

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



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75 cents | Vol. 126, No. 9

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

AN EDITION OF HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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STATE



Conservative Christian attorneys gain influence under Trump

Lawyers who espouse a conservative Christian agenda have found plenty of opportunities in Texas, suing on behalf of Bible-quoting cheerleaders and defending a third-grader who wanted to hand out Christmas cards that read in part "Jesus is the Christ!" But for the First Liberty law firm, the last few years have been especially rewarding: Their attorneys have moved into powerful taxpayer-funded jobs at the Texas attorney general's office and advised President Donald Trump, who nominated a current and a former First Liberty lawyer to lifetime appointments on federal courts. **See page A2.**

NATION



Rescuers seek 1 man still missing after Maryland flash flood

A man remained missing Monday after flash flooding tore down a historic main street in a picturesque Maryland town and left a community heartbroken at seeing more devastation less than two years after rebuilding from another massive flood. The missing man — 39-year-old Eddison Hermond of Severn, Maryland — was last seen trying to help a woman rescue her cat behind a restaurant while churning, brown waters ripped through Ellicott City's flood-prone downtown. **See page A3.**

Index

Calendar.....A5
Classified.....B5
Comics.....B3
Crossword.....B4
Dear Abby.....B3
Deaths.....A5
Horoscope.....B4
Opinion.....A4
Sports.....B1

Assisted Living by Unlimited Care Cottages expands to Willis

By **Sondra Hernandez**

Assisted Living by Unlimited Care Cottages has this spring purchased Virginia's Lakeview Home, an assisted living facility in Willis as the latest addition to their eight privately-owned care cottages.

The 7,400 square-foot care home is located at 14450 Longstreet Drive off FM 1097 near Bentwater, approximately three miles west of Interstate 45.

Buck and Terri Buckholtz, owners of Assisted Living by Unlimited Care Cottages, have remodeled the home to accommodate up to 16 residents.

"We are very excited to have acquired a cottage location in Willis," said Buck Buckholtz. "Our remodeling plans included adding a multi-function room that can serve as an activity room or a private dining area, and to open up the kitchen so that it

can be seen from the den and updates that make the cottage feel like home."

Terri Buckholtz added, "Among all the upgrades and improvements, we remain focused on the single most important task at hand, and that is to provide loving, quality care for our residents in a safe and comfortable environment. We welcome the Willis community to come by for a tour and discover **Cottage continues on A5**



Courtesy photo

Assisted Living by Unlimited Care Cottages this spring purchased Virginia's Lakeview Home, an assisted living facility in Willis, as the latest addition to their eight privately-owned care cottages. Pictured is the front of the cottage on FM 1097.



Michael Minasi / Houston Chronicle

The VFW Post 4709 Honor Guard posts the colors during the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday at Conroe VFW Post 4709.

Conroe VFW reflects on true meaning of Memorial Day

By **Meagan Ellsworth**

More than 50 people gathered at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4709 in Conroe on Monday to not only pay respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but to call on the community to educate the youth about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Throughout the program, VFW Post Commander Floyd Stewart, Quartermaster John Tellier, and Senior Vice Commander Ron Breedlove solemnly shared the history of the observance, the toll, and an acknowledgment of change in the country since their grandfathers and fathers' generation.

It was a different time then, according to Breedlove, who was in awe of the older generation.

"We removed our hats during the National Anthem, we said the Pledge of Allegiance before school and it didn't offend anyone's sensitivities or (was not) seen as trampling on the rights of anyone else," Breedlove said. "It was a Memorial Day of reverence to repay the debt that we can truly never repay. We live in a different time today.

He said that people have lost a



Michael Minasi / Houston Chronicle

The VFW Post 4709 Honor Guard plays taps during the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday at Conroe VFW Post 4709.

little bit of that pride in America over the years, and that "we don't always see that same sense of devotion to something bigger than ourselves."

"Memorial Day today is more about a day to take advantage of the big sales at the mall or fighting

the traffic to get to the beach for a long weekend," Breedlove said. "We should be ashamed of ourselves if we forget that as we enjoy the long weekend that we are again at war today and the new generation is winning against an enemy **Memorial continues on A5**

Xscape Theaters now open off of FM 1488

By **Patricia Dillon**

Just in time for the summer, Xscape Theaters is now open and ready to provide quality entertainment for residents of Montgomery County.

Xscape Theaters, located at F.M. 1488 and Old Conroe Road, has scheduled an official ribbon cutting ceremony with the Conroe Chamber of Commerce for Wednesday, May 30.

The theater features 12 screens with luxury recliners in each auditorium and seating for 1,530 people.

Scott Bagwell, vice president of operations, said two of the 12 screens will be for Xtreme Xscape Presentation, the theater's version of Imax, and feature screens more than 70 feet wide.

"(With) our Xtreme screen we're a little bit more advanced on our tech because we use 4K laser projection that I don't think anyone else in the area uses," Bagwell explained. "For our sound system we use Dolby Atmos, which is a 360 degree immersive sound system where each set of the speakers in the theater is its own channel. We're going to have well over 20 separate channels in our Xtreme (showings)."

The remaining 10 screens will have sound system equivalent to 7.1 sound systems found at other theaters. Bagwell said the theater will offer similar pricing to others in the area.

"We saw an opportunity here where you've had very big growth in this area and the closest theater is probably eight, nine miles away. But with the traffic it's anywhere from a 20 minute to a half hour drive," Bagwell explained. "We're going to be a convenient choice for anyone in this area and we're going to be providing a superior product."

Bagwell said Xscape is more of a traditional theater that does not offer dine-in service, which **Theater continues on A5**

Alberto strikes Gulf Coast with dangerous surf

enifer Kay
Associated Press

Subtropical Storm Alberto lumbered ashore Monday on the U.S. Gulf Coast, pelting white sand beaches with blustery winds and stinging rain that kept the usual Memorial Day crowds away.

Forecasters warned heavy rain, flash flooding and dangerous surf posed the biggest threats as Alberto's ragged core made landfall near Laguna Beach in the Florida Panhandle. A few brief tornadoes also were possible in much of Florida and parts of Georgia,

South Carolina and Alabama.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said at 5 p.m. EDT Monday that Alberto was centered about 15 miles (24 kilometers) west-northwest of Panama City, Florida. With maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (72 kph), Alberto was moving north at 9 mph (14 kph).

Rough conditions were whipping up big waves off the eastern and northern Gulf Coast, and authorities warned swimmers to stay out of the surf because of life-threatening swells and rip currents.

Alberto continues on A5



Associated Press

Beachgoers walk on Okaloosa Island in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Monday, as Subtropical Storm Alberto approaches the Gulf Coast.



MAY 31**Lone Star Bridge Club**

The Lone Star Bridge Club will meet at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1100 W. Semands St., Conroe. There will be a sanctioned ACBL duplicate bridge game and a free lesson given by Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll. Questions are encouraged at the lesson. The free lesson will start at 9:30 a.m. and the game at 10:30 a.m. The cost has been reduced to \$5 to play and participants must have a partner to play. For information, call Mary McDonald 936-890-8593 or visit www.lonestarbridge.club.

Jay Stittleburg Montgomery Town Hall

Jay Stittleburg candidate for Montgomery County Judge, is having a Montgomery Town Hall at 7 Leguas Restaurant, 15949 Texas 105, at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.jaystittleburg.com.

Montgomery County Right to Life

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Right to Life organization is set from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Conroe Central Library, 104 I-45 Conroe. Katie Van Dyke with Speak for the Unborn is the featured speaker. More information is available at www.mcrtlif.com.

JUNE 1**Knights of Columbus fish fry**

Knights of Columbus, a nonprofit organization, will hold fish fry at The Knights

of Columbus Hall, 16663 Hwy 75, Between Willis and New Waverly. Fish plates will be served from 4:30-7 p.m. and cost \$10 each.

Montgomery County Genealogists' Internet Research Group (MCG-IRG)

The group will meet from 9:15 a.m. to noon at George & Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library in the first Floor Meeting Room. Please email or call Jean Smoorenburg, jsmoorenburg@gmail.com 936-273-1936 or Phyllis Stehm, pstehm@comcast.net 936-273-1569 for more information.

JUNE 2**Fundraiser Garage Sale**

Large garage sale to raise funds for local young women from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to go to camp this summer. Multiple family donations include furniture, dishes, kids' clothes, toys, etc. At 338 Broadmoor Drive at 8 a.m. To make donations or for more info., please call 936-581-9461 or 970-261-4522.

JUNE 4**2018 Conroe Tigers Classic golf tournament**

This event, supporting Conroe Tigers football, is set at 10 a.m. at Panorama Golf Club. 9 a.m. registration and check-in, 10 a.m. shotgun start followed by dinner. \$125 per person or \$450 per team — Checks made payable to : CHS Conroe Tiger Football Booster Club, Inc. PO Box 2753, Conroe, Texas 77305

or PayPal.me/chstigerfootball. Contact Karen Jacomet at 281-788-8306 or email Conroefootballboosters@gmail.com.

JUNE 6**Montgomery County Genealogists' Internet Research Group (MCG-IRG)**

Montgomery County Genealogists' Internet Research Group (MCG-IRG) will meet from 7 - 8:30 pm at George & Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library, The Woodlands in the first floor meeting room. Please email or call Jean Smoorenburg, jsmoorenburg@gmail.com 936-273-1936 or Phyllis Stehm, pstehm@comcast.net 936-273-1569 for information.

JUNE 7**The Chamber's 8th Annual Tastefest**

The Conroe / Lake Conroe's 8th Annual Tastefest takes place from 5-8 p.m. at the Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Road, Conroe. Open to the public. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Ticket packages available. Purchase tickets online at www.conroe.org.

JUNE 8**Children's Museum of The Woodlands fundraiser**

For a limited time, join The Woodlands Children's Museum for a Heart Tile Workshop where children will create and personalize a mosaic heart tile that will be featured in a permanent

display at the museum. Workshops are 45-minutes and start at 10 am, 11 am and noon. Sessions are June 8, June 9, July 20 and July 21. \$45 per heart and includes museum admission. Pre-registration and payment are required. RSVP at 281-465-0955.

JUNE 10**Aloha Sunday with Michael Berry**

Lake Conroe Area Republican Women celebrates its 25th anniversary with Aloha Sunday with a presentation by colorful Houston radio talk show host Michael Berry. The event is at the Walden Yacht Club, 13101 Melville Drive, Montgomery. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75. Contact Sheri Hummer at ssdhummer@aol.com or call 281-362-5848 for more.

JUNE 11**Grief Support Group**

From 5:30 to 7 p.m. The bereaved of all faiths are invited to attend this ongoing grief support group sponsored by First United Methodist Church, 4308 West Davis Street (105 just east of 3083W). Held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, it is facilitated by a licensed social worker whose professional focus is grief counseling.

JUNE 14**Conroe Chamber Morning Mingle**

Morning mingle sponsored by the Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber with check-in at 7:30 a.m. and networking from 8 to 9 p.m. At Con-

roe's Incredible Pizza, 230 S. Loop 336, Conroe. \$10 members in advance. \$15 day of and not-yet members. Registration required. Register online at www.conroe.org.

JUNE 16**The Woodlands Children's Museum**

Children and their fathers are invited to spend the morning together at The Woodlands Children's Museum during Dads, Dinosaurs & Donuts. Visitors can eat breakfast donuts together and meet a life-sized dinosaur. The museum also will host art activities, which will give children an opportunity to create special Father's Day gifts. For more information, visit woodlandschildrensmuseum.org or call 281-465-0955.

JUNE 21**Montgomery County Welcoming Neighbors Club**

Montgomery County Welcoming Neighbors Club (social club 501c7) monthly luncheon will be held at the Walden Yacht Club. Social hour begins at 10 a.m. followed by a short business meeting and lunch. Program is 2018-2019 WNC Officer installation followed by recognition of Montgomery County Charities and donations. Call Trica Green at (281) 381-6278 for reservations.

JUNE 22**Bloomin' Crazy for Quilts**

The Woodlands Area Quilt Guild presents "Bloomin' Crazy for Quilts" 2018 Quilt Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 23 from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Road, Conroe. Admission is \$10. Children 18 and under are free.

JUNE 24**Celebrate America Mims Baptist Church**

Mims Baptist Church welcomes US Congressman Randy Weber for the church's annual Celebrate America event. The event includes a 120-voice adult choir and orchestra, a salute to the Armed Forces, Montgomery County Freedom Flyers and much more. The church is at 1609 Porter Road, Conroe. Call 936-756-0065 or visit www.mimsbaptist.org.

JUNE 27**Jurassic Camp**

Experience the adventure at Jurassic Camp happening June 27-29 at Grace Church Woodlands. This camp is for children first through sixth grade. Your child can expect to engage in powerful services, exciting team competitions, water activities, and have lots of fun! For more information contact Pastor Rachele at rriggle@grace.tv.

JUNE 28**Grief Support Group**

From 5:30-7 p.m. The bereaved of all faiths are invited to attend this ongoing grief support group sponsored by First United Methodist Church, 4308 West Davis Street (105 just east of 3083W). Held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, it is facilitated by a licensed social worker whose professional focus is grief counseling

Alberto

from page A1

Between four and eight inches (10-25 centimeters) of rain could pummel Florida Panhandle, eastern and central Alabama, and western Georgia before the storm moves on. Isolated deluges of 12 inches (30 centimeters) also were possible as the storm heads inland, threatening heavy rains around the Southeast in the coming hours and days.

As Alberto's center heads inland — deprived of the warm waters that fuel tropical weather systems — the storm was expected to steadily weaken. A subtropical storm like Alberto has a less defined and cooler center than a

tropical storm, and its strongest winds are found farther from its center. A tropical storm warning is in effect for a stretch of coastline between Aucilla River in Florida's Big Bend and the Alabama-Florida border.

Lifeguards posted red flags along the white sands of Pensacola Beach, where swimming and wading were banned.

Meanwhile, the storm forced some Memorial Day tributes to be cancelled across Florida's Panhandle. Safety was the priority, but the decision was still a "heartbreaker," said Tom Rice, a 29-year-old Army veteran who leads the organizations that planned a ceremony Monday at Beal Memorial Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach.

Some stragglers still made their way through the rain to pay tribute at the cemetery's Veterans Tribute Tower, however. Rice said American flags had been placed Saturday on the graves of all 1,700 veterans buried in the cemetery.

"We got the flags out," Rice told the Northwest Florida Daily News as wind whipped a massive U.S. flag flying at half-staff. "That's what's important."

Along the Florida Panhandle coast known for its pristine beaches, tourists vowed Alberto wouldn't dampen their vacations.

Jason Powell said he was seeking to keep his children entertained until Alberto blows past his Panhandle vacation spot. "So far we've seen a lot

of wind and the ocean is really high, covering up the entire beach," Powell said. "We're not letting it ruin our vacation ... we're going to watch some movies inside and a little TV, and hopefully maybe even get into the pool" despite the rain.

Janet Rhumes said her group of friends from Kansas had been planning their Memorial Day weekend on Navarre Beach since October. They stocked up on groceries and planned to play card games. No storm could deter them.

"We've never seen one before and we're here celebrating a friend's 20th birthday," Rhumes told the Daily News. "So how often can you say you rode a storm out?"

The mayor of Orange

Beach, on Alabama's Gulf Coast, said Alberto brought rain and aggravation — and dashed hopes for record Memorial Day crowds. Instead, red flags flew on Alabama beaches and officers patrolled, making sure no one entered the water.

Elsewhere, Florida's Division of Emergency Management said, about 2,600 customers were without power in northwestern Florida on Monday morning.

Scarlett Rustemeyer, a barista at the Fosko Coffee Barre in Pensacola Beach, said she always frets about power outages whenever storms bluster through.

"My boyfriend and I usually try to go to the store and stock up on lots of bottled water, and get like canned goods and

things that won't go bad if our power goes out," she said.

Alberto, the first named storm of 2018, got an early jump on the Atlantic hurricane season.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released the annual hurricane season forecast Thursday in which they call for 10 to 16 named storms, with five to nine hurricanes. One to four hurricanes could be "major" with sustained winds of at least 111 mph (178 kph).

If that forecast holds, it would make for a near-normal or above-normal season. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

Cottage

from page A1

the unique benefits of a smaller, home-like care cottage, which is oftentimes an ideal fit for their loved one's needs."

The cottage offers a unique, cozy, home-like alternative to larger, more traditional assisted living

communities or nursing homes for families in need of care for an aging parent, family member, or friend. Staffed 24/7 by full-time care partners, the cottage boasts a high staff-to-resident ratio for the caregiving industry. Private and companion rooms are offered for residents whose needs range from minimum to maximum care with assis-

tance with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, transferring, and medication reminders.

Transitional care for elderly patients who need extra help after a lengthy stay in the hospital or a rehabilitation center, as well as temporary respite care is also offered as space is available.

Cottage residents enjoy

home-cooked meals in the kitchen and sitting out on the front and side porch. They can also participate in activities, such as music therapy, and they have access to volunteer services, on-site visiting physician services, home health, and hospice services. Other services, such as hair and nail care, are also provided for the residents.

Assisted Living by Unlimited Care Cottages was established by Buck and Terri Buckholtz in 1998 and is a privately-owned, fully-licensed assisted living facility. They have seven other cottage locations in The Woodlands, Spring and Oak Ridge North areas.

"The Willis cottage adds a perfect North Montgomery County com-

plement to our locations," Terri Buckholtz said. "With the recent population growth in our county, we are expanding our footprint to accommodate the needs of local families and their loved ones."

For more information about Assisted Living by Unlimited Care Cottages, visit www.UnlimitedCareCottages.com or call 713-419-2609.

Memorial

from page A1

on our behalf in Afghanistan and other countries around the world."

U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, the chair of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, was emotionally introduced by Stewart as the guest speaker for dedication to veterans. Brady commended the VFW's service during Hurricane Harvey when it hit Montgomery County as a tropical storm with widespread flooding. The VFW opened its doors to collect and distribute clothes and other dona-

tions, as well as to cook and deliver food to those who lost their homes and first responders, and sent trucks to Rockport and Beaumont.

He shared about the Willis wreath ceremony led by the American Legion Post that honors the fallen each year, the progress of the new Veterans Clinic in Conroe, and his recent vote cast on the budget that funded the American military at the highest level in nearly a decade. He thanked those who brought youth to the ceremony to remember more than 1.1 million men and women who gave everything, so that the community could gather in freedom, safety and secu-

urity.

"One thing we have to do is ensure their sacrifice is never in vain is to ensure our children, the next generation understands why so many Americans are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice," Brady said. "We must teach them why liberty is worth fighting for and sometimes worth dying for."

"For many Americans, not long ago I think we were all concerned that as a nation that we were losing command of this understanding, that our liberties were being taken for granted, and that these heroes might someday be forgotten," he added. "It seems to me there is a renewed optimism in our

country today, a renewed appreciation for our flag, our military, for our remarkable origin as a nation, and for the constitution that guarantees us our rights. I see it in the faces here today, that gives me hope—it should give all Americans hope."

In contrast to the older generation, when Breedlove said nearly every family had a member that served in the military, he shared only half a percent of the population serves in the military today.

"But I can say with confidence that some Americans will always stand for what is right," he added. "As I think about the children of today, I know that some will carry on the tra-

ditions of their fathers and grandfathers before them—why? Because we love America and there are still some willing to die for freedom and our way of life."

He said that while Memorial Day is not so much for the families of the fallen, those who have served and endured losses remember those losses every day.

"Memorial Day is for the rest of the nation's citizens to remember, to say thank you to those who have fallen and given so much to us," Breedlove said. "May all of our fallen rest peacefully. May all of us that loved them find peace and understanding of their sacrifice, and that the America they so loved,

protected and gave their lives for—is worthy of it."

The ceremony ended with a message about the Buddy Poppy program, the playing of "Taps," and barbecue meals for the attendees.

"It was good, it was inspiring," said Conroe resident Ford Strickler, 81, who served in the Army and Navy from 1959-1064, and in 1968, and felt that Americans today do not remember and honor the fallen as much as they should. "I served with a lot of those guys that lost their life. They should be honored all the way through."

For more information, visit vfw4709.org.

mellsworth@bcnonline.com

Theater

from page A1

he added has been successful at their five other

locations because there is no server interrupting the viewing experience.

Although the theater will not offer dine-in service, Bagwell said it will provide an expanded food

menu: pizza, chicken tenders, french fries, big pretzels, pretzel bites, hot dogs and more. It also will offer wine and both draft and bottled beer to enjoy during the films.

"What we try to provide is good quality entertainment at a decent price," Bagwell said.

The theater will offer a Free Summer Series one day a week during the

morning on a first come, first serve basis. More information on the Free Summer Series will be available later on the theater website.

"We like to be a good

member of the community and this is a way we can give back," Bagwell said.

For more information, visit Xscape Theaters on Facebook at <https://bit.ly/2KJPJ5vI>.