled 8,825 with 167 deaths recorded, little changed from the previous week.

SUPREME COURT: ACADEMY CAN'T BE SUED OVER SHOOTINGS

The Texas Supreme Court threw out four lawsuits filed against Academy Sports and Outdoors by survivors and family of the victims of the mass shooting at a Sutherland Springs church in 2017.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the court ruled Friday that the suits were prohibited by a federal law protecting retailers from legal action stemming from crimes committed by third parties.

The shooting, at a church in a small community about 30 miles east of San Antonio, left 26 people dead. The gunman was killed after leaving the scene.

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@texaspess.com.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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Associate Publisher.....**Mei-ing Liu Hoffman**
Assoc. Editor/Advertising Manager.....**Lewis Spearman**
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Virtual Public Meeting Postponed
I-10 East Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, from I-69 to SH 99 (Grand Parkway)
CSJ 0912-00-535
Harris and Chambers Counties, Texas



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is postponing the virtual public meeting for the Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) East Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study that was previously scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021.

The virtual public meeting will be rescheduled to a later date. Notices will be issued for the new virtual public meeting date once a new one has been selected.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the I-10 East PEL Study, please contact the study project manager at nzinga.jones@txdot.gov or (713) 802-5328.

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August 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2011-28085; TRACT 1: LT 21 BLK 8 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD #0836270000021; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 - Opening Bid: \$9,300.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information

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GLO sends \$1.1b to Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$750,000,000, plus \$117,213,862.96 in MIT awards for Harris County projects, plus the \$61,884,000 direct allocation of CDBG-MIT to the City of Houston, plus \$209,221,800 in infrastructure funds from CDBG-DR, equals \$1,138,319,662.96 in total investment in projects within Harris County.

In May, Commissioner Bush directed the GLO to request approval from HUD for Harris County to receive a direct allocation of \$750 million for mitigation efforts. In a written response (see below), HUD denied the GLO's request. HUD also reaffirmed their position that mitigation funding is administered fundamentally different from traditional disaster recovery funding.

HUD's spokesperson Mike Burns previously stated that, while HUD approved the state's distribution plan, Texas was responsible for creating the allocation formula and has "full responsibility and jurisdiction over who gets the money that was allocated to the state for flood mitigation." However, in their written response, HUD stated,

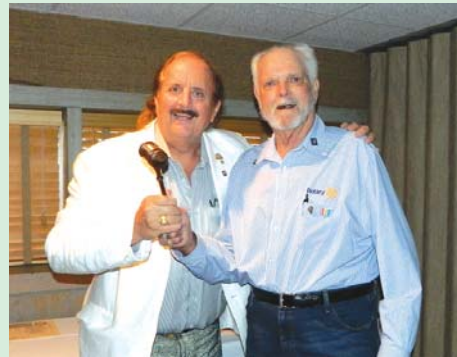
"Unlike CDBG-DR allocations, which are allocated based on a long-established damage-based formula," CDBG-MIT funds were made available by Public Law 115-123, which regulates the dispersal of these funds. HUD is solely responsible for the contents of the Federal Register notice and can make changes to it in accordance with public laws passed by Congress.

HUD also noted the state may propose a "Substantial Amendment to make a sub-award to Harris County with a portion of the State's CDBG-MIT funds and to provide the county with access to those funds through a sub-recipient agreement," noting the GLO must do so in adherence "with the requirements of the Federal Register notices governing CDBG-MIT funds." The GLO is already drafting an action plan to subaward \$750 million for Harris County while adding at least \$500 million to the Regional Mitigation Program, which will include at least \$418 million for the regional council of governments that includes Harris County.

Highlands Rotary Installation



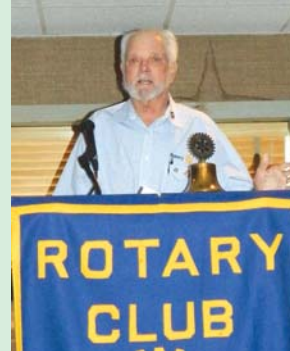
Rotarians and their guests, including State Representative Briscoe Cain, left, enjoyed the dinner at Monument Inn.



Outgoing president Andy Scott, right, passes the gavel of authority to incoming president Jerry Fallin.



Board members and chairs were sworn in. L to R, Johnny Gaeke, Larry White, Sheila McDonald, Weston Cotten, Betty Brewer, Diana Weaver, Patricia Scott, Denise Smith, and Andy Scott, past president.



Outgoing president Andy Scott reviews accomplishments of his year in office.



Rotarian Charlie Ward, left, receives a 50 year Vietnam War Medal for his service in the military, from Rotary Past District Governor and Chair of the Veterans committee, Bob Gebhard.



Weston Cotten, right, was honored along with several others for their perfect attendance with the Highlands Rotary Club.

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MORE TRIBUTES TO LEWIS SPEARMAN

Juli Hain
Crosby lost a true friend last night. Lewis Spearman was one of the quirkiest kindest people with the driest humor, most expansive knowledge, and deepest love for our community of anyone I know. He will be missed at EVERY community event. No one will write articles quite like you my friend, RIP.

Debra Kay Fannin
RIP Lewis Spearman. I will miss our talks, you're intellectual ability, you're sense of humor, you're honesty, and the respect you showed every moment of every day. Every time you saw me, you never failed to ask how I was, or my children/grandchildren. So many could have learned from the respect you showed to so many. Rest east Lewis. You touched so many lives.

Rachel Hicks
As I sat in church this morning and listened to the sermon, I can't help but think about all the memories our community has made with Lewis Spearman, he was a friend to all of us. Lewis never missed an event, he walked around with that camera and the biggest grin on his face always. He wanted to know all about everything going on and you can bet it was posted in the front page of the paper. He never started a conversation with me without asking about the boys first, he loved our Crosby Kiddos. It's going to be different around town not seeing his face, we will miss him dearly. May his sweet soul Rest In Peace

Mendy Bowen
UGH my heart hurts and still don't want to believe it. You were more than a friend, you were family. The holidays won't be the same without you. RIP Lewis Spearman Lew Spearman. We love you lots

Candy Wathen
Ren Fest was one of his favorite things!

Along with the Battle of San Jacinto re-enactment. Thank you for sharing such a great memory in such a sad time.

Christy Graves
Needless to say it has been a hard night for us at EMS. Words cannot express the sorrow and shock of the passing of our friend and longtime local newspaper journalist Lewis Spearman. It is very difficult to respond to friends and family. Having been a paramedic in the District for 27 years and 17 years as Chief Director I have spent many years with Lewis alongside me as I had the misfortune to report on tragedies, storms, and disaster aftermaths to name a few. He was always a top fan of both Fire and EMS in the communities of Crosby and Barrett Station. He also always knew how to bring a light side to our job. I am so grateful for our long conversation a few weeks ago when this picture was taken at the Crosby Rodeo. I will cherish all the fond memories and let's face it...extreme dry humor that made him laugh! This community and our local press will never be the same. Thank you Lewis for making real impact in our lives daily, may God our Father give you eternal glory and peace.

Briscoe Cain
As many of you from the Crosby / Highlands area have by now heard, Texas lost a patriot this past Friday. Lew Spearman was one of the last great newsmen. When he didn't call me to get the scoop on politics, we chatted about Texas history. I last saw 'Lewman Spear' on June 11th at the Crosby Rodeo. We spoke about the newspaper, he joked about how he wished management would let him say what he really thought about local politics, he suggested I go get a BBQ sandwich, and by the time I returned to where he was seated—he had gone off somewhere. I hope we meet again.

OBITUARIES

LEWIS CARLISLE SPEARMAN



Lewis Carlisle Spearman, 66, of Crosby Texas died from complications of a heart condition on Friday, June 25.

Lewis Carlisle Spearman, born July 1st, 1954 in Anderson, SC was the son of the late Charles and Ninetta Spearman. He is survived by his brother Charles of Florida, sister Diane Padgett of South Carolina and niece Nicole (Mark) Gregory of SC, and Dina (Steve) Grant of Tennessee. He has three great nieces, Regan Gregory, Collyn Gregory, of SC and Hollie Shuler of TN, and a great nephew, Joey Shuler of TN. He is also survived by many cousins, (Jean Hutto of Anderson, SC was his partner of mischievous activities as a youngster!) aunts, and uncles of SC.

He was a graduate of Erskine College in Due West, SC where he studied journalism, and he studied Behavioral Science at

his interest in history.

In addition to his technical skills in journalism and printing, he had a warm personality that made good friends easily. In his writing, he was noted for his quirky style and use of flowery vocabulary.

The community has expressed an overwhelming sense of loss, and scheduled several memorial services and fund raisers in his behalf.

A memorial service at Crosby Church is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6 at 7:00 pm, and the public is invited and encouraged to share your remembrance stories. A fund raiser for funeral expenses is scheduled for Saturday, July 10 at 4:00 pm at the Crosby Fairgrounds. His ashes will be permanently interred at Crosby Church, for those who wish to pay their respects later.

Rest in Peace, Lewis, we will miss you.

Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He worked for the Anderson (SC) Independent newspaper before coming to Texas in 1994.

He was employed by the Star-Courier newspaper since 1994 as the Associate Editor and Marketing Director. He was active with the Crosby/Hoffman Chamber, the Highlands Chamber and the Crosby Fair and Rodeo. He also participated in the battle re-enactments every year on the San Jacinto Battleground, an expression of

CELEBRATION OF Life HONORING Lewis "Lew" Spearman

In an effort to assist with unexpected funeral cost, the Crosby Community and friends are hosting a Benefit for our dear friend, Lew. Come show support, like he has for us over the years!

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