

- **Free Publication for the Gulf Coast Region**
- **Concise Review of the Past Week's News**
- **Government Meetings and Politics**

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# Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, May 31, 2010

## Galveston County to Host Two Regional Meetings *Area County Judges to Discuss Oil Spill Response and Storm Surge Prevention*

*Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Brazoria County Judge Joe King will lead a noon hour news conference on the oil spill response on Tuesday at the Galveston County Courthouse at 711 Moody Avenue in Galveston.*

Other participants will include port officials from Galveston, Houston and Freeport, representatives of the United States Coast Guard, the Texas General Land Office, and emergency management and health department officials from Galveston County.

The officials will meet with the news media "to discuss what steps have been taken and are being considered in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill off the coast of Louisiana," the announcement said.

At 1:30 in the Galveston County Commissioners Courtroom Judges Yarbrough, Emmett and King will be joined by their counterparts from Brazoria, Chambers, Jefferson and Orange counties for a meeting of the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, to discuss issues related to a feasibility study of a storm surge protection system.

### Galveston City Council

Galveston City Council last week voted 6-1, with Steve Greenberg

opposed; to give direction to City Manager Steve LeBlanc to work toward release of the San Jacinto Disposal Area, commonly called the East End Flats.



### League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted 6-0-1, with Mike Barber abstaining, to elect Barber as mayor pro tem.

The city council voted unanimously to designate Mick Phalen as representative and Mayor Toni Randall as alternate on the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.

### Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted 4-1, with Louis Decker opposed, to approve directing \$10,000 from the city's General Fund to hire bands to play at a festival on July 3.

The item was considered under updates for the Red, White and Bayou Crawfish and Texas Music Festival, part of which was cancelled due to weather.

Ticket sales will be used to repay the funding provided by the city.

### Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to authorize the Parker Law Firm to file documents necessary to add the Beaumont Police Officers Association to pending litigation in the 136th District Court of Jefferson County, regarding the case of Erik Kvarme, Derrick Fowler, Douglas Kibodeaux and Rebecca Chism vs. The City of Beaumont and the Civil Service Commission of the City of Beaumont.

 <p><b>Mitchell Historic Properties</b> (409) 763-5806 <a href="http://www.mitchellhistoricproperties.com">www.mitchellhistoricproperties.com</a></p>	<p><i>Offering retail, office space in historic downtown Galveston</i></p>
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### Friendswood City Council

Friendswood City Council last week held a brief special session before a town hall meeting to receive input regarding the creation of a transportation district in Galveston County.

The formal agenda included only one action item, to reschedule its first regular meeting in June to June 14; however, no action was taken on that item. A motion was made, but then withdrawn. The date change was being considered due to the June 5 Special Run Off Election for City Council Position 6, currently held by Andy Rivera.

## La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council, in a contentious meeting that resulted in a former council member being escorted from the room, and several city council members and the city attorney leaving before its completion, last week took no final action on a proposal to repeal the creation of the office of Public Safety Director.

The city council voted unanimously to appoint Ben Crowder, Peggy Phillips, Jacqueline Joyner and David Pennington to the newly-created Cemetery Board.

## Santa Fe City Council

Santa Fe City Council last week voted 4-0-1, with Joe Carothers abstaining, to name Carothers as mayor pro tem.



## Jamaica Beach City Council

Jamaica Beach City Council last week voted unanimously to name Eddie Burke, Jr. as mayor pro tem.

## Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to elect Richard Adams as mayor pro tem.

Mayor Dolly Arons and aldermen Gerry Victor and Nancy Schnell were sworn in for new terms on the city council. Victor will serve a third term on the city council, while Schnell is serving her first term, replacing Alderman Robert Plant, while Arons replaces Jayo Washington as mayor.

## Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a \$295,447 armored vehicle for the

Pasadena Police Department SWAT team.

The vehicle will be purchased from Lenco Armored Vehicles.

## Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted 3-1, with Felicia Kyle opposed, to approve the issuance of \$7.685 million in Economic Development Corporation Sales Tax Revenue Bonds.

City Manager Bill Eisen said that the bonds are for the construction of the Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. Facility. The Pearland Economic Development Corporation approved the bond issue on April 26, but required city council approval for issuance.

## Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve agreements with the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, Lone Star College, Economic Alliance-Houston Port Region, Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation and Katy Economic Development Council, Inc. for economic development activities in various parts of the county.

The commissioners court approved a resolution recognizing "Jack Yates Senior High School, its 2010 Boys Basketball Champions and the Yates Lions basketball season of record-setting scoring".

## Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to authorize County Engineer Mike Fitzgerald to execute change orders up to \$1 million for the Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge Project.

"The reason is there are incentives and disincentives in this contract and they are fairly significant and we didn't want the contractor to be delayed in any decision which might

affect those incentives and disincentives," Fitzgerald explained. "This is not something that I asked to do; this is something that is necessary to keep the job on track."

## Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted 4-1, with Everette "Bo" Alfred opposed, to approve a \$98,000 contract with Sigma Engineers for the schematic design phase and design development stage of the first phase of the Jefferson County Crime Lab Project.

## Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted 4-1, with Stacy Adams opposed, to approve an Engineering and Inspection Services Agreement with LCG Engineering.

The commissioners court voted 4-0-1, with Dude Payne abstaining from the vote, to award a \$74,975 bid to Noble Building and Development, LLC of Angleton for the construction of a restroom facility at the Surfside Jetty.



## Clear Creek School Board

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted to name Dee Scott as the board president, Ken Baliker as vice president, and Ann Hammond as secretary.

## Galveston ISD School Board

The Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees, in a special meeting last week, voted 5-2, with Andy Mytelka and Beau Rawlins opposed, to name Dr. Ann Dixon as interim superintendent

Dixon served previously as interim superintendent at Galveston ISD in 2006.

## Santa Fe ISD School Board

The Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees, in a special meeting last week, voted 4-3, with Billy Burns, Sheryl Skufca and Bruce Blankenship opposed, to approve the nonrenewal of an assistant principal's contract for Kubacek/Cowan Elementary.

## Hitchcock ISD School Board

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees, in a special meeting last week, voted unanimously to accept a voluntary resignation agreement with teacher Keith Kelley.

## Texas A&M Regents

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents last week unanimously approved a 2.8 percent increase in its designated tuition.

"Texas A&M unquestionably is facing a challenging fiscal period, having already sustained a five percent reduction in the portion of its budget supported by state appropriations, but we fully realize that students and their families are facing significant budgetary concerns, too," said President R. Bowen Loftin. "In working with the board and A&M system, we made the tough decision to hold the line on tuition increases as much as possible while continuing to maintain our high academic standards."

## College of the Mainland

The College of the Mainland Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve \$400,527 for the purchase and installation of an Internet-Protocol telephone system through a partnership between Cisco and Databox.

The purchase includes the training of personnel in managing the system. It will allow the college to utilize Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol, or VoIP, for phone service.

## Port of Galveston

Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves Finance Director Wayne Byrd last week resigned his position. Port Director Steve Cernak confirmed that Byrd has vacated the position but will remain on the port staff for the remainder of the year.

"R. Wayne Byrd has announced that he intends to retire from employment with the port as of December 31, 2010," Cernak said. "In order to facilitate the search for, and the appointment of, a new finance director and to allow for a speedy transition, Mr. Byrd will step down from that post immediately and assist until his retirement date as an employee of the port in the transition, and working on special projects as directed by the port director."

## Port of Beaumont

Port of Beaumont Director Chris Fisher last week reported to the Port of Beaumont Navigation District Board of Commissioners that the port's bond rating will likely increase under a new formula by the rating agencies.

The meeting included a discussion of a brief work stoppage the previous week because of a pay dispute between members of the International Longshoremen's Association and James J. Flanagan Shipping Corp.

"We set a policy at one of our recent meetings that we would take problems and clarify them and discuss them," Board President Pete Shelton said. "If my memory serves me right, I don't believe that they have the right to have a work stoppage."

## U.S. Army Corps

The United States Army Corps of Engineers last week granted a Section 10 Permit to Independent Natural Resources, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Renew Blue, Inc., to install a commercial wave-powered

demonstration facility a mile off of Freeport, Texas in the Gulf of Mexico.

"This permit marks a significant step to help Texas achieve its goals for new sources of energy and clean water," said INRI Vice President Douglas Sandberg. "It is an exciting time for us as we move closer to demonstrating a renewable energy technology that can provide base load electricity and fresh water for municipalities, commercial business and local entities."

## Houston METRO

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County last week announced that it has terminated a garage superintendent, and intends to discipline other employees, for falsifying records relating to defensive driving courses required by METRO employees.

## Golden Triangle Incubator

The Golden Triangle Empowerment Center and Small Business Incubator last week held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at its Downtown Port Arthur location at 617 Procter Street.

"It's probably one of the most exciting buildings that is going to open in recent time, because it is going to be extremely functional," Port Arthur Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince said, noting that the building will have a full size restaurant as well as other amenities. "There will be training grounds in one part of the building and incubators for future business owners, entrepreneurs."

## The Guidry News Gazette

The Guidry News Gazette is our free, weekly newspaper that features a concise review of the past week's news and a preview of the next week's meetings, events and entertainment opportunities.

The newspaper is published each Monday as a PDF file that can be

downloaded from the Front Page of GuidryNews.com, printed and distributed with no further permission required.

"It is our hope that the Guidry News Gazette will be made available to co-workers, visitors, customers and others who may be interested in news of the Gulf Coast Region," said Publisher Jim Guidry. "For advertising information, contact Lynda Guidry at (409) 763 NEWS (6397)."

## Deaths

**Olivia Zamora Villamil** (97) of Galveston died on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at her residence in Galveston.

**Mae Katherine Pratorius Bell** (92) of Galveston, passed away Friday, May 28, 2010, in Friendswood.

**Clarence Winston** was honored in a memorial service on Friday, May 28th, at 1:00 PM in the chapel of Fields-Johnson Family Mortuary.

**Jessie Kay (Mottesheard) Bolton** died on Thursday, May 26, 2010.

**Bessie Mae Smith** (83) died on Monday, May 24, 2010, at Gulf Health Care Center in Galveston.

**Sandra Pete** (51) passed away peacefully at her residence on May 23, 2010.

Obituaries are posted in full with color photographs on the GuidryNews.com Obituary page at no cost to families or funeral homes.

## Meetings and Events

### Monday, May 31

**Memorial Day** - visit GuidryNews.com for a coverage of Memorial Day Events

### Tuesday, June 1

8:00 **Port of Houston Authority**  
9:30 **Board of Pilot Commissioners of the Ports of Harris County**  
1:30 **Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, Galveston County Commissioners Courtroom**  
5:30 **Port Arthur City Council**

6:00 **Webster City Council**  
6:30 **Bayou Vista City Council**  
7:00 **Clear Lake Shores City Council**  
7:00 **Seabrook City Council**  
7:30 **Pasadena City Council**  
7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

### Wednesday, June 2

9:00 **Houston City Council Consolidated Meeting**  
9:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**  
5:00 **Texas City City Commission**  
7:30 **El Lago City Council**  
7:30 **Taylor Lake Village City Council**  
7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

### Thursday, June 3

7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**  
7:30 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**  
8:00 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**  
8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**  
8:00 **This Must Be the Place, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**

### Friday, June 4

8:00 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**  
8:00 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**  
8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**  
8:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**  
8:00 **This Must Be the Place, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**  
8:00 **Trip to Bountiful, Clear Creek Community Theatre**  
8:00 **Boeing-Boeing (Preview), Alley Theatre**

### Saturday, June 5

2:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**  
2:30 **Boeing-Boeing (Preview), Alley Theatre**  
8:00 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**  
8:00 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**  
8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**  
8:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**  
8:00 **This Must Be the Place, Bay**

Area Harbour Playhouse  
8:00 **Trip to Bountiful, Clear Creek Community Theatre**  
8:00 **Boeing-Boeing (Preview), Alley Theatre**

### Sunday, June 6

2:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**  
2:30 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**  
2:30 **This Must Be the Place, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**  
2:30 **Trip to Bountiful, Clear Creek Community Theatre**  
3:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**  
7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**  
7:30 **Boeing-Boeing (Preview), Alley Theatre**

## About Guidry News Service

Guidry News Service is headquartered in Midtown Houston at 4001 Fannin, Suite 4432, Houston, Texas 77004; with offices in Downtown Beaumont and Downtown Galveston.

Guidry News Service is seeking a marketing representative with a proven track record for the Houston market.

We also are interviewing reporters and editors for assistance with meetings in Brazoria, Galveston, Harris and Jefferson counties.

Call (409) 763-NEWS (6397) or email News@GuidryNews.com

Jim and Lynda Guidry are publishers of Gulf Coast E-news; GuidryNews.com, The Online News Station; and the Guidry News Gazette.

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