

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ **Courier**

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VOL. 68, NO. 28 - 50¢ © Copyright 2021 THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**THU. AUG. 5
 New Educator's Luncheon**

Crosby/Huffman Chamber's Annual New Educator Luncheon. Note NEW DATE August 5, at 11:30am at Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy. 90. A Welcome to all new educators in the Crosby and Huffman Districts. Presented by Community Resource Credit Union. Luncheon price \$20.00, call 281-328-6984 for reservations.

**FRI. JULY 30
 Botox & Booze at the Boutique**

The Teapot Depot in Highlands is holding a Party, and you are invited. Botox & Booze at The Boutique, Teapot Depot, 112 Denny Street, Highlands. 5:30 - 9:00pm, Friday July 30. Fillers, Free Margaritas, 15% off all purchases. No reservations, everyone welcome. See Page 2.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

- Jul 4-Helen Bennett
 Ken Dusek
 Lois Searcy
 JoAnn Turner
 Wendy West
- Jul 5-Bobby Cantrell
 PeeWee Farmer
 Terry Sain
- Jul 6-Marca Lee Gentry
 Thurmon Ickes
- Jul 7-Chasity Herman
- Jul 8-Jeremy Hensarling
 Melinda Horn
 Desmond Hernandez
 Keith Pickard
- Jul 9-Dustin Mannes
 Doug Beck
- Jul 10-Jeantte Thompson
 Jimmie Michalsky
- Jul 11-Eric Willingham
- Jul 12-Debbie Langham
 Heather Patterson
 Lisa Worthen
- Jul 13-Anita Davis
 Lisa Sanders
 Troy Woodall
- Jul 15-PeeWee Farmer
 Stephen Lambert
- Jul 16-Patricia Hoffman
 Polly Lowden
 Dianna Parker

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jul 7-Skyler & Kacy Browning
- Jul 12-Earl & Doris Roach
 John & Lisa Cutbirth
- Jul 13-Harvey & Sherry Little
 Jerry & Debbie Moore
- Jul 15-Bobby & Melinda Horn
- Jul 20-Harry & Laura New
- Jul 24-James & Brenda Dennis

Crosby community says Goodbye to Lewis Spearman

CROSBY - Two memorial services last week marked the community's sense of loss at the unexpected death of Lewis Spearman. Last Tuesday evening, the community came together for a memorial service in honor of Lewis Spearman, held at Crosby Church. Scores of friends came to pay their last respects, and to share some remembrances. And on Saturday, a large crowd gathered at the Crosby Fairgrounds for a benefit and reminiscences.

The Tuesday service was guided by Pastor Keenan Smith of Crosby Church. He spoke about his personal relationship with Lewis, and



A Memorial Service honoring the life and work of our newspaper colleague Lewis Spearman was held last Tuesday evening at Crosby Church. Above, Pastor Keenan Smith led the service.

the unique qualities he had as an individual. His love of friends, joy of companionship and parties, and his interest in history. A slide show captured his moments in a Pirate costume at the Renaissance Festival, and as a Texan Patriot at the re-enactment of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Pastor Larry Koslovski, who knew Lewis for many years through the Chamber of Commerce activities and board of trustees, gave a review of his life and his love of Crosby, its people and its traditions. He imagined

Continued. See Spearman Memorial, page 2

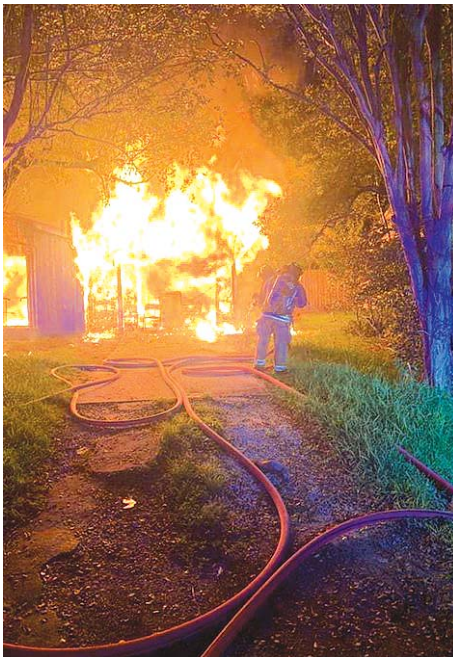
Improper fireworks disposal linked to Highlands house fire

HIGHLANDS - At approximately 11:20pm Saturday night, July 3, Highlands Fire Department along with mutual aid from Crosby Fire Department, Channelview Fire Department, and Sheldon Fire Department responded to a residential fire in the 200 Block of Inwood Ln.

Crews arrived on scene in just minutes to find the house with heavy fire showing. Crews extinguished the fire quickly and no injuries were reported.

The fire was investigated by Harris County Fire Marshal's Office and was caused by improper disposal of fireworks into a plastic trash can.

Highlands Fire Department wants to remind everyone to be safe when using fireworks and ensure they are soaked in a bucket of water before disposing of them. Prayers to the family in the loss of their home and pet.



Highlands Firemen battle house fire on Inwood Lane last Saturday night. Improper disposal of fireworks is listed as the cause of the fire.

Abbott Announces Special Session of Legislature Agenda

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation that identifies eleven agenda items for the Special Session that begins at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 8.

"The 87th Legislative Session was a monumental success for the people of Texas, but we have unfinished business to ensure that Texas remains the most exceptional state in America," said Governor Abbott. "Two of my emergency items, along with other important legislation, did not make it to my desk during the regular session, and we have a responsibility to finish the job on behalf of all Texans. These Special Session priority items put the people of Texas first and will keep the Lone Star State on a path to prosperity. I look forward to working with my partners in the Legislature to pass this legislation as we build a brighter future for all who call Tex-



as home." Special Session agenda items will include:

BAIL REFORM: Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.

ELECTION INTEGRITY: Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas.

BORDER SECURITY: Legislation providing funding to support law-enforcement agencies, coun-

Continued. See AGENDA, page 9

Garcia: Precinct 2 initiates Pothole Repair program

EAST HARRIS COUNTY - One of Commissioner Garcia's top missions has been to develop new strategies in making sure Precinct 2 roadways are well maintained and safe for constituents.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia says that "Summer is here, one of the busiest times of the year for Precinct 2: from park renovations to ribbon cuttings, road repair, and bridge



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia with the new Pothole Repair truck that will speed up the repair of dangerous Potholes.

maintenance, we do a lot of everything!"

With all those initiatives ongoing, today, Commissioner Garcia announces the newest way Precinct 2 is getting the job done! Specially-equipped trucks are being used to repair potholes in the Precinct.

If you see a pothole that needs to be addressed, all you have to do is call the Pct 2 Call Center at 713-

274-2222 or visit www.hcp2.com to file a report and get the pothole fixed.

See a video of Commissioner Garcia walking you through the intricate pothole repair process on www.hcp2.com.

Adrian Garcia, Harris Co. Precinct 2 Commissioner says he is "Working for you."

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Scenes from the Lewis Spearman Celebration of Life at the Crosby Fairgrounds, July 10, 2021



PLENTY OF GOOD FOOD FROM THESE TWO COOKING TEAMS. THANKS TO HOLDEN WRIGHT AND THE BEERKAT KOOKERS, AND TEAGUE SCHEXNAYDER AND THE HULA HUT KOOKERS.



A LARGE CROWD ENJOYED THE MEMORIAL AND GOOD FOOD, WHILE THE KIDS PLAYED GAMES AND THE JUMP HOUSE.

Spearman Memorial, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lewis in heaven working with his camera and tape recorder for the next story.

Others who spoke at the memorial included Gil Hoffman, the publisher of this newspaper. Lewis and Gil worked together for 27 years on the paper, and had a close friendship and working relationship, too. They both had roots in South Carolina, and swapped stories about the south.

Eddie Foster was one of Lewis' closest friends, and shared some stories about their festive and sometimes raucous outings. These helped to see the full picture of his personality and how he could be friends with so many.

Bobby Horn, once a newspaper colleague of



Lewis and Gil, and now a minister, gave a warm and moving description of what it was like to work with Lewis at the desk next to him, and the richness of their conversations.

The Crosby community as a whole wanted to do more for Lewis, to express their loss, so they also scheduled a Fund Raiser last Saturday at the Fairgrounds. A large crowd turned out for good food, auction items, music by Eddie Foster,

and games for kids and adults. It was truly a heartfelt expression of loss, with many sharing stories about Lewis. It was appropriate to learn that the funds from the event will be used for a scholarship fund, for a future journalism or communication major college student. Donations can still be made through VENMO or CASHAPP. Venmo: @Holden-Wright-2, or Cash App: \$Hw713805. Mark the comment section "Lew's Benefit."



EDDIE FOSTER PROVIDED BOTH LIVE AND RECORDED MUSIC ALL EVENING, AS HIGHLANDS GALS BETTY MICHALSKY AND BRENDA MOORE LISTEN AND ENJOY THE MUSIC WITH THEIR MEAL.

Botox & Booze at The Boutique!!!



Friday July 30 5:30-9:00

@ The Teapot Depot 112 Denny St. Highlands, TX 77562

Fillers! Free Margaritas! Botox By Refine \$12 a unit! 15% off all Boutique Purchases Give Aways!



CROSBY PARK VILLAGE

Now Open!

New, single-family homes are now selling at Crosby Park Village! Residents enjoy an excellent location in Crosby.

CALL 713-590-4342 TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!

KHOV.COM/CROSBYPARKVILLAGE | 713-590-4342 | MON-SAT 10AM-7PM, SUN 12PM-7PM | 415 CALAMINT, CROSBY, TX 77532

Crosby Park Village is offered by K. Hovnanian of Houston II, LLC. See a Sales Consultant for full details. Equal Housing Opportunity.

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Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

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.

Dayton Chamber News

New Teacher's Luncheon

Presented by: Enterprise Products
Liberty Dayton Regional Medical Center
OmniPoint Health
Please join us for our annual New Teachers Luncheon, as we welcome all the new teachers to our district and show our appreciation for them. This year Dayton ISD has over 90 new teachers!

Tuesday, July 27th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Guest Speaker: Dayton ISD Superintendent Dr. Jessica Johnson will be giving the "State of the School"

Individual Tickets - \$40

Dayton Chamber of Commerce | 801 S. Cleveland Street, Suite B, Dayton, TX 77535

Phased closures due for two months on Hartman bridge to allow emergency repairs

Lanes will be placed in a contraflow configuration to keep both directions of travel open

July 7, 2021

HOUSTON — The Texas Department of Transportation will begin making repairs to a portion of the Fred Hartman bridge this weekend. During a routine inspection last year, crews found some fractures along the joint and immediately repaired the joint with steel plates and later asphalt.

The \$2.5 million emergency contract was approved to replace the modular joint. It took about six months to design and fabricate.

In order to replace the joint on the southbound portion of the bridge, crews will close all southbound mainlanes on the Fred Hartman bridge and then



close the northbound mainlanes the following weekend.

During construction, lanes will be placed in a contraflow configuration to allow for two southbound and two northbound travel lanes on the northbound bridge.

-- Beginning Friday, July 9 at 9 p.m. crews will close one left lane on SH 225 from Sens Rd. to SH 146 to prepare the lanes for contraflow. This closure will last until the project's completion.

-- Beginning Friday, July 16 at 9 p.m. until

Monday, July 19 at 5 a.m. crews will close the SH 146 northbound mainlanes at SH 225 to implement the temporary contraflow traffic pattern and place the temporary barrier.

Motorists traveling northbound will detour to SH 146 north to SH 225

west to IH-610 north to IH-10 east.

-- Beginning Friday, July 23 at 9 p.m. until Monday, July 26 at 5 a.m. crews will close the SH 146 southbound mainlanes at Missouri St.

Motorists traveling southbound will detour to SH 146 south to Spur 330 north to IH 10 west to IH 610 south to SH 225 east.

It is recommended that motorists seek an alternate route during the time of these closures

On July 26 at 5 a.m. traffic will open to a reduced contraflow pattern and remain for the duration of the project, about two months.

All closures are subject to change due to inclement weather. Follow us on Twitter @TxDOTHouston and Facebook at www.facebook.com/txdot-houston.

Goss Library thanks WCC Pilots



West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. recently received a plaque for their support and donation to purchase items specifically designed for Autism patrons, from the Sam and Carmena Goss Library.

(Pictured from left to right,) Yolie Belt, Mont Belvieu Branch Director, Kellee Traylor, Adult Program Librarian, Judy Duncan and Diana Jackson, representing West Chambers County Pilot Club, and Jean Forrest, representing Friends of the Chambers County Library.

(Pictured at Right) One of the Learning Mats that was purchased for the Sam and Carmena Goss Library for Autism patrons).



Beating the Heat!



These youngsters find out the best way to beat the 90-degree temperatures is a visit to the Mont Belvieu City Park splash pad. The park is open daily from 5 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.

Houston Methodist Baytown

Mammograms Offer Defense Against Breast Cancer

BAYTOWN — (May 28, 2021) — While many breast cancer statistics paint an upsetting picture of the disease—for example, the American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates more than 281,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021—there's at least one very positive number: over 3.8 million women have had a history of breast cancer and are now "survivors."

The ACS reports that the number of breast cancer survivors is expected to continue on an upward trend thanks in large part to the effectiveness of preventive measures, especially regular mammography, in detecting the disease in its earliest stages.

Mammograms can detect breast cancer in its early stages, up to two years before a lump can be felt. Early detection means a better chance of a cure and mammography is the

most effective tool available in diagnosing breast cancer at an early stage.

Patients at the Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown have access to the technological advances provided by 3D mammography, or digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), which separates the layers of the overlapping tissue and improves the ability of breast radiologists to find early cancers.

"Women should have yearly mammograms beginning at age 40—or younger if you have a family history—and should encourage their friends and family to have them as well," said Dr. Esther Dubrovsky, breast surgeon at Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown.

Dubrovsky adds that women of all ages should regularly self-check their breasts to detect any noticeable lumps or changes in the tissue. Lifestyle changes, such as being



Dr. Esther Dubrovsky

physically active, maintaining a healthy weight, limiting alcohol consumption and reducing stress, may also play a positive role in breast cancer prevention.

"You are the first line of defense when it comes to breast cancer. That's why it's crucial to know how your breasts normally look and feel," Dubrovsky said.

Knowing the warning signs will help you recognize when to alert your doctor. Dubrovsky advises seeing your doctor if you

experience any of the following symptoms of breast cancer, but keep in mind that most breast lumps aren't cancer:

- A painless lump or mass in or near the breast
- A change in breast size or firmness
- Breast skin changes, such as dimpling, a sore or a rash
- Nipple itching, burning, rash, turning inward or discharge
- A warm area in the breast
- Pain in the breast
- Swelling under the armpit or of the arm
- Bone pain

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital screens all patients, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office. Masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) are required while providing patient care, and we have reorganized waiting rooms and check-in

lines to ensure social distancing. We have also implemented additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces.

Houston Methodist Baytown is designated as a COVID-19 vaccine hub. Vaccines are open to everyone age 16 and older. Walk-ins are welcome, but you may also schedule an appointment by visiting houstonmethodist.org/vaccine.

Visit houstonmethodist.org/breast-care or call 346-292-PINK (7465) to schedule a mammogram in the state-of-the-art Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown, located in the Outpatient Center (1677 W. Baker Rd., Suite 2301). The center provides a team approach to fighting breast cancer that includes oncologists, surgeons, and cancer-specific radiologists, nurses and navigators.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION
By Grace Chimene, President
League of Women Voters of Texas

Statement on Failed Quorum in Special Session

The League of Women Voters of Texas president, Grace Chimene, issued the following statement in response to the failed legislative process that drove some legislators to leave Texas today.

“As a non-partisan organization whose mission is empowering voters and defending democracy, the League is deeply disappointed that only extreme measures like the legislative exodus we saw today can prevent Texans from losing their voting rights.

“During the regular legislative session, the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV TX) partnered with local, state, and national organizations to provide input to legislators who were considering various election bills. Yet, when SB 7 emerged as the final, comprehensive election bill, it was clear that voting rights were under attack. Under the guise of making elections more secure, SB 7 threatened the very core of our right to cast a ballot.

“When Governor Abbott called a special session to again consider elections, two comprehensive bills emerged: SB 1 in the Senate and HB 3 in the House. Yet again, these bills are intended to make voting more complicated and create more potential pitfalls that would deny the freedom to vote.

“Many legislators are not listening. Although over 400 individuals registered to testify on each of these bills, most were not called to testify until after midnight! Where is the meaningful public input? How can constituents trust that their rights are being protected when they are being shut out of the legislative process? If our representatives are truly to represent our interests, they need to listen to us and provide meaningful opportunities to hear us.

“SB 1 and HB 3 would prevent many of us from making our voices heard. Given the challenges to voting in several states including Texas, the League of Women Voters of Texas believes that the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act are necessary to preserve an election system that is free, fair, and accessible to all.”

The League of Women Voters is one of America’s oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older.

League of Women Voters of Texas:
lwvtexas.org

LETTERS To The Editor

Misplaced values in our columns, says reader

I could not believe reading the Star and not one word about the crisis at our border. What is wrong with you? Kamala takes time to discuss voting rights and refuses to go to the hot spots on our border? She is a disgrace and certainly not qualified to be president. I am livid.

— Pat Vice, Crosby



"BECAUSE WE HAVE TO PREVENT THE ELECTION FRAUD THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN 2020 FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Texas Legislature returns for a Special Session

The Texas Legislature convened in special session last Thursday and GOP legislators introduced a fresh set of voting bills after Democrats blocked an earlier attempt during the regular session by walking out in May, preventing a quorum.

HB3 and SB 1 don't include some of the more controversial measures that were in the previous bill, such as restricting voting on Sundays. KUT.org reported the new bills include new ID requirements for people voting by mail and banning local election officials from sending vote-by-mail applications that have not been requested by the applicant.

The measures, still largely opposed by Democrats and voting rights groups, also ban drive-through voting and extended hours during early voting. Those backing the new bills say those extended hours encourage voter fraud, though there is no evident of widespread fraud during the 2020 election. Republican lawmakers are pushing for a full House floor vote this week.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced the topics to be considered during the special session the day before it opened. Besides the voting bills, they include:

- Bail reform to "protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail."
- Border security with increased funding to support law-enforcement agencies and counties.
- Social media censorship legislation to protect social-media users from being silenced by social media companies based on their viewpoints.
- Restoring funding to the Legislature and legislative agencies that was vetoed by Abbott after the walkout.
- Family violence prevention legislation to provide funding for education to middle school and high school students about dat-



ing violence, domestic violence and child abuses. Parents would have the right to opt their children out of such programs.

- Youth sports measures to revive legislation passed by the Senate that bans transgender students from participating in UIL athletic competitions "designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth."
- Abortion-inducing drugs legislation that would prohibit providing such drugs by mail or delivery service.
- Thirteenth Check legislation to allow a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.
- Bills targeting "critical race theory" and restricting how current events and the country's history of racism is taught in Texas public schools.
- Appropriation bills targeting property-tax relief, protecting children in the state's foster-care system and safeguarding the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

PUC ORDERED TO IMPROVE ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

Abbott also last week directed the Public Utility Commission to make major changes "to ensure the reliability of the Texas power grid," the Houston Chronicle and other media outlets reported.

Abbott asked the PUC,

which oversees the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, to improve maintenance on power plants and speed development of some transmission projects.

"The objective of these directives is to ensure that all Texans have access to reliable, safe, and affordable power," Abbott wrote in a letter released last Tuesday.

In response, PUC chairman Peter Lake in a letter to Abbott expressed "wholehearted agreement with its contents." Besides the widespread blackout during the mid-February storm, a heat wave in June prompted ERCOT, which maintains the state's electric grid, to urge Texans to conserve electricity as usage approached peak capacity.

\$4.1 BILLION MORE IN SCHOOL STIMULUS FUNDS

Texas will receive another \$4.1 billion in federal stimulus funding for its public schools, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The U.S. Department of Education announced last week that it had approved the state's plans for spending \$12.4 billion that was allocated to the state. According to the Express-News, the top priority for the Texas Education Agency is bolstering the mental and emotional health needs of Texas students by expanding tutoring and other methods.

TEA estimates Texas students lost 5.7 months of learning during the pandemic school year.

"The approval of these plans enables states to receive vital, additional American Rescue Plan funds to quickly and safely reopen schools for full-time, in-person learning; meet students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs; and address disparities in access to educational opportunity that were exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic," Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in a news release.

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES IN STATE RISES

At 12,426, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas increased 18% in the past week when compared to the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The number of new deaths in the past week dropped slightly to 151. Hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in the state were on the rise, with 1,927 currently in Texas hospitals as of Sunday, according to Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated crossed the 12 million mark this week, DSHS reported. The rate of vaccinations in the state has slowed significantly in recent weeks, despite troubling reports of the spread of the delta variant of COVID-19.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Lost in the Move

I'm not sure when a house becomes a home, but I don't think we're quite there yet.

My husband, Peter, and I have moved into the new place. All our stuff is here, but that doesn't mean we know where anything is.

"Have you seen the strainer?"

"Which strainer?"

"You know, the fine one."

"No."

We have about two dozen conversations like this every day. We got rid of a lot of stuff and now it's hard to remember what we kept. Then I unpacked by myself, so Peter had to go on a scavenger hunt when he got here. Finally, we had the "last-minute essentials" we brought with us, and we're still unpacking those. It's a jumble. Peter was convinced (unreasonably, I assured him) that every T-shirt he owned had mysteriously been lost in the move.

"I found them!" I heard him yell from the bedroom. "Mystery solved!"

I am realizing how much I do on autopilot. I reach for a soap dispenser that isn't there. "Do I even have a soap dispenser?" I wonder.

I look in a likely box and notice something I'd forgotten about and I put that away and, when I do, I notice something else in a drawer where it shouldn't be and I move it. Suddenly, I find I am standing in the middle of the kitchen with no idea what I'm doing there.

"The soap dispenser!" I remind myself. I end up using the bar of soap in the bathtub.

Then there are all the things we need contractors to do. Nobody is excited about renovating an old condominium when there is so much new construction going on, so my day is spent wheeling contractors to come over. We need electrical fixtures installed, we need the flooring repaired where a bump has developed, and we'd like to replace the old yellow bathtub. Since I am better at wheeling than Peter, I make these calls. I have particular success if the contractor is married and I can wheedle his wife. I did that this morning and got the electrician, George, to come out in less than an hour.

It was a busy morning. In addition to George, a self-described "handyman" named Steve visited. Steve the handyman turned out to be quite handy and will be helping us out. George the electrician, however, turned out not to be an actual electrician, which was disappointing—especially after I had had such a friendly chat with his wife. Not to mention his card said "electrical contractor" across the top.

"Nope," George said. "I can't do that." Oh well.

Meanwhile our little balcony (which is the best part of the whole place) is closed off for painting and maintenance.

"How much maintenance can a balcony take?" I asked Peter. Apparently quite a lot, as they have scaffolding running up the building and yellow ribbon running across the balcony like the scene of a crime.

"Don't worry," Peter says. "It will all get done."

And, of course, he is right. We will get rid of the bump in the floor (which seems to be growing) and we will get to enjoy our balcony and we will have our electrical fixtures installed by someone who is actually an electrician. But for now, I am looking forlornly out at the forbidden balcony and wondering when this will feel like home.

We showed George the bathtub, and he said he could replace it. I think my next call will be to a plumber to see if he'd like to install some lighting fixtures.

Till next time,

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

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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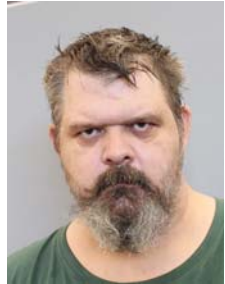
Homeowner faces murder charges

By Lewis Spearman

HIGHLANDS - Even if you say the right words, Harris County Sheriff's office still investigates deadly shootings, as evidenced by details gathered from their media relations.

At about lunch time on April 12, a man called 911 saying a man was acting crazy and had come in his house without consent, refusing to leave. Harris County Sheriff's Office District 3 Patrol Units were dispatched to 910 Jones Rd. in reference to a disturbance.

According to Homicide Sergeant Dennis Wolford, "While deputies were en route



JOHN RODGERS
Said he was "afraid" but faces murder charges

to the residence, the homeowner shot the male. Deputies and EMS arrived on scene and the male was pronounced deceased. Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide and Crime Scene Units responded to the scene and conducted the investigation. The homeowner advised investigators that the

male intruder threatened to kill him and advanced toward him while reaching into his pocket. The homeowner stated he believed the male had a weapon and was in fear for his life. The homeowner said he shot the male intruder as he advanced toward him."

After further investigation, evidence was uncovered and statements were obtained which indicated that John Rodgers, 61, did not act in self-defense and was not in fear for his life at the time he shot Eric Scheele, 60, to death. The HCSO Homicide Unit charged John Rodgers with the murder of Eric Scheele. He was arrested on June 10, 2021 by the HCSO Warrants Unit.

Highlands home invasion turns deadly



In this aerial photo provided by the HCSO, Sheriff's deputies and Constable 3 deputies are shown surrounding the house at 2403 Orange Blossom Lane in Highlands, where the home owner was shot when he returned in the middle of a home invasion.

HIGHLANDS - On July 2, 2021, at approximately 10:50 AM, several armed males forced entry to the residence located at 2403 Orange Blossom Ln, according to HCSO spokesperson Sergeant Dennis Wolford.

The armed males, who were masked and wearing body armor, began demanding money from a female and her three children. The suspects began ransacking the home as the family was held at gunpoint.

During the armed home invasion, the husband, Martin Alamillo, returned

home. He was shot multiple times as he entered the front door of the residence. Harris County Sheriff's Office patrol deputies and EMS responded to the scene. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The suspects fled the scene in a blue Chevrolet truck. Harris County Precinct 3 Deputy Constables spotted the vehicle and a pursuit was initiated. The suspect's abandoned the vehicle in the 1900 block of Gulf Pump Rd. and fled on foot. Several law enforcement agencies

established a perimeter and one of the suspects was caught. The suspect, Ruben Garcia, confessed his role in the robbery and murder to Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide investigators. Ruben Garcia will be charged with Capital Murder and booked into the Harris County Jail.

The investigation into the other suspects involved continues. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call HCSO Homicide at 713-274-9100 or Crime Stoppers.

Constables apprehend car thief who stole BMW in Barrett Station

BARRETT STATION - At about 5:52pm on Thursday, July 1 Pct. 3 Constable's Interdiction Unit was alerted to a stolen black 2013 BMW in the Barrett Station area.

As unmarked units spotted the vehicle and directed marked units to stop the stolen vehicle, the driver, later identified as Jamen Mathis, disregarded deputies and fled north on FM 2100. The pursuit headed west on Crosby Freeway, and ended at the intersection of Sheldon Rd. and Highway 90 after the vehicle suffered mechanical failure.

Constable Sherman Eagleton reports that Mathis was taken into

custody without incident. Charges are pending on Mathis.



This 2013 BMW was recovered after a car chase that started in Barrett Station and ended at Sheldon Road and US 90.

Constables arrest two on meth charges in routine traffic stop

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Harris County Constable Pct. 3 - Constable Sherman Eagleton July 1 at 10:53 AM · Deputy Garcia arrests 2 after finding methamphetamine in the vehicle while stopped in traffic in Highlands.



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★ OBITUARIES

PATRICIA LYNN MARRIOTT JONES

Patricia Lynn Marriott Jones, 70, passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2021. She was born on July 8, 1950 in San Antonio, Texas to her parents, Gilbert Clifford Marriott and Hallie Anne Reynolds.

Patty enjoyed helping others with anything they needed. She supported her family from being a seamstress and making her children's clothing to working 3 jobs to make sure that they never went without. She was crafty in her spare time and would make many floral arrangements. Patty will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.



Patty was preceded in death by her husband, Aldred Jones; and sister, Susie Marriot.

She is survived by daughter, Wendy Bingham and husband Joe; daughter, Brandi Spence and wife Heather; sister, Mary Churchwell; grandchildren, Cody Comaly,

Whitney Parrish, and Blaine Matthews; great-grandchildren, Zoey, Emma, and Haylee; niece, Tammy Sequeira and husband Simon; nephew, Scott Robertson and wife Beth; and a host of extended family and friends.

A Celebration of Patty's life will held at 1:00pm on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at Harvest Time Church of God, 495 Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77532.

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SHERRY LYNNE MORTON

Sherry Lynne Morton was a caring, wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. She passed away surrounded by her family on July 10, 2021 at the age of 66 after a 17-month courageous battle with glioblastoma brain cancer. She did not lose that battle as God completely healed her in heaven.

Sherry was born to Ira Earl and Emma Dale Loftin on July 31, 1954, but raised by her loving parents, Emma Dale and John Joseph Zadraba. Sherry grew up, graduated from, and raised two children in Crosby, Texas with her husband, Robert Lee Morton (R.L.) of 47 years.

She was a beloved teacher for numerous years and finished her career in education as an administrator for Crosby ISD. Sherry and Robert were quite a team in their various projects through the



years and she was known for her excellent baking skills, but her shining moments were raising her children and the great love she had for her four grandchildren.

Sherry is survived by her mother, Emma Dale Zadraba; husband, Robert Morton; daughter Abbey Moore and husband David; son, Robert Casey Morton and wife Brandy; grandchildren Gavin Moore, Ava Moore, Vivienne Moore and Hunter Morton; sister Christy Roeder and husband Stephen. She is preceded in death by her Papa,

John Joseph Zadraba.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday, July 15, 2021 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., in the chapel of Sterling-White Funeral Home (11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd., Highlands, Texas 77562). A celebration of Sherry's life will take place on Friday, July 16, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Sterling-White Chapel with interment to follow at the Sterling-White Cemetery.


Flowers are welcome, or in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to The Baylor College of Medicine Medical Foundation at www.bcm.edu/give. Under Gift Designation, select Other and type in Glioblastoma Research.

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THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Productive Pain

Growth and pain go hand in hand. We simply cannot have one without the other and trying to protect anyone from all pain is counter-productive. Far better, for instance, if parents allow children to experience pain and challenges a little at a time while holding their hands, helping them learn how to deal with life's hurdles. It enables kids to mature and prepare to face a life in which things won't always go their way.

This truth was illustrated in one recent study that compared two groups of children. In it, the children who had to face challenges and conquer them were far happier and more successful over all than those children who were "privileged" to have had most or all challenges removed. Man is designed to face life and conquer it, not hide from reality and only exist. We've seen in today's culture how overprotective parents have created a large group of adults who only exist, drifting through their days with no drive to achieve, and this is a problem not just for the individual, but for society as well.

With all of this in mind, let's look at the current state of the

church. Many churches today are feeding this very weakness, this unwillingness to face pain or even discomfort. They have determined that the people they want to attract "can't take" the painful challenges presented by the strong points of the Gospel, so they set aside large portions of the Word to make those people feel more at ease. This tactic may get warm bodies into the sanctuary, but it doesn't help the members they gain grow spiritually.

Maybe it's time to pull out the old WWJD bracelets because Jesus did things differently. Jesus was in the Synagogue, teaching, on a regular basis; He laid the truth out in a strong way that religious people hated and sincere people hungered for. Then He went out into the highways, sat on the mountainsides, and preached from boats, unapologetically giving His listeners what they really needed, again...whether they liked it or not. Yes, He presented truth to them in a way they could understand, but He didn't hold back, and He expected them to take the truth and grow.

It hurts to see how much of the modern church has turned aside

from presenting the Gospel as clearly and completely as Jesus would have. Like those overprotective parents, all too many ministers have watered down the message and let people merely exist as spiritual babies far too long. It's time for a change, and the change starts with us as individuals. Yes, the ministers who have backed off from the fullness of the Gospel are responsible for their churches, but we are each responsible to watch over our own spiritual walks.

It is up to us to find the churches God wants us to attend, and to become contributing parts of those churches. It is up to us to have active prayer lives, dig into the Word of God, listen to the Holy Spirit, follow where He leads, seek out resources that empower us to grow and mature as Christians, and consciously put into practice all that we learn. These things all require commitment. They can make us terribly uncomfortable, even raise challenges that cause us pain at times. Even so, if we want to grow, productive pain is part of the process.

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Special Session Agenda,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ties, and other strategies as part of Texas' comprehensive border security plan.

SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP: Legislation safeguarding the freedom of speech by protecting social-media users from being censored by social-media companies based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.

ARTICLE X FUNDING: Legislation providing appropriations to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 1109 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence,

and child abuse, but that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.

YOUTH SPORTS: Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 394 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.

THIRTEENTH

CHECK: Legislation similar to House Bill 3507 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to a "thirteenth check" or one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY: Legislation similar to House Bill 3979 concerning critical race theory as originally passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

APPROPRIATIONS: Legislation providing appropriations from additional available general revenue for the following purposes:

- property-tax relief; enhanced protection for the safety of children in Texas' foster-care system by attracting and retaining private providers for the system; and
- to better safeguard the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

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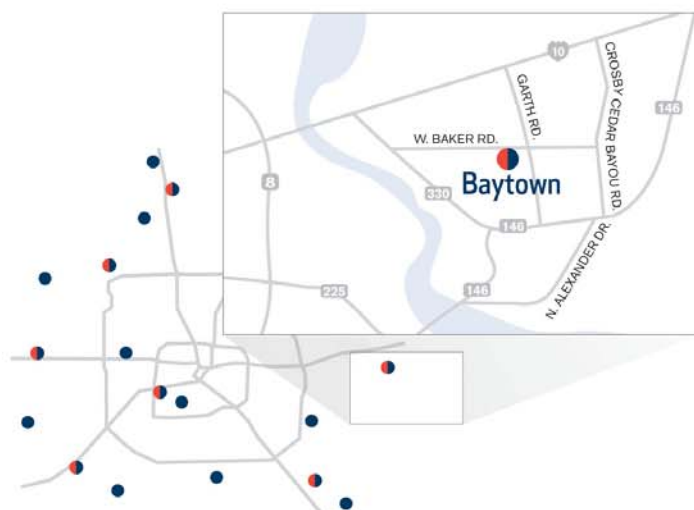


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