



HIGHLANDS CROSBY
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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE
STARS

EVENTS

North Shore
Rotary Annual
FISH FRY May 20

48th Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, Raffle for a new Toyota Tacoma pickup or Toyota Camry car or 20 other valuable prizes. Silent Auction, Live auction.

Saturday, May 20 from 11am to 3pm at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville (behind the courthouse).

Raffle Tickets \$100 which includes two fish fry meals. Dinner Tickets alone \$15. Everyone welcome! Call 713-450-3600 for tickets, or purchase from any North Shore Rotarian. In Crosby, available from Turner Chevrolet or Crawfish Shack.

Crosby Fair &
Rodeo Schedule

**JUNE 2,3 Friday,
Saturday**

BBO COOKOFF

JUNE 2, Friday

22s

BAG OF DONUTS, 7:30pm

JUNE 3, Saturday

PARADE 10pm

SUNNY SAUCEDO,

7:30pm

JUNE 8, Thursday

BUYER'S DINNER 4pm

LIVESTOCK AUCTION,

6pm

JUNE 9, Friday

TYLER HALVERSON

CREED FISHER, 7:30pm

JUNE 10, Saturday

LITTLE WRANGLER, 10am

AUSTIN MEADE

GIOVANNIE & THE HIRED

GUNS, 7:30pm

NOW OPEN

New Laudromat
opens in
Highlands

Well known local businessman Bill Bagi has opened a new Laudromat in Highlands, known as 501Laudromat.

Bagi said that the new store has the latest Wascomat professional washers and dryers, and because of their extra large size can clean 60 lbs of laundry in an hour.

The new store is now open, and operates 7 days a week, from 8am to 9pm.

More details and photos on page 2 of this paper, or stop by with some laundry. Located at 501 S. Main Street, Highlands.

BIRTHDAYS

May 7-Germaine Broussard

May 9-Jimmie Dickey

Tim Holton

Vanessa Whittaker

Elonda Cravatt

May 11-Nancy Johnston

May 12-Rusty Salters

May 13-Judy Bailey

Bobby Horn, Sr.

Larry Koslovsky

Michelle Lomanzoff

May 14-DeDe Williams

May 15-Lana Gaeke

Lina Hsuan

Dace Murphy

Maria Williamson

May 16-Felder Bryan Brakeman

May 18-Danielle Greenwood

Raymond Gonzalez

ANNIVERSARIES

May 8-Tim & Lisa Dammon

May 10-Thomas & Eleanor

Leibham

May 12-Robert Smesny and Malba

Stasney-Smesny

May 23-Ralph & Rhonda Brewer

Drone photos reveal extent of remediation work at Waste Pits South

CHANNELVIEW – The San Jacinto River Waste Pits southern impoundment is busy with remediation work, at the direction of the EPA.

The contractor is GHD, working for the RP or Responsible Parties. At the Southern site, work is progressing slowly, step by step. Fencing has been installed, equipment for a water treatment system has been delivered and set up, site roads have been built, a guard shack and security are in place, signage has been installed, and debris removed.

Excavation has started and some material has been sent to the landfills. Trucks can be seen on Market Street and I-10 hauling the material away. The landfills have been identified, as Republic in the Beaumont area, and Seabreeze in Angleton. These landfills can accept



The Southern Impoundment site, as seen from a Drone. In the foreground is excavation of an area with toxic material, in the center are the offices and marshalling yard of the GHD contractor, and in the distance can be seen 4 large tanks, open on the top, as part of the dewatering remediation system. At right, excavators and a bulldozer remove material to a shallow depth. (Drone photos courtesy of Greg Moss)

Class II non-hazardous waste. Therefore workers at the site are taking only minimum protection from the toxins.

Rachel Jordan of THEA said that there had been a release, or spill, of toxic material in March, but it was a small amount and contained. However, it caused the operator to re-evaluate procedures and take steps to cap open

Continued. See Waste Pits Southern Site, Page 5



San Jacinto River site of more barges

CHANNELVIEW – Residents of this community along River Road have been fighting a barge storage company, for over a year to keep the San Jacinto River from filling up with more barges that obstruct water flow, recreational boat traffic, and are an eyesore. They are also a hazard if they break loose in a flood.

They were surprised and angry to see last week that the company had

Continued. See More Barges in the River, Page 5



Work progresses in the water to drive piles and establish mooring for barges, the first line of which can be seen in this photo ready to tie up. In the foreground is Riverside Inn and Grill, and in the distance a Union Pacific train is travelling on the line from Channelview to Highlands over this part of the



San Jacinto River. The waterfront area is close to Meadowbrook Park, a Precinct 2 nature park, and adjacent to housing in San Jacinto River Estates. Residents in the area are opposed to any type of mooring, and against any dredging required in regard to development of a mooring area. (Photos Greg Moss)

Highlands Rotary hears from Assistant District Governor Reabold



Highlands Rotarians heard from their Assistant District Governor Elect, Baytown Rotarian Melissa Reabold at the April 20 luncheon. Also speaking was Kaci Pena of United Way. These Baytown ladies are pictured above with President-Elect Denise Smith.

Life-Saving AED placed at Discovery Green in Houston

By Scott Stephens, GBOGH Cody Foundation

"Making the difference" The Parent Heart Watch 18th Annual National Heart to Heart conference was held in Houston, Texas in January of 2023. During the conference an AED was gifted to the community and placed in a downtown community park. We were not able to see its final placement during the conference... I was teaching a CPR class in Houston this week and decided to take a quick stop to see the final placement of the AED and the Save Station. It was a late Tuesday afternoon and the park was filled with families and children enjoying the afternoon. In the background of where the children were playing, I saw it! Knowing this life saving device is so close makes my heart happy. #cemscpr #makingthedifference #parentheartwatch #CallPushShock #knwcp ❤️



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WESTON G. COTTEN

Attorney at Law

O. 281/421-4050

F. 281/533-6032

weston@westoncotten.com

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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

GCM Students Compete at Texas French Symposium

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

The Goose Creek Memorial High School's French team competed at the Texas French Symposium that took place in Houston at St. John's High School on April 1st.

Thirty-five students, along with their teacher, Manuela Langlois, traveled from GCM to compete in the two-day event. Fourteen students advanced to the semifinals (some in multiple categories) and eight students competed in the finals round.

The following students placed at the competition:

Leticia Navarro 4th place Poetry (L1)
Makaila Dale 3rd Place Prose (L1)
Alejandra Gutierrez 2nd Place Projects
Kassandra Garza 2nd Place Art (Acrylic)



Leticia Navarro 4th place Poetry (L1), Makaila Dale 3rd Place Prose (L1), Alejandra Gutierrez 2nd Place Projects, Kassandra Garza 2nd Place Art (Acrylic) and Cinthia Ruiz 4th Place Digital Art, placed at the French Symposium event.

Cinthia Ruiz 4th Place Digital Art
Texas French Symposium is a statewide competition for non-native French speaking students

that are enrolled in a French class. The annual event promotes French language learning of high school students across the state.

Photos taken by Faith Longorio, Associate Director for Social Studies & World Language (LOTE):



GCM French students attended the Texas French Symposium at St. John's High School in Houston.

GCCISD Names 2023 Campus Teachers of the Year



Glen Huey, Peter Hyland 2023 Teacher of the Year, celebrates his surprise win with members of the district staff.



Cynthia Rubio, Ashbel Smith 2023 Teacher of the Year, poses proudly with her students and members of the GCCISD Administration team.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD administrators visited campuses on March 29th to surprise educators that were selected by the peers to serve as their campus Teacher of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year.

This year's winners include: Stefanie Taylor, Clark; Tameka Mills, Point; Marcus Limbrick, DeZavala; Juanita Hook, Crockett; Linda Leday, Banuelos; Manuela Langlois, Goose Creek Memorial; Tara Fiedler, Sterling; Keith Brown,

IMPACT; Tavia Gamboa, Baytown Junior; Cynthia Rubio, Ashbel Smith; Pamela Bradford, Carver; Glen Huey, Peter Hyland; Patricia Authement, Gentry Junior; Erny Calzoncinth, Lee; Sherry Young, Harlem; Michelle Santibanez, Hopper Primary; Lisa Garcia, Walker; Kristi Abramski, Travis; Danny Mejia, San Jacinto; Tasha Arceneaux, Alamo; Marsha Goodwin, Highlands Elementary; Alexis Bryant, Cedar Bayou Junior; Latina Bogard, Austin; Deanna Senn, Lamar; Chelsea Moore,

Highlands Junior; Greg Gorney, Bowie; Sharilyn Reed, Horace Mann Junior; Mariam Williams-Augustin, E.F. Green Junior; Kelly Congdon, Stuart Career; Marsha Goodwin Jones, Pumphrey and Kelley Campbell-Conner, Liles Early Learning Academy.

The district will host their annual Teacher of the Year/retirement banquet on May 18th at 6 p.m. at Goose Creek Memorial High School, where the district Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year will be announced.

Students Mean Business at The GCM Business Expo

Goose Creek Memorial High School's Global Business Academy sponsored a Student Business Expo on April 13th, showcasing the talents of eight student-run businesses. This event allowed students to display their products and services to fellow classmates, teachers, and industry partners.

Attendees were treated to a wide variety of offerings, with student businesses ranging from baked goods and coffee to clothing wear and jewelry. The entrepreneurial spirit was evident throughout the expo, with each student presenting their unique products and services.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain real-world experience in business, marketing, and sales. The showcase allowed students to learn how to present their ideas and products to potential customers while also promoting their businesses.

Student business owners and their companies included:

Monica Marquez, owner of Secret Earth Crystals, which sells crystal jewelry.

Monica Medina, owner of CM Creations, which sells chocolate covered strawberries.

Jesse Alvarez, Real Estate Agent with Bates Brinkley Realty

Adrian Garcia, Forever-Richh Apparel

Angelica Estrada, owner of Angelica Bakes, a bakery that offers cakes, cupcakes, seasonal pies, and customized cake orders.

Nana Ayensu, owner of



Adrian Garcia & Ahmad Kerl talk about the Not of this Earth hoodies that can be ordered. @Foreverrichh.clo



Dr. Randal O'Brien congratulates Alanni Kraemer with Sweet Treats by Alanni with a fist bump.



Melissa Sarmiento selling some of her specialty candies to Rocio Ridley, with GCCISD Security Dept.

Jrthetrainer, a personal training service

Adrianna Morales, Lu-Lu's Coffee Shop, a coffee shop that offers lattes, cold

brew, and cookies.

Alanni Kraemer, owner of Sweet Treats by Alanni, a bakery that offers a range of desserts.

501 Washateria is a brand new washateria located in the Highlands Texas Area.

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OPINION

By John Grimaldi

Association of Mature American Citizens

It's not about growing old; it's about how you grow old

More Americans than ever are growing older and healthier these days. Consider the fact that on average we were lucky if we lived past 47 years of age at the beginning of the 20th century. Yet nowadays most men and women in the U.S. can look forward to celebrating birthdays well into their 70s. In fact, the New England Centenarian Study at Boston University tells us that the numbers of us who make it past our 100th birthday have just about doubled over the past two decades.

To be sure, the covid pandemic has taken its toll, causing an increased mortality rate in general among the elderly as well as a time out when it comes to expanded life spans. Not long ago, the Washington Post reported that “unlike flu, which impacts both the very young and the very old, the coronavirus appears to put mostly older people at higher risk of severe disease and death.”

Going forward the question is, will life expectancy in the U.S. resume its growth in the future. It most likely will, say the experts. But it is not because medical science is on a quest for immortality; rather, the goal is to alleviate the illnesses that come with aging. As the website, Lifespan.io, put it: “The immune system keeps us safe from the constant invasion of viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens, helping us to stay healthy and free from diseases. However, the immune system begins to break down as we get older and we become ever-more vulnerable to diseases and infections. To solve this problem, scientists are exploring therapies to regenerate the immune system so that it is better able to fight back against diseases as it did in youth.”

According to the National Library of Medicine, the risk factors of aging are the human pathologies such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and neurodegenerative diseases. “Aging research has experienced an unprecedented advance over recent years, particularly with the discovery that the rate of aging is controlled, at least to some extent, by genetic pathways and biochemical processes conserved in evolution ... the final goal [is] identifying pharmaceutical targets to improve human health during aging with minimal side-effects.”

What it all comes down to is what Abraham Lincoln allegedly said: “In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

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The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.

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LETTERS

To The Editor

Reader wants help with toxic waste from Superfund site

Please we need help our back yard is full of toxins ! I live 3000 feet from the waste pit on I-10 and my health as well as family and a dear friend who has lived here since the early 90 !!

2017 mercury lots of mercury washed up from hurricane Harvey , We were promised help but no reply from any agency !

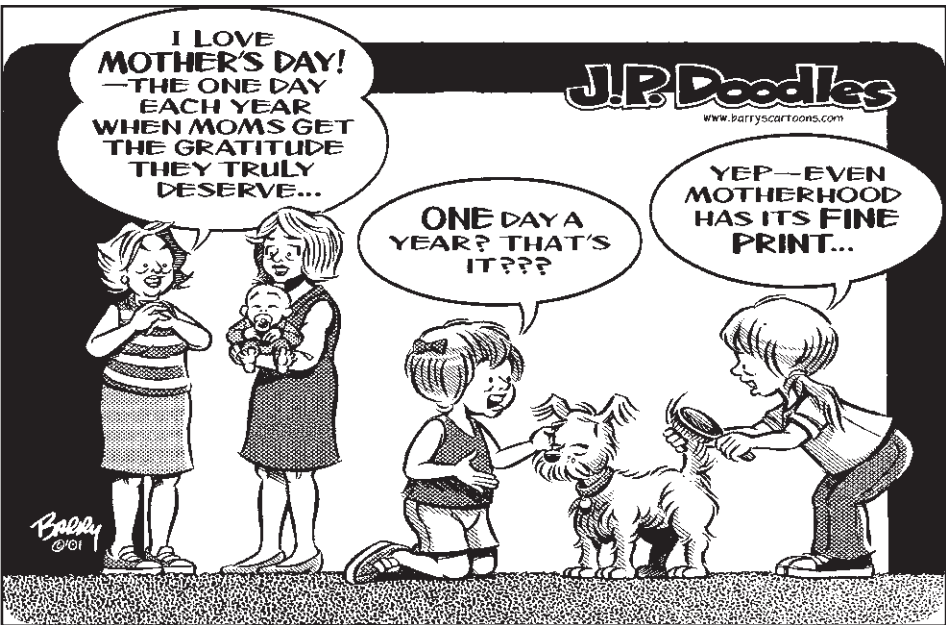
New York Times did a story on the devastation of toxic chemicals found post Harvey but was made to make revisions to the story per EPA AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES!

Harris county health dept left message in article they would have someone come invistigate but no one ever showed. We have proof - pictures, documentation's, years of research and finally maybe some answers ..

Sincerely

Natalie Cullom
346-417-8252

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 GrafikpressNewspapers, 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

Clock Ticking on getting House Bills to Senate for action

The clock is ticking on getting bills out of the House and to the Texas Senate, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week in a story in the Austin American-Statesman. Patrick presides over the Senate and is worried many bills that have made it out of House committees but have not gone before the full chamber will not be considered before the session ends.

“I previously expressed concern the House was far behind in the passage of bills and a train wreck was coming,” Patrick tweeted. At that time, more than 1,100 bills had made it out of committee but still had not been set on the House calendar. All bills must meet a May 11 deadline for a second reading to be further considered for final passage.

House Speaker Dade Phelan did not comment on Patrick's concern but has put that chamber on a six-day work schedule for the rest of the session.

POLL: RAISE MINIMUM AGE FOR GUN PURCHASES

A new poll released by the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin indicates three-fourths of Texans polled said they support raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21, the Texas Standard reported.

“That included 91% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans,” Joshua Blank, director of research, said. “This is a consistent finding, to be quite honest. We've asked this question before. We've asked similar questions. So, there's an appetite in some ways for stricter gun laws in Texas. It's just not something that is politically palatable in the process that we have.”

Attempts by some Democratic legislators to push a similar measure in this legislative session have not gained traction and appear unlikely to pass.

PUC CHAIR WARNS OF POSSIBLE SUMMER OUTAGES

The chairman of the Public Utility Commission warned last week that the state's main power grid is at risk if wind turbines don't produce enough power when needed, the Texas



Tribune reported. Peter Lake reiterated that more on-demand power sources, such as power plants fueled by natural gas or batteries, need to be built to increase the electric grid's reliability.

“The Texas grid faces a new reality,” Lake said last week. “Data shows for the first time that the peak demand for electricity this summer will exceed the amount we can generate from on-demand, dispatchable power, so we will be relying on renewables to keep the lights on.”

Pablo Vegas, CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said at the news conference that wind and solar energy production results have increased considerably more than plants powered by coal or gas.

“So as a result, we are expecting to have to rely more on renewables during peak conditions than we ever have before,” Vegas said.

Supporters of renewable energy scoffed at the view that the grid's reliability rests on renewable energy alone.

Luke Metzger, director of Environment Texas, said in a statement that renewable energy's growth in Texas “should be heralded and welcomed — not blamed, contrary to evidence, for grid problems.”

The PUC is proposing the use of performance credits, funded by an estimated 2% increase in customer electric bills. The funds would go to companies that operate on-demand power sources in hopes of incentivizing them to build more power plants or keep existing plants operating longer, the Tribune reported.

ALLRED TO CHALLENGE CRUZ FOR SENATE SEAT

A three-term Dallas-area congressman is seeking the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in hopes of facing off against incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz next year. The Dallas Morning News reported last week that U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, is seeking the nomination. He released a video blasting Cruz for hiding in a supply closet during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, and for leaving Texas weeks later for a Cancun vacation during the statewide electricity crisis caused by Winter Storm Uri.

“That's Ted for you. All hat, no cattle,” Allred says in the video.

Cruz, whose campaign called Allred a “far-left radical,” beat Democratic rival Beto O' Rourke by fewer than 3 percentage points in 2018.

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Thousands of Texas motorcyclists are seriously injured or killed in crashes every year, the Texas Department of Transportation reports. In 2022, 562 motorcycle riders were killed, an 8% increase over the previous year.

“People on motorcycles are more vulnerable on our roadways,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “It's important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles — especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic and while changing lanes. We all want to get home safe.”

During May, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month, drivers are urged to observe these safety precautions:

Stay alert. Even a momentary distraction, such as answering a phone call or changing the radio station, can have deadly consequences.

Pay special attention at intersections. That is where one-third of motorcycle fatalities occur.

Take extra care when making left turns. Always assume motorcycles are closer than they appear.

Stay back and maintain a safe following distance.

Slow down and observe posted speed limits.

SIX NEW STATE PARKS ON THE HORIZON

Texans will have the opportunity to enjoy six new state parks in the next 12 to 15 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced recently. As TPWD celebrates 100 years of state parks, it is planning the development of a half dozen new places to camp, hike, fish or just enjoy nature.

New parks in the works include Palo Pinto Mountains State Park near Fort Worth; the Dan A. Hughes Unit of the Devils River State Natural Area near Del Rio; Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area near Boerne; Powderhorn State Park near Port Lavaca; Chinati Mountains State Natural Area near Presidio; and Davis Hill State Natural Area near Houston.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Taking Pictures”

I like taking photos when I'm out of the country.

Photographing things in Mexico is effortless. I'll never understand the nuances of every festival or ritual, but I can enjoy the pageantry and the color and the incredible effort and artistry that goes into creating so much beauty

Then I come back up north and look at the mud. It's a big change.

The skies were overcast for the first five days after my return from Mexico. The temperatures were unseasonably low. There was some rain. There might even have been some snow, if you count the white, pelletlike things that dotted the sidewalk. Maybe it was sleet. Maybe it doesn't matter. “What is this?” I asked an innocent passerby. He shook his head disapprovingly.

“I have no idea.” And I realized that I was terribly spoiled. Taking pictures in Mexico took no skill at all. I decided I needed to start taking pictures right here at home.

The first day was not a great success. The sun stayed stubbornly behind a cloud. The few blooms that were out had been nipped by the frost. I took a photo of some branches against the gray sky and a carved stone pillar covered in green lichen. The lichen was vivid green after sleeping all winter. The lichen seemed about as happy as lichen can be, and so I figured I could make more of an effort.

The next day I happened upon some crocuses forcing their way through the muddy soil. The crocus is not a showy flower, but their sheer numbers were amazing. I found a handful of daffodils blooming in a spot where they caught the occasional bit of sunshine.

The third day was colder than ever. I headed out the door for my walk and turned right around, went inside and put on warmer clothes. The sky was dark in the middle of the afternoon. I photographed a hydrangea, left over from the previous year, bleached and brittle, shaking in the chill wind.

I wanted to photograph one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood through the fence, but a row of garbage cans was in the way. I contorted into a strange position, and a woman walking by looked at me curiously.

“I'm trying to take pictures,” I told her, “even on the gloomy days.”

“Well, this is a good house to photograph when it's gloomy!” she replied. The house looked menacing under the heavy clouds.

On Sunday, I went to church. A new pastor had been hired while I was in Mexico, and he preached a good sermon. The choir was especially strong. And, sometime in the middle of the service, a little bit of sun crept out. I looked up and saw the stained glass. “Oh, look,” I thought. “Finally, some color.”

After the service, I climbed the wooden stairs to the balcony, and I looked through the vibrant stained glass. It was all the color I had been missing since coming back from Mexico.

And I felt a lot better.

I'm not sure if the new minister would approve, but those windows did more for my soul than his sermon and the beautiful music put together. Those windows gave a sermon of their own. Those windows lifted my spirits and made me remember how much unseen beauty there is—all the time.

They reminded me that it's not what I'm looking at that matters—it's what I'm looking through. Looking through eyes trained to see beauty, I see beauty everywhere.

I left the church, thanking the windows on my way out.

Till next time,
Carrie

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Drone photos reveal extent of remediation work at Waste Pits South Impoundment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- DRONE PHOTOS COURTESY GREG MOSS



Overall view of the site, looking south from Market Street and I-10.



Four large open-air tanks are part of the destering process when water is encountered during the excavation work.



Office area, storage and truck wash areas at the center of the site. Buildings in the background are Southwest Shipyard, not part of the Superfund Site.



Excavation is taking place under a tarp or membrane, to contain the toxic material from being airborne.



Excavation work in the distance. Trucks pass through a cleaning area at center in photo.

More Barges in the River,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started work on piles in an area where they want to store more barges. Residents have questioned whether they have the authority and permits to use this part of the river.

Residents of San Jacinto River Estates have been monitoring the new barge parking lot. At first they thought it was being created by TimTom since it is very near the area that TimTom/Holtmar/Buffalo (all the same people) Letters of Permission are for and we had heard that if they could not get the Letters of Permission approved to place the barges along the banks they would create a mooring area out in the river. The markings on the tugs and barges are from a company Chem Carriers LLC out of Sunshine, LA , Chem Carriers LLC while authorized to operate in the inland waters of the Gulf coast do not appear to have any office in Texas.

They started creating the mooring area or barge parking lot and as a unregulated floating chemical storage facility (FCSF), on Fri. April 28th. First they brought in a crane barge to

help install two spud barges to moor barges to in the sandbar area in the middle of the SJR in between the Riverside Grill and Marina and the UP railroad trestle. After they installed the spud barges they removed the crane barge and used three tugs, two of which are the Frank Banta, Jr. and Ben Hayes. They then moored two barges CCL 5 fand CCL 31. All vessels tie back to Chem Carriers. Since then it appears they have been using the tugs to “dredge” the sandbar with their prop washes to deepen the area for additional barges.

According to residents the sandbar is a shrimp and flounder estuary. The mooring area activites have already disturbed the marine life on the sandbar and if it remains it will do further harm. The chosen area is in a FEMA Special Hazard Floodway which is the pathway the San Jacinto river takes across I-10 when we have a flooding event. It is in very close proximity to the UP RR trestle. We are all very aware of what happens during a flood event in this area, we now do not only

have to worry about barges we have to worry about railroad trestle strikes, damage to Meadowbrook Park, the San Jacinto River Estates area and the possibility of barges being moved by flood waters onto I-10 itself. Also to be considered is a repeat of a loose barge striking one of the pipelines which run through the San Jacinto River such as the incident in 1994 which set the river on fire.

An example of the frustration and anger at the abuse of the river is voiced in a statement to this newspaper by nearby resident Greg Moss:

“The barges are coming in the river being moored close to Riverside Marina. We knew it was coming and tried to stop it. These barge companies privatized a public water way for their profit. How can anyone in the government allow this. These barge companies charge a mooring fee. This is a public waterway. I’d like to know how I get my percentage of the fee since it just as much my river as it is Buffalo Marine’s.”

Waste Pits Southern Site,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

valves properly.

Daily inspections of the site are being undertaken by GHD, the consulting engineers for the RP, and EPA is reviewing the Emergency Response Plan. EPA is also conducting sampling, but has not announced any results.

As the work progresses, the public at a recent

THEA meeting held in Highlands in March had questions.

A question was asked why there is no provision for a third party full-time inspector, instead of the RP contractor’s person.

It was asked whether air monitoring is taking place as work progresses

and material is disturbed. The answer seemed to be No.

It was asked whether workers at the Southern site are wearing protective gear, and the answer was No.

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Lucy Paez and Jennifer Lopez star in "The Mother."

"The Mother"

"THE MOTHER" (R) — In this action-drama film directed by Niki Caro, Jennifer Lopez stars as the nameless titular character, an ex-assassin who cuts a deal with the FBI. Forced to leave her newborn baby girl behind, the mother-assassin goes into hiding in order to keep her daughter safe, since there are other dangerous assailants on the lookout for both. So, the Mother remains in hiding until news of her now-12-year-old daughter's kidnapping reaches her. Now, she must resort back to her killer roots to find her daughter and free her from her captors.

While the story sounds like it's been done a few times before, Lopez's performance as an action star carries the film, along with other great performances by Gael Garcia Bernal and Joseph Fiennes. Premieres

May 12. (Netflix)

"BUPKIS" (TV-MA) — A new series described as the dramatized version of Pete Davidson's life is out now on streaming. The eight-episode, action-comedy series follows the comedian-actor as he tries to navigate his unique family dynamics and the complexities of rising to fame, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Joe Pesci ("The Irishman") and Edie Falco ("The Sopranos") play main roles as Davidson's relatives, while a myriad of big names in Hollywood make guest appearances throughout the half-hour episodes, including Bobby Cannavale, Steve Buscemi, Al Gore, Kenan Thompson and Machine Gun Kelly. While viewers should anticipate lots of self-deprecating humor and absurdist elements,

expect some profoundly heartwarming and human moments in between. (Peacock)

"TILL" (PG-13) — The brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till during the Civil Rights Movement in 1955 swept over our nation.

His tragic story catapulted the young African-American boy into becoming a historic symbol posthumously, no doubt due to the fact that his mother, Mamie Till-Bradley, refused to let him die in vain. Making conscious choices to leave Emmett's casket open and speaking publicly about the circumstances that lead to his death, Mamie uses an experience that no mother should have to face as a way to help bring about justice for Emmett.

This biographical film emphasizes Mamie's powerful activist acts and the weight they still carry decades later. Premieres May 9. (Prime Video)

"CRATER" (PG) — From the producers of "Stranger Things" comes a sci-fi adventure film taking place on a mining colony on the moon! In the year 2257, a boy named Caleb, who spent his entire life in the colony, is about to relocate to a faraway planet after his father passes away. But first, Caleb wants to travel across the moon to a mysterious crater full of wonders that his father once told him about. Opting to bring along his three best friends and a new friend from Earth for the ride, the gang of five steal a rover and embark on a journey of a lifetime. Isaiah Russell-Bailey and Mckenna Grace star, with Scott Mescudi (aka rapper Kid Cudi) taking on the role of Caleb's father. Out on May 12. (Disney+)

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Jonathan Majors hardly had time to bask in the success of "Creed III" (which grossed \$272.2 million) when he stepped in some deep doo-doo. Everything's come crashing down after allegations of violence in an incident on March 25 in New York, when he allegedly had a dispute with a 30-year old woman, who, afterward, was taken to a hospital with minor injuries to her head and neck. His court date was set for May 8.

As a result of this incident, he's been dropped from "The Man in My Basement" with Willem Dafoe, from the Texas Rangers baseball team's ad campaign, and from the forthcoming Otis Redding biopic. Once upon a time, you were innocent till proven guilty, but rats desert a sinking ship as soon as the waters start churning.

One star who seems invincible is Sylvester Stallone. At 76, he's on fire. He's starring in and producing the Prime Video film "Never Too Old to Die," as well as Prime's crime series "Tulsa King," which had one of the biggest cable debuts in 2022.

Stallone reprised his role of Stakar Ogord in "Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3," which opened May 5, and he's launching his Paramount+ reality series "The Family Stallone," co-starring his real-life family. Still upcoming for the actor is "The Expendables 4," with Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren and Andy Garcia, due Sept. 22.

The 1996 classic "Twister" starred Bill Paxton (who died in 2017), Helen Hunt and Philip Seymour Hoffman (who died in 2014) — the latter two being Oscar winners. The film grossed \$495.7 million. Twenty-seven years later, it will finally get a sequel, starring Anthony Ramos (of "Hamilton" and "In the Heights"). Ramos is also the upcoming star of "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," opening on June 9. Then, he'll be everywhere you turn, in



Jonathan Majors ("Creed III")

the Marvel series "Ironheart," Sony's "Dumb Money" with Paul Dano and Sebastian Stan (due Oct. 20), and the sci-fi film "Distant" with Zachary Quinto, due at year's end.

Pedro Pascal, who began acting in 1996 at the age of 21, has finally hit the big time. Now, at 48, he's definitely ready for anything they throw at him. Despite headlining two of the hottest shows on cable — Disney+'s "The Mandalorian" (as Din Djarin) and HBO Max's "The Last Of Us," (as Joel Miller) — he still found time to star in Ethan Coen's solo directorial film opening on Sept. 22, "Drive-Away Dolls," with Margaret Qualley and Beanie Feldstein (whose Broadway "Funny Girl" turn was less than great).

Pascal also has the drama film "Freaky Tales," opposite Ben Mendelsohn. As if that weren't enough, he's executive producing and starring in the HBO series "My Dentist's Murder Trial."

Only 27 years of auditions ... is that all it takes to become an overnight sensation? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, MOM, I DID ALL THE CHORES ON YOUR LIST.

I THINK IT'S TIME TO NEGOTIATE AN ALLOWANCE.

OK, BUT REMEMBER THAT A HARD DAY'S NIGHT IS ITS OWN REWARD.

SO IS TEN BUCKS AND AN EXTRA HOUR OF TV!

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

WHASSA MATTER, STRIPE?

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT? YOU HAD SUPPER. YOUR WATER BOWLS FULL.

WANNA GO OUT, HUH?

OKAY—TLL GO OPEN THE DOOR FOR YOU.

C'MON

OKAY STRIPE—OUT YOU GO!

STRIPE?

RIP RAP

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

YOU CERTAINLY ARE A MAN OF YOUR WORD.

I AM??

YES, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR WORD IS "LAZY."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9				3	5			
6				4				7
		8	6			1	2	
2		3		6				1
		5		7				8
		4			9	2		
	1			7				9
8			4		5	7		
		2			1	3		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. "Finding Nemo" (Bruce the Shark); 2. Oscar the Grouch; 3. Algeria; 4. When someone's eyes are two different colors; 5. Hawaii and Arizona; 6. "A Time to Kill" by John Grisham; 7. Paella; 8. A leap of leopards; 9. Sparta and Athens; 10. AT&T.

May 8, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Standard
4 Like custard
8 Jubilation
12 Candle count
13 Crib cry
14 Verdi opera
15 "Yellow" band
17 Zorro's marks
18 Teeny bit
19 Lincoln's coin
20 Long-limbed
22 Wild guess
24 "How sweet —!"
25 "Light My Fire" band
29 Rock's Brian
30 Berth places
31 Quick swim
32 "Jump" band
34 Greek cheese
35 Always
36 Gourmand
37 Task
40 Vivacity
41 Sci-fi prefix
42 "Jeremy" band
46 Privy to
47 Robust
48 Mine yield
49 Honey bunch?
50 Historic Scott
51 Evergreen type

DOWN

11 Relaxed
16 Feet, slangily
19 Cushions
20 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
21 Sicilian volcano
22 Transparent
23 Seabird
25 Scramble piece
26 Schiller poem used by Beethoven
27 Ceremony

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Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

5	8	9	1	8	6	2	4	7
2	1	7	5	3	4	6	9	8
6	4	8	9	7	2	5	1	3
9	7	2	6	5	3	4	8	1
3	8	4	2	1	7	9	5	6
1	5	6	4	9	8	3	7	2
4	2	1	7	6	9	8	5	3
7	6	3	8	4	5	1	2	9
8	9	5	3	2	1	7	4	6

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which animated movie includes the line, "Fish are friends, not food"?

2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the "Sesame Street" Muppet who lives in a trashcan?

3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country geographically in Africa?

4. ANATOMY: What is complete heterochromia?

5. U.S. STATES: Which two states don't recognize Daylight Savings Time?

6. LITERATURE: Which best-selling novel (1989) is set in Clanton, Mississippi?

7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the national dish of Spain?

8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of leopards called?

9. HISTORY: Which two Greek city-states fought the Peloponnesian War?

10. AD SLOGANS: Which company once urged customers to "reach out and touch someone" by telephone?

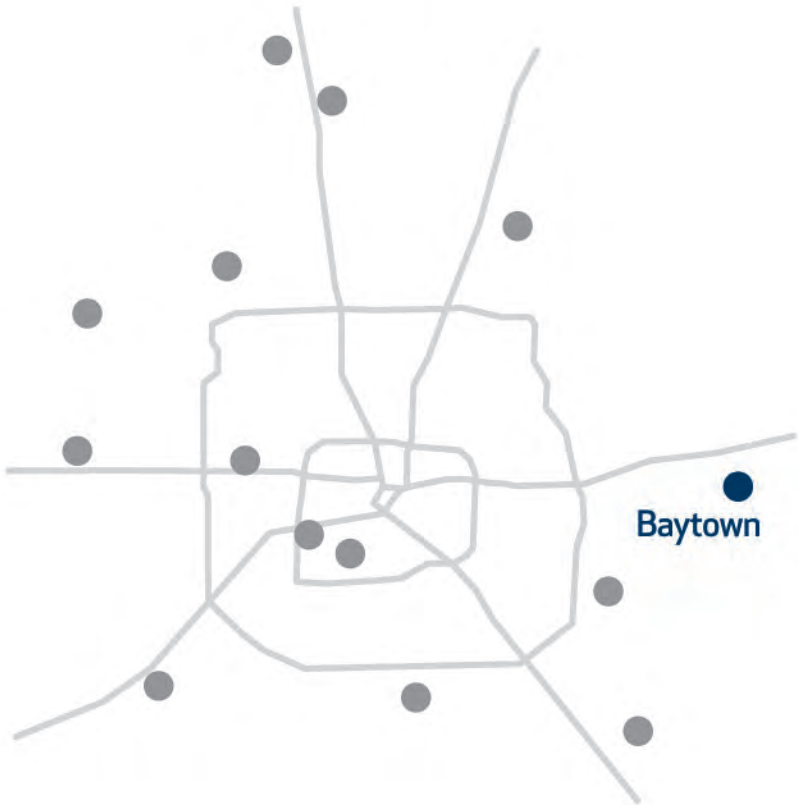
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