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Welcome to the lifestyle issue. We always enjoy putting this theme together for you because we meet such interesting people and learn their stories.

Frank's Collision celebrates 16 years in business Sept. 18, 2021, and just opened the newest location on Wye Drive, the second in Baytown this year. See page 4.

Local attorney Dan Linebaugh is has seen many changes in the legal field since he became a member of the Texas Bar in 1985. He specializes in helping people hurt in a car, bus or truck crash. Read Alan Dale's story on page 8 and learn more things you may not have known about Linebaugh on the following pages.

Shelly and Otis Spurlock opened their business 'Love at First Sight' in 2017 providing high density ultrasound imagery to expectant mothers. The images are amazing, starting at four weeks. See page 14.

Texas Author Mark Lardas' new book 'The Vanished Texas Coast' is featured in Mark Fleming's story on page 19.

Matt Hollis tells the story of old-school wrestler Glenroy Harewood 'Bat Man' on page 20.

Hollis also features Councilwoman Heather Betancourth's new entrepreneurial venture 'Empower Her Gifts.' See page 23.

The Baytown Project by David Berkowitz is back on pages 26-28. We hope you enjoy.

Otis and Shelly Spurlock own Love at First Sight in Baytown

On the cover

High definition ultrasound imagery by Love at First Sight HD

The Baytown Sun

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Frank's Collision is 16

By Carol Skewes

Frank's Collision will celebrate 16 years in business Sept. 18.

Now with five locations, he started in 2003 with the purchase of the former Baytown Motors.

Then he added Dayton in 2010, Crosby in 2012, Webster in 2018 and the new Complex Repair Center, 204 Wye Drive in Baytown, in 2021.

One of Frank's goals is to have a two-shift operating shop at the Complex Repair Center.

In his early career, Frank worked for PPG, an auto-paint company and had previously worked for Lee Bates of Bates Collision. He was a painter for Martha Barnett, the former owner of Baytown Motors.

Frank asked to buy the business and the property at the same time, turning it into Frank's Collision.

He expanded the original location from just the front office and one garage to many other buildings along Wye Drive. He bought the former National Guard Armory in 2015, which now houses the administration office.

Frank was born at Darnall Army Hospital at Fort Hood, Texas, where his father, Charlie McClosky, served in the Army as a mechanic for 13-1/2 years. Frank’s father taught him the trade.

When Frank was 16, he purchased his first old car for $1,000, repaired it and sold it for $3,950, his first business deal. At 18, he sold and installed custom stereo systems.

In 2010, he painted a 1955 Maserati for a car show in Lake Como, Italy. The Maserati was recently sold for $5.1 million.

Frank graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and then Lee College with an associate's degree, before earning his bachelor's degree in Business Administration, from University of Houston Clear Lake later as a returning student with family responsibilities.

Frank still enjoys learning, visiting other successful shops around the country to network and get ideas. He sees what works for them. He is a problem solver always looking for new solutions that may be used in his market or be adapted to work here. He has made many friends. He is always willing to share ideas of his own too.

Frank is very generous with his employees, even those who are new to the company.

In 2017, when Hurricane Harvey hit, many employees’ homes were flooded. The Baytown, Crosby and Dayton shops flooded too. He sent help to his employees’ homes to muck out the damage and get them on their feet again. He has many long-tenured employees, probably because he takes such good care of them. He is interested in them and their families on a personal level.

“Frank is very engaged and hands-on in his business. He knows how many cars every location has at any given moment. He knows how many cars will be delivered each week,” said Mari Martinez, his marketing coordinator.

In 2008, the economy took a big hit, so Frank's Collision was hurt as well, and he looked for opportunities to bring people into his shop.” The Leprechaun costume was his first idea and Kory Whitley dressed as a gorilla at Halloween that year. They visited insurance agents, singing and dancing for them. The agents loved it and remembered who Frank was.

“He started investing more in costumes and would always bring something to the insurance offices. He dressed as Willie Nelson once, singing and playing guitar.

“The girls in the office were happy to take a break and sing along. When a customer would come into their office, they thought to refer to Frank's Collision and his business grew.

“Every now and then, he will still dress up again,” said Mari.

Frank's Collision customer service is very high quality.

He invests a lot in his marketing, customer service training and equipment. He strives for all his shops to deliver the same high-quality service.

Frank is obviously a very busy man. In his spare time, he enjoys boating, fishing, golf, guitar, remodeling design and landscaping, not to mention cars. More locations are always a possibility in the future.

He loves spending time with his two children, Emma Kate and Max.
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The City of Baytown's efforts to beautify the community through public art continue with the third phase of “Mini Murals.” These eye-catching Mini Murals are actually vinyl wraps applied to traffic cabinets at intersections across the city. While some cities have their mini murals painted, Baytown opted to utilize art from local artists and transform them into vinyl wraps. These vinyl wraps last longer, are easier to replace, and allow for a wide variety of art mediums to be displayed on the cabinets.

In April of 2021 the City of Baytown announced a call for artists which included two categories: Love Where You Live and Neighborhood Spirit. The first category, Love Where You Live, includes art that will foster community pride across the city. The second, Neighborhood Spirit, includes art that reflects children, diversity and unique neighborhood spirit.

“The Public Art Visioning Committee had their work cut out for them because we had so many great submissions,” says Sabrina Martin, community engagement coordinator. “This phase of mini murals features several mediums of art like acrylic, pencil drawing, yarn, and graphic design.”

The call for artists garnered a total of 85 applicants with 11 art pieces chosen by the Public Art Visioning Committee, which were installed in late July. Some designs were applied to new traffic cabinets along Alexander Drive, while others serve as replacement mini murals due to mandatory maintenance such as those along Baker Road.

Artists selected for this phase are Rachelle Dodson, Joshua Villegas, Aileen Harding, Megan Lowe, Felix Preciado, Adrian Sanchez, Mysti D. Jamison, Alysta Graham, Vianey Nicole and Ella Alden Pope.
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*Unlimited all attraction pass is valid for 4hrs from first use
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Covid-19 Safety Precautions in Place
By Alan Dale

If there is one thing Dan Linebaugh has done, he has made legal work an art form in Baytown.

Linebaugh, a certified specialist in truck accidents and personal injury trial law, has been a member of the Texas Bar since 1985.

With his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from South Texas College of Law and his bachelor of arts degree in speech communication from Youngstown State University, he has more than paid himself back in his career after his earlier years of educational toil.

“I worked my way through college as a radio disc jockey,” Linebaugh said. “I also took college courses in public speaking. This public speaking experience and education has helped me as a trial attorney when appearing in courtrooms before judges and juries.

DAN LINEBAUGH GIVES A UNIQUE LEGAL PERSPECTIVE
Continued from previous page

Also, I worked my way through law school as an insurance claims adjuster. There I found myself regularly negotiating case values with plaintiff attorneys.

“Toward also be deeply involved in monitoring litigation and our defense attorneys. As such, I was part of the decision-making process as to whether a case should settle or be tried to jury verdict. These experiences have proved invaluable when representing injured people in their claims against the insurance companies.”

His law practice focuses on helping people who have been injured in a car, bus or truck crash. Truck Accident Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy is a new specialty offered by the National Board according to Linebaugh.

“It was first offered in 2018,” he said. “I became certified as a specialist in Truck Accident Law in 2019. The certification requires robust deposition experience, hearing experience and trial experience. It also requires references from practicing attorneys and judges who have seen you perform in court.”

“Currently, there are only two attorneys in the Houston area who have been certified as specialists in truck accident law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.”

Linebaugh is one of those attorneys.

“Here’s how I came about working for the insurance industry to helping injured people,” Linebaugh began. “When I first got out of law school, I went to work for a prominent insurance defense law firm in Houston. We took many cases to trial and won them for our insurance clients. However, one day I tried a case against an injured worker and beat him out of his workers compensation benefits.

“Although it was a victory for the insurance company, it left me feeling hollow. I had to asked myself, ‘Is this how want I want to use my legal talent?’ ‘Do I want to go around defeating injured people out of their insurance claims?’ The answer was clearly, no.’”

That motivated Linebaugh to focus on joining a plaintiff’s law firm and use his expertise to aid injured people and in 1987 he came to Baytown to work for Glen Victory and Associates and the city has been his work home ever since.

“In my junior year of college, I began considering law, and I even sat for the LSAT after graduating college,” Linebaugh said. “But I put no real effort into studying and received poor test results. Also, after graduating college, I was ready for a fresh start. So, I moved to Texas.

“That’s when I landed the job as an insurance claims adjuster. I thought, ‘I can do what these guys are doing and I think I can do better than most of them.’ So, I made up my mind to go to law school, worked hard to improve my LSAT scores, was accepted into law school; the rest is history.”

Linebaugh may not be a character in Marvel Comics or the Man of Steel in DC, but he could be considered a real-life hero of sorts, wanting to help the “little guy.”

“Insurance companies have an army of litigation attorneys capable of battling claims filed by injured people,” Linebaugh said. “Many insurance companies have a deny, delay and defend approach to claims handling. It gives me great satisfaction to help injured people obtain the justice they deserve.”

During the time, Linebaugh has borne witness to plenty of changes in the industry.

“Probably the biggest change I’ve seen in law practice is to the technology,” he said. “When I first started practicing law our computers were essentially word processors. They were great for preparing legal papers and refining the written product, but that was the extent of it. Communication with opposing counsel was through landline telephones, mail or in person. And legal research was done in an old-fashioned law library full of books. Also, if we had a filing deadline, it was not unusual to hurry papers to the courthouse for hand delivery and filing.

“But over the years we have seen technology incorporated into the law practice. First there were cell phones, which allowed us to stay in contact with our office and opposing counsel from almost any place at any time. Fax machines came along about the same time. This allowed us to cut delivery cost to opposing counsel by simply delivering correspondence via fax. Later came e-mails, e-filings, e-service, further reducing the need for hand deliveries. Also, when the internet came along, legal research changed. The old-fashioned law books became obsolete and legal research can now be done online. This allows even the smallest of law firms access to legal resources throughout the nation without ever leaving the office. Most recently we started doing Zoom depositions and Zoom hearings thereby reducing the need to travel to opposing counsel’s office or to the courthouse.”

He considers the laundry list of changes to be for the betterment of practicing law although a lack of personal interaction has its drawbacks.

“Things are now streamlined toward getting the work done, with little reason or opportunity for social dialogue before or after a hearing or deposition,” he said.

Now, Linebaugh looks ahead and bigger and better can still be had.

“I’m looking to expand the law firm by adding another attorney who can help the firm continue its legacy of delivering great results to injured people needing our help,” he said.

It’s not always about the law for Linebaugh.

“In my spare time, I enjoy golf, reading, exercise and dabbling in the Spanish and German languages,” he said.

So, the man who grew up in smalltown Ohio is now one of Baytown. We are glad to have him.
Dan Linebaugh at work in the Linebaugh Law Office on the 6th floor of the Amegy Bank Building.

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10 things you didn’t know about Dan Linebaugh, Attorney at Law

1. Worked his way through college as a radio disc jockey.
2. Met his wife Joan at church.
3. Briefly shared office space with Baytown’s beloved Fred Hartman.
4. Became board certified in personal injury trial law within five years of entering law practice.
5. Taught third and fourth grade Sunday school at Memorial Baptist Church for over 10 years.
6. Honed his trial skills and techniques at The Trial Lawyer’s College in Dubois, Wyoming where he worked with legendary trial attorney Gerry Spence.
7. Coached Upward Basketball for seven years at Memorial Baptist Church Baytown and for three years at Second Baptist Baytown.
8. In his spare time enjoys golf, exercise and dabbling in the Spanish and German languages.
9. Has been asked to speak at legal programs throughout the nation, including conferences in California, Colorado, Florida, Ohio and Tennessee.
10. In 2019 became board certified as a specialist in Truck Accident Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.
By Carol Skewes

Love at First Sight was the spotlighted Black-owned business in August. Shelly and Otis Spurlock are co-owners and opened their business in 2017.

Shelly worked in radiology in corporate America, performing ultrasounds for over 20 years. She is a ultrasonic technologist specializing in obstetrics, gynecology and genetics. Her husband, Otis, traveled working in the oil and gas industry until his retirement.

Their business, Love at First Sight, is a one-stop shop for a new mother, complete with a viewing waiting room, observation room with theater seating for family members and a boutique for custom baby items.

“They can enjoy the experience with you, with music and large screen TVs for viewing the baby’s images. When people come in for an exam they may want friends and family to see the baby via the ultrasound monitor,” said Shelly Spurlock.

The boutique features handmade items that can be customized.

They opened in September 2017. Shelly says the pandemic really helped her business because there has been a baby boom and people need their ultrasound testing services.

Ultrasounds start at $50 and go up to $239, for non-diagnostic ultrasounds. They do not accept insurance, since this is an elective test, but a flex-spending account can be used. Ultrasounds can be performed for exams other than pregnancy, but these are non-diagnostic, only for measurements.

An ultrasound can be performed as early as four weeks to confirm a pregnancy by identifying the gestational sack. At five weeks, fetal pulse can be detected and at six weeks, the baby’s heart rate can be monitored.

“We use sound waves, no radiation. This is the safest modality,” said Shelly. “Clients can come in as often as they like. We have some come in every two weeks to chronicle their pregnancy.”

“We also can provide a download of your child’s heartbeat to a chip and can insert it into a teddy bear or other item of your choice,” added Shelly.

According to their website, Love At First Sight is an oasis for one's maternal experience. Registered sonographer Shelly Spurlock is a seasoned veteran with decades of extensive experience in medical diagnostic ultrasonography. Love at First Sight is registered with the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Cardiovascular Credentialing International and has obtained licensure in the registry for Nuchal Translucency Quality Review.

Their foundational statement "Where love is felt before it's seen" is the bridge that connects one's initial emotion of confirming pregnancy to the live documentation of one's maternal journey.

Utilizing state of the art ultrasound equipment, Love at First Sight uses the HD Samsung A35 ultrasound unit. This enables the sonographer to provide advanced exemplary imaging in 2D, 3D, 4D, HD and live streaming.

Love at First Sight is located at 1642 W. Baker Road, Suite C, Baytown. They can be reached at 832-695-2764 or on their website: www.loveatfirstsighthd.com or email: Info@LoveAtFirstSightHD.com

Hours are Monday 10-2, Tuesday 10-4, Thursday 10-4 and Friday 10-2. Saturdays by appointment only. Closed Wednesday and Sunday.
Gina Guillory and members of the BOB Alliance spotlighted Love at First Sight recently as a local Black-owned business.

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Reimagine your discards as a work of art. The Art League of Baytown wants to reward your creative recycling, reworking and repurposing of materials to create new art with cash prizes in its Upcycle Art Challenge, which is accepting submissions through Sept. 17.

The exhibit of upcycled artwork, which is co-sponsored by ChevronPhillips Chemical, opens Oct. 15 with a reception at the ALB gallery, 110 W. Texas Ave. Prizes range from $50 to $500. The best of show winner will get $700.

“The Art League of Baytown is excited to host, and participate in, the Upcycle Art Challenge sponsored by Chevron Phillips. We share the goal with our sponsor of raising environmental awareness through upcycling,” said Kay Lynn Whitcomb, ALB president.

The competition is open to residents of Baytown, La Porte, Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Crosby and Deer Park plus members of the Art League of Baytown.

“One of Chevron Phillips Chemical’s core values is environmental stewardship and the company has been making significant investment in advanced recycling technology. Recycling plastics and chemicals back into feedstocks will reduce waste and allow for the reuse of these valuable resources,” said Heather Betancourth, community relations representative, Chevron Phillips Chemical. “We’re committed to supporting and promoting the individuals and communities where we work, which is why we are proud to sponsor Baytown’s first Upcycle Challenge.”

Individuals or teams (clubs, families) can enter. Art can be 2D or 3D, but each piece must feature 80% material recycled from some previous use.

There are two categories: decorative and functional. All works must be safe to handle, fit through a standard doorway and weigh less than 50 pounds. All 3-D work must be easily moved by two people and not exceed 30 by 30 by 72 inches. All 2D work must be wired and/or ready to hang. No sawtooth hangers.

It is a juried competition with a $20 entry fee. Entries will be judged on visual impact, creativity/originality, composition/design, craftsmanship and material usage.

For details and to enter: artleagueofbaytown.org.
By Mark Fleming

Perched at the top of Galveston Bay near the joining of four navigable waterways — Buffalo Bayou, Cedar Bayou, the San Jacinto River and the Trinity River — Baytown has always been tied to the sea.

We take for granted the massive ocean-going tankers that line the ExxonMobil docks, the forest of giant cranes unloading container ships, the cargo passing below us as we drive across the Hartman Bridge and the ever-present stream of barges.

Long before the days of steel ships powered by oil, the bays, bayous and rivers that surround us were already the center of life in the region, from the small oar-propelled boats of the area’s first inhabitants to stately sailing ships in the days of the Republic of Texas and before.

A new book by Texas author Mark Lardas captures the magic of an earlier time when the sea was the only superhighway moving people and goods between Texas and the rest of the world.


Each chapter tells a story, from the earliest recorded European landing in Texas — near Galveston Bay in 1528 — to the unfinished saga of what will happen to the state’s namesake battleship.

While none of the chapters take place on Baytown shores, Galveston Bay is prominent throughout the book.

One is the story of the Zavala, the first and only steam warship of the Republic of Texas.

At a time when wind still ruled the sea, the Republic commissioned a steam warship in 1839. At the time, the Mexican Navy — the Republic’s biggest threat — had no steam ships. The United States Navy only had one.

After a short but memorable career, the Zavala was deliberately run ashore in Galveston in 1842 to keep it from sinking. It slowly sank into mud and memory until its remnants were finally excavated in 2015 to clear the way to expand the cruise ship terminal.

Before the great Galveston hurricane of 1900, there was the story of Indianola, once the second largest port in the state. On Matagorda Bay, the city suffered a catastrophic hurricane in 1875. Like Galveston, it rebuilt. Unlike Galveston, it failed to prepare for another major storm. In 1886, another major storm came, turning both the port and the city into just a memory.

The book has a chapter on the great Galveston hurricane you may not have heard of — the hurricane of 1915.

Unlike Indianola, Galveston had learned from its disaster and embarked on what was at the time the largest civil engineering project in U.S. history, building the seawall and raising the elevation of the city itself. When the even more powerful storm hit in 1915, the island suffered major, but not catastrophic, damage.

The book ends with a chapter on the “captain” of the Texas. John “Tiger Jack” McKeown served 13 years on the ship as a machinist’s mate-chief petty officer before and after World War II and was part of the crew that brought the ship on its final voyage to become a museum. After being discharged from the Navy, he served as the ship’s caretaker for 21 years, living on the ship until shortly before his death in 1970.

For any fan of Texas history or lore of the sea, “The Vanished Texas Coast” has tales worth reading.

The seawall protected those behind it. Only eleven people sheltered behind it died. It was unable to prevent major damage on the north side of the island, however. The hurricane washed away all of the bridges on the causeway linking Galveston Island to the mainland. UHDL.

A model of Zavala, Texas’s first and only steam warship. This model was commissioned by Clive Cussler after his search for the ship in 1986. Courtesy Clive Cussler.

Zavala’s boiler after being recovered from the bottom of Galveston’s harbor in 2015. It and the other surviving artifacts of Zavala are located at the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport, Texas. Courtesy of the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M.
OLD-SCHOOL WRESTLER MAKES HOME IN BAYTOWN

By Matt Hollis

Glenroy Harewood might be pushing 86, but he is as spry as when he first entered the wrestling ring in the 1960s.

Harewood wrestled at the famed Sam Houston Coliseum in the 1970s when Paul Boesch served as its announcer on Friday nights. He wrestled with the likes of Andre the Giant, The Junkyard Dog (Sylvester Ritter), Earl Maynard, Fritz von Erich, and Hulk Hogan.

Before entering the wrestling world, Harewood joined the British Navy when he was 18 years old. He worked his way up from cabin boy to captain, even taking command of the HMS Flying Fish.

But it was in his 30s Harewood embarked on a career as a professional middle-weight wrestler in the Southern Stranglers Wrestling Club. He was called The Bat Man. He eventually won a championship belt in Venezuela.

Then he met famed wrestler Rick Flair.

“Rick Flair was my buddy, and he said if you come over here (to the U.S.), you will make some money,” Harewood said.

Harewood wrestled in Trinidad, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and many other places before coming to the U.S.

“I used to do ‘show off’ things on the rings,” he said. “I used to go on top of the rope and make some flips and dropkick. (Rick Flair) did the same thing, too. So, we became wrestling friends.

I imitated him. I saw what he was doing and wanted to do it, too.”

Harewood said his wife, Hilda, began to call him “Mr. Showoff.”

When he came to the U.S., Harewood wrestled at the Sam Houston Coliseum, becoming a fan favorite.

“I used to go on the rope and do all kinds of dropkicks,” he said.

Harewood started wrestling in school in Venezuela.

“I wanted to be a bad guy in fighting, and I wanted to be the one that no one could whip,” he said. “I always tried to be the best in the class. So, every Friday, we had fights to see who was the better person, and I became the favorite.”

Soon, he met Mil Máscaras, the heavyweight champion in Mexico. Then he met India’s famed wrestler, Tiger Jeet Singh.

“People began to sit around the ring and make bets,” Harewood said. “They asked, ‘Would I make a dropkick on the rope?’”

Harewood’s wrestling techniques were great for a match but hazardous
“It was dangerous, but I thought I was doing something to gain fame,” he said. “If I hit someone with a chair, the people would want to see us fight the next week. Wrestling was something that you had to do something to bring back the crowd, or they’d boo. When you see The Bat Man go on the rope and flip…this is what we did to make money.”

After winning the belt in Venezuela in the 1960s, being in the U.S. was a breath of fresh air for Harewood.

“In the U.S., all I got here was fame from being a favorite,” Harewood said. “The crowd liked me for what I did on the rope. When I went in the Coliseum on Friday, the crowd was looking to see if Bat Man was going to go on the rope and do something. They like me for what I used to do, so I have to do that to please them. If I do not do it, I would not have the favorite.”

Harewood eventually moved to Baytown with his wife, where he now resides quietly afar from the crowds of the Houston Coliseum. But he is not entirely happy with the wrestling of today.

“What I watch on TV now, that is a pack of nonsense, he said. “It is not wrestling. The front and back headlock, the front arm lock, the arm hold, all of the different things you see, and a clinch. The crowd wants to see how you get out of that clinch. What is going to happen? How is he going to come out of that? But now, you are not seeing nothing. They are not wrestling. You are seeing a lot of pushing out and not wrestling.”

Harewood feels some sports have stayed pretty much the same, but not wrestling.

“Golf, basketball, and baseball go way back and are the same, but wrestling is something different today,” he said. “People are doing it today to be famous, but it is dangerous.”

Harewood will be 86 in February, but he is happy despite having diabetes, high blood pressure, and weighing much lighter than the 200-plus pounds he used to weigh.

“I am not an old man,” he said. “Age is just a number.”

Harewood has been married to Hilda since 1956. They have five children—four boys and one girl. The couple became U.S. citizens in 1985.
Baytown Sculpture Trail planned

Modeled after the Sculpture Walk that exists in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the outdoor exhibit will feature twenty or more sculptures of varying sizes that will be displayed year-round in the Downtown Arts District of Baytown, Texas. Sculptors will be invited to submit their sculptures and the art will be on display for a year. Each artist whose sculpture is selected will receive an honorarium for participating. The sculptures, which will be fabricated from various materials, including steel, bronze, marble, wood, aluminum, and stainless steel, will be no less than 36 inches and will sit on pedestals.

The winning artists will receive cash awards. Each sculpture will have a sponsor who will make a contribution and the sponsor will be named on a plaque on the pedestal.

The Sculpture Trail will be free and open to the public. It will attract art lovers, schools, day cares, families, residents of the city and visitors from near and far. The city already has a growing collection of fantastic murals, specifically in the Downtown Arts District. The sculptures will improve the aesthetics of the community and raise the awareness of the quality of life in this region.

Historic Baytown’s Arts Culture and Entertainment Council (“A.C.E. District”) was formed in 2016 by a group of local business owners who decided it was time to do their part to help revitalize the historic downtown Baytown area. Prior to the launch of the A.C.E. District, the City of Baytown started investing a lot of money on infrastructure in the downtown area, including the purchase of many dilapidated buildings which were knocked down to build a beautiful Town Square and a parking lot. The city also updated the streetscapes, added trash cans, benches, lighting, and landscaping.

Incorporated in 2017, the A.C.E. District is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to promote the revitalization of historic Baytown through projects in the arts, culture, and entertainment. Each year, the A.C.E. District hosts an increasing number of events, including the Christmas on Texas Avenue festival, car shows, and movie nights. A.C.E. District also donates art around the downtown area, helps new business owners set up a home for their business, and works with the City of Baytown to upgrade the aesthetics of the area. This summer they hosted our first music festival, and continue to host other events to drive foot traffic to the area.

Within the past five years, the downtown area of Baytown has blossomed with many murals, and an award-winning art installation known as “Umbrella Alley”. In 2019, the City renamed the area the “Downtown Arts District” to emphasize the direction that they would like the area to develop. The A.C.E. District is proud to have facilitated a part of that growth. The Sculpture Trail is their biggest endeavor since inception, and they are excited about adding this program to the successes that have come with the growth of the organization.

In Year One, the ACE District is raising funds to support the program, selecting a committee to select art for the year and approving 20 entries. Schools will be invited to visit the Sculpture Trail in 2022.

In Year Two 20-25 artists will be chosen to participate.

In Year Three the ACE District hopes to hire a part-time director for the program and pick another 20-25 artists.

In Year Four a full-time director will be hired and another 25-30 artists chosen.

By Year Five, the program should be sustainable with 25-30 artists chosen each year.
Heather Betancourth has accomplished quite a lot in her career, including winning two terms as a councilwoman in Baytown. Aside from being an elected official, Betancourth is a professional communicator who works in the energy industry. She sometimes dabbles in entrepreneurial pursuits but always “champions gender parity.”

In her quest to assist other women to find their path and endow them with gifts made from hands that believe in elevating them to the next level, Betancourth established her own business, Empower Her Gifts, which can be found at www.empowerhergifts.com.

What is Empower Her Gifts?
Betancourth explained Empower Her Gifts is an online retail store offering ready-to-ship gift collections women love and only includes products from organizations dedicated to uplifting women.

“Products are carefully sourced from a network of global partners who are either female small-business owners or are fair trade organizations who work with women to provide them with livable wages in exchange for their work, oftentimes giving them their only alternative to poverty or sex trafficking,” she said.

The gift collections start at $30, or you can build a box. Products are all sourced from female artisans who make each product by hand.

“This ensures our products are one-of-a-kind and come in small batches,” Betancourth said. “Product choices change quarterly and include stationary, jewelry, apparel, kitchenware, cooking products, bath products, and more.”

There are seasonal collections available that celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and more. Additionally, each gift box comes with a story card about the products inside, so the recipient knows the empowering work behind each item.

Empowering women through an online business.
Betancourth said Empower Her Gifts assists women in numerous ways.
“When you purchase an Empower Her Gifts for yourself or for someone else, you are not only sending them products that are motivating and inspirational, but the purchase supports the women who made the products,” Betancourth said. “We believe empowered women empower women, so by using this ‘pay it forward’ model, we believe one empowered woman has the potential to create infinitely more.”

Betancourth said their gift boxes aim to achieve three things towards this goal:
• Champion and connect people
• Support women seeking financial independence
• Provide empowered women a mechanism to pass the empowerment forward to others

Betancourth is focused on Empower Her Gifts’ mission – helping to create a better world for women.

“We envision a future where all women feel valued and supported, stronger and more confident, and empowered to control their lives and claim their rights,” she said. “Through the uplifting support of others, women are more motivated to take action for themselves, their families, and their community. At the core of Empower Her Gifts is the belief that society is better when all members have the opportunity to contribute equally. Our mission is to motivate and inspire women’s confidence and autonomy.”

Motivate, inspire, celebrate.
Betancourth said by sending an Empower Her Gifts to a friend, colleague, or someone you want to encourage, you are sending a message of motivation and inspiration. Send your gift in a personalized fashion with a hand-written note, or upgrade from a standard shipping box to a keepsake box with magnetic closure.

“For those who organize large-scale events, Empower Her Gifts can make it more memorable with never-before-seen swag your event attendees will actually want to keep,” Betancourth said. “These gift boxes are also a unique and inspiring way to fundraise for a non-profit organization.”

Any 501c3 organizations receives 10% off each box. They are also encouraged to re-sell the gift boxes at full retail value. Or apply to be a featured non-profit organization with a customized gift box, and the company will donate 5% of the total sale of boxes to your organization.

For more, visit www.empowerhergifts.com, email info@empowerhergifts.com visit the Facebook site @empowerhergifts, or the Instagram site at @empowerhergifts.
The Healthy Sip Owner Destiny Scott Gobert spoke to us recently about her motivation to start her own business in Baytown. Destiny said the grace of God led her to finally follow her dream to open her own business. “To help people live healthier lives,” is her passion. We serve energy teas that help with mental clarity and focus, and smoothies with three levels of protein. I have always wanted to stay healthy, and maintain a healthy weight.”

Destiny described their products as a lifestyle change.

She also is a licensed surgery assistant in a Clear Lake plastic surgeon’s office,

“I opened my storefront because COVID pushed me to go into business for myself. We were shut down (the plastic surgery office) during COVID. When COVID hit, God knew I needed to do this. I put it on paper and planned. I started making the shakes and teas out of my home with curbside delivery. I found this location on Baker at the end of May and in July my build out started. I have been open since August 4, 2020. We are about to hit a year.”

The Healthy Sip celebrated its one year anniversary Aug. 6.

“We are always trying to acknowledge businesses of the week. We do donations. ”We are involved in the community,” said Destiny.

Destiny is also an extreme Hip-Hop step instructor, teaching Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at The Healthy Sip.

Her inspiration comes from the fact that she loves to see people’s transformation. “I was on the TV show ‘Skin Tight,’ (with the plastic surgeon for whom she is employed). To be a part of people's journey, seeing them conquer their goals, inspires me.”

Destiny is married to Mario Gobert. Her husband works with her in the business, but still works a job in Port Arthur.

They have four sons, D’Andre Charlot, Mario Gobert Jr., Marquel Gobert and Christopher Gobert, who play sports, two at Sterling High School, one at Gentry Junior School and one at Crockett Elementary.

The Health Sip is located at 2121 W. Baker and can be reached at 281-739-2557.
“I’m thinking about officially quitting nursing. I’m just tired. I’ve been at it for 43 years. I started in doctors’ offices in hospitals. Since then, I’ve done everything known to mankind.

“I worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at their women’s prison farm in Texas City. I was a case manager at UT Medical Branch in Galveston. I’ve run two adult daycare centers, which was my favorite job. And 12 of my years in nursing were in psych. Harris County Psychiatric Center had a position open in admissions, and they needed somebody pretty quick. So I thought, what the heck. I’ll give it a try. Oh, man, it was something else.

“When I started, guys would come in wearing aluminum caps. They said it was keeping the government and satellites from zapping their heads. Every year we’d get a visit from a guy who told us he was Tupac Shakur, and he needed to be admitted. We saw a lady who claimed to be the mother of Michael Jackson’s daughter. She said, ‘Michael Jackson was my husband.’

“There were times when people were truly psychotic. But typically, it was all drug-induced stuff. One time a woman came in from the streets and said, ‘I’m a vampire. I feel like sucking blood tonight. So I thought to be safe, I’d come here.’ I tried breaking her. I acted all dumb and said, ‘I remember when I was in nursing school, we learned there were like three main types of blood.’ She said, ‘No, there’s four.’ And I said, ‘Right, there’s four. So do they all taste alike?’ I mean, I tried to get her to crack. But she was into it. She was really character driven. I tried to get her to a place where I could tell this was all just so much hooey. It was during the time of those ‘Twilight’ movies. The work there could be pretty challenging, but I found it fascinating.

“Now after all these years, I’m tired. I think I’m ready to try something else besides nursing. But I’m not quite sure what. I’m still curious about stuff. I’m not ready to say, ‘OK, I’m done. Give me the first shovelful.’ I just haven’t found what I want to do with the rest of my life yet.”
“When I was 39, I was told that I had congestive heart failure. It was a virus that got in there. It was tough to even walk across the kitchen. But over time I got stronger and stronger, and they moved me down from the transplant list. I got tired of sitting around, so I went back to work for quite a long time.

“Then it reared its head again about five years ago. I had to wear a vest that would shock me if my heart went off rhythm. As things progressed, they put in a pump to keep my heart going. That was one of the first times I kind of cried and let it all out. I realized this thing is not going backwards. My heart was failing. I needed a new one.

“That’s where Justin Smith comes in. He was 24 years old, and driving the back roads not far from his home in Silsbee, when he was involved in an accident. Tragically, he lost his life. But God bless him, he was an organ donor. Five organs from his body went to help other people, all in Texas. I was so very fortunate to receive his heart.

“I had the transplant on May 28, 2018. And maybe a year later, I got to meet his mom, his dad, his stepfather, his brothers and his sister at a small cafe in Silsbee. Man, there were a lot of tears that day. I wanted to hold them back and be strong for Justin’s mom, but it wasn’t possible. I mean, we held each other for a while because she felt like she was hugging her son.

“She told me how Justin used to say to her in different situations, ‘Everything’s going to be all right, mama. It’ll be all right.’ So I looked at her, and while gently patting my heart, I said, ‘You know what, it’ll be all right, mama. It’ll be all right.’

“I think about Justin and his family every day. How can I not? I turned 67 in August. And his unselfish act of being a registered donor saved my life.”

Tim Reed is a longtime resident of Highlands.
“I’m Mexican American. My parents are from Mexico, and I was the first one born here. I’ve always been working to help out the family. It’s mostly been in sales. But in my last position, I realized that I was not completely happy working for somebody else.

“On the side, I started doing some pet sitting. I love animals and I love to hustle. I’m always going to make money somehow. I just wanted my pet sitting business to become my hustle. So I decided to go for it. I began doing it full-time last July.

“I take care of people’s furbabies at my home. I check on them at the owners’ homes. And I do dog walking, too. I’ve also taken care of other animals, like little turtles and parakeets.

“It started slow, mainly because of COVID. People didn’t want anybody in their homes. They weren’t traveling much anyway, so they didn’t need my services. It got a little discouraging there for a while. Then a few months ago, things started picking up. People were ready to get back out there and go on vacation.

“So right now it’s going really well, and I love what I’m doing. I enjoy being my own boss, having that freedom to kind of make my own schedule. And I’m getting to be around animals all day, which is great.

“I just have this big old heart. I have a lot of compassion, even for the smallest of animals. I told my fiancé that if I could have all the dogs in the world, I would. But with the house we’re in right now, that’s probably not the best idea.”
RIBBON CUTTING

Owners Tammi Scott and Gustavo Guzman with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and friends. Not pictured is owner Daniel Puentes.

The Dirty Daiquiri's ribbon cutting ceremony with Baytown Chamber of Commerce.
For Jeremy Moses, home made sense and that is where he now finds himself.

The 2007 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, the one-time all-everything quarterback for the Robert E. Lee Ganders and eventual player of the year at the Division I Football Championship Series ranks, Moses has returned to Baytown albeit, sporting different colors:

A rivals colors no less.

Moses stepped into the offensive coordinator position at Ross S. Sterling High School, the place he most wanted to beat back in his own prep days and the one he hopes to help push toward success this fall.

“I get jabs here and there, but everybody who jabs me knows why I am doing it,” Moses said. “I get the sense that Lee is back to going on the up-and-up as far as talent and getting momentum in the town. (REL assistant) Jaymond Cleveland has been a big part of my life for a long time and especially growing up here in Baytown. It’s more about the more competition I can supply to Lee’s end, the better off Baytown is going to be.

“I think I can make Sterling, on the offensive side, be able to be more competitive—not just against Lee with me being at Sterling—but within the district we are in. It’s all about making Baytown sports more competitive.”

It is a welcome return for a son of Baytown considering the last time he competed for the district, Moses had high hopes for his senior year with the Ganders but broke his leg early on in the team’s first game of the 2006 campaign and then came back for the team’s only playoff game, a one-point defeat to North Shore.

Moses readily admits that his high school resume wasn’t as big as those of other Ganders signal callers such as Clint Stoerner, Drew Tate, Ell Robertson, Jermaine Alfred, Brian Johnson and Josh Jones during their prep careers, but he takes solace in how his collegiate years went.

He went up to S.F. Austin and started as a true freshman halfway through the season.

“My high school career was nothing compared to those other guys, but they can’t touch me when it comes to the college career,” Moses said. “I say that tongue in cheek as well. Once upon a time I could throw it around a little bit.

“I couldn’t ask for a better environment that allowed me to do what I was able to do.”

Moses started at quarterback for Stephen F. Austin from 2007 to 2010 and helped the program to back-to-back conference titles in 2009 and 2010 after a 0–11 2007 season.

He was a two-time Southland Conference Player of the Year and in 2010, he led the FCS in pass attempts, completions, touchdown passes and passing yards; he won the Walter Payton Award, becoming the first Southland Conference player to win the award.

Moses still holds the records at S.F. Austin while running an offense similar
to the one he ran at REL.

He attempted 85 passes in a game completing 57 – in a win over Sam Houston State. Moses holds record for career completions (1,184), attempts (1,893), yards (13,201), touchdowns (121) and had a career completion percentage (62.5).

After that he began his coaching career by working for Terry Bowden at North Alabama in 2011, before returning to S.F. Austin as an assistant from 2012-2018.

“(Bowden) gave me a lot of freedoms and I was able to communicate with him through game days,” Moses said. “It was awesome and gave me room to grow as a coach and he set demands on expectations of just daily assignments of what my expectations would be.”

His first truly paid job was as a receivers coach at S.F. Austin.

He moved on to Clear Lake High School to become the program’s passing game coordinator.

Now he’s back at Baytown.

“It’s rewarding and a whole lot different when I grew up on the streets and know a lot about the daily lives of the people who walk in and out of the buildings,” Moses said. “Being able to relate to work that some of these people put in and being related for that work is rewarding.”

He has enjoyed working for the Sterling program under head coach Robert Toomer.

“I’ve been working underneath him and seeing how a head coach operates on a daily basis and the detail he puts into the job,” Moses said. “He allows kids to be kids and coaches to be coaches, but also have everybody else know what the expectations and demands are. He does it very fluidly, so I am impressed by that and excited to learn that from him …

“… to learn when to push the gas and press the break.”

Moses works in a credit recovery class at Sterling and prior to that was a special education inclusion teacher at Clear Lake.

District lines have changed over the years and now the similarities between his alma mater and his current home are much more alike.

Regardless of his workplace, Moses is home.

“The same mix of kids that go to Lee now go to Baytown Sterling,” Moses said. “After going to Lee High School, which hasn’t always been the highest income area and being a part of that culture and knowing what it was like on the other spectrum when I was graduated, it was different.

“Now when I walk the halls at Sterling, it’s no different than when I was at Lee. It’s a very familiar feeling to the culture that I grew up in.”
UNITY WOMEN IN ACTION

Caters to the Senior Saints as well as to Tender Ages, According to Sandra Harris

Unity Women in Action was put together by retired women wanting to give back and help working parents. It could be eating out, a play, a movie or just a walk on the beach! It is our desire to share wisdom and culture during summer break. “To be a positive influence on our future generations to build a legacy of not only footprints in sand but also the heart and mind. Help them grow,” Harris said. “Just a humanitarian service especially in times of uncertainty. Our ministry is to give back!”

Hats off to The Mustard Seed Tea Room. The girls were adorned with there hats. Karmyn Williams, Sydney Jones, Skylar Jones, Railynn Warner, Zayda Williams, Zuri Williams, Nahla Allen, Ava Hayes, Emersyn White and Sada Collins.

We are growing! 2021-2022 School year Let’s Continue to Grow!

Time to open our books. We stop by our famous Library where reading can take us place never imagined before.

2021-2022 we are jumping to a great start to a successful year.
Baytown Chamber of Commerce Mixer

At

Community Toyota • Honda • Kia

Carol Bell of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Bell, Alondra Solcido of Geico and Kathy Jeager of Virginia Malone & Associates

Community Toyota-Honda-Kia co-owner Roger Elswick, David Smith, Coldwell Banker Realtor Charlotte Oldbury and Jim Wadzinski

Kelsey Prince, Josh Rucker, Nancy Rodriguez and Sharon Jackson of Sterling-White and Baytown Chamber member Joann Rodgers

Mike Wilson of Texas First Bank, Michelle Offutt of Cease Addition Now, Neisa Manraj of Neighbors Emergency Center, Bret Gardella of the City of Baytown and Julie DeTorre of Chambers Health
Welcome Back to School

Luus Munoz, principal of San Jac Elem and Victoria Maldonado, 4, Kim Hillis, CIS with San Jac Elem stop to pose for a photo.

Jovette Monlina and Danica Cruz, both 1st, walking to their 1st grade class.

Kristin Reyes, PE teacher, Adrian Amezcua, 4th, and his aunt Hilda Lopez, Attendance Clerk at San Jac Elem

Anthony Coronado hugs his daughter Adalyn Grace Coronado, on her first day of pre-k

Armani Martinez, 10, Kathy Holland, principal of GCM, and Angelina De Hoyos, 10, chat with students in Angie Johnson classroom.

Fatima Karimi, pre-k and Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Randy O’Brien

President of the GC School Board Ricky Clem helps out Samuel Howell, 5th grade.

Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman
School is open and so are COVID-19 and Delta viruses. These viruses are sweeping the earth without discrimination, attacking all demographics. Who is the target? The human race.

We must take action to save ourselves, children, family, loved ones and even people we do not know. We must work together for the protection of all generations to come. Can we save our beloved United States and unite as one nation to save and revitalize earth beyond life as we know it at this moment in time? Time keeps on ticking into the future with or without you, rapid count down! Scientists, CDC facts, vaccinations, number of deaths and educated practicing experts are not lies. The life-or-death question is: Are you next? We adults must practice the SMART approach as we make decision ‘To Mask or Not Mask?’. The elements of SMART are knowing the Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Based solutions to any problem. Houston (and Earth), we have a problem. The great news is we are the solution.

We must drop the social appearances and political party affiliations and do what’s right for the life of everyone including the next stranger you meet. Join the war on fighting the Covid-19 and Delta viruses. Resilience is Not Being Silent: Mask Up!

Question: To Mask or Not to Mask?

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said Sunday on ‘CBS Face the Nation’ that the country is at a “fork in the road” when it comes to opening schools amid a resurgent coronavirus wave. “We’re clearly at a fork in the road in this country.”

Updated changes for State of Texas: According to WFAA-TV, the Texas Education Agency’s new guidance advised the following: Schools do not have to tell parents about a positive case of COVID-19. Schools do not have to conduct any contact tracing among children when someone tests positive for COVID-19. If schools do contract tracing for a positive case, parents can still send their child to school — even if they have close contact with an infected student. Experts have been warning recently that the delta variant is spreading to children. The variant can infect children and cause severe disease.

What does the CDC suggest for children? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommendations for keeping children safe from the novel coronavirus, especially when they’re in school. The list of advice continues:

• Eligible children should get the COVID-19 vaccine.
• There should be universal masking in schools.
• Children should keep 3 feet of distance between each other.
• Schools should tout handwashing and disinfecting of surfaces.
• Schools should embrace contact tracing if there is a positive case.
• Infected children should stay home if they’re sick.
• Children should stay home from school if they have been infected or have been in close contact with someone who was infected.


The next step is your decision: Be resilient.
Making a difference – right here in Baytown and Mont Belvieu

While COVID-19 posed numerous challenges for face-to-face volunteering, our employees continued to find ways to safely lend a hand in our community. Baytown Area employees volunteer thousands of hours in support of more than 200 local non-profit organizations in the community. Whether we are assisting United Way agencies through virtual Days of Caring, joining together with community members to serve at Hearts and Hands of Baytown, or reading to students from local elementary schools through our Partners in Education Virtual Bookworm Club program, giving back to our community is a core value.