

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities
since 1955 ■ www.starcouriernews.com

Be prepared before the next power outage.



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty
with qualifying purchase*
- valued at \$535.

Call 713-496-1933 to schedule your free quote!
*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

VOL. 71, NO. 27 - \$1.00 © Copyright 2024

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

A Note to Our Readers

Like most of Harris County, Hurricane Beryl affected our newspaper office and press facility with a power outage that lasted 4 days. We were unable to publish until the following week. Thank you for your understanding. We are glad to be back serving our community.

Crosby Huffman New Educators Luncheon July 30

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber will host a New Educators Luncheon on Tuesday, July 30 from 11:15am to 2:30pm at the Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby.

Register on website: chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org. For more information, contact Velma Ellison at 281-328-8700. Gifts for a Goody Bag are welcome.

Crosby Library Book Sale Rescheduled

Friends of the Crosby Library will hold their Back to School, Book Sale on: Friday, Sept. 6 - 1pm - 6pm

Saturday, Sept. 7 - 10am - 5pm.
Hardback books \$1.00
***Take advantage of this special - 4 Romance paperbacks for \$1.00**
Children books priced as marked.

Children's books, mysteries, romance, cookbooks and craft books are just a sample of book choices, thanks to donations from patrons.

All proceeds from the Book Sale benefit the library and support the Summer Reading programs.

Questions call the Library - 832-927-7790.

Area recovering from Hurricane Beryl

Power outages, Fallen Trees bring the community to a halt for days

Harris County and Southeast Texas were dealt a surprise last week, when Hurricane Beryl turned northerly and swept through the Houston area.

The result was widespread power outages, flooded streets, fallen trees blocking streets and power lines. The community and their activities came to a stop, and with a slow response from Centerpoint Energy, the lack of power and services lasted for most of the week.

Many private and government entities distributed food, water, and ice to those who otherwise did not have access to basics.

Precincts 2 and 3 opened community centers for cooling centers, and organized food and water distribution



CenterPoint linemen, high in the sky, replace a power pole. This operation took 12 trucks, special drills and crane, and about 20 linemen.



Fallen trees damaged homes, cars, and power distribution lines.

on several occasions in Crosby, Channelview, Aldine and elsewhere.

Centerpoint Energy was widely criticized for a slow response, and even a week later almost 500,000 customers were without power. Originally, over two million homes and businesses lost power on Monday, July 8 when the storm came through the area in the morning hours.

Authorities said at least 8 persons died from various causes, including fallen trees, extreme heat, and one HPD officer drowned driving to work.

Elderly were especially vulnerable to life threatening conditions. With no power for days, food spoiled, homes were extremely hot with no air conditioning, and high-rise buildings often had no elevator service.

Crosby ISD Celebrates 105 Years with Major Expansions, Community Events, and Honoring Achievements

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Happy birthday to Crosby ISD! Our beloved school district turned 105 years old last month. The Second Special Session of the 36th Texas Legislature created Crosby ISD on June 27, 1919, and Governor William P. Hobby signed the district's creation into law. There were only four graduates three years later in the Class of 1922. This year, we graduated 492 seniors in the Class of 2024, and we are expecting enrollment to top 7000 students for the 24-25 school year. We've come a long way!

Let's fast forward to the future! Later this month, the Board of Trustees and I are looking forward to breaking ground on the



Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

new additions to Crosby High School. The CTE (Career and Technical Education) wing will be expanded, and we're adding a new academic wing. The new academic wing will feature two floors, each with 16 classrooms and 4 labs, for a total of 32 classrooms and 8 labs. In total, the CHS additions will provide room for 900 ad-

ditional students. The expansion is expected to be completed in November 2025. We'll continue to update our community members on the progress as construction moves forward. Construction is not expected to impact the traffic flow around Crosby High School.

Summer means behind-the-scenes work is being done on facilities while students are out of the buildings. One of the biggest projects is the turf replacement at Cougar Stadium. Crews have started to remove the old turf from the field. The new turf will offer softer, sturdier, more comfortable support for our student athletes. The turf replacement process will be completed in time for



Cougar stadium is closed to public during turf replacement process. The new turf will offer softer, sturdier, more comfortable support for our athletes

the high school football season. Cougar Stadium is closed to the public during this time of construction.

Hats off to the Crosby Fair and Rodeo for all the hard work by the board members, volunteers, parents, and students. The fair and rodeo raised more

than \$455,000 to support scholarships for Crosby ISD youth. I was so impressed with our students, particularly projects by our FFA and ag mechanics students. One of the

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 6

Jacinto City uses own staff to present fireworks show

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

One by one, Ramiro Chavero, nervously checked each fireworks canister and the main panel for proper connections hours before the show was to begin. The Thursday night show was the first solo performance by Chavero after qualifying as a licensed pyro operator earlier in the year. There was no chance of him waiting till the last moment, he likes to plan ahead.

Continued. See FIREWORKS SHOW, Page 2



Ramiro Chavera of Jacinto City carefully wires the final batch of mortars in preparation for the annual fireworks show for Jacinto City and Galena Park. The employee of the city of Jacinto City performed his first show for a home crowd after becoming licensed in March.

How to get FEMA assistance after damage from Hurricane Beryl

WASHINGTON — FEMA disaster assistance is now available to Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Walker and Wharton counties for individuals and families who suffered damage related to Hurricane Beryl from July 5-9. If anyone suffered damages and does not live in one of the declared counties, we ask to please document the damages, contact their insurance company and their local officials.

Residents who sus-

tained storm-related property damage and reside in one of the eligible counties should register with FEMA.

Apply Online
--Apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov and in Spanish language at DisasterAssistance.gov/es. This is the fastest way to apply if they have access to a smart phone or a computer.

Apply with the FEMA App
--Download the FEMA mobile app and in Spanish language, available on Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Apply by Phone at 800-621-3362


--Call FEMA's toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362.

--The helpline is open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time with language translation available.

--FEMA operators can help in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic and any other languages, as needed.

Apply in person at a Disaster Recovery Center

--Visit any Disaster Recovery Center, for locations and hours, go online to fema.gov/drc.



 **A Generator offers Safety and Reliability. Call for a Free Quote with no Obligation, from the #1 Generator Company. 713-496-1933**



AUTO & HOME INSURANCE
Jeremy Rosenkranz
State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com




 **WESTON G. COTTEN**
Attorney at Law
O. 281/421-4050
F. 281/533-6032
weston@westoncotten.com

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

Introducing **SWIPE + SAVE** Effortlessly Grow Your Savings!

 Round-Up Change **OR**  Dollar Transfer

  Scan QR code or visit crcu.org/swipeandsave

Jacinto City presents Its Own Fireworks Show,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Chavero has been a wastewater operator for Jacinto City for the last three years and loves working for the city. He's a homegrown product having attended Jacinto City Elementary, Galena Park Middle School, and eventually graduated from Galena Park High School.

"I feel there's a lot of opportunity for growth working here," he said.

Ramiro isn't the 'party guy' it might seem he would be running something as exciting as a fireworks show. His softspoken demeanor underlines his focus and determination to be in the background and allow his team to shine.

Shortly after Ramiro was hired to work for the city, he was asked to be on the pyro team.

"I started out as a trainee and have moved my way up to being a licensed pyro operator," he said proudly.

To accomplish that task, he had to work five live shows and take a rigorous test.

"I learned all the rules and requirements in the book and took the test and passed it on the first time," he said. The test was in March.

His first show was with the city gaining hands-on experience including the panel that sets off the fireworks. The second year he was moved to fire watch.

"That was a totally different position, standing approximately 100 feet away from the display during the show with a fire extinguisher," he described it. "You're constantly on the lookout throughout the show for any chance of fire whether it's in debris, rags, or shells," he said.

They are also able to communicate with the fire command from Galena Park Fire Department who has a pumper sitting on the high road also

watching over the show and ready to respond in the event of a fire.

Just 15 years ago in 2009, the two cities put on a fireworks show and one of the shells failed to detonate while airborne.

"When it hit the ground, it exploded and caused a grassfire on the levy," said City Manager Lon Squyres who was fire chief at the time. After 30 minutes of firefighting, it was brought under control and the fireworks show resumed to its finale.

Chavero has also traveled to Dallas to work the fireworks show at the Texas Motor Speedway to gain more experience.

"I really enjoy doing it, especially after a long hard day of work and to see the outcome of it," he said.

Occasionally, the shows are accompanied by a simulcast provided by a local radio station in the area, but none were available this year.

Since 9/11, the government is tighter on the sale of fireworks.

"We have to buy from federally licensed dealers," Squyres said, "and our workers have to pass background checks."

They used to fire off 12-inch mortar shells, but those are no longer available after 9/11.

"We purchase our shells and show from Pyro Shows of Texas, and we buy 3-inch, 4-inch, and 5-inch mortar rounds," the city manager said.

They were delivered on July 3 which gave Chavero a little bit of heartburn so close to showtime.

"I like to have everything ready early," he said.

He and his team were up at 7 a.m. on July 4 transporting the fireworks carefully to the site on the levy (high road). The area is closed off to prevent any accidents while the crew works.

"Once they are wired, they must be fired within

48 hours and they become much more dangerous," he said.

His crew builds their own racks, drops the shells in the canisters that hold the mortars, and then they must wire each one to the panel.

"We have 886 fireworks, 600 are used for the main body of the show and the remainder are the finale," he said.

The two cities each pitch in \$12,500 each for the show.

"It typically lasts 15 minutes but I stretched the show to 20 minutes to give the audience a little more viewing time," he said.

There's not a whole lot of time to sit back and enjoy their work because it's a bit frantic, but a controlled pace at ground zero where the show is being launched.

"All the workers must be watching everything around them including falling embers that could accidentally light some of the unfired shells," he said.

Residents who sit up on the berms surrounding the levy get the best view of all.

"You not only see our show, but off in the distance you can see the Houston show, one in Pasadena, and another in Baytown," Chavero said.

Next year's show could be completely done with a wireless panel, he said.

"No wiring would help cut down on setup time, eliminate the wires, and increase safety due to an increase in distance between the pyrotechnics and personnel," he said.

"I appreciate the city giving me the opportunity to do this, and for my crew who helped me out a lot," Chavero said.

Squyres said the show went off without a hitch.

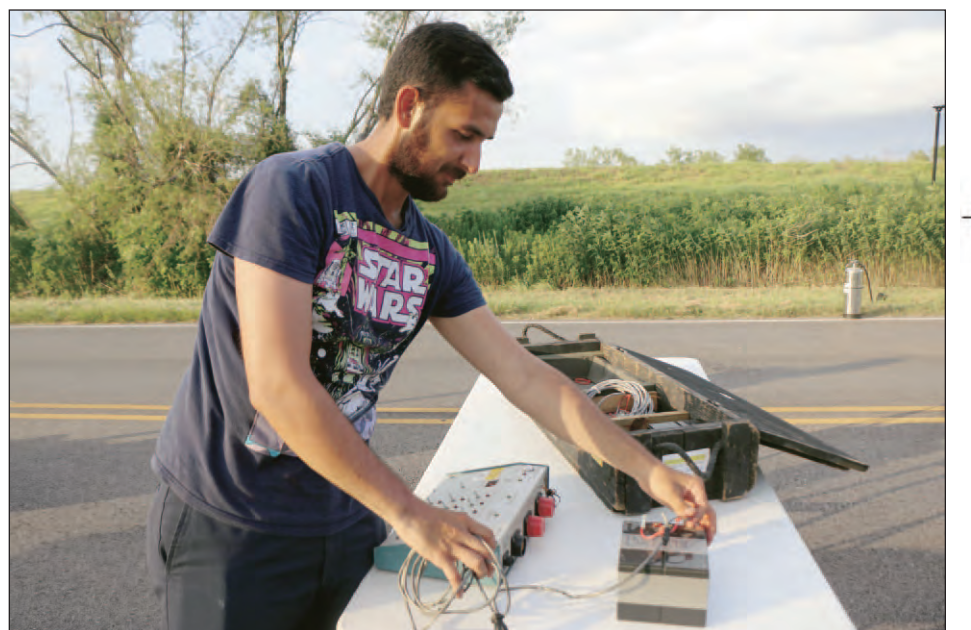
"We've received nothing but praise for the show and encouragement to continue the tradition," he said.



This was the first show presented by Jacinto City employee and resident Ramiro Chavera. He walks through the banks of fireworks already wired and ready to shoot from their position on the high road (levy).



Chavera is the first to say he couldn't do it without the help of his crew from Jacinto City.



Ramiro Chavera prepares to wire the panel board that connects the banks of fireworks for the 20-minute show presented by the cities of Galena Park and Jacinto City.

Current and Back Issues of all GRAFIKPRESS NEWSPAPERS are available at: www.starcouriernews.com, and northchannelstar.com, and nenewsroom.com

What goes **UP,** must come **DOWN.**

Stray bullets **CAN KILL.**

If you hear celebratory gunfire:

- Call 911
- Notify Crime Stoppers Anonymously at **713-222-TIPS**

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARRIS COUNTY, TX  **KIM OGG**
HARRISCOUNTYDA.COM

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 29, NO. 26

© Copyright 2024

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Barbers Hill MS North Band Advances to State Round of TMEA

At Barbers Hill Middle School North, excitement buzzed through the hallways. The school band had just received thrilling news: they had advanced to the state round of the TMEA Honor Band competition, the most prestigious band contest in Texas. The students are putting in countless hours of practice, first conquering the Region and then the Area rounds.

This accomplishment was more than just a win for the students; it was a historic milestone. Never before in the history of the school, or even the district, had a middle school band made it this far. Their achievement brought immense pride to the community, shining a spotlight on the students' hard work and dedication.

The story of their perseverance and success was a beacon of inspiration, not just for the band members but for the entire school district. These group of students are setting a new standard for future generations of musicians at Barbers Hill Middle School North.

Mont Belvieu City 811 Day + Touch a Truck

Saturday, August 10, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | City Park
Join us at the Mont Belvieu City Park for a day of fun & awareness. You'll find representatives from local industry leaders, info on how to start a project at home that involves digging, and lots of hands-on activities.

MB City Park - Anything but a Boat Race

Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. | City Park
Get ready for a race like no other! Join us for the exhilarating Anything But A Boat Race, where participants will defy convention and race in vessels that are anything but traditional boats. Leave your expectations at the shore and embrace the creativity and ingenuity of this one-of-a-kind event. Details & registration will be posted summer 2024.

Current and Back Issues are available at:
www.starcouriernews.com

Hurricane Beryl Updates for Chambers County

1. Individual Assistance Now Available through FEMA

FEMA is now accepting applications for federal assistance for residents who are uninsured or underinsured to seek help with funding to repair or replace homes, temporary housing, access to low-interest loans and other programs. Applications should be submitted online at disasterassistance.gov

Chambers County is working with TDEM to request that a Disaster Recovery Center be

established in Chambers County where residents can go in-person to submit applications for aid. More information will be shared once available.

2. SBA Loan Application Now Available

SBA Loans now available to those impacted by Hurricane Beryl in Chambers County. Loans are available for businesses, economic injury, homeowners, renters and mitigation activities. For more information, please visit the SBA website at <https://lending.sba.gov/search-disaster/?disaster=TX-20016>

3. Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

The Texas Workforce Commission is now accepting applications for Disaster Unemployment Assistance for those affected by Hurricane Beryl. Applications must be submitted by September 9 through the TWC website at <https://apps.twc.texas.gov/UBS/security/login.do>

4. Electricity - Chambers County Officials remain in constant contact with both CenterPoint and Entergy, advocating for

Chambers County residents and requesting frequent updates on progress made.

Entergy - 5 Outages Remain

CenterPoint - 3,927

5. Cooling Centers

All Cooling Centers have been closed at this time due to lack of use. Chambers County will continue to monitor the situation and will reassess if needed.

6. Citizen's Collection Stations (box sites) and the Landfill are open for normal hours of operation de-

pending on electricity. There is currently no trailer length restriction at box sites for residents hauling disaster-related tree or shrub debris. For hours of operation and locations, please visit the Chambers County Solid Waste webpage: <https://www.chamberscountytexas.gov/278/Solid-Waste>

The County is working to expand operations so that we are able to accept fencing as well. Look for an update on that Monday afternoon.

Baytown Native Serves as a Member of U.S. Navy's Submarine Force

BANGOR, Wash. - Chief Petty Officer Caleb Noon, a native of Baytown, Texas, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Trident Training Facility Bangor at Naval Base Kitsap, homeport of West Coast ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines.

Noon graduated from Ross S. Sterling High School in 2009. The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Baytown.

"Growing up, I learned the importance of having a strong work ethic, being



Noon Caleb

able to make new friends and figuring out how to make things work," said Noon. "In every single situation or place you show up,

you immediately have to discover 150 to 200 people and their families, and those friends turn into your family."

Noon joined the Navy 14 years ago. Today, Noon serves as a fire control technician.

"My grandfather served in the Navy," said Noon. "I joined the Navy to follow in his footsteps while making my own path and living a life that only a few ever get."

Known as America's "Apex Predators," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of

technically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security. A major component of that maritime security is homeported at Naval Base Kitsap, in Washington.

Noon serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"My proudest accomplishment was serving as a

recruiter and helping people," said Noon. "I met someone who was homeless after Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in 2017. I helped him enlist and then served with him on USS Kentucky. It's very, very rare that you help someone enlist and then serve together on a submarine. Everything was worth it. It doesn't matter if I was working 80 hours a week, it was worth it because it gave me purpose."

Noon can take pride in serving America through military service.

Primerica - Yodi Dixon - Joins Baytown Chamber

BAYTOWN - Primerica representative, Yodi Dixon recently joined the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

Surrounded by her family, Chamber Ambassadors, Young Professionals and staff members, Yodi explained that Primerica is a financial services company serving the middle-income market in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam. They pioneered the "Buy Term and Invest the Difference" philosophy which solves two of the biggest financial needs nearly every family faces - income protection with term life insurance and



Baytown Chamber Ambassadors and Primerica's Yodi Dixon and family.

saving for the future with a sound investments strategy. Primerica uses a complimentary, confidential and customized Financial Needs Analysis to help clients understand where they are financially and to map out a program to achieve their goals. The company offers Term Life Insurance, Investments, Mortgage, Auto and Home Insurance, a Pre-Paid Legal Program, Identity Theft Protection and Vivint Home Security Automation.

For more information, please visit Yodi Dixon's Primerica website livemore.net/yodidixon, or give her a call at (469) 626-7809.

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



One Sure Sign

In Matthew 24, Jesus talks to His disciples about the End Times. Verse 12 (NASB) reveals a very important fact: "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold." That's the New American Standard translation. In the King James, it reads as, "the love of many shall wax cold." This gives us a clearer picture of what happens. For something to wax cold isn't instant; it's a process.

Let's look at the end of the verse first. "Most people's love will become cold." That's the New American Standard translation. In the King James, it reads as, "the love of many shall wax cold." This gives us a clearer picture of what happens. For something to wax cold isn't instant; it's a process.

Consider a candle. Before you light it, the wax is cold and hard. Light it, and it begins to soften and eventually will melt. This is how we are meant to be, shining bright for Him, with hearts that are soft towards God, pliable and

open to both His love and His discipline. When you blow the candle out, removing the fire, the wax begins the process of growing cold and getting hard again. It takes a little time, but unless you relight the fire the wax growing cold is inevitable.

This is exactly what we have seen in these last days. In fact, I'd say the NASB nails it here when it says most (as opposed to many) will grow cold. I'm not talking about the peo-

ple in the world, either. Their condition is obvious and understandable, because they have outright rejected God. I'm talking about people in the church. Where is the fire? Where is the passion for the Word of God? Where are the hearts that are soft and pliable?

When the verse says that "lawlessness is increased," it's not talking about disobeying or ignoring the laws of man, but the Law of God, the Word

of God. When you back away from the Word of God, which many Christians, too many pastors, and even entire churches have done, you stop feeding a necessary fire. And when you let that fire go out, you start the transformation from having a heart that burns for God to a heart that is cold and dead.

Praise God, if you'll just repent and get back on the path God calls us to, you can relight that fire and,

just as surely as the relit candle starts shining bright and growing soft again, you can once more be a light in the dark world, a giver of warmth, and one whose heart is easily molded by God's hand.

If you're wondering how to make sure your fire does keep burning, I recommend you pay special attention to Proverbs 3. This chapter offers an excellent course in how to stay on fire for God and become the man or woman of God He has called you to be.

And as you do, remember that this is only one sure sign of many. We are undeniable in the last of the Last Days. Jesus could literally come back any day now. It's time to be ready.

www.myhillsidefamily.com, @myhillsidefamily

OPINION PAGE

LETTERS To The Editor

Shame on Centerpoint

Day 5 and nothing yet. Nothing worse than having a generator that keeps acting up . Guess it doesn't really matter anyways if you run out of money to fill it up. Who's got money to keep buying gallons and gallons of gasoline? We sure don't.

I see lots of Centerpoint trucks everywhere, but not a lineman in sight here. Am I upset at the lineman? NO I'M NOT. I'm upset about the fact that we receive electricity from a company that has always half-assed their obligations to their customers and would rather pay hundreds of thousands to their CEO and other folks who can't even get a pre-plan together in the event of a major outage like this.

I've called to request tree trimming and other maintenance around lines dozens of times, only getting results maybe a couple of times when precautionary measures should be taken by Centerpoint ON THEIR OWN.

I feel so bad for all our neighbors, especially our elderly and disabled and those with chronic illnesses, who have to suffer in this dreadful heat. Not everyone is going to stand in miles long lines for food or a case of water. Some can't afford to fill up their vehicles because they're spending what they have to fill up generators.

What do we do? Sit and wait in heat. At this point don't know whether to laugh or cry. This is absolutely pathetic. Shame on Centerpoint.

Signed/

Ruben A. Salazar

Shame on the Chronicle for not monitoring Centerpoint progress

Kudos to the Houston Chronicle editorial board for their comments on Centerpoint's lack of transparency, preparedness and utter failure in responding to Hurricane Beryl.

The editorial points out many recommendations that were made in 2009 (in the wake of Hurricane Ike) that were, apparently, not adopted. But, wait, 13 years ago?

My question is: did Houston's only newspaper follow up with preparation, resiliency and transparency to see whether ANY of those steps were taken? The editorial mentions one recommendation — followed up by NPR!

I get it! Following the Public Utility Commission is mind-numbing (and butt-numbing) work. Where was the Houston Chronicle in the last 13 years???

Oh, but it's so boring ! Yep, it sure is!! Until the lights go out and consumers are then asked to pay billions for repairs that could have been prevented (at least in part) by proper management and storm preparedness.

Centerpoint is NOT the only Houston institution that failed this city.

That's my opinion and I am sticking to it!

/Signed

Anne Marie Kilday

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Proposed Fed Rule Would Protect Workers From Extreme Heat

A year after a new state law ended mandatory water breaks in Texas, a proposed federal rule would protect millions of workers from the risks caused by extreme heat, The Texas Tribune reported.

The rule would require employers to create plans to prevent heat injuries and illnesses and ensure workers get access to drinking water, rest breaks and control of indoor heat. It would apply to all employers whose businesses are under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Last year, Texas legislators passed House Bill 2127, which barred cities and counties from passing ordinances that go farther than state law in a number of areas, including labor regulations. That measure eliminated ordinances in Austin and Dallas that mandated water breaks for construction workers, The Tribune reported.

"Greg Abbott tried to take rest breaks away from everyday Texans, but now we're one step closer to securing heat protections for all Americans on the job," U.S. Rep. Greg Casar, D-Austin, said last week. "Employers can adopt OSHA's proposed rule and protect their workers today."

The proposed rule still has to go through the regulatory approval process. It likely will face opposition from industry groups.

AG'S OFFICE MUST COLLECT FINES FROM ITS BOSS

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton owes the state of Texas more than \$11,000 in fines for filing late campaign finance reports, and the office he heads is now charged with collecting the money, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The Texas Ethics Commission referred Paxton's unpaid fines to the attorney general's office in April, according to public records. Paxton is not the only elected official who owes the state for campaign violation fines. Hundreds of candidates and elected officials together owe the state more than \$700,000. His office has declined to sue to collect the unpaid fines, according to the Chronicle.

The executive director of Common Cause, a watchdog group, called the situation a clear conflict of interest.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

"If I didn't pay a parking ticket and incurred a fine as a penalty, most Texans would find it absurd if I also got to review my fine and have a role in deciding whether any action should be taken to collect that fine," Anthony Gutierrez said.

The office has only filed one lawsuit against a public official who owes ethics fines since September 2023.

ABBOTT'S BORDER WALL DECADES AWAY FROM COMPLETION

The state-funded border wall announced by Gov. Greg Abbott three years ago is proceeding at about a half mile a week, The Tribune reported. At that rate, completion of the wall along the state's 1,254-mile border will take about 30 years and cost around \$20 billion to complete. Thus far, 34 miles of wall have been completed at a price tag of about \$25 million per mile.

State lawmakers thus far have approved more than \$3 billion for the wall, out of the \$11 billion allocated for the border crackdown known as Operation Lone Star. The remainder of the money has gone to sending state troopers and National Guard soldiers to the border, as well as transporting migrants to Democrat-controlled cities outside of Texas.

Some Republicans are expressing concern about the rising costs of the wall.

"I am, too, concerned that we're spending a whole lot of money to give the appearance of doing something rather than taking the problem on to actually solve it, and until we do that, I don't expect to see much happen," state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood.

Abbott's office did not re-

spond to a request for comment.

TXDOT ASKS FOR FEEDBACK ON 10-YEAR PLAN

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking input on a proposed 10-year plan that proposes spending a record \$104.2 billion for transportation to improve safety, address congestion and improve roadways.

The plan also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, according to TxDOT.

The Unified Transportation Program is updated annually and serves as the agency's 10-year blueprint for statewide projects.

"Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue connecting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

The comment period is underway and ends on Aug. 5. To learn about different ways to comment, go to: <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp/utp-public-involvement.html>

REPORT: WEED IS ESSENTIALLY LEGAL IN TEXAS

A Texas Monthly investigation into eight hemp dispensaries across the state found that all were selling cannabis with potent levels of THC, the psychoactive compound still considered illegal in Texas beyond low levels.

In 2018, the Farm Bill passed by Congress said cannabis plants with less than 0.3 percent delta-9 THC is considered hemp and not restricted under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. Texas adopted these standards the following year, making hemp legal in the state. That resulted in hemp dispensaries sprouting across the state.

Russell Gold with Texas Monthly told the Texas Standard that samples purchased at dispensaries across the state were sent off for testing.

"The lowest amount of THC we found was nine times the legal limit, but we actually purchased some that was 40 times the legal limit," Gold said. "And what that means is that this isn't hemp. It is marijuana by any definition."

Gold said he was unaware of any dispensary in the state being shut down for selling what is essentially cannabis.

"I mean, there are penalties because they're not supposed to, but nobody's paying attention," he said.

SHARK ATTACK INJURES 4 ON THE FOURTH AT SOUTH PADRE

Four people were injured after a shark attack on South Padre Island, the Austin American-Statesman reported. A news release from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said two people were bitten and two slightly injured when encountering the shark.

Authorities believe a single shark was behind all four incidents, occurring over two hours. Such attacks are rare, with 36 reported last year in the United States, according to the University of Florida's Shark Attack File.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Felix's Wonderful Vacation



Our cat, Felix, traveled up north with us for the first time, to visit my parents and their cat, Katie.

I was worried Felix might not like the long drive. My parents' home, while not enormous, has a basement and an upstairs, all connected by a spiral staircase, and I worried he would become distressed in this new place. There were a lot of new things he could mess with, and I worried he would knock over knickknacks or dig in the plants or hide. So I was anxious from the moment I piled Felix into his carrier.

It turns out, I was worried about all the wrong things.

Felix did not mind the drive at all. He fell asleep in his carrier and was a model passenger. When we arrived at my parents' house, I carried him in. I could have sworn that Katie was watching as we loaded everything into the house. But apparently not.

Felix immediately began to explore. This was a big house, filled with interesting things, and Felix hit the ground running, so I don't know the precise order of events. But somehow, Felix ended up in the sunporch that doubles as my mother's sewing room. He was investigating the sunroom when Katie, belatedly, discovered there was another cat in the house.

She screamed.

You are probably imagining that she meowed very loudly or let out a yowl, but that would not be accurate. Katie screamed as if her little kitty throat was being cut and she was dying—right that moment.

Everyone came running. Katie was puffed up to approximately twice her normal size, and she was staring, riveted, at Felix. Felix looked surprised, but not nearly dangerous enough to have provoked a scream like that.

"They will need some time!" my mother explained. We all assumed the worst was over. Then, several minutes later, Katie returned to the sunporch, and Felix was hiding just around the corner, so she didn't discover him until she was inches from his face. There was another scream, and this time, she peed on the floor.

My father picked up Katie. My mother mopped the floor. I shooed Felix out of the sunporch. An hour passed, and Katie had almost convinced herself that Felix was gone for good. That's when he popped up from the basement, his face festooned with cobwebs.

There was a third bloodcurdling scream.

We decided they needed a time-out. There was no door to the upstairs, and so we brought up Katie's litter box from the basement and confined her to the bedroom and sunporch.

Things were quiet that night. I had gone up to bed. Suddenly, there was another scream.

"Could you come and get your cat?!" my father hollered.

"Where is he?"

I ran downstairs and there was Felix, sitting in the darkened sunporch. There was a glass window in the door to my parents' bedroom, and he had been peering into the window from the dark. Katie spotted the Night Stalker and, justifiably, freaked out.

"Now you are just being mean!" I told Felix as I took him to bed. I thought he looked pleased with himself.

For the remaining two days, while Katie spent most of her time fuming in my parents' bedroom, Felix played with Mom and Dad. He was given special treats. He caught a mouse and murdered it in the bathtub. He played with all of Katie's toys. And every time Katie caught sight of Felix, she screamed.

All in all, it was a wonderful vacation—for Felix.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel editions, and details about the publisher and subscription rates.

Crosby middle school student selected for Lone Star Leadership Academy

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A Crosby Middle School student has been selected to participate in a summer 2024 Lone Star Leadership Academy camp. Brighton Fuchs, an 8th grade student this fall, was nominated by his teacher, Cindy Jones, to attend the camp in Austin and San Antonio. His Texas State Representative and Senator will be notified of his accomplishment including visits to their offices this summer.

Fuchs qualified for the selection based on his outstanding academic success, demonstrated leadership ability, involvement in school and community activities.

"He has been active in Theatre Arts productions since he was a fifth-grade student at Barrett Elementary School, and plays flute in the CMS band," his mom Erin said. He also plays piano in his free time as a passion.

He has been a member of the National Junior Honor Society since he was a 6th grader and participates in the Crosby Fair and Rodeo as a Junior FFA member showing livestock and other projects.

"He has also been a guest speaker at multiple events hosted by Crosby Education Foundation and the Crosby Fair and Rodeo," she added.

Brighton will join a delegation of outstanding students from across the state to develop leadership skills while learning about the great state of Texas and its leaders. He will visit significant sites in the Austin/San Antonio area including the LBJ Library and Museum, the Alamo, Texas State Cemetery, his state legislators' offices at the Texas State Capitol, Supreme Court of Texas, the Witte Museum, and The Meadows Center of Water and the Environment. He will also go bat watching on the Lone Star Riverboat, work with a team to decode an escape room, explore Natural Bridge Caverns, and learn about the culture, history, and architecture of San Antonio on a River Walk Boat Tour. Additionally, Brighton will learn about future career and internship opportunities through career speaker presentations at sites vis-



BRIGHTON FUCHS

ited. Texas educators facilitate Lone Star Leadership Academy camps including leadership groups where Brighton and the other participants will examine qualities of effective leaders, practice leadership skills, and discuss what they learn at sites visited. In addition, Brighton will have fun meeting other outstanding students and making new friends while adding to his resume of academic achievements, developing leadership skills, and bringing home a wealth of information to supplement what he is learning in school.

Another of his passions is scuba diving and he's been certified since 2022.

"Brighton's current plans are to attend Texas A&M in Galveston to become a marine biologist with a passion for conservation of the Texas Coastal resources," his mom said.

To learn more about Education in Action, the nonprofit organization that hosts Lone Star Leadership Academy camps across Texas, contact them at 817-562-4957 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.educationinaction.org"](http://www.educationinaction.org)

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

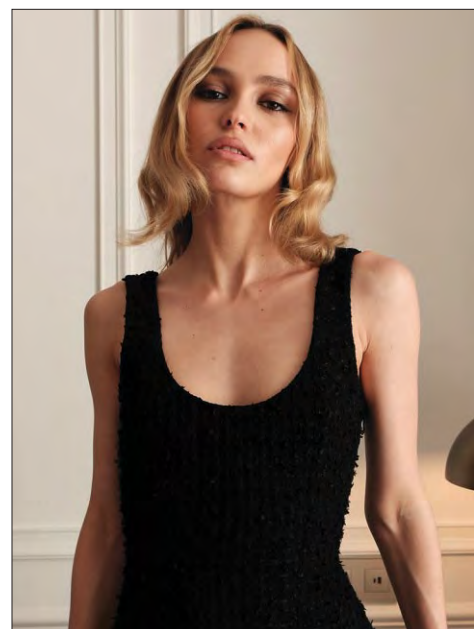
HOLLYWOOD — Eddie Murphy must be preparing an Olympic-style comeback. He started shooting "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F" in August 2022 and wrapped in December 2022. In June 2024, he began voicing Donkey in the fifth "Shrek" film, along with Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Antonio Banderas, who are all reprising their roles in the franchise.

In April, Murphy shot "The Pickup" with Pete Davidson, Keke Palmer, Andrew Dice Clay and Eva Longoria for Amazon MGM Studios, and he's currently working on an album, titled "9." Where does he find the time to deal with his 10 children, spanning from ages 6 to 34?

As promised back in April, Oscar winner Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan have started shooting "Freaky Friday 2," with Chad Michael Murray and Mark Harmon reprising their roles from their earlier film. In 1971, long before "NCIS," I met Mark when he had one line in Chad Everett's TV series "Medical Center." Talk on set was that his father was the all-American, Heisman-Trophy-winning football player Tom Harmon, and because he was great-looking, he couldn't miss. They were right!

What does it say about today's movies that the top-five-grossing films so far this year have been the animated feature "Inside Out 2" (\$1.2 billion); the sci-fi film "Dune: Part Two" (\$711.8 million); "Godzilla x King" (\$569.7 million); "Kung Fu Panda 4" (\$545.5 million); and "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" (\$394.7 million)? It says that it's tough to be an actor or be able to see movies of beauty, romance and substance!

This may be why Scarlett Johansson was Black Widow in "Iron Man 2" (2010), "The Avengers" franchise, "Captain Marvel," and her own film "Black Widow." She's been in other films such as "The Horse Whisperer" (1998), "My Brother the Pig" (1999),



Actress Lily-Rose Depp (Upcoming in "Nosferatu")

"Ghost World" (2001), "Eight Legged Freaks" (2002) and "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" (2004). But now Johansson really wants to join the "Jurassic Park" franchise in the worst way.

"I'm such an enormous fan of the franchise," she admitted. "It's one of the first films I remember seeing in a movie theater. It was life-changing. It was mind-blowing. ... I've been trying to get into this franchise in any possible way for over 10 years. ... I'll do anything for it." Her prayers have been answered, and she'll headline the upcoming seventh film with Jonathan Bailey and Mahershala Ali, due on July 2025.

Filmmaker Robert Eggers ("The Lighthouse") has already picked out our Christmas present! He's giving us "Nosferatu," a gothic tale of obsession between Lily-Rose Depp and a vampire (Bill Skarsgard) who is infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake. Sounds like a merry time for all of us! How did the Hallmark Channel miss this one?

ENTERTAINMENT

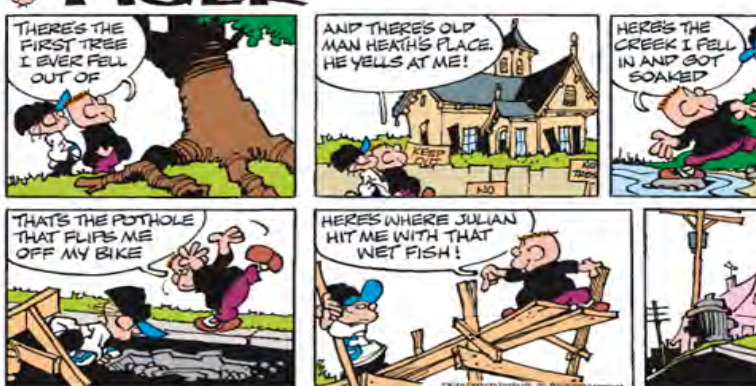
July 15, 2024 Posting Date

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 8, 3, 2, 1, 9, 6, 5, 3, 9, 3, 7, 5, 8, 6, 8, 2, 4, 8, 5, 2, 4, 4, 6, 1, 8, 3, 8, 9, 6

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 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

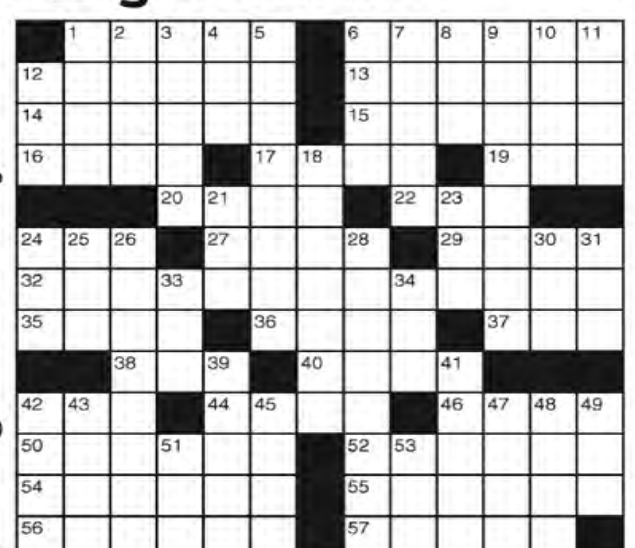


Differences: 1. King is reversed. 2. Salt and pepper are switched. 3. Nose is number. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Seat is moved. 6. Hair is different.

ACROSS

- 1 Ganges garments
6 Stern and Asimov
12 Raging rant
13 Seafood soup
14 Foolish talk
15 Guarantee
16 Faction
17 Overdue
19 Days of yore
20 Entryway
22 Bankroll
24 Billboards
27 Mooches
29 Plunks (down)
32 Wake-up calls
35 Gambling game
36 Poet Teasdale
37 Water tester
38 Tummy muscles
40 Iditarod terminus
42 Jazz lover
44 Ballet attire
46 Slightly
50 Loves to pieces
52 Cancel out
54 Some beers
55 Of France
56 Constitution writer
57 Upright

King Crossword



DOWN

- 1 iPhone voice
2 Desert-like
3 Carried on
4 Chemical suffix
5 Traitors
6 "Yeah, right"
7 Tendon
8 Ninny
9 Water conduit
10 Ringlet
11 Feeder filler
12 Pro Bowl stats
18 Marching insect
21 Kimono sash
23 Chest-beating beast
24 Canine greeting
25 Narc's org.
26 Revolutionary War battle
28 Forage for food, say
30 Ring decision
31 Away from NNW
33 High tennis shot
34 Deli meat
39 Cubic meter
41 Aerie builder
42 Young whale
43 Purim's month
45 Cold War initials
47 Body powder
48 Bickering
49 Calendar abbr.
51 Sleep acronym
53 Corn unit

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Pawnee, Indiana; 2. 13; 3. Laurence Fishburne; 4. Achilles; 5. James Cook; 6. Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull; 7. Larkspur and water lily; 8. "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe; 9. Middle ear—the stapedius; 10. Botox.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the town in the sitcom "Parks and Recreation"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: The Earth's equator runs through how many countries?
3. MOVIES: Who plays the character Morpheus in "The Matrix"?
4. MYTHOLOGY: Which Greek hero was dipped in the River Styx as a baby and made almost invulnerable?
5. EXPLORERS: Which English explorer claimed Australia for Great Britain?
6. HISTORY: Which two Native American leaders fought Gen. George Custer's troops at the Battle of Little Bighorn?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the two traditional flowers associated with the July birth month?
8. LITERATURE: Which poem begins with the line, "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary"?
9. ANATOMY: Where is the smallest skeletal muscle in the human body located?
10. INVENTIONS: What medication, originally used to treat eye muscle spasms, later became a success in reducing facial wrinkles?

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Crosby ISD Celebrates 105 years with Major Expansion, Community Events, and New Leadership,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

next big community events is the Barrett Station Homecoming Parade on Saturday, July 20. Crosby ISD will have several floats in the parade for the 38th annual celebration. Last year, the parade was one of the biggest ever! We're looking forward to celebrating Barrett Station's special place in Crosby ISD history.

Summer is also a time of staff promotions. We have two new principals for the new school year. The Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Crosby Middle School associate principal, Ms. Kellie Hall, as the new principal of Drew Elementary School. Ms. Hall is from Barrett Station, and she is a proud Crosby High School alumna. The Board also approved the promotion of Ms. Laura Haynes, from assistant principal at Crosby High School, to the new principal of the district's DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program). Ms. Haynes brings a wealth of experience, including military service, to this critical new assignment. Congratulations to Ms. Hall and Ms. Haynes for their deserved promotions.

We are also celebrating the 2023-24 teachers of the year. Crosby Middle School math teacher, Mr. Kevin Fontenot, and Barrett Elementary School fifth grade teacher, Ms. Diedre John-Baptiste, were named the Secondary and Elementary Teachers of the Year. They



Students in 21st Century summer school program fly high during field trip to indoor skydiving adventure park iFly Houston.



21st century students learned lessons about of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) before enjoying indoor skydiving.



The students had to answer questions about the aerodynamics of what makes a skydiver glide, then they had a chance to soar.

are both highly creative educators who turn their classrooms into learning adventures. Mr. Fontenot's classroom features a window on the world for his students to dream big while solving fractions. Ms. John-Baptiste turned her classroom into an "emergency room" where students wore scrubs and "cured" patients by sharing concepts they learned during reading units. Thank you both for instilling a passion for education in your students.

Finally, children in our 21st century summer school program are spending their weeks flying high. They are enjoying student enrichment activities thanks to

our partnership with the Harris County Department of Education. So far this summer, they have explored the Houston Museum of Natural Science, getting up close to dinosaurs and prehistoric fossils. They also had the chance to fly at an indoor skydiving adventure park. The students had to answer questions about the aerodynamics of what makes a skydiver glide, then they had a chance to soar! It was a great way to bring home the lessons of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math).

We are Moving Forward! Go Coogs!



Crosby ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year, Mr. Kevin Fontenot, receives flowers and a plaque from Executive Director of Human Resources, Ms. Christy Covan. Mr. Fontenot teaches math at Crosby Middle School.



Crosby ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year, Ms. Diedre JohnBaptiste, receives flowers and a plaque from Executive Director of Human Resources, Ms. Christy Covan. Ms. JohnBaptiste teaches 5th grade at Barrett Elementary.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	RV SPACE RENT	RV SPACE RENT	RV SPACE RENT	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE
<p>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #25-001</p> <p>The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for a multiple award bid for:</p> <p>Beverage Vending Machine, Beverage Concessions and Service</p> <p>Proposals will be accepted on or before: 2:00 p.m., Thursday August 1, 2024</p> <p>The RFP can be obtained by visiting https://www.bhisd.net/departments/financetax-office/purchasing or contact Amy Presley at 281-576-2221 ext. 1268 to obtain a copy of the RFP.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>27-2t</p>				<p>RV SPACES FOR RENT</p> <p>2 RV SPACES FOR RENT IN CROSBY. ALL UTILITIES PAID (WATER, SEWER, ELECTRIC). \$675.00 PER MONTH FOR EACH SPACE. CALL ANTHONY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p> <p>281-216-8084.</p> <p>27-4T</p>			<p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 524421; Estate of NORMA JANE DAVIS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 24, 2024 to:</p> <p>DAVID CARTER DAVIS</p> <p>The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:</p> <p>c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dated this JULY 1, 2024</p> <p> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate</p>	
				<p>SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES</p> <p>Car Accident Not Your Fault?</p> <p>You could be losing thousands of dollars in Diminished Value</p> <p>Act Now! to learn more</p> <p>HOUSTON AUTO APPRAISERS</p> <p>www.houstonautoappraisers.com 281-424-6466 Roy Theophilus Bent, Jr.</p>				

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money **SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money**

Business Directory

 <p>281-428-1187 1-800-345-8471 Sales & Repair Service Baytown, Texas John Henderson 628 Cedar Bayou Rd.</p>	 <p>FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS 713-702-3200 JOHNNY GAENE OWNER-INSPECTOR 911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX 77562</p>	 <p>Signs & Banners 281-462-1200 www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net 213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532</p>	<p>WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY HIGHLANDS 281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd. NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION</p>
	 <p>FILL DIRT BANK SAND ROADBASE LIMESTONE 119 Listi Ln, Highlands hillmaterials.com WE DELIVER TO YOU (281) 843-5000 residential • commercial • industrial</p>	<p>SMALL ADS BRING BIG RESULTS Ask about our Business Directory Package 13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package Photo + Story + Web for \$260 713-266-3444</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Star  Courier</p> <p>Your Hometown Newspaper News tips and Ad Inquiries: 713-266-3444</p>

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

North Channel, Crosby, Highlands recover from Nasty Effects of Hurricane Beryl

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Houston is in the dark—again.

Not even a full month after the area was hit by the Houston derecho, a rare front with straight line winds reaching as high as 100 miles per hour, the Gulf Coast was ravaged by the hurricane force winds of Hurricane Beryl.

For days, most everyone expected the Category 1 hurricane, downgraded from a Cat 5, the largest early Gulf storm in recent history, to deliver her punch into the southern tip of Texas or the upper coast of Mexico. Instead, Beryl made a late turn into Matagorda Bay, placing the eye of the storm right down the middle of the Houston area, and the ‘dirty side’ on the northeast corner of east Harris County.

The storm blew through quickly after pounding the Gulf Coast for nine hours moving out and up through the eastern states and out through New York state over the next two days. The National Weather Service has confirmed a record number of 57 tornadoes spawned from Beryl’s fury, the most in the U.S. in nearly 19 years. In one day, Beryl produced a record 110 tornado warnings with nearly 50 of them becoming confirmed touchdowns.

Beryl wreaked havoc on the Texas Gulf Coast beginning late Sunday night and early Monday morning.

Before it was all said and done, the hurricane left more than 2 million residents in the dark, one of the largest ever tallies in history for the area.

CenterPoint Energy immediately went into assessment mode and assembled 14,000 frontline resources, seven times the workforce of the company. Workers from all over the United States rushed to Texas to assist including workers from KUB and Service Electric from Tennessee that covered a good bit of the North Channel area, and Alabama Power that has worked throughout Crosby.

Vegetation crews immediately began the heavy-duty work of removing trees off lines that had been toppled like match sticks from the 100 mph-plus winds.

As of Sunday, 992 vegetation management crew members had removed more than 18,600 trees from downed power lines. CenterPoint reported that 77 percent of all their distribution circuits were impacted by vegetation—trees, limbs, etc.

In addition to the huge numbers of trees, CenterPoint also reported approximately 2,100 poles were damaged and replaced, no small feat.

At least 16 of the transmission structures were also damaged which caused outages to large groups of subdivisions.

CenterPoint Energy has now restored electricity to more than 1.8 million customers impacted by Hurricane Beryl. The company is tracking ahead of prior expectations to restore 85 percent by the end of the weekend and now expects to restore power to 90 percent of impacted customers by the end of day Monday, one week after the storm.

Residents who have lived in the area long



An impatient resident tries to make the best of the situation with a humorous sign outside his house, “Waiting on CenterPoint.” The sign became a popular place for selfies for area residents.



All of the crepe myrtle trees were uprooted at the Luby’s Cafeteria due to the high winds from Hurricane Beryl.



Spirit Of Life Ministries Interdenominational Church on Maxey Road and Woodforest in North Shore lost its steeple, windows were blown out, and the panels from the steeple were blown away from the ferocious winds of Beryl.



This huge pine tree was blown over onto this house during the storm which, according to the homeowner, was unusual to see a pine taken down. He attributed it to the saturated ground.



This billboard was uprooted and blown over into the brush and nearby trees from the hurricane force winds from Beryl.



There’s bright yellow ribbon tied to the downed power lines in this neighborhood. Orange cones keep cars from driving over them. The lines were taken down by nearby trees.



The power of the hurricane force winds was felt by homes across Houston including this one in Crosby. The good, solid tree was twisted down by the high winds and possible tornado.

enough remember the last major windstorm of Hurricane Ike that left the electric grid in shambles as well. Some residents didn’t have power for three to four weeks, but CenterPoint has increased their redundancy since then and ability to bring power back online much faster.

“Dedicated restoration crews have continued working night and day through the weekend, re-

sulting in the fastest restoration in the company’s history,” a CenterPoint spokesperson said.

CenterPoint crews are converging on areas with significant structural damage as well as localized outages, deploying crews, equipment and mobile generation solutions to restore customers as safely and quickly as possible. At this time, the company has provided restoration dates to sub-

stantially all customers and is working to restore customers sooner than expected, wherever possible.

“Our crews are doing extraordinary work in neighborhoods across Greater Houston and have continued to accelerate restoration despite challenging conditions as thunderstorms rolled through Houston late yesterday,” said Lynnae Wilson, Senior Vice President, Electric Busi-

ness. “Looking ahead, we know those customers who are not yet restored are counting on us, and we are committed to working until we get their lights back on.”

While everyone is waiting for assistance, cooling centers have opened across the area and Harris County Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey hosted a POD (point of distribution) in the Crosby area on Saturday, July

13. The commissioner, along with volunteers handed out bagged ice, water, and non-perishable food items at the Crosby Community Center from 9 a.m. until all was gone.

The commissioner also reminded residents that they would continue to hand out food and water every day at all Precinct 3 community centers during normal business hours each day while supplies last.



HOUSTON METHODIST LEADING CARE where you need us



Convenient, easy-to-access locations for primary, specialty and emergency care in Baytown

We offer a full spectrum of care, including:

- Primary care physicians for you and your family, providing personal care and service
- Specialists with innovative treatments and customized programs for all conditions
- Collaborative teams of experts using the newest technologies and latest research

