



FOOD, WATER and ICE were distributed in Jacinto City by State Rep. Ana Hernandez, helped by North Shore Rotary, Pct. 2, and Constable Jerry Garcia

HIGHLANDS

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Waste Pits SuperFund Update

Meeting July 30
Jacinto River Coalition will hold an Update Meeting at the Highlands Community Center, starting at 6:30pm.

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 slowly recovers from Hurricane Beryl

Some areas await Electricity for second week: Need food, water, ice

The communities in East Harris County were still struggling to recover from the wrath of Hurricane Beryl, almost two weeks after the storm struck early Monday morning, July 8th.

Initially over 2 million customers of Centerpoint Energy lost power, and even two weeks later they reported 50,000 still out. Traffic lights, A/C units, and no refrigeration added to the misery brought on during the excessive heat.

Authorities reported at least 22 deaths attributable to the storm, including 8 overcome by heat, and several killed by fall-



Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey helps distribute MRE Food boxes at the Drive Thru Distribution event at the Crosby Community Center.



Precinct 2 Adrian Garcia, State Rep. Ana Hernandez, North Shore Rotary, and Constable Jerry Garcia helped distribute food, water and ice to residents at this Jacinto City event. This was one of several locations helping out.

ing trees.

To help those without access to food and supplies, many private agencies and the county and city governments have organized Food Distribution drive-thru aid, with supplies from the state and the Food Bank.

Centerpoint Energy has been strongly criticized for inadequate planning prior to the storm, leading to slow restoration of power to many neighborhoods. Governor Abbott and Harris County have promised to investigate the lack of preparation and the slow recovery of services.

Deputy Esqueda laid to rest in HCSO ceremony

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Friday, July 19, 2024 about 1,600 mourners joined with the family of Harris County's Deputy Fernando Esqueda at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart downtown Houston for his funeral. The building was filled to overflowing capacity; all aisles were crowded providing standing room only for late arrivals.

Members of Harris County's many police agencies were joined by officers who traveled from Dallas, Corpus Christi, Chicago, Boston, New York and Los Angeles, among many other cities.

As a former police officer and chief of police it was a sad and emotional experience for me to cover for the NC Star. This was



EULOGY BY HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ (Allan Jamail photo)

my first funeral to write an article about where a law enforcement officer was murdered.

Taking the photos was especially hard for me especially when many of them were of scenes where I could see his family in deep emotional grieve. As a former law enforcement

officer and now a media representative I felt obligated and the duty to do this story. I hoped my article and photos could possibly benefit other law enforcement officers or even Esqueda's family.

After the funeral I spoke with Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, his swollen tear filled eyes

and red nose left no doubt how this was a very sad event for him to endure. The sheriff and I have been friends for over twenty years, I knew him before he and his wife Melissa were married. It was obvious to me he was shaken by the brutal murder of one of his deputies.

Sheriff Gonzalez gave one of the eulogies and quoted from a note Fernando had written earlier "Your purpose is only known to your heart," Gonzalez said, "Deputy Esqueda had the heart of a lion."

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said Continued. See ESQUEDA, Page 7



TWO WHITE HORSES PULL THE CARRIAGE WITH ESQUEDA'S CASSET AT THE CEMETERY, WITH COACHMAN DWIGHT RANDALL AND SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ ATOP. (Allan Jamail photo)

Houston mourns the passing of Sheila Jackson Lee at 74

By Allan Jamail
A Personal Memoir

Saturday, July 20, 2024 ~ Houston, Texas ~ as a freelance photojournalist often writing for the North Channel Star it's with deep sadness I'm writing this article (part 1.) about yesterday's death (July 19th) of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (S.J.L.). She had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this June; and her breast cancer had been in remission for over a decade.

For sure Jackson Lee was a living legend, well admired all over the globe for her exceptional abilities and accomplishments.

Over the years I've provided Star readers with many news stories of S.J.L.'s successful congressional work. She was able to secure free federal grant funds for Jacinto City a new ambulance as well as one for Galena Park. She's gotten billions of grant funds for Houston including North Channel areas. She always made sure her Congressional District 18 received their share of grant funds to improve the lives and living conditions of her constituents.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
18th Congressional District
January 12, 1950 - July 19, 2024

Continued. See SHEILA JACKSON LEE DIES, Page 3

JACINTO RIVER SUPERFUND SITE Remediation completed on Southern Waste Pits Site

By Jackie Young Medcalf

EAST HARRIS COUNTY - We still have a long way to go before the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is fully cleaned up and area communities are safe from dioxin and other chemicals. However, we don't want to lose sight of a major milestone in the remediation effort.

The EPA announced that the Southern Pit cleanup down to 10 feet has been completed and the final report on the work will be released in August.

Here are some important things to recognize about this cleanup.




It was accomplished on schedule. Superfund projects seem to take forever and include too many delays and too much foot dragging. However, once the project was approved the actual work was done quickly and professionally.

Public involvement

doesn't slow down the process; it improves it. The EPA reached out to consult with THEA and other community representatives several times during the process, including after an incident that

Continued. See WASTE PITS SOUTH SITE COMPLETE, Page 2




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Remediation completed on Waste Pits South Site,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resulted in a potential release of contaminated water. The early communication and responsiveness to community concerns helped build trust in the integrity of the project and allowed the work to stay on track.

Water treatment worked. The company responsible for the toxic material in the Southern Pit originally objected to the plan to treat contaminated water on site. However, the EPA says it successfully treated 1.4 million gallons at the site, significantly reducing the amount of material that needed to be trucked away.

The work didn't stop for hurricane season. The responsible company also didn't want work to continue year round. They wanted to halt during hur-



ricane season and start up again in the fall. That would have prolonged the cleanup, potentially exposing the site to two hurricane seasons instead of one. However, the EPA required work to continue with contingency plans in place to protect the worksite if a hurricane blew through Houston. Fortunately, we didn't see a hurricane, but the planning

helped prepare for storms that did hit during the year.

The Bottom Line

The Southern Pit remediation shows what can be done if the EPA moves forward with cleanup plans. Now, let's get to work cleaning up the Northern Pit!

Sent from my iPhone

Sheila Jackson Lee dies at 74,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Her tireless work ethics produced positive results; but I feel it might have prevented her from taking some time for her own "self-care."

Sheila's strong relentless work ethics cannot be overstated; she believed a strong work ethic was important for achieving her goals. Her moral principles towards having a strong work ethic guided her behavior and it enabled her to produce high-quantity, high-quality work to achieve her goals.

She pushed her staff to match her tireless efforts so success not failure would improve her constituent's lives. There are reports some of them filed complaints on her because of her driving them beyond what they thought was their ability to satisfy her.

This PART 1 article will be to give readers the news about her death and a glance into Jackson Lee's roots and public service. My PART 2 article that's coming in the future will enlighten readers about her personal side, her abilities to win the hearts of acquaintances and developing them into true friendships. She and I shared many personal conversations about each other's families, I will surely miss her.

Born in Queens, New York, Jackson Lee earned a scholarship for Black students at New York University before transferring to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Yale University in 1972 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1975.

In 1978 she and her husband, Elwyn Lee moved to Houston, he now serves as vice president for community relations and institutional access at the University of Houston. They have two children, Jason Lee, a senior adviser to Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, and Erica Lee, a senior policy adviser for Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis and two grandchildren.

That same year (1987) SJL was appointed municipal judge for the city of Houston by Mayor Kathy Whitmire. In 1989, Lee was elected to the Houston City Council; she served on the council until 1994 when she began her campaign for Congress in the Democratic primary for the 18th congressional district. She defeated incumbent Congressman Craig Washington which he had won the seat earlier in a special election to replace the sudden and accidental death of Congressman Mickey Leland. That year Lee easily won the general election in the heavily favored Democrat district.

While on the Homeland Security Committee she introduced the Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act (TWIC) in 2013. It's critical for the safety of our ports and the maritime industry. The TWIC program provides a tamper-resistant biometric credential to maritime workers requiring unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities, outer continental shelf facilities, and vessels regulated under the Maritime Trans-

portation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) and all U.S. Coast Guard credentialed merchant mariners.

One of Shelia's most sought after goals was to insure every American was given equal rights to succeed and pursue the American Dream. She's stood and fought in the trenches taking up for the poor, underprivileged and those being discriminated on she's never been afraid of a fight or getting into trouble if it produced correcting injustices done to others.

In March of 2023 she decided to give up her congressional seat and announced her candidacy for the 2023 Houston mayoral election. In the first round, she placed second behind state senator John Whitmire. Neither Whitmire nor Lee mustered the fifty plus percent votes because of the crowded field of mayoral candidates.

A runoff election occurred on December 9, 2023; she lost the election to Whitmire. Two days before the filing deadline on December 11th Lee filed to run for re-election to get her congressional seat back and won the Democratic primary on March 5, 2024. Now more than likely because of her death they'll be a Special Election to fill the vacated seat.

Read the upcoming NC Star PART 2 article from Allan Jamail of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; "Up-Close & Personal".

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

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Expanding our team of experts in PRIMARY CARE

Houston Methodist Welcomes Jose Ruiz-Rodriguez, MD

Jose Ruiz-Rodriguez, MD, is an internal medicine physician who is committed to helping patients manage and understand chronic diseases. He believes mutual respect and effective communication are key to achieving a successful physician-patient relationship.

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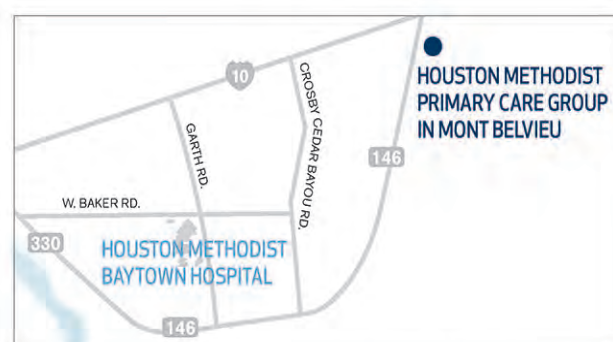
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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Memorial and Honorarium Memo for Jones Public Library

Memorials:

In Memory of:
Flurry, Debbie: The Other Family Doctor given by Cathy Harbour
Flurry, Debbie: This is How We Stay Healthy. If You Give a Dog a Donut. On the Farm, Ducks Bucks and Big Ol' Trucks given by Dava Glatfelter
Ibarra, Francisco: Papa given by The Ibarra Family
Ibarra, Petra: Llamando a Mama given by The Ibarra Family
Johnson, Lee: Woodworking: The Complete Step by Step Manual, Veteran's Day given by Williamson and Till Families
Skarpa, Earlene: Treasured Lands given by Jones Library Staff
Skarpa, Earlene: Something Someday. A Walk in the Woods. Fighting with Love given by Brenda Trahan
Skarpa, Earlene: Cut Flower Garden given by Rose Klimitchek Skarpa, Earlene: This is Home given by Maureen Moore
Skarpa, Earlene: The Ultimate Wildlife Habitat Garden given by Cathy Harbour
Skarpa, Earlene: Guardians of the Valley. Heirloom Skills given by Highcroft Drive Elementary School Special Education Department
Skarpa, Earlene: America The Atlas. Let's Get Lost given by Williamson and Till Families
Skarpa, Earlene: The Cut Flower Handbook. Atlas of Wild America given by Kathy Fry
Skarpa, Earlene: American Cowboys given by Robert and Carolyn Whaley
Unkel, Jack: Earth's Incredible Places. USA National Parks given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Unkel, Jack: History as they Saw It given by Jay and Jan Knight
Unkel, Jack: Encyclopedia of Landscape Design given by Williamson and Till Families
Walker, Barbara: One Day this Tree will Fall given by Sidnie Strader
Wisegerber, Betty Jo: Customize your Cross-Stitch. Complete Crochet Handbook given by Williamson and Till Families
Wisegerber, Betty Jo: Encyclopedia of Herbal Medicine given by Paul and June Damek
Wisegerber, Betty Jo: The Hometown Hunters (6 book collection) given by Ralph and Mary Wilson
Wisegerber, Betty Jo: My New Orleans: The Cookbook given by Craig and Cyndie Abshire

Honorariums:

In Honor of:
Capps, Donna: My Garden given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Hohn, Lynda: Faith Still Moves Mountains given by Tish Richter
Mayim, Ashara: Wicca: A Modern Day White Witch's Guide given by Anonymous
Piech, Lindsey: Modern Guide to Witchcraft: You're Complete Guide to Witches, Covens, and Spells given by Anonymous
Weaver, Carla: The Money-Saving Gardener given by Friends of the Jones Library

New Strategy expands Cody Stephens Foundation reach for heart screenings

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Following the devastating effects of the COVID pandemic, the Cody Stephens Foundation found themselves with a dwindling staff and volunteers. It forced the Crosby-based 501(c)(3) charity to pivot with a new strategy for their mission that now seems to be producing exponential results for reaching students across Texas with life-saving screenings.

"It's heartbreaking when you lose one," Scott Stephens told a KHOU 11 reporter when a Katy ISD cheerleader, Katie Marie Mitchell, 16, suffered a cardiac arrest while at a cheer camp at Texas A&M and died.

It hasn't been for a lack of trying.

"We went to Katy ISD 10 years ago and thought we had them, but their doctor spoke out against it, and they voted it down," he said disappointed.

That doctor has since died, and Callie will never see graduation either.

At 6-foot 9-inches and 289 pounds, Cody Stephens was every line coach's dream. The mountain of a young man was daunting for opposing teams and his future was bright with a scholarship



Scott Stephens, left, demonstrates one of the AEDs to the parents of Callie Donahue, who died from sudden cardiac arrest at a cheer camp at Texas A&M. Scott and Michelle Donahue are proponents of students getting tested for heart issues before participating in athletics and were instrumental in getting the program passed at Katy ISD.

offer to play football at Tarleton State University.

His life was cut short with sudden cardiac arrest at 18. He never saw graduation or collected his promised football scholarship. Now his father spends countless hours speaking anywhere he's invited to warn parents of the impending danger.

"When Callie passed away, her mom was an assistant principal at one of the Katy schools and her dad was head of security," Stephens said. Their connections helped force a revisit of the program in front of another set of school board members who recently voted positively for the program.

"They bought the machines and placed them in the schools and are now offering screening to students, teachers, and even parents," he said. Stephens has a cardiologist that reads them and sends them the results.

Yes, bought machines. It's the new strategy that has made life a little easier on the smaller staff.

"It's the model we've kind of gone too. Texas is so big it's hard to set up screenings with our staff all over the state," he said.

Now they offer the machines at a discount to the schools, teach the nurses and coaches how to do the ECGs, they email them back to Stephens staff in

Houston, the cardiologist reads them and sends them the results.

"After Katy ISD joined, Lamar Consolidated ISD in Fort Bend also joined up," he said. Goose Creek Consolidated has also bought machines and will begin screening this fall.

Large districts reach a much larger population of students and that sits well with Stephens.

"These machines are user friendly and have the most recent criteria already built into the software," he said. They purchase the machines from CardiaScreen in Dublin, Ohio and it includes a laptop and hard carrying case for storage.

The turnaround of the results from the cardiologist is typically within 72 hours.

"We plan on using our machines to screen our fall athletes in the spring, and our spring athletes in the fall," said Lee Martinez, athletic director for Goose Creek Consolidated ISD in Baytown.

"We're going to make it part of our culture with athletics, fine arts and any others that want it here in our district," Martinez said.

More than 200 turned out for their first event and he said they are planning more.

Martinez said he was excited to be able to save kids' lives.

"We now have the means to do it," he said.

For Stephens, they will continue to be hands on with full screening events.

"We still do full screenings from about Waco south to the coast," he said, "but we've found that this is a much easier solution and allows us to expand our reach. We can reach Texas if we get the machines in the hands of the schools," he said.

Stephens said one of the objections he had faced was when a student did have a follow-up echocardiogram that shows a picture of the health of the heart, it was expensive for parents.

"We now have access to an echo that's very reasonably priced," he said.

Since 2012, Stephens has continued to fight to save the lives of Texas children and spare other parents the heartache and pain he and his family experienced with the loss of their son.

To learn more about the Cody Stephens Foundation or to make a donation, please visit their website at <https://www.codystephensfoundation.org>



Texas Department of Public Safety

DPS Reminds Texans of Vehicle Safety Inspection Changes

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds Texans of upcoming changes to the state's Vehicle Safety Inspection Program that will eliminate most vehicle safety inspections. House Bill 3297, which was passed by the 88th Legislature and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott in 2023, abolishes the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program for non-commercial vehicles.

Beginning January 1,

2025, non-commercial vehicles will no longer need a vehicle safety inspection prior to registration. However, all non-commercial vehicles in the state will be subject to a \$7.50 inspection program replacement fee. This fee will be added to your total when you register your vehicle with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

New vehicles (those of the current or preceding model year on the date of purchase) purchased in

Texas that have not been previously registered in Texas or another state are required to pay an initial inspection program replacement fee of \$16.75 to cover two years.

Vehicles Registered in Emissions Counties

While comprehensive vehicle safety inspections will be eliminated for all non-commercial vehicles, Texans whose vehicles are registered in emissions counties will still be required to have emissions

tests.

Emissions tests are required in major metropolitan areas, including Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris and Montgomery counties; Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties; Travis and Williamson counties; and El Paso County. Bexar County will be added to the list of counties requiring emissions tests in 2026.

Commercial Vehicles

All commercial vehicles in all counties will still be required to obtain a passing vehicle safety inspection. Because they will be required to pay for that safety inspection, commercial vehicles will be exempt from the inspection program replacement fee.

All vehicles will still need to be registered; the registration process will continue to be managed by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Jones Public Library Summer Reading Program Round-up

The Jones Public Library completed their yearly Summer Reading Program on Saturday, July 13th, with a finale party attended by approximately 300 patrons. This was a wonderfully successful year with approximately 3800 materials checked

out, and approximately 1500 participants attending miscellaneous events throughout the program.

The Jones Public Library would like to acknowledge with appreciation the following sponsors, without whom this program would not be possible.

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Thank you once again to our generous sponsors, incredible volunteers, and the entire community for joining us here at the Jones Public Library for another successful Summer Reading Program.

OPINION PAGE

TRIBUTES To Sheila Jackson Lee



State Representative Armando Walle:

I'm heartbroken at the passing of my former boss & mentor @JacksonLeeTX18. In 2001, I was young & didn't know much about politics as her staff. SJL quickly taught me about being relentless for your constituents. She was driven & immensely loyal. She always had my back and I was always grateful. Rest in power SJL.

Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia:

Words cannot fully express the impact of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. The word 'tireless' gets thrown around in politics, but there's no one I've ever met with that kind of work ethic who could compare Congresswoman Jackson Lee. Her work didn't only benefit the Houstonians she represented for decades; it helped make our nation better for all Americans. Saying she will be missed is an understatement. My condolences to her family and to all who loved her. Thank you, Congresswoman, for your dedication to our city, county, state and country.

Former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner:

I am deeply saddened by the death of my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. From City Hall to the Halls of Congress, Sheila Jackson Lee has served her constituents well. She has written and passed key legislation and has stood on the floor of the United States House of Representatives speaking passionately for the interests of her district and the country she loved. She has worked with and advised Presidents of our great country, met with global leaders, and has been embraced by world renowned artists. But her work on the ground, in some of the poorest and under-resourced communities; the channeling of billions of federal dollars back to her district; her presence at someone's bedside, giving words of comfort to families who lost loved ones; her appearances at places of worship and events showcasing the global diversity of our City; and her uncanny ability to be everywhere, working every day for those who needed a champion, made her truly exceptional.

When she was elected to the United States House of Representatives she stood in the shadow of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland and Craig Washington. Without question, she rose to the occasion and served with great distinction. Even if you disagreed with her politics, you had to respect her work ethic. We can honestly say Sheila Jackson Lee left it all on the field. Rest in peace my sister. Thank you for all you gave us. And, thank you to her family for sharing her with us. We will not forget her sacrifice or yours. Sheila - to God be the glory for the good you have done. It was truly a job well done!

Americanisms
Sheila Jackson Lee
'Her strength and stamina were truly never-ending and her determination to rally a chorus to the fuse of justice was unwavering.'
---Tribute from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

New Citizens

I'd never been to a U.S. citizenship ceremony before. I'd never even thought about it much. I knew the process took a long time but, beyond that, I knew nothing about it, until I was invited to one.

My dear friend, Betty, was coming in from out of town to attend the citizenship ceremony of her son-in-law, Raul. Raul is a quiet and soft-spoken man who works in corporate catering. He has been waiting to become an American citizen for many years and finally, last Thursday, he became one.

I wasn't expecting much, but I was looking forward to seeing Betty. She had recently turned 80, and I hadn't seen her in ages. It took a long time to get all the families of all the soon-to-be new citizens seated, so we had a lot of time to catch up. Then the ceremony started.

The 136 new citizens sat in the rows up front, and their friends and family sat in rows of seats behind them. The huge former railroad station was nearly filled before the ceremony started.

A judge stood behind the podium and, after a few administrative details were dealt with, introduced the 76 countries where the citizens came from and encouraged them to wave their American flags when she read their country.

'You don't have to if you don't want to,' she added. 'This is America, after all.'

It was an amazing spectacle as, one by one, the new citizens waved their flags as their countries were named, and the families sitting behind them cheered. Some countries were a lot noisier than you might expect. I think the New Zealanders were some of the loudest, and there were not that many of them.

People laughed and applauded and waved flags, and we all sang the national anthem together. Then the judge made a few comments. She started by quoting Ronald Reagan.

'We lead the world because, unique among nations, we draw our people—our strength—from every country and every corner of the world. And by doing so, we continuously renew and enrich our nation.'

The judge congratulated them on completing the long and arduous process that had brought them to this day, and talked about their responsibilities and rights as new citizens. She told them she knew most of them had to get back to work and get on with their lives, but she encouraged them to take time, at some point in the day, to celebrate.

'You will have a birthday every year and celebrate the holidays every season. But you will only have one day in your life when you become an American citizen.'

Then they played 'America the Beautiful,' and there were quite a few people crying, including Betty.

I'm not sure what I expected. But if you ever want to have a renewed appreciation for the U.S., I recommend you go to watch 136 immigrants getting their citizenship.

The sun was shining outside as all the families and friends gathered with the new citizens, still holding their flags. And I realized I had no idea what it was like for my family when they were new citizens. I didn't know if there was a ceremony or if they were given a small flag. I didn't know if they took a test, as these folks had, or sang the national anthem. I knew nothing about it. And I was sorry about that.

'What a wonderful ceremony!' I said to Betty.

'I didn't know it would be so nice,' Betty agreed.

Then we all went out to lunch, and we celebrated.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Abbott Demands Probe into Houston Power Outages

More than 2 million Texans lost power when Hurricane Beryl hit the Texas coast, and Gov. Greg Abbott wants to know why. The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott has ordered the Public Utility Commission to conduct an immediate study into why the Houston area has again been hit by widespread power outages.

'I want to find out, was there a structural flaw with regard to the electrical delivery system?' Abbott said. 'Was that the cause of it? If so, what needs to be done to shore up, or was this a personnel issue of not having enough power personnel in all the right locations to get power back up?'

CenterPoint Energy is the primary electricity transmission company serving the Houston area. Its CEO, Jason Ryan, appeared before the PUC last week and was questioned about the outages.

'To our customers that not only have power out but have significant property damage from the trees we talked about coming up from the roots, our hearts go out to you and our hearts go out to our community,' Ryan said.

As of Sunday morning, CenterPoint's website indicated 461,247 customers were still without power, nearly a week after Beryl made landfall.

To date, 67 counties have been approved for federal disaster assistance, while other counties may be included as damage assessments are concluded. Those counties in the initial list are: Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Austin, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Calhoun, Cameron, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Goliad, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hidalgo, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Refugio, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Webb, Wharton, and Willacy.

FOREST SERVICE ASSESSES TREE DAMAGE AFTER BERYL



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

More than 400,000 acres of rural forestland was potentially affected by Hurricane Beryl, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service, which has closed W.G. Jones State Forest in Conroe until a damage assessment can be undertaken. In addition, hurricane force winds potentially affected as much as half of Houston's urbanized area tree coverage, the service reported.

'We used a combination of on-the-ground observation, remote sensing and Forest Inventory and Analysis data to conduct a tree damage assessment for rural forests in East Texas and the Houston metro area,' said Aaron Stottlemeyer, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Analytics Department Head.

Workers and others are urged to use extreme caution when clearing tree debris.

OLD PIPES LEAD TO BILLIONS IN LOST GALLONS OF WATER

The state's most populous cities lost approximately 88 billion gallons of water last year because of aging pipes and extreme heat, The Texas Tribune reported. Unsurprisingly, the city that lost the most water, according to self-reported audits, was Houston, the state's largest, at 31.8 billion gallons. Coming in second was San Antonio, which reported losing 19.5 billion gallons.

The main factors for the losses are leaks and water main breaks, problems more often associated with smaller towns with fewer resources to maintain infrastructure, The Tribune reported.

'What we have right now is not sustainable [or] tenable,' said Jennifer Walker, National Wildlife Federation's Texas Coast and Water Program director.

An Austin-based think tank, Texas 2036, predicts the state will need to spend more than \$150 billion over the next half-century on water infrastructure.

'REAL ID' WILL BE REQUIRED BY NEXT MAY

Is your state-issued identification card, such as a driver's license, a Real ID? Texans have until May 2025 to find out and comply with a federal law passed in 2005 in response to 9/11, the Statesman reported. The state in response began issuing Real ID compliant cards in 2016. These cards have a gold circle with an inset star located in the upper right-hand corner.

Right now, a Real ID card is not required to fly domestically, but that will change on May 7, 2025. After that, a Real ID or a passport will be required to board domestic flights. Anyone renewing their driver's license now will receive an idea that is Real ID-compliant.

Passports are still required to travel beyond U.S. borders.

SALTWATER FISH RELEASE NEARS 1 BILLION

Hurricane Beryl slowed the official release of the 1 billionth saltwater fish into Texas bays, but it should happen soon, according to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. The Texas Parks and Wildlife program has been releasing fish into Texas bays for the past four decades in order to replenish native fish populations.

The fingerlings are raised in local and state hatcheries. The billionth fish is slated to be a red drum fingerling — a highly popular game fish in Texas.

PAXTON: HOUSE COMMITTEE PREPARING TO IMPEACH HIM AGAIN

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said last week that a House investigating panel once again is attempting to impeach him, though its chairman said the panel is meeting for an unrelated matter.

The committee passed articles of impeachment in May 2023 that were passed overwhelmingly by the House. The Senate then voted by a large margin to acquit Paxton.

'Their bitter obsession with taking me down knows no bounds, and they will stop at nothing to remove me from office,' Paxton wrote last week.

Committee chair Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, said Paxton was mistaken.

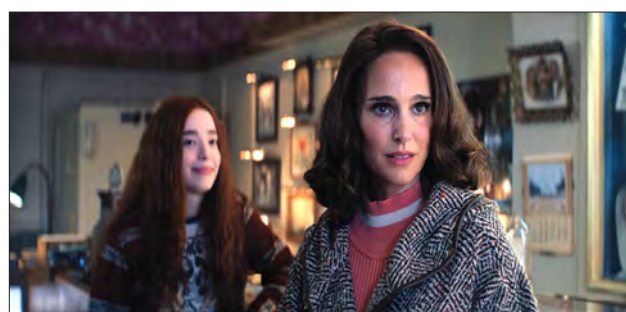
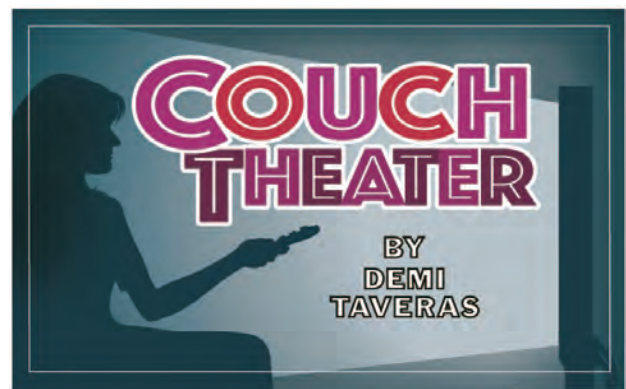
WHATABURGER APP SERVES AS OUTAGE TRACKER

While CenterPoint Energy's outage tracker was down, some Houston residents figured out that an app used by Whataburger, the iconic Texas burger chain, could be used to figure out what areas had power and what didn't.

The Houston Chronicle reported the app allowed folks to look at the Houston area and determine what areas had power. If the Whataburger 'W' normally orange logo was gray on the app's map, that area likely had no power.

After a social media user posted the discovery on X, formerly Twitter, on Monday night after the storm, more than a million people had viewed the post. It is unknown how many used the information to head out for a burger or a taquito.

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Mikey Madison, left, and Natalie Portman star in "Lady in the Lake."

"Lady in the Lake"

"LADY IN THE LAKE" (TV-MA) — Natalie Portman is back in another achingly beautiful role for this thriller miniseries premiering July 19. She plays Maddie Schwartz, a housewife in 1960s Baltimore, who reaches her breaking point with the role she plays in her home. Deciding to reinvent her life as an investigative journalist to the dismay of her husband, Milton (Brett Gelman), Maddie starts digging into two murders that occurred in the city, which included an 11-year-old named Tessie Fine and a bartender named Cleo Sherwood (Moses Ingram). As she gets closer to unraveling their mysteries, especially Cleo's, Maddie faces immense pressure from all ends to tell Cleo's story in a manner that recognizes Cleo's efforts in Baltimore's Black progressive

agenda. Look out for more episodes of this limited series every Friday. (Apple TV+)

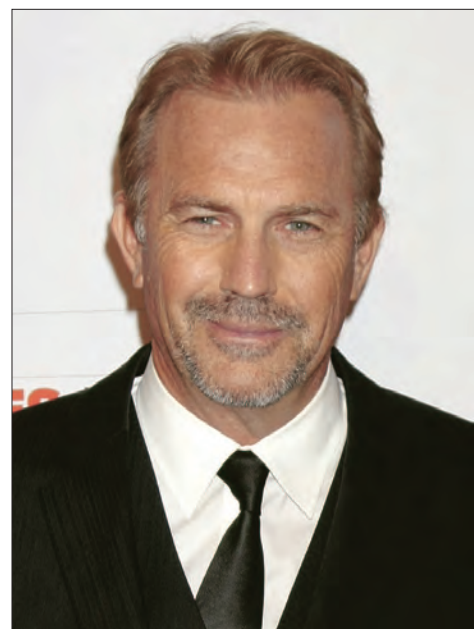
"THE BIKERIDERS" (R) — After this film was delayed by the writers' and actors' strikers, then some wishy-washiness with its original distributor, it finally released this past June and is now available to rent on streaming platforms. Jodie Comer stars as ("Killing Eve") Kathy Bauer, a regular woman in 1960s Chicago who happens upon the Vandals Motorcycle Club at a bar. Kathy becomes immediately entranced with one of the club members, Benny (Austin Butler), and marries him a whopping five weeks later. Through Benny, Kathy gets to know the club and its members intimately, learning what it takes to become a Vandal and the

rewards and consequences that come with it. In a sort of documentary style, viewers get to watch in flashback form as Kathy recounts tales about its members one by one to photographer Danny Lyon (Mike Faist). This film is full of comedy, romance, action, pure grit, and top-notch performances. What more could you ask for? (VUDU)

"REUNION" (R) — The cast is quite an interesting bunch in this comedy-mystery film out now! Starring Lil Rel Howery ("Get Out"), Billy Magnussen ("Game Night"), Jillian Bell ("The Night Before"), Nina Dobrev ("The Out-Laws"), and Chace Crawford ("Gossip Girl"), this film follows a handful of alumni from Ridgeview High School during their 20-year reunion. Hosted by Matthew (Crawford), a popular student turned wealthy hedge fund manager, the reunion kicks off and leaves a good few too drunk to leave the party. They elect to stay at Matthew's house but are horrified to find Matthew's dead body in the morning. Realizing the killer has to be one of them, the group turns into amateur detectives to figure out who became a cold-blooded murderer in the still of the night. However, once they find out that they all have motives due to their terrible high school experiences with Matthew, it makes finding the killer more difficult than they thought. (Amazon Prime Video)

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — What will Kevin Costner do? He poured his heart and \$38 million of his own money into "Horizon: An American Saga — Chapter 1," the epic western of his dreams. It cost between \$50-\$100 million to produce and opened to a dismal \$12.4 million. "Chapter 2," which was due on Aug. 16 but has since been indefinitely delayed, has to gross big time in order for him to complete "Chapter 3." Can he raise the money to finish "Chapter 3" and start "Chapter 4"? If "Chapter 2" flops, he may have to rethink "Chapter 3" and "Chapter 4."



Kevin Costner ("Horizon: An American Saga")

This year's Oscar-winning Best Actor Cillian Murphy toplines the historical Irish drama "Small Things like These," with two-time Oscar nominee Emily Watson ("Breaking the Waves" in 1996 and "Hilary and Jackie" in 1998), as well as four other actresses. He plays a coal merchant who makes a shocking discovery at a convent. He's also producing the film with Matt Damon.

Meanwhile, Murphy's currently filming Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle's post-apocalyptic horror film "28 Years Later," with Aaron Taylor-Johnson (who's still unconfirmed as 007), Jodie Comer, Ralph Fiennes and Jack O'Connell. It's due on June 2025. Murphy is also starring in "Steve," the reimagining of Max Porter's novella "Shy." He plays the headmaster of a reform school whose students are dealing with mental health problems. Not exactly "The Sound of Music!"

Director Wes Anderson's first film, "Bottle Rocket" (1996), cost \$5 million and only grossed \$560,069. Two years later, his second film, "Rushmore," starred Bill Murray, cost \$9 million, and grossed \$19 million. In 2001, he gave us "The Royal Tenenbaums," with Murray once again; it was abetted by Danny Glover, Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Stiller, and Luke and Owen Wilson. The all-star cast catapulted the box-office earnings to \$71.4 million

from a \$21-million cost. Murray made five more films with Anderson, as did Owen Wilson.

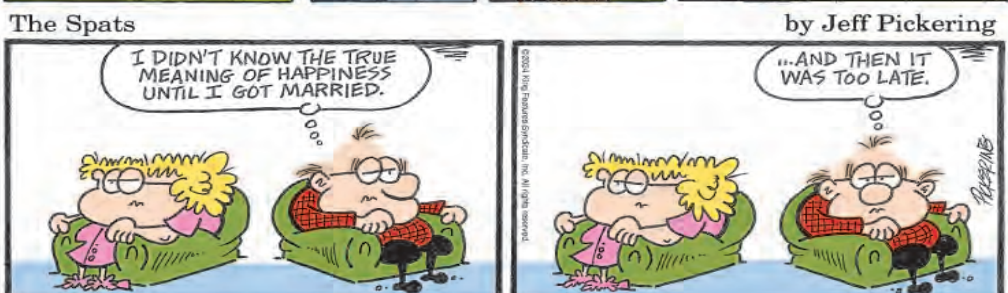
Anderson's 13th film, "The Phoenix Scheme," was written with Roman Coppola and wrapped on June 3. It stars his good luck charm Murray, Benicio del Toro, Riz Ahmed, Tom Hanks, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Scarlett Johansson.

When Dan Stevens quit being Matthew Crawley in "Downton Abbey" (from 2010-2012), everyone thought he was out of his mind to leave. But he's since toplined 29 films, including his role as the Beast in "Beauty and the Beast" (2017); voicing the Oscar-winning animated feature "The Boy and the Heron" (2023); and starring in two TV series — "Legion" (27 episodes) and "Gaslit" (8 episodes).

Stevens is currently co-starring with Robert De Niro, Jesse Plemons, Joan Allen, Connie Britton, and Angela Bassett in Netflix's "Zero Day." He's also got the biographical drama "Swiped," with Lily James, and "The Ritual," with Al Pacino and Ashley Greene. Both are due in 2025. Not surviving that car crash in "Downton" gave Stevens a "Beast" of a beautiful acting career!

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 9, 7, 8, 5, 1, 6, 7, 5, 2, 4, 3, 7, 1, 6, 8, 6, 9, 5, 8, 6, 1, 2, 7, 4, 1. Includes difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF. Two panels of a man in bed. Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Table leg is moved. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Telephone pole is moved. 4. Bush is smaller. 5. Fence boards are wider. 6. Man's legs are longer. 7. Telephone pole is moved. 8. Bush is smaller. 9. Fence boards are wider. 10. Man's legs are longer.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. "The Tonight Show" debuted in 1954; 2. September; 3. "Jaws"; 4. It is the idea that the Earth and other planets orbit the Sun; 5. Clydesdale; 6. Minnesota; 7. 13; 8. Alessandro Volta; 9. The conjunction "and"; 10. Mojave Desert.

July 22, 2024 Posting Date

King Crossword

Crossword grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Pequod captain, 5 "Big Blue", 8 Driver with a handle, 12 Sci-fi prefix, 13 Rep.'s rival, 14 Sea predator, 15 Be overly sweet, 16 The Stars and Stripes, 18 A cause of pay inequity, 20 Political meeting, 21 — butter, 23 SUV maker, 24 Veterans, 28 Snack, 31 Museum-funding org., 32 TV, radio, etc., 34 Fib, 35 Lummoxes, 37 Celtic language, 39 Bear hair, 41 Architect Saarinen, 42 "Alfie" singer Warwick, 45 Painter Georges, 49 It may be hard to break, 51 Sushi fish, 52 India's continent, 53 High card, 54 "Zounds!", 55 Corn seasoning, 56 Shriill bark, 57 Swift jets. DOWN: 7 Roman 2600, 8 Newspaper piece, 9 Veggie with florets, 10 Beige, 11 Sunbeams, 17 Joke, 19 Counterfeit, 22 Confuse, 24 Plastic — Band, 25 Grazing land, 26 Yellow flower, 27 Avoid, 29 Bro's sib, 30 Sly chuckle, 33 Suffix for billion, 36 Baby's beachwear, 38 Courses, 40 Genetic letters, 42 "— I say!", 43 "Casablanca" role, 44 Online auction site, 46 Carpets, 47 Body sci., 48 Tiny amounts, 50 Here, to Henri.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: What is the longest-running talk show on television?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In terms of letter count, what is the longest month of the year?
3. MOVIES: Which famous action movie is set on Amity Island?
4. SCIENCE: What is heliocentrism?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of horses are featured in Budweiser beer ads?
6. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Land of 10,000 Lakes"?
7. FOOD & DRINK: How many goodies are in a baker's dozen?
8. INVENTIONS: Who invented the battery?
9. LANGUAGE: What does an ampersand symbol signify?
10. GEOGRAPHY: In which desert is Las Vegas, Nevada, located?

Grid for King Crossword answers.

Answers: King Crossword. Solution time: 22 mins.

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STATE OF TENNESSEE, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

v. BUSTER DARLISON SMITH

Docket No. V-23-033

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a petition in Bradley County Circuit Court, seeking to terminate the parental rights of Buster Darlison Smith to the child, Jakob Austan Riehl, b. 7/01/2016.

A trial in this case is set for October 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Buster Darlison Smith must appear before this Court on that date to determine whether his parental rights to the subject child should be terminated and forever ended. The Court is located at 155 N. Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311.

If Buster Darlison Smith does not come to the trial, the State will ask the Court to allow it to proceed without contest. That means that the State will ask the Court to let it present proof without having any lawyer appear and defend Buster Darlison Smith's rights in Court.

Any appeal of this Court's final disposition of the complaint or petition for termination of parental rights will be governed by the provisions of Rule 8A, TRAP, which imposes special time limitations for the filing of the transcript or statement of evidence, the completion and transmission of the record on appeal, and the filing of briefs in the appellate court, as well as other special provisions for expediting the appeal.

You may obtain a copy of the Petition and any subsequently filed legal documents or hearing dates in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office located at 155 N. Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311. This will constitute appropriate service on him for all future filings in this case.

28-4t

Screenings to Identify Disabilities

CISD Special Education department provides screenings for children with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. Crosby ISD is committed to providing excellence in education to all students, and the screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs. Eligible students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special education services are also available starting at birth for eligible children who have a visual and/or auditory impairment.

If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281-328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

28-3t

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE - RFP #25-001

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for a multiple award bid for:

Beverage Vending Machine, Beverage Concessions and Service

Proposals will be accepted on or before: **2:00 p.m., Thursday August 1, 2024**

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.

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.

27-2t

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28-2T

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27-4T

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 525100; Estate of BARBARA SHANNON A/K/A BARBARA DRAPER PERRAN SHANNON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JULY 1, 2024 to:

ROBERT EARL SHANNON

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this JULY 15, 2024

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Deputy Fernando Esqueda

Deputy Esqueda laid to rest in HCSO ceremony

Continued from Page 1. All photos by Allan Jamail

the deputy's dad honored his son with a haircut. "His father was telling me that he would always joke with him because his father wore pretty long hair past his shoulders and Fernando would always tell him, 'Dad, you need to cut the hair,'" Sheriff Gonzalez said. "So today, when you see the father, his hair is now short, shorter than mine, probably. And he's putting some of the locks in this area inside his son's coffin as a final farewell." Sheriff Gonzalez said "Esqueda had one of the most infectious personalities and was the life of the party."

TWO CHARGED WITH CAPITAL MURDER

Harris County Deputy Fernando Esqueda, 28, was killed on Wednesday night July 11, 2024 after officers responded to reports of an aggravated assault at a Little Caesars Pizza on Wallisville Road.

Authorities said Ronald "Ronnie" Palmer Jr. 44, became enraged over an incorrect order, verbally confronting staff before drawing a gun and pistol-whipping an employee. Palmer fled the scene shortly after.

The employee provided detailed information about Palmer's getaway car, including its make, model, color, and license plate number.

HCSO Chief Deputy Mike Lee said deputies used the Flock Camera System to locate Palmer's usual go-to spots. A deputy working undercover found Palmer's vehicle on Italian Cypress Trail.

Esqueda reported the vehicle's location before being ambushed when Palmer attacked and fatally shot him early Thursday morning of July 11th. "The other responding deputies found both his undercover vehicle and body. His vehicle was riddled with bullet holes and he had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. He had severe injuries and died at the hospital," Chief Lee said.

Hours later, Palmer's vehicle was then traced to a nearby neighborhood. Deputies surrounded an acquaintance's house where Palmer was believed to be hiding. Palmer eventually contacted investigators, indicating he was ready to surrender.

"He exited the house, knelt down, and raised his hands before being taken into custody. When he was arrested, he was placed in Esqueda's handcuffs", Sheriff Gonzalez said.

HCSO investigators and District Attorney Chris Condon say a second suspect, Dremone Francis, 26, has been charged in connection with Esqueda's murder. Its alleged Palmer and Francis ambushed the deputy as he sat in his truck waiting for some backup officers to arrive.

"We do know there were two weapons used and we do know after a search of the residence Francis was living or staying at the time of the murder, we did find ammunition that matched one of the murder weapons," prosecutor Chris Condon said.

Francis is also charged with tampering with evidence. According to prosecutors, Palmer gave Francis a pistol and a mini Draco firearm and told him



HCSO Honor Guard to present USA flag that covered Esqueda casket and his uniform's cowboy hat to his family. (Allan Jamail Photo)



Austin Police Department Drum and Bugle Corps. (Allan Jamail Photo)



Pallbearers give Deputy Esqueda's flag covered casket a final farewell salute before it embarks to the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery on Lawndale. (Allan Jamail Photo)



A Final Salute from a City in Mourning, as the procession heads to the Co-Cathedral of Sacred Heart. (Allan Jamail Photo)



Rider less horse with reverse boots and uniform cowboy hat facing backwards on the saddle horn. These are symbols of a fallen officer's final journey and used at officers funerals. The boots facing backwards represents a fallen officer looking back at their fellow officers for the last time. (Allan Jamail Photo)



Flag covered casket of Deputy Fernando Esqueda lies in state for the family and public viewing in front of Houston's Co-Cathedral of Sacred Heart. Looking on is his family and his tearful fiancée Emily Guerra, a Pasadena police officer, they were to wed in September. (Allan Jamail Photo)



VIPER Unit logo, Deputy Esqueda was a member of the sheriff's Viper unit (violent persons task force). (Allan Jamail Photo)



Austin Police Department Drum & Bugle Corps. (Allan Jamail Photo)



Slain Deputy Esqueda's casket enters the cathedral to begin his funeral. (Allan Jamail Photo)

to get rid of them after the shooting.

"A witness stated the defendant dropped off a pistol and a Draco in a black trash bag and told them the guns were hot," the prosecutor said during Palmer's hearing. They said Francis and Palmer knew each other through their girlfriends and were even neighbors.

Deputy Esqueda was a member of the HCSO VIPER unit... the Viper's focus on tracking down the most dangerous offenders who pose a significant threat to the community.

Beyond his professional life, Fernando loved to hunt, fish, sing and dance.

His laughter, kind heart, loyalty and pure spirit touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing him, loving him, and being near him. In his short time here, he brought so much joy and light into many lives because Fernando had a way of making the world brighter.

As we reflect on his life and mourn his passing, we also celebrate the beauty he brought into the world. Fernando was a gift. A soul who showed everyone who knew him the power of unconditional love and the strength of family bonds. Hold on to the memories created with him. Remember his smile, his jokes, the moments shared with him, the way his

presence lit the room and the love he gave so freely.

DEPUTY FERNANDO ESQUEDA'S DIED AT AGE 28... HE WROTE THIS AT AGE 24:

"I believe I have the strength and ultimate passion in me. For starters, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Fernando Esqueda. I am 24 years old. I began my career in Law Enforcement working for the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) when I was eighteen. I know being a correctional officer is technically not being "in Law Enforcement" but I hope you understand my drift. I was assigned to the Goree Unit in Huntsville

Texas. I have an older sister whom at the time was working as a jailer at the Baker Street jail. We talked about going to the police academy full time together (UHD). I knew I couldn't go because I had an \$800.00 truck note. Shortly after, I was involved in a major accident being hit by a drunk driver. My truck flipped multiple times and thanks to the man upstairs I walked away without a single scratch. My truck was totaled. Little did I know losing my truck was a blessing. Not having that truck note allowed me to work part time at the prison and attend the police academy full time. After what felt like a never-ending struggle juggling work and the academy, I

graduated! I obtained my basic peace officer certification at 21 years old. Harris County Precinct 6 picked up my commission two months after and I officially began my career in Law Enforcement. After one year of being employed with Precinct 6, I lateraled over to the Sheriff's Office where I plan on spending the rest of my career and (if the Lord allows it) retire! I currently work District Three Patrol. I am strong willed and goal oriented. I am a strong believer that your reason is always known by your mind. Your purpose is only known by your heart."



THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

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