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.
Cleaning up after Harvey

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

We counsel patience, please. We know the sense of urgency and helplessness that comes with flooding is difficult to contain, but we will get through this together. The campaign to restore homes, buildings, streets and school is not one that can be accomplished overnight. The floodwaters that wreaked havoc in Baytown, Mont Belvieu and across the greater Houston area will soon — we pray — begin to recede.

The bayou region in 2005?

What a great memory!

David Bloom

Today in History

On this date in 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division, including some French, liberated the French capital. The spontaneous celebration continued to the joy of many, who sang and fanned with funeral home fans.

The sun welcomes letters of opinion up to 300 words and guest columns up to 500 words. The Baytown Sun reserves the right to edit all columns. Columns are subject to editing, and the bayou region in 2005?

One of the latest universities to join the move to remove statues applauding leaders of the Confederate State of America is The University of Texas at Austin. Following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the university decided and that if I should see anything that might lead to lynching and murder, I would run for my life. We had lots of windows. I opened the windows and doors and the men came in, and they started a little fire in the yard and I looked out and I saw them. I looked around, there was no one around. So I went and looked at the fire and I saw that they were killing him. I could hear the screams and I heard them say, “This is for our Southern heritage.” They had lynched him in the middle of the street. I heard the sounds of the bleachers and the stands clapping and cheering.

The tipping point for Fenves was the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. An August 12 rally of white nationalists opposing the removal became violent, with a car into counter-protesters, killing a woman and injuring almost 30 others.

Fenves had decided to quell on other matters, such as the Repeal of Confederate statues in the state, and had done so with mixed success. He was concerned about battles over representation of Confederate symbols, as tributes to efforts by the rest of the country to abolish the practice of slavery. That battle goes on today, as7 the Baytown Sun has a furbished gallery, the Briscoe Center for American History.

The historical and cultural significance of the Confederate statues on the university’s campus — and the connections that individuals with them are ability to vote. The official theory is that they ran out of gas and crashed into the Pacific. The official theory is that they ran out of gas and crashed into the Pacific.

The celebration continued to the joy of many, who sang and fanned with funeral home fans. The spontaneous celebration continued to the joy of many, who sang and fanned with funeral home fans.

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She even bobbed for apples and played hopscotch. She even bobbed for apples and played hopscotch. She even bobbed for apples and played hopscotch.

1944 was a year of historical change for women. The 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote. It was a year of change for women. The 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote. It was a year of change for women. The 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote. It was a year of change for women. The 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote. JoAn Martin kept a scrapbook of newspaper articles featuring a young girl obsessed with flying, all us adventurous girls be determined to learn to fly. She worked at any job to save money to buy a plane. Her father even gave her a plane. Her father even gave her a plane.

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Residents shaken but not deterred

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

It takes a special person to do that.

Thank you for all the selfless hours of your day.

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

On CNN, David Gregor said "I was backup security, standing against the crowds," creating "ugly scenes with audiences" who were " ... a crowd." (Trump somehow grasped the "corpus of work," starting with "De-

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Hurricane Harvey jogs stormy memories

It ain’t funny, McGee; Harvey, that is.

That night, my grandson-in-law, Christian, and his wife Sarah, were watching the evening evening news. He said, “You know, I’ve been a reader of yours for years, and today’s column is the best I’ve ever read.” What a compliment. It made my day.

I mentioned in an earlier piece this week how badly I felt for my fellow Americans, especially those whose homes were destroyed. I didn’t ask me why, but thinking about the Harvey weather system and my work as a lead columnist in severely flooded — in fact, absolutely soaked — buildings, I realized I was in a good position to write about Harvey.

And so I did.

Today you could change that to “It’s impossible to escape Harvey.” I was reminded of the old radio show “Fibber McGee and Molly,” a long-running comedy that started in 1935 and ran for more than 50 years. The show featured a couple named Fibber McGee and his wife, Molly. They lived in a small town and were always trying to get away from the problems of their neighbors. But every time they tried, they ended up in the middle of the action.

Fibber and Molly were always trying to dodge their problems, but Harvey caught them by surprise. The storm was a harsh reminder that natural disasters can strike anyone, anywhere, at any time. It’s impossible to escape them. Harvey was a reminder of that.

But no. Harvey continued to make its mark on the region. The city of Houston and its surrounding areas were still dealing with the aftermath of the storm. Many people were still recovering from the disaster.

As extraordinary measure, buoys were placed to warn ships of the threat of flooding. Buoys in the bays. Puget Sound. And, for many residents in Baytown, Highlands subdivision on the outskirts of West, the storm was a wake-up call.

“Take that, Harvey!”

I reached Michael Ray on the wire, on the computer. He got help distributing the supplies. When he called me, he was stressed. Our usual conversation started off with the usual, and then Dr. Michael Ray turned to the Louisiana floods.

“Doctor, it was a mess. We had to get the supplies to the victims of Harvey. It was heartbreaking.”

We have two cherished nephews, Michael Ray and Madison. They would do their best to help the victims of Harvey and other disasters.

I wasn’t going to escape completely. I’m not sure if I could be as smug as I liked, but I understood.

I reached Dr. Michael Ray on the wire, on the computer. He got help distributing the supplies. When he called me, he was stressed. Our usual conversation started off with the usual, and then Dr. Michael Ray turned to the Louisiana floods.

The story of Harvey is not over. It’s a reminder that we cannot escape from the challenges of life. But we can learn from them. Harvey was a reminder of that. It was a lesson that we cannot afford to forget.

Thank you, Big Editor In The Sky, for sending Harvey our way. I’m grateful that you gave us the chance to see Harvey’s impact. I’m grateful to have been able to write about it.

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The Baytown Sun is a unique experience.
Through and make us stronger.

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Shame on athletes disrespecting USA

Debate is over: Dig up waste pits

Poisons inside Superfund site cannot be stored safely in the river

Tropically, but as expected, the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed cancer-causing dioxin from the San Jacinto Waste Pits washed deeper into the ground during the flood from Hurricane Harvey. A sample showed dioxin levels 2,000 times the level set to trigger a cleanup.

Declared a Superfund site in 2008 after decades of chemical toxic waste, the pits have been and continue to be a serious threat to public health and safety.

It cannot be clearer that we must finally remove all the dioxin from the pits — no matter the cost. It’s the right thing to do, and the sooner the better for the people living in and around the river.

Linked to birth defects and cancer, dioxin is one of the most potent poisons known. High levels of dioxin 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.

For instance, Harvey’s damage to the cap is just the latest in a series of failures of the liner and rock on top of the pits.

Designed to last for up to 300 years, the cap has required extensive repairs to keep the toxic waste from seeping into surrounding seas or becoming fossilized.

One does not have to dig to find the caps are in poor condition. A tar is a hill, a tarp or more likely a screen keeping the toxic waste in a flask.

To dig up the waste is over. The poisons inside the pits cannot be stored safely in the river.

Floods and storms can wash the toxic waste into the surrounding waters. Tars and caps don’t make the toxic waste safe.

It cannot be clearer that we must finally remove all the dioxin from the pits before more people, including children, are exposed to the toxic waste leaking from the site.

— David Blohm

Thought for Today:

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley. The movement was a response to student frustration at the university’s ban on political protests on campus. The movement quickly spread to other universities across the country, and it is considered to be a turning point in the fight for free speech and student rights.

— Heywood Broun, US journalist (1888-1939)

Baytown Sun Survey

Readers were asked: “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

The Baytown Sun

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— Vicki Blount Baytown

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Shame on athletics disrespecting USA

Good eating, gasoline can indeed mixed

Baytown Sun Survey

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Readers were asked: “Do you think Donald Trump did the right thing by criticizing NFL players who have protested by kneeling during the national anthem?”

The majority of those who responded said no.

— Vicki Blount Baytown

Viewpoints

Debate is over: Dig up waste pits

Shame on athletics disrespecting USA

Good eating, gasoline can indeed mixed
As Discerning Readers know, I am a man of many talents, a man who wears many hats… (OK, my wife says that I wear more pants, too), and a man of few words. That last one was a joke.

Let me think about your talent… I'll fill you in when you are a lot older. One thing about me, I am extremely proud of, however, is my little known secret title as an "Life Saverman." Placing 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 grandchildren came to me one day and said, "Uncle Jim, can you be a Life Saver?" Yes, on the same day, and even on a few hours after. I was prepared to honor their request, and they knew it.

Truth is, I would honor your requests for just about anything. Fortunately for our bank account — and for the local grocer — I am a Sigma Chi fraternity brother. I am truly blessed with the ability to snack on Life Savers, in a variety of colors, also known as “flavor” in the food industry.

One of the more extreme forms of discipline here is that I have learned to not dig in my pockets to find a Life Saver when the kids want a particular color, also known as “flavor” in the food industry. I learned to dig in their pockets to find a Life Saver when the kids want a particular flavor, also known as “color” in the food industry.

Jim Finley

Wendy Britt-Walker, president
Gulf Coast Marlen Project

Baytown Sun Survey

Last week, readers were asked if teachers, coaches and other educators should be trained to carry firearms on school grounds.

Yes 60.9%
No 39.1%


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