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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, July 5, 2010

Retirement, Hours Before Death, in Brazoria County *District Clerk Jerry Deere Faxes Retirement Papers and then Passes Away*

Brazoria County District Clerk Jerry Deere died on Thursday, just hours after officially retiring from the office that he served for many years.

"I knew he had been in bad health for quite a while so it wasn't unexpected that he passed away," said Brazoria County Judge Joe King in an interview with Guidry News Service. "I just thought it was kind of ironic that he did the paperwork."

King said that Deere was unable to go into the office on Thursday, so he signed and faxed the retirement papers to the county.

The commissioners court held an emergency meeting on Friday to approve the bond for Rhonda Barchak, who was appointed by the district judges to fill the remainder of Deere's term and to deputize the employees in the District Clerk's Office so business can continue.

Galveston City Council

Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski intends to begin this week's City Council Retreat on Tuesday with the swearing in of recently elected District 1 Council Member Rusty Legg.

The action comes after a recount with no change in the outcome. Challenger Rusty Legg defeated incumbent Tarris Woods by a vote of 209 to 200.

Wood's attorney, Anthony Griffin, has filed a court challenge to the runoff election.



La Marque City Council

La Marque City Council scheduled two meetings that did not occur last week.

The city council did not hold its regular meeting on Monday due to the refusal of Mayor Geraldine Sam to call the meeting to order.

Sam said several items she had requested to be placed on the meeting's agenda were missing, and called for the meeting to be rescheduled to Friday. City Manager Eric Gage had not placed the items on the agenda, according to Sam.

"Due to the continued disrespect and insubordination by Mr. Gage toward me, this council meeting will not be called to order tonight," Sam said.

On Friday, only the mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Keith Bell turned out for the meeting. Thus, it could not be called to order.

A special meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday evening to consider a resolution "requiring a request of the majority of the city

council at an open meeting before any item regarding personnel matters or the repeal of city ordinances or resolutions will be placed on future agendas"; and to consider, discuss and approve the appointment of a mayor pro tem.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted 4-1, with Ken Clark opposed, to approve a purchase and sale agreement with the Trust for Public Land for the acquisition of four tracts adjacent to Ostermayer Bayou.



Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award a \$975,253 contract to Tom-Mac for restoration of the Walter Umphrey State Park Pier.

Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to increase the contract amount by \$2.332 million to continue latent print support services for the Houston Police Department by Ron Smith & Associates Inc.

"The contractor's findings confirmed that, in order to improve

the effectiveness and efficiency along with eliminating a growing backlog of cases, the Latent Print Processing/Comparison Unit had to be substantially overhauled," Police Chief Charles McClelland, Jr. said.

La Porte City Council

La Porte City Council last week voted unanimously to call a special election for August 28 for City Council District 5 due to Council Member Louis Rigby resigning from his position to run in the special mayoral election being held on the same date.

Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted unanimously to amend the city's Code of Ordinances regarding the unlawful keeping of gamecocks and roosters.

The city council voted unanimously to establish the Port Arthur Industrial District Agreement and Tax Abatement Subcommittee. The committee will consist of three council members.

Shoreacres City Council

Shoreacres City Council last week voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance prohibiting texting or web-browsing while operating a motor vehicle.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of the Streamlined Five-Year Public Housing Administration Plan for Fiscal Years 2010-2015 and the Streamlined Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2010.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted unanimously to elect W.L. Pate, Jr. as mayor pro tem.

The city council voted to approve a request to rezone property at the

southwest corner of Highland and Pipkin from a Neighborhood Commercial District to a General Commercial - Multiple Family Dwelling District and allow a specific use permit to allow a retail store.

The zoning change and special use permit will allow the construction of a proposed 9,000 square foot Dollar General Discount Store.

Pearland City Council

Pearland City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a \$1.195 million bond order by Brazoria County Municipal Utility District No. 6.

The city council voted unanimously to authorize City Manager Bill Eisen to enter into a development agreement with Shadow Creek Ranch Development Company, LP for the extension of Discovery Bay Drive.

The project will extend the roadway to fill an 800-foot "gap" between the road and newly-constructed frontage roads at State Highway 288.

Clear Creek School Board

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve an agreement with BP America to fund the construction of a Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station and related equipment and facilities at the Central Support Facility.

Santa Fe ISD School Board

The Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve the hiring of several professional staff members.

College of the Mainland

The College of the Mainland Board of Trustees last week heard from citizens and members of the college's Community Bond Advisory

Committee regarding a proposed bond issue, but postponed further discussion and action on the bond issue.

Two members of the board, Ralph Holm and Annette Jenkins, were absent, and other members of the board preferred to wait for a full board to take action on the bond proposal.

Port of Houston Authority

The Port of Houston Authority Commission last week voted unanimously to authorize a \$600,000 payment to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for dredging the port's Sims Bayou facility, a \$1,375,000 payment to the Corps for dredging the port's Woodhouse facilities, and a payment to the corps, not to exceed \$1,250,000, for additional improvements of Placement Areas 14 and 15 at the Port of Houston.

Port of Houston Authority Chief Executive Officer Alec Dreyer had a positive report for the commission.

"In April, I reported that we had a lull in the recovery, or at least what appeared to be a lull in the recovery," he said. "In May, we returned to growth mode in all lines of our business."

Port of Galveston

The Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves last week voted unanimously to approve a debris removal program at Pier 19, at a cost not to exceed \$16,800. The project had been requested at the previous meeting by Virginia McClendon and Dr. Jerry Baty of the Texas Research Group, who reported today that volunteers have already begun the cleanup; and that many pelicans have returned to the pier.

Galveston City Council Member Dianna Puccetti took her oath of office as a wharves board member, as well as a member of the Galveston Port Facilities Corporation, and

participated in both meetings as the city council ex-officio representative.

Port of Beaumont

The Board of Commissioners of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District last week voted unanimously to select Terry Whiddon of Funchess, Mills, White and Associates to perform auditor services for the port's 2009-2010 annual audit report.

Port of Lake Charles

The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District last week announced that its board of commissioners recently elected new officers. C. Wade Shaddock, Jr., who has been a member of the board since 2003, was elected president.

Port Manatee

Port Manatee's second mobile harbor container crane arrived last week from Gottwald Port Technology's factory in Germany.

Port Manatee is a deepwater seaport located in northern Manatee County on Florida's West Coast.

Deaths

Dorothy Timken Curtis-Hammond (76) died Wednesday, June 30, 2010, surrounded by her daughters and hospice care at her home in Galveston, Texas.

Mae Dell Robbins (74) died on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at Cornerstone Hospital of Houston at Clear Lake.

Timothy "Tim" James Cappadonna (54) of Groves, Texas died on Monday, June 28, 2010.

Meetings and Events

Monday, July 5

Independence Day Holiday

Tuesday, July 6

10:00 Pasadena City Council
1:30 Beaumont City Council
6:00 Webster City Council

6:30 Bayou Vista City Council
6:45 Kemah City Council/Kemah Economic Development Corporation
7:00 Clear Lake Shores City Council
7:00 Seabrook City Council
7:00 Kemah City Council Special Meeting

7:30 Galveston Beach Band Concert, Sealy Pavilion
8:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center

Wednesday, July 7

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
8:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center

Thursday, July 8

12:00 Houston Downtown Management District
4:00 Galveston City Council
6:30 Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees
7:00 Santa Fe City Council
7:00 La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees
7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap (Preview)**, Alley Theatre
7:30 **Five Guys Named Moe**, Ensemble Theatre
8:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center

Friday, July 9

8:00 **A Year with Frog and Toad**, Stagedoor Inc.
8:00 **Gypsy**, Island etc at The Strand Theatre
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap (Preview)**, Alley Theatre
8:00 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse
8:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Hollow**, Company OnStage
8:00 **Five Guys Named Moe**, Ensemble Theatre

Saturday, July 10

11:00 **Beauty and the Beast**, Company OnStage
1:30 **Beauty and the Beast**, Company OnStage

2:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center
2:00 **Five Guys Named Moe**, Ensemble Theatre
6:00 **ArtWalk**, Downtown Galveston
8:00 **A Year with Frog and Toad**, Stagedoor Inc.
8:00 **Gypsy**, Island etc at The Strand Theatre
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap**, Alley Theatre
8:00 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse
8:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center
8:00 **Agatha Christie's The Hollow**, Company OnStage
8:00 **Five Guys Named Moe**, Ensemble Theatre

Sunday, July 11

2:00 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center
2:30 **Gypsy**, Island etc at The Strand Theatre
2:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap**, Alley Theatre
2:30 **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse
3:00 **A Year with Frog and Toad**, Stagedoor Inc.
3:00 **Five Guys Named Moe**, Ensemble Theatre
7:30 **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap**, Alley Theatre
7:30 **Wicked**, Broadway Across America, Hobby Center

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.

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*.

Garrett Bryce is managing editor.

Carl Guidry covers events in Jefferson County.

Jim Richardson and Jim Cook are Washington, D.C. correspondents.

Robert John Mihovil and Juan Peña are special correspondents.

Jason Adriance is webmaster.

