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Independent community news that matters

75 cents

Holdup suspect identified from FB page

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Thanks to assistance from the public, an arrest is pending for the armed robbery of an Avenue F Jan. 31, Bay City police said. Police posted a photo of the suspect who is accused of robbing the EZ-Stop at 4021 Ave. F on its Facebook page Feb. 4. By the next day, Feb. 5, police reported on the page the suspect was identified.

BCPD announce arrest pending day after Feb. 4 post

"The robbery suspect posted yesterday has been identified. Another successful way we can police together. Thanks everyone. The case is still under investigation and an arrest is pending," Bay City police's posting said. Officers said the store clerk described the bandit as a white male with a full beard and red facial hair.

The clerk also said the robber, who brandished a weapon and demanded money, wore a dark colored Dallas Cowboys T-shirt, blue denim jeans and a dark baseball cap bearing a Texas symbol. The victim received minor injuries from the robbery and the suspect fled the scene, police said, also advising on Facebook that anyone who saw suspicious activity in the area on Jan. 31, or recognized the suspect in the picture, were encouraged to call Bay City Police Detective Armando Galvan at 979-323-1754, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-299-2878. Crime stoppers tipsters are eligible for a cash reward leading to the arrest or grand jury indictment of the suspect. Crime stoppers callers remain anonymous.

Stocks, health require constant monitoring

Trying to discern the proper course of action is a difficult undertaking even if you avail yourself of all the possible information you can digest. I suffered through a tough weekend due to the fact that I misinterpreted what I believed to be some lower gastro intestinal problems. I followed a normal course of treatment on my own and found myself at the doctor. After a quick evaluation, he pointed out my mistakes and ordered a whole new course of action. My methodology was logical, but far from correct and if continued would have been a problem. I offer this example only as a way to say there are no guarantees, even with diligent analysis. I have a friend who is just looking to begin to manage his own savings that he has accumulated quite handsomely over the years as an oil and gas attorney. After several months of preparation he is at a standstill. He is uncomfortable with making that first step as he is concerned about making mistakes. I sincerely believe that he will return to his area of comfort in the energy sector and real estate areas where he is knowledgeable and has control. This is a real problem for investors today. In the last week, the various indexes recovered most of the January losses. Oil has climbed back over \$50. The latest jobs report beat all expectations. The indexes are at nearly the highest level from last year. The dollar is strong. The savings in energy are flowing to consumers and 68 percent of the U.S. economy is driven by consumer expenditures. With interest rates low, and a growing though sluggish economy, it would seem reasonable to think that earnings would rise. As such, stock prices would move upward. There are, of course, numerous warning signs. We have experienced significant increases in stock prices for the last three to four years without a major pullback. The drop in oil prices will mean losses of jobs in that sector as well as earnings. The rise in the dollar will make



John Sample
The Other Side of Investing

our exports less affordable and ramp up foreign competition. Though exports make up 13 percent of our economy, the nations that buy from us in Europe, Asia and elsewhere are undergoing poor growth prospects. In the case of Greece, one wonders if the country will bring down the Euro. I could go on but you hear enough bad news nightly. I remind you of all this controverted information as the inherent problem investors face. Just remember that the U.S. economy is growing, and outside China, will lead us forward on a positive path. Money will be invested in the U.S. due to the dollar's strength. Demand is increasing for oil as the price moves up. Consumers are saving but they are also spending. It is difficult to determine the perfect time to invest. You have to assume risk and take the best action possible. The answer, much like my situation medically this week, is to constantly monitor and correct your mistakes quickly. It will always be a bumpy journey anytime you seek a reward that requires risk. This is not the time to despair. One of my favorite sectors is in energy due to the value. Instead of looking at the obvious large stocks in the U.S., you might want to venture overseas. A prime example is Britain's BG Group. Oil prices will be volatile this year, but more analysts feel that a bottom is being established. Moreover, a growing faction is of the opinion that oil prices will stabilize above \$50 a barrel in 2015. The concern is that real growth will probably not arrive until next year. That is the problem inherent in value stocks. It is at least worth looking at.

State provides more details on county markers

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Bay City Sentinel announced state's approval of four historical markers for Matagorda County in its Feb. 5 edition. The Matagorda County Historical Commission had just received the good news that day, so the Sentinel ran a short story on the announcement. The following article from the Texas Historical Commission includes more historical information on those markers.

From the Texas Historical Commission

BAY CITY - Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized two events as significant parts of Texas history by granting an Official Texas Historical Marker for both. In addition, two structures were also recognized as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks for their history and architectural integrity. "The Official Texas Historical Marker program helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. "Awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of our state's history. This designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of important cultural resources," Wolfe said. The two subject marker topics include the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1862 in Matagorda and the Matagorda Incident in which 22 soldiers under the command of Capt. E.S. Rugeley lost their lives in an attempt to protect their town. Both markers will be placed in Matagorda Cemetery. A subject qualifies for a marker if two basic criteria are met: historical significance and age. Historical significance is established by reviewing its role and importance in local history, and the age requirement depends on the topic. The THC's Official Texas Marker Policies are outlined in the Official Texas Historical Marker Procedures, which may

be obtained by contacting the History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, at 512/463-5853 or visiting the web site at www.thc.state.tx.us. The two structures, the W.C. Williams Building in Palacios and the Sargent-Rugeley-Herreth home in Bay City, received Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designations. Subject markers are posted solely for public education awareness and awarded more frequently than the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), which is a legal designation for historic structures and comes with a measure of protection. Unlike subject markers, the RTHL must also meet a third criterion - architectural integrity. "It is vital that as we move forward, we do not forget our past. Not only will the Texas Historical Markers provide awareness in the county of our fascinating history, but they will become building blocks for the promotion of local tourism," said David Holubec, Matagorda County Historical Commission Marker Chairman. A third type of marker, the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) marker, identifies cemeteries which have obtained the HTC designation and whose histories have been researched in detail. Historic Texas Cemeteries in Matagorda County include Collegeport Cemetery, Grimes Family Cemetery, Matagorda Cemetery, Midfield Cemetery and Hawley Cemetery. Texas has the largest marker program in the United States with approximately 15,000 markers. With the approval of the four new markers, Matagorda now has 113 historical markers. Seventeen states have used the Texas program as a model; the THC reviews more than 300 marker applications each year. The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.



BCISD photo
BCHS teacher Diana Frankson was recently named Matagorda County Soil & Conservation District's Teacher of the Year. Frankson and Billy Mann, a member of the conservation district, show off the plaque she received.



ARC photo
ARC of Matagorda County recognized, from left, Ruth Morgan, Greg Crain, current president, and Sandra Kimbell for their years of service. Morgan and Kimbell have been instrumental in ARC's many changes during their 20+ years of service.

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