

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ [www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)

VOL. 68, NO. 30 - 50¢

© Copyright 2021

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## IN THE STARS

### EVENTS

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 27-Rick Galvan  
Timothy Lamm  
Jul 28-Lee Henning  
Martin Hernandez  
Joyce Holleman  
Haley Jo Maxey  
Jul 30-Janis Parker  
Jul 31-Cliff McKee  
Richard Turvil  
Aug 1-Kenneth Boudreaux  
Calvin Finnell  
Mildred Miller  
Randall "Oscar" Stone  
Barbara Statts  
Mona Bowman  
Aug 2-Joe Luis Rodriguez  
Katerina Horn  
Aug 3-Mrs. W.E. Gentry  
Nita Sloan  
Aug 4-Stacey Glover  
Brittany Hahn  
Aug 5-James Bobalik  
Aug 6-Sara Henning  
Ethel Peters  
Dolores Griffen

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 29-Marcelino & Marie Estrada  
Jul 30-Johnnie & Barbara Stotts  
Aug 1-Doug & Cathy Wagner  
Christina & Troy Woodall  
Aug 2-Rusty & June Ressler  
Aug 5-PeeWee & Patti Farmer  
Aug 6-Sue & Steve Norris  
Jan & Mike Gucker  
Aug 8-Martha & Alvin Keyes  
Ronald & Beth Phillips

## County returns COVID19 threat level to Orange; urges mask wearing

HARRIS COUNTY - Judge Lina Hidalgo announced she was increasing the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 3: Yellow, the system's second-lowest threat level, to Level 2: Orange, the system's second-highest threat level due to a rise in COVID-19 cases.

Threat level 2 indicates a significant and "uncontrolled level" of COVID-19 in Harris County, meaning that there is ongoing transmission of the virus,



THREAT LEVEL for COVID-19 has been raised to Level 2 Orange - Significant; from Level 3 Yellow - Moderate.



JUDGE HIDALGO at last week's news conference wore a mask, but says she is not comfortable with it, but urges everyone to wear a mask for now.

according to the county's COVID-19 data hub.

At this level, county officials, urge unvaccinated residents to minimize contact with others, avoid any medium or large gatherings, and visit only permissible businesses that follow public health guidance.

Hidalgo blamed the delta variant and flattening vaccination rates for the increase in infections.

Over the past few weeks  
*Continued. See THREAT LEVEL, page 2*

## Crosby Superintendent's Message:

Hello again, East Harris County and Crosby ISD. There is much going on before students return August 12th. The last few weeks have been busy as we prepare campus leaders for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

Crosby ISD recently participated in the 2021 Barrett Station Homecoming Weekend. During the community parade, Crosby ISD students, teachers, school leaders and administrators passed out candy and flyers about the upcoming



SUPERINTENDENT  
PAULA PATTERSON

school year. Later in the day, Crosby ISD leaders, including members of the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees and Crosby High School football coaches, were judges for the

homecoming cookoff.

In the coming weeks, Crosby ISD will mark the return of school with several events, including a New Educator Orientation; a district prayer breakfast; a Beginning of the Year Convocation; a vaccination drive, all in addition to campus Meet the Teacher events.

A few days ago, I delivered the keynote address to Little Sisters Empowerment, a new non-profit organization created to serve girls in the East

Harris County area. I've spent the last few weeks involved in community engagement and discussing the importance of putting children first in all the decisions we make. We grow future leaders in Crosby ISD.

We also welcomed back all of our campus and district leaders in preparation of the 2021-2022 school year. We enjoyed two days at the Houston Zoo (sponsored by Ted Marek Insurance) building our new teams and focusing on the vision for the new year.

This new year may have challenges, but we are ready to overcome each barrier and ensure a rigorous education for all of our students.

One of the most important issues facing us in the coming weeks is the rise of concerning COVID variants in Harris County. As we always do, Crosby ISD is putting the safety and well-being of our 6,000 students first and foremost. Nothing is more important to

*Continued. See Superintendent, Page 5*

## Dems remain in DC, seek fed help

WASHINGTON, DC - More than 50 Texas Democratic legislators remain holed up in a Washington, D.C. hotel, blocking an effort by Republicans to pass more restrictive voting laws during the present special session since state law requires at least 100 reps to have a quorum.

The legislators have been meeting with national Democratic leaders, such as Vice President Kamala Harris, but also dealing with an outbreak of COVID-19 among its members. At least a half dozen legislators, who say they were already vaccinated, have tested positive for the virus while in the nation's capital.

The legislators are pushing for federal voting legislation, called the For

the People Act, which has already passed the U.S. House but remains bottled up in the Senate. Without changes to the Senate filibuster rule, passage seems unlikely. The special session in Austin ends Aug. 7, but Abbott has vowed to call another one if the Democrats remain absent, effectively stopping any legislation from passing.



LOCAL LEGISLATORS IN WASHINGTON include Mary Ann Perez, Armando Valle, and Ana Hernandez.

## Constable arrests gun-toting driver



EAST HARRIS COUNTY - Harris County Pct. 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton's Office has released a video after a driver was accused of pointing a gun and shooting at another driver on Beltway 8 near Woodforest Boulevard last weekend.

"I saw him point the gun at your car," a man is heard saying on the dashcam video to another man.

Days later, Constable Eagleton's deputies arrested the suspect, Irvin Guevara, on a separate gun charge. Deputies expect he'll

face charges for the incident on the Beltway as well.

"There's definitely something going on there," said Chief Deputy Kirk Bonsal. "You don't wave at somebody or say hi with a pistol."

Growing concerns about road rage have local deputies taking action.

"I would say any road rage that does take place is a problem and before it becomes an even bigger problem, we want to try and stop

*Continued. See Road Rage, Page 5*




**TURNER**  
CHEVROLET  
Crosby, Texas  
COMPLETE CARE  
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

Now in our New Offices  
1500 E. Wallisville Road  
Highlands, TX 77562

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



- No Lender Fees
- NO Points, Origination, Underwriting or Processing Fees
- Local Decisioning Mortgage Specialists
- Bilingual



GO TO [CRCU.ORG/REFIMYMORTGAGE](http://CRCU.ORG/REFIMYMORTGAGE) FOR MORE DETAILS!





# Sheriff initiates UNIDOS program for Hispanics

### *Kick-off was held at BakerRipley Saturday; Goal is to provide resources and connections*

**EAST ALDINE** – The public was invited to a kick-off party, held by the Sheriff's office, to introduce a new program called UNIDOS. The event was held last Saturday, at the BakerRipley complex in Town Center. Hundreds of families attended in spite of the intense heat, and the Sheriff's team displayed a great deal of their equipment and services in various locations around the BakerRipley campus. This included a mounted horse patrol, SWAT vehicles, an Autism intervention unit, and the most exciting of the show, the landing and exhibition of the department's helicopter.

The event also included a number of



Families lined up to get a picture with the Sheriff's helicopter.**MORE INSIDE**

exhibits and information tents, by community groups such as Lone Star College -- East Aldine, BakerRipley, Houston Police and Fire Departments, health organizations, and Harris County Precinct 2.

Unidos is a new program aimed at providing assistance to Spanish-speaking residents in Harris County through valuable resources and connections to meet the community's needs.

Deputy Blanco

serves as our Hispanic community liaison and Unidos program coordinator. Unidos will host informational meetings and outreach events to introduce our local Hispanic community to Unidos' mission and the various ways

we serve them. Deputy Blanco will cover a range of topics, including how to report a crime, and address public safety concerns.

The program will help promote safer communities and a better quality of life by establishing meaningful relationships with residents and empow-

ering them through education.

Visitors to the event were able to meet with Deputy Blanco and our community partners at this family-friendly event with children's activities and snacks. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [Unidos@sheriff.hctx.net](mailto:Unidos@sheriff.hctx.net).



Deputy Blanco and Chief Deputy Toquica welcome.

***Threat Level raised,***

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the region has been hit hard by the arrival of the Delta variant, Hidalgo said during the briefing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Tuesday that the Delta variant accounts for an estimated 83 percent of new coronavirus cases in the United States. As for the region Texas is a part of, as of July 17, the variant comprises 84 percent of new coronavirus cases, Hidalgo noted.

Hidalgo also noted that the county's COVID-19 positivity rate is doubling every 2.3 weeks, faster than at any point during the third wave of the disease in December.

"It's not too late," Hidalgo said. "But if we don't act now, it will be too late for many people."

Hidalgo also said “everybody” should resume wearing masks to protect those that aren’t vaccinated. Currently, around 2.1 million Harris County residents, 44.1 percent of Harris County’s total population, are fully vaccinated, according to the county’s COVID-19 data hub.

"I know they're uncomfortable," Hidalgo said. "I don't

like wearing masks either but until we get the numbers back down, let's all wear masks again."

Hidalgo urged eligible county residents to get vaccinated.

“We’re now seeing two Harris Counties,” Hidalgo said during the briefing, “One Harris County that’s fully vaccinated, protected, doing its part to get our economy running and doing its part to protect those who cannot get vaccinated. Unfortunately, we’re also seeing another Harris County that’s hesitant to take action. It’s okay to be a victim of this virus, but it’s not okay to be an enabler.”

Worried misinformation may keep eligible residents from seeking out the vaccine, Hidlago said “unchecked Facebook posts should not drive public health decisions.”

"It's natural to have questions," Hidalgo said. "It's okay to be hesitant at first but there's no shortage of credible information from health experts that show that the vaccines are safe, that the vaccines are effective, that we need to get the vaccines to get through this virus."

During the briefing, Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine where he is also the Co-director of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development, said the delta variant is "far more" transmissible than the origi-

nal COVID-19 virus and warned “We’re looking undoubtedly at a serious surge across the South this summer.”

"The big thing that worries me is by now anyone who's unvaccinated and has been lucky enough to escape COVID, your luck is about to run out," Hotez said. "That's how transmissible this virus is."

Most of the individuals hospitalized with coronavirus being treated in the Texas Medical Center are unvaccinated and 99 percent of the deaths attributed to coronavirus are among the unvaccinated, Hotez said.

According to Texas Tribune, Texas has seen nearly 9,000 COVID-19 deaths since February. All but 43 were unvaccinated. The Texas Department of State Health Services said that agency did not release details about the 43 deaths and noted that these are preliminary numbers, which could change because each case must be confirmed through public health investigations.

Statewide, more than 50,000 people have died of COVID-19 since March 2020, but the rate of deaths has slowed dramatically since vaccines became widely available in April.

For more information on Harris County's COVID-19 threat level indicators, guidance, and related information visit [ReadyHarris.org](https://www.ReadyHarris.org).



**Botox & Booze at  
The Boutique!!!**

**Friday  
July 30  
5:30-9:00**

**Fillers!**

**Free Margaritas!**

**Botox By Refine  
\$12 a unit!**

**15% off all Boutique  
Purchases**

**Give Aways!**

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



# 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, L.L.C. See a Sales Consultant for full details. Equal Housing Opportunity.

**Maximum Tax Savings**



Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

**CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY**  
A DIVISION OF CORPORATE RECOVERY, INC.

**TAX PREPARATION & CONSULTATION**  
All Federal, State, Foreign & Individual, Partnerships,  
Trusts, Estates, Corporations (C, Sub S & Limited Liability)  
& Payroll Tax Returns, Intuit Pro-Advisors,  
Service All Businesses & Individual Taxes  
Specialists in getting late filers into I.R.S. Compliance  
Business Solutions for New Tax Rules, Regulations and Tax Audits  
Debt Consultation and Bankruptcy Protection as a Solution to your Debts  
Other Services Rendered

**Bookkeeping, Computer Systems, Financial Management,  
Investments, Payroll, Property Rendition,  
Real Estate & Business Brokerage**  
Normal Business Hours  
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon – 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday By Appointment

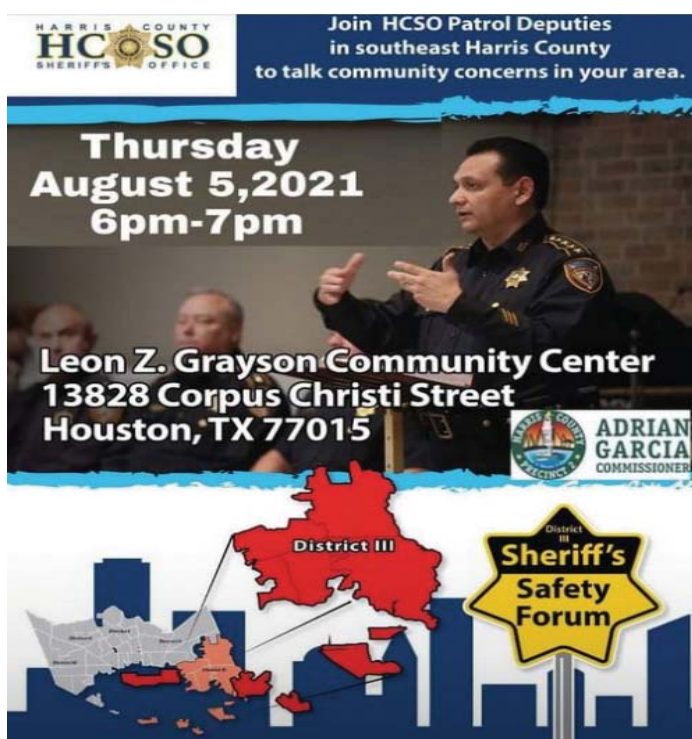
ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR INCOME TAX ORGANIZER  
JACK NOONAN, B.B.A., TREB, E.A. & STAFF  
IRS Enrolled License # 2018 – 65282  
6400 FM 2100 North Main, P.O. Box 1428, Crosby, TX 77532-1428  
Telephone (281) 328-1755 Fax (281) 328-5280  
E-mail: [cxi.tax.jhinson@gmail.com](mailto:cxi.tax.jhinson@gmail.com)



## Constable gives Greenwood Leadership Award to Morrison

Please help us in congratulating Cpl. Shirley Morrison for receiving the department's first ever, Clinton Greenwood Leadership Award. This award is given to an individual that exceeds expectations, conquers any task given and who continuously displays the true characteristics of a leader. Congratulations Cpl. Morrison, you are truly deserving of this award.

#pct3 #leadership #Greenwood

[illegible]

## DISCOVER YOUR NEXT VACATION

### BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round

**Oahu • Hawaii Island • Kauai • Maui** — Enjoy a fully guided 4-island Hawaiian vacation with centrally located lodging in Waikiki on Oahu, and beachfront lodging on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Guided throughout by our friendly Tour Directors—your local experts. Includes 3 inter-island flights.

FROM  
\$2,549\*  
**\$2,299\***

### GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR

12 days, departs May - Sep 2022

**Seattle • Vancouver • Ketchikan • Juneau • Skagway • Glacier Bay • Anchorage • Denali • and more** — Visit Denali National Park and Glacier Bay National Park on the same incredible trip! Cruise through the Gulf of Alaska and the Inside Passage as you discover the best of the Frontier State by land and by sea.

FROM  
\$1,949\*  
**\$1,699\***

**FREE ONBOARD CREDIT**

### CRIMSON PARKS & MESAS NATIONAL PARKS TOUR

10 days, departs Apr - Sep 2022

**Grand Canyon • Bryce Canyon Zion • Capitol Reef • Arches • Canyonlands • and more** — Experience the stunningly red rocks of these 6 iconic southwestern national parks. Travel through deserts, forests, mountains, and to the very edge of the Grand Canyon on this tour.

FROM  
\$1,749\*  
**\$1,499\***

**YMT**  
vacations

promo code  
**N7017**

**CALL 1-844-684-4305**

\*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus up to \$200 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add on airfare available. Onboard Credit requires purchase of Cruise View or Balcony Cabin. Offer apply to new bookings only, made by 9/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

SAVE UP TO \$3,500 WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR DEPOSIT  
BY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>. \* CALL 832-572-5592 TODAY!

Now Leasing

Baytown's new favorite option in senior living

WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW DEPOSITS AND EXCEEDING ALL CENTERS  
FOR DISEASE CONTROL COVID-19 PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

A perfect blend of senior living options to fit your lifestyle in a one-of-a-kind retirement community. Offering Independent Living cottages and apartments, single-story Assisted Living homes, specialty Memory Care, and a host of amenities and services, our resort-style community is surprisingly affordable.

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

THE LODGE AT  
PINE CREEK  
BY ABBY SENIOR LIVING

825 Hunt Road  
Baytown, TX  
832-572-5592  
LodgeAtPineCreek.com





## CHARLOTTE'S WEB



### Respect

One of my favorite recording artists from my childhood was Aretha Franklin. She could sing in a way that caught your attention. Not just with her voice but her style. I often think about her singing RESPECT. The passion she had while singing that song made a lasting impact on me.

Now there are times that I am passing by a local school on my way to work or just in the area and I see electronic marquees displaying a message of what character trait is being taught that month at the school. Those words like kindness, compassion, loyalty and patriotism all strike up feelings in my mind, but when I see the word RESPECT, it also strikes up a mood. Instantly, I find myself wanting to sing along with Aretha.

Somehow, in the last decade or so, too many people have lost empathy and lost respect for others.

Never in a million years would my parents' generation ever thought about not standing for a time of prayer or for the Pledge of Allegiance. I am not sure if it is because my father worked almost 50 years in retail, but when I see someone at a grocery store and they just push the basket out of the way and not properly push it to the basket stall, it irritates me. I have noticed that when my 34 year old son is introduced to someone, no matter the age, he always extends a hand to shake their hand. I have seen him give up hours to help an older adult who needs their yard mowed or an appliance looked at. He may not know how to repair something at first, but if he can get on the internet and find a way to help them, he will.

Both my son and daughter-in-law have instilled values in my granddaughters that I am proud of. When taking my oldest granddaughter and a friend to the movies, I love seeing them hold the door open for others. I notice the amount of respect that they show to their friends' parents and to the teachers in the schools. My youngest granddaughter has a lively spirit, yet her respect for others always outshines that. One thing I have seen in this younger generation is that even when they do not know someone but they feel someone is shaming the person or mistreating them, they speak up and not just to me or their parents. Both girls are quick to speak up to let people know that all people are equal even if they have different beliefs.

Recently there were some pictures on social media that were clearly not flattering to the people photographed. My 13 year old granddaughter wanted to know instantly who took the pictures and even worse, who posted them. She was ready to call the person and tell them that their actions were uncalled for. The level of respect that she has is to be commended and hopefully duplicated. If you do not respect others, it is truly because you do not respect yourself.



### Bear Facts

It was sure nice, Windy thought. Just sitting out here in Mamie's yard with my dog, Ramses, and some refreshments Mamie brought out that did not include raw meat or vegetables no one could pronounce.

"Don't that there sun feel good, Mamie?" She smiled and nodded and drank more tea.

"Afore you know it, them ol' bears'll be out and wrasslin' around fer somethin' to eat. Gotta be careful in the woods, ya know. Take a rifle along. What? Oh, a thirty-ought six should be plenty, I'm thinkin'. 'Course ya hafta place yer shot right. Nothin' worse than a wounded bear."

Mamie thought something less than killing the bear should work right.

"Well, Mamie," said Windy, "there's two schoolers of thought on that one and one of 'em's wrong. Ya see, the hippy dippy folks carry a spray 'em can of pepper juice with 'em in the woods. And they wear these here little bells on their belt loops."

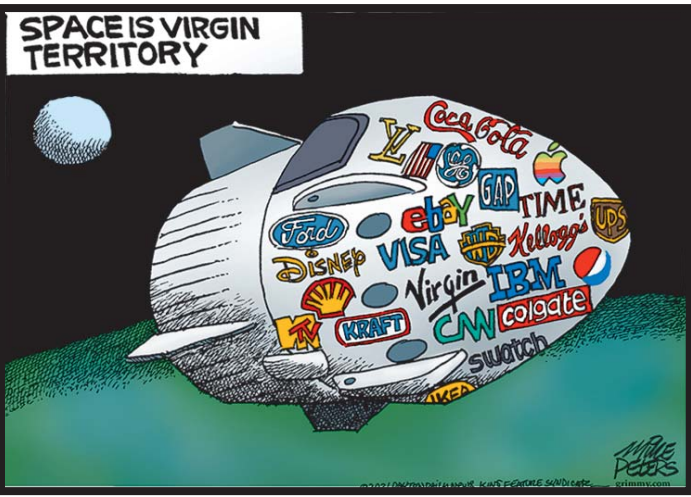
Mamie smiled and nodded.

"The idear bein' that little bell a dingie-dongin' 'round will tell the bear, hey, thass a hooman bein' and you better watch out cuz he's smarter'n you are. But les' jest say that ol' bear's got hisself a hearin' problem and that bell don't mean nothin' to him. Wellsir, thass where that danged pepper spray comes in handy. Yep, ol' Organtic Woodsman hisself pulls out that can and jest lets her rip right in the bear's face. I'll jest bet that smarts somethin' awful, too.

"But later, you know, when they're trackin' that bear down, he makes hisself easy to tell from other bears, cuz his poop smells like pepper and its got little bells in it.

"Yep. Thirty-ought six should be enough."

Brought to you by Sweetgrass Mornings, by Slim Randles. See it at [www.unmpress.com](http://www.unmpress.com).



## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



### Workforce commission announces job surge

The Texas Workforce Commission released June employment figures that showed Texas employers added nearly 56,000 jobs in June, while the unemployment rate dropped to 6.5%.

"The Texas economy is booming," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement. "Businesses are investing in the Lone Star State at a record pace because we've built a framework that allows free enterprise to flourish and hardworking Texans to prosper."

TWC's latest statistics show that the leisure and hospitality industry led all others in job growth, adding more than 19,000 jobs. Education and health services employment ranked second, adding 9,500 jobs in June.

#### PUC, ERCOT UPDATE CONSUMERS ON GRID RELIABILITY

In a joint press conference last Thursday, the chairman of the Public Utility Commission and the interim CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas outlined steps their organizations are taking to improve electric grid reliability during the dog days of summer.

The PUC oversees ERCOT, which is responsible for maintaining the electric grid. ERCOT has drawn heat after the widespread blackouts during the February winter storm, and subsequently pleading for less energy consumption during an early summer heat wave.

"We expect there is sufficient generation to meet summer 2021 electric demand; however, there may be times when we will call on customers



to conserve just as other grid operators across the country and around the world do. It's just another tool in the toolbox," Brad Jones, ERCOT interim CEO, said. "In response to a conservation notice, Texans may need to take some simple steps for a limited duration – such as doing laundry in the morning or running the pool pump at night instead of the afternoon – to ensure grid reliability."

Abbott recently issued executive orders directing the PUC and ERCOT to improve grid reliability. Critics say the measures passed in the last regular session to address the issue fall short of what is needed to ensure another grid failure doesn't occur.

#### AS CASES RISE, NEW POP-UP VACCINE SITES ANNOUNCED

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise again in Texas, largely spurred by the highly contagious delta variant. The Texas Department of State Health Services is again hitting the road to encourage folks to get vaccinated.

Rates of those who are fully inoculated continue to lag, particularly in

younger populations. DSHS will hold 18 pop-up events at Walmart locations across the state to talk with parents and families about the importance of vaccination for younger Texans as they prepare for next school year and as the Delta variant spreads more widely in Texas. The DSHS pop-ups last four hours each day and will travel around the state through the first week of August. The events feature a 16-foot video wall, a "Take the Shot" basketball game, and free frozen treats.

COVID-19 cases the past week in Texas continue to rise sharply, up 60% from the previous week, when cases nearly doubled. A total of 36,451 cases were reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University along with 190 deaths, flat compared to the previous week. However, hospitalizations continue to spike, with DSHS reporting 4,137 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas, up more than 30 percent from the previous week.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated rose slightly to 12.51 million, about 43 percent of the state's population. As the delta variant spreads, the state's positivity rate has exceeded 10% for the first time since February.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

## THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### The Treat Lady Again

The dogs are missing me. My husband, Peter, predicted this after we moved. "All the dogs will miss you!" he said. "They are going to be looking for the Treat Lady. Don't you think that's sad?"

I did not. First of all, I didn't believe it. Just because I passed out treats for a couple of years to the dogs didn't mean they would expect to see me again. Just because they remembered me when they saw me didn't mean I would ever cross their minds if they didn't see me.

But yesterday I got two text messages from dog owners claiming their dogs were missing me. Both included photos of the supposedly bereaved dogs. One showed a dog looking mournfully into the camera. The second was a photo of two dogs staring at the trail where I used to meet them on my hike in the evenings. The photo was captioned: "They look for you every night."

I am dubious.

For starters, the two dogs who are supposedly still looking for me are the border collies who attended my going-away party, and if you've ever met a border collie, you know how clever they are. I'm certain they remember the party and knew why we were throwing it. If they are still watching the trail, it is likely in an effort to find my replacement. They probably also have a posting on Craigslist: "Seeking middle-aged woman to provide refreshments an hour before owner gets home. Serious applicants only."

The other dog was Remington and if Remington is missing anyone, it would be Peter, who tossed exactly six goldfish crackers to him every day of the pandemic. Peter called him a "circus dog," and told him it was a shame they no longer hired dogs to entertain under the big top. Remington's goldfish cracker-catching skills are probably getting rusty, but that has nothing to do with me.

It's not the dogs who are missing me. I miss being the Treat Lady.

There is nothing stopping me from handing out dog treats. Every day, I walk through new neighborhoods, seeing new sights, learning my way around. At first, I had to consult my phone constantly as I wandered, with no idea where I was or where I was headed. Now I have a two-mile area in all directions pretty well explored. There are lots of folks walking dogs everywhere I go. But I haven't handed out any treats. I'm not quite sure why. Maybe it's because I don't feel like I am a resident yet and handing out treats seems like something a host would do for a guest. "Oh! Aren't you a nice dog! It's so lovely to meet you. You look like you deserve a treat!" Maybe it's because I'm in a more urban environment and I worry someone might mistake me for a Secret Dog Poisoner instead of the Treat Lady.

Last night, Peter and I went to hear music in the park. There were dogs everywhere. Some were clearly veterans of the concert scene. They wagged their tails in time to the music as they walked by, too cool to notice strangers. Some were new to the whole thing, excited by the sounds and people and music. One young puppy caught sight of the pizza Peter and I were sharing and made a beeline toward us.

"Stop!" The puppy's owner said. The puppy reluctantly retreated.

I wasn't going to share my pizza with the puppy. But I wished I had a treat. Maybe I'll be the Treat Lady again before I know it.

Till next time, Carrie

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

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

USPS 244-500 and the Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman  
Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman  
Assoc. Editor/Advertising Manager.....Lewis Spearman  
Assistant Editor.....Julietta Paita  
Marketing Manager.....Willie Glasgow  
Production Manager.....Luis Hernandez  
Asst. Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-CROSBY COURIER; Barbers Hill DAYTON PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Forest NEWS; North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 50,000. Readership exceeds 110,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

**News and Ad Phones... 713-266-3444**  
**FAX Line... 713-977-1188**  
**email: [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)**  
**Member Texas Press Association**

top ten

Table Tennis Gold Medals

1. China  
2. Hungary  
3. Japan  
4. Czech Republic  
5. Romania  
6. U.K.  
7. Sweden  
8. USA  
9. Austria  
10. Germany

Source: ITTF

© 2021 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



# County Attorney informs CHIC environmentalists

By Allan Jamail

Channelview, TX. – June 24, 2021 at the Channelview Fire Department on Dell Dale Harris County residents gathered to learn how they can get pollution concerns addressed. Organizers of the newly formed Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition (C.H.I.C.) had Bethany Dwyer, Asst. Attorney Environmental Harris County Attorney's Office (CAO) as their guest speaker.

Dwyer explained what's needed to successfully present a case in court against environmental violators. She presented an exceptionally informative slide show which thoroughly educated the attendees on the step by step process of how to file a complaint. She explained the need for complainants to gather and document valuable evidence on the violators that'll give the CAO proof enough to be successful in court proceedings. Violations can be reported by calling: CAO: 713-755-5101.

For an emergency with a chemical spill, odor or fire call the Channelview Fire Department, 911.

C.H.I.C. has organized in a continuing effort by residents to share information, to educate others and to work with govern-



Bethany Dwyer, Assistant Harris County Attorney of the Environmental Division.



Carolyn Stone, C.H.I.C. organizer



Jennie Ramsey, C.H.I.C. organizer



Theresa Blackwood, C.H.I.C. organizer

Photos by Allan Jamail

ing and other agencies to address issues impacting Channelview, to bring awareness and to document, prevent and improve the issues and conditions affecting residents.

Upcoming C.H.I.C. meeting dates, July 22nd, August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th,

November 18th, December 16th. For information or to join email:

c.h.i.c.77530@gmail.com

Attendees came from all over east Harris County and the North Channel area including Crosby, Baytown, Channelview, Jacinto City and Houston. Linda Jamail, Community Liaison of State Rep. Ana Hernandez's office, Cindy Miller, Community Liaison Pct. 2 Comm. Adrian Garcia's office, Rep's of East Harris County Empower-

ment Council, Channelview Fire Dept., Rep's of Harris County Pollution Control Dept.

Recent CAO news, on July 12, 2021 at a public comment session hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee proposed reinstatement of chemical disaster rules rolled back by the Trump ad-

ministration, and enhancing rules to address Harris County's unique vulnerability to chemical disasters.

Menefee said Harris County has the largest petrochemical complex in the U.S. and a history of severe weather events, "we're vulnerable to large scale chemical disasters that impact residents". He also proposed additional enhancements to the rules, including expanding the list of chemicals covered by the rules, requiring facilities to have safety plans in place to endure severe weather, and improving coordination with first responders.

President Obama's administration's EPA had imposed several rules in response to the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas. In 2019, the Trump administration rolled back many of these common-sense requirements, including requiring chemical companies to determine the root cause of spills and explosions, and training requirements for chemical plant supervisors. In response, Harris County, 14 states, and two cities sued the Trump administration to invalidate the rollbacks. Harris County was the only governmental entity in Texas involved in the lawsuit. The entire County Attorney's press release can be found at: <https://cao.harriscountytexas.gov/>

## Road Rage, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it," said Capt. Jonathan Zitzmann with the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office.

Precinct 4 is using a team of up to eight deputies to crack down on aggressive driving.

"It's our hope that we can catch these issues before they escalate, so if we can catch the individuals swerving in and out of traffic, if we can catch the individuals driving way over the speed limit, we hope that will hopefully curb some of these road rage incidents we're experiencing," said Zitzmann.

## Crosby Superintendent, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me than ensuring our children and staff members stay healthy in the classroom.

One of the most valuable lessons we learned last year is that it is up to each of us to keep each other healthy. We're all in this together. Each school year offers new promise and new hope. Our theme this year is: This is NOW! We're starting a new chapter here in Crosby ISD, looking toward the future while celebrating our long-standing traditions.

Let's get started! Go Coogs!

## Texas Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 6-8

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 6-8.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The date of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

"For many families with children who are going back to their school campuses for the first time since the pandemic began,

the sales tax holiday is the perfect opportunity to save money on school supplies and other tax-free items," Hegar said. "As a father with three school-aged children myself, I know how these expenses can add up."

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at [TexasTaxHoliday.org](https://www.texas.gov/tax-holiday).

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) when either:

-- the item is both deliv-

ered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or

-- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999, allowing consumers to save millions of dollars in state and local sales taxes each year. The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save an estimated \$107.3 million in state and local sales tax during this sales tax holiday.

Check us on the go at  
[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)  
[www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)



281-328-5869



## Home Health Care

Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker, Home Health Aide, Hospice Services

\*Physical Therapy Position Available

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR MEDICARE FUNDED HOME HEALTH CARE

Physical Therapy Position Available

Locally owned and Operated by Tabatha and Jonathan Brady

### Non-Discrimination Policy

No client shall be, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or status with regard to public assistance or veteran status, excluded from admission to services through Omnix Health Care Services, Inc.

CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

## Grand Opening!!!

PURE CBD

12750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston, 77015  
Monday-Saturday, 11:00 AM-8:30 PM  
and Sunday 12:00 PM-5:00 PM.

The Grand Opening will be held Saturday, June 26th we will have complimentary healthy snacks and drinks.

Our social media is [INSTAGRAM.COM/PURECBD-HOUSTON](https://www.instagram.com/purecbd-houston)

our website is: [WWW.PURECBDHOUSTON.COM](http://WWW.PURECBDHOUSTON.COM) and [FACEBOOK.COM/PURECBDHOUSTON](https://www.facebook.com/purecbdhouston)

"Bring in this ad during the grand opening and get 15% off total order."

## Church Page Sponsors

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY  
HIGHLANDS  
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.  
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

Siding & Roof Repairs  
Mobile Home Skirting  
Call Mr. Roofer  
281-452-0000

STERLING ~ WHITE  
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY  
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.  
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562  
(281) 426-3555  
[WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM](http://WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM)

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

Call 713-266-3444 to join to join sponsorship of this page. Thank you.





**Our providers are available 24/7  
following your COVID-19 diagnosis.**

Whether you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or want to avoid spreading or catching germs, you can connect with a board-certified provider via video visit wherever you are — no appointment needed. The provider will be able to advise you about your diagnosis and can guide you on appropriate treatments to help you in your journey to recovery.

*Virtual Urgent Care is available through the MyMethodist app. Download it today. If you are unable to cover the \$20 cost of your visit, please contact 281.524.4687 for financial assistance.*



CLASSIFIED  
ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 50,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 25,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$16 for 20 words. A bargain!


SERVICES

PRINTING & MAILING  
Full Service  
Marketing Services.  
713-977-2555

SERVICES

J.D. FENCE  
We install & repair fences. All types of chain link, wood ornamental and iron. Free estimate. Small jobs welcome. Call Jose 281-221-0637.

DRIVERS

  
Pulido Transport is actively searching for outstanding Company Drivers to join the Pulido Transport family, \$2,000 signing bonus, \$25 per hour (local) and starting at \$0.60 per running mile. Company Drivers committed to safety and service with a great attitude can immediately apply online at [www.pulidotransport.com](http://www.pulidotransport.com).

HELP WANTED

HANDYMAN NEEDED  
General Maintenance at Jacinto City Business Park  
Paid Weekly  
832-287-8819

HELP WANTED

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the heirs of PERRY FUSELIER of Opelousas, Louisiana, please contact Ogden Pitre of Pitre Law Firm at 511 E. Landry Street, Opelousas, LA 70570; Telephone (337) 942-1900.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary for Docket No. 492782; Estate of LONNIE GREGORCYK Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JULY 14, 2021.  
  
SUZANNE GREGORCYK N/K/A SUZANNE GREGORCYK HOLCOMB  
  
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:  
  
c/o Weston Cotten  
1500 E. Wallisville Road  
Highlands, TX 77562  
  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
Dated this JULY 21, 2021.  
  
  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

WANTED TO BUY RESIDENTIAL LOT IN CROSBY OR HIGHLANDS AREA  
TEL. 832-423-9055

RESIDENTIAL LOT WANTED

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE  
7 PLOTS AVAILABLE  
PRIME LOCATION  
STERLING-WHITE CEMETERY  
GARDEN OF HOPE  
1 Triple, 1 Double, 2 Single  
\$1500 Each plus transfer  
TEL. 281-380-6735

LEGAL NOTICE

Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction;  
August 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.; Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Rd, Houston, TX 77045; Cause Number 2007-20313; TRACT 1: LT 49 BLK 7 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD #0836260000049; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 and TRACT 2: LT 4 BLK 11 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 0836300000004; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 and TRACT 3: LT 20 BLK 11 FOREST RIVER ESTATES; HCAD # 08363000000020; Property Address: 0 Forest Trail Dr, Channelview, TX 77530 Opening Bid: \$19,500.00; call 832.777.3373 for more information

LEGAL NOTICE

Channelview ISD Property Foreclosure Auction;  
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

AUCTION SALE

  
Channelview Industrial Land Auctions August 19  
CHANNELVIEW, TX  
• Market Street & Interstate 10  
Two parcels, selling separately, 10+/- ac and 6.94+/- ac. Industrial Land with frontage on Market St. Easy access to Interstate 10 and Beltway 8.  
  
Auction: 11am, Thur August 19 at 10+/- Acres Location, Channelview, TX  
  
Bid on location or live online at [www.auctionnetwork.com](http://www.auctionnetwork.com)  
  
Prefer Not to Wait for the Auction? Submit a Pre-Auction Offer!  
  
800.801.8003 • [williamsauction.com/Channelview](http://www.williamsauction.com/Channelview)  
  
TX JEFFREY MICHAEL ASHBY RE LIC 550021, BRUCE ELDON BROOKS AUC LIC 16997  
BUYER'S PREMIUM MAY APPLY.

AUCTION SALE

Where can I pick up a Star-Courier?  
  
HIGHLANDS:  
Library  
Food Town  
Community Center  
TeaPot Depot  
Backdraft Rest.  
Woodforest Bank  
Conoco Station  
Post Office (outside)  
  
CROSBY:  
Library  
Community Center  
Race Track  
Arlan's Market  
Community Bank (2)  
Pesso's Rest.  
  
HUFFMAN  
Exxon Station  
Community Bank  
  
MONT BELVIEU  
Barbers Hill Bank  
Chambers County Library  
Mont Belvieu Bank  
City Hall  
WCC Chamber  
Buck's Pizza  
Old River-Winfrey  
City Hall  
HEB Center  
OmniPoint Health Clinic

AUCTION SALE

INVITATION TO BIDDERS  
  
Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the President and Board of Directors of Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Channelview, Texas, Harris County, will be received at Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530 until 2:00 P.M., Thursday, August 12, 2021, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the "Automated Bar Screen for the Wastewater Treatment Plant."  
  
Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, payable without recourse to the District, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.  
  
Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at <https://bids.lja.com> for One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents, which sum will not be refunded. A printed set can be picked up at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston, TX 77029.  
  
Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the District.  
  
A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 2:00 P.M. at the Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Conference Room, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530. Bids from Firms other than the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference Attendees WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.  
  
Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6  
  
Gary O'Brian  
President

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

  
281-428-1187  
1-800-345-8471  
Sales & Repair Service  
Baytown, Texas  
John Henderson  
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

  
FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS  
713-702-3200  
JOHNNY CAKE  
OWNER/INSPECTOR  
971 S. MAIN  
HIGHLANDS TX, 7762

  
Signs & Banners  
281-462-1200  
[www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net](http://www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net)  
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

  
12750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston, 77015  
Monday-Saturday, 11:00 AM-8:30 PM  
and Sunday 12:00 PM-5:00 PM.  
Our social media is INSTAGRAM.COM/PURECB-DHOUSTON  
our website is: [WWW.PURECBDOUSTON.COM](http://WWW.PURECBDOUSTON.COM)  
and FACEBOOK.COM/PURECBDOUSTON

  
FILL DIRT  
BANK SAND  
ROADBASE  
LIMESTONE  
119 Listi Ln, Highlands  
hillmaterials.com  
  
WE DELIVER TO YOU  
(281) 843-5000  
residential • commercial • industrial

  
CROSBY PARK VILLAGE  
Now Open!  
Call 713-590-4342 to Schedule a Tour  
KHQV.COM/ CROSBYPARKVILLAGE  
415 Calamint, Crosby TX 77532  
Offered by K. Hovmanian of Houston II, LLC. Equal Housing Opportunity

  
Adults: Weekdays Lunch (11am - 3:30) \$11.99 - Dinner \$13.99  
Adults: Weekend & Holidays all day buffet \$14.99  
Kids Lunch age 3-6 \$5.99 age 7-10 \$6.99  
Kids Dinner age 3-6 \$6.99 age 7-10 \$8.99  
Open-Sun-Thu 11am - 9:30pm Fri-Sat: 11am - 10pm  
Kids age 2 \$2.50 - Adult age = 11 +  
FLAMING GRILL  
& SUPREME BUFFET- phone 713-451-8880  
11420 E. FREEWAY SVC. RD. UNIT 150 • JACINTO CITY, TX 77029

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



# Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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

VOL. 26, NO. 30 – 50¢

© Copyright 2021

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## ON THE HILL

### Recent donations to the Chambers County Library System:

At the Chambers County Library, Anahuac:  
In memory of Pastor Lester Guidry, Jr.: Kingdom woman, Fervent from LaShebia Haskin  
In memory of Stella Humphrey: Motivating students who don't care from Fran Perry  
In memory of Dianne Jensen: Because of Bethlehem, Hallmark channel countdown to Christmas from Sarah Kathan  
In memory of David Kenneth "Kenny" Parish: What if we were all the same, People are like donuts from Lillian Lancon and Nihle Lancon George  
In memory of Morris Quin: Wish for a fish, Let's go on a hike, God's country from Steve and Deanna Humphrey  
In memory of Bill Stults: Firearms of the Texas rangers from Eric and Michele Winkelmann

At the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library, Mont Belvieu:  
In honor of H-E-B: Never touch a dragon, Never touch a dinosaur, Never touch a panda, Never touch a polar bear, Never touch the sharks from West Chambers County Pilot Club  
The following donations were made to the Chambers County Library System by the Little Black Book Club: American sign language for dummies, American sign language for beginners, You can read!, Adult beginning reader program, The gift of dyslexia, Conquering dyslexia, Dial A for Aunties, The push, We begin at the end, Wild women and the blues, When the stars go dark, Those who are saved, The return, The hunger  
In memory of Dianne Jensen: Christmas cookie cookbook, The couch potato, How to catch a snowman, That's not a thing, Trouble the water, Lies and other acts of love, Feels like falling from Enon Baptist Church  
In memory of Dianne Jensen: Lights in the church from the staff at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library  
In memory of Dick Tallichet: Rush Revere and the presidency, Lincoln's legacy, Sacagawea's strength, King's courage, Bell's breakthrough, Disney's dream from James and Barbara Eilers

## 2021 Tails & Tales Adventures at the Chambers County Libraries:



Ms. Nelson's ESL class from Anahuac ISD



Little readers Jacob and Joshua Holzaefel



Collin Kucera and his heifer Biscuit entering the read to your pet photo contest



Gift card winners Tracy and Declan Donnelly



Nathan Garner enjoys a 3D printed item at Mont Belvieu



Painted pet rocks at Winnie

### Houston Methodist Baytown

## Facts on COVID Vaccines and Pregnancy

BAYTOWN — (June 25, 2021) — The decision to receive the COVID-19 vaccine is often a very difficult one for pregnant women and those planning to get pregnant.

While there is currently limited vaccine safety data available drawn from clinical trials, the consensus among public health officials, researchers and health care providers suggests that the vaccines are safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

"While the initial studies did not include individuals who are pregnant, future clinical trials will look at vaccine safety as it relates to pregnancy," said Dr. Faith Ighoyivwi, an obstetrician/gynecologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "However, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), states that there's no data suggesting that the vaccine cannot be given before, during and after pregnancy."

Ighoyivwi adds there is data suggesting that

pregnant people are at an increased risk for developing severe illness as a result of COVID-19.

"What we know is that a significantly higher percentage of pregnant people are hospitalized because of COVID-19, as compared to nonpregnant people. In addition, they're more likely to be admitted into the ICU and in need of ventilator support," Ighoyivwi said.

A recent report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that pregnant women are getting vaccinated at lower rates than nonpregnant women—11.1% for pregnant women compared with 24.9% in nonpregnant women 18 to 49 years old—highlighting the need for increased clinical data involving pregnant women, which could encourage more pregnant women to get the shot.

Registries are being established in multiple countries to capture the experience of pregnant women who are receiving COVID vaccines. Vaccine



DR. FAITH IGHYOYIWU

developer Pfizer-BioNTech has launched a pregnancy-specific trial for its vaccine that will enroll 4,000 pregnant women across nine countries.

Ighoyivwi says pregnant women concerned about the vaccine should gather all the facts they can and reach out to their health care provider so they can make an informed decision.

"The only concern we have about vaccination right now is the potential for a severe allergic reaction, which is very rare and typically occurs within 15 minutes of receiving the vaccine," Ighoyivwi said. "Given what we don't know

about these vaccines but what we do know about the disease itself, it's important to know the specific, sometimes personal, factors you should take into account while making your decision."

Those factors include your personal risk of exposure to the coronavirus, your health risk if you choose not to get vaccinated and the potential risk of maternal diseases and their corresponding severity.

Ighoyivwi says she counsels her patients on such matters as the best time for the vaccination—including consideration of other vaccinations that may be needed during pregnancy and what to do if you experience side effects.

"For instance, you'll need to consider the timing of the other vaccinations you may need during your pregnancy, such as the Tdap and influenza vaccine. This is because COVID-19 vaccines shouldn't be administered within 14 days of receiving another

vaccine. Your doctor can help you safely prioritize any vaccines you may need during your pregnancy, taking the COVID-19 vaccine into account," Ighoyivwi said.

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](http://houstonmethodist.org/vaccine).

The physicians with Houston Methodist Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates—Dr. Ighoyivwi and Dr. Paul Redman—provide comprehensive services and care for a full range of OB/GYN conditions, including routine prenatal care, high risk pregnancies, pelvic pain, hormone replacement therapy, contraceptive care, robot-assisted surgical procedures and ovarian cysts. To schedule an appointment, visit [houstonmethodist.org/baytown](http://houstonmethodist.org/baytown) or call 281-420-5760.