

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star ★ Courier

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**SAT. JAN. 22
Crosby Library
celebrates 100th
Birthday**

The Harris County Library system is celebrating its 100th Birthday, and joining in is the Crosby Branch Library. Molly McGinty, Manager of the Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library is inviting the public to the Celebration, from 11:00am to 1:00pm, with lots of Family Fun. 135 Hare Road, Crosby.

**SAT. FEB. 5
47th Annual
Highlands Rotary
CHILI FEAST**

The Highlands Rotary Club is holding their 47th Annual CHILI FEAST, at St. Jude's Catholic Church social hall, 808 S. Main Street, Highlands. 11am to 3pm, with a Live Auction at Noon to 3pm. Raffle Tickets are \$100, Meal Tickets \$10 and the winner will receive a new 2022 SUV Chevy Trailblazer or Chevy Equinox. There are also other valuable prizes. Tickets from any Rotarian, or call 281-426-3358. Tickets also available from Turner Chevrolet, Central Auto Inspections.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1—Linda Strickland
Jan 2—Eleanor Prescott
Cris Taylor
Jan 5—Bernice Leissner
Marvin Baker
Marie Bobalik
Brandon Taylor
Jan 6—Janci New
Jan 10—William H. Smith
Tristan Brumfield
Jan 11—Tracey Browder
Elizabeth Bulanek
Jan 12—Dick Emery
Veronica Henry
Jan 13—Hunter Bradford
Antonio Hernandez
Jan 14—Harold Havard
Haley Bradford

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 2—Bruce & Theresa Abbott
Jan 5—Dale & Natalie Smith
Jan 9—Vernon & Allie Skrabanek
Jan 11—C.J. & Retha Meineke
Jan 12—Troy & MaryAnn McCarty
Jan 14—Mr. & Mrs. Connie Clark
John & Verna Lee Shipp
Jan 15—Lee Roy & Lydia Moore
Jan 25—Jim & Ronda Laut

DEATHS

Mary "Nell" Herndon, 95, Humble
Beverly Blumenauer Bartone, 74, Naperville, IL

TOUCHDOWN CLUB OF HOUSTON

Crosby's Prieto named Coach of the Year

HOUSTON – It was a huge honor this month for Crosby ISD Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jerry Prieto. He was named the 2021 Coach of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Houston.

Prieto was nominated for the second year in a row, taking home the top prize this year. Prieto was among twelve high school coaches from the Houston region named as finalists.

During his acceptance speech, Prieto thanked his family, including his wife Julie, two sons, and his in-laws who have never missed a game since he's been a head coach. Prieto also thanked Crosby



COACH JERRY PRIETO WITH WIFE JULIE AND AWARD.

by ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson for her support and his coaching team. Prieto said his coaches spent more time with him than with their families this past season. "This award is not very much about me. It's way more about the village that I surround myself with in Crosby." Coach Prieto added later: "To do anything special, you have to have a lot of support with you. Our community is right there every time we need something from them. They step up, and they help us out anyway that they can."

The Coach of the Year nominees as well as finalists for Defense Player of

the Year and Offensive Player of the Year were celebrated at the Touchdown Club's annual UIL High School Awards Dinner on December 8th. Superintendent Patterson attended the dinner and had this to say: "Coach Prieto gives credit to so many other people, and I know that's the right thing to do. But I know that he is the key to our program. He is the leader, and he leads so very well. We are blessed to have him on our team."

Prieto just finished his third season as Head Coach at Crosby High School with a season record of 12-3 and an overall record of 30-12 since 2019.

The Prieto family members and Crosby ISD staff members who attended the Touchdown Club of Houston dinner and Awards Ceremony, including Prieto's coaching team and Superintendent Paula Patterson.



Crosby Superintendent's message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

I want to wish you a Happy New Year as we enter the first month of 2022. I hope the holiday break was a chance for you to take a breather and enjoy the company of your loved ones in a healthy and uplifting environment. As a mother, it was a joy for me to spend quality time with my husband and two sons who came home from college for the holidays.

While we were on break, Crosby student-athletes were hard at work. Congratulations to boys' basketball players Sean Elkinton and PJ Haggerty. Sean made Honorable Mention in the All-Tournament team during the VYPE Holiday Invitational in December, and PJ scored 36 points against last year's defending 5A State Champs Beaumont United. PJ, Sean, and the rest of the team are in the middle of what's sure to be a stellar season. The girls' basketball team didn't skip a beat during the break. The team played four games between Christmas and New Year's Day. Sequoia Carroll had a total of 86 points in those four games. Caitlin Harris scored 49 points in four games. One game she shot 60% from the three-point line! Cortni Harris scored 36 points in the four games. Wow!

Congratulations also go out to the



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

Crosby High School girls' soccer team. They started the regular season with a win over Dayton. The boys' soccer team also kicked off the regular season in a battle with Liberty. The start of baseball and softball seasons are right around the corner as well. I hope you come out to show your support for all the great extracurricular activities we have going on.

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 5

Book Review: "Texas for Kids"

By Kristan Hoffman and Iris Butler

Although I was born and raised in Houston, I now live in Cincinnati with my husband and kids, so it was great to receive these two books as gifts to help teach my 5-year-old daughter Iris a bit about where I came from, in a fun way.

"LOL JOKES: TEXAS"

We started with the jokes, because I thought that would be more entertaining for my daughter. The book is divided into 6 sections: jokes about the state of Texas, cities in Texas, food, animals, nature, and sports. Most of the city- and state-specific ones went over my daughter's head, but the animal section was a hit. In general, the jokes are pun-based "groaners" — the kind that make you smile in spite of yourself — but we bookmarked several to remember and share. We also appreciated the illustrations and fun facts.

Iris says: I liked it! My favorite jokes were the ones about the ghost cowgirl, the cat in a blanket, the outer space cow, and nacho cheese.

"SUPER CITIES! HOUSTON"

Like all Texan children, I spent 7th grade learning Texas history, but this book reminded me of just



IRIS BUTLER, BOOK REVIEWER

how much I have forgotten. Also, the focus on Houston sparked a lot of hometown pride as I read through the pages with my daughter. This book offers a great overview of the city's past and present, and highlights many unique attractions, with everything laid out nicely and accompanied by good photographs. I especially loved the spotlight on Houston's cultural diversity, which is a big part of what makes our city so rich in good food, art, and other accomplishments.

Iris says: I liked learning about Houston. Now I really want to go to the rodeo and eat a corn dog. I also want to listen to Beyonce's music!

ROTARY CHILI FEAST
Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022 11pm-3pm
St. Jude's Catholic Church
Raffle Tickets \$100 Lunch \$10
Call 281-426-3558

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CRCU.org/DEBT

Growing with the needs of OUR COMMUNITY



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is seeing patients, both in person and virtually, because your health is still important. That's why you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you safe.

At Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, we continue to improve the quality of our health care and expand our services.

We are proud to offer these recent additions:

- A new leading-edge **emergency department** featuring 42 private treatment rooms
- A new and expanded **cancer center** offering infusion and radiation therapy, 12 private chemotherapy suites and support services from patient navigators
- A new neonatal intensive care unit
- Two new patient care units with 46 spacious private patient rooms
- New state-of-the-art operating rooms for cancer treatment, orthopedics, cardiovascular treatment, gynecology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, and bariatric and robotic-assisted surgery
- A new outpatient center featuring ambulatory surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, physical and occupational therapy, imaging, laboratory services, breast care center, primary care services and an occupational health clinic



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital
4401 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX 77521

Visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown to make an appointment with our primary or specialty care physicians or call **281.428.2273** for a physician referral.



Barbers Hill Dayton Press

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County reports First Case of Omicron

COVID-19 Variant Chambers County has identified its first case of the Omicron variant in the county. The positive case is a 20-30-year-old Hispanic female, who is not in the hospital, unvaccinated, no history of international travel, and resides in west Chambers County. We will not release any further information to protect patient privacy.

Health officials in Chambers County are actively monitoring Omicron case data on transmissibility, hospitalizations, death, and vaccine status. Information will be shared once available. With little data available to evaluate the new variant's spread, there is uncertainty about how much it will affect our healthcare systems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned we could see major surges in both delta and omicron as early as next month. There remains uncertainty on how bad it will get or how long it will last.

The Omicron variant has been identified throughout our Health Service Region 6/5 South, where Houston Hospitals are reporting that the new variant cases have tripled in four days. Locally in Chambers County, the 7-day testing positivity rate is at 6.6 percent, up from 3.8 percent one week ago.

Local Health Authority Dr. W. Clay Brown encourages residents to "exercise all reasonable precautions" as we enter the holidays. This includes getting fully vaccinated including the booster dose, masking when appropriate, social distancing, moving gatherings outdoors, and staying home from work or gatherings while sick. He also adds "as the new variant becomes more prevalent, we strongly recommend these basic steps we all can follow to slow the spread in our communities."

Vaccines are available through Chambers County Public Health (CCPH), and appointment times are still available. The last three COVID-19 vaccine clinics of the year are tomorrow, December 17th at McLeod Park; Monday, December 20th at the Anahuac Public Health Department; and Friday, December 30th at McLeod Park. "We offer 1st and 2nd doses for children and adolescents ages 5-15, and 1st, 2nd, and Booster doses for those ages 16 and older. We utilize both Moderna and Pfizer vaccines (age appropriate), and encourage those not fully vaccinated to schedule an appointment today." Online registration is available: bit.ly/chamberscovaccines or by calling 409-267-2731. Pre-registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

Supporting JDRF Gala Important for Hotchkiss Family



The Hotchkiss family (left to right) Ronnie, Daphna, Terri and Sammy

BAYTOWN — (December 20, 2021) — Even before he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 2012, Sammy Hotchkiss was well aware of how the disease can impact an entire family.

"I knew supporting diabetes research was important because my father-in-law was a diabetic, but when you become one yourself, it changes your perspective on it rapidly," Hotchkiss said. "Until you do the research on it, you don't fully understand the potential consequences."

Hotchkiss, vice president of family-owned and Baytown-based Hotchkiss Disposal, and wife, Terri, had been regulars at the annual JDRF Gala long before Sammy's diagnosis, but his becoming diabetic made the family's support more personal.

"Our family believes in

the mission of JDRF and their commitment to finding a long-term cure for diabetes," Hotchkiss said.

Hotchkiss Disposal continues its support as a sponsor of this year's "Wild About a Cure" gala, scheduled for January 15, 2022 at Houston's Royal Sonesta Hotel. The event benefits the JDRF's mission of supporting diabetes patients and their families by funding research into new therapies and community programs. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is a sponsor of the event.

An estimated 30 million children and adults in the U.S. are diagnosed with diabetes. Disease risk factors include being overweight, over the age of 45 and leading a sedentary lifestyle. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans,

Pacific Islanders and people who have a family history of the disease are at highest risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

"This disease impacts so many people today," Hotchkiss said, a graduate of Ross S. Sterling High School. "I hope people will have a great time at the gala, of course, but I also hope they will begin to understand how it affects diabetics and their families."

The gala begins with a reception at 7 p.m., with dinner and dancing to follow at 8 p.m. Auction items include group wine tasting outings, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo tickets, group golf packages, Houston Rockets tickets, jewelry, travel packages and more. For more information and for reservations, contact Laurie Terry at laterry@houstonmethodist.org.

Ryan Dagley to run for County Commissioner



The mayor of Beach City, Ryan Dagley, has announced that he is running for Chambers County Commissioner Pct. 4. He will be on the Republican Primary Ballot.

Early voting will begin Feb. 14, 2022. Election Day is March 1, 2022.

Dagley said that an official campaign Facebook page is forthcoming, and asked for support from everyone.

Pilot Club Donates to WCC Food Pantry



Pilots Connie Hernandez, Linda Gilmore Diana Jackson, Deana Fojt, and Judy Duncan, those representing the Mont Belvieu Food pantry are Reverend William Lucas with First United

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. recently presented the West Chambers County Food Pantry with a donation.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Get Back in Rhythm

BAYTOWN — (December 16, 2021) — Unusual heart rhythms—or arrhythmia—often are minor and harmless. However, long-lasting or more serious irregular rhythms can be dangerous and lead to cardiac arrest.

Not all arrhythmias require treatment, but patients should manage those that cause significant symptoms, increase risk for a more serious condition or impair the heart's efficiency and circulation. After a cardiologist diagnoses your arrhythmia, you may be referred to a cardiac electrophysiologist—a specialist in the electrical impulses that regulate heart rhythm—to manage your condition.

"All cardiologists have some training in electrophysiology," said Dr. Akanibo Da-Wariboko, electrophysiologist with the Houston Methodist DeBaake Heart & Vascular Center at Baytown, "but electrophysiologists have two years of additional training dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of heart rhythm disorders."

Electrophysiologists perform tests, such as electrophysiology studies, or EP studies, to evaluate your heart's electrical sys-

tem and figure out the cause of your arrhythmia. Catheters—very thin tubes with electrodes—are placed in different areas of the heart. They record electrical signals of the heart's activity and allow testing of its function. The EP study determines:

- An arrhythmia's source
- The effectiveness of certain medicines to control your heart rhythm
- Cardiac ablation procedure as a potential curative treatment of the arrhythmia
- Potential benefit of a pacemaker or implantable cardioverter defibrillator

The most common symptoms of arrhythmia include heart palpitations, a feeling your heart skipped a beat or beats too hard. Other symptoms may include:

- Anxiety
- Chest pain
- Excessive sweating
- Fatigue or light-headedness
- Loss of consciousness or feeling faint
- Shortness of breath
- Slow heartbeat or pauses between heartbeats

Arrhythmia Types
Arrhythmias types in-



Dr. Akanibo Da-Wariboko

clude:

Atrial fibrillation (AF): The most common and known, complex atrial arrhythmia is atrial fibrillation (or AFib). The heart beats too fast and irregularly in the upper chambers, increasing stroke risk and heart failure.

Bradycardia: The heart beats too slowly, which can indicate another problem, including an underactive thyroid or a potassium imbalance. A heart attack or medications, such as beta blockers, also can cause the condition. Extreme bradycardia is treated with a pacemaker placement.

Tachycardia: Refers to a range of conditions that may lead to the heart beat-

ing faster than normal.

Treating Your Arrhythmia

Arrhythmias fall into two categories. Simple arrhythmias, such as supraventricular tachycardia (SVT), atrial tachycardias (AT) or atrial flutter (AFL), can be treated with a single ablation and have a very high success rate. Other arrhythmias, such as atrial fibrillation (AF) or ventricular tachycardia, are more complex. "More complicated arrhythmias require longer procedures and personalized treatment plans that take into account a patient's risk factors and health history, as well as the source of the arrhythmia," Da-Wariboko said.

Your electrophysiologist may recommend a wide range of treatments, including Vagal maneuvers that stimulate stimulation of the vagal nerves regulating heart rate. Maneuvers include holding your breath and bearing down, immersing your face in ice-cold water (diving reflex) and coughing. This action is most effective in SVT.

Medications: Sodium channel blockers, beta-blockers, potassium channel blockers, calcium channel blockers and digi-

talys may slow or suppress tachycardia.

Lifestyle changes: Getting more exercise, losing weight and consuming less caffeine and alcohol can reduce arrhythmia episodes arising from underlying heart disease. More recent evidence points to obstructive sleep apnea playing a role in exacerbating arrhythmia, especially atrial fibrillation.


Catheter ablation: Catheters threaded through blood vessels (usually the groin area) are advanced to the heart and deliver radiofrequency energy to destroy, or ablate, the part of the heart causing the arrhythmia.

Da-Wariboko uses advanced technology to get a clear picture of the heart.

"With 3-D mapping catheters, we can create a highly detailed view of the heart and display it on a computer screen," Da-Wariboko said. "This mapping helps us track the catheters within the heart with amazing accuracy—less than 1 mm in three-dimensional space! This has allowed us to minimize the use of fluoroscopy, or X-rays, significantly to track catheters in the heart chambers and ablate more safely."

★ OPINION PAGE ★

Americanisms



“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”
— Vern McLellan

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★
THE POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon

Bad Jokes

My Uncle Andy recently turned 90, and it was hard to imagine what a guy would like for his 90th birthday.

At 90, getting a lot of new stuff doesn't sound very appealing. Andy is in the process of getting rid of stuff, a job made more challenging by the fact that neither he nor his wife, Bea, have any children to fob the stuff off on. Andy and Bea live in the farmhouse where my mom was raised, and we were stumped when the subject of a 90th birthday present came up.

“What does Andy like?” I asked my mom.

“Bad jokes,” my mom answered.

“How about a book of bad jokes? We could make one as a family.”

So I put out the call for bad jokes on the family Facebook page. At first, I heard nothing. I don't know many jokes, and I was worried I'd have to make a joke book by myself in time for the party in the small country church near the old farmhouse.

Then I got an email from my cousin Sarah.

What do you call a deer with one eye?

A one-eyed deer.

What do you call a deer with no eyes?

No eye deer!

And the floodgates were opened.

Q: What's brown and sticky?

A: A stick.

Who's bigger? Mr. Bigger or Mr. Bigger's Baby?

Mr. Bigger's Baby! He's just a little bigger.

I was flooded with jokes. I got shaggy dog jokes, knock-knock jokes, and Ole and Lena jokes. I got lots of jokes about farms since Andy is a retired farmer.

What did the cow say to the calf? “It's pasture bedtime.”

Before it was over, I had a book filled with terrible jokes sent in by Andy's family. I was glad we had done it, glad my family had come through, glad they'd all chipped in to give Andy something to laugh about on the occasion of his 90th.

The New Year is upon us, and I don't think I'm the only one who needs a little more to laugh about. I usually have no trouble finding the upside, but lately there seems to be more bad news than I can process in any given day.

It's easy to believe, looking out on the gray weather and reading the dire news, that this year might not bring all the good things I hope for, that this year might let me down, that there might not be as much to look forward to as there has been in past years.

And I guess that's where bad jokes come in.

Andy broke his leg not too long ago and is still using a walker to get around. We wonder how long he and Bea will be able to stay at the old farmhouse, outside of town on a lonely country road. But as I sat there watching Bea and Andy laughing at terrible jokes and eating birthday cake, I realized they understood all of this.

Because most of what makes a good year good, and a bad year bad, has nothing to do with the big picture. Most of it has to do with how I feel and behave in any given day, at any given moment. And sometimes, all that is needed to change that moment is a reason to laugh. Sometimes all that is needed is to laugh for no reason at all.

People say they pick their nose, but I feel I was born with mine.

For no reason at all, that made my day.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

top ten

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Exercise more
2. Save money
3. Eat healthier
4. Lose weight
5. Reduce stress
6. Get more sleep
7. Stick to budget
8. Grow spiritually
9. Travel more
10. Learn new skill

Source: yougov.com

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Home Country
with Slim Randles

Changing that dang year...

“And that's another thing,” Herb said, with finality, “Changing that dang year on everything we write, every January. Goes against human nature.”

“Well I might just have an answer to your problem, Herb,” said Doc, sipping and dunking and stirring. “Why don't we, here at the philosophy counter, pick out a year we like and stick with it? Date everything we do with that year. It might start a movement, you never know.”

Steve looked up from his coffee and twitched his voluminous mustache then twitched it again to make sure he got it right the first time.

“So Doc,” he said, “you're saying we should just pick a year and live with it? Okay, so which year would you pick?”

“I think it would have more of an effect if it would be the same year for all of us here. My choice of year might not agree with yours, you know.”

“I was thinking of 19 and 87, myself,” said Steve. “Won the team roping that year. Got it on my belt buckle.”

“There you go. You got the right idea, Pard. Herb, how about you?”

“Dog died. In '87, I mean. Just woke up one morning and there she was, dead. I couldn't do '87.”

“Sorry, Herb. Dud?”

“Haven't got to that year yet, Doc,” Dud said. “It'll be the year I finish that darn book.”

We all nodded.

“If that there favor-ite year comes in the bowels of the chicken yard, like it says in the Farmer's Almanac, that'd be good, doncha think?”

Doc nodded. “And which year would that be, Windy?”

“Ain't sure. Don't have no Farmer's Almanac at the moment.”

“Let's get some more coffee and give it some thought,” said Herb.

“I'll second that,” said Steve.

“Can't,” said Windy. “Ain't been firsted yet.”

Brought to you by the genuine cowboy music and musings of Steve Cormier up in New Mexico's Sandia Mountains. Check him out at stevecormier.net.

★
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

State steps up DUI enforcement during holidays

The Texas Department of Transportation has kicked off its statewide “Drive Sober. No Regrets” drunk driving prevention program for the holidays. Throughout the month, TxDOT has released videos of people who deal with the daily consequences of driving while impaired, either as an offender or survivor.

The stories and facts about drunk driving can be found at SoberRides.org.

“It is our hope that these moving, first-hand accounts will encourage all of us to make the right choice and not ever drive after drinking or doing anything that can alter our judgment,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “We don't want to turn a happy time of year into one that could be marked by tragic loss caused by someone's poor decision to drink and drive.”

During the December holiday season last year, there were 2,462 DUI-alcohol related traffic accidents, killing 93 people and seriously injuring 215.

TEXAS TO DISTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL \$123.3 MILLION IN ED FUNDING

The state will invest an additional \$123.3 million in federal funds provided through pandemic relief legislation.

“The state of Texas remains committed to students and their success in our education systems — that includes ensuring parents have an option to send their kids to a high-quality charter school and providing direct support to families with children who have special needs,” Gov. Greg Abbott said.

This final round of funding includes money for students with severe cognitive disabilities; charter school grants; financial aid for nursing students; short-term credential training for front-line health care



workers; initiatives to improve student enrollment and retention; financial aid programs for higher education; cybersecurity enhancement; and aid for those seeking commercial driver license training.

“For some of our most at-risk students, this significant new round of funding will prioritize getting families across Texas direct access to special education and other targeted supplemental services to support their children's varied educational needs,” said Mike Morath, Texas education commissioner.

USED VEHICLE PRICES AT RECORD HIGHS

The average listing price for a used vehicle topped \$27,000 for the first time, according to a report from Cox Automotive. A primary reason, according to a story in the *San Antonio Express-News*, is the relative scarcity of new vehicles because of supply-chain disruptions and an initial drop in demand when the pandemic struck.

For example, Toyota stopped production at all its plants across North America and in Southeast Asia, except for its San Antonio factory. The company had hoped to return to full production in December but has again suspended work at some plants as a shortage of computer chips has stymied vehicle production.

The spike in used vehi-

cle prices has benefitted car owners looking to sell.

“With the way the market is right now, I've seen people make money on their vehicles, especially with diesel. It's crazy,” Zachary Gilman, a salesman at the Jordan Ford dealership in Live Oak, told the *Express-News*.

MORE FUNDING FOR OPERATION LONE STAR

The state's Public Safety Office has awarded an additional \$38.4 million in funding to cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border for law enforcement efforts. That amount doubles the funding provided for those counties since last March.

The funding is for specialized law enforcement equipment, labor costs including overtime, construction of additional communication towers and increased jail capacity and travel costs for law enforcement personnel from non-border counties that provide assistance.

“This additional funding will strengthen our response to the border crisis and ensure our law enforcement and local partners have the resources they need to keep our communities safe in the federal government's absence,” Abbott said.

COVID-19 CASES SPIKE; OMICRON VARIANT SPREADS

As Texans continue to navigate life during a nearly two-year pandemic, the number of new cases of COVID-19 rose during the past week to 51,479, an increase of 41% from the previous week, according to the *Coronavirus Resource Center* at Johns Hopkins University. The number of new deaths dropped to 266, a decrease of 44%, however. Researchers have said that while the omicron variant is more contagious than the delta variant that sparked the last wave, its symptoms thus far are not as severe.

The number of lab-confirmed hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients stayed at about the same level as the previous week, with 3,376 reported by the *Texas Department of State Health Services*.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated stood at 16.36 million as of Sunday, which is 56.1% of the state's population. In addition, 4.35 million of the state's residents have received an additional dose, according to *DSHS*.

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.

top ten

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

1. Christmas movies
2. Christmas tree
3. Holiday decorating
4. Hang mistletoe, stockings
5. Christmas dinner
6. Bake cookies
7. Exchange gifts
8. Christmas cards
9. Elf on the Shelf
10. Christmas music

Source: minted.com

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★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

Crosby band plays concert at Capitol in Austin



Briscoe Cain
December 6 at 12:06 PM · 🌐
Crosby High School Band playing Christmas songs at the Texas Capitol today. Thank you to band director, Kevin Knight, and all band members for playing today!

Celebrate the New Year and Make Your Health a Priority

Include COVID-19 vaccine/booster in your resolution list! □□□□

Houston – New Year celebrations typically include fireworks, getting together with friends and family, and making resolutions to include new projects or restructuring old ones. COVID-19 cases have been rising, and the Omicron variant threatens to continue spreading.

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) urges residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and get a booster if they qualify.

Below are some recommendations to safely celebrate the New Year:

- Wear a mask to help protect yourself and others – especially indoors.
- Continue to social distance by staying 6 feet apart from others who do not live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

- Consider using a rapid test before attending a gathering.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.

Adults and children can be infected with COVID-19 without having symptoms but are still contagious. Get tested if you are experiencing symptoms or have been in contact with someone that has tested positive. Testing is free at all HCPH sites. Appointments are not required but are recommended. [Click here](#) to find a site near you or call **832-927-7575**.

Vaccinations are free at all HCPH designated locations, and appointments are not required, although recommended. Go to vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787 to schedule your appointment. HCPH wishes you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year!

OBITUARIES

MARY "NELL" HERNDON



Mary "Nell" Herndon, 95, of Humble, Texas, passed away on Saturday, January 1, 2022. She was born on December 29, 1926 in Kountze, Texas to parents James Cole Hargis and Rector Elese May Hargis who preceded her in death along with her husband of 57 years Willie Lee "Doc" Herndon; brother Herbert Hargis; sisters Louise Koym and Dorothy Liles; and granddaughter Maggie Mary Sutton.

Nell was a loving mother and "Mam-maw" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a Godly woman who was an active member of Lake Houston United Methodist Church of Huffman and United Methodist Women. Nell was also a Paul Harris Fellow through the Highlands Rotary Club. She had many passions in life including volunteering, traveling, golfing, RVing, dancing, hunting, tending to her plants, loving her many dogs, cooking and spending time with her family. She also

loved to entertain and hosted many wonderful parties throughout the years. Nell was a beautiful lady full of grace who never complained nor spoke an unkind word. She was always dressed to the nines and had a keen sense of humor. She was loved by many and will truly be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Nell leaves behind to cherish her memory her children Marilyn Sutton and husband Joe, Patricia Scott and husband Andy, Lee Herndon and wife Beth, and Mona Forsyth; grandchildren Holli Gwaltney, Nolan Swick and wife Jana, Leslie Hickman and husband Austin, Will Herndon fiance' Maria Byrnes, Rachel Hern-

don, and Morgan Forsyth; great-grandchildren Nellie and Penny Gwaltney, Maggie and Ace Hickman, and Bear Swick; special daughter Alisa Myers; special friends Lorraine Kuehn, Barbara Denyer, and Margie MacKenzie along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

A visitation for Nell will be held 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Thursday, January 6, 2022 at Sterling-White Funeral Home, Highlands, Texas. Funeral services will take place 12noon, Friday, January 7, 2022 at Sterling-White Funeral Home, officiated by Frank Coats with interment to follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Baytown, Texas. Serving the family as pallbearers will be Nolan Swick, Will Herndon, James Boswell, Jack Spivey, Jeff Bearden, and Ryan Gwaltney.

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BEVERLY BARTONE nee: BLUMENAUER

Beverly Bartone nee Blumenauer, age 74, passed away Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at Edward Hospital in Naperville, IL.

She was born September 11, 1947 in Indianapolis, IN and had worked as an executive secretary for many years.

She is survived by

her step children John Jr., Tracey and Michael Bertone, in laws Frank and Tanya Bertone, niece and nephew Erika Kircher and Tuxan Blumenauer and great nieces Samantha Luhn and Emily Kircher. She was preceded in death by her husband John Bertone.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the S.P.C.A. Arrangements are being made by the Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Homes & Crematory, 516 S. Washington St. Naperville, IL. 630 355 0264.

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Crosby Superintendent,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing on around the district.

Our students returned to work the moment the Spring semester began. The first day back was Alumni Day at Crosby High School. We invited more than a dozen CHS graduates to return to share their college experiences and answer questions ranging from financial aid to scoring scholarships and even mental health breaks. Thank you to the following alumni for sharing their stories and experiences: Jessica Russell (CHS '21, Lee); Ariana Vega (CHS '21, SFA); Shea Moss (CHS '19, UH);

Maggie Hearn (CHS '19, Auburn); Jasmine Farish (CHS '21, Tyler Jr); Joshua John-Louis (CHS '21, Howard); Cedric Patterson III (CHS '18, Rice); Lauren Budd (CHS '21, Texas A&M); Colson Bedair (CHS '21, San Jacinto). These alumni all gave up part of their holiday break to coach current students who now look up to them.

I would like to take a moment to brag on another of our Crosby High School alumni. Jenna Johnson (CHS '21) recently signed with Texas A&M Corpus Christi to continue her academic

and athletic career. Her softball and volleyball skills continue to shine across Texas.

This column is filled with the names of alumni who are strengthening Crosby ISD long after they graduate. We appreciate all our graduates who do amazing things and pay it forward and share their blessings here at home. This year, I hope we can all take time to reflect and focus on the great things happening in our communities.

This is Now! Go Coogs! Have a Great Year!

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 498947; Estate of NYNA M. LUCAS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on NOVEMBER 3, 2021.

AMY JO WOMACK
 The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
 1500 E. Wallisville Rd
 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 DECEMBER 16, 2021.


 by WESTON COTTEN
 Attorney for the Estate

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01-1T



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 - Maria en Florida

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01-1T

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Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 ("District")

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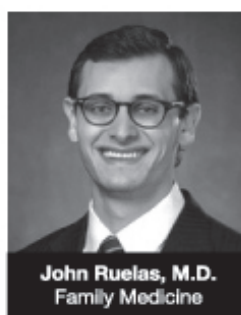


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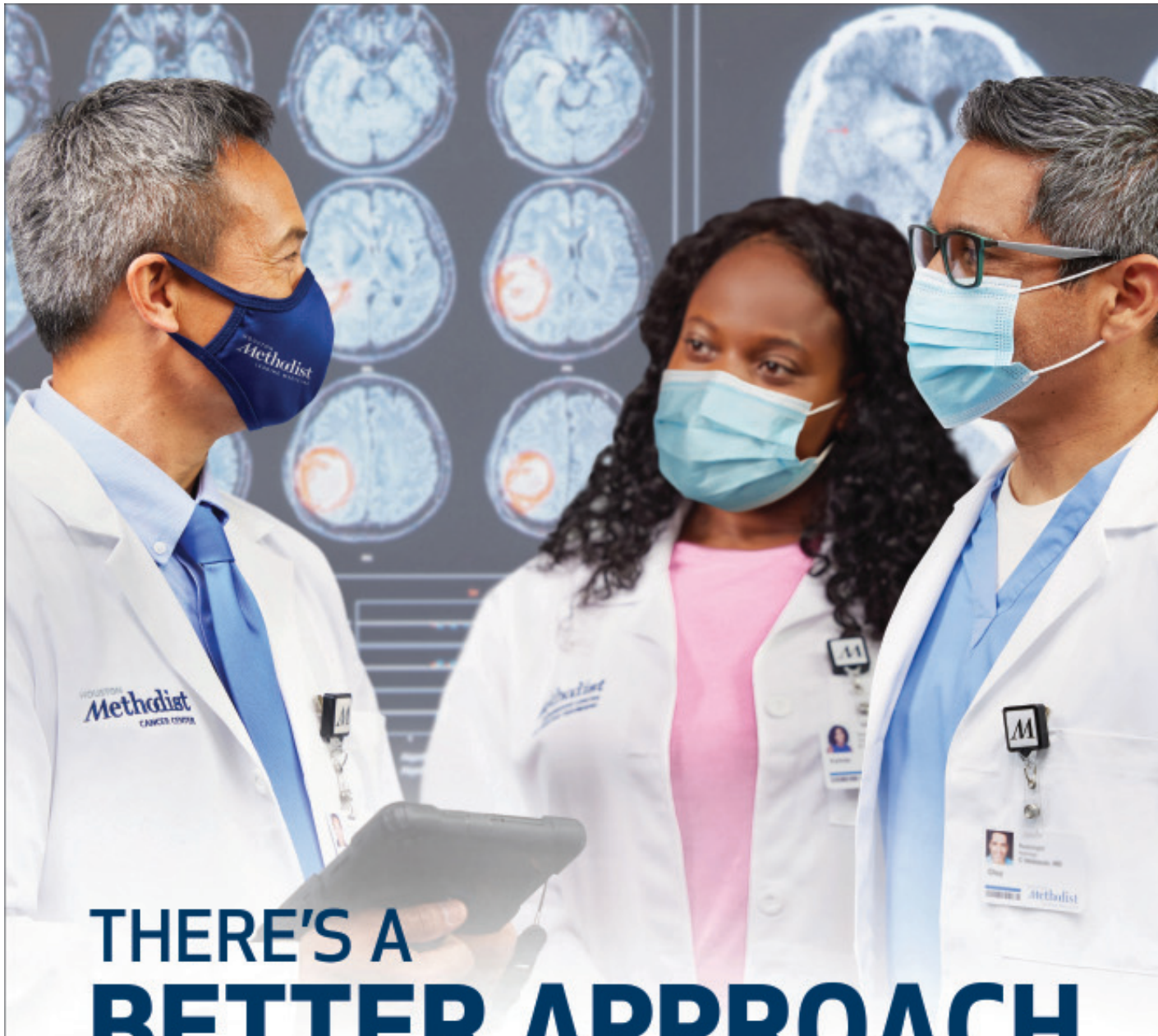
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