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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562



EVENTS

THU. APR. 28 Crosby Chamber Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament

Crosby/Huffman
Chamber of Commerce
holds their 30th Annual
Tees-N-Tails Golf
Tournament on
Thursday, April 28. The
tournament will be
held at Stonebridge at
Newport, 16401
Country Club Drive,
Crosby.

8:30am registrtion, 9:00am breakfast, 10:00am shotgun start.

Early bird by April 22, \$75 without games, \$100 with games. Call 281-328-6984 or chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

sun. MAY 1 Estate Sale

LIVE AUCTION!
DeMarco Auctions LLC
will hold an Estate Sale
on Sunday, May 1 at
1:00pm at the
American Legion Hall,
14890 FM 2100,
Crosby, TX. Collectibles,
Oil & Gas, Crystal, Fine
China, Jewelry. Col.
Diane DeMarco,
License #18255. See
details, Page 7.



ANOTHER DELAY REQUESTED FOR WASTE PITS, EPA SAYS NO

Consultant deems Remediation Plan "unworkable"

By Gilbert Hoffman

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – The Responsible Parties who are supposed to be working on the plan to remove toxic dioxin from the Waste Pits in the San Jacinto River, have instead sent a letter to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) asking for a delay in the schedule, because they state that the current removal methods they had agreed to are unworkable, or "not implementable."

Citing new information they are asking for a revised ROD (Record of Decision) which tells them how to clean up the site.

At a press conference last week, on the banks of the San Jacinto River near the Waste Pits, activist



At a press conference last week, on the banks of the San Jacinto River, Activist Jackie Medcalf calls for no delays requested by the Responsible parties. (THEA photo)

Jackie Medcalf called for no delay, saying the process has taken too long, and the objections now are simply "smoke and mirrors" in an attempt by the Responsible Parities to avoid or minimize the remediation work.

In their letter of March 24, the Responsbile Parties state that their engineering consultants have determined that there is more



A current map of the Waste Pits shows the conflict between the I-10 right-of-way for a new bridge, and the need for access for Waste Pits remediation.

material to be removed than originally known, by a 50% increase, and that the excavation depth will need to be deeper, by a 62% increase to as much as 28 feet in some places. Other factors they say make the work too complex and unsafe are the proposed construction of a new I-10 bridge, and the possible

Continued. See SJR Waste Pits delay, P. 7

Two die in another train/car collision

Vehicle drove around crossing gates

HARRIS COUNTY – Two people died after a train reportedly slammed into a car in northeast Harris County Saturday evening.

According to officials from the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the crash occurred in the 12900 block of Beaumont Highway and Van Hut Lane around 8 p.m.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in a news conference that a Chrysler 300 attempted to cut around the railroad crossing arms, when an Amtrak passenger train collided with the vehicle.

The vehicle was then engulfed in flames, according to Gonzalez. Deputies said two people were ejected from the vehicle. Both



Amtrak passenger train stopped on tracks near Old Beaumont Highway and Van Hut Lane, Saturday night after hitting a car attempting to cross the tracks. Despite damage to the entine, the train later continued westbound to Los Angeles.

died at the scene.

Witnesses told deputies that the arms were down at the time of the crash, and the vehicle tried to beat the train.

The Amtrak train had three cars and 81 passengers. The train had minor damage in the front, according to Sheriff Gonzalez.

No injuries were reported to any of the passengers or crew members onboard.

Amtrak issued the fullowing statement:

"On April 16, Amtrak train 1 was traveling from New Orleans to Los Angeles when an occupied vehicle obstructing the track came into contact with the train about 12 miles from Houston Station. There have

Houston Station. There have been no reported injuries to the 81 passengers or crew onboard. Amtrak is working with local law enforcement to investigate the incident."

BIRTHDAYS Apr 20-April

Apr 20–April McClelland Apr 22–Robert McDow-

Apr 23–Paul Bauer
Apr 24–Casey Gower
Amanda Leath
Lacy Maness
Kaitlyn Kaly
Apr 25–Colton Cutbirth
Apr 26–Lyndsey West
Apr 27–Kitty Elkins
April28–Ms. Chrislee
Stephens

Apr 29–Becky Gomez Jason Maness Apr 30–Jeramy Bimage Jennifer Ward

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 19–Vance & Cecilia Banik Apr 23–Jerry & Jeanette

Thompson Apr 28–Dan & Margie Nicholson Mike & Tanya Williams

Sales Tax Holiday April 23-25 for Emergency supplies

(AUSTIN) — As we enter severe weather season, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 25.

"Whether it's fires, freezing temperatures or tornadoes, severe weather conditions can strike at any time, so it is important that families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face

these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stocking up for emergency situations."

The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save more than \$1.5 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- -- household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced at less than \$75;
- -- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced at less than \$300;
- -- portable generators priced at less

Continued. See Sales Tax Holiday, Page 2

Crosby ISD recognized for Education Excellence

Named H-E-B Semi-Finalist

Crosby ISD announces that the District has been recognized as a Semi-Finalist for the 2022 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. Crosby ISD was one of 25 Districts across the state to be honored as a Semi-Finalist in the School District category. 8 Districts were announced as finalists in January.

From the nomination to the submission process, H-E-B, has been generous with time and support for Crosby ISD. We greatly appreciate H-E-B's award of \$1000 that will be used to support our students and staff. The H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are the largest monetary awards program for educators in Texas.

H-E-B also generously supports Crosby ISD's Cougar Excellence awards. Each month, seven students are honored, be-

cause they exemplify our values and serve as outstanding role models for their classmates. Each student receives a generous gift card from H-E-B as part of their recognition packet.

Crosby ISD serves the needs of more than 6500 children in the communities of Crosby and Barrett Station in East Harris County, Texas. Our mission is to produce literate, responsible citizens capable of learning and applying academic and social skills successfully in any life setting. For more information, visit crosbyisd.org



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GOOSE CREEK NEWS

Hopper Students Take Science to Another Level

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

Hopper Elementary School held their science fair on April 4th. Kindergarten and first grade students were tasked with creating projects they could work on at home with their parents. The students were given a range of topics to base their projects on including: life science, earth and space science, engineering, and chemistry. The innovative experiments investigated a problem or demonstrated how something works. The parental involvement project was designed to develop the skills and attitudes students need to make the project a valuable experience.

Kevin Wrobleski, Associate Director of Science and High School Health, was amazed at the work the students submitted. "It was very hard to choose just three for each grade," he said. "They all were outstanding and the students will make great scientists some day!"





A few students with projects in the Science fair at BP Hopper, from left Luke Mitchell, Lyla Aguero, Naizak Al-khayat.



Naizak Al-khayat with his project.



Luke Mitchell, explaining his projects to the judges Kevin Wrobleski, Associate Director for Science & Health and Emilie Olivier, High School Science Specialist.



Lyla Aguero standing in front of her project.

LIVE AUCTION!!! Estate Sale

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Sunday May 1, 2022 REGISTRATION & LOT VIEWING 1-2 p.m. AUCTION STARTS AT 2!

Auction Location: American Legion Post 658 14890 FM 2100 Crosby, TX 77532

This estate sale has many great lots! Collectibles including Oil & Gas, Hess, Sunoco, Exxon, Amoco, Phillips 66, John Deere, Nascar, American Muscle, BBurago, Matchbox & Hot Wheels, Die Cast Metal, Vintage Bottles, Lennox, Mikasa & Oneida Crystal, Fine China, 14k gold & sterling silver jewelry and so much more!

Terms & Conditions

This auction is Absolute. As is Where is – no warranties no guarantees. No consignments.

Payments accepted: Cash, MC, Visa, Discover, American Express & Debit Cards. No checks please.

13% Buyers Premium on credit / debit cards. Buyers Premium is discounted to 10% for cash sales.

Sales Tax: State of Texas rate 8.25% will be charged. All lots must be paid for and removed from the premises by the end of the auction. If you have a tax exempt / resale certificate, bring it with you!

Please go to the registration table when you arrive. Register, get your bidder card & be placed in the drawing for a FREE lot at the end of the auction. See you there!

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Lee College Debaters Make an IMPACT at National Tournament

Annual CC Youth Livestock Show and Ranch Rodeo this March through April.

The planning committees and Chambers County staff have been working feverishly to prepare for the events associated with the show and we are proud to invite you out to see their hard



work come together. **Chambers County** Youth Livestock Show and Ranch Rodeo Pageant

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Ranch Rodeo Friday, April 10, 2022 | Cook Off, Women's Ranch Ro-

Saturday, April 11, 2022 Cowboy Church, Ranch Rodeo Sunday, April 12,

Chambers County Youth Livestock Show April 27 through April 29, 2022

2022 | Team Roping

Chambers County Youth Livestock Auction

Saturday, March 30, 2022

COVID-19 Shots available in **Chambers County**

Chambers County Public Health will be offering several COVID-19 vaccine clinics in the coming weeks at no cost to the public. Please visit bit.ly/chamberscovaccines to register for an appointment. Appointments are required.

First, second, third and booster doses of vaccine will be available at each clinic.

For reference, please see the below distinction between booster and third doses:

- Third doses are available in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine only for persons who are

immunocompromised - Booster doses are available only in the Pfizer

recommended for: • People aged 65 years

vaccine and are

and older • Residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care

settings • People aged 50 to 64 years with underlying

medical conditions — Booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine are also

available for: • People aged 18 to 49 years with underlying

medical conditions • People aged 18 to 64

years with an increased for risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission

If you have questions regarding vaccines or your eligibility, please call Chambers County Public Health at 409-267-2931 or email

vaccines@chamberstx.gov.



debate team pose proudly with their 2021/2022 IPDA Season Long Community College Champions and 2022 IPDA National Championship Tournament Community College Champions award.

markable career at Lee College with season-long nationalawards including third place in V arsity D e b a t e Speaking, third place in Team Debate Speaking, eighth place in Varsity Debate, and sixth placeinTeam Debate along with teammate Andrew Jones. Kinder also finished as a National Championship Tournament Varsity Quarterfinalist at this year's championship tournament. Team Co-Captain-Elect, Rebecca

Currie, was named the 2021/2022 sixth place in Novice Debate and was a National Championship Tournament Novice Quarterfinalist. The team's other Co-Captain-Elect, Diego Moreno, was a National Championship Tournament Novice Triple-Octofinalist, while graduating sophomore, Linley Brown, was a National Championship Tournament Novice Quarterfinalist Moreno and Brown also finished as National Championship

Tournament Team Debate Double-Octofinalists. Lee College alumni Pamela Johnson and Jerry McCauley also finished as

Professional Division Quarterfinalists.

For the 2021/2022 IPDA Season, Lee College also placed as the 10th place Founders' Cup Sweepstakes, fourth place in the Novice Squad Sweepstakes, sixth place in the Professional Squad Sweepstakes, and eighth place in the Team Debate Sweepstakes.

"This is probably my proudest moment in collegiate debate," noted Columbia University-bound Adam Kinder. "Despite having some of the youngest debaters in the nation, we were able to prove to the nearly two-hundred programs nationwide that community colleges can stand toe to toe with anyone in this country."

The 2021/2022 Lee College National Championship Tournament Team consists of Jovani Arellano, Linley Brown, Aaliyah Castro, Rebecca Currie, Priscilla Guerra, Lilly Gutierrez, Emma Jaramillo, Pamela Johnson, Andrew Jones, Ornella Joseph, Riyanna Kennedy, Adam Kinder, Cassie Kutev, Julio Martinez, Jerry McCauley, David McDowell, Diego Moreno, Nathan Mustapha, Elias Perry, Carlos Reyes, Luis Torres, Kimberly Truong, and Ty Young. They were coached by Director of Forensics. Joe Ganakos, and Assistant Coach, Rigo Ruiz, and assisted by volunteer coach, Leah Spark-

Sheriff Arrests 4 for Catalytic Converter Thefts

Chambers County Sheriff's Office

field of 45 universities and

community colleges includ-

ing Southern Methodist

University (TX), Universi-

ty of Florida (FL), Univer-

sity of Tennessee (TN),

University of Arkansas

(AR), Mississippi State

University (MS), Georgia

Tech University (GA), Boi-

se State University (ID),

and University of Califor-

even more impressive as

half of the competition

squad is comprised of stu-

dents in the Goose Creek

CISD's IMPACT Early

College High School.

Team Captain, Adam

Kinder, capped off a re-

Lee College's success is

nia – San Diego (CA).

On April 13, 2022, at approximately 8:35 p.m. Chambers County Sheriff's Office Dispatch advised that a caller had witnessed a vehicle occupied by an unknown number of males, attempted to steal a catalytic converter off of a vehicle in the parking lot of ShowBiz Cinemas at 146 in Mont Belvieu, Texas. The caller provided an accurate vehicle description and license plate and indicated that the vehicle went eastbound on the Inter-

A Chambers County Deputy located a vehicle matching the description driving through the HEB parking lot at approximately 8:45 p.m.

the vehicle with the assistance of the Mont Belvieu Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety and additional Chambers County Sheriff's Office deputies.

Three adult individuals and one juvenile were detained while a search of the suspect vehicle was conducted.

During the search, deputies recovered two sawzalls, 14 additional metal blades concealed in the seat back pocket of the driver's seat, 1.1 ounces of marijuana concealed in the trunk of the vehicle, and a Taurus 9MM handgun under the front passenger

The 3 adult male subjects: Jeremiah Diaz of Conroe, Dedrick Livings of The Deputy detained Houston, and Justin Joseph of Houston, were taken into custody for Unlawful Use of Criminal Instrument, Unlawful Carry of a Weapon, Possession of Marijuana <2oz, and Failure to Identify. The juvenile subject was charged and released to family members.

During the investigation, Deputies discovered the vehicle was involved in similar thefts as well as a vehicular pursuit in East Harris County.

All information was forwarded to Harris County Sheriff's Office for possible additional charges.

Today, after further investigation, Deputies were able to contact the complainant of another vehicle that the suspects had attempted to steal the catalytic converter from, and



file additional felony charges for Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity. Justice of the Peace Precinct 6 Judge Larry Cryer set the bonds at \$20,000 per charge in addition to the original charges.

"I commend our depu-

ties for fighting crime in our county and am thankful, as always, for our fellow officers in Mont Belvieu and Texas DPS for their continued support toward our common goal of protecting our citizens." said Sheriff Hawthorne.

WCC Pilot Club thanks Gala Sponsors

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. thanks its Sponsors for its annual fundraising Gala held on Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M., at Barbers Hill High School, Mont Belvieu

The theme of this year's Gala is "Kentucky Derby on the Hill".

For more information about Pilot Club, contact W.C.C.P.C. at P.O. Box 1032, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580, or Email wccpilotclub @gmail.com or Linda Gilmore at rayegil2 @yahoo.com.



(picture Southwest Galvanizing) "Kentucky Derby on the Hill" Gala Platinum Sponsor Southwest Galvanizing, Inc. (Pictured I-r) Gonzalo Luque, West Chambers County Pilot Club Director Jan Jones, Allison Hernandez, Nereida Jaime, Southwest Galvanizing President Albert Shannon, and Controller Heath Garmon.



(picture DSCN4436a) (I-r) West Chambers County Pilot Club Recording Secretary Linda Gilmore, "Kentucky Derby on the Hill" Gala Diamond Sponsor Laurie Terry Administrative Director Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, WCCPilot Club Director Linda Polk, and WCCPilot Club Corresponding Secretary Deana Fojt.

OPINION PAGE *



Flying the Friendly Skies

his Easter week was especially pleasant around our house, because we had a visit from our grandkids. Since they live in Ohio, we don't see them as often as we would like. Iris is 5 years old now, and Reed is 2. Like the plants they are named for (maybe), they grow up fast and we need to keep track of them on a regular basis.



GRANDKIDS IRIS AND REED, AT IAH AIRPORT

Although our daughter and their mother, Kristan, grew up in Houston, when they visit they explore wonders that seem very special to this city and different from their snowy climate in Ohio. And they keep us busy with their activities. Almost every day we spent time at an outdoor swimming pool, visited Hermann Park and Zoo, splash pad and train, played at Levi Park near Greenway Plaza, ate their favorite Chinese food in Bellaire Chinatown, visited the Childrens Museum, and more.

The trip to Houston is very special to the grandkids, and they look forward to the flight as well as the fun they have while they are here. But this trip, they had a unique experience that most of us, kids or adults, would be thrilled with. When they boarded the United Express jet for their return trip to Ohio, the flight crew asked them if the would like to sit in the cockpit. Wow, how special is that! As you can see from the photos, they had a very unique experience, and who knows, maybe it will lead to a career path, or at least a great story to tell their classmates when they return.



PILOT REED IN THE COCKPIT WITH HIS TEDDY BEAR



CO-PILOT IRIS IN THE COCKPIT

United Airlines has an expression, "Fly the Friendly Skies" and this time they certainly made a memorable time for the grandkids and their family. Thank you, United Airlines.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Traffic deaths spike in highway work zones

TRAFFIC DEATHS SPIKE IN **HIGHWAY WORK ZONES**

The Texas Department of Transportation wants motorists to be aware of dangerous conditions in road construction zones after crashes in those zones killed 244 people last year.

The death toll is an increase of 33% over 2020 and is the highest in 40 years. The majority of those who died were drivers or their passengers, according to TxDOT.

"It's important for drivers to remember that driving conditions in work zones can be especially challenging because of extra congestion, slow-moving heavy equipment, temporary barriers and vehicles that make sudden stops," Marc Williams, Tx-DOT executive director, said. "That's why it's crucial for everyone to give driving their full attention and drive a safe speed in areas where construction and maintenance are un-

Among the tips offered y the agency to cut acc

- Slow down and follow
- the posted speed limit. • Pay attention, put down the phone and keep
- your mind on the road. Watch out for road
- crews and follow flaggers instructions.
- Don't tailgate. Allow enough room to stop safe-
- reach your destination, since road construction can slow traffic.

• Plan for extra time to

Traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present.

WILDFIRE RISK CONTINUES WITH DRY, WINDY CONDITIONS

The risk of more wildfires continues this week with much of the state under drought conditions.

"Critical fire weather includes above-normal temperatures, increased wind speeds and low relative humidity levels," according to a Texas A&M Forest Service news release. Wildfires that start under these conditions may be



difficult to control, the agency said. The risk is nearly statewide, as virtually all of the state remains under drought conditions.

During the first week of April, the forest service and local fire departments responded to 117 wildfires that burned 23,560 acres.

TEXAS HISTORY INSTRUCTION EXPANDED

The State Board of Education decided last week to expand instruction in Texas history to six rade levels, meaning students in those grades will have their knowledge of the state's history tested on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

For decades, Texas history has been taught in fourth and seventh grades. Now it will also be taught in kindergarten through second grade, and sixth and eighth grades.

"With this significant increase, students will study Texas and the people and events that define it in most grade levels prior to high school," according to an SBOE news

release. The board will consider proposed revisions to the social studies aspect of TEKS at the June meeting to include Texas history content. Final revisions are scheduled for Novem-

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THE

WILDLIFE

With the balmy weather of a Texas spring, more folks are enjoying the outdoors. Experts at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urge people who encounter wildlife to avoid lending a helping hand.

Often, the young offspring of wild animals can be mistaken as having been abandoned. Many of these human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can be detrimental to wildlife.

Newborn fawns, for example, are often left for hours at a time by the doe as she forages for food. "During that time, people may spot a fawn lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Many people interfere with the fawn, thinking it has been abandoned by its mother and needs help. This is rarely the case," according to TPWD.

TPWD experts advise folks to leave all young animals alone unless obviously injured. Spend some time observing from a distance to determine if the animal truly is injured, since the mother may not return if humans are close

The same principle applies to young birds. "If the bird's eyes are open, it has feathers and is hopping around, mom and dad are likely nearby. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days," according to TPWD. If a wild animal is sick

or injured, people are encouraged to contact a perwildlife mitted rehabilitator, which can be found on the TPWD Wild-Division website: tpwd.texas.gov/ huntwild/wild/rehab/.

COVID-19 cases rise while deaths, hospitalizations decline

The number of new Texas cases of COVID-19 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University jumped by more than 100% in the past week to 46,375, though deaths dropped to 252 during the same time period.

Lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas have dropped to 875 patients, the lowest level in months. The highly contagious subvariant of Omicron, dubbed BA.2, has become the dominant version worldwide and is accounting for the majority of new cases.

Like the original omicron variant, this strain is more transmissible but generally has less-severe symptoms, according to health experts. The best protection continues to be getting vaccinated and getting a booster if already vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

DSHS says unvaccinated Texans are eight times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and 42 times more likely to die of a COV-ID-19 associated illness.

As of Sunday, 17.479 million Texans - or nearly 60% of the state's population fully vaccinated, with 6.6 million getting a booster



A Lot of Cake

The plan was to buy everyone cake.

My husband, Peter, and I are finally getting ready to leave Mexico, and we can't say we are too happy about

The last two months in San Miguel de Allende have convinced us that it is a place we want to return to, and now leaving it feels very hard—especially when my sister tells me about the freezing rain hitting her home right now.

'We had to cancel our trip to visit Uncle Andy and Bea!" she tells me. "The roads were terrible!"

As I sit in the evening sunshine, in a city where people usually don't need to heat their homes and never need air conditioning, the idea of freezing rain does not exactly make me homesick.

'Why are we leaving, again?" Peter asks.

But I'm anxious to see family again. My dad is going in for a bunch of tests. My sister is getting her knee operated on. Peter's sister, Shelley, will be having a procedure done on her back. All of these things are important—if not particularly fun. So the plan yesterday was to do something festive, and I couldn't think of anything more festive than cake.

The idea for the party was Peter's.

We were so grateful to find this little hotel when we did. Our lodging on the coast turned out to be a disaster, and our choices were to either return home early or find something back in San Miguel de Allende-in the high season, without reservations. When we found this little one-bedroom apartment overlooking the courtyard filled with more than 2,000 smiling sun faces, we felt as if we had been saved.

"I am calling you Salvador," Peter told Jorge, the owner of the small hotel. "You saved us!" Jorge smiled.

The hotel used to be Jorge's family home. He was born and raised within its walls, along with his 12 siblings. In the mid-1980s, he began the process of converting it into a hotel. Now it is his pride and joy, and he spends his days putting more artwork on the walls and more plants into pots.

We ordered a chocolate layer cake with buttercream frosting. It had fresh fruit between the layers and a smiling sun face on the top. A woman at the market squeezed about 50 lemons for me, and we made fresh lemonade. Then Jorge and his employees and the three artists he keeps busy every day all gathered together in the courtyard with the 2000+ suns to eat cake.

Once we were all gathered, I found myself completely without Spanish words to thank them properly. This is what happens to me when I have something important to say in Spanish—I forget every word I ever knew. So, instead, we cut the cake and poured lemonade and smiled a lot. I think they all got the mes-

"That was a good party!" Peter announced when we finally returned to our little apartment upstairs. "Jorge ate a lot of cake!"

We don't know what they really think of us, the kind people running this family hotel. We wouldn't blame them if they thought we were a little awkward or odd.

But we wanted to try to let them know how much we appreciated finding such a clean, cheerful place to live. We appreciated all the beautiful art being made, the plants being grown, the countless small kindnesses shown to us every day.

"Gracias!" we say again and again. "Thank you."

"De nada," they always reply. "It's nothing."

But, of course, it is everything.

Till next time,

Carrie

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



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* MILESTONES PAGE

LEAH LOFTIN: New York actress with Crosby roots

Leah Loftin is a New York-based actress and director with a background in theatre and film. Leah is a 1999 graduate of Crosby High School. She was recently cast as Maggie "Tweetie" McGuire in season 3 of New Amsterdam (NBC), and will be seen next in the upcoming limited series The Green Veil with John Leguizamo.

Her film work began with a role in the Oscar-winning film Monster's Ball, and she has appeared in independent films that have won awards at film festivals across the globe.

Leah has performed theatrically Off-Broadway, throughout the US, Canada, and Russia. With an emphasis on devised/physical theatre of both new and classical plays, Loftin's work was named "fearless" by The New York Times.As a filmmaker, Loftin's work has been invited to premiere at the BAFTA-qualifying Aesthetica Film Festival (UK), Shorts on Tap (London), and Anthology Film Archives as part of New Filmmakers NY. Her short films have won



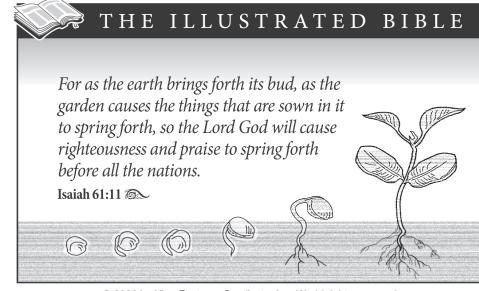
awards in Berlin, Toronto, Austin, and Bucharest.

Loftin was recently named an "Emerging Director to Discover" by Shoot Magazine, and was selected for their 2021 New Directors Showcase.

Formally trained with the Moscow Art Theater at A.R.T. (MXAT). Leah was selected for an extended theatre performance residency in Russia, working in collaboration with Moscow's acclaimed SounDrama theatre company. She was cast as a principal in an original Russian-American production that was a special commission from the prestigious Chekhov International Theater Festival, which went on to tour in sold-out performances throughout Russia and Eastern Europe and was awarded 'Best Experimental Theater Production' in Moscow

Leah has worked with a number of Russia's most internationally celebrated directors, including Vladimir Pankov and Kirill Serebrennikov. As part of the original cast of Tennessee Williams' previously unpublished play 'Mister Paradise', Leah performed its world premiere at the Tennessee Williams Festival in New Orleans, and her performance is featured in the book "Mister Paradise and Other One-Act Plays" (New Directions).

With nearly two decades spent creating vibrant theatre as a member of theatre companies in NYC, New Orleans, and Toronto, Leah has developed original performances based on the works of such luminaries as Chekhov, Dostoevsky, Bulgakov, Beckett, Genet, Gogol, O'Neill, and Tennessee Williams. A proud Texas native, Leah was born and raised in the small town of Crosby,



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Sales Tax Holiday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. If the emergency preparation item being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation item can be purchased taxfree during the holiday.

For example, if you purchase a rescue ladder on-

LEGAL NOTICE

line for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Several over-thecounter self-care items, such as antibacterial hand sanitizer, soap, spray and wipes, are always exempt from sales tax if they are labeled with a "Drug Facts" panel in accordance with federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations.

Purchases that do not qualify include:

-- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles:

-- camping stoves and camping supplies;

-- chainsaws;

-- plywood;

-- extension ladders and stepladders; and

-- tents.

A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

LEGAL NOTICE



112 Denny St. Highlands, TX 77562-Dine In & Boutique Shopping 15110 FM 2100 Ste. 9 Crosby, TX 77532-Pickup Only & Boutique Shopping 281-426-3670

Desserts of The Week- Cherry 4 Layer, Bread Pudding, Banana Pudding & Chocolate

Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$50 * Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$40 Single Meal \$11.95

Tuesday: Creamy Chicken Spaghetti, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Confetti Whoopie Pies. This dish is one of our top sellers (next to our Chicken Salad). It's creamy, cheesy, deliciousness that feeds a crowd!

Wednesday: Two Specials today! Both are New! Korean Ground Beef Lettuce Wraps, White Rice, Egg Rolls & Red Velvet Cupcakes! We can't wait for you guys to try this one!

Plus.... Special #2 BBQ Baked Chicken Thighs, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Fresh White Sliced Bread & Banana Pudding Cookies

Thursday: New! John Wayne Casserole, Green Beans, Garlic Bread & Cherry Trifle! This casserole is filled with juicy ground beef, corn, yellow onion, Rotel and green chilies topped with whipped cream cheese and a biscuit in every bite!

New Party Tray! Mini Porter Sandwiches, Baked Potato Dip with Ruffles, Sweet Peppers stuffed with Pimento Cheese & assorted Mini Muffins. Available in Single Order & 1 Size Family meal \$45.00 (feeds 4-6)

Our dining room will be closed for a private event but you can still pickup lunch & Shop with us in Highlands. Come pickup lunch & Shop with us in Crosby! We are excited to add the Glam of "Candice Rose Boutique" to The Teapot Depot at the Crosby Location!

We Deliver Lunch & Dinner!

\$40 Minimum or as close as possible for delivery

We offer a full- service restaurant in Highlands plus a full boutique! Late Pick ups offered until 4:45 (pre-orders only)

We offer food pick up until 6:45, pre-orders & extras in Crosby plus a full boutique!

You can call in and order specialty items & family meals and have them sent to our Crosby Location!

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2022 DISTRICT INSURANCE PROGRAM

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE - RFP #22-005

CASUALTY INSURANCE SPECIFICATIONS

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

Interested parties may contact the BHISD Business Office for a copy of the specifications

which can also be obtained at the District website. Please direct all proposal questions to Amy Presley, Purchasing Coordinator, (281) 576-2221 ext. 1268.

RWL Group will assign markets to agents beginning on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 501756; Estate of NORMAN H. STEWART Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 29, 2022.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

GARY STEWART

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 APRIL 12, 2022.

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Letters

of Administration for Docket No. 497826; Estate of LOIS AIME TRAHAN Deceased: In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 6, 2022.

LOUIS TRAHAN

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 APRIL 18, 2022.

> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE

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

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ELECTION May 7, 2022

The Board of Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District has called a maintenance tax election for May 7, 2022 at the District office located at 103 W Wahl St., Crosby, TX 77532 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The purpose of the election is to obtain authorization for a maintenance tax of up to \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value. Over 95% of the utility districts in Harris County have authorized maintenance taxes. These districts use the maintenance tax collections to supplement water and sewer revenues to reduce increases in water and sewer rates. Crosby MUD tax rate has decreased from \$0.57 in 2013 to \$0.47 today, and some of the decrease could have been replaced with a maintenance tax. If approved the Board of Directors of the District does not anticipate levying the full \$0.25 at this time, but something in the range of \$0.05 cents. The maintenance tax is needed because the District is currently operating at a deficit in its operating account. The District has not raised water and sewer rates in a number of years; however the rate charged by the San Jacinto River Authority for water increases annually. The maintenance tax will supplement payment for purchased water from the San Jacinto River Authority, as well as assist in payment for maintenance and repair for certain facilities within the District. The Crosby MUD Board, all of whom are residents in Crosby MUD who pay the water and sewer rates and the taxes that the residents do, are very mindful of managing the District's operations in a conservative manner. Early voting is at 103 W Wahl St., Crosby, TX 77532 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, beginning April 25, 2022 through May 3, 2022, on each day which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or an official State holiday. For more information, please see the District's website at www.crosbymud.org or call 281-328-4242. We strongly encourage you to vote at the election.

Steven Schreiber, President Eddie Foster, Vice President Wesley Zarsky, Secretary Donna Davenport, Treasurer Diane Feland, Assistant Secretary

15-2t

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DISTRICT NO. 80:

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NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO: THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS,

WHO RESIDE IN HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of HARRIS

the boundaries of HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

You, the voter, may cast no vote or may cast one vote for each of one

or two candidates among those candidates whose name(s) are pre-

printed on the ballot and/or written in by you, the voter, from the official

LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES: Qualified voters residing in the

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 may vote in the

appropriate polling place locations designated for the election. The

consolidated county election precincts and the respective Election Day

EARLY VOTING: Early voting shall be conducted by Stacey Ponder,

the Early Voting Clerk, from April 25, 2022 through May 3, 2022. The

consolidated county election precincts and the respective Early Voting

The Early Voting Clerk's official mailing address to which ballot applications and ballots voted by mail may be sent is Early Voting

location of the main early voting place is Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S.

Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532. The ballot applications must be received by the Early Voting Clerk no later than April 26,

ATTACHMENT 1

(Election Day)

Polling Place Crosby Fire Station 2

Crosby, TX 77532

123 S. Diamondhead Blvd.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 80

DISTRICT NO. 80 will be entitled to vote on the following:

Texas Health and Safety Code § 775.0345

polling places are described in Attachment 1, below.

polling places are described in Attachment 2, below.

list of certified write-in candidates.

elección. Los precintos electorales consolidados del condado y los respectivos lugares de votación del Día de Elección se describen en el Adjunto 1, más adelante. VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA: La votación anticipada estará a cargo de

hasta mayo 3 de 2022. Los precintos electorales consolidados del condado y los respectivos lugares de votación de Votación Anticipada se describen en el Adjunto 2, más adelante. La dirección postal oficial del Oficial de Votación Anticipada a la cual se pueden enviar las solicitudes para boletas de votación y las boletas de votación por correo es Early Voting Clerk, Harris County

Stacev Ponder, el Oficial de Votación Anticipada, desde abril 25

el lugar de votación que corresponda y haya sido designado para la

Emergency Services District No. 80, Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532. El número de teléfono de la Oficial de Votación Anticipada es (281) 601-4003. La dirección de correo electrónico de la Oficial de Votación Anticipada es sponder@hcesd80.org. El sitio web en internet de la Oficial de Votación Anticipada es www.hcesd80.org. La ubicación del lugar de votación anticipada principal es Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532. El Oficial de Votación Anticipada debe recibir las solicitudes de boleta de votación antes del abril 26 de 2022, a las 5:00 PM.

DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 80 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS Por: /firma/ Raymond St. Julian, Sr., Presidente

ATESTIGUA: Por:/firma/ Randy Foster, Secretario

ADJUNTO 1 (Día de Elección)

Precintos del Condado de Harris

063, 097, 251, 387, 502, 531, 604, 700, 988, 1008 Lugar de Votación Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd. Crosby, TX 77532

ADJUNTO 2 (Votación anticipada)

Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532

Días/Horario: Lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. hasta 5:00 p.m.

THÔNG BÁO VỀ CUỘC BẦU CỬ

GỬI: CÁC CỬ TRI HỘI ĐỦ ĐIỀU KIỆN CỦA QUẬN HARRIS, TEXAS, HIỆN ĐANG CỬ NGỤ TRONG CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CÁP SỐ 80 QUÂN HARRIS:

Ủy Ban Điều Hành Dịch Vụ Khẩn Cấp của CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CÁP SỐ 4 QUẬN HARRIS đã ban hành Lệnh yêu cầu tổ chức một cuộc bầu cử vào ngày 7 tháng Năm, 2022 từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối, tại cuộc bầu cử đó tất cả các cử tri hội đủ điều kiện hiện cư ngụ trong phạm vi ranh giới của CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 4 QUẬN HARRIS sẽ được quyền bỏ phiếu về các vấn đề sau đây:

ỦY BAN ĐIỀU HÀNH DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP Bộ Luật Sức Khỏe và An Toàn Texas § 775.0345

Quý vị cử tri có thể bỏ phiếu trống hoặc bỏ phiếu chọn mỗi một hoặc hai ứng cử viên trong số các ứng cử viên có tên ghi sẵn trên lá phiếu và/hoặc do quý vị cử tri viết thêm từ danh sách chính thức các cử tri viết thêm đã được chứng nhận.

CÁC ĐỊA ĐIỂM BỔ PHIẾU: Các cử tri hội đủ điều kiện cư ngụ trong phạm vi CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 80 QUẬN HARRIS có thể bỏ phiếu cho cuộc bầu cử tại địa điểm bỏ phiếu thích hợp đã chỉ định. Các phân khu bầu cử quân hat kết hợp và các địa điểm bỏ phiếu vào Ngày Bầu Cử tương ứng được mô tả trong Phần Đính Kèm 1

BO PHIẾU SỚM: Bỏ phiếu sớm sẽ được tiến hành bởi Stacey Ponder, Thư Ký phụ trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm, từ ngày 25 tháng Tư đến ngày 3 tháng Năm, 2022. Các phân khu bầu cử quận hạt kết hợp và các địa điểm Bỏ Phiếu Sóm tương ứng được mô tả trong Phần Đính Kèm 2 dưới đây.

Địa chỉ thư chính thức của Thư Ký Phụ Trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm nợi quý vị gửi đơn xin lá phiếu và gửi trở lại các lá phiếu bầu qua thư về cho, Early Voting Clerk, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80, Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532. Số điện thoại của Thư Ký phụ trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm là (281) 601-4003. Địa chỉ email của Thư Ký phụ trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm là sponder@hcesd80.org. Trang mang của Thư Ký phu trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm là www.hcesd80.org. Địa điểm chính tiến hành bỏ phiếu sớm là Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532. Các đơn xin lá phiếu phải được Thư Ký Phụ Trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm nhận được không trễ hơn ngày, 26 tháng Tư, 2022, lúc 5:00 giờ

CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 80 QUẬN HARRIS Bởi: /s/ Raymond St. Julian, Sr., Chủ Tịch CHÚNG THỰC: Bởi:/s/ Randy Foster, Thư Ký

> PHẦN ĐÍNH KÈM 1 (Ngày Bầu Cử)

Các Phân Khu Quận Hạt 063, 097, 251, 387, 502, 531, 604, 700, 988, 1008

Địa Điểm Bỏ Phiếu Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd.

PHẦN ĐÍNH KÈM 2 (Bổ phiếu sớm)

Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532

Ngày/Giờ: Thứ Hai-Thứ Sáu, 9 giờ sáng - 5 giờ chiều

選舉通知

致居住於 HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 80 區的 TEXAS 州 HARRIS 郡合資格 選民:

HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 80 區緊急服務委員會已發佈命令要求於 2022 年 5 月 7 上午 7:00 至晚上 7:00 間舉行選舉,屆時居住於 HARRIS 郡緊 急服務區第 80 區範圍內的所有合資格選民均有權就以下事項作出投票

緊急服務委員會 Texas 州健康與安全法第 775.0345 條

選民可以投反對票,或針對候選人中的一位或兩位分別投以一票,上述 候選人可以是姓名預先印於選票上的人士,也可以是選民根據自填候選 人認證名單所填寫的人士.

投票點地址:居住於 HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 80 區的合資格選民可在 本選舉的指定投票點進行投票。郡合併選區與各選舉日投票點均載於下 文的附錄1中。

提前投票

提前投票將由提前投票書記員 Stacey Ponder 執行,時間為 2022 年 4 月 25 至年 5 月 3。郡合併選區與各提前投票點均 載於下文的附錄 2 中。

選票申請與郵寄選票可寄至提前投票書記員的正式郵寄地址,即:Early Voting Clerk, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80, Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532。提前投票書記員 電話是(281) 601-4003。提前投票書記員電子郵件地址是 sponder@hcesd80.org。提前投票書記員網站是 www.hcesd80.org。 主要 的提前投票地址是 Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532。選票申請必須於 2022 年 4 月 26 下午 5:00 前送達提前投票 書記員。

HARRIS 郡緊急服務區 80 區 簽署人: /簽名/ Raymond St. Julian, Sr., 主席 見證:簽署人:/簽名/ Randy Foster, 秘書長

> 附錄1 (選舉日)

063, 097, 251, 387, 502,

531, 604, 700, 988, 1008

Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd. Crosby, TX 77532

投票地點

附錄 2 (提前投票)

Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532

> 日期/時間: 週一至週五,上午9:00至下午5:00

COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 80 has issued an Order calling for an election to be held on May 7, 2022, from 7:00 A.M., to 7:00 P.M., at which election all eligible voters residing within



Clerk, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80, Crosby Fire Station 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532. The phone number for the Early Voting Clerk is (281) 601-4003. The email address for the Early Voting Clerk is sponder@hcesd80.org. The internet website for the Early Voting Clerk is www.hcesd80.org. The

2022, at 5:00 PM.

Harris County Precincts 063, 097, 251, 387, 502, 531, 604, 700, 988, 1008

By: /s/ Raymond St. Julian, Sr., President

ATTEST: By:/s/ Randy Foster, Secretary

(Early Voting) Crosby Fire Station 2 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532

ATTACHMENT 2

Days/Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN

PARA: LOS VOTANTES CALIFICADOS DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS, TEXAS, QUE RESIDEN EN EL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 80 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS:

La Junta de Comisionados de Servicios de Emergencia del DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 80 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS ha emitido una Orden que convoca a una elección a realizarse el 7 de mayo de 2022 desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m., en la que todos los votantes elegibles que residen dentro de los límites del DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 80 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS tendrán derecho a votar por lo siguiente:

JUNTA DE COMISIONADOS DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIAS § 775.0345 del Código de Salud y Seguridad de Texas

Usted, el votante, puede no emitir ningún voto o puede emitir un voto por cada uno de uno o dos candidatos entre aquellos candidatos cuyo nombre o nombres están preimpresos en la boleta de votación y/o escritos por usted, el votante, de la lista oficial de candidatos certificados por escrito.

UBACIONES DE LOS LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN: Los votantes calificados que residen en el DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA Nro. 80 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS pueden votar en

Jackie Young Medcalf hosts national environmental group at San Jacinto Waste Pits

ENVIRONMENTALISTS MEET IN HIGHLANDS TO SEE SJR WASTE PITS

Environmental Activist Jackie Young Medcalf has returned from maternity leave, and is tackling pollution in three areas: The San Jacinto River Waste Pits, the Cypress Community (Jones Road pollution), and the Northeast Houston (5th Ward pollution).

She held a virtual and in-person Town Hall last month, on March 29, to update and discuss the three areas of concern. She noted that with realignment of Precinct boundaries in Harris County, the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is now divided into the Northern compound in Pct. 3, and the Southern compound in Pct. 2. It remains to be seen whether this will complicate the remediation plan for the waste pits, she said.

Jackie reported that the remediation plan was proceeding on the Southern impoundment, with excavation expected to start in the Fall of this year. Updated drawings on this project are due in June. For the Northern impoundment, she criticized the 90% Remedial Design Documents that have been



released, with omissions to procedures for Health and Safety that she deemed important. She said the engineers are still studying two methods for removal of the toxic materials, and have two schemes for the double wall cofferdam that are being evaluated at this time.

On March 31 Jackie hosted and talked with 30 environmental journalists from across the country, about her exeriences with the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. She detailed lessons she has learned from over 10 years of working with the site's technical information, along with the communities and the government agencies involved. She noted how the skillsets developed could be applied to other sites in the region or nationwide.

She expressed herself to the group, "What a joy to be back out in the field doing what I love."

Her environmental group, THEA, is planning a fund raising-fun raising event on April 30 at the Karbach Brewery. See the website for information and reservations

ons. The next Town Hall for THEA is planned on May 10.

Waste Pits delay,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"hydraulic heave" that would make the excavation unstable and fill with water. This would occur because the excavations were so deep.

Although TXDOT has not announced exact plans for the I-10 replacement bridge, the consultants, GHD engineers, claim that part of the structure would be built in the only remainig Right-Of-Way, and make access to the site impossible or at least difficult. The engineers state that at least 162,000 cubic yards of material must be removed, taking 20,000 truckloads to haul away. They state that the bridge construction might start as early as 2025 or 2026, impacting the movement of trucks and equipment at the Waste Pits site.

For these reasons, the Respondents have asked for a pause in the schedule, to "reconsider and alter the response action." This includes changing the criteria for how waste material is tested to determine how much must be removed. They recommend a test called SWAC (Surface-Weighted Average Concentration) but this is not approved in the ROD. It would allow a reduction in toxicity of material to be removed from 30ng/kg to

about half the amount.

The Responsible Parties are International Paper Company, and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corp. They signed an agreement with the EPA several years ago, to remove the toxic dioxin materials at their expense, in an approved manner. Now they seem to want to reexamine this agreement.

Jackie Young Medcalf has led the movement against the Responsible Parties, and to make them fully remove the material and restore it to its natural condition prior to the waste pits. In her press conference last week, she stated:

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is one of the most vulnerable and notorious Superfund sites in the nation. Consultants working for the parties responsible for these toxic pits, recently submitted a letter to the **Environmental Protection** Agency (EPA), claiming they cannot clean up the Site as previously ordered by the EPA. However, this is not the responsible party's first attempt to convince the EPA, and others, that the waste should remain in the river. In fact, internal corporate emails from 2011 show they had a plan to create a global consensus to "sell" leaving the waste in the river as the final remedy. The catch? Hundreds of millions of dollars are on the line for the parties responsible but the future of Galveston Bay and the health of our communities hinge on this waste being removed in a controlled and engineered environment and not in the next hurricane.

The Pits, straddling Interstate 10 in the San Jacinto River, were filled with dioxin-contaminated waste in the 1960s and have been in a heated battle between community members and those responsible for the cleanup. The EPA named International Paper and McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC, a Waste Management of Texas and Waste Management Inc subsidiary) the parties responsible for the cleanup under a federal administrative order.

The San Jacinto River Coalition, a local community group led by Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA), began advocating for the full removal of the Waste Pits over a decade ago. The Coalition, with over 55,000 supporters, has worked with scientific experts and policy advisers to understand what is truly the best remedy for this Superfund Site. In 2017, the EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the complete removal of the Northern Pit down to a level of dioxin that is safe for a youth recreational fisherman - exactly what the local communities asked

In a recently released letter, the responsible parties dispute the ability to remove the waste as described in the ROD and ask the EPA to consider altering their selected cleanup plan. Jackie Medcalf, a former resident and the founder of THEA, states that "this is nothing more than smoke and mirrors - removal is possible, it will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, but it is feasible." The reality of the situation is the waste will remain toxic for upwards of 750 more years if left in the river. How many hurricanes will strike our coast during that time and how many more generations have to live with this burden?

In reply to the letter from the Responsible parties, the EPA's Region 6 Regional Administrator Earthea Nance, sent a letter in response, stating that EPA would not grant a schedule extension, and that 90% Remedial Designs were still due on June 26. However, she did say that after submission, the parties could work on any modifications that might be required.



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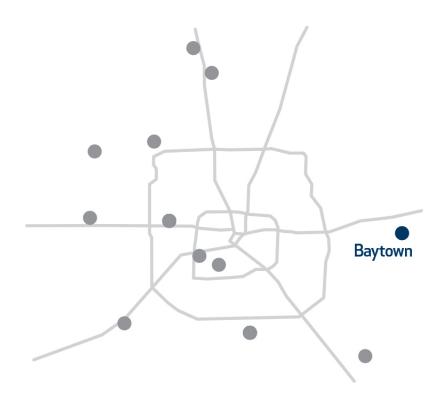




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