

# Rotary donates \$2K to Bay Area Rehabilitation Services

BY CAROL SKEWES

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Bay Area Rehabilitation Center Executive Director Mark Alexander and Board Member Eric Harding spoke to Baytown Rotarians Wednesday about the 70 years of services provided to the greater Baytown area.

Rotary donated \$2,000 to help them in their work.

Alexander described the 70-year history, which began in 1948 when the center was formed as Baytown Society for Crippled Children serving young cerebral palsy patients. The name has changed and many changes have happened since March of that year.

In 1995 they began serving all ages for anyone with physical, speech or occupational therapy needs.

Today's Bay Area Rehabilitation Center is located in a 33,000



The Baytown Rotary Club donated \$2,000 to Bay Area Rehabilitation Services on Wednesday. From left are Doug Walker, Rotarian; Eric Harding, Bay Area Rehabilitation Center board member; Suzanne Heinrich, Rotarian; and Mark Alexander, Bay Area Rehabilitation Center executive director.

square foot facility at 5313 Decker Drive with physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and a heated pool.

In 2007 Bay Area Rehabilitation Center absorbed the Baytown Opportunity Center, with a 2010 finalized merger making it a division of Bay Area Rehabilitation Center, called Opportunity Center, and a move to the Bay Area campus on Decker Drive.

Opportunity Center offers vocational rehabilitation for individuals with mental health needs and those with combined physical needs.

As of 2007 Opportunity Center had 27 clients with five staff members on a budget of \$350,000, half of which was funded by United Way at that time.

Today over 200 individuals are helped and the Opportunity Center budget is approximately \$2 million.

Alexander said, "We help people." They certainly do.

They serve anyone who walks

in the door with a need for physical-, speech- or occupational therapy regardless of the person's ability to pay.

Bay Area Rehabilitation Center offers Early Childhood Intervention home-based services for children up to three years of age with individualized custom plans at no cost to the families.

Pediatric services are offered for those between age 3-18 and adult programs serve anyone older than 18.

They also do work rehabilitation services for community employers, pre-work screenings and offer an aquatic program and exercise programs.

Bay Area Rehabilitation Services and the Opportunity Center are improving lives.

Alexander celebrates their 70-year legacy and looks forward to the centers providing safety net services to the community for the next 70 years and beyond.

## Doctor's killing could be act of revenge: police

HOUSTON (AP) — A man suspected of killing one of former President George H.W. Bush's doctors may have been seeking revenge for his mother, who died on the doctor's operating table more than 20 years ago, authorities said Wednesday.

Joseph James Pappas, 62, should be considered armed, dangerous and possibly suicidal, Houston police Chief Art Acevedo said at a news conference Wednesday afternoon.

"There was a lot of planning that went into this. There was a lot of planning and, sadly, some skill,"

Acevedo said of the July 20 attack on Dr. Mark Hausknecht. Hausknecht was gunned down while riding his bike to work at Houston Methodist Hospital, which is part of the busy Texas Medical Center. Authorities say the shooter rode past Hausknecht before turning around and firing.

A tip on Tuesday led police to suspect Pappas, the chief said, though he didn't elaborate as to the nature of the tip.

Acevedo said Pappas hadn't been seen in 36 to 48 hours. He said the last anyone had heard from Pappas was in a Tuesday morning text message in which Pappas wrote that he was going to kill himself.

Acevedo said police searched his home at 4 a.m. Wednesday and found evidence that ties Pappas to the killing, but he declined

to elaborate as to the nature of the evidence.

The chief said Pappas is very fit, and that he's likely getting around on his 10-speed bicycle, which he rides "extensively and almost exclusively."

Friends and family have described Hausknecht as a humble and generous man who was adored by his patients, volunteered in his community and cared about the environment.

Hausknecht was also an avid cyclist and rode his bike to work each morning, as he lived less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from his office.

In 2000, Hausknecht treated Bush for an irregular heartbeat after the ex-president complained about lightheadedness.

Neighbor Jim Herd said he has known Pappas all of his life, having attended the same high school and church as him.

Herd described Pappas as a nice, quiet man who kept to himself and had few close friends. "He was a loner," he said.

Pappas' house is in an older, established neighborhood in southwest Houston.

After police released photos from surveillance video of the suspect in Hausknecht's slaying, Herd said he thought it resembled Pappas but brushed the notion aside.

"Never in a million years would I have thought it was him," he said.

"We already have 142 responses to the survey," Ligon said. "That's very exciting, but we want more residents to take part in this final phase of the study and have their voice heard. With everyone's input, it will help shape the plan for a future city center that everyone can be proud of."

Once the survey closes and results are vetted, Design Workshop will present their final report in early fall. And the final report will serve as a blueprint for development for the next 5 to 20 years.

sell Park, is developing the feasibility study.

After it's finalized, the parks department will solicit ideas for amenities within the facility from the steering committee and the public. Schubert said they are looking to offer an open house in mid-August to garner community feedback.

The citizens of Baytown have wanted a recreation center ever since the parks department established a strategic parks master plan in 2010, dubbed "Playbook 2020" that identified an indoor recreational facility as a "high need."

## Trump urges end to probe 'right now,' setting off storm

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE

AND ZEKE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump bluntly declared on Wednesday his attorney general should terminate "right now" the federal probe into the campaign that took him to the White House, a newly fervent attack on the special counsel investigation that could imperil his presidency. Trump also assailed the trial, just underway, of his former campaign chairman by the special counsel's team.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders scrambled to explain that Trump's tweet was "not an order" and the president was not directing his attorney general to do anything.

"It's the president's opinion," she said.

But Trump's early morning tweetstorm again raised the specter that he could try to more directly bring special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia-Trump election-collusion probe to a premature end. And it revived the idea that the president's tweets themselves might be used as evidence that he is attempting to obstruct justice.

Meanwhile, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said negotiations are continuing to have Trump sit down for questions from Mueller, though the lawyer said "I'm not going to give you a lot of hope that it's going to happen." He said both sides had exchanged proposals for conditions for such an interview, "and yesterday we got a letter back from them and now we're in the process of responding."

Trump has raged privately in recent days that both the forces of government and the media are trying to undermine him. That includes trumped-up charges against his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and distorting the outcome of the Helsinki summit to make it appear he was beholden to Russia, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak about private

## Court strikes down Trump push to cut 'sanctuary city' funds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A divided U.S. appeals court on Wednesday struck down a key part of President Donald Trump's contentious effort to crack down on cities and states that limit cooperation with immigration officials, saying an executive order threatening to cut funding for "sanctuary cities" was unconstitutional.

In a 2-1 decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with a lower court that the order exceeded the president's authority. Congress alone controls spending under the U.S. Constitution, and presidents do not have the power to withhold funding it approves to pursue their policy goals, the court majority said.

"By its plain terms, the executive order directs the agencies of the executive branch to withhold funds appropriated by Congress in order to further the administration's policy objective of punishing cities and counties that adopt so-called 'sanctuary' policies," wrote Chief Judge Sidney Thomas, joined by Judge Ronald Gould, who both were nominated by Democratic President Bill Clinton.

The court, however, also said the lower-court judge went too far when he blocked enforcement of Trump's order nationwide after a lawsuit by two California counties — San Francisco and Santa Clara.

conversations.

Trump was closely monitoring news coverage of the Manafort proceedings, which provoked the spate of incendiary tweets, according to the two Republicans and two White House officials.

"The president's not obstructing, he's fighting back," said Sanders, dismissing the idea Trump's tweets could be tantamount to obstruction of justice.

The most inflammatory of Trump's tweets said, "This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further. Bob Mueller is totally conflicted, and his 17 Angry Democrats that are doing his dirty work are a disgrace to USA!"

The president's anger came the day after the start of the trial of Manafort, who is facing federal charges of bank fraud and tax evasion. And while Mueller did not bring any election-related charges against Manafort, the specter of the Russian investigation is hanging over the Alexandria, Virginia, courthouse. And Trump's White House.

"Paul Manafort worked for Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole and many other highly prominent and respected political leaders," Trump tweeted. "He worked for me for a very short time. Why didn't government tell me that he was under investigation. These old charges have nothing to do with Collusion - a Hoax!"

Later the president invoked one of the nation's most notorious criminals, 1920s gangster Al Capone, and posed the question "who was treated worse" while airing his grievance about Manafort being held in solitary confinement ahead of a conviction. Manafort is in detention after having his bail revoked because of allegations that he was attempting to tamper with witnesses in his case. Federal prosecutors revealed last month that he was afforded unusual privileges while in detention.

### POLICE BEAT

#### Aggravated assault

A 73-year-old Baytown woman was assaulted with her cane Tuesday afternoon after getting into a vehicle she thought was a family member's.

According to Baytown police, the woman was walking in the 100 block of West Main when a black SUV, either a Chevrolet Tahoe or Suburban, stopped and asked her to get in.

"The complainant thought the vehicle belonged to a family member so she got in," Lt. Steve Dorris, Baytown police spokesman, said. "Shortly after getting into the vehicle the driver, who apparently wasn't a family member, asked the complainant for a sexual favor, which was angrily declined."

Once she declined, the driver of the vehicle got her cane and struck her several times on the head before fleeing the scene. The woman was ultimately transported to Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital where she was treated for her injuries.

The suspect was described as a black male, late 20s, with a stocky build. He was wearing a black T-shirt and blue jean shorts.

Anyone who has information on this or any other crime is asked to call the Baytown Police Department at 281-422-8371. You can also contact Crime Stoppers at 281-427-TIPS, submit anonymous tips online at the Baytown Police Department website [www.baytown.org](http://www.baytown.org), or text keyword BAYTOWN plus your tip to 274637 (CRIMES).

#### Whataburger robbery

Five individuals robbed the Whataburger in the 1900 block of Garth Road in the early morning hours Wednesday.

Baytown police said five men entered the restaurant with guns. As one of the suspects took the money out of the register at the drive-thru, which was about \$85, the others robbed two patrons of their cell phones.

"At one point one of the suspects discharged his weapon, a handgun, into the ceiling before all of the suspects fled the restaurant and are believed to have fled in a black Dodge extended cab pickup," Lt. Steve Dorris, Baytown police spokesman, said. "The suspects were wearing masks and gloves, so the complainants were not able to provide a good description of the suspects."

Fortunately, no one was injured during the incident.

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#### Vehicle crime

A theft of a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee valued at \$28,000 occurred in the 100 block of Grantham Road Monday night.

A burglary of a vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of Country Club Cove Drive Tuesday morning. Various items valued at \$455 were reported stolen from two parked cars.

A theft of a white GMC Sierra truck valued at \$40,000 occurred in the 3300 block of Market Street Tuesday morning.

#### Burglaries

A burglary of a house was reported in the 6000 block of Garth Road Tuesday afternoon. A black Sony PS3 and a flat screen TV were reported stolen.

#### Thefts

A theft of about \$400 cash occurred in the 1700 block of West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road Monday afternoon.

Police Beat is compiled from Baytown Police Department reports and officer interviews. Those reports are available on the city website at [www.baytown.org](http://www.baytown.org).

Baytown's Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards for information that leads to the arrest and charging of anyone who commits a felony. Callers remain anonymous. Call Baytown Crime Stoppers at 281-427-TIPS or send information via text message by texting "Baytown" plus the information to CRIMES (274637).

### PLAN

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open spaces that we're showing," Claire Hempel, from Design Workshop, said. "And once we receive all the feedback we will turn it into a final framework plan. So the plan that we see here will tweak a little bit."

For those who couldn't attend Tuesday night's workshop, the city has activated a survey that can be found at [www.MontBelvieu.net](http://www.MontBelvieu.net).

### CITY

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The study is being compared to the 2006 Aquatics Master Plan in the sense that the plan was a small part of Pirates Bay, which has since far surpassed anyone's initial expectations.

"Right now (the study) is basically a fluid document that can be manipulated," Schubert said.

Burditt Consultants, the same company that designed the master plan for the Gene and Loretta Rus-