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THE BEACH TRITON

Vol. 43 No. 11

JANUARY 2018

KW SETX KELLERWILLIAMS



There's A New Team In Town!

With the new year comes a NEW TEAM to Keller Williams Realty SE TX, Crystal Beach and it's time to meet them.

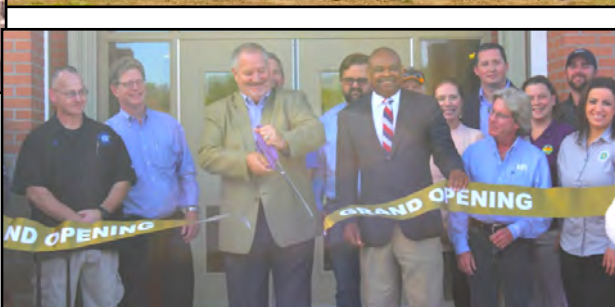
Sandra Dial - Lead Agent, will host the New Team Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, February 3rd at 11am, to introduce everyone and celebrate a new beginning. The public is invited to join the celebration and Ribbon Cutting with drinks and snacks. This New Team Ribbon Cutting will take place at the Keller Williams Office in Crystal Beach Plaza at 2275 Hwy 87 # 3.

Let's all give the NEW Beach Life Real Estate Team a Bolivar Peninsula welcome and let them know we're here to support their business on Bolivar. Ribbon Cutting brought to you by: Bolivar Tourism and Visitors Center and The Beach Triton.



A Brief Summary of 2017

From Hurricanes to Snow





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in the sand*

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Community Announcements

For your reading enjoyment, the entire Beach Triton is online
www.bolivarpeninsulatexas.com/About/Businesses/The-Beach-Triton

Crystal Beach Community Church (1020 Diamond Hill)

The hours are 10 - 2 pm every Thursday
 A proof of residence is needed to qualify

Gnarly Gull t-shirts will be available for purchase on the website www.gnarlygull.com starting mid January hopefully, but they will be made to order and so will be a little more expensive. New stickers are coming and possibly a hat, too!

Who you gonna call?

Mosquito Control

1-800-842-5622

Dolphin Rescue

1-800-962-6625

Sea Turtle Network

1-866-887-8535

Injured Wildlife

713-861-9453

Quit dawdling, just subscribe

The Beach Triton

P. O. Box 1165

Crystal Beach, TX 77650

Subscriptions

\$25.00 per

year



In Memory Of

Jacob Wade Kent

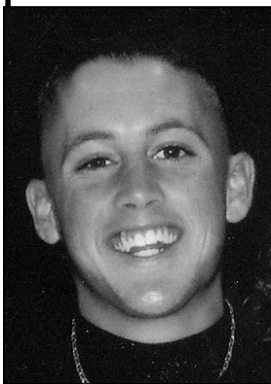
December 20, 1982 - April 2, 2005

The Jacob Kent Memorial Scholarship Fund awards a \$2,000 Scholarship to a High Island Graduate each year Contributions can be sent to

Jacob's Ladder

P O Box 291 ~ High Island, TX 77623

A man is not deceased while his name is still spoken



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The Beach Triton

Editor Jan Kent
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On the Peninsula Linda Elissalde
 John Lee
 Carey Rutledge
 Steve Arthur



Crenshaw School Rhea Raymond
 High Island School

Connie Ward

Special Reports

Mack Hall
 Lynn Averett

Vince Brach
 Dr. Forte

Triton - Messenger of the Big Sea
www.beachtriton.com



CRYSTAL BEACH Community CHURCH

1020 Diamond Road
 PO Box 1862
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Sunday Worship 10:30am

Pastor Kaye Sims
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www.crystalbeachcommunitychurch.org



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BIBLE STUDY

Monday ~ 5:00 PM

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Wednesday - 5:00 PM

MONTHLY EVENTS AT BAYVUE UMC

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2nd Monday of each Month - 8:00 AM

PRAYER WARRIORS

2nd and 4th Mondays – 10:00 AM



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High Island Cardinals



Christmas in High Island



Kole Rodriguez and Kade Myers were the out-and-out hit of the Christmas in High Island school play, dinner, and of course, Santa. Hats off to these young men for a performance only a couple of athletes with an uninhibited sense of humor could handle successfully. KA KAW!



High School Basketball

1/2	West Hardin	T	G 5 PM/B 6:30
1/5	Richards	T	G 5 PM
1/9	Zavalla	T	B 5:30 PM
1/12	Leggett	T	G 6 PM/B 7:30
1/16	Spurger	H	G 6 PM/B 7:30
1/19	BYE		
1/23	Richards	H	G 5 PM/B 6:30
1/26	Goodrich	T	G 6 PM/B 7:30
1/30	Leggett	H	G 6 PM/B 7:30
2/2	Spurger	T	G 6 PM/B 7:30
2/6	BYE		
2/9	Richards	T	B 5 PM
2/13	Goodrich	H	B 6 PM

Junior High Basketball

1/8	Chester	H	G 5 PM/B 6PM
1/13	Colmesneil Tourney	T	G & B TBA
1/18	Colmesneil	H	G 5 PM/B 6 PM
1/20	High Island Tourney	H	G TBA
1/22	Spurger	T	G 5 PM/B 6PM
1/29	Colmesneil	T	G 5 PM/B 6PM
2/5	Spurger	H	G 5PM/B 6PM
2/12	Devers	T	G 4:30 PMB 5:30 PM



Congratulations to Senior **Kade Meyers** for being named Honorable Mention All-State Wide Receiver today! Go Cards!

Congratulations to the following varsity football players on being selected to the Region 4 All-Region Team today:

Kade Meyers - 1st Team All-Region - Wide Receiver

Kole Rodriguez - 2nd Team All-Region - Linebacker

We are very proud of these young men. Go Cards!

Kade on the left - Kole on the right



Thank you to Nathan Rivers, President of SETEX Construction Corp. SETEX Construction Corp. presented a \$500 check to High Island ISD based on the number of shots participants made at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the new FEMA Shelter/High Island ISD Gym

Upcoming School Events

January 8	School Starts
January 15	Student/teacher Holiday/Bad Weather Day
January 22-26	Semester Exams
January 26	End of 3rd Six Weeks
January 29	begin 4th 6th Weeks

Fans' Choice - Player of the Year



Congratulations to High Island QB, Derek DeMoss, as he was named the Fans Choice All-VYPE SETX Player of the Year.

The junior, playing quarterback for the first time in his life, threw for 2,063 yards and 35 touchdowns for the 6-man Cardinals.

He was only picked off three times, and finished the year with 373 yards and nine rushing touchdowns.

DeMoss received over 12,347 fab votes, over 33.2% of the total voters cast.

Nurse on the Beach

by: Connie Ward, MSN, RN

SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS AGE 40 AND OVER

Weight	Every 1-3 years
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Every 1-3 years
Blood Pressure	At least every 2 years
Cholesterol	Starting age and frequency of screenings are based on your individual risk factors. Talk to you provider about what is best for you.
Mammogram	Every 1-2 years for women ages 40-74
Clinical Breast Exam	Every 3 years for women ages 20-39 Annually for women over 40
Cervical Cancer Screening (PAP)	Women ages 21-65: Pap test every 3 years Another option for ages 30-65: Pap test and HPV test every 5 years Women w/hysterectomy or over age 65 may not need a Pap test.
Colon Cancer Screening	Ages 50-75 – colonoscopy every 10 years OR Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years or fecal (stool) occult blood test annually.
Diabetes Screening	Women with high blood pressure should be screened. Others, especially those who are overweight or have additional risk factors, should consider screening every 3 years.
Aspirin Use	At ages 55-79, talk with your provider about the benefits and risks of aspirin use.
Hepatitis C (HCV) Screening	Once for women born between 1945 and 1965
HIV Screening	Women ages 18-65, all pregnant women and older women at increased risk should be screened.
Osteoporosis Screening	Beginning at age 65, or at age 60 if risk factors are present
Immunizations	Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis (Td/Tdap): get vaccine once, and Td booster every 10 years. Influenza (Flu): yearly Herpes Zoster (Shingles): 1 dose given at age 60 Varicella (Chicken Pox): 2 doses if no evidence of immunity Pneumococcal (Pneumonia): 1 dose age 65 or over Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): 1 or 2 doses for adults born in 1957 or later who have no evidence of immunity Human Papillomavirus (HPV): 3 doses for women ages 18-26 if not already given.

Happy New Year, Bolivar friends!
See you next month for more health tips!



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Seems like any day can be reason to celebrate these days. You can even find lists on the internet that tell you what to celebrate on what day.

Here are a few party/snack recipes that can be used anytime. Enjoy!

DEEP-FRIED CHEESE

(Makes 6 appetizers)

2 eggs
1/2 cup (8 tablespoons) fine dry breadcrumbs
oil for deep frying
1/4 pound Swiss or Gruyere cheese
(cut into 1-inch cubes)

Beat eggs with 2 tablespoons breadcrumbs in small bowl. Place remaining breadcrumbs in another small bowl. Pour oil into small skillet to depth of 2 inches and heat to 380 degrees. Dip cheese into egg mixture and then into breadcrumbs, coating well. Fry in batches until crisp and golden, about 1 minute. Remove with slotted spoon or small strainer, transfer to paper towels and drain well. Spear cubes with toothpicks and serve immediately.

CHEX MEX BUDDIES

9 cups Chex cereal (any variety)
1 bag (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips (1 cup)
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Measure cereal into large bowl; set aside. Microwave chocolate chips, peanut butter and butter in 1-quart microwavable bowl uncovered on High 1 minute; stir. Microwave 30 seconds longer or until mixture can be stirred smooth. Stir in vanilla. Pour chocolate mixture over cereal in bowl, stirring until evenly coated. Pour into large plastic food-storage bag; add powdered sugar. Seal bag; shake until well coated. Spread on waxed paper to cool. Store in airtight container in refrigerator. Makes 9 cups snack.

RANGE-TOP DIRECTIONS: Measure cereal into large bowl; set aside. Heat chocolate chips, peanut butter and butter in 1-quart saucepan over low heat, stirring frequently, until melted. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla. Continue as directed above.

PIZZA DIP

(This recipe came from David Venable, a host on QVC).

1 - 8 ounce carton of sour cream
1 - 8-ounce package cream cheese (softened)
1/2 tablespoon garlic powder

Combine these ingredients in a bowl and mix until creamy. It makes a whipped cream texture. Spread evenly across the bottom of baking dish (13" x 9" or smaller)

Layer 1 - 8 ounce can of Pizza Sauce (the better the quality the better the dip) on top of creamed mixture.

Layer 2 cups grated cheese (1 cup mozzarella and 1 cup cheddar) on top of Pizza Sauce.

Layer 1 package thinly sliced pepperoni evenly across top of cheese.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes and serve with tortilla chips. It is best when served piping hot.

CHEESE BALL

1 - 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup dairy sour cream
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
2 tablespoons finely chopped pimiento
1 tablespoon snipped parsley
1 teaspoon grated onion
1/3 cup finely chopped nuts
1/3 cup snipped parsley

Combine cream cheese, sour cream, and butter or margarine; beat with electric mixer until fluffy. Stir in pimiento, 1 tablespoon parsley, and onion. Chill. Shape into a ball. Coat with nuts and 1/3 cup parsley. Makes about 1 3/4 cups.

PINEAPPLE CHEESE BALL

2 - 8 ounce packages cream cheese
1 - 8 1/2 ounce can crushed pineapple, well drained
1/4 cup finely chopped bell pepper
1 tablespoon seasoned salt
2 tablespoons finely chopped or grated onion
1/2 cup finely chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients together except pecans. Shape into a ball. Refrigerate for at least 24 hours. Roll in finely chopped pecans.

Happy Birthday!
Hunter Guerin
January 15

Happy Birthday!
Candy Spiller
January 23

Happy Birthday!
Elsie Devers
January 25

Happy Birthday!
San Billeabeau
January 18

Happy Birthday!
BB Wilson
January 5

Happy Birthday!
Christy Duhon
January 21

Happy Birthday!
Marissa Hefty
January 1



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Lessons from a record storm season

As a record-setting hurricane season retreats from memory, what lessons do coastal communities need to hold on to as they prepare for future years?

Building higher, stronger and further back always pays off.

While there's not much you can do in the face of a landfalling Category 4 hurricane, your best chances for coastal survival otherwise still improve when your structures are built back from the active wave zone, built to the highest standards available and raised up enough to minimize flooding.

You have as much to fear flooding as a result of rainfall as you do from flooding from storm surge.

While forecasters rightly focus on the dangers of storm surge due to its threat of imminent danger, they often overlook flooding from rainfall and runoff with its threat of long-term disaster. And that is not just with a rainfall-intensive storm such as Harvey, where the bulk of the damage occurred sometimes days after hurricane landfall as flooding from intensive rainfall continued to rise. In any storm with any significant precipitation, all that water needs to find its way to the coastline... and that, too often, is when coastal residents and businesses face the truly greatest threat.

We need to re think many parts of our storm preparedness protocol.

Let's pick just three areas: threat description, storm surge prediction and flood risk. The term "100-year storm" rings hollow once you endure three such storms over a five-year period. So we may need to remind residents that this level of catastrophic calamity has a 1% chance of happening every year (saying the same thing in a different way) – or work to find a new way of naming threats altogether.

Predicting storm surge incorporates a lot of moving parts, with the eventual surge level dependent on a number of factors that can change in an instant. That means predictions needs to err on the side of caution... but forecasters also need to educate the coastal public to understand that variability, so that unduly dire predictions don't inspire a "cry wolf" response from the public in future storms.

And, as mentioned above, storm flooding spreads far beyond the wave zone and low-lying barrier islands. Flood waters seek their own way, and can decimate anything in their path... so a better understanding of flooding pathways from excessive rainfall and who might really be at risk needs to be better understood before the rains start to fall.

Resilient design is crucial to community survival and recovery.

Coastal resilience focuses on a community's ability not just to survive a disaster such as a hurricane, but how fast it can recover from that disaster – either by effective designs to minimize damages or quick-response plans to mitigate them. And after this storm season, every coastal community should be looking at the status of its resilience... from infrastructure to planning to shoreline protection to flood preparation, and much more.

There are a variety of resources available to help communities begin their own assessment (and understand their own issues), as well as to help coastal residents, businesses and property owners educate themselves on the issues and options. Each coastal community is unique and, thus faces its own unique resiliency issues. Many of the steps to identify how to increase resiliency will be shared between communities but the solution on how to increase resiliency will be different from community to community. So, there is no "one size fits all" solution, but rather an assessment array and tools to help those communities identify issues, weaknesses, strength and solutions. There simply is no good reason not to begin the process.

You still can't beat wide beaches and high dunes for storm protection.

Ultimately, the best solution for storm protection (besides being prepared, of course) is wide beaches, high dunes and well-built and sited structures, at least for coastal communities.

Wide beaches keep storm waves at bay from upland structures and infrastructure; high dunes help lessen storm surge and the potential for coastal flooding and damage; and well-built and sited structures are more likely to be standing (and, hopefully, dry) after the storm passes.

There may be myriad other storm-related issues that a community must grapple with – aging infrastructure, a vulnerable power grid, disappearing flood flow-ways, even how to handle vegetation debris effectively. But wide beaches, high dunes and proper construction is simply a great place to begin your community's storm preparations and pace of recovery.

If you are missing "The 'Func' in Dysfunctional" articles, join the Beach Triton Group on FB where there's always a story

Happy Birthday!
Randy Kahla
January 12

Happy Birthday!
Gary Hopkins
January 1

Happy Birthday!
Greg Hinkle
January 10

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Happy Birthday!
Ethan McAlpin
January 4

Happy Birthday!
Annalisa Vargas
January 25

Happy Birthday!
William Robb
January 24

Happy Birthday!
Morgan Alphonso
January 19

Happy Birthday!
Laken Simmons
January 10

BEE AWARE of AFRICANIZED BEES

If you think you have seen Africanized Honey Bees call 844 SAVE-BEES / 844-728-3233 IMMEDIATELY.

FACTS: about the Africanized Honey Bee

The first introduction of the Africanized Honey Bee into the U.S. occurred in the fall of 1990 in south Texas. This bee, a hybrid from the African honey bee queens that originally escaped from a researcher in Brazil in 1957, had been moving northward slowly for several years as the bees swarmed and absconded. Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) will reflect these behavioral traits more often and more readily than the European Honey Bee (EHB). Texas Apiary Inspection had an aggressive approach to monitoring and regulating commercial honey bee movement in an attempt to slow the spread of AHB in the state. Natural migration of the bees proceeded until by August of 2006, AHB had been detected in 163 of the 254 counties in Texas including Galveston.

The most important thing people need to realize is the fact that the AHB is just a slightly different honey bee. AHB looks the same, only being microscopically smaller than the EHB. The venom is the same. The behavior can differ.

Habits of AHB

- * Less fussy about choosing a home, may be closer to ground, loves water meters, abandoned bee hives
- * Swarm and abscond more readily
- * More aggressive and more defensive

What Can Cause AHB Reactions

- * Vibration of equipment – tractor, mower, weed eater, chain saws
- * Pedestrian activity close to hive – does not have to touch hive
- * Frantic animals can provoke bees
- * Loud noises

Prevent Stinging Incidents

- * Bee proof your home – seal and caulk all cracks and small holes in siding, eaves, corners
- * Clean up all yard debris and abandoned equipment
- * Screen over vents, chimneys, large openings
- * Patrol area before mowing or yard work. Colonies can move during the day while you are at work.
- * Teach children awareness of their surroundings

What to do if Attacked

A – Alert others in the area. Contact Global Apiology 844 728-3233

C – Cover head and face, do not block vision

E – Exit get into car or house immediately, do not stop to find bee colony, do not waste time

* Remain calm – keep presence of mind if operating equipment or machinery

* Dial 911 for serious incidents of allergic to bee stings, carry an Epi-Pen as prescribed by personal physician

* Always keep on hand a Bee Sting Kit for more information on where to obtain this kit please call 844-728 323

PENINSULA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INC.

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 17, 2017 at CBVFD

- 1 - Call to Order by PEMSI BOD President Jake Angelo at 1430 hrs.
- 2 - Roll Call by PEMSI BOD Secretary Mike Pearson:
Present: Orbin Thompson, Mike Pearson, Keith Zahar, Jake Angelo, Billy Clegg
Absent: Craig Armstrong
Guest present: PEMSI EMS Director Matt Summers
Note: Meeting was conducted in Matt Summers' office at the CBVFD Station with the office door open
- 3 - Action taken: Motion made by Thompson with a second by Pearson to use Hurricane Harvey Relief grant funds via GC ESD2 to reimburse PEMSI for costs of overtime of staff due to the storm and to have the balance of the grant funds go to Matt Summers for compensation for time spent related to Hurricane Harvey that far exceeded the normal expected work hours for his position.
Vote: Yes 4 No 0 President Jake Angelo chooses to not vote unless a tie takes place.
Funds disbursement: \$4764.00 to reimburse PEMSI for OT costs of staff and \$5236.00 for Matt Summers for the time over what is a normal range of hours for his position to work that he worked due to Hurricane Harvey
- 4 - Adjournment:
Motion made by Pearson with a second by Thompson to adjourn at 1431 hrs.
Vote: Yes 4 No 0

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Happy Birthday!
Paul Bryant
January 4 | Happy Birthday!
Pat Callier
January 24 | Happy Birthday!
Riley Traux
January 31 | Happy Birthday!
Shelby Anderson
January 15 |
| Happy Birthday!
Denise Traux
January 3 | Happy Birthday!
Trevor Smith
January 6 | Happy Birthday!
Steven Clark
January 9 | Happy Birthday!
Holly Hunstiger
January 10 |

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Happy Birthday!
Tammy Hinkle
January 18 | Happy Birthday!
Jack Dillard
January 9 | Happy Birthday!
Cinda Cook Rank
January 27 | Happy Birthday!
Vivian Conner
January 6 |
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Crenshaw Elementary and Middle School Christmas Dinner



Blast from the Past

Bryan Wolf
January 1987



Pat Lowry

Pat Lowry is the Acting Chief of Police in Crystal Beach, since former Chief Allan Sheffield resigned the first week of January to take a job elsewhere in Texas.

She has four years experience in police work with an Associate Degree from College of the Mainland and will receive her Bachelors Degree from Lamar in Beaumont in May. She is the first female Police Chief in the history of Galveston County.

Frankie Hilton took over as Justice of the Peace on Bolivar Peninsula the first day of January and opened her office in her home in Port Bolivar. Wife of A.C. Hilton, Mrs. Hilton also is a certified police officer and has been working in the office of former Justice

of the Peace, Richard Black for the past several months.

Mrs. Hilton is the first female Justice of the Peace in the history of Bolivar Peninsula.

FRANKIE HILTON REPLACES RICHARD BLACK AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



Frankie Hilton

committee to seek information concerning what would happen to services such as police protection in the event of disincorporation.

Former Mayor Candidate A.B. Charpiot stated, "As far as I'm concerned there has been complete and total mismanagement of the city since it was first incorporated. The city has continually bought used, worn out road building equipment that had to be repaired before it was ever put to use. And when equipment was sold by the city, it should have been sold at competitive bidding instead of insiders getting a \$6,000 tractor for \$2,000 and another \$1,800 piece for \$600. Are you forgetting the \$300,000 "sewer

A meeting to discuss plans to disincorporate the city of Crystal Beach was held in the Volunteer Fire Station, with 'wall to wall' people in the meeting.

Hank Marsh, ex-mayor of Crystal Beach and Mike Firth and A.B. Charpiot, ex-mayor candidates in the past, were appointed to a

study" we are still paying for? If there has EVER been a reasonable and proper management with city funds and disposal of equipment I'd like someone to point it out to me."

Did you know the Gas Light Restaurant used to be the Homer House? I'll bet half you people never had a giant hamburger at Ada Hamm's or a beer at Diane's Castaway or Musgrove's Golden Croaker or fished off the Dirty Pelican Pier. Surely you weren't here when they were filming "My Sweet Charlie" and a local bartender refused to let the black movie star sit down in his place. You ain't even beach people if you don't remember Lee Lorenzotti, our juke box man. (The same fellow a Texas Ranger once showed the pointed toe of his boot to, advising Lee to stick to coin-operated juke boxes only, that any other coin-operated machines was a no-no). The beach has changed, but it is no better then it was then. All the pushing and shoving and promoting doesn't built it. It develops itself, with slow, steady solid growth. Nobody can change that.

The O.K. Allen family of O.K.'s Corral in Crystal Beach, is back after taking an extended holiday vacation and making a lot of money in bowling tournaments.

Shirley Hamilton celebrated the holiday season by buying herself a new car - Earl got a new root canal job on one of his teeth.

The Peninsula Improvement Committee has developed a program which concentrates on six areas of concern. They are: garbage disposal, Highway 87, beach erosion, mosquito control, ferry service and the ship channel. (Editor's note: Some things never change.)

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THE GIFT

It was an invitation to entertain, too important to dismiss.
Would Crystal Beach come do a gig with carols and some gifts?

The Arboretum Nursing home asked for a Christmas show,
Something to cheer the residents up with, or without, snow.

Why of course, the ladies answered with happiness and mirth.
Presents and entertaining are the greatest gifts on earth.

So Gerry, Paula and Rita M. began to search around,
Surprised by all the musicians and fine crafters that they found.

And then there were some husbands who stated with a shout,
"We are going to help also. Don't dare to leave us out."

The ukulele players practiced nearly every day,
For teacher Paula made it clear: Don't practice meant don't play.

Susan pulled out her keyboard and never missed a beat.
She could play those carols very well, the bitter and the sweet.

Melanie tuned up her cello and studied hard don't you know.
Who else would dress an instrument with a gaudy, pink flamingo?

December ninth came at last. They loaded up each sleigh,
Turned the motors way up high and drove down Winnie way.

Straight to their destination: The Winnie Arboretum,
With most equipment except for a rummity, pum, pum drum.

The Elves Band of Crystal Beach and Reindeer Singers gathered near,
And soon were joined by their young helpers, the charming Little Deer.

Each resident received a hat, a blanket and a bell.
Each was also given a kazoo to play along as well.

Oh, those singers sang with gusto, and the band played clear and loud.
Giving this performance made them feel so happy and so proud.

About half way through the Christmas show a strange thing did occur.
The line between entertainers and entertained began to blur.

The residents' eyes begin to sparkle or drop a little tear.
They remembered those old carols and those old words once held so dear.

Some tapped their feet while others sang along filled with such joyful grace.
And every now and then, a gnarled old hand would pat a younger face.

The inspired musicians answered back with enthusiastic glee.
It now appeared the gift was coming from the audience you see.

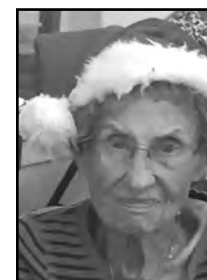
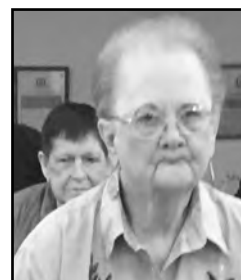
The band took off down the hall to sing for those in bed.
The smiles and murmured choruses gave back to them instead.

Pastor Val led with guitar as around the place they flew,
Some sang, some jingled bells while some accompanied on kazoo.

When the show was over, and the entertainers packed to go,
They all agreed that this was indeed a most surprising show.

Thinking deeply about the event, each person's mind begin to drift.
Was it the audience or entertainers who received the greater gift?

This question may be much pondered, but here is what I believe.
Sometimes the ones who give the gift are the ones who do receive.



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FACT SHEET Manufactured Housing Options

- **Temporary Housing options including Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs) and Travel Trailer or Recreational Vehicles (RVs)** may be available for Texans recovering from Hurricane Harvey.
- The use of manufactured housing units, travel trailers or RVs is one of several housing solutions for Texans after Hurricane Harvey. **FEMA determines if applicants are eligible and pairs them with the best available housing solution** to meet their individual needs. **Not everyone will be eligible, but it will provide needed support to those survivors who do qualify.**
- MHUs and RVs are provided as a **temporary housing solution** by FEMA at the request of the state and is **not intended to be a permanent housing option** for flood survivors.
- The first step to be considered eligible for direct housing assistance is to be **registered with FEMA** by visiting www.fema.gov/apply-assistance, www.disasterassistance.gov, calling 1-800-621-3362/TTY 1-800-462-7585 or visiting a nearby disaster recovery center.

Eligibility

- Applicants may be eligible if they are:
 - Homeowners with **\$17,000 or more damage** to their home based on the FEMA inspection.
 - Renters whose home received **major damage or has been destroyed** based on the FEMA inspection.
- Direct Temporary Housing participants must reside **in a county designated for Direct Housing**.
 - **Designated counties are:** Aransas, Austin, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Lavaca, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller and Wharton.
- **If applicants meet the criteria, they may be contacted by FEMA, the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the Council of Governments or local government regarding their next steps.**



FACT SHEET Direct Temporary Housing Assistance

The **Direct Housing mission for Hurricane Harvey survivors is being administered by the State and implemented by local jurisdictions**. With the federal government's financial support, Texas is leading the way with housing solutions to meet the needs of impacted communities.

Assistance may be available to applicants who live in a **county designated for Direct Housing, with a housing need of up to 18 months**. Applicants must be **pre-disaster homeowners** whose residence has had a **FEMA inspection with verified loss of \$17,000 or pre-disaster renters** whose residence was determined by FEMA to have received **major damages or have been destroyed**.

Several temporary housing solutions are in place for eligible Texans unable to return to their homes until they are repaired or rebuilt. **Solutions include:**

- **Direct leasing** - Enables the government to lease a property that would not generally be available to the public, such as corporate lodging.
- **Multi-Family Lease and Repair (MLR)** - Allows the government to enter into agreements to repair existing multi-family housing in order to provide more housing for survivors.
- **Manufactured Housing** - Consists of Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs), travel trailers or recreational vehicles (RVs).

The **Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair (DALHR)** program may be available for Texans recovering from Hurricane Harvey. The program **provides permanent repairs for homeowners with moderate damages who lack available housing resources**.

To be considered eligible for direct housing assistance, survivors must be **registered with FEMA** by visiting www.fema.gov/apply-assistance, www.disasterassistance.gov, calling 1-800-621-3362/ TTY 1-800-462-7585 or visiting a local disaster recovery center. **FEMA determines if applicants are eligible and matches them with the best housing solution** to meet individual needs. If applicants meet the criteria, they may be contacted regarding next steps.

Direct housing is provided as a **temporary solution** by FEMA at the request of the state and is **not intended to be a permanent housing option** for flood survivors. **An occupant's need for assistance will be re-evaluated on a regular basis** to determine continued eligibility for the period of assistance and is subject to the occupant meeting eligibility requirements.



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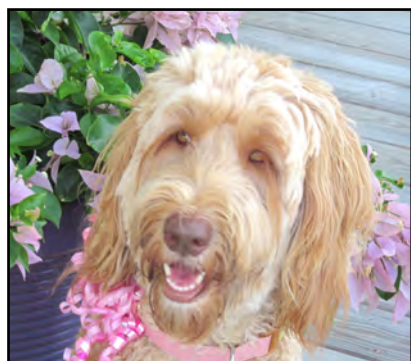
2080 B Hwy 87, Crystal Beach, Texas 77650



EMMA



Emma



Lili

We were dreading Christmas most sad and weary. Our hearts were so cold. Our thoughts were so dreary. The first Christmas without Lili our pet Caused us great sadness; caused us to fret. Lili was lovely. She was smart and so sweet. We could not replace her. We dare not repeat. Then came a moment we shall certainly remember. Olivia called, "There will be a litter in September." We have to admit our attention was hooked. There would be no harm if we just went and looked. Four furry four-legged creatures greeted us that day. They all were so cute, and they all wanted to play. Not one could be Lili we soon realized, But there was one girl with black shoe-button eyes. This one seemed determined to pick us out. She licked us a lot and followed us about. Our resistant to a new puppy started to fade. We agreed on the price, and a deal was made. Oh my goodness. We must have been insane. Still, we decided that Emma would be her name. Bringing her home was certainly no time of glee. First Emma threw up on him, and then covered me. Trying to clean spots and not let her bite. Toys everywhere and getting up every night. Smelly, beachy objects could not be beat To roll around in and better to eat. We had forgotten the things that weren't fun. Once in while we asked, "What have we done?" But wasn't she cute when she jumped or she pounced On any thrown item that squeaked or that bounced? A wagging tail was the greeting for going away When returning home after ten minutes or a day. It appeared as if the season wasn't all bad. Lili had sent us a friend to help make us glad. This old year is ending. A new one will begin. An old love has been lost, but hearts can love again. So to dear Emma, whom we now hold quite dear, Thanks for a good Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The "Func" in Dysfunctional

Jan Kent

There's nothing like a holiday trip driving through Houston to 'feel' the Christmas Spirit, especially when Scrooge is at the wheel.

We visited my brother and his family Christmas Eve with me protesting any Christmas gatherings of cheery sentiments and laughter. Didn't want to, wasn't going to, just wasn't gonna - you can't make me celebrate attitude.

On the other hand, my husband, who really is the Scrooge, was excited about visiting and making the drive through Houston.

Once we turned onto I-10, I was amazed. I had not been anywhere in so long, I could not believe the new construction and some of the Hurricane Harvey destruction along the route.

Then we hit the Houston city limits. Great Scott! By the time we arrived at my brother's, Gary had blessed every driver along the road, slammed the brakes until I felt like I had whiplash, swerved around the reprobates driving too slow, and dodged the cosmic astronaut passing us while waving the not so friendly wave.

And I was looking for an attitude adjustment, not mine - his.

He does change attitudes from sour to foul to what's wrong with you, in a heartbeat. Sometimes it's like living with "Sybil", you never know who is going to show up for dinner or who you'll end up with at dinner.

I, on the other hand, do not recover so well. Once the mood is set, I'm like a jackass with my hooves dug into the ground, it just ain't happening.

As the years have passed, and there have been many, things change, like it or not, there are changes.

I noticed the other day how roles have reversed somewhat at our house.

All this shopping online, looking up gadgets, takes time. Everyone is on the internet. The big difference with us, is Gary is now looking at cooking utensils because he is doing some of the cooking and me, I'm looking for tools because if it's going to get fixed, I better learn how to fix it. But, once I've started 'fixing' something, I'm doing it wrong (by his standards), so he borrows my tools to with intent to finish the job, tools disappear, job is never completed and we start over again.

Life is a vicious circle, so buckle up buttercup.



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Calling all Artists
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The design should depict all the elements of the Theme:

Music, Art & Crabs, Gulf Coast Style

'The Crab' has to appear in sunglasses.
Include the Bolivar Lighthouse in the design.
Please use 11 x 14 Portrait Format
Cutout design with no solid background
Hand-drawn designs only, no computer-generated artwork
Have Fun & Be Creative

Sign and Date your original design, and deliver by January 5, 2018 to:
Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
1750 Hwy 87, Crystal Beach, TX 77650
Monday-Friday, 10am - 2pm, 409-684-5940
Please include your contact information

**Winner will receive \$100 Cash, 2 Tickets to the Festival,
and 2 Official TCF T-Shirts**

**Original artwork becomes the property of Texas Crab Festival
and will be displayed at the Texas Crab Festival, May 11-13, 2018**

COPYRIGHT-In exchange for the award, the winner relinquishes and assigns all rights to the design to the Texas Crab Festival. The Texas Crab Festival reserves the right to modify and adapt the winning design without further consent from or compensation to the winning artist. The original work will be owned by The Texas Crab Festival

For more information, please contact Dee Whisnant
979-732-7104, or email deesbeads@msn.com

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KEEPING WARM WITH BAY VUE UMW!

Sherry Morgan

Bay Vue United Methodist Women (UMW) have been busy making blankets and quilts to donate to UTMB-Jennie Sealy Hospital in Galveston. Three of Santa's elves made the delivery on Monday to Carol Arvie-Gooden and Mary Moody of the hospital's Department of Volunteer Services.

The inspiration for taking on this project came from Carol Arvie-Gooden. She stated that many newborn babies leave the hospital without blankets. Also, the women agreed that hospital waiting rooms in the ER, ICU and clinic areas are always cold – for family and loved ones, as well as for patients. How nice to have a hospital volunteer drop off a warm blanket or quilt for those waiting and tell them, "It is yours to keep!" The Volunteer Services staff has already made plans to donate some of the blankets to the hospice area.

Thanks to the following Bay Vue UMW and friends for many hours of work on this project:

Elaine Rolfig
Tricia Smith
Rita Moseley
Jane Loose
Janet Leigh Davis
Paula Isenblatter
Jan Evans
Betty Williamson

Mary Raney
Edith Smith
Sandi Covington
Mavis Hunstiger
Margaret Uhlenb
Carmen Schultz
Becky Stafford
Janice Billeck

Elaine Rolfig was overheard saying, "We have lots of material, so there will be more blankets!"

The ladies will decide on their next project at the January meeting. Whatever it is, a loving group of UMW will work and enjoy serving our community.



FACT SHEET Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair

The **Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair (DALHR)** program may be available for Texans recovering from Hurricane Harvey. The program **provides permanent repairs for homeowners with moderate damages who lack available housing resources.**

The DALHR program is one of several housing solutions for Texans after Hurricane Harvey. **FEMA determines if applicants are eligible and pairs them with the best available housing solution** to meet their individual needs. **Not everyone will be eligible, but it will provide needed support to those survivors who do qualify.**

Direct housing is provided as a **temporary solution** by FEMA at the request of the state and is **not intended to be a permanent housing option** with the exception of DALHR for flood survivors.

The first step to be considered eligible for direct housing assistance is to be **registered with FEMA** by visiting www.fema.gov/apply-assistance, www.disasterassistance.gov, calling 1-800-621-3362/TTY 1-800-462-7585 or visiting a local disaster recovery center.

Eligibility

- Applicants may be eligible for DALHR if they are pre-disaster home owners whose residence has undergone a **FEMA-issued inspection with a FEMA verified loss of \$17,000.**
- **Specific considerations for DALHR include:**
 - Repairs must be **completed within 90 days** from the start of the repair work.
 - Repairs are **less than fifty percent of the market value** of the home and **may not exceed \$60,000.**
 - Repairs are not covered by insurance or an SBA loan.
 - **Any home located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) shall not be considered** for DAHLR repairs unless in accordance with applicable federal, and local laws, regulations and ordinances and can be repaired in the cost limits.
 - Per the Stafford Act § 312, 42 U.S.C. § 5155, any duplication of benefits is prohibited. Applicants eligible for DAHLR assistance may choose to either provide documentation and receipts for used FEMA financial repair assistance and **return all unused assistance** received for home repair to FEMA, or decline DAHLR assistance and keep any financial assistance received.
- DALHR participants must **reside in a county designated for Direct Housing.**
 - **Designated counties are:** Aransas, Austin, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson,



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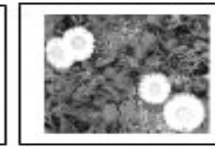
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Happy Birthday!
Mariana Legg
January 4

Happy Birthday!
Dylan Harthcock
January 8

Happy Birthday!
Dawn Rosenboom
January 29

Happy Birthday!
Kyle Rodriguez
January 3



BOLIVAR BEACH BLOOMERS NEWS BY VICKIE GOSS

Happy New year from The Beach Bloomers! Hope your holidays were merry and bright! Boy did we have a surprise in December, snow at the beach, wasn't that a thrill! I don't think we actually had a freeze but a lot of plants did get some burn. Between the cold and the wind my plants are looking pretty beat up, they are alive but not very attractive.

I purchased Plankets and heat lights from M&D supply to wrap some of my plants up and give the Hummingbird Trees some heat and was very glad I had. The Hummingbird trees really look terrible, the wind and cold are not their friends. I'm hoping we will be able to grow these beautiful trees on the peninsula but only time will tell if it's worth the effort.

As I write this we are about to experience freezing temperatures, I will do the drill to protect those tropical plants once again. This is supposed to last for a few days, but you really cannot predict the weather here, my philosophy right

now is to just try to keep everything alive so when the weather starts to warm they will be back to their beautiful glory.

I know some of you have greenhouses here and I'm happy for you but I can't deny I am a bit jealous. I really want a greenhouse for my pretty plants but it always seems something else takes precedence over a greenhouse. I hope by next winter I can build a greenhouse so my plants can stay warm and cozy on those bitter cold days and open it up when the weather turns up the heat, it's a dream of mine that I hope will come true soon.

The next Bolivar Beach Bloomers meeting will be Wednesday January 3, Bolivar Beach Bloomers meetings are always the 1st Wednesday of each month 10:30am at the Joe Faggard Community Center, 1750 Highway 87, Crystal Beach. All are welcome and encouraged to come check us out!

You may be interested in the following links:

Bolivar Beach Bloomers <https://www.facebook.com/groups/677347662377504/>

The Beautiful Monarch Butterfly <https://www.facebook.com/groups/572683816192386/>

The Lazy Gardener Newsletter new PDF version easier to read and share <http://natureswayresources.com/NLindex.pdf>

MONTHLY QUOTE:

"WHO LOVES A GARDEN LOVE S A GREEN HOUSE TOO" WILLIAM COWPER

Ange's Corner Monthly Tip:

In a previous article I wrote about gardening styles. Like Brenda Beust Smith (link above) I consider myself a Lazy Gardener. I'm also a Frugal Gardener. My style is to spend as little as necessary while cultivating my property with as many plants as it can support. I choose plants that offer the most aesthetic appeal with the least amount of maintenance. I also consider plants that benefit wildlife. I strive toward balance that occurs in nature. A landscape in balance will naturally be low maintenance.

Sometimes low maintenance means a lot of work initially. One of my mantras, 'PLANT NO BED BEFORE IT'S TIME', refers to an intense commitment to starting with a thoroughly clean bed with a weed barrier at the edges. Winter is a good time to achieve that goal. We will have some nice days for working outside! Preparing a bed now assures it will be ready for planting in the spring and reduce the temptation to plant in soil contaminated with weeds. Pulling weeds from the surface is a start but hardly sufficient for a low maintenance garden. Here on the peninsula our most problematic weeds are dollar weed, Bermuda grass and nut sedge.

Nut sedge will come right back with vengeance if you don't remove the nut. Through careful sorting, one shovel load at a time, you can find most of the nuts. Sometimes you may find a whole string of nuts. You WILL miss a few. When a new sprout of nut grass sprouts avoid the temptation to pull it from the surface. Use a spade to lift the dirt below the sprout. There WILL be a nut below; don't give up until you find it.

If there is any Bermuda grass on the surface it is important to dig deep enough to get to the oldest root source below. I have found Bermuda roots as deep as 2 feet! If the deepest roots aren't entirely removed it will always come back. If the stems invade the roots of new plants it becomes impossible

to remove entirely; so much for low maintenance! Using a tiller breaks Bermuda stems & roots into small pieces that are more difficult to remove.

Dollar weed runners are fairly easy to recognize since the newer ones are bright white. Older runners tend to turn a darker cream color. Older runners also produce a soft cream cola red nut that must be removed.

New, 'soft' weeds will emerge from seed but can be easily pulled from the surface. Just be sure if any nut sedge, dollar weed or Bermuda shows up, dig deep enough to remove its source.

So take your time this winter to prepare for low maintenance gardening. Make a small bed to get the hang of it. You can expand a little more each year if you like. If you have existing beds you can compare the effectiveness of your labor.

One more essential is some kind of weed barrier edging to prevent outside weeds from encroaching. Undesirables will sneak through any crack or seam in the edging. I prefer plastic edging that comes in a roll; least expensive and most efficient. I DO NOT use weed barrier cloth on the surface of the bed. Dollar weed, Bermuda and nut sedge will run amuck under the cloth and you can't get to it for removal.

Let's do our best to make the most of our winter while looking forward to spring. Happy New Year everyone!

Ange Scheibel
Texas Master Naturalist
Galveston Bay Area Chapter
angelbus80@hotmail.com



National Wildlife Federation Certifies New Wildlife Habitat in Port Bolivar, TX

Happy New Year's from all of us at the Eagles! Fraternal Order of Eagles #3719

Bill Agnew
Worthy President

Port Bolivar, TX December 12, 2017 - The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, is pleased that Ann Phillippi and Mel Warren in Port Bolivar, TX have successfully created a Certified Wildlife Habitat through its Garden for Wildlife program. In addition, Ann and Mel's habitat has been co-certified with NWF's state affiliate, the Texas Conservation Alliance.

and Mel on their creation of their certified habitat.

The went on to say, "Our postage stamp sized lot harbors an impressive array of natural wildflowers and birds. I hope other landowners will also help save Bolivar's beauty before it is all gone".

NWF's Garden for Wildlife program encourages responsible gardening that helps pollinators and other wildlife thrive. It encourages planting with native species like milkweed and discouraging chemical pesticide use.

Every Certified Wildlife Habitat provides food, water, cover and places to raise young. Yards, schools, businesses, places of worship, campuses, parks, farms, and other community-based landscapes can all be certified as wildlife sanctuaries. For more information on gardening for wildlife and details on how an entire community can become certified, visit www.nwf.org/habitat or call 1-800-822-9919

Many of NWF's state affiliate organizations are partners in the Certified Wildlife Habitat program. Habitats in partnering states have national and state certification, these states include Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas, and Wyoming.

Metal signs will be installed on three sides of 819 Boat Road to designate the new status.

About National Wildlife Federation
The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. To learn how to create a sustainable garden that helps wildlife, to to www.nwf.org/garden. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

NWF celebrates these efforts to create a garden that improves habitat for birds, butterflies, frogs and other wildlife by providing essential elements needed by all wildlife - natural food sources, clean water, cover and places to raise young.

The Certified Wildlife Habitat garden is now also part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to create a million gardens that provide for declining pollinator insects, like butterflies and bees.

"Over the last 40 years, more than 200,000 wildlife gardeners have joined NWF's Garden for Wildlife movement and these individuals have helped restore wildlife habitat right in their own yards and neighborhoods," said David Mizejewski, naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation. "Whether you garden in a suburban yard, an apartment balcony or a 10-acre farm, a schoolyard or a business park, everyone can create a home for local wildlife. Turning your space into a Certified Wildlife Habitat is fun, easy and makes a real difference for neighborhood wildlife," he added.

"We are saddened by the constant and rapid removing of the natural vegetation on Bolivar Peninsula and want to help save a tiny piece of it for the beautiful flowers and birds", stated Ann

We are planning on having a float in the Mardi Gras parade again this year. We would like to thank Big Jim Denys for helping put that together this year.

The Eagles now has two dart boards for steel tip darts, overhead lighting and scoreboards. Every Friday at 7:30, we put on a Dart tournament but the boards are open for play almost all the time. We now have a 9 ball pool tournament on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Come join us if you can, they have been fun additions to our organization.

January 14 at 9:30 a.m. is our next Eagles Breakfast, which is prepared and served by our Men members. Open to all. \$7 a plate, eat in or carry out.

As an organization, we would like to thank everyone down at Crystal Beach for helping make 2017 a great year down here. We are looking forward to 2018 and continue to enjoy watching our area grow back. We are still trying to determine the feasibility of adding a community center to our property and hope to know shortly whether that is going to be possible. We still serve lunch most Saturdays so come join us one Saturday and say hello!



Happy Birthday!
Darla DeMoss
January 15

Happy Birthday!
Britton Walters
January 3

Happy Birthday!
Gary Hopkins
January 1

Happy Anniversary!
Raul & Paulette Vargas
January 24

Happy Birthday!
Kelli DeMoss
January 25

Happy Birthday!
Trinity Fowler
January 31

Happy Birthday!
Bryanna Williams
January 21

Happy Birthday!
Justin Barrow, Jr
January 19

Happy Birthday!
Cassidy Weeks
January 16

Happy Birthday!
Larry Beerer
January 2

Happy Birthday!
Brittany Borden
January 19

Happy Birthday!
Will Weeks
January 24

Happy Birthday!
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Into the New World

By: Darian

This year has been tough for all of us. For me 2017 has kicked my butt and taught me a lesson. I might have turned a year older, but my surroundings have changed a lot.

because of suicide and it really made me think of how this year has been treating people who suffer from depression.

Ever since Hurricane Harvey passed, my side of town hasn't been all sunshine and rainbows. Many of my friend's homes were destroyed and had to evacuate because of the flooding. They also couldn't attend school since almost every part of Houston was underwater. Luckily, my school gave us time to heal, but that was going to interfere with our scheduling. Once the flood was gone and all students were back to their normal schedules, grading was going to be a pain.

I feel that 2017 has treated depression as a taboo and not a serious health issue. It only matters to the public when someone decides to kill themselves, and everyone puts up the "suicide is not the answer" and "You are not alone" posters. Then the next day, depression and suicide are back to being a joke. It makes me angry that mental health is ignored and needs more attention to the public.

Since all students had to catch up on the lessons after the flood, we had to work three times as hard just to keep a decent grade in each class. Even though I like going to school to see my friends and get work done, spending most of my days this year being focused on academics made me dislike school.

Even after the death of Chester Bennington and Kim Jong-hyun (who were influential music artist for this generation) I hope to see a big change in suicide rates next year. I hope that 2018 is the year we take mental health seriously and support those who do suffer with a mental illness whether they are a celebrity or not.

Aside from school, this year made my heart hurt from the amount of people who passed away. It was unexpected to see big role models leave without a warning. Many have passed away

2017 may have made my days feel rough and empty, but it shaped me to be a better person than I was before. As we are leaving the old world behind and moving on into the new world, I look forward to brighter days and more positivity being spread.

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Happy Anniversary!
 Chris & Evie
 Brindley
 January 16

Happy Birthday!
 Kathy Hammond
 January 23

Happy Birthday!
 Veronica Felty
 January 9

Happy Birthday!
 Kathryn O'Brien
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INSIGHT into EYESIGHT

A Community Service provided for Bolivar Peninsula by
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As a child, your mother may have told you, "Eat your carrots. They're good for your eyes." Was your mother right, or was that just her way of getting you to eat your vegetables? Advice about nutrition and how it affects your vision and eye health can be confusing. One day a report tells us that a certain food or supplement is good for us; the next day another report tells us that it is not. But what can be said, without contradiction, is that the foods we eat (or don't eat) play a major role in all aspects of health. When we think about foods and nutrients that are good for your eyes, it's going to be many of the same things that are good for your heart, your bones, your kidneys, and for your overall health. That's a diet high in fruits and vegetables, and high in antioxidant nutrients, which are important as we age. But, no one food is going to give you everything you need.

Eye supplements can help you get enough of the valuable nutrients you need each day for healthy vision. But keep in mind that simply taking vitamins cannot make up for a poor diet and too much junk food. Taking a daily multivitamin and mineral supplement can help fill in the nutritional gaps in a less-than-optimal diet and may help protect you from degenerative diseases, including eye diseases such as macular degeneration and cataracts. Eye supplements are designed to do what their name suggests: they supplement a healthy diet to make sure you get all the nutrients you need for good eyesight. Good nutrition is very important for both your general and eye health. Good nutrition helps our body to grow, repair wear and tear, protect against infection and to function properly. A healthy diet emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains and fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products. It also includes lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts and is low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium) and added sugars.

Vitamins and the eye

In various studies and clinical trials antioxidant vitamins found in certain foods have been linked with eye health. They help to maintain healthy cells and tissues in the eye. The main focus has been on the anti-oxidant vitamins A, C and E. These vitamins can be found in many different sources of fruit and vegetables as well as in nuts, seeds, dairy products and eggs. These are only a few of the food types in which antioxidant vitamins can be found:

- oranges
- kiwis
- grapefruit
- dried apricots
- tomatoes
- peppers
- raw carrots
- green leafy vegetables including kale and spinach
- green peas
- green beans
- brussel sprouts

Eye supplements can help fill in nutritional gaps in a less-than-perfect diet.

Vitamin A and beta-carotene: Vitamin A (and its precursor, beta-carotene) is necessary for night vision, wound healing and proper functioning of the immune system.

Vitamin B complex: (including vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B12 folic acid, biotin and choline). B complex vitamins may help reduce chronic inflammation and prevent elevated homocysteine levels in the blood, which have been associated with vascular problems affecting the retina. B vitamins also may play a role in reducing the risk of macular degeneration and in the treatment of uveitis, a common cause of blindness.

Vitamin C: This potent antioxidant was part of the AREDS formula, and other research suggests vitamin C is associated with reduced risk of cataracts.

Vitamin D: Recent literature suggests vitamin D deficiency is widespread, especially during winter months in cold climates. Research suggests vitamin D is associated with a lower risk of macular degeneration.

Vitamin E: Vitamin E has been associated with reduced risk of cataracts in other studies.

Lutein and zeaxanthin: These carotenoids and macular pigments may reduce the risk of macular degeneration and cataracts.

Phytochemical antioxidants: Plant extracts, such as those from ginkgo biloba and bilberry, contain phytochemicals, which appear to provide protection from oxidative stress in the entire body, including the eyes.

Omega-3 essential fatty acid: These essential nutrients may reduce the risk of dry eyes and may have other eye health benefits as well.

Bioflavonoid: Found in many fruits and vegetables, bioflavonoids appear to help the body absorb vitamin C for higher antioxidant efficiency.

Popular eye multivitamins include: ICaps (Alcon), Ocuvite PreserVision (Bausch & Lomb), Ocualair (Biosyntrx), and Macular Health Formula (EyeScience). There are many other brands as well. It should be noted that the benefits of nutritional supplements against eye disease is conflicting and there is no real agreement among researchers on this subject at present. Experts agree that taking supplements is not a substitute for a healthy diet.

However, a consensus has been reached on the importance of a healthy, balanced diet full of fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly leafy green vegetables such as kale and spinach. A healthy diet can help you enjoy a lifetime of good vision. Eat a good, balanced diet with lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Discuss changing your diet or taking vitamin supplements with your physician if you believe your diet may be inadequate. The biggest avoidable risk is smoking. Protect your eyes from sunlight. Get your eyes tested at least every two years and more frequently if necessary.

Obituary

Elinor Lee Horn
12/08/28 - 12/25/2017



I would like to thank all the volunteers and all the great people that put money in the Salvation Army kettle on Dec 9th in front of the Big Store. The kettle total was \$935.00. We could not have done it without all of your help. Merry Christmas and the best for the New Year! Bolivar Peninsula Proud

Maryanne Rogers

Happy Birthday!
Anton Nelsen
January 6

Happy Birthday!
Betty William
January 4

Happy Birthday!
Bryce Byrd
January 8

Happy Birthday!
Cindy Guidry
January 3

Happy Birthday!
Matthew Petitt
January 17

Happy Birthday!
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January 1

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Hoppin' to It

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Vince Brach is a semi-retired naturalist, writer, and science teacher who divides his time between Tyler, TX and his getaway on Crystal Beach. Vince earned his BS in biology from USC in Los Angeles and his Ph.D. from the University of Miami, Coral Gables. He has published over 100 articles in magazines such as *Texas Highways*, *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, and *Highlights for Children*. We hope you enjoy his monthly column for *The BeachTriton*, "The Seaside Naturalist".

Have any questions, photos, or observations about nature on the Bolivar Peninsula? Please send them to Vince at vbrach@sbcglobal.net and he'll try to answer them.

Of all the small creatures you are likely to encounter on a nature stroll—whether at the beach, in a garden, or just a walk around your yard—jumping spiders get my vote for the most entertaining. These harmless, curious creatures have so many "human-like" attributes that their behavior can seem uncanny.

There are more than 300 species of jumping spiders (family Salticidae, which literally means "jumpers") north of Mexico. Many are small, barely reaching a quarter of an inch (6mm) in length. However, a few species grow to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or 18 mm long. The species pictured here is a female *Plexippus paykulli*, the Pan-Tropical Jumping Spider, a half-inch "giant" often found on walls, piers, and other wooden structures.

Unlike most spiders, jumping spiders display amazing alertness and awareness of their surroundings. They actively hunt for prey and mates, moving their heads about like tiny cats as they search. Their prominent crown of eight eyes—two of which are large and forward-looking—give them one of the best visions among the lower animals. (By the way, the supposed "eye detail" in my spider photo is an illusion caused by the ring flash).

If you bring a fingertip close to a jumping spider, it will signal its awareness by turning to face the finger and possibly by jumping onto it, or by running and jumping away. These spiders always practice "safety first" when they jump by tying down a safety line of silk from spinnerets at their rear. This precaution allows them to climb back to their last support if they misjudge the distance.

Jumping spiders are capable of delivering a stinging but harmless bite to humans if restrained, but are not dangerous. They are fierce predators of small insects of all kinds, creeping up on perceived prey from as far away as eight inches until close

enough to take it with a final lightning-like leap. The enormous volume of insects eaten by jumping spiders puts them firmly in the camp of beneficial animals, to the degree that one entomologist refers to them as a "mobile pest-control service".

Male jumping spiders are often easily told from females. Many are smaller than females but more brightly-colored. Some species, such as males of the genus *Phidippus*, have conspicuously-marked "hands" (actually, palps) and bright, metallic-green or



A half-inch female jumping spider looks at the camera

violet fangs. These colorful parts are used to signal females and rival males in elaborate courtship rituals that resemble a seaman's semaphores. The fact that part of a jumping spider's "equipment" is brightly colored and is displayed in ritualistic patterns suggests that these spiders can perceive colors and shapes, as can the much-better-studied honeybees. There is much work to be done here for a curious amateur naturalist!

Mated female jumping spiders construct silken cocoons for their eggs, which they then guard until hatching. Like most spiders, jumping spider hatchlings spin out long streamers of silk ("gossamer") and are carried away by the wind. This explains why spiders quickly colonize new volcanic islands and even ship's rigging far out at sea. Some species are found around the world, usually in tropical and subtropical regions, because of this trait.

Jumping spiders make amusing pets and are easy to care for. A 16-ounce jar such as party chip dips are sold in makes a satisfactory cage for one spider. Use a nail to punch a few small holes in the lid. Place a piece of paper on the bottom to catch droppings and uneaten insect remains.

A thumbnail-sized *Phidippus* will eat one or more live houseflies or other small insects a day, so you will get some exercise caring for your captives. Every few days, your spiders will need a sprinkling of a few drops of water, as they are surprisingly thirsty creatures.

If your captive is a mated female, it may spin an egg cocoon and begin guarding it. During this time it will not feed. When the young hatch, it is easy to set them free by opening the jar outside in a shady place and allowing them to "balloon" away. The female may be transferred to another jar if desired.

Spider interactions can be observed by allowing spiders to come together by putting two opened jars next to one another, mouth-to-mouth. Don't be surprised if cannibalism results! This can be reduced if the interacting spiders are well-fed before meeting.

Both sexes of jumping spiders will usually spin a resting cocoon on the underside of the jar lid, almost invisibly against the white of the lid's underside. When you open the jar, do so carefully or you will risk an escape!

The Seaside Naturalist is sponsored by Brian and Clint Byrom at Brint Construction Co. Inc.

The Beach Bum says stretching the truth will not make it last any longer

The Beach Bum says an open mind leaves a chance for someone to drop a worthwhile thought in it.

The Beach Bum says when a man gets too old to set a bad example, he starts giving good advice.

The Beach Bum says the best thing for gray hair is a sensible head.

The Beach Bum says the greatest faults is to be conscious of none.

The Beach Bum says it's smart to pick your friends - but not to pieces.

The Beach Bum says spend less than you get.

The Beach Bum says ideas are funny little things, they won't work unless you do.

The Beach Bum says a loose tongue often gets into a tight place.

The Beach Bum says who gossips to you will gossip of you.

The Beach Bum says there is nothing wrong with making mistakes, but don't respond to encores.

The Beach Bum says 'fact' is the the unpaid part of what you think.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

It was a grand Holiday Celebration at Margo Johnson's house on December 7. The Bolivar Peninsula Cultural Foundation (BPCF) Board recognized members who have contributed to the foundation. This festive occasion included honoring BPCF volunteers and Beach Art Project Artists.

Eve Bradford and Glenda Mastin were noted for their outstanding contributions to the organization and community. Margo thanked Charlotte Stirling for her service with many offices and committees. Charlotte and Glenda created the popular Gallery on the Gulf, and the gallery had a great run. Brenda Flanigan honored D.J. Kava, Margo Holtz, Klela Bentley, and Janie Mayfield for their beautiful beach art creations. Klela also serves as website facilitator for BPCF.

BPCF pledges to support the arts, music and history of Bolivar Peninsula. They have several projects in the works and welcome anyone who would like to help. Their lecture series will continue with world famous birder and naturalist Victor Emmanuel scheduled for April. BPCF is also working with Bolivar Beautiful to commission lighthouse statues to be stationed all over the peninsula.

Margo Johnson thanked all who attended this lovely event. The holiday celebration continued with bounteous quantities of delicious food and drink. What a great way to start the holidays!!



January Fishing Report

Jeffrey Daniels



Jeffrey Daniels



Winter is finally here and it has made the fishing super. These hard fronts have dropped the water levels of the bay to below predicted levels and that brings the bait out of the marsh's, causing huge feeding frenzies in some areas. As these fronts keep dropping the water levels, the bait will move out of the bay system with it. After a front has passed and the pressure is still high look to the deeper marsh areas for sight casting as the water will typically be clear and the sky blue.

East Bay has been producing limits of Trout but no real size to speak of. As the water temperature continues to fall the North shoreline will begin to produce those better Trout. The key to this pattern is timing, it is crucial when chasing big winter Trout to time your trips around the front not just for the fish but also for safety, you don't want to be out on the water when a strong front with thirty plus mph winds blow in.

West Bay has been producing some solid fish so far. Reports have come in of some eight-pound Trout being caught along the South shoreline. As with any other bay system timing is everything when trying to target these big Sows. Look for the upper reefs to produce as the temperatures begin to climb and as the next front approaches look to the deeper guts and cuts in the Bay system.



The reefs in Upper Galveston Bay should be holding some good fish as well. Look for any sign of bait



when fishing these deeper reefs. Once the bait is found stick with it and be patient they will eat eventually. Things will be slow as the fish become very lethargic with the lower water temperature falling. Remember, no matter where you decide to wade, wear your lifejacket at all times, use safety precautions, and be aware of your surroundings! Email a picture of your next great catch to jeffreykdaniels@gmail.com with your name and fish info to be featured in next month's article. Go visit justonemorecastblog.com, be sure to follow and share on Facebook, Instagram, and twitter. Thank you to all my wonderful sponsors. Tight lines and smooth drag.

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Life at the Beach...Let Me, Help You...Begin Yours!

Don't Drop the Ball on Energy Savings This New Year The Future is Bright, and Your Home Can Be Too

BEAUMONT, Texas – It's an exciting time of year, as Americans count down to 2018 and watch the illuminating crystal ball drop in New York City. This is a time to reflect on changes that can make a big difference in 2018.

Why not make energy usage one of those changes? It doesn't take much to save big. So, as we count down to a new year, here's a countdown to ways you can save.

10. Make a resolution to save energy and stick to it. Put a sticky note on your thermostat to remind you to set it and forget it! Set your thermostat at 68 degrees or the lowest comfortable temperature. Each degree over 68 degrees will add approximately 3 percent to your heating bill.

9. Feel around the entrances to your house. If you feel cold air coming under the doors, near the windows or even through your outlets, that means the valuable heat you're paying for is being wasted! Get a draft guard, weather-stripping or caulk and fill those gaps. You'll be amazed at how much better you'll feel. Also, keep all doors and windows closed. Constant traffic in and out will let out the warm air, forcing your heater to work harder to keep the room at the temperature you set.

8. Let the sun shine through. If you have drapes or blinds, open them. The sun is a natural heater that can keep you comfortable on cold winter days. Keep in the heat at night by closing them after the sun has set.

7. Keep the air circulating. Don't block heat registers for cold air returns with curtains or furniture.

6. Plug it in. Use an electric heater to warm up chilly spaces. Just make sure you use it correctly and keep it away from anything flammable. Electric blankets, when used properly, can keep you toasty too.

5. Make sure fans are turning the right way. In the winter, switch the rotation of

your fans. They should be run at a low speed clockwise. That way cold air isn't blowing down on you.

4. Make sure you replace your air filters regularly and get your heating unit checked. You want these appliances to be in tip top shape when it's cold outside! Installing an insulating blanket for your electric water heaters is also a good way to keep costs down.

3. If you can't use it, don't. No need in heating an empty room or house if you're not at there to enjoy it. Adjust the thermostat when you leave – just make sure to remember your pets and if it's really cold, your pipes!

2. Don't let your pretty fireplace get the best of your energy bill. Install a top-sealing chimney damper, a fireback cast iron plate in the back and fireplace glass doors to get the most advantage of your pretty but drafty chimney.

1. The top way you can save money this new year is online. Visit entergy.com for more great energy efficiency tips and programs to save you money, as well as helpful payment options and other tools to help you budget for the cold months ahead.

"For customers struggling to pay their winter energy bills, we have solutions to help," said Vernon Pierce, vice president of customer service for Entergy Texas, Inc. "We have a program that assists elderly and disabled low-income customers through our customer-assistance fund called The Power to Care. It is funded by Entergy employees, customers and shareholders. There are also local agencies that can help."

Donations to The Power to Care can be made here. For more information on The Power to Care and other programs that can help residents with bill assistance, visit the Help for Paying Your Electric Bills section of the Entergy website.

Galveston Bay Foundation's Bike Around the Bay riders raise nearly \$32,000 for flood relief

Houston, TX – December 20, 2017 – Less than two months after Harvey hit, area cyclists participated in Bike Around the Bay, a two-day, 170-mile fundraising ride organized by Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF). While funds from the ride typically support GBF's efforts to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay, 2017 was not a typical year – our community, including many of our riders and their families were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. In response, GBF chose to donate a portion of funds raised through Bike Around the Bay to Harvey relief efforts, and is dedicating \$31,630 to two area relief organizations.

The funds have been divided between the Greater Houston Community Foundation flood recovery fund and the 4B Disaster Response Network. The Greater Houston Community Foundation is providing funding across the Houston region while the 4B Disaster Response Network is concentrating support in the Bay Area where GBF is based.

The 4B Disaster Response Network plans to rebuild 1,000 homes in our region in early 2018. It encourages people in need of homebuilding assistance to register with the network to receive assistance. So far, 500 residents have submitted requests through the network to rebuild their homes, so there is room for an additional 500 requests.

"We are committed to rebuilding homes damaged by Harvey in the Bay Area for the next one to two years; these funds will aid us greatly in helping families in need," said Ben Baldwin, Executive Director of 4B Disaster Response Network.

Galveston Bay Foundation is grateful to have been able to provide these funds to help our community in a time of need. We also want to thank our Bike Around the Bay cyclists for stepping up and making this possible.

"We know that some of our riders, our neighbors and friends need help right now, and we are honored to support local flood recovery efforts through Bike Around the Bay while continuing our post-storm efforts for Galveston Bay," said Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation President.



Ben Baldwin, 4B Disaster Response Network Executive Director and Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation President

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The Beach Bum says real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job.

The Beach Bum says a 'speciman' is an Italian astronaut.

The Beach Bum says when you marry the right woman, you are complete. When you marry the wrong woman, you are finished. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are completely finished.

The Beach Bum defines a fashion expert as a fellow who can induce women to pay more money for less clothing.

The Beach Bum defines a weirdo as someone who watches everybody else when a naked woman enters the room.

The Beach Bum told Jammer is uncle was a criminal lawyer and Jammer replied, "Aren't they all?"

The Beach Bum says one of the best things a man can have up his sleeve is a funny bone.

Celebrate All Year!

by Lynne S Averett

This is a sad story with a happy ending. Years ago when my mother wasn't well and in a wheelchair, having had an operation, she asked us to decorate her home for Christmas. It was September, and I ignorantly told her it wasn't time yet. Well, you can guess what happened. She passed away in October and never saw another Christmas.

The moral of that story is learn to celebrate birthdays, holidays, whatever event at any time of the year. This year I'll celebrate Christmas into the end of January just because I don't want to let it go. In fact, we plan to host a Christmas-themed dinner with friends in late January, and we asked them to wear Christmas sweaters –weather permitting. Whether it is wearing a Santa hat around town or decorating the house and our wardrobes for Saint Patrick's Day, Easter, the 4th of July or any other event, it is about having fun.

The same goes with birthdays. We try to celebrate on the exact day, if possible, but occasionally I will tell a restaurant it's somebody's birthday (No, it isn't really) to add a fun surprise to the evening! Our grandson needs a little extra treat this year so we plan to celebrate his October birthday around Valentines Day and then again in October. Why not? So it's silly and fun, but isn't that the message of celebration, "the only magic is what we make ourselves"!

Remember to celebrate every event, and whenever you feel you and others need an extra holiday, do it again. There are many serious situations in our world today. Maybe that is another reason to celebrate all year long.

Our lives are not dress rehearsals. This is your only time around so enjoy!
Happy New Year!

4B DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK AND EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE ANNOUNCE A MAJOR DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORT IN SE HOUSTON

Houston, TX, December 15th, 2017 — The 4B Disaster Response Network (4BDRN) along with Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) announced that they will be leading a major rebuilding effort in Southeast Houston in March 2018 to help the area rebuild from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. March 10th through March 24th, 4BDRN and Eight Days of Hope will bring together volunteers from across the nation to help rebuild hundreds of homes. This event is expected to be the single largest volunteer rebuild effort over a 15-day period in U.S. history.

Chris Alston, Board President of 4BDRN said, "Thousands of families in the area are trying to figure out how they can rebuild their homes because of the mass damage. Those who are waiting for assistance in the rebuilding process are looking for help, for hope. We are excited to partner with EDOH and local leaders to bless as many families as possible."

4B Disaster Response Network exists to mobilize a network of churches to reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ by serving people affected by disaster in the 4B area (from the Beltway to the Beach and the Bay to Brazoria County). Eight Days of Hope is a nonprofit, faith-based organization committed to rebuilding the damaged homes of those affected by natural disasters. Since 2005, 27,509 Eight Days of Hope volunteers have helped to rebuild, remodel or refurbish 1,916 homes in Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Iowa, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina on thirteen different relief trips. To date, more than thirty-four million dollars of work has been completed by Eight Days of Hope.

EDOH President Stephen Tybor III expects another large turnout of volunteers for an unprecedented back-to-back effort comprised of the organization's fourteenth/fifteenth trips. "I anticipate between 4,000 and 5,000 volunteers will travel from over 40 states and multiple countries to the great state of Texas with over 50 percent of these volunteers being electricians, carpenters, licensed contractors and tradesman ready to help those in need. We are excited to show the love of Christ through the gifts He has blessed us with".

The budget for this outreach will be close to two million dollars. "We rely on the generosity of individuals and organizations to help support the efforts of our volunteers," Tybor stated. "We provide assistance to the uninsured and the underinsured and appreciate those who lay the financial foundation for this work".

We serve all people regardless of race, gender, religion or ethnicity. Please visit www.4BResponse.org or www.eightdaysofhope.com for more information, to provide financial support, or to volunteer for the upcoming event.

The Insolent Gas Pump

In the first episode of Get Smart (in glorious black-and-white) Agent Maxwell Smart's shoe begins ringing like a solid old Bell telephone while he is at a concert (as in music, not existential yowling). The shoe-phone gag, complete with a large rotary dial, was sustained over the life of the series, along with many other logical and illogical gadgets.

Gadgets are fun – telephones, typewriters, Italian Army knives, illuminated magnifiers, barometers, cuckoo clocks, can openers, self-changing record players, the sort of technology that knows its place and doesn't give itself airs.

But civilization comes to a skidding Roadrunner and Wile E. Coyote stop with talking gas pumps that show movies.

Once upon a time when you wanted gas for your car you stopped at the filling station and a nice man wearing a Texaco shirt and a bowtie (miss you, George) filled your car's tank and checked under the hood, whatever checking under the hood meant. In illo tempore a gallon of gas cost about the same as a cup of coffee, and, come to think of it, still does.

But now you have to get out of the car, produce a plastic card, and negotiate with the pump according to questions and instructions legible on the screen only when the sun is at exactly the right angle, usually around dawn on the the summer solstice.

And then the gas pump puts on a moving picture show. First, there's the weather. Snow? I don't think so. But the next day there was snow.

The other day there was a trivia quiz, followed some gossip about Miley Kardashian or somebody like that who's going to marry the king of Crete, I think.

There was no Roadrunner cartoon or a John Wayne, so what's the point of a talking gas pump with movies?

But here's where things get awkward – you find yourself talking back to the gas pump.

This is one of those, like, you know, existential moments, and, like, when you pause midway through the journey of life and find yourself in a gloomy forest of gas pumps (it's in Dante if you want to look it up).

When you find yourself arguing with a gas pump, you've reached an existential whatchamacallit.

Look, on my home planet you just don't converse with gas pumps. Toasters, maybe. Thermostats, rarely, and only on general topics, like the weather.

But never gas pumps.

Gas pumps, because they light up and show you talking pictures, are like the tenant's wife in Barchester Towers who now has a piano in the parlour and so feels free to address an archdeacon at the squire's garden party as if they were social equals.

We just can't have that.

The next time the gas pump talks to me I'm going to keep my responses polite but just this side of curt.

You know Curt; we all went to school together.

Talking gas pumps. Harrumph. What next – will the coffee maker begin exchanging gossip with the microwave?

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Galveston County Emergency Services District No. 2

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Galveston County Emergency Services District No. 2 (the "district") was called for at 3:00 p.m. on November 15, 2017, at the Crystal Beach Fire Station, 930 Noble Carl Road, Crystal Beach, Texas 77650, pursuant to notice duly posted according to law.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m., and the roll was called of the duly constituted offices and members of the Board, to wit:

Sid Bouse - President
John Lee, Jr. - Vice President
Kate Newberry - Secretary
George Strong - Treasurer

All of said Board members were present, with the exception of President Bouse, thus constituting a quorum. Also present at the meeting were: Jan Foster, District Administrative Assistant; David Sticker, the District's accountant; Joshua Heinze of Benckenstein & Oxford, LLP, attorneys for the District; and, the individuals listed on the attendance log attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Upon establishing that a quorum was present, Vice President Lee directed the Board to Agenda Item No. 3, at which time the Board members and others in attendance said the U.S. and Texas pledges of allegiance.

Being as there was no public comment under Agenda Item No. 4, the Board then moved along to Agenda Item No. 5 regarding the monthly run reports and other information and materials submitted by PEMSI and the VFDs. The Board reviewed the departments' monthly run reports, which are attached hereto as Exhibit B along with PEMSI's Director's Report (Port Bolivar VFD also submitted its annual run report for the prior fiscal year period).

The Board was then directed to Agenda Item No. 6 for review of the proposed Minutes for the October 18, 2017 regular meeting and the November 2, 2017 special meeting. Upon motion by Secretary Newberry and seconded by Treasurer Strong, the Board unanimously approved the proposed meeting minutes.

The Board then moved along to Agenda Item No. 7, at which time Treasurer Strong reported that the District's Texas First Bank checking account balance was \$375,263.95 as of October 31, 2017 and \$526,525.75 as of November 15, 2017, and that the District's Texas First Bank savings account balance was \$600,963.45 as of October 31, 2017 and November 15, 2017, as reflected on the bank statements and other financial reports attached hereto as Exhibit C.

Next, the Board's attention was directed to Agenda Item No. 8 for payment of the District's bills and department reimbursement requests. Treasurer Strong review with the Board the various District bills presented for approval and payment, which are reflected in the check detail report attached hereto as Exhibit D. Additionally, the Board reviewed and discussed the expenditures submitted by PEMSI and the VFDs for reimbursement, as reflected in the departments' invoices and ledgers attached hereto as Exhibit E. son motion by Treasurer Strong and seconded by Secretary Newberry, the District bills presented for approval and payment (Check Nos. 1733-1741, plus the direct deposit and other payroll expense payments), which also included the October 2017 reimbursement payments for PEMSI (\$92,087.97), Port Bolivar VFD (\$1,233.02), High Island VFD (\$2,592.55), and Crystal Beach VFD (\$1,819.03), were unanimously approved by the Board.

Thereafter, Vice President Lee directed the Board to Agenda Item No. 9, at which time Matt Summers discussed with the Board the request being submitted by PEMSI and High Island VFD for the acquisition of two surplus military LMTV vehicles (high water 2.5 ton vehicles), which Mr. Summers claims are available through the Texas Forestry Service at no cost to the departments or the District. Mr. Summers indicated that preventative maintenance costs are estimated at \$650.00 annually per vehicle, but that all insurance and parts costs are paid for by the Texas Forestry Service. Vice President Lee advised Mr. Summers that the Board will review the information and program particulars so that same can be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr. Summers also advised that PEMSI would like to use some of its billing revenue to purchase a new ambulance to replace one of its current ambulance which is experiencing mechanical issues. Vice President Lee asked PEMSI to submit information concerning the current ambulance status and the proposed new ambulance to the Board in advance of the next regular meeting so that same can be reviewed by the Board members. Then, following a brief discussion regarding the budget, Treasurer Strong made a motion to purchase (3) jump bags for the VFDs, at an estimated cost of \$11,000.00 each with training included. The motion was seconded by Secretary Newberry and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board's attention was then directed by Vice President Lee to Agenda Item No. 10, at which time the Board discussed the District Manager position and the proposed candidate for same, Doug Saunders. Treasurer Strong then made a motion to retain Mr. Saunders as Interim District Manager for the period of November 15, 2017 through March 15, 2018, during which time Mr. Saunders will work 1-2

days per week (8 hours per day) in order to familiarize himself with the District and its service providers, at a per diem rate of \$400.00 per day (\$50.00 per hour) plus \$60.00 per day for personal vehicle usage, and to authorized the Board President to sign the interim agreement once prepared by Mr. Heinz. The motion was seconded by Secretary Newberry and unanimously approved by the Board members present.

The Board was then directed to Agenda Item No. 11, at which time the Board discussed the proposed amendment to PEMSI's Service Agreement, which, in essence, would require PEMSI to transfer all its billing revenue to the District on a monthly basis. The Board members tabled the matter until the next meeting.

Next, the Board moved along to Agenda Item No. 12 regarding the ESD Commissioner Places that are up for appointment/re-appointment. Mr. Heinz advised that Vice President Lee (Place 3) and Treasurer Strong's (Place 5) terms of office are set to expire on January 1, 2018, and each are requesting re-appointment for an additional two0year term. Additionally, the Board discussed potential candidates for Place 1 (current term also set to expire on January 1, 2018), which was recently vacated upon Moddy Fredenburg's resignation. Treasurer Strong made a motion to authorize Mr. Heinz to forward a letter to the County Judge and Commissioner Appfel regarding the ESD Commissioner appointment/re-appointments, which was seconded by Secretary Newberry and unanimously approved by the Board.

Thereafter, the Board was directed to Agenda Item No. 13 for the accountant report, at which time Mr. Sticker reported on the status of VFD's agreed upon procedures review being conducted by Mike Brooks. Mr. Sticker ads reviewed the recommended procedure for purchasing and accounting for capital assets. Mr. Sticker then recommended that the District continue not reimbursing the departments for any sales tax paid, as the VFDs and PEMSI should be exempt from paying sales tax. Additionally, Mr. Sticker reported to the Board that Ms. Foster had prepared all the bill payments and accounting entries on her own this month.

Being as there was no report from course under Agenda Item No. 14, the Board moved along to Agenda Item No. 15, at which time Secretary Newberry advised the Board of the upcoming annual SAFE-D conference in Galveston. Then, Orbin Thompson identified the new PEMSI board members. Lastly, Mark Forey reported not he radius of the proposed Gilchrist VFD station location and nearest hydrants for properties outside the five-mile radius.

The regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

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Bolivar Peninsula Special Utility District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 14, 2017

Directors Present: George Strong, Vice President; Wayne Turk; Maria Skewis; Dennis Stafford; Hollis Gassen, President

Staff Present: Jo E. Ball, General Manager; Barbara Cowie, Office Manager;

Others Present: None

Item 1 Call to Order: At 6:29 PM President, Hollis Gassen, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Item 2 Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. George Strong and cited by all present. Afterwards, a moment of silence was observed.

Item 3 Approve minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2017:

Motion made by George Strong and seconded by Dennis Stafford to approve the October 10, 2017 minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Item 4 Committee Reports:

Audit & Finance: Mr. Dennis Stafford reported the Audit and Finance Committee had met earlier today and reviewed the District's invoices, check registers and bank statements for October and found everything to be in order.

Item 5 Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Item 6 Manager's Report: The manger's report was presented by Mr. Jody Ball and the following items were reported and/or discussed:

1) A Review of Trial Balance, Comparative Budget Report and Account Balance Summary List: The board reviewed the Trail Balance Report, Comparative Budget Report and the Account Balance Summary through October and found everything to be in order.

2) Review System Operational Reports:

* District Water Losses. The District experienced a four month average water loss through October of 11%.

* The District has 4858 active accounts through October. In October, 3 accounts were liquidated and 64 shut offs for non-payment.

* Total water sales for October were \$285,094.50.

* Average monthly water bill for October is \$58.93.

* Water pumped was 24.2M gallons and water sold was 14.9M gallons with a loss difference of 9.3M gallons. There were 3 leaks repaired.

* No reportable accidents or incidents during the month of October.

3) Review current infrastructure projects: New elevated tank survey and design in progress. Repairs will be needed on High Island generator. Reviewed post storm Harvey issues and a need for discussion with LNVA on water plant operation procedures during routine and non-routine situations. Jo Ball will to meet with LNVA water plant manager.

4) Rollover Pass: There is no additional information available

5) Personnel: Down one employee

6) Finances:

Net income for the month of October is \$18,276.

7) Hurricane Preparedness Plan: Reviewed and approved updates to the District's plan.

Item 7 Discussion and possible action to approve 2017 Election Results:

Motion made by Dennis Stafford and seconded by Wayne Turk to approve election results. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 Administer Oath to newly elected Board member: The Oath of Office was administered to the President.

Item 9 Discussion and possible action to approve appointment of a new Board member:

Motion was made by Wayne Turk and second by George Strong to advertise for Board member position with applications due by December 31 to BPSUD office. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 10 Update and possible action on Texas Water Development Board negotiations:

There were three points identified during the informal negotiations with TWDB to change bond covenants:

1) eliminate the debt for LNVA; 2) new calculation for the 30% Reserve Fund; and, 3) the District can use funds in its Operational Reserve account for capital

expenditures without a requirement to repay the funds used.

TWDB's Board of Directors will discuss and consider these three points during their December meeting. This item is tabled until the District's December meeting.

Item 11 Discussion and possible action to approve 2017 Budget amendments:

The Board reviewed each line item that vary more than 10% from 2017 projected budget. Motion was made by Dennis Stafford and second by George Strong to approve the amendments to the 2017 Budget as presented. Motion pass unanimously.

Item 12 Discussion and possible action on 2018 Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed 2018 Budget. This item was tabled until the December meeting. The District is waiting for LNVA's budget outlining actual costs and projected health insurance costs for the District's employees.

Item 13 Directors comments regarding Future committee meetings:

A. Audit and Finance Committee – No meeting planned

B. Personnel and Policy - No meeting planned

C. Plant and Product Committee - No meeting planned

D. Public Relations Committee – Revised story on post-Harvey article sent to TRWA, waiting response from TRWA

Item 14 Directors Comments regarding future agenda items:

1) Employee health insurance

2) Auditor engagement letter

3) TWDB negotiation

4) 2018 Budget Review

5) New Director application reviews

6) Election of officers

Item 15 Set the Date for the Next Meeting: Next meeting date is set for December 12, 2017.

Item 16 Adjournment: Motion by George Strong and seconded by Maria Skewis. Meeting adorned at 7:40 PM.

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The City of Crystal Beach

by Jay Camp

First of all I want to thank Anne Willis plus Tom and Charlotte Stirling for their help in putting together this article.

When I wrote about the "Gulf and Interstate Railway Company of Texas" I could barely see the route the rail took from Beaumont to Bolivar due to the small size of the map. When I blew up the map, I could see that "Rollover" was in the wrong place. It should be at the narrowest part of Bolivar. That moves "Gulfview" where "Rollover" is and moves "Caplen" where "Gulfview" is located. Just past "Patton" (Crystal Beach) is "Flake". On the map that puts "Flake" where Boys Road crosses Hwy 87. I still can't find out how "Flake" got its name.

Now back to "Crystal Beach". the town was incorporated in 1971 and lasted until 1987. When I interviewed Anne Willis, she said the early real estate developers changed the name from "Patton" to "Crystal Beach" to make the area sound more appealing to buyers. This all happened in the 1940's when the railroad went out of business.

The city limits went from Tuna Street at "Singing Sands" to Alma Street just past tinker at "Coconuts".

The city hall moved from one rented building to the next. One location was where the art building is across from the post office. The old fire station was also used.

When voters decided to disincorporated the town, the records were voted up and sent to Galveston. Soon after this the records disappeared, was this due to a mistake, corruption, or whatever? Most of the "old timers" have pas on so it

was hard putting this all together in order. I'm sorry if I left out anyone.

The City Marshal was John Conway and the Fire Chief was Larry Kuhn. The city water supply was called "Bolivar Peninsula Water Supply Corporation" with no other utilities.

There were several mayors I can list, but not all in order. The first was Bob Castille, others were Eddie Robinson, Bill Kelsey, Roger Cowie, and the last was Tom Stirling's dad, Bill Stirling, who was responsible for creating Gregory Park and putting trash cans on the beach.

There were five members on the City Council. Amon them were Bob Castille, Jr, Joe Bill Kahla, Bob Wicker, Bob Kahla, Al Altemus, Harry Leicht, Garner Byrom, Michael Murski, Henry March and Garland II "Swede" Smith, who was also secretary and treasurer. He owned "Swedes" Store at Crystal Beach Drive. I remember him since I was a kid. I still call that road "Swedes Road" and probably will until I'm gone. His wife, Pearl, was always nice to me when I came in the store.

If Crystal Beach remained a city, Gregory Park would have also included a lighted tennis court, a jogging track and a sanitary permanent restrooms. One of the main reasons the voters did away with the city was poor maintenance of city roads and other concerns about holiday crowd control.

Leslie Loddeke a Post Reporter wrote: "Citizens of Crystal Beach voted to abolish their 15-year-old city either to get 'something for nothing' or to dump unresponsive leaders, depending on one's view."

"Its the old 'sell them something for nothing' deal," Mayor Bill Stirling said

the day after his defeat for re-election. "They thought they were going to get rid of taxes and the county was going to move in."

"They" are the majority of 314 citizens who voted to erase this Galveston County city, while 245 voted to retain it. Stirling painted a dire scenario of the future as a result of the 7-square-mile city's disappearing act.

"We are a visitor's city," Stirling said of the resort area. "We go from about 1,200 people to 20,000 people sometimes, for example on Memorial Day...We will have some problems, no question about it. You get 20,000 people having a party and you don't have adequate police protection. You can imagine what's going to happen." When Stirling certifies the vote before the Commissioners Court, "then at that moment, there will be abolition of the corporation. At that point there is no more police, no more garbage collection," he said.

The police chief and five officers will have to wait about six months to get paid until a receiver is appointed to collect the city's debts, said Stirling, who did not have an estimate of the indebtedness.

City Council member Bill Kelsey -whose mayoral victory over Stirling was a moot point since the city was abolished - observed, "I was mayor for a minute."

Kelsey, who also opposed disincorporation, received 217 votes, Stirling has 148. A. B Charpiot received 133, and Henry Marsh had 64.

One-time mayor Marsh - noting that Kelsey campaigned hard, while Marsh didn't bother - said he led the fight to disincorporated because "it seemed like the whole council didn't pay attention to what the citizens were trying to relate to them."

Disgruntled Crystal Beach resident tried unsuccessfully three times before to place the controversial issue on the ballot. Marsh said he was instrumental in collecting the 454 signatures on the petition that finally did the job.

Marsh criticized the response of city officials to a park donated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"They wanted to build a lighted tennis court with sanitary facilities and a jogging track," which weren't needed," he said.

In additions, he claimed, Crystal Beach's roads weren't maintained properly.

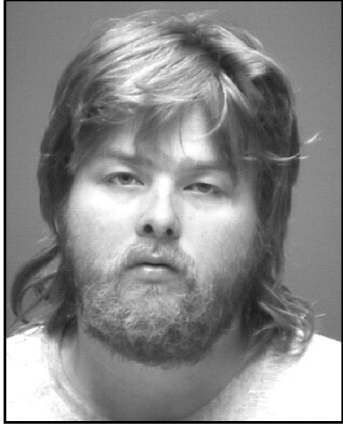
As for future police protection, Marsh said, Crystal Beach was "the only incorporated area between Galveston and Beaumont" n the peninsula, which includes the communities of Bolivar, Gilchrist, and High Island."



Galveston County Sheriff's Office DECEMBER Arrest Report

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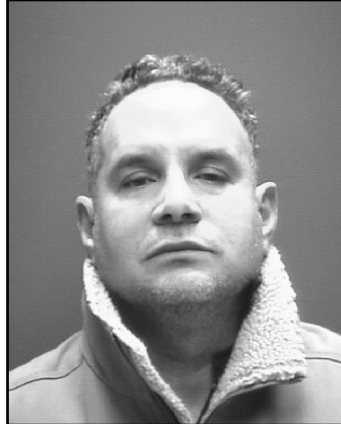
**Arrest does not imply guilt, and criminal charges are merely accusations.
A defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty and convicted.**



Currens, Michael Thomas (W /M/27)
Arrest on chrg of Driving While Intoxicated 2nd (M), at 1300 Hwy 87, Crystal Beach, TX, on 12/4/2017 15:54.



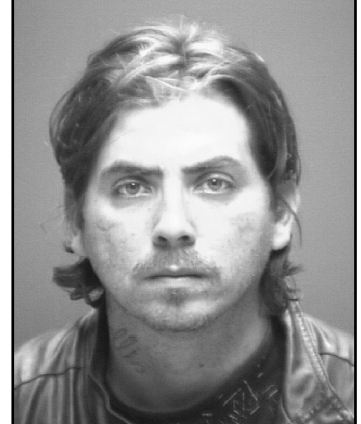
Ball, Robert Jesse (W /M/36)
Arrest on chrg of Viol Bond/protective Order (M), at Boyt Rd, Crystal Beach, TX, on 12/5/2017 01:18.



Rimmer, William Henry (W /M/51)
Arrest on chrg of Public Intoxication (M), at 1021 Hwy 87, Crystal Beach, TX, on 12/8/2017 18:41.



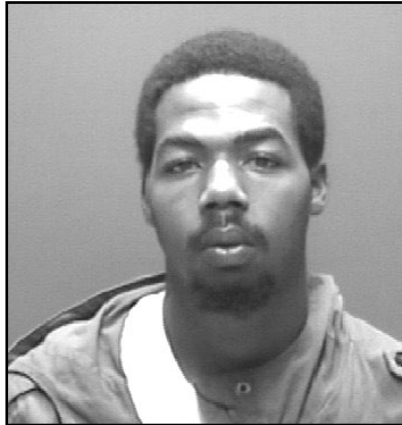
Silva, Thomas Dean (W /M/48) Arrest on chrg of Failed To Signal Distance Before Turn (M), at 1400 14th St, Port Bolivar, TX, on 12/9/2017 01:39. Arrest on chrg of Poss Cs Pg 1 >=4g<200g, F (F), at 1400 14th St, Port Bolivar, TX, on 12/9/2017 01:39.



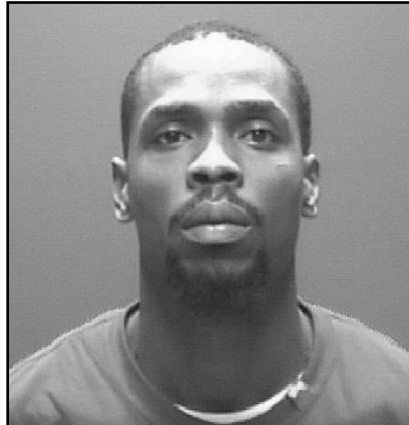
Tannehill, Jonathan Hope (W /M/28) Arrest on chrg of Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Violence, M (M), at 1 Hwy 87, Port Bolivar, TX, on 12/13/2017 16:32.



Sledge, Lewis Cody (W /M/27)
Arrest on chrg of Poss Cs Pg 1 <1g, F (F), at 1700 Hwy 87, Crystal Beach, TX, on 12/14/2017 08:58.



Davis, Charles Louis (B /M/24) Arrest on chrg of Burglary Of Habitation, F (F), at 17th St/ Front Ave, Port Bolivar, TX, on 12/23/2017 10:03.



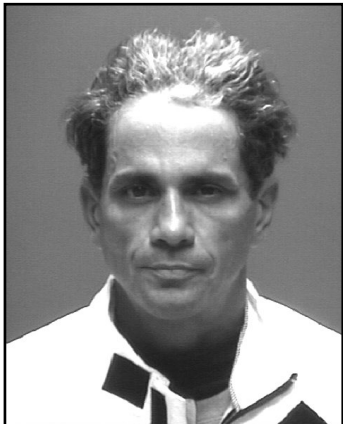
Miller, Dwight . (B /M/36) Arrest on chrg of Burglary Of Habitation, F (F), at 17th St/ Front Ave, Port Bolivar, TX, on 12/23/2017 10:03.



Runnels, Natasha Chanell (B /F/20) Arrest on chrg of Burglary Of Habitation, F (F), at 17th St/ Front Ave, Port Bolivar, TX, on 12/23/2017 10:03.



Gonzalez, Charity Dawn (W /F/43) Arrest on chrg of Fugitive From Justice-louisiana (F), at Seawall Blvd @41st Street, Galveston, TX, on 12/26/2017 01:24.



Silva, Thomas Dean (W /M/48)
Arrest on chrg of Tamper W/gov School Record Lic/seal/cert/perm, F (F), at 1999 Hwy 87/hwy 124, High Island, TX, on 12/27/2017



Foster, Zachary Kent (W /M/22)
Arrest on chrg of Poss Drug Paraphernalia (M), at 843 Gulf Shores, Crystal Beach, TX, on 12/28/2017 22:34.

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SANTA LAND AT THE BIG STORE!

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas when Santa Claus landed at The Big Store (aka Gulf Coast Market). All the elves were at the ready when Santa took his place in effervescent Santa Land. Numerous boys, and girls and young hearted adults, directed by elf Kathy Dodds, lined up to whisper in Santa's ear.

Talented head elf Shelley Harris was in charge of The Big Store Christmas party this year. Everyone was dazzled when they entered Santa Land porthole where they were welcomed with bags of presents, a gift laden Christmooose and Santa Claus seated in the center. Other elves stepped right up to assist with organizing, handing out gifts, and heading folk toward elf Larry Netterville's refreshment area. Copious quantities of cookies, juices and candy canes tempted people to ignore any diet plans for the holidays.

Elf Michelle Bolin greeted guests and directed them on their path to Santa Claus. Frisky assisting elves frolicked among groceries and gifts. Elves Karen Nations, Sharon, Stacey Nations and Buffy Dibel enchanted all around the place. Jo Della Netterville (What The Elf?) and B. The Elf set a new standard for elf hood.

However, who did everyone want to meet? Santa Claus of course. Santa, close friend of Michael Stark, came all the way from Hampshire, Texas so he could hear the wishes of Bolivar Peninsula patrons. Although Mr. Claus is very, very busy with Trinity Church and many other engagements, he wouldn't miss out being on the Bolivar Peninsula.

Overheard were the Jones Family telling Santa they would like Barbie animals, Barbies, Hatchables, and a real live puppy. Other folk requests included hair bows, Legos, and more puppies. David Hernandez was thrilled with his gift of a stuffed boxer dog whom he quickly christened Duggie, The Boxer. Pierce Osten smiled with a big, "Cheese," as he posed with Maizie his gift puppy.

Yondle Davis from Houston, Texas, Mary Raney, Jim Vratiss, and owner Keith Zahar were among the adult visitors to speak with Mr. Claus. One month old Kelsie Arrowood had the honor of being the youngest to sit on Santa's lap.

Santa eventually leaped to his sleigh for he had many more places to visit. With a mighty, "Ho, ho, ho," and a gladsome, "Merry Christmas to all," he headed out to his other assignments. We can't wait for Santa Claus to return to Santa Land again next year!





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