

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star  Courier

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**WED. AUG. 11
 Highlands
 Lynchburg Plan**

Precinct 2 hosts a Live Public Meeting on ZOOM, to discuss needs and wishes of the residents of these communities.

YOU are invited to join. 6:00pm, on Wednesday August 11th.

Go to highlandslynchburgplan.com to join the meeting and participate.

Topics to be discussed are:
 - Economic Development
 - Parks and Open Space
 - Connectivity
 - Cultural Assets and Art
 - Mobility & Transportation
 - Environmental Quality
 Available in English and Spanish.
 JOIN the Conversation. Pct. 2 wants your input.

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 12-Ashley Adams
 Richard Finnels
 Kenneth R. Neatherlin, Jr.
 Amy Rucka
 Dianne Thompkins
 Roy Cutbirth
 Aug 13-Christeen Cutbirth
 Aug 15-Sherry Kelley
 David Langham
 Beverly Nuckols
 Elizabeth Price
 Becky Williams
 Aug 16-William Don Carwile
 B.L. Owens
 Aug 17-Amanda Abbott
 Rhonda Brewer
 Amy Chase
 Amy Murphy
 Thomas Parrish
 Katherine Young
 Aug 19-Lisa Cutbirth
 Sherwood Jett
 Natalie Elizabeth King
 Aug 20-Patti Farmer
 Ruby King
 Ronald Phillips
 Gertrude Rutledge
 Natasha Webb
 Pastor Phillip Morris

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 12-Rick & Deborah Nibbe
 Aug 14-Joe & Polly Lowden
 Aug 15-Rusty & Maria Williamson
 Aug 18-Bruce & Debbie Mercer
 Aug 19-Tony & Margaret Boyd
 Aug 20-Carl & Myrtis Richard

DEATHS

Lucinda "Cindy" Marie Drebert Simmons, 67

County returns COVID threat level to RED

Delta Variant fills Hospitals

HARRIS COUNTY - Harris County judge Lina Hidalgo raised the COVID-19 threat level to "red" on Thursday afternoon, as the COVID-19 delta variant has increased hospitalizations and strained the region's hospital resources over the past month.

It's the first time the county has hit its highest threat level since June 2020.

The new advisory indicates that severe and uncontrolled outbreaks



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo advises wearing masks and getting a vaccine shot. She has raised the COVID-19 Threat Level to #1 RED, responding to the high number of positive cases of the Delta variant that has resulted in Houston area hospitals filled to capacity or beyond. The county's LBJ Hospital is full, for instance, and has erected tents outside the building to take the overflow of patients of all illnesses.



are present in the community and worsening, and that the public health capacity in the region is strained or exceeded, Hidalgo said.

"It's straining our staff, it's straining our hospitals, and it's imposing heartbreak and anxiety in so many families in Harris County," Hidalgo said.

The county judge called the latest surge a "perfect storm" of strained staff, a more transmissible virus, and the limited ability for lo-

Continued. See Threat Level RED, page 2

Crosby Superintendent's Message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Today begins the start of a bright new school year. I could not be more excited to see the joy in children's eyes as I visit all seven campuses in Crosby ISD today.

Each school year brings hope, joy and excitement as our children begin the next chapter in their journey of knowledge. This year will bring unique challenges as we watch with concern the latest surge of the pandemic



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

in Harris County and around the country. Crosby ISD has released two letters to parents explaining our health protocols and procedures when dealing with contagious diseases, such as COVID-19 and influenza. It will take all of us working together to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all the children in

Continued. See Superintendent's Message, Page 5

Highlands Horizons Purse Bingo Winners



HIGHLANDS HORIZONS club held their FIESTA themed Purse Bingo benefit last Friday, August 6 at the Baytown Boat Club in Highlands. Pictured above with their beautiful purses are some of the winning bidders. Proceeds from the event went to the club's scholarship fund and other community projects, according to Delene Cotten.

**Abbott calls Second Special Session of the Legislature
 Democrats remain away in DC**

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation announcing that he will convene a second special legislative session at 12:00 p.m. on August 7, 2021. The proclamation identifies 17 agenda items for the second Special Session.

"The Texas Legislature achieved a great deal during the 87th Legislative Session, and they have a responsibility to finish the work that was started," said Governor Abbott. "I will continue to call special session after special session to reform our broken bail system, uphold election integrity, and pass other important

items that Texans demand and deserve. Passing these Special Session agenda items will chart a course towards a stronger and brighter future for the Lone Star State."

Agenda items for the second Special Session will include:

BAIL REFORM: Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.

ELECTION INTEGRITY: Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas.

FEDERAL RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS: Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues for COVID-19-related healthcare expenses, such as those listed below, taking into consideration the approximately \$10.5 billion in funds received by local governments intended to be used on COVID-19 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2:

- establishing, staffing, and operating alternative care sites;
 - supporting the operations of nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities;
 - vaccine administration;
 - testing sites;
 - supplies and equipment, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators; and
 - standing up and operating infusion centers.
- EDUCATION:** Legislation providing strategies for public-school education in prekindergarten through twelfth grade during the COVID-19 pandemic, which ensures:
- students receive a high-quality education and progress in their learning;
 - in-person learning is available for any student whose parent wants it;
 - the wearing of face coverings is not mandatory; and
 - COVID-19 vaccinations are always voluntary.

Continued. See 2nd Special Session, page 2

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“Live Jazz” coming to Houston’s Eastside

Houston – One of Houston’s musical treasures, Saxophonist Kyle Turner will be performing “live” at R&K Barbecue and Reception Hall, 911 Normandy St. 77015 on Sunday, August 15th, 2021 from 4pm to 7pm. Tickets are available at <http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>. Since the 1990’s, Kyle Turner has been performing on a regular basis and draws enthusiastic audiences regionally and nationally. Kyle’s musical range is vast and he describes himself as a musician that loves playing all types of music. Kyle’s mu-

sical career has afforded him the opportunity to share the stage with musical greats: Luther Vandross, Regina Belle, Joe Sample, Bobby Lyle, Al Jarreau, Will Downing, Ronnie Laws, Marion Meadows, Bob Baldwin, Terence Blanchard, Eddie Levert and Kirk Whalum to name a few. Kyle released his first solo album in 1992 entitled “It’s Time”. In 2011, he released his fifth solo CD, “Wrapped Tight” on the Bayou City Music Label. His latest recording, “Kyle Turner Live” was released in 2019. Mr. Turner also

has his own radio show, “The Jazz Club” which airs four days a week on KTSU 90.9 FM. He attended Jackson State University and Texas Southern University. The “Kyle Turner Live” show is produced by PJ Enterprises, an Event Planning, Marketing and Public Relations firm established in 1999. Owner, Pamela Jones, has over 20 years in the entertainment industry. For more info on PJ Enterprises, please visit the website <http://www.pamjonesenterprises.com>. Purchase your tickets today at <http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>. Limited social distance seating and face masks required. Sunday, August 15th, 4p-7p, R&K Reception Hall, 77015.

COVID Threat Level Raised to Level 1 RED,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cal leaders to implement public health policies after Gov. Greg Abbott issued orders preventing such measures. Hidalgo urged everyone eligible for a vaccine to get one, or else avoid “all but the most essential interactions.” She also recommended both the vaccinated and unvaccinated wear masks, and told the public to use ERs for life-threatening emergencies only. The judge added that the county’s vaccination rate has increased in the past month, but said it still wasn’t enough to keep the virus at bay. “If you’re in the minority who has not gotten the shot, you’re the reason we’re here today,” Hidalgo said. The announcement comes exactly two weeks after the county raised the level to “orange,” and just two days after Fort Bend County raised its own threat level. The delta variant of the coronavirus has spread rapidly throughout the region and across Texas, leading to massive increases in cases and hospitalizations. In Harris County, 25% of ICU patients are being treated for COVID-19, up from 20% on Sunday. The positivity rate in the county is doubling every 1.8 weeks, Hidalgo said. Dr. Cedric Dark, an emergency room doctor

at Harris Health System’s Ben Taub Hospital, said on Wednesday that LBJ Hospital — also within the system — declared themselves in an internal disaster. “They were overflowing with patients, Dark said. “And this is something that’s not isolated just to LBJ. It’s happening in other hospitals in the area and its going to continue to happen as we enter this fourth wave.” A spokesperson for the Harris Health System said that at one point Wednesday 17 critical care patients in the emergency room needed intensive care, but no beds were available. Texas Medical Center Hospitals continue to operate within phase two of their ICU surge capacity plans, and health experts are not predicting the surge to die down soon. Houston’s Health Department reported that the amount of virus in the city’s wastewater is currently 320% percent more than the highest level seen last summer — an indication that COVID-19 is rapidly spreading. At close of business Wednesday, there were 89 positive cases throughout Houston’s municipal workforce, according to Mayor Sylvester Turner. The number was at 40 last week.


There are currently 68 police officers and 40 firefighters positive for COVID-19, and three city employees are hospitalized, Turner said. On Tuesday, Turner directed all city employees to wear masks inside city buildings, despite Abbott’s executive order. At Thursday’s press conference, he called on the state to allow local control in COVID-19 response. But he added that whether the governor changed the rules or not, he was prepared to do what he felt was best for the city. “The numbers will dictate my response, and then we’ll deal with whatever happens after that,” Turner said. “I am not going to be constrained by some order.” In an email to Houston Public Media, Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee said he appreciated the local leaders’ response to the recent wave of COVID-19. “My office will continue to provide legal advice and guidance to the County Judge and Commissioners as they take steps necessary to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19,” the email read. “If that results in a legal conflict with Governor Abbott, then so be it.” --Article courtesy of HPM

PJ Enterprises PRESENTS

An Evening Of JAZZ

Featuring:

Kyle Turner



Sunday, August 15th, 2021
4pm - 7pm
R&K Reception Hall
911 Normandy St, Houston, TX 77015
\$50 - Includes Great Food & Mimosas
<http://kyleturnerlive.eventbrite.com>

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park ISD will hold a public meeting at 4:30 PM, August 24, 2021 in 14705 Woodforest Administration Board Room, Houston, Texas 77015. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.12510/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.34500/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Votes	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	-1.40 % decrease
Debt Service	-8.31 % decrease
Total expenditures	-2.29 % decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$12,592,005,890	\$12,616,586,700
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$98,266,907	\$169,452,467
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$10,167,741,812	\$10,034,205,116
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$79,348,163	\$130,420,702

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(9), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.01(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$349,386,390

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$1.12810	\$0.33000*	\$1.45810	\$6,957	\$5,431
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.15682	\$0.34323*	\$1.50005	\$7,240	\$5,213
Proposed Rate	\$1.12510	\$0.34500*	\$1.47010	\$6,986	\$5,306

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$124,660	\$140,872
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$81,614	\$92,887
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.45810	\$1.47010
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,190.01	\$1,365.68
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$175.67

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.47010. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.47010.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$175,986,034
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$6,679,474

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Comcast celebrates Grand Opening of new Xfinity Store in North Shore

Comcast recently unveiled its new Xfinity Store in Houston with a special community celebration at a brand new location.

The new Xfinity Store is conveniently located at 15375 Wallisville Rd. and features a modern retail environment that highlights the complete line of Xfinity Home and Comcast Business technology offerings, including Xfinity Mobile, Xfinity X1, Xfinity Home and Xfinity Internet.

At the recent event, Comcast celebrated with the local community through fun activities, raffles and live product demonstrations.



The new XFINITY store located at 15375 Wallisville Rd.



Customer playing the prize wheel at the grand opening of the new XFINITY store on Wallisville Rd.



Comcast Officials Pictured (L-R) Kate Inman, Director of Indirect Sales; Christopher Jones, Manager of Indirect Sales; Victor Menchaca, Wallisville Store Manager; and Demian Voiles, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Comcast Houston

Knights of Columbus Klobassa Festival

August 22, 2021 11 am - 3 pm KC Hall in Crosby


Raffle \$10 per ticket

- Deer Hunt For 2 People \$1000 value + \$500 Cash
- Vacation Package/Kings Crossing Travel For 2 People \$1000 value + \$500 Cash
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- Treager Black Pro 780 Wood Pellet Grill (\$999.00 Value)
- \$750 Gift Certificate for Hotel Galvez, Galveston TX


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★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Our Undemocratic Founders

Many Democrats have been frustrated that despite winning the White House and control of both houses of Congress they have largely been frustrated in enacting much of their agenda. In Texas, Republicans are fuming because Democrats have fled the state to break quorum and prevent the Republicans from enacting new election rules. Last year in Harris County, two commissioners boycotted a meeting, keeping the Democratic majority from imposing a large property tax increase.

In each of these instances, the party in the majority has hurled invectives at the other side accusing them of undermining the democratic process. But the “undermining” actually arises from our Founders’ original Constitutional design, which has been incorporated into most state governments as well.

The American Revolution is rightfully seen as the seminal victory of democratic rule over monarchy. But when the Founders transferred sovereign authority from a monarch to the people they nonetheless retained a healthy fear about the excessive exercise of governmental power. Much of the Constitution is, in fact, designed through a series of checks and balances to frustrate runaway democratic rule.



Indeed, the entire Bill of Rights is an enumeration of things that the majority cannot do. One of the great debates over the Bill of Rights was whether there should be one at all. Not because there was any disagreement that majorities should be constrained, but rather by enumerating specific limitations, they might leave some out. That is how we ended up with the “catch-all” Ninth Amendment, which provides that “[t]he enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”


James Madison, the principal drafter of the Constitution, frequently spoke about the danger of majorities oppressing minorities.

“All power in human hands is liable to be abused In Republics, where the people govern themselves, and where of course the majority Govern, a danger to the minority, arises from opportunities tempting a sacrifice of their rights to the interests real or supposed of the Majority.” Letter to James Ritchie, December, 1825.

Majority rule does not always produce good results. Majority rule kept schools desegregated, abortions illegal, and prohibited women from voting. This year, our Texas legislature, elected by a majority of Texans, enacted several new laws, like permit-less carry, that are wildly unpopular with a majority of Texans. But as Winston Churchill once famously quipped: “democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others that have been tried.”

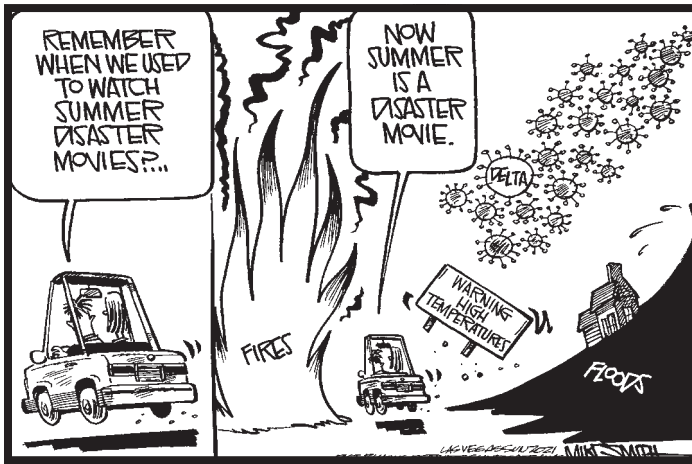
We frequently hear the winners of elections on both sides of the partisan divide piously declare that “elections have consequences” to justify cramming their agenda down the throats of the losers. But neither party today has anywhere near the support of a majority of the American people. Nationally, neither party has consistently even been able to get 30% of Americans to identify with them for sometime now. Currently, Republicans are struggling to stay above 25%. Both should keep in mind that electoral tides shift and those in the majority today are likely to find themselves in the minority sometime in the future. It is something that our Founders clearly understood.

Americanisms



“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”
— Ben Franklin

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



Delta variant spurs huge increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations

The number of Texans hospitalized with lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases is increasing faster than at any other point since the pandemic began in early 2020, due to the highly contagious delta variant. As of Sunday, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported 8,892 people were in Texas hospitals. That is up more than four-fold from a month ago. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 96,807 cases in the past week and 384 deaths. That is nearly eight times the number of new cases reported a month ago and more than double the deaths.

In Austin, health authorities warned the public that a surge in cases has swamped hospitals, according to a New York Times report. Intensive-care units are near capacity, with only a handful of ICU beds available.

Gov. Greg Abbott has barred local governments and public schools from reinstating mask mandates but is urging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The vast majority of those hospitalized have not been vaccinated.

A total of 12.84 million Texans are fully vaccinated, about 44% of the state’s total population, according to DSHS.

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION UNDERWAY; DEMS STILL AWOL

Abbott convened a second special session just hours after the first session expired but there still wasn’t a quorum present to pass bills. Many Texas House Democratic legislators remained in Washington, D.C. in an effort to both block a quorum and lobby members of Congress to pass a federal voting rights bill.

Abbott has put forth a 17-item agenda that includes the election reform bill, bail reform, border security and other issues that were presented but not passed during the regular session.

“I will continue to call special session after special session to reform our broken bail system, uphold election integrity, and pass other important



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

items that Texans demand and deserve,” Abbott said when announcing the new session. “Passing these special session agenda items will chart a course towards a stronger and brighter future for the Lone Star State.”

Texas House Democrats predictably were critical. State Rep. Ina Minjarez said Abbott is “wasting” taxpayers’ money, chiding the governor in a tweet with the hashtag #StopGaslightingTexans.

ADDITIONAL MONTH OF LEGISLATIVE FUNDING ANNOUNCED

Texas Capitol employees won’t have to go without a paycheck in September after all.

Abbott vetoed a portion of the state budget that funds the Legislature and its staff after House Democrats walked out during the regular session. But Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dade Phelan and others announced an additional month of funding for the Legislature before the second special session that began Saturday.

“Texans should not have to pay for Legislators who quit their jobs and leave unfinished business,” Abbott said. “...Funding is being temporarily restored for legislative staff that will be necessary to pass critical legislation...”

At least \$12.6 million will be transferred from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to both chambers and the legislative agencies that support them, the Texas Tribune reported. The biennial budget, which is already

funded, ends Aug. 31. Without the additional funding, more than 2,000 state workers might not have been paid after that date. The special session by law lasts no more than 30 days.

PANDEMIC HELP FOR TIMBER HARVESTERS, HAULERS

Texans who make a living cutting or hauling timber, or processing wood by chipping or grinding, are eligible for grants from a fund of up to \$200 million provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under a pandemic assistance program. The new program, Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH), encourages timber harvesters and haulers to apply. The deadline is Oct. 15.

“We Texans pride ourselves on our rugged individualism and self-reliance. However, when the entire forestry supply chain crashed as a result of the pandemic response, it was more than just a hurdle to overcome,” said Rob Hughes, executive director of the Texas Forestry Association. “That’s why TFA and Texas A&M Forest Service, along with many other partners, have been actively involved in pushing for the Logger Relief Act, which passed in the last federal pandemic relief bill.”

Loggers and truckers can apply for PATHH by working with their local Farm Service Agency office. To find a local office, go to farmers.gov/service-locator or call 877-508-8364.

AVOID SCAMS WHEN BUYING A USED VEHICLE

With used-vehicle demand soaring and inventories shrinking, it’s easy to fall victim to scams, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. At least part of most sales now take place either on apps or online, and a lot can go wrong. Here are some tips from TDI to avoid being swindled:

- If the price is amazingly low, odds are high that it’s a scam.
- Take your time. Be skeptical when sellers claim they must sell quickly because they’re moving soon, or say they need to sell the vehicle for a relative. And never pay for a vehicle with gift cards.
- Some scammers use the same photo on different sites, with different prices and contact information. This scam can be avoided by using a “reverse image search.” To learn how, look up “reverse search” in your preferred search engine.
- See the vehicle in person and take it for a drive. Buying a vehicle sight unseen can lead to disaster.
- Check the VIN to make sure the vehicle wasn’t stolen, flooded or totaled after a wreck. A VIN search will also ensure there isn’t a lien on the vehicle you are buying.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

Taking No Chances

The renovations to our new home continue.

We didn’t expect to be refinishing the floor. But when we tore up the flooring that was buckling and warping in the summer humidity, we discovered the original parquet, spattered with paint, underneath.

A man named Michael showed up with the biggest floor sander I have ever seen, looked disapprovingly at the paint sprayed all over the parquet, and declared that it should sand clean without a problem. My husband, Peter, told Michael he was retired, and Michael told us he was retired as well.

“What did you used to do?” I asked.

“Sand floors!” he said, as if that was obvious.

“And now you sand floors in your retirement?”

“But only when I want to!” he clarified.

Michael was right, and the paint cleaned right up, revealing not oak floors, as we had thought, but an intricate pattern in teak. Michael didn’t finish sanding on Friday, but said he’d be back Monday morning.

“Don’t walk on it in bare feet!” Michael cautioned. “Your feet might have oil on them!”

I didn’t think I had particularly oily feet, but I was taking no chances and made sure I had slippers on every time I touched the beautiful raw wood floor. “Peter! You dropped a piece of popcorn!” I scolded, scurrying to retrieve the errant kernel.

(I tell you all this so that you will understand how dreadful I felt about what happened next.)

We like peanut butter that is made with peanuts and nothing else, but it separates, with the peanuts at the bottom and the oil at the top.

(You may think you can imagine what happens next, but it is even worse.)

I use one beater on my hand mixer to stir a new jar of peanut butter. But, when I did this on Saturday, the GFCC on the electrical outlet popped.

“Damn!” I said.

“Try another socket,” Peter said.

And so I did. What I did not do was turn off the mixer before plugging it in.

The jar spun madly out of control and, in a moment, there was peanut oil everywhere—all over me, all over the countertop, all over the cupboards. But the only really important thing was that there was peanut oil and sloppy peanut butter all over the raw teak floor.

I didn’t move for a long moment, hoping what had just happened would somehow rewind and be undone.

“Quick! Get a towel!” Peter said, snapping me out of it.

I wiped it up, and I scrubbed it with detergent and hot water. Then I did it again. Then I did it one more time. I turned a fan on and let it dry all night. And in the morning... it was every bit as bad as I feared it would be.

I tried to imagine what I could have done that could be worse. “Maybe India ink,” I thought. “India ink might be worse.” I was sick at heart.

“Have you ever hated any of your clients?” I asked Michael the next morning.

“What did you do?” he asked. I showed him.

“It won’t show, will it?” Peter asked. “The polyurethane will cover it, won’t it?” I waited for Michael to reassure us.

“I don’t know,” Michael said. “Guess we’ll find out.” And he fired up his sander.

A few minutes later he called out, “Come here!”

I ran to the kitchen. The oil was gone.

“I knew you could do it!” I said. Although I had been anything but sure.

“Stay off the floor!” Michael yelled.

And I did.

Till next time,

Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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★ OBITUARIES

LUCINDA "CINDY" MARIE DREBERT SIMMONS

Lucinda "Cindy" Marie Drebert Simmons, 67, of Henderson, TX, passed away on August 2, 2021. Cindy was born June 30, 1954, at St. Josephs Hospital, in Houston, TX, to Glen and Donna Drebert. Cindy graduated from Channelview High School in May 1972. After raising her 2 children, Cindy chose to go to college at the University of Houston to pursue a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. So, almost 20 years after high school, in 1991, Cindy graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors. Upon graduation Cindy immediately began a career in education for Crosby ISD. She was very passionate about her job teaching young children and believed all children deserved the same opportunity for a great education. She was awarded Teacher of the Year numerous times throughout her 18-year career with the district.

On September 26, 1996, Cindy married the love of her life, Kenneth Simmons. They were happily married for 25 years. Together they loved to travel, read, and



garden. They retired to Henderson, TX where Cindy went back to teaching. This time, she worked for Timpson ISD for 9 years, and again was awarded Teacher of the Year!

Cindy was a beloved grandmother! She could always be found sharing pictures or stories with her friends and students. Her grandkids were blessed by her love and support at every milestone. She could often be found at their different events, beaming with pride.

Cindy is preceded in death by her father, Glen Drebert; mother, Donna Drebert; her sister-in-law, Jan Drebert, and niece Kim Ray.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Simmons; daughter, Amy Wisenbaker and

husband Darryl; son, Toby Potter and wife Kacy; grandchildren, Raegan Wisenbaker, Zane Potter, Grace Potter, Cannon Potter, Stark Valdes; brothers, Daniel Drebert, Frank Drebert and wife Linda; sister Paula Robitaille; nieces, Shawn Sexton and husband Jeff; Aubrey Salinas and husband Chris; Shannon Robitaille, Lisa Robitaille, Laura Robitaille; nephews Michael Drebert and wife Kelly, Kevin Drebert and wife April, and Joseph Drebert, Jason Robitaille, Jimmy Robitaille; Stepsons David Simmons, Steve Simmons and wife Audrea; Stepdaughter, Sherry Valdes and husband Rod. Multiple great nephews and nieces, including special great nephew, Justin Sexton; numerous friends and students.

Cindy's life will be celebrated on August 22, 2021, at 2:00 pm at United City Church in Humble, TX. In lieu of flowers, Cindy would be honored if you would make a donation to the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation.

★ THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



The Faith of a Child

This summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS) was exceptional. Our kids church staff did a great job of keeping about 100 children engaged all week long, leading many to the Lord and helping all of them learn about the armor of God. But they didn't stop there, because we had bigger plans.

Part of our intent with VBS is to help children grow their faith – not just through hearing about faith, but through doing things that encourage them to actively put their faith out there. To assist with this, we always take up a missions offering. (Of course, we add a little competition into the mix to keep it fun.) Each day the kids are reaching steadily toward an established goal, and this year's goal was pretty high... actually very high when you consider you're dealing with young people. Even so, those dynamos blew straight through the goal and broke all of the church's records for VBS giving.

We adults can learn a lot from children like these. The goal was a number that likely seemed unreal to most of them, but they went in fully intending to meet the goal so they could see the kids church pastors "suffer" at the end of the week. They brought in tons of change and whatever bills they had or could persuade their parents to hand over, and some cajoled other adults into making even more donations to the cause. They set their faith, worked their faith, and saw the fruit of their

faith when their fearless leaders had milk and flour dumped on them to celebrate.

And that's where we find an important life lesson. When we put our faith out there, even when we're like those kids with their little hands full of coins, we can accomplish great things. We just have to do what they do – believe we can. We have the Word on it! Just remember that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13) and "...with God all things are possible!" (Mtt. 19:26)

It's up to us to purposely set aside the "I can't" attitude that seems take hold as we grow older. More importantly, we have to remember that we're not in it alone; we always have God, who rules the universe, standing beside us. How many times in the Word does He tell us, in various ways, that He has our backs? It's a fact; He does have our backs when we fully trust in Him, and you can see this truth illustrated throughout Scripture.

Children still have what many adults have lost through the years—a simple trust that everything really is possible when God is on your side. Let us learn from watching them, from being willing to step out and reach for the "impossible" when God puts it in front of us. We could benefit from emulating the faith of a child.

www.myhillsidefamily.com
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2nd Special Session called,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BORDER SECURITY: Legislation enhancing criminal laws or providing funding from unappropriated available revenues to support law-enforcement agencies, counties, and other strategies as part of Texas' comprehensive border security plan.

SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP: Legislation safeguarding the freedom of speech by protecting social-media and email users from being censored based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.

ARTICLE X FUNDING: Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 1109 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuse, but that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.

YOUTH SPORTS: Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed

by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 394 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.

THIRTEENTH CHECK: Legislation similar to House Bill 3507 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to a "thirteenth check" or one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY: Legislation similar to House Bill 3979 concerning critical race theory as originally passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

APPROPRIATIONS: Legislation providing appropriations from unap-

propriated available revenues for the following purposes:

- property-tax relief;
- enhanced protection for the safety of children in Texas' foster-care system by attracting and retaining private providers for the system; and
- to better safeguard the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS: Legislation modifying the filing periods and related election dates, including any run-offs, for primary elections held in Texas in 2022.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE: Legislation reforming the laws governing radioactive waste to protect the safety of Texans, including by further limiting the ability to store and transport high-level radioactive materials in this state.

EMPLOYMENT: Legislation shielding private employers and employees from political subdivision rules, regulations, ordinances, and other actions that require any terms of employment that exceed or conflict with federal or state law relating to any form of employment leave, hiring practices, employment benefits, or scheduling practices.

STATE LEGISLATURE: Legislation relating to legislative quorum requirements.

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Crosby Superintendent's Message to the Community,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our Crosby family. Please remember to remind your children of proper handwashing and coughing etiquette.

Education is one of the most powerful forces for good in the world. We are here to nourish and grow the dreams of all students no matter where they want to go in life. Whether they want to become a doctor, a diesel mechanic or a middle school science teacher, Crosby ISD will do everything we can to ensure they reach their full potential and make you – their parents, grandparents and guardians – prouder than you could have imagined.

This year, Crosby ISD is beginning a new era, one committed to a positive and uplifting culture at every campus and in the wider

East Harris County community. We want to be that "shining city upon a hill" as we face and overcome anything that would stand in our way.

I was proud to welcome back staff from all campuses at two sessions of Crosby ISD's Beginning of Year Convocation at Mount Rose Church last week. We celebrated the Principal of the Year from the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Dana Kratyk-Fox gracefully navigated Crosby Elementary School through unprecedented times in a year at the heart of the pandemic. We also celebrated and thanked all employees, from those who've just started to those who've been with the district for decades. They are ready to welcome back

your children.

I'll be visible this school year, listening to you. I want to meet with and hear from as many parents, students and staff members as I can. Tell me your vision and share your hopes and dreams.

On this first day of school, I feel the energy from the district. I feel the energy from the students. I can't wait to tell the world how great Crosby ISD is. We're going to have an amazing year no matter how challenging it may be. I have no doubt we'll look back and be so proud of what we all accomplished together.

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houstonmethodist.org/virtual-care



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary for Docket No. 495536; Estate of RUTH ANN ALLISON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JULY 26, 2021.

GRACE HARGIS CARTER
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this AUGUST 4, 2021.


by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate


LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary for Docket No. 495209; Estate of HALLIE M. McKEY Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JULY 30, 2021.

PEGGY OLMSTED
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this AUGUST 9, 2021.


by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Back2School Vaccinations

It's almost time to head back to school! If your child needs their mandatory vaccines (hepatitis, DTap, varicella, etc.) and meets the qualifications below, they may be eligible to receive a low-cost vaccination through Chambers County Public Health.

Low-cost vaccines are provided to eligible children through the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

To receive vaccinations through the Back to School Vaccine program in Chambers County, a child must be 18-years of age or younger and meet one of the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in Medicaid or be Medicaid-eligible
- Be uninsured
- Be an American Indian or Alaskan Native (in accordance with 25 USC 1603)
- Be underinsured
- Have commercial (private) health insurance, but coverage does not include vaccines (or) be a child whose insurance only covers selected vaccines (TVFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only)
- Have Medicaid as their secondary insurance (Medicaid-eligible) or are eligible for TVFC vaccines and MUST NOT be refused vaccine administration. CHIPS insurance is not accepted

Vaccines are provided at all three CCPH health clinics on a rotating schedule, so please be sure to read through the attached flyer carefully before scheduling your appointment.

Dayton Job Fair Sept. 22, 2021

Dayton JOB FAIR
SEPT. 22, 2021

This event is FREE for businesses and attendees. --Bring copies of your resume.

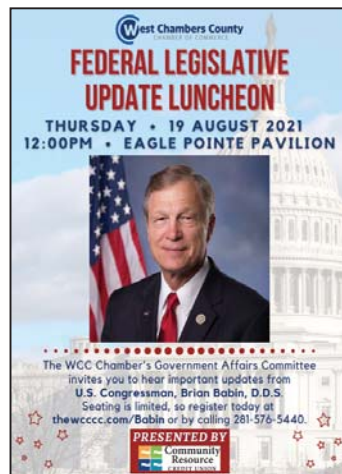
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Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland St. Dayton, TX 77535.

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--Dayton Community Development Corporation
--City of Dayton, TX

If you would like to reserve a table for your business or for more information, please call 926-258-6630 or 926-257-2393.

WC Chamber Aug. 19 luncheon features Congressman Babin



The West Chambers Chamber will hold a Federal Legislative Update Luncheon, Thursday, August 19 at 11:30am at the Eagle Pointe Pavilion, 12440 Eagle Pointe Drive in Mont Belvieu. Sponsor of the event is the Community Resource Credit Union.

The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee invites you to hear important updates from U.S. Congressman Brian Babin.

Seating is limited, so register today at: thewcccc.com/babin or by calling 281-576-5440.

How to be on Chambers County's Warning Call List:

Jones Public Library collaborates with the Dayton ISD Bilingual Enrichment Program.

Each year throughout the month of June the Jones Public Library and the Dayton ISD Bilingual Enrichment Program collaborate to create a fun and engaging Bilingual Storytime for the participating students. This program, dreamed up by Abigail Cumbie of DISD, allows the students to experience the Jones Public Library and allows the library to reach out to a wider audience. Each week the class comes to the library for singing, dancing, a reading of a selection from the bilingual children's book section, a craft, and a game. This year's class includes 14 students and 4 teachers and has been a delight to work with!

This program is a collaboration that Jones Public Library looks forward to all year long, and we are truly grateful for the chance to work with these incredible kids and teachers!



Pictured above is the Gracias poster that the children created to thank the staff of the Jones Public Library.

Jones Public Library
801 S Cleveland St Ste A
Dayton TX 77535

The mission of the Jones Public Library is to enhance the scholarly pursuit of knowledge, to foster intellectual curiosity, to promote life-long learning, and cultural programs. Social development improves and enriches the lives of our users through information, education, and recreation. The Library values the citizens of Dayton Texas and responds to their needs by providing clean and inviting space, well-organized and up-to-date collections, friendly professional service, and well-trained staff who are committed to the Library vision. "A thriving Library that is an integral part of the lives within our community"

Houston Methodist Baytown

Men's Health Quiz: For His Eyes Only

BAYTOWN — (June 17, 2021) — Enough with the dirt-splattering off-road truck commercials. Want to know how to be a true man of action? Take charge of your health. This quick quiz will help you discover what you know about the top health risks for men. 1. Men between the ages of 30 and 50 are most likely to have:

- A. Hip bursitis
- B. A herniated disk in the lower back
- C. A midlife crisis

Answer: B. According to Dr. Mohammad Ahmed, a board-certified family medicine physician with Houston Methodist Primary Care Group in Baytown, risk factors for a herniated disk include improper lifting, being overweight, repetitive activities that strain the spine, a sedentary lifestyle and smoking.

What you can do: Develop a relationship with a primary care physician to live your healthiest life. "As a family medicine physician, I am passionate about patient education. I look forward to partnering with my patients and working together to

achieve their health goals," said Ahmed, who sees patients for routine immunizations, thyroid concerns and diabetes management.

2. After skin cancer, _____ cancer is the most common cancer in men.

- A. Prostate
- B. Bone
- C. Lung

Answer: A. Prostate cancer strikes one in six men and is the second most prevalent cancer in men. But only about one in 36 men diagnosed with prostate cancer will die from it. What you can do: Talk with your doctor about the risks, as well as the potential benefits and limitations of PSA (prostate-specific antigen) screening.

3. Nothing is less manly than an enemy that won't show its face — and that's exactly what type 2 diabetes is. How many men in the U.S. have this "silent killer?"

- A. 7 million
- B. 13 million
- C. 79 million

Answer: B. Additional-



DR. MOHAMMAD AHMED

ly, an estimated 79 million Americans have prediabetes, a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal.

What you can do: Know your numbers. Ahmed recommends having your blood glucose tested to see whether you have type 2 diabetes or prediabetes — and get active. "Annual examinations are a great way to ensure that you stay in good health and maintain your well-being," Ahmed said.

Houston Methodist Primary Care Physicians at Baytown—Dr. Ahmed, Dr. Greg Terry, Pooja Kulkarni, MD, Dr. Irfan Dadaboy and Trudy Istre, nurse practitioner—provide a full range of health and

wellness services, including routine checkups, management of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and asthma, routine immunizations and preventive care.

Houston Methodist Primary Care Group physicians welcome new and established patients to take the next step toward better health. Visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown-pcp or call 832-556-6670, to schedule a virtual or in-person appointment.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital screens all patients, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office. Masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) are required while providing patient care, and waiting rooms and check-in lines have been reorganized to ensure social distancing. We have also implemented additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces. Houston Methodist Baytown is designated as a COVID-19 vaccine hub. Vaccines are open to everyone age 16 and older. Walk-ins are welcome, but you may also schedule an appointment by visiting

houstonmethodist.org/vaccine.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with excellent medical care since its opening in 1948. The hospital continues to grow to meet the health care needs of its growing community through an ongoing construction and renovation program that has seen the opening of a new emergency center, outpatient center and medical-surgical units. A new five-story patient tower is scheduled to open in 2023. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate care and providing a safe, patient-centered healing environment. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.