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IN THE STARS

EVENTS

APR. 11, TUESDAY San Jacinto River Coalition

THEA/SJRC Meeting scheduled at Highlands Community Center, 6:30pm. Update on Waste Pits Remediation.

APR. 13, WED. C/H Chamber Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament

Crosby/Huffman Chamber of Commerce 31st Annual Golf Tournament. At Stonebridge at Newport. 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby 77532.

Starts 8:30am registration, 9:00am Breakfast, 10:00am Shotgun Start.

Early Bird by April 10, \$75 without Games, \$100 with Games. After April 10, \$100 without Games, \$125 with Games. Games include Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and Bubba Drive.

Register at 281-328-6984 or chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 31–Amy Brewer
Lottie Velma Dunaway
Apr 2–Mickey Mann
Tim Engle

Pauline Cutbirth
Levi James Boyd
Apr 3–Randall Henning
Dylan James Lay
Liam Greenwood
Bryan Muldrow
Dot Sheffield
Zac Bowman

Apr 4–Cory Hildebrand
Clydeen Valentine
Denise Hernandez
Robert H. Sparks

Apr 5–Fred Dunks
Apr 6–J.J. Worthen
Apr 7–Jean Oliver
Charlotte Yates

ANNIVERSARIES
March 31–William & Susan O'Neal

Apr 1–Doug & Jackie Adams
Apr 5–Randy & Rose Donnell

Crosby Rodeo announces performers

Entertainment, BBQ Cookoff, Championship Rodeo June 2 thru June 10

CROSBY – The Crosby Fair & Rodeo has announced the line-up of entertainers for this year, and tickets are now on sale on their website. Prices range from \$15 to \$20, with a child's ticket only \$5.

This year there will be four nights of music and entertainment, as well as two nights of PRCA Championship Rodeo competition. This popular event sells out early, so get tickets soon.

Cooking teams will be busy on Friday June 2 and Saturday June 3 for the BBQ Cookoff.

Entertainment starts Friday evening, June 2 with the popular Bag of Donuts as the main attraction, and the local Crosby band 22's as the opener.



BAG OF DONUTS, the very popular Band from New Orleans, will open the entertainment at this year's Crosby Fair & Rodeo. The Rodeo Shows start on Friday, June 2nd at 7:30pm. See story for complete line-up.

On Saturday morning, June 3rd the traditional Parade will start at 10:00am, according to CFR President Ronnie Ehrlich. The next night, Saturday June 3 the per-

former Sunny Saucedo from San Antonio will be the main attraction.

During the week Ag students will be showing their exhibits, and being judged. The livestock auc-

tion will take place on Thursday, June 8 with Buyer's dinner at 4:00pm, Awards at 5:45pm, and the Livestock Auction at 6:00pm according to Justin

George, Auction Committee chairman.

Entertainment and the Rodeo continue on Friday night, June 9 with Creed Fisher as the main act, and Tyler Halverson as the opener. This is the first night of the PRCA rodeo competition.

Saturday morning, June 10 at 10:00am will be the Little Wrangler Rodeo, a fan and family favorite.

That evening the main attraction will be Giovannie & The Hired Guns, and Austin Meade. The second and final event of the PRCA Championship Rodeo will precede the entertainment, starting at 7:30pm.

For a detailed story about each of the performing acts, see Page 2 of this issue of the paper.

Intruder in Huffman School apprehended

HUFFMAN, Texas – A convicted felon is facing multiple charges after he was allegedly caught trespassing and breaking into vehicles, while armed with a gun, at an elementary school in Huffman.

Christopher Ian Hair has been charged with unlawful carrying a weapon with a prior felony, carrying a prohibited weapon at prohibited places and burglary of a motor vehicle.

Hair was allegedly caught trespassing and hiding behind a bus at

Huffman Elementary School on Tuesday.

Police said Hair stole a passport from a vehicle he burglarized before he was caught by a Huffman Independent School District police officer. Hair told the officer he would hurt him and tried to resist arrest.

It was not reportedly the first time he had committed crimes while on the property. Hair was already out on bond for

Continued. See Intruder Huffman school, Page 7



Christopher Ian Hair

Democrat legislators file gun safety bill

AUSTIN — Members of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus filed Senate Bill 1274. Four days after the gut-wrenching tragedy in Uvalde, the caucus urged Governor Abbott to immediately call a special session to address gun violence in Texas and pass common sense gun safety legislation.

Senate Bill 1274:
--Raises the minimum age to purchase an assault weapon to 21;
--Requires background checks for all firearm sales;



Carol Alvarado
State Senator

--Requires a "cooling off" period of 72 hours after the purchase of a firearm; and
--Allows the temporary removal of firearms from those who are an imminent danger to themselves or others.

State Senator Carol Alvarado, on behalf of the Caucus, said the following: "These measures are supported by a vast majority of Texans and could help keep a gun out of the

Continued. See Gun Safety bill, Page 5

Dr. O'Brien Nominated for Citizen of the Year 2023

Dr. Randal O'Brien, superintendent of Goose Creek CISD, was honored recently by the Baytown Sun and the community as a nominee for Citizen of the Year 2023. He was nominated by Jay Eshbach, a philanthropist and financial planner in Baytown until his retirement 12 years ago.

"I met him when he moved to Baytown, and we really hit it off. A few months later, we asked them to go to Theatre Under the Stars," Eshbach said. "I talk to him every few months – he's in the paper so much I can't keep up with him. I was Citizen of the Year in 2019, and when they asked me to nominate

someone, he's the first name that came into my head. I think he's been one of the best, if not the best, superintendent in Baytown in my memory."

O'Brien was named interim superintendent in 2014 and was confirmed as the 15th superintendent in the 100-year history of the district. He came to Baytown in 2013 as the deputy superintendent for administrative services from Hubbard ISD, where he was superintendent for four years.

O'Brien holds a bachelor's degree in business management from East Texas Baptist University, where he played basketball and tennis on



The Baytown Sun hosted its Community Leadership Celebration March 8 announcing the 2023 Citizens of the Year. Nominees pictured from left: Nick Jared, Finalist Nikki Rincon, Dr. Randal O'Brien, Harvey Oyler, 2023 Citizen of the Year R. D. Burnside (seated), Finalist Connie Tilton, 2023 Citizen of the Year Steve Daniele, Eloy Valdes, Chuck Chandler, Finalist Gina Guillory and Finalist Pete Lester. Photo by Carol Skewes.

scholarship. He later earned a master of education in administration from Sam Houston State University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Lamar University. In his more than 30 years in education, he also has served as a CTE teacher/coordinator, assistant principal, campus principal and district administrator.

His accomplishments include his nominations as the Region 12 Superintendent of the Year by the Hubbard ISD Board of Trustees as well as the Region 4 Superintendent

Continued. See Dr. O'Brien nominated, Page 2

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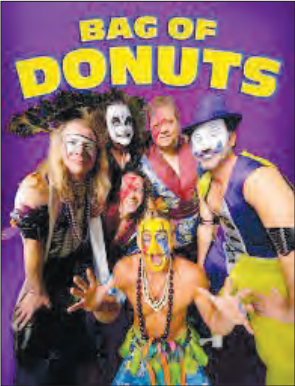
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Crosby Fair & Rodeo Line-up of Performers



Friday, Jun 2. 7:30pm - BAG OF DONUTS,

Bag of Donuts is a New Orleans party band that taps into the city's long tradition of costumes and great music to bring New Orleans to wherever you are. With Bag of Donuts you and your friends can reminisce without the nostalgia—as highly skilled musicians with a flair for the fantastical play all the classics. Together, these hits are what Bag of Donuts calls Superpop, a genre of “just the hits”, from the 60’s all the way through today, “suped” up in a new and exciting way. The party is contagious; as the guys on stage go wild in their outlandish costumes, crowds of friends and strangers alike find themselves comfortable letting loose. If you’re planning an event, Bag of Donuts promises an atypical experience that audience members of all ages and types can groove to. Bag of Donuts will take your night, and your party, to the next level.



Friday, Jun 2. 7:30pm - THE 22'S

A local Crosby band, with a strong fan base from those who have heard them.



Saturday, Jun 3. 7:30pm - SUNNY SAUCEDA

Sunny Sauced is a three-time Grammy-winning Tejano music artist from San Antonio, Texas. Sauced plays the accordion and is known as the most energetic accordion player in the world. His accordion playing often overshadows his vocal prowess. Sauced has a sultry but powerful modern voice. Albums: Vagar Libremente Awards: Grammy Award for Best Tejano Album, Latin Grammy Award for Best Tejano Album



Friday, Jun 9. 7:30pm - CREED FISHER

Country music's beloved antihero Creed Fisher calls out the bullshit and puts the FU in Fun on his album Rebel in the South. “It definitely has a bit more rock country sprinkled in than Whiskey and the Dog, which consisted of honky tonk, twang,” Fisher says of the vibe. “That stuff is on Rebel in the South, but the balance is a little different.” Put another way, he explains, “Whiskey and the Dog was more Merle Haggard-ish, and more ballad driven. I feel like Rebel in the South is more Brantley Gilbert, more country rock.” Fisher credits the whole tone of Rebel in the South originating with the song “Cuz I’m Country,” which is the first single. “My buddy sent me this song he wanted me to help write, and I was like, ‘Man this is about us!’ Everything came together into a production that exceeded even his own high expectations.



Friday, Jun 9. 7:30pm - TYLER HALVERSON

From a small town in South Dakota, Tyler Halverson's unique style of country music takes inspiration from classic country and western music, while also looking ahead to the genre's future. At the age of 20, Tyler moved to Nashville, to attend Belmont University where he studied music business and refined his songwriting craft. Tyler's first album was co-produced by himself, Ryan Youmans, and Muscadine Bloodline's Gary Stanton. “Beer Garden Baby,” the first release from his self-titled record in February 2021, has been well received by the Texas radio. He recently joined the roster at True Grit Talent and is looking forward to touring his debut album set to be released later this year in 2021.



Saturday, Jun 10. 7:30pm - GIOVANNIE & THE HIRED GUNS

In the last few years alone, Giovannie & The Hired Guns have grown from a massively beloved local live act to an undeniable new force on the national rock scene. Formed back when frontman Giovannie Yanez was working the counter at a pawnshop, the Stephenville, Texas-based band has amassed millions of streams almost entirely through word-of-mouth, thanks in no small part to their unforgettable live show—an electrifying spectacle that invariably leaves audiences sweat-drenched and ecstatic. With their high-octane collision of rock-and-roll and country, Giovannie & The Hired Guns are now at work on a hotly anticipated new album showcasing their hard-hitting sound, emotionally raw storytelling, and the kind of authentically gritty energy that's sorely missing from rock music today.



Saturday, Jun 10. 7:30pm - AUSTIN MEADE

Thanks to his metal- and classic-rock loving dad, Meade got to see bands like Judas Priest and worshipped Whitesnake. In junior high he related to the intense emo-rock of Paramore and Fall Out Boy, and the power of songwriters like John Mayer. Yet, thanks to plainspoken but deep heartland songwriters like Tom Petty, and cutting his teeth touring in the Texas and Oklahoma Red Dirt scene, Meade's music overflows with wide-open soulfulness. Meade found his true voice when he began playing guitar as a teen in his pastor-father's church. Those experiences lend both a gravitas and rebelliousness to Meade's songs and self. Inspired by the rock music that molded Meade's adolescence comes his current singles that include ‘Happier Alone’ ‘Cave In,’ ‘DÉJÀ VU,’ AND ‘Dopamine Drop’ from THE NEWLY RELEASED record ‘Black Sheep.’

GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Eshbach Presents Bronze Sculpture to Goose Creek CISD

As the Art League of Baytown's Sculpture Trail art was replaced after a year on display in Baytown, Jay Eshbach, philanthropist and former financial planner in Baytown, saw a sculpture that he knew would be perfect for the Goose Creek CISD Administration Building lobby. “Saturday Distractions 1,” a 200-lb. bronze sculpture by Lee Leuning from Aberdeen, SD, features, in great detail, a young man so distracted by his book that he ignores his melting ice cream cone. His dog seems to be planning to take care of the drips.

Impressed by the sculpture, Eshbach entered into an agreement with the Art League of Baytown to lease it, along with another one, “May Flowers” by Susan Geissler of Youngstown, NY, which he leased for the lobby of the Baytown Sun. “Saturday Distractions 1” was delivered to the Administration Building March 22, and Eshbach was present for its arrival. Dr. Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, is pleased with the sculpture and hopes that community members will have the opportunity to view it at

the Administration Building over the next year. “Jay Eshbach has long been a supporter of Goose Creek CISD, and we appreciate his generosity and thoughtfulness in choosing our Administration Building for at least a temporary home for this magnificent work of art,” O'Brien said. “The boy's passion for reading clearly overshadows the other distractions and sets a wonderful example for our students. We wouldn't mind giving this art a permanent home!”



Jay Eshbach (front) presents a bronze sculpture to Goose Creek CISD to display at the Administration Building for the next year. Pictured are (from left) Ray LaVan, director of fine arts; Dr. Randal O'Brien, superintendent of schools and Dr. Matt Bolinger, assistant superintendent of human resources. Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman.

Bañuelos Elementary Hosts Careers on Wheels 2023



Students from Bañuelos Elementary raise their hands enthusiastically when asked by Sgt. Kent Dowdy with the Goose Creek CISD Police Department if they were interested in becoming a police officer at the recent Careers on Wheels 2023.

Students at Dr. Antonio Bañuelos, Jr., Elementary School had the opportunity to explore numerous careers at the recent Careers on Wheels 2023. Planned and hosted by Mitzi Oliver, school counselor, the annual event includes career choices

that do not require a degree. “I want students to have the opportunity to experience and learn about careers that do not require a degree of higher education,” Oliver said. “The smiles, happiness and thanks from the students has encouraged

me to make this an annual event for Bañuelos. Guests for Careers on Wheels 2023 included Baytown Public Works, Baytown Fire Department, Goose Creek CISD Police Department, Gamers Van, Jeff Smith Towing, Frank's Collision Racing Team (Bon-

do Ballers), Radio One Houston, CDL Future Trucking Academy and Kouzan's Creole Kitchen. HEB provided snacks. “We appreciate all of our amazing volunteers, and I look forward to Careers on Wheels 2024,” Oliver said.

Dr. O'Brien nominated for Citizen of Year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Year by the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees. Giving back to the community is important to O'Brien. He serves as a Rotarian, a board member for the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center as well as a member of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation. He attends numerous galas to support community service organizations, and he always finds time to attend fine arts and athletic events at the district's schools.

O'Brien's wife Monica is a language arts specialist and their son Riley graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and will soon complete his degree at Trinity University. Son Tyler is a graduate of Baylor University and daughter Kendal, a graduate of Texas Woman's University, is a reg-

istered nurse practitioner. “I am so honored to be among the nominees for Citizen of the Year 2023, and I heartily congratulate the two deserving winners, R.D. Burnside and Steve Daniele. These two men have not only been active in the community, but also generous with their time and donations to numerous organizations and causes,” O'Brien said. “I also wish to congratulate finalists Gina Guillory, Pete Lester, Nikki Rincon and Connie Tilton, along with the other nominees. Thanks to Jay Eshbach for nominating me and to the Baytown Sun for hosting this annual event. I believe in the importance of giving back to the community, and I hope I have instilled this in my children and grandchildren as well as the students in our district.”

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★

OPINION

By Allan Jamail

Gun Violence: Coming to a School Near you?

School Gun Violence – one of a series

By Allan Jamail

March 27, 2023 as a former member of the law enforcement community I feel a sense of duty to offer my opinion/suggestions to those responsible for providing safe schools for children. Do not classify me as an anti-gun person, I'm a hunter and have a Texas Department of Public Safety Supervisor's Firearms Training Qualification. But I'm very much opposed of firearms entering schools from unauthorized persons.



Allan Jamail
NC Star Writer

STOP THE SILENCE, END SCHOOL GUN VIOLENCE is my mission here.

No one can deny as never before schools have become a dangerous place for children and faculty because of school shootings, facts and data back this up. As of 2022 the past five years there have been over 5,000 teenagers ages 12 -17 killed and or injured from gun violence, not all were in-school shootings but many were. Year 2023 has recorded over 40 school shootings in the first quarter.

Just in the past few days and while writing this article there's been two more school shootings, one at a public school and the other at a private school. There's no consistent pattern as to types of schools or grade level the shootings will take place at. One consistent marker is 98 percent of school shootings are usually committed by males.

For some unknown reason schools have become a regular place to have gun violence in them. I remember growing up no one would've dreamed of bringing a gun to school much less using one. But times have changed and school officials must recognize that and school officials must change with the times.

Faculty, school officials and students have become targets and shooting victims by an alarming number, and yet no one seems to be able to stop this wave of gun violence and in reality no one can completely stop it.

But positively school districts can take measures to reduce the chance of a firearm and or knife from entering the school building to be used as a weapon. Parents shouldn't have to worry when their phone rings if it's a call that their child is a shooting victim.

School district officials should be more pro-active in the prevention of firearms entering the schools, they should get ahead of the curve, use the modern technology available.

Metal detectors placed at entrances where students and faculty enter with law enforcement monitoring them can be a huge deterrent and would have saved lives had they been in place where gun violence cases erupted. To not do so, one is denying the facts and gambling their schools will not have a shooting. One should not gamble with others lives when facts are proving there's a significant risk.

Santa Fe, Texas is a perfect example, it's about thirty minutes away; the high school there had 10 killed (8 students & 2 teachers) and 14 injured when a student opened fire in a school classroom. There was no warning, the gunman it's said wasn't a troubled student. Now, AFTER THE FACT they've installed metal detectors. Their action should serve as a wake-up-call to other school districts.

It's common for us entering sporting events like the Astros, Rockets and Houston Rodeo etc to first pass through a metal detector. This is common sense; it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know this will save lives and stop some gun violence in schools.

A child is our most valuable resource so I ask school officials why not protect them as much as you can? The cost of preventing a school shooting death and or injury is a minimal expense by using metal detectors.

Most school districts along their security team have created a plan of action should a school shooting happen. This is great, but this is only an AFTER THE FACT plan and shooters know this and it doesn't seem to prevent shootings.

Recently the shooting outside of the grounds of the Galena Park High School where a teen was killed, witnesses have said the day of the shooting the victim it's been alleged had a pistol in his possession all day before the shooting. And he showed it to classmates it's alleged. There were deputy constables there that day but they had no way of knowing anyone was carrying a gun.

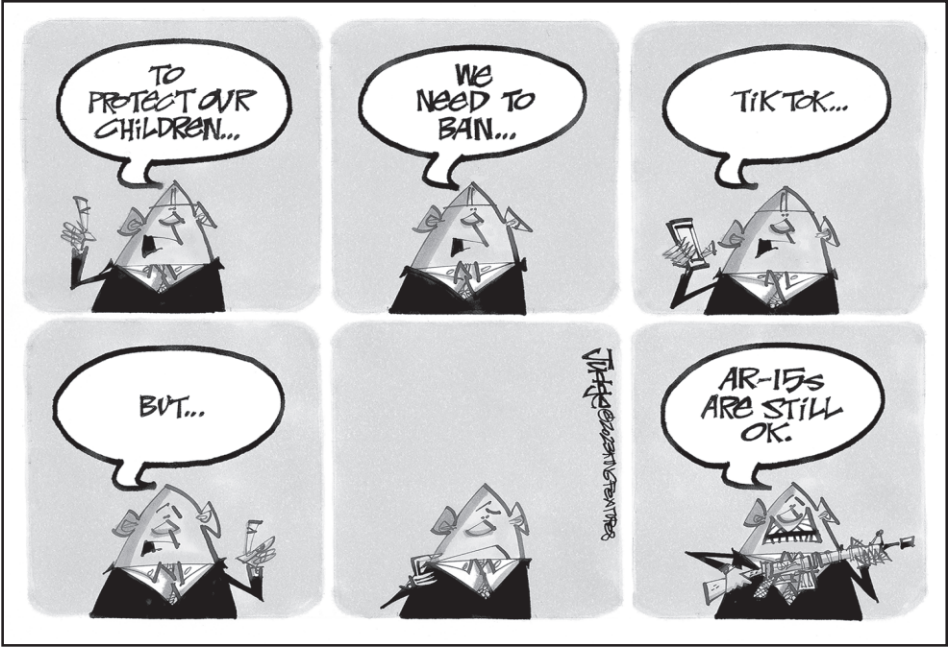
Students are carrying guns undetected in schools daily. Yet the most reasonable tool to prevent this is using metal detectors. Why haven't more school districts taken the sensible steps to use them?

I'm not suggesting metal detectors are the sole solution but it would have stopped the Santa Fe school shooting and hundreds more across the nation like it. There's sufficient evidence to suggest metal detectors could prevent gun violence. Metal detectors range in cost of \$2,500 to \$4,000 each, there's not a parent or grandparent of the shooting death of their child who wouldn't gladly pay that to have their love one back.

Some school officials have said they don't want the students to feel insecure with their safety and the presence of metal detectors lend to that thinking. That's baloney, students are not that sensitive, they're not in a vacuum, they're well aware of the threat they face daily upon entering the school. Just the opposite effect would be true; students knowing everyone in their school wasn't armed would give them a better peace of mind and better learning environment.

See next week's continuation of other preventative steps schools and parents can take to ensure their child's safety. School Shootings A Bad Sign Of The Times

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Senate Passes Tax Cut Package

The Texas Senate last week unanimously approved a \$16.5 billion package to lower property taxes and inject billions of dollars into public schools.

As reported by the Texas Tribune, the three separate bills require the state to send at least \$5.38 billion to public schools while at the same time raising the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with an additional \$20,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. According to the Tribune, the proposal would save an average homeowner \$341 on their annual tax bill. Seniors would save an additional \$227 annually.

In exchange for the increased state funding, local school property tax rates would be cut by 7 cents for every \$100 in appraised value. An owner of a \$300,000 home paying the state's average school tax rate would save \$210 annually in property taxes.

"This is off-the-charts, incredible property tax relief for millions of Texas homeowners," said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR MAY 6 ELECTION NEARS

The deadline for eligible Texas voters to register in order to vote in the May 6 local elections is just around the corner, Secretary of State Jane Nelson announced.

"If you are not already registered to vote in the upcoming local elections - there is still time! Make sure to submit your voter registration application to your county voter registrar by Thursday, April 6 so that you can have an opportunity to make your voice heard in your local community," Nelson said.

Check with the local elections office to learn which municipalities, school districts and other entities are holding elections. Early voting begins on April 24 and ends on May 2, with Election Day on May 6.

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR STATE WORKERS?

For the first time, state employees could get 30 days of paid leave for childbirth or adoption. A bipartisan bill



passed the Texas Senate last week with unanimous support.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that Senate Bill 222, besides allowing the 30 days of paid leave, would apply to anyone paying into the Employee Retirement System of Texas; to employees working within the executive branch of state government; and give 10 days of paid leave to employees whose spouse gave birth.

"Paid parental leave will help the state attract and retain talent while combating the workforce shortage," the bill's main sponsor, state Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, said. A similar bill in the House would grant 60 days of paid leave under the same circumstances detailed in the Senate bill.

AGENCY WARNS OF DANGEROUS DRUG COMBINATION

An animal tranquilizer called xylazine has been found mixed with illegal drugs distributed in the state, resulting in at least four deaths, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported.

The tranquilizer has been combined with fentanyl and other opioids, as well as Xanax and other drugs. It produces a strong sedative effect and can cause unconsciousness, low blood pressure, a slowed heart rate and breathing. It can also cause organ damage due to loss of blood flow.

Since it is not an opioid, the effects of xylazine cannot be reversed by using Narcan, officials said.

NEW FOSTER CARE MODEL LAUNCHED

Community groups representing nearly 50 counties in North and East Texas are assuming oversight of foster care from the state of Texas in a groundbreaking attempt to boost capacity and essential services for children under the state's conservatorship.

Three contracts were signed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and private groups. One serves Dallas County along with eight surrounding counties. Another serves 23 counties in Northeast Texas, while a third serves the Beaumont-Port Arthur area.

"This largest expansion to date for Community-Based Care is a real turning point in our state's intensive effort to move to local control, and a better system overall for the children and youth in our care," Stephanie Muth, DFPS commissioner, said. "Those kids belong to their communities, and those communities want the opportunity to make every day better for a child in foster care."

The expansion means that community-based care is now in place in half of the state geographically, representing a third of the population.

FIRST CASE OF AVIAN FLU IN MAMMALS IN TEXAS

A striped skunk recovered from Carson County in the Panhandle has been confirmed as the first case of avian flu in a mammal in the state.

Officially called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, it is a highly contagious virus transmitted easily among wild and domestic birds. It has been detected in all states except Hawaii, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Transmission occurs through consumption of infected animal carcasses. Symptoms include stumbling, tremors, seizures, lack of fear of people, lethargy, coughing and sneezing or sudden death.

While transmission risk from infected birds to people remains low, precautions should be taken, such as wearing gloves and face masks if in contact with wild animals, TPWD advised.

SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING DRAWS HUNDREDS

A Senate Education Committee meeting on proposals that would give parents public money for private schools drew about 200 people and stretched past midnight last Thursday, the Statesman reported.

Supporters spoke about allowing school choice and financial relief for parents of private school students, while opponents warned against siphoning money from public districts, lack of oversight and using taxpayer money for religious schools.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, is sponsoring Senate Bill 8, which would provide \$8,000 per child for private school, homeschooling, tutoring or other educational costs. He told the Statesman that education savings accounts would not hurt public schools.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Enough Steps"

Anxiety likes numbers. I only recently realized that a lot of my anxiety fixates on meaningless numbers. I like to know how many there are of a particular thing and then attach meanings—usually sinister, sometimes hopeful, always unreasonable—to these numbers.

How many words are in this column? Six hundred exactly. Why are there 600 words? Because I once read that 600 words was a good length for a column, I have always written exactly 600. Never more. Never less. But if my wonderful editor suggests I let an extra word in or suggests a hyphen that makes two words become one, does this bother me? I am proud to tell you this does not bother me—very much.

How many pounds do I weigh? How many pounds should I weigh? Does the fact that I weigh less today mean I am at a better weight? If I weigh less tomorrow, would that be better still? How many days would it be better? When would it no longer be better? Because there is no exact answer to this question, I've decided it's better not to weigh myself. Instead, I take notice if I can no longer get into my pants.

How many steps have I taken? How many should I take? Should it bother me that I took 500 fewer steps today than I took yesterday? Should I try to take 500 more tomorrow? What if that works out to be an odd number? Wouldn't it be better if it were a nice even number? Should I run around the bed a few times until there are at least two zeros at the end of whatever number it is? For obvious reasons, I have never had a fitness watch. It was my brother-in-law who pointed out that a watch that counted my steps would be a very bad idea. I was a little embarrassed that he knew me so well.

Waiting also increases anxiety, and that's what I'm doing right now. I'm waiting to see if a publisher is interested in my first novel. How many days will it take an editor to read my novel before replying? How many days would it take them if they liked it? How many days will it take them if they hated it? At what hour of the day will I know that I am waiting for nothing? Will I ever know?

This is a very long process—and I knew it would be. But knowing something will take a long time and actually waiting for it—day by day, week by week, sometimes minute by minute—is a very different thing. It makes me worry more about other things—like whether I have more or less hair than I used to and how much sugar I am eating. It makes me take longer walks than usual, and it makes me grateful to my brother-in-law, once again, because I do not have a fitness watch.

Instead, I just walk. I realize that whatever I weigh, it's about right. I realize that, in reality, I have not been waiting very long for publishers to read. I realize that my hair is actually looking pretty good these days (a stranger even gave me a compliment!), and I probably don't need to worry about going bald. And, after enough steps (although I cannot tell you how many), I realize, once again, what a lucky girl I am to be able to do all these wonderful things and have all these wonderful opportunities.

I'd tell you more, but I've hit 600 words—exactly.

Till next time,
Carrie

Check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit [CarrieClasson.com](#).

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Intruder in Huffman School apprehended,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

criminal trespassing and criminal mischief at the same elementary school on March 6th.

During Wednesday’s court appearance, the judge set Hair’s bond at \$1,500 for the burglary of a motor vehicle, \$20,000 for the carrying a weapon in a prohibited place, and \$20,000 for the unlawful carrying a weapon, total-

ing a bond amount of \$41,500.

Huffman ISD released the following statement to parents and guardians about the incident:

“A person was apprehended and taken into custody on HISD premises. This individual was discovered behind an unoccupied bus. The individual has been running from law en-

forcement for quite some time, and due to the quick actions of our Huffman ISD Police Department, this individual was taken into custody after a brief struggle. This is a huge relief to our community, and we are very thankful for their efforts in this matter.

“No students were in the area at the time of the incident.”

Gun safety bill filed by Democratic legislators,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hands of the next would-be mass shooter.

Texas has suffered more mass shootings over the past decade than any other state: Sutherland Springs, Santa Fe, El Paso, Midland-Odessa and now Uvalde. 87 innocent lives lost and hundreds of others injured and affected by the shootings. “Thoughts and prayers” are not enough. Lamenting the fact that “evil” walks

among us is not enough. Laying the blame at the feet of a broken mental health care system is not enough. We need evidence-based, common sense gun safety laws.

We must confront the public health issue at hand—gun violence. Guns should not be easier to access than health insurance, baby formula, voting, books and enlisting in the military. We are not trying

to take away Second Amendment rights. Instead, we are asking for reasonable laws that will create a safer Texas for all of us. Taking action requires bravery. The proposed solutions are not new. We cannot wait for another tragedy to occur. Texas has the power to protect its people; it is time we do so.”



Highlands Rotary partners on Community Projects

Sometimes a small project can help the needy in a very big way. The Highlands Rotary Club recently found projects that needed a partner to help some needy folks in the community. Thanks to our Rotarians, we were able to help a partner complete their project.



An elderly person in Highlands couldn’t reach her front door because the steps were too steep. Rotarians partnered with Highlands Sampson Lodge to build a new set of stairs that were easier and safer. (Note: Attribution corrected from previous issue).

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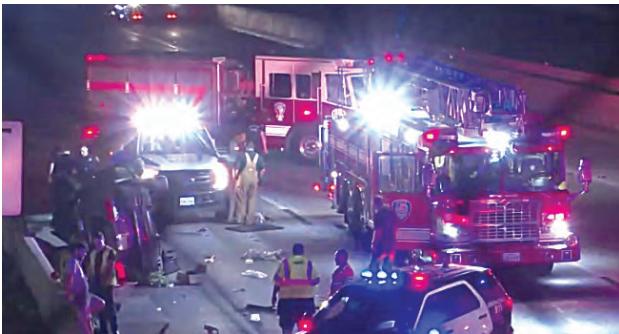
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I-10 pursuit from Beaumont ends in Houston with rollover, child hurt



Authorities extricated a driver from the roll-over vehicle at the left side of this photo. A 3-year-old child was injured, and another vehicle struck during the chase.

HOUSTON – A man suspected of driving while intoxicated is in custody after leading authorities on a chase before a rollover crash that injured his 3-year-old child on the East Freeway Friday, the Houston Police said.

According to HPD, the suspect had a warrant issued out of Louisiana for running over his child's mother. He was fleeing after a pursuit ensued with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Deputies had to cancel the pursuit on the East Freeway and the beltway since they were out of gas, investigators said.

Authorities said speeds throughout the pursuit exceeded 120 MPH at times. Sometime throughout the chase, the suspect and another vehicle were involved in a rollover crash.

The suspect, who appeared to show signs of intoxication, was trapped and had to be extricated from the vehicle, HPD said. Police said the 3-year-old child was transported to Texas Children's Hospital in critical but now stable condition.

Police said the second vehicle involved in the crash had some damage, but the driver sustained minor injuries.

The suspect is expected to face charges after his blood is drawn at the hospital, HPD said.



CONSTABLE SHERMAN EAGLETON

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 3



SUBJECT: GUERRERO, RAYMUNDO
OFFENSE: POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE - FELONY WARRANT (HCSO)
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED - MISDEMEANOR WARRANT (HCSO)
POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (COCAINE)
UNLAWFUL CARRY OF A WEAPON

TRAFFIC STOP
DAY SHIFT
13899 EAGLE PASS, CLOVERLEAF



SUBJECT: LEE, DENNIS
OFFENSE: UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

TRAFFIC STOP/STOLEN VEHICLE
DAY SHIFT
301 CEDAR LN., CHANNELVIEW



SUBJECT: PELERIN, JOSEPH
OFFENSE: POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE)

TRAFFIC STOP/STOLEN VEHICLE
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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0011770001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Haris County Municipal Utility District No. 50, 12900 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011770001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 550,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on November 7, 2022.

The facility is located at 922 Magnolia Avenue, in Harris County, Texas 77532. The treated effluent is discharged to Rickett Creek, thence to a series of ponds/lakes, thence to San Jacinto River Tidal in Segment No. 1001 of the San Jacinto River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is limited aquatic life use for Rickett Creek (including a series of ponds/lakes). The designated uses for Segment No. 1001 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.077777,29.868611&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Crosby Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas.

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Haris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Rachel Broom, P.E., Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc., at 713-462-3242.

Issuance Date: March 3, 2023

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0011770002

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Haris County Municipal Utility District No. 50, 12900 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a major amendment to Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011770002, to authorize an increase in the discharge of treated domestic wastewater from a daily average flow not to exceed 180,000 gallons per day to a daily average flow not to exceed 360,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on November 7, 2022.

The facility is located approximately 0.5 miles east of the intersection of Crosby-Lynchburg Road and Farm-to-Market Road 1942, in Harris County, Texas 77532. The treated effluent is discharged to Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Ditch No. G103-09-01, thence to a series of impoundments, thence to San Jacinto River Tidal in Segment No. 1001 of the San Jacinto River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for HCFCD ditch G103-09-01 and high aquatic life use for impoundments. The designated uses for Segment No. 1001 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use. In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code §307.5 and the TCEQ Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (June 2010), an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review has preliminarily determined that no significant degradation of water quality is expected in the series of impoundments, which have been identified as having high aquatic life use. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.06042,29.877046&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Crosby Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas.

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Issuance Date: March 10, 2023



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