



Carmage Walls Commentary Prize

2018 Entry Form

Author's Title: Managing editor

Newspaper: The Baytown Sun

Address: 1301 Memorial Drive

City: Baytown

State: Texas

ZIP: 77521

Phone: 281-425-8016

Email:

david.bloom@baytownsun.com

Submitted by: David Bloom

Title of Person Submitting: Managing editor

Phone Number: 281-425-8016

E-mail Address: david.bloom@baytownsun.com

What is the subject/title of the entry? Hurricane Harvey

Date(s) of publication? Aug. 29, 2017, Sept. 1, 2017, Sept. 3, 2017, Sept. 24, 2017, Oct. 1, 2017 and March 4, 2018

Is your newspaper under 50,000 circulation? Under

Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved.

In times of crisis, the voice of a local newspaper is vital to a community struggling to recover. It can comfort those afflicted. It can question whether the crisis was exacerbated by a failure to prevent it.

The flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey was such a crisis for the greater Baytown area. And throughout, Sun editorials gave the community the voice it needed.

There were many remarkable moments during and in the aftermath of the storm. Volunteers with boats went into stricken neighborhoods, plucking families off roofs, rescuing elderly people in wheelchairs from the second floors of their homes and taking them to safety.

But the storm and the massive flooding it caused exposed the region's vulnerabilities, and the editorials did not shy away from demanding action at the nearby Superfund site.

Opinion pieces that fail to compel a reaction and discussion fall short of their purpose. The six Harvey-related editorials all elicited strong responses among readers and officials.

OUR VIEW

Cleaning up after Harvey

After an exhausting, nerve-wracking weekend, the floodwaters that wreaked havoc in Baytown, Mont Belvieu and across the greater Houston area will soon — we pray — begin to recede.

This past weekend, Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented flooding. The situation posed by Harvey continues to be life-threatening, and all residents of Harris and Chambers counties should continue to heed the warnings of local officials and emergency personnel.

Efforts to look on the bright side notwithstanding, the fact remains: this situation has been catastrophic.

Hundreds, maybe thousands, of families have been devastated by days of rain and flooding in the greater Houston region and — along with people elsewhere in Texas — are facing serious damage to homes and properties. Some have lost almost all their possessions. People will be homeless for weeks to come.

And as the rain starts to taper off, it's clear the challenges are only beginning for those whose property has been flooded.

The situation is all the more exacerbated because the cleanup process is slower and in many ways more complicated than surviving such a storm.

We counsel patience, please.

The catastrophe visited upon Baytown and many other communities will be multiplied by several factors in the next few weeks.

Repairs to public and private property will be expensive and time-consuming.

The process of repair — whether emotional, financial or negotiating the bureaucracy — will take time, and not everyone will be made whole.

The campaign to restore homes, buildings, streets and schools, and to remove the muddy reminders of the flood, also will take time. The mess will make getting from here to there frustrating and sometimes infuriating.

So far, we have withstood the storm. The next test is keeping a positive, helpful spirit during recovery.

We are in this together. Please continue to be safe.

— David Bloom

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What a great memory!

Remember when Hurricane Rita came thru the Houston-Baytown area in 2005?

I was pastor of the St. John's United Methodist Church on South Alexander. On Sunday morning, we had no power and it was really hot. Most of my congregation had evacuated North but I had stayed. I opened up the church and decided that if I had anybody to show, we would have church in the fellowship hall where we had lots of windows. I opened the windows and doors and arranged a few chairs.

Lo and behold — at church time, eight intrepid souls showed up. One marvelous person brought an ice chest full of cold bottled water!

We had a nice informal service, complete with acapella singing and fanning with funeral home fans.

What a great memory!

Rev. Dave Avis
Cass County, Texas

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date:

In 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division marched down the Champs Elysees in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

In 1965, Gemini 5, carrying astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles "Pete" Conrad, splashed down in the Atlantic after 8 days in space.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

Thought for Today: "Don't be 'consistent,' but be simply true."

— Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.
American author (1809-1894)



Drop us a line...
letters@baytownsun.com or
sunnews@baytownsun.com

Be sure and include a phone number so we can verify your letter. Letters are subject to editing.

The Amelia Earhart enigma

During my childhood, if an airplane flew over, we dashed outside to see it. When Movie-Tone News featured a young girl obsessed with flying, all us adventurous girls became her fans.

Amelia's mother did not believe in molding her children into "nice little girls." Their grandmother disapproved of the "bloomers" (pants) her grandchildren wore.

Amelia built a roller coaster ramp affair and rode it down. She emerged bruised but exclaimed, "It's just like flying!"

Throughout her childhood, Amelia kept a scrapbook of newspaper clippings about women who were successful in male-dominated careers. When she was 23 her father paid \$10 for her to take a ten-minute flight. It set her on fire and she



JOAN MARTIN

determined to learn to fly. She worked at any low class, low paying job to save money for lessons.

She even bobbed her hair in the style of other female pilots.

On May 15, 1923, she became the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license. In 1932 she flew the Atlantic alone from Newfoundland to Ireland. On her last flight, during an almost successful attempt to fly around the world, she vanished in the Pacific Ocean.

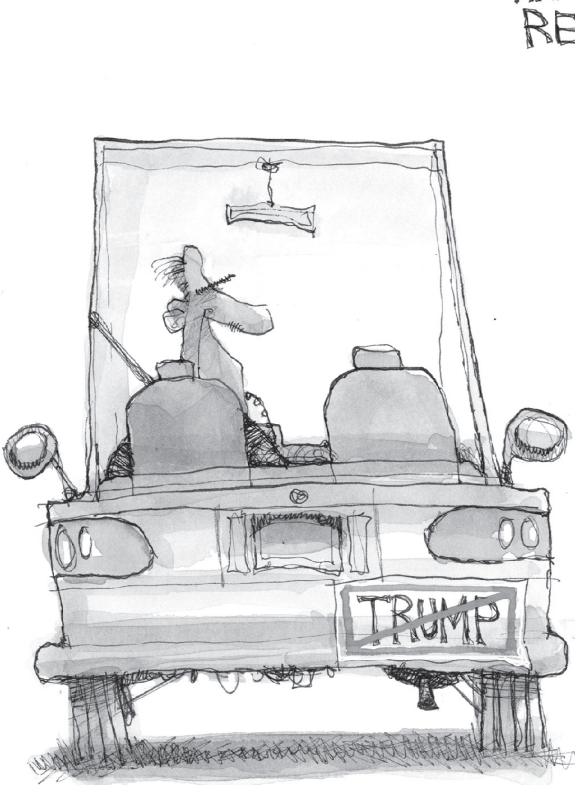
Les Kinney found a photograph in the National Archives that experts claim shows Earhart alive and well along with her navigator and her

plane. Their disappearance has been the subject of continuing searches and debates. The official theory is that they ran out of gas and crashed into the Pacific.

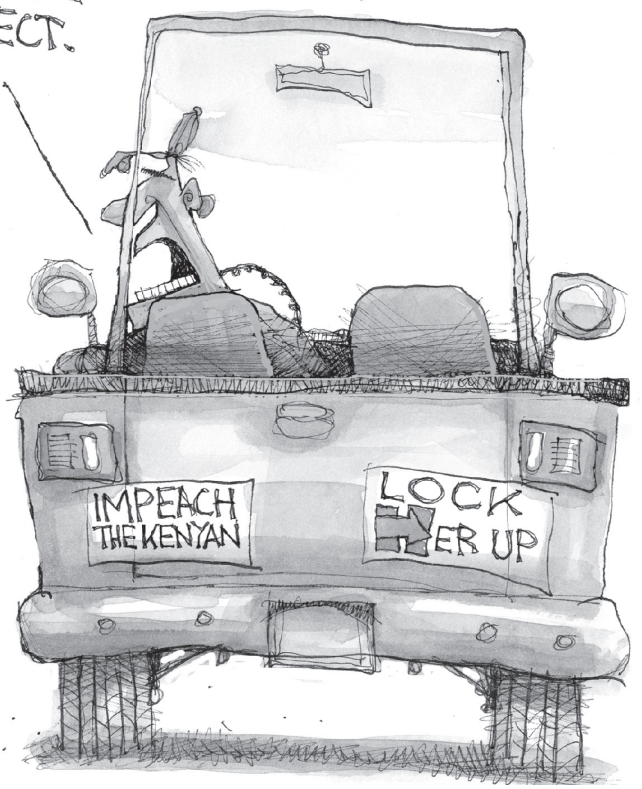
Kinney suspects the pair may have been picked up by a fishing boat and handed over to the Japanese. They expected to be released but were never heard from again.

Her fan club will continue to respect Amelia Earhart as a hero. She took chances and inspired young women to follow their dreams. We are still interested in solving the enigma of the famed aviator who disappeared 80 years ago.

JoAn Martin is a retired teacher with five published novels. Reach her at Josbook@mindspring.com or www.josbooks.com.



HAVE SOME RESPECT.



Removing memorials to backers of slavery

One of the latest universities to join the move to remove statues applauding leaders of the Confederate States of America is The University of Texas at Austin.

Following the murders of nine black church members in Charleston, SC, by white supremacist Dylann Roof, on June 17, 2015, UT President Gregory Fenves commissioned a study about how to deal with Confederate symbols on the university's campus.

Along with the Confederate flag, with which Roof had posed for pictures posted on social media, statues of Confederate statues had become racist symbols, as tributes to efforts to maintain slavery.

Fenves had become increasingly concerned about battles over removing such statues, considered endorsements of racial discrimination.

The tipping point for Fenves was the bloody, clash in Charlottesville, Virginia — home of The University of Virginia — over the city council's plan to remove a mounted statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

An Aug. 12 rally of white nationalists opposing the removal became a violent confrontation, in which a white nationalist accelerated his car into counter-protesters, killing a woman and injuring almost two dozen others.

Fenves decided to quietly order removing four statues of Civil War figures from the university's South Mall, at night, without notice, beginning at 11 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20.

Fenves, in an explanatory email to the university community that Sunday night, said events like the violence in Charlottesville "make it clear, now more than ever, that Confederate monuments have become symbols of modern white supremacy and neo-Nazism."

Three of the statues — of Confederate Gens. Robert E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston, and Confederate Postmaster John H. Reagan — are being relocated to UT's Briscoe Center for American History.



DAVE MCNEELY

They will join the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, which Fenves ordered relocated to the Briscoe Center in 2015. It went on display there, in a recently refurbished gallery, dedicated April 6, complete with a celebratory dinner.

The fourth statue, of James Stephen Hogg, son of a Confederate general, and the first native-born governor of Texas, will be reinstalled at an as-yet unselected campus site, Fenves said.

UT spokesman Gary Susswein said the removal was done late at night, without warning, for public safety reasons. The mayor of Baltimore, Md., had used a similar unannounced overnight removal of four Confederate statues a few days earlier.

"The historical and cultural significance of the Confederate statues on our campus — and the connections that individuals have with them — are severely compromised by what they symbolize," Fenves said in his email.

"Erected during the period of Jim Crow laws and segregation, the statues represent the subjugation of African Americans. That remains true today for white supremacists who use them to symbolize hatred and bigotry."

It is not without some historical irony that the recent flurry of decisions to remove Confederate statues from places of honor, like the UT campus, to places of historical study, like the Briscoe Center, is accompanied by current legal battles over racism.

Just in the past two weeks in Texas, a three-judge federal court has ruled that two Texas congressional districts, and nine state House districts, are unconstitutional because they were drawn to discriminate

against minorities.

In addition, another federal judge barred the Texas Legislature's second try at a Voter ID law finding it purposely designed to make it harder for minorities to vote.

Some people describe racism as this country's original sin — treatment of Native Americans to begin with, enslaving Africans brought to America after that, against Hispanics now.

In the 1860s, Texas joined several other Southern states in seceding from the United States, defying efforts by the rest of the country to abolish the practice of slavery — the assumed right to own other people.

The rest of the country took to arms to force the southern states to remain in the United States. That became the Civil War, in 1861, ending with the South conceding defeat in 1865.

A century later, in 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. In 1975, Texas was added to jurisdictions required to have any election law changes "pre-cleared" by the federal Department of Justice, or a three-judge federal court in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 threw out the pre-clearance requirement for Texas and other states, because the history on which the requirement was based is several decades old.

If the recent decisions on unconstitutional congressional and legislative districts, and Voter ID, stand up on appeal, Texas may again be required to pre-clear election changes.

That might be seen as an affirmation of the ongoing battle against institutional racism — like the 1966 Supreme Court decision outlawing the requirement that Texans pay a poll tax in order to vote.

Contact Texas political writer Dave McNeely at davemcneely111@gmail.com.

The Baytown Sun

Main office:
281-422-8302 • Fax: 281-427-5252
1301 Memorial Drive, Baytown

Look for us online:
www.baytownsun.com
facebook.com/baytownsun
twitter.com/thebaytownsun

Publisher Janie Gray
Managing Editor David Bloom
Advertising Director Carol Skewes
Business Manager Misty Warner

READER ADVISORY BOARD

Janie Gray
Jim Finley
Jay Eshbach
M. A. Bengtson
David Bloom
Mike Wilson

ADVERTISING
281-425-8009
NEWSROOM
281-425-8026

BILLING QUESTIONS
Hours: 8am-5pm M-F
Accounting281-425-8056
Circulation281-422-8302

WRITE TO US

The sun welcomes letters of up to 300 words and guests columns of up to 500 words. We publish only original material addressed to The Baytown Sun bearing the writers signature.

An address and phone number, not for publication, should be included. All letters and guest columns are subject to editing, and The Sun reserves the right to refuse to publish any submission.

Send signed letter to: The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90, Baytown, TX 77522; fax them to (281) 427-5252 or send an e-mail to sunnews@baytownsun.com.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

281-422-8302
Hours M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun: 8 - 11 a.m.

By 6 a.m. daily & 8 a.m. Sunday in Baytown. By 8 a.m. daily & Sunday in rural areas outside of Baytown.

For same day delivery of a missed or wet paper in Baytown, call by 10 a.m. For redelivery the next publication day, call by 2 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Periodical postage in Baytown, Texas 77520. Published 5 days a week by Southern Newspapers Inc. dba The Baytown Sun located at 1301 Memorial Drive Baytown, Texas 77520.

Subscription Rates: By carrier, daily and Sunday, \$11.50 per month suggested retail price. By mail, daily and Sunday \$14.20 per month in continental U.S., Outside U.S., quotes upon request.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90 Baytown, Texas 77522.

EDITORIAL POLICY

News reporting in this newspaper shall be accurate and fair. Editorial expressions shall always be independent, outspoken and conscientious.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
The Baytown Sun reserves the right to edit or cancel any advertisement at any time. Should an advertisement be rejected, any deposit will be promptly refunded.
© 2017. All rights reserved.

OUR VIEW

Thank you

First responders are the unsung heroes of our communities

As floodwaters begin to subside across the region, residents of the greater Baytown area not directly affected by historic rains should count their blessings, be patient about life returning to normal, and, most important, thank first responders who helped in myriad ways.

Hurricane Harvey hit us right between the eyes, leaving us stunned by the enormity of the damage left in its wake. But we've been rescued by super heroes.

From the fire department to the police to paramedics and volunteers as well as local and state emergency management and utility workers, the emergency responders in our community are our super heroes, and while society can sometimes be unappreciative, we don't always take time to say thank you.

Today, we say thank you for all the selfless hours of service.

We're taught to call 911 at a young age, and we don't realize just how valuable that is until life throws a curveball and you need help.

From the dispatcher who answers the phone, to the emergency responders who come to our aid, they're there for us when we call. They work long hours, around the clock, and help complete strangers — albeit their community neighbors — without hesitation. They see a lot of heartache, destruction, injury and death, but continue to respond when called upon.

It takes a special person to do that.

Our emergency responders — both paid and volunteers from Crosby to Highlands to Baytown to Anahuac — certainly don't do the job they do to be in the spotlight. In fact, many are simply satisfied knowing they made a difference, but given the difficult work they do, once in a while a few kind words or a "thank you" can help make their day.

Even further, say hello, get to know them and understand what they do for our community and the challenges they face.

These folks have performed in the finest tradition of public service.

Our first responders are the unsung heroes of our communities, always ready to keep us safe. Where would we be without them? We'd be in a world of hurt.

— David Bloom

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A damn dam

The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, / Gang aft agley

In the attempt to raise the ground elevation for homes in the DR Horton project above the minimum required for new homes, the engineers made a fatal mistake by creating a dam that stops runoff from flowing across the former Goose Creek Country Club property. They failed to realize that the east section of the CCOCA Association drains through my street, Country Club View, which is adjacent to the former golf course. Besides draining into the storm sewers, high water could drain through the Goose Creek Country Club parking lots, flowing into Goose Creek Stream across the golf course property.

Currently the developer has raised the ground level creating a dam, stopping any runoff from CC View from entering the development property. The part of the runoff that formerly went through the entrances to Goose Creek Country Club (golf course and main) and through the golf course, now must totally flow down Country Club View. This acts to increase the flow and backup on CC View. The overflow must now flow over the properties at the west end of CC View. Part of the runoff Saturday came over the curb and was channeled through the garage of Sylvia Lohkamp and threatened the garage of the home immediately to the north. These two homes bracket the end of CC View.

Properties beginning about 4600 CC View had water that rose into the yards and up the driveways from the backup due to the slow storm sewer drainage and the inability to exit through the former country club property. My home is somewhat elevated. The water rose about halfway up my driveway, however the water level was so high that normal vehicles could not use the street to evacuate, even in a medical emergency. An inspection of CC View Tuesday showed the high water marks on lawns that were 5 or 6 feet from the top of the curbs. I have not taken a survey, so do not know if any of the homes had water flow into them.

By a copy of this email, I have ask the City Administration to stop the dirt work on the northwest end of the property next to Goose Creek Stream until the future safety of homes along CC View can be reviewed and determined. And with the concurrence of the city, the developer can develop and implement a permanent solution.

A simple fix is to establish a drainage ditch beginning at the former entrance to the country club. This would channel water between the back of the homes on the southwest end of CC View and the new development. If nothing is done, I fear most of the homes along the west end of CC View could be flooded in a future heavy rainstorm that lingers over this part of Baytown.

Fortunately, rainfall was moderate to light from Sunday through the rest of the storm and the storm sewers worked as expected.

Tucker Coughlen
Baytown

Residents shaken but not deterred

Here is the heartbreaking statement tweeted by the National Weather Service: "Cedar Bayou, Texas, records 51.88 inches of rain from Harvey; new continental U.S. record."

Thousands of great people in Whispering Pines, Pinehurst, La Reforma are in a world of hurt. With water blocking all roads in, everyone is still using boats as their mode of transportation.

George and Cyndi Gidley's story doesn't vary much from Richard and Lori Marti Godwin's, or Laura Murphy Smith. All prayed the bayou wouldn't take their homes but it did. Everyone reported 4 to 6 feet of water inundated their homes and all are now pulling up floors, Sheetrock and utilities.

The true definition of shock is when a sudden event happens so fast the brain can't comprehend it. This is how I would describe friends



LANNY GRIFFITH

George Gidley never left his house even in the worst of it. He is sleeping on an air mattress on his concrete slab. Scott Jackson is coming today to start cutting out the Sheetrock. Cyndi Gidley was pulled out by a military-type rescue boat and taken to safety. They are fortunate their daughter, Georgeanne Ward, lives close by in a neighborhood that didn't flood.

With roads flooded and no repair-

hardest hit. No one can wrap their heads around the fact their homes were where they lived and raised family and now their homes are construction sites, stripped to the studs with concrete floors.

men in site, it's neighbor helping neighbor. Gidley said "you can't believe how heavy a mattress is that's soaked in water." "All the neighbors have gone door-to-door checking on each other." No one has any timetable as to when the water will recede so trucks can get in Whispering Pines to start hauling away the trash.

So desperate for trash bins, Gidley said he spotted a perfectly good garbage can floating down Cedar Bayou and whipped out his paddle board and grabbed it, so he said at least he got a good garbage can out of the storm.

Gidley said "moral support, and just knowing friends are calling with concerns is the best thing anyone can hope for."

Lanny Griffith is an REL graduate and media mogul. Contact him at lgriffith11@gmail.com.



Never-ending hunt for right-wing violence

After I'd spent a decade begging Republicans, including a few presidential candidates, to take up the immigration issue, Donald J. Trump came along, championed the entire thesis of "Adios, America," and swept all contenders aside.

It's too late for the likes of Marco Rubio, Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan to avoid humiliation, but if they don't want to keep making asses of themselves in public by, for example, praising today's version of the KKK, they should read my entire corpus of work, starting with "Demoniac." (Trump somehow grasped the whole point of that book, too.)

The reason normal people are suspicious of the media's narrative on Charlottesville is that we've heard this exact same story many, many times before.

Facts on the ground:

— Approximately every other year since forever, liberal hooligans have been rampaging through the streets, beating people up, setting off bombs, killing cops, smashing store windows, assassinating politicians and burning down neighborhoods — against capitalism, Vietnam, Nixon, Wall Street, a police shooting, Trump, Starbucks, a sunny day.

— Conservatives, mostly families, have generally avoided even the mildest forms of political protest, and, when they finally are driven to petition the government over their grievances, they pick up after themselves — at tea parties, town halls, Trump rallies and so on.

Result: The entire media are constantly on Red Alert for the threat of Right-Wing Violence.

The explanation for this apparent madness is that the left — both the scribblers and the shock troops — bear all the characteristics of a mob, as set forth more than a century ago by the father of group-think, French psychologist Gustave Le Bon. No behavior of the left is mysterious if you've read Le Bon — or "Demoniac." In "The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind," Le Bon observed that the "complete lack of critical spirit" prevents crowds from "perceiving ... contradictions."



ANN COULTER

No matter the year or the circumstances, the media and their eunuch politicians are quick to blame any surprising violence on the Right-Wing Nazis of their imaginations — from Lee Harvey Oswald (communist) to Jared Lee Loughner and James Holmes (psychopaths) to the two stabbing murders on a Portland train earlier this year committed by a Bernie Sanders supporter, whom the media — to this day — insist, all evidence to the contrary, was a Trump supporter.

When, a few months after the first murders by a Sanders supporter, a second Sanders supporter opened fire on a congressional Republican baseball practice, putting GOP Rep. Steve Scalise in critical condition, that political attack was simply discarded. The media put the story of left-wing assailant James Hodgkinson in a lead casket and dropped it to the bottom of the sea.

There are the scores of other examples of imaginary right-wing violence invented by the media — then quietly abandoned when the facts come out. After weeks of hair-on-fire headlines, suddenly you just stop reading about the Duke lacrosse "rapists," homicidal maniac Officer Darren Wilson or legions of Trump-supporters ripping off Muslim women's hijabs.

But I remember! Here are as many as my word limit allows — maybe more!

SARAH PALIN:

During the 2008 campaign, the media were in a perpetual state of fright that racist Republicans would assassinate Barack Obama.

Naturally, when a local reporter claimed he'd heard someone in a crowd at a Sarah Palin rally yell, "Kill him!" about Obama, the media didn't wait for more facts! The Washington Post's Dana Milbank promptly reported the reed-thin allegation, which was then repeated in hundreds of other news outlets.

On CNN, David Gergen said that Palin was "whipping up these crowds," creating "ugly scenes" with audience members yelling, "Kill him. Kill him" — and also claimed (without evidence) that they were yelling "racial epithets." A CNN article on the alleged shout-out appeared under the headline: "Rage rising on the McCain campaign trail."

Vice presidential candidate Joe Biden weighed in, somberly calling the alleged incident "dangerous."

MSNBC's Rachel Maddow railed against the "mere mention of killing someone at a political rally," saying, "it's horrific."

MSNBC's Keith Olbermann took the gold, yammering on and on about the claim in nightly updates, culminating in one of his prissiest ever "Special Comments," in which he demanded that John McCain suspend his campaign until "it ceases to be a clear and present danger to the peace of this nation."

Needless to say, the Secret Service undertook a complete review. Agents listened to tapes of the event, interviewed attendees and interrogated the boatloads of law enforcement officers spread throughout the crowd.

Conclusion: It never happened. As even the nutty left-wing site Salon noted, "If (the Secret Service) says it doesn't think anyone shouted, 'kill him,' it's a good bet that it didn't happen."

No apologies, no retractions, no memory.

THE TEA PARTY:

Remember when polite, hard-working Americans came together to oppose Obamacare at tea party rallies in 2009 and 2010?

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Steny Hoyer called the protesters "un-American." The Democratic National Committee called them "rabid right-wing extremists." Sen. Harry Reid called the tea parties "evil-mongers." Jimmy Carter pronounced an "overwhelming portion" of them racists.

SEE COULTER • PAGE 9

The Baytown Sun

Main office:

281-422-8302 • Fax: 281-427-5252
1301 Memorial Drive, Baytown

Look for us online:

www.baytownsun.com
facebook.com/baytownsun
twitter.com/thebaytownsun

MANAGEMENT

PublisherJanie Gray
Managing EditorDavid Bloom
Advertising DirectorCarol Skewes
Business ManagerMisty Warner

READER ADVISORY BOARD

Janie Gray
Jim Finley
Jay Eshbach
M.A. Bengtson
David Bloom
Mike Wilson

ADVERTISING

281-425-8009
NEWSROOM
281-425-8026

BILLING QUESTIONS

Hours: 8am-5pm M-F

Accounting281-425-8056
Circulation281-422-8302

WRITE TO US

The sun welcomes letters of up to 300 words and guest columns of up to 500 words. We publish only original material addressed to The Baytown Sun bearing the writers signature.

An address and phone number, not for publication, should be included.

All letters and guest columns are subject to editing, and The Sun reserves the right to refuse to publish any submission.

Send signed letter to: The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90, Baytown, TX 77522; fax them to (281) 427-5252 or send an e-mail to sunnews@baytownsun.com.

Items featured on this page are the views of the persons identified with each submission and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Baytown Sun or its advertisers.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

281-422-8302
Hours M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun: 8 - 11 a.m.

By 6 a.m. daily & 8 a.m. Sunday in Baytown. By 8 a.m. daily & Sunday in rural areas outside of Baytown.

For same day delivery of a missed or wet paper in Baytown, call by 10 a.m. For redelivery the next publication day, call by 2 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Periodical postage in Baytown, Texas 77520. Published 5 days a week by Southern Newspapers Inc. dba The Baytown Sun located at 1301 Memorial Drive Baytown, Texas 77520.

Subscription Rates: By carrier, daily and Sunday, \$11.50 per month suggested retail price. By mail, daily and Sunday \$14.20 per month in continental U.S., Outside U.S., quotes upon request.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90 Baytown, Texas 77522.

EDITORIAL POLICY

News reporting in this newspaper shall be accurate and fair. Editorial expressions shall always be independent, outspoken and conscientious.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

The Baytown Sun reserves the right to edit or cancel any advertisement at any time. Should an advertisement be rejected, any deposit will be promptly refunded.

© 2017. All rights reserved.

OUR VIEW

Debate is over: Dig up waste pits

Poisons inside Superfund fund site cannot be stored safely in the river

Tragically, but as expected, the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed cancer-causing dioxin from the San Jacinto Waste Pits washed downriver during the flooding from Hurricane Harvey. A sample showed dioxin levels more than 2,300 times the level set to trigger a cleanup.

Declared a Superfund site in 2008 after decades of cancer clusters and fish kills in the river, the waste pits have been and continue to be a serious threat to public health and the environment.

It cannot be clearer that we must finally remove all the toxic waste in the pits — no matter the costs, the sooner the better for the people living in and around the San Jacinto River.

Linked to birth defects and cancer, dioxin is one of the most toxic substances known to man.

High levels of dioxins have been linked to birth defects, heart disease and diabetes. But even low levels can cause a host of problems, including skin and gastrointestinal issues and more.

Furthermore, Harvey's damage to the cap is just the latest in a series of failures of the liner and rock on top of paper mill wastes.

Designed to last for up to 100 years, the cap has required extensive repairs on at least six occasions, with sections becoming displaced or going missing.

The debate whether to fortify the cap permanently or to dig it all up is over.

The poisons inside the pits cannot be stored safely onsite in a location that is subject to high water and flooding.

Rocks and a tarp aren't enough protection when health is at stake.

After too many years of delay, the EPA must act to remove the pits from the river before more people, their children and future generations are exposed to the toxic waste leaking from the site.

— David Bloom

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date:

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1932, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees made his supposed called shot, hitting a home run against Chicago's Charlie Root in Game 3 of the World Series, won by the New York Yankees 7-5 at Wrigley Field.

In 1950, winds and squalls hit the Baytown area as a tropical storm moved toward the lower Texas coast.

In 1955, the situation comedy "The Honeymooners," starring Jackie Gleason, Art Carney, Audrey Meadows and Joyce Randolph, premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run during a 162-game season, compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season.

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1965, the science-fiction novel "Dune" by Frank Herbert was published by Chilton Books.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Fla.

In 1989, Goose Creek CISD ended the practice of junior school marching bands.

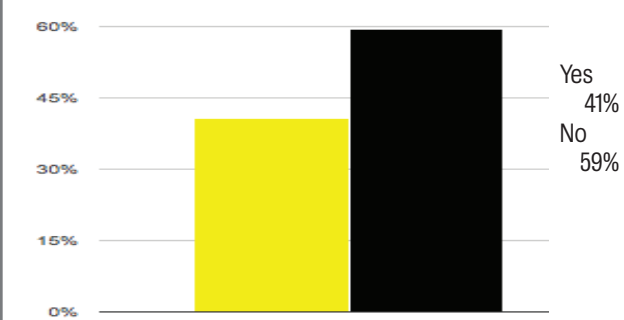
In 2000, Home Depot, at the corner of Garth Road and West Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg Road opened its doors.

Thought for Today: "Everybody favors free speech in the slack moments when no axes are being ground."

— Heywood C. Broun, US journalist (1888-1939)

Baytown Sun Survey

Readers were asked "Do you think it's time for the City of Baytown to reconsider getting into the golf course business?" The majority of those who responded said no:



This week's question: Do you think Donald Trump did the right thing by criticizing NFL players who have protested by kneeling during the national anthem? Respond at www.baytownsun.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shame on athletes disrespecting USA

Shame on our professional athletes who are disrespecting our country by not standing for our national anthem and flag!

They are supposed to be shining examples to our children who look up to them.

Nowhere else could they make so

playing the games they love. I personally think they make too much money.

I think the owners of the professional teams should make showing respect for our country a condition of employment. Our companies have "conditions of employment."

I am so thankful that my Lord let me be born in the U.S.A. While our country isn't perfect, I still believe that the U.S.A. is the greatest nation on earth.

God bless the U.S.A.

Vera Mae Cogburn
Baytown

Trump's antics detract from country

David Bloom's editorial of Sept. 28 is spot on: no one elected Donald Trump to engage in Twitter wars about taking a knee or any other issue.

Rather than be a uniter, he is a divisive figure on the world stage and in our own country. What's more, his antics detract from our country's falling status around the world.

With DJT at the helm, nations see the U.S. as becoming destabilized and an unreliable ally economically and militarily. DJT's got a country to run and he needs to get to it.

Susan Cummings
Baytown

County jail's a revolving door

In reference to the police beat article on Sept. 27 about Mr. Vann Dubberstein's trespassing charges: Mr.

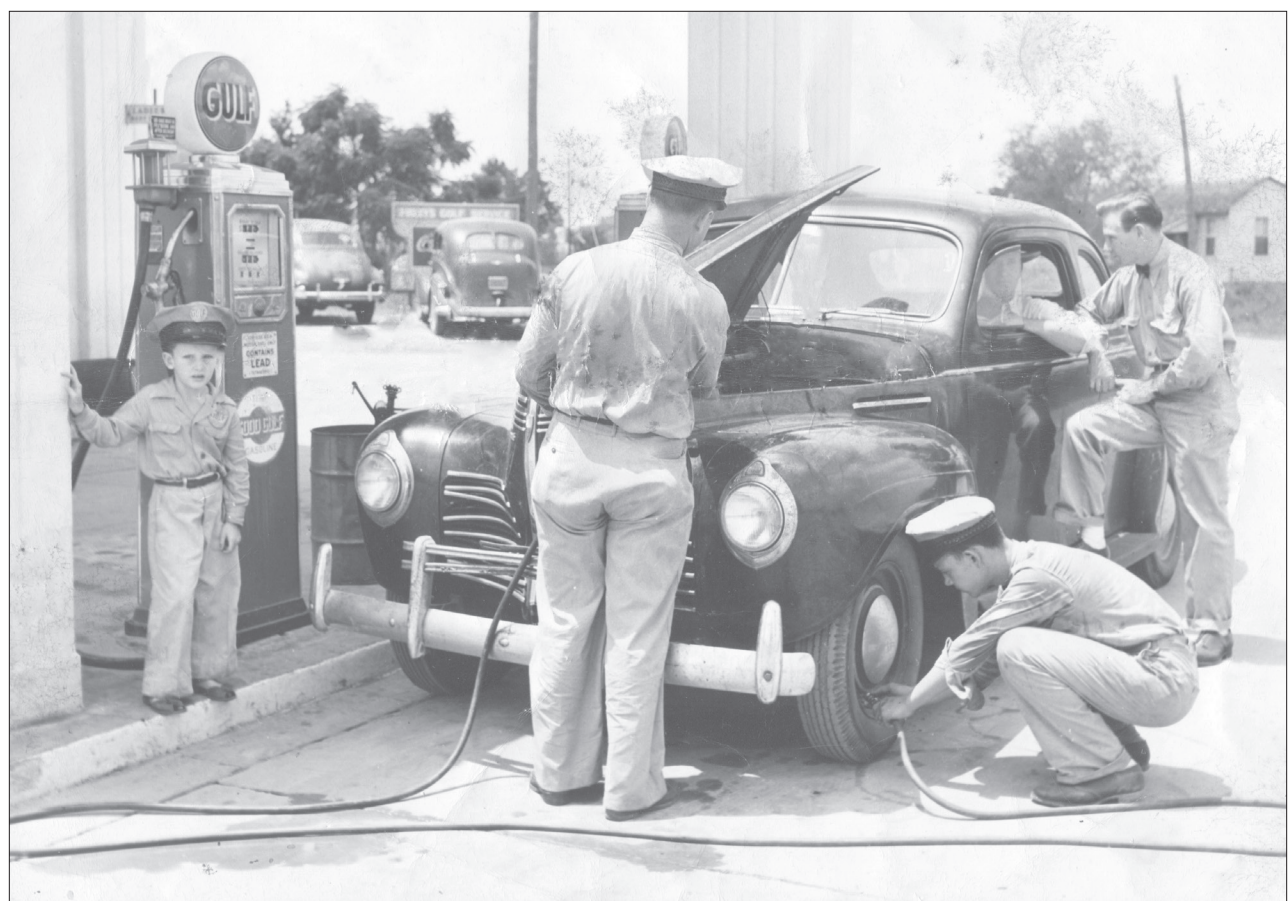
Dubberstein is described as a violent individual in this article. Well he is, and it describes him perfectly. I have had the unfortunate first hand experience of dealing with him for the past three years.

What I don't understand is why was he released 24 hours later on a "Personal Bond." He was actually picked up again 24 hours of his release for public intoxication. He has a long history of not showing up on his court dates. He cannot be trusted to show up on his own! He is back on our streets of Baytown again.

Of course, I do not put the blame on Baytown PD. Baytown PD has been very patient with not only Mr. Dubberstein, but the numerous people that I see often on the Daily Police Reports. Harris County Jail seems to have a revolving door. The criminals are released too quickly, and then return to our streets for Baytown PD to have to deal with them again.

Am I the only one feeling frustrated here?

Vickie Bookout
Baytown



Little Jimbo (or T-Bone) supervises as Uncle Buddy adds water to the radiator, an unidentified employee puts air in the tires, and Papa J.P. chats with the customer. T-Bone's biggest battle back then was the minimum wage. His salary was \$0.

Good eating, gasoline can indeed mix

Today's bold yet dynamic piece combines two different subjects, but when all is said and done, they're inextricably linked forever, whatever "inextricably" means.

One centers on a Gulf filling station my papa J.P. and his brother, Buddy, owned eons ago in the Brazoria County burg of West Columbia. The station was located at the corner of East Brazos and East Brazos — or maybe South 17th — because East Brazos was the main street through town and ran in front of the station before making a sharp left beside it.

Somewhere after the left turn, East Brazos became South 17th. Typical West Columbia.

Buddy, by the way, just happened to be my uncle.

(NON-EDITOR'S NOTE: I have no earthly idea how long an "eon" is.)

The other focus of this consequential column is, plain and simple, Peanut Patties candy.

Bear with me here.

I was like six or seven years old and loved visiting the station. Heck, sometime I'd even walk there from elementary school. It was less than a mile away.

I was just a hiccup of a boychild (though handsome and mature already), but little kids could roam freely then. And safely.

It was in those days that I began to learn what good customer service means. Of course, in those days, most gasoline stations offered good service.

For instance, when you pulled in, J.P., Buddy, and others would — are you ready? — fill your automobile up



JIM FINLEY

with petro, and then check your tires, your oil, and your radiator water. Plus they'd clean your windshield and use a whisk broom to sweep out the inside of your vehicle.

(NON-EDITOR'S NOTE: If

you don't believe me, check out the accompanying photo. In case you can't tell, that's me to the far left.)

Today, you do all that yourself, only now you VACUUM the junk out of your car/pickup/SUV/chariot. Unless you're a slob.

Anyway, I was watching closely.

To give this special place an even more family feel, for a number of years one of the town's cafés, The Gusher (as in oil well gusher), was owned by my mama Gigi's brother-in-law, Cortez Gathright, and sat directly behind the station.

Cortez, by the way, just happened to be my uncle.

Besides occasionally putting on my little Gulf uniform, I also took advantage of ingesting free food. Yes, I did.

As one of the owners (haha), I'd help myself to my favorite soda pop, the grand and glorious Grapette, and my equally favorite candy, a Peanut Pattie.

You're beginning to see a connection here, aren't you?

It should be noted that, in those long ago days (eons ago), Grapette came only in bottles and Patties were roughly the size of what we moderns call a table coaster.

The Patties were, and still are, described as "pink," but to me colorwise they more resemble a fresh bruise on an old(er) man's arm. (I just happened to notice one the other day on this old great-grandfather, who I refuse to identify.)

Patties are a hard yet crunchy candy topped off with heavenly peanuts. They were, and are, to die for.

So I loved them. And they were free.

But time passed and I developed other interests. Mainly girls.

Recently, however — and I don't remember where — I was reunited with a Peanut Pattie. Suddenly, I was in love again.

I had to find more. I had to, I had to, I had to.

I found my now much-larger Peanut Patties (roughly the size of an old hubcap) at Food Town. Since then I've spent roughly \$14 million buying more of that blessed candy. I can't get enough.

Let me put it this way: If Peanut Patties were illegal, Baytown Police Chief Keith Dougherty would have me under surveillance and I would soon be headed to prison, possibly facing execution.

Wife Margie would be in jail with me. While smugly turning me down at first, she now pushes me aside over the last piece. Copycat!

They're sooooo good!

Thusly, good food and gasoline can mix.

And good journalism, too.

Jim Finley is a retired managing editor of The Sun. He can be reached at viewpoints@baytownsun.com. Attention: Jim Finley.

The Baytown Sun
Main office
281-422-8302 • Fax: 281-427-5252
1301 Memorial Drive, Baytown
Look for us online:
www.baytownsun.com
[facebook.com/baytownsun](https://www.facebook.com/baytownsun)
twitter.com/thebaytownsun
MANAGEMENT
Publisher: Janie Gray
Managing Editor: David Bloom
Advertising Director: Carol Skowes
Business Manager: Misty Warner

READER ADVISORY BOARD
Janie Gray
Jim Finley
Jay Edibach
M.A. Broughton
David Bloom
Mike Wilson
ADVERTISING
281-425-8009
NEWSROOM
281-425-8006
BILLING QUESTIONS
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Accounting: 281-425-8056
Circulation: 281-422-8302

WRITE TO US
The sun welcomes letters of up to 300 words and goes to 500 words. Baytown, TX 77522, for them. We publish only original to (281) 427-5252 or send an material addressed to The e-mail to sunnews@baytownsun.com bearing the townsun.com.
Items featured on this page are the views of the persons identified with each submission and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Baytown Sun or its advertisers.
All letters and guest columns are subject to editing. The Baytown Sun or its and The Sun reserves the right to refuse to publish any submission.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
281-422-8302
Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat 8 - 11 a.m.
By 6 a.m. daily & 8 a.m. Sunday in Baytown. By 8 a.m. daily & Sunday in rural areas outside of Baytown.
For same day delivery of a missed or wet paper in Baytown, call by 10 a.m. For redelivery the next publication day, call by 2 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Periodical postage in Baytown, Texas 77520. Published 5 days a week by Southern Newspapers Inc. dba The Baytown Sun, located at 1301 Memorial Drive Baytown, Texas 77520.
Subscription Rates: By carrier, daily and Sunday, \$1875 per month suggested retail price. By mail, daily and Sunday \$13.45 per month in continental U.S. Outside U.S., quotes upon request.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90 Baytown, Texas 77522

EDITORIAL POLICY
News reporting in this newspaper shall be accurate and fair. Editorial expressions shall always be independent, outspoken and conscientious.
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
The Baytown Sun reserves the right to edit or cancel any advertisement at any time. Should an advertisement be rejected, any deposit will be promptly refunded.
© 2017. All rights reserved.

OUR VIEW

Harvey ...

Six months down the road

"Once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in."

—Haruki Murakami

Many of us still get anxious when it rains a little too hard or too long. One half year after Hurricane Harvey, the storm's imprint - like a tattoo - remains and likely always will.

We experienced a flood that is a greater than once-in-1,000 year event, the highest-level flood experts calculate. In Greater Baytown, we logged between 4 and 5 feet of rain.

So massive was the flooding it was impossible for first responders to deal with all the emergency evacuations that needed to happen in so many areas at the same time.

Officially, the mother of all rainstorms killed 68 (36 in Harris County) and caused \$125 billion in damage.

Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 25. Baytown assessed Harvey's impact at about 5,300 homes affected in some way but about 4,300 suffered some flood damage. In Chambers County, more than 6,000 homes were affected.

Six months after Hurricane Harvey, most streets look normal but there are many debris mounds that still dot pockets of Baytown and surrounding areas.

Displacement, homelessness, financial worries, insurance fights, FEMA fights mark the ongoing recovery. Some people still face months, even more, before a contractor can restore their home.

It's coming along. Baby steps, but it's coming.

Harvey remains a harsh reminder that natural disasters can claim anyone's life and reduce homes and possessions to garbage. Treasured keepsakes and memories from people's homes forever swept away.

Left are ongoing, seemingly monumental repairs, living in RVs, financial worries and battles for government aid and with insurance companies.

Take heart, though. If Greater Baytown can survive Harvey — and we did — we can certainly handle the anything else that comes our way.

It's clear that no matter the severity of the storm, the people of Greater Baytown will be there for each other.

We hope the altruism continues.

Looking to help? Check out the United Way of Greater Baytown and Chambers County. Call 281-424-5922 or visit Unitedwaygbacc.org.

—David Bloom

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The butterflies need you

The butterflies are coming! As we begin to renew and refresh our yards and gardens, we need to think about our pollinator friends.

Migrating Monarch butterflies, whose numbers have been in decline for the last couple of decades, need milkweed to lay their eggs, and other wildflowers as food sources. It is, at this point, unknown as to how the hurricane and deep freeze may have hurt butterflies and bees' nectar and nursery sources.

Let's give them an assist and fill up our yards and gardens with beautiful native flowers, native milkweeds, tiny puddles of water, and places for them to rest. Local independent plant nurseries are excellent resources for help in deciding what plants to include in butterfly gardens.

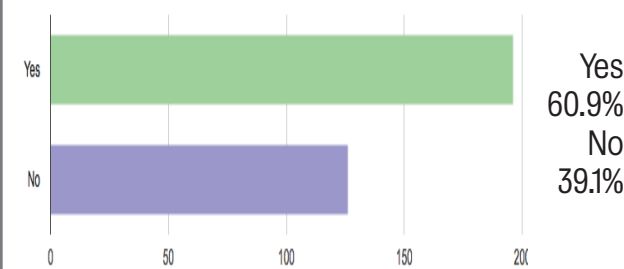
Wild flower seeds are available at the "big box" garden centers. I have installed two 4'x4' raised beds in my back yard as "wildflower meadows" to help lure the bees and butterflies to my tomatoes, peppers and other veggies. It's a win/win situation! And bonus! I get to watch one of nature's most magical phenomena, the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly!

For more information see Gulf Coast Monarch Project's page on Facebook, (<https://www.facebook.com/GCmonarchproject/>). Want to get more involve in helping restore Monarch butterflies? Consider volunteering with us. Contact me on our Facebook page!

Wendy Britt-Walker, president Gulf Coast Monarch Project

Baytown Sun Survey

Last week, readers were asked "Should teachers, coaches and other education officials be trained to carry firearms on school grounds?"



This week's survey: Your thoughts on climate change? Respond at www.baytownsun.com

Playing the 'I'm so old that ...' card

After noting I'm so old that I remember the very first big Foley's department store in Houston, I started thinking about other age-old memories.

Here we go: I'm so old I remember when Weingarten's was Grenader's.

I remember Baytown's last Weingarten store, located on West Texas at Lee Drive. A next-door neighbor of the first big Sears department store in Baytown, Weingarten's stood south of the new Lee College campus.

Everything seemed to glow with a bright, fresh shine in the 1950s, including Lee College which began classes on its own terrain in the fall semester of '51, separated at last from the night schedule at Robert E. Lee High School.

I'm so old I remember Henke & Pillot, an old grocery business emerging in a new venue in Baytown in the Fifties, catty-corner across the road from Weingarten's.

Busy, busy — where Texas Avenue met Market and Decker Drive. Amid such heavy activity, generated by commerce and the college, a newly constructed traffic circle drove confused drivers to cry out: "Around and around we go. Where we stop, nobody knows."

I remember Woolworth five & dime on Texas Avenue and its locally owned counterpart, Wainscott's in Old Baytown. Wainscott customers could enter or exit through doors facing Market and Minnesota. The



WANDA ORTON

nearby Economy meat market/grocery store provided similar ways to get in and out, while Penney's had dual access fronting Texas Avenue and West Defee. Also, I'm so old I remember when Old Baytown had one movie theater, the Arcadia, where I first met Tarzan, Roy Rogers and Shirley Temple on screen. A heavy maroon curtain divided the main theater from the lobby and concession counter.

I remember the Palace when its name was the Deluxe Theater on Texas Avenue. Up the street, the larger Texan Theater featured the latest releases, including "Gone with the Wind" in 1939. I remember that film in particular because I wasn't allowed to see it until years later when it was re-released at the Bay Theater. Anyway, I had the paper dolls.

I remember going to the first movie at the Bay ("Rings on Her Fingers") in 1942 and to the first movie at the Brunson ("Yes Sir, That's My Baby") in 1949. Rufus Honeycutt managed the Bay Theater before taking that post at the new Brunson.

The only public hospitals used to be the Goose Creek Hospital on West Defee and Lillie-Duke on West Pearce at Ashbel.

I remember attending Story Hour and checking out books in the lit-

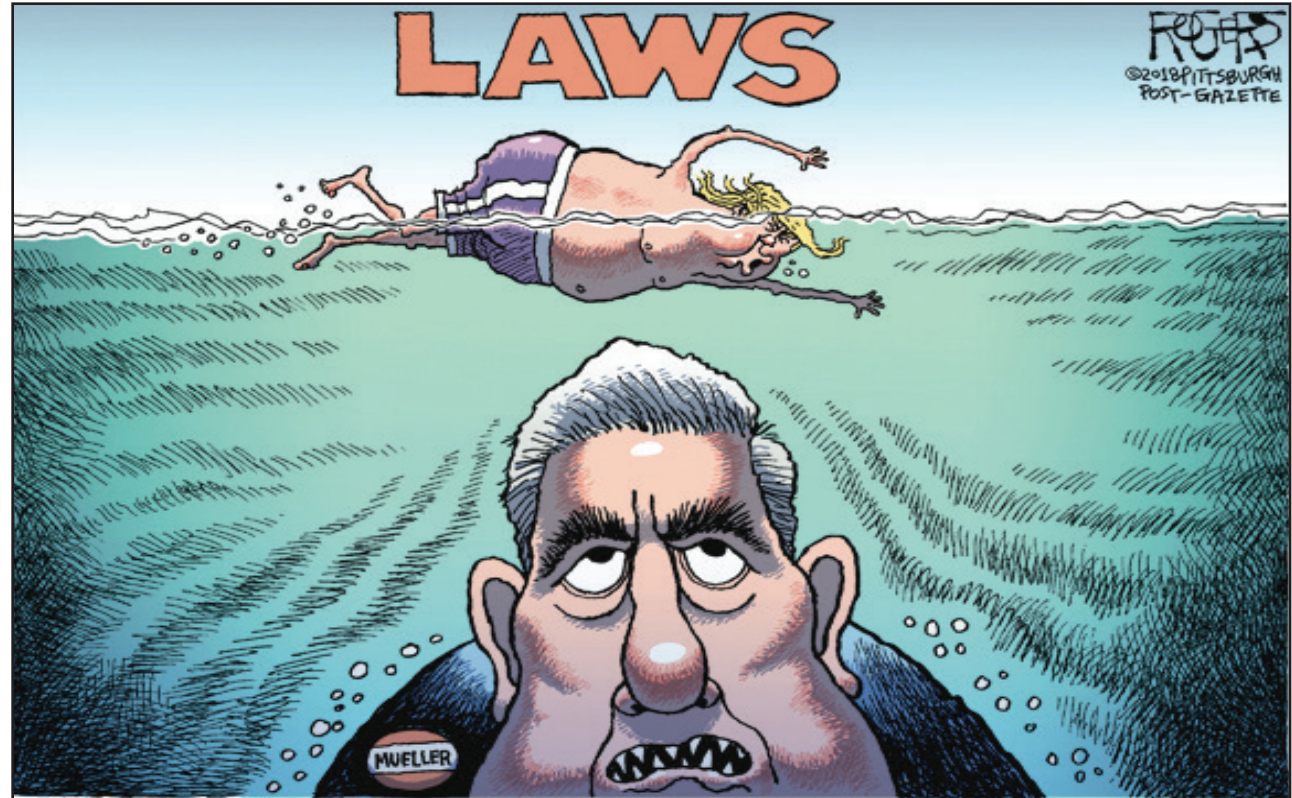
tle, red brick library on Texas Avenue, and hanging out in the spacious Humble Community House in the shadow of the Baytown Refinery. For the first time, I watched TV — shaky, blurry images of "What's My Line?" — in the Community House library.

I remember watching my first baseball game at the Humble baseball park, home of the semi-pro Baytown Oilers team, and going to my first Gander football game at Elms Field. I tagged along with the Bass kids, Tammy, Shirley, Rose Ann and Bob, and their mother, Edah May, on a short walk to the football stadium from their home in Lee Heights.

Regarding recreation, I'm old enough to remember swimming at Hog Island, undaunted by the huge tankers stirring under-currents in the ship channel. No one had store-bought floats; we just drifted along on old tires. A good thing, wasn't it, that the city's first swimming pool opened at Roseland Park in 1949 — before a huge tanker swept us under.

By the way, I'm so old I can't remember where I put my keys or what I had for breakfast. Fact is, with all the data from back in the days, not much space is left in this old' noggin for the remains of today.

Wanda Orton is a retired managing editor of The Sun. She can be reached at viewpoints@baytownsun.com. Attention: Wanda Orton.



'Life Saverman' still doing his thing

As Discerning Readers know, I'm a man of many talents, a man who wears many hats (not at the same time), and a man of few words. (That last one was a joke.)

Let's see, there is journalism and, uh, journalism and, uh ...

Let me think about my other talents. I'll let you know what they are no later 2020.

One thing I'm extremely proud of, however, is my little known secret life as "Life Saverman." Playing this important role has been one of the great joys of my existence.

I thought about this the other day when no less than five of my six great-grandchildren asked me for a Life Saver. Yes, on the same day, and over a span of four hours.

I was prepared to honor their request, and they knew it.

Truth is, I would honor their requests for just about anything. Fortunately — for our bank account — none of them has asked for, say, a Maserati Gran Turismo convertible (suggested retail price \$148,850). At least not yet.

For history's sake, let me say I became Life Saverman 40-plus years ago when I quit smoking. If I were going to die of anything, it wouldn't be nicotine but of sweet-tasting candy.

Ah, yes. Life Savers.

At first, of course, the Life Savers were just for me. Not that I was stingy, understand, but at the time Wife Margie and I had no grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

Life was about to change.

First came grandbabies Katie and



JIM FINLEY

Reid Richards. And then Devin and Falynn Finley.

It didn't take me long to figure out that, in times of stress, I could control just about any situation by offering them a Life Saver. It grew from there.

"T [that's me]," Katie would say, "can I have a Life Saver? I've been good."

Of course you can, sweetheart, and how about a trip to Disney World?

This was not to be a short-lived tradition. Quicker than you can say, "Give me a purple one," Katie had babies of her own — Kamille, Connor, and Collin.

Falynn blessed us with Cayden and Collyn, who is still a little young to join the Life Savers Brigade.

Soon I was at the Top of My Game again, and I have spent approximately \$1.4 million on Life Savers since.

"T-Bone [that's also me]," Cayden said the other day, "can I have a Life Saver?"

Sure. And that unleashed my thought process for this column.

Here are more exciting details. As a religious person, I confess that, surreptitiously, on a few occasions I've used Life Savers as a tool to curb talking and wiggling in church. I'm thinking the Big Editor In The Sky doesn't mind.

Not that I'm suggesting that eat-

ing candy in church is OK. But I've always been discreet, so I don't think HE writes me up or anything.

I also have a problem occasionally when the kids want a particular color, also known as "flavor" in the adult world.

"T," one of them will say, "I want red."

Excuse me, I roar, but red might be down in the package and I'm not going to dig in there to find it. OK? (This proves I can be TOUGH on these children if I have to.)

So rather than lose Life Saver privileges altogether, they settle for what ever color is next. I see this as an extreme form of discipline.

I didn't have that problem on the aforementioned busy Life Savers Day in Question. I was returning from an errand and saw my Erikson babies outside on the sidewalk. I pulled over.

(NON-EDITOR'S NOTE: Our cars have built-in systems that automatically pullover on their own when of our kids are detected. I don't know how that works.)

So there we were, and Kamille popped the question. "May we have a Life Saver?"

I complied, as always. They all said they loved me.

Life Savers were a small price to pay for such affection.

(Personally I like green the best.)

Jim Finley is a retired managing editor of The Sun. He can be reached at viewpoints@baytownsun.com. Attention: Jim Finley.

The Baytown Sun

Main office:
281-422-8302 • Fax: 281-427-5252
1301 Memorial Drive, Baytown

Look for us online:
www.baytownsun.com
facebook.com/baytownsun
twitter.com/thebaytownsun

MANAGEMENT
Publisher Carol Skewes
Managing Editor David Bloom
Advertising Manager Dean West
Business Manager Misty Warner

READER ADVISORY BOARD
Carol Skewes
Jim Finley
Jay Eshbach
M. A. Bengtson
David Bloom
Mike Wilson

ADVERTISING
281-425-8009
NEWSROOM
281-425-8026

BILLING QUESTIONS
Hours: 8am-5pm M-F
Accounting 281-425-8056
Circulation 281-422-8302

WRITE TO US
The Sun welcomes letters of up to 300 words and guest columns of up to 500 words. We publish only original material addressed to The Baytown Sun bearing the writer's signature.
An address and phone number, not for publication, and guest columns are subject to editing, and The Sun reserves the right to refuse to publish any submission.

Send signed letter to: The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90, Baytown, TX 77522; fax them to (281) 427-5252 or send an e-mail to sunnews@baytownsun.com.
Items featured on this page are the views of the persons identified with each submission and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Baytown Sun or its advertisers.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
281-422-8302
Hours M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. (Phones only)

Same day delivery of a missed or wet paper in Baytown, call by 10 a.m. For redelivery the next publication day, call by 4 p.m. (Mon-Fri).

Home Delivery:
By 6 a.m. daily & 8 a.m. Sunday in Baytown. By 8 a.m. daily & Sunday in rural areas outside of Baytown.

Periodical postage in Baytown, Texas 77520. Published 5 days a week by Southern Newspapers Inc. dba The Baytown Sun located at 1301 Memorial Drive Baytown, Texas 77520.
Subscription Rates: By carrier, daily and Sunday, \$11.50 per month suggested retail price. By mail, daily and Sunday \$14.20 per month in continental U.S., Outside U.S., quotes upon request.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90 Baytown, Texas 77522.

EDITORIAL POLICY
News reporting in this newspaper shall be accurate and fair. Editorial expressions shall always be independent, outspoken and conscientious.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
The Baytown Sun reserves the right to edit or cancel any advertisement at any time. Should an advertisement be rejected, any deposit will be promptly refunded.
© 2017. All rights reserved.