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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Early Voting for Primary Feb. 14 to 25

HARRIS COUNTY Election season for 2022 kicks off with early voting for the primary races in crucial positions in Harris County starting Monday, Feb. 14. Early voting ends on Friday, Feb. 25 and Primary Election Day is Tues-

day, March 1.

Among the primary races catching much of the attention are the Harris County judge race and the Pct. 2 commissioner race. Lina Hidalgo is the incumbent Harris County Judge but faces five opponents in the primary race. One of the Democratic challengers is Georgia D. Provost, a former Houston City Council candidate, and Erica Davis

Constable Alan Rosen's chief of staff. Other Democrats are Maria Garcia, Ahmad R. "Robbeto" Hassan, and Kevin Howard, according to the Texas Secretary of State **Election Information** page at https:// candidate.texaselection.com/Elect i o n s / getQualifiedCandidates Info.do.

Republicans vying for Hidalgo's seat include Randy Kubosh, Houston City Council Michael Kubosh's brother, and Martina Lemond Dixon, Humble ISD board president. Other Republicans on the ballot for the county judge position are Hector Bolanos, Robert





TX GOVERNOR **GREG ABBOTT**

Dorris, Oscar Gonzales, Warren A. Howell, Vidal Martinez, Alex Mealer, and George Harry Zoes.

In the Pct. 2 Commissioner race, incumbent Adrian Garcia faces his own challengers. In 2018, Garcia defeated Republican



HC JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

Jack Morman by a margin of less than 1%. In 2022, Garcia will face Democratic challengers Justice of the Peace George Risner and Gary Harrison, a retired police officer.

Morman is trying to get his old seat back,



HC COMMISSIONER **ADRIAN GARCIA**

starting in the Republican primaries. Two mayors are in the race as well. They are John Manlove, Pasadena's former mayor, and Jerry Mouton, Deer Park's mayor. Also in the Republican primary race for the Pct. 2 position is Daniel N.

Jason and Richard Vega.

In the Harris County Commissioner Pct. 4 primary race, incumbent Republican R. Jack Cagle does not have a direct primary challenger, but there are plenty of the Democratic side. The list includes Leslev Briones, Gina Calanni, Benjamin "Ben" Chou. Clarence Miller, Sandra Pelmore, Jeff Stauber, and Ann Williams.

In the Harris County District Clerk primary race, Chris Daniel, who used to hold the seat, is giving it another try and has no Republican primary challenger. Incumbent Democrat Marilyn Burgess has

one, Desiree Broadnax.

There are no primary challengers on either side for the Harris County Clerk race, but Stan Stanart, who once was the county's clerk, has signed up on the Republican side. Incumbent Democrat Teneshia Hudspeth is also seeking another

For the Harris County Treasurer primary race, Democrat incumbent Dylan Osborne is being challenged by Carla 1. Wyatt, while two Republicans - Eric Dick and Kyle Scott - are facing each other as

Continued. See Early Voting, p. 2

Primary season underway with Pct. 2 Candidates Forum

PARTICIPANTS IN PCT 2 CANDIDATES FORUM

By Allan Jamail

February 1, 2022 at The Garden Houston located at 12001 Beamer Road in the Sagemont Subdivision of Houston the Sagemont Civic Club con $ducted\ a\ Precinct\ 2$ County Commissioners candidate forum. The event was well attended by about 200 citizens mostly voters of Harris County Pre-

Eight candidates were invited for the 7pm forum but only five attended. The candidates are on their respective partisan party's March 1st Primary Ballot. On the ballot are five Republican and three Democrats. Those present were, Democrats



REPUBLICAN RICHARD VEGA

George Risner (Justice of the Peace Precinct 2) and Gary Harrison (former Harris County Deputy Sheriff). Republicans present were Richard Vega, Jack Morman (former county commissioner) and John Manlove



DEMOCRAT JUDGE GEORGE RISNER

(former Pasadena mayor).

Those absent were. Democrat Precinct 2 County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Republicans Jerry Mouton and Daniel Jason. Kay Barbour the president of the Sagemont Civic



REPUBLICAN



JACK MORMAN All Candidate Forum Photos by Allan Jamai

didate Daniel Jason Club and Master of

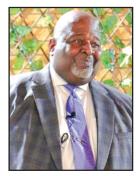
Ceremonies said that both Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Jerry Mouton did answer the questions of the questionnaire she interviewed them in a recorded session. Can-



REPUBLICAN JOHN MANLOVE

did not reply to the invitation.

In the beginning candidates were given equal time to introduce themselves, at the close they were given the time as to state



DEMOCRAT GARY HARRISON

why they thought voters should vote for them.

The candidates were asked questions that civic club members had sent in to the club in advance. After those then questions from the audience were allowed. Some of the hottest

topics questioned to each candidate were public safety, the raising crime rates, flood- . ing and bail reform.

Several candidates pledged to fire the new County Administrator which was recently created for the first time in Harris County's history by Commissioners Court, this received loud applauses.

President Kay Barbour announced on February 10th at 7pm they'll have a Harris County Judge candidate forum at the same location. The civic club can be contact Sagemontcc @gmail.com. By allanj211@aol.com

Crosby Superintendent's message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

We're a month into the Spring semester, and we're off to a fast start. I want to begin by congratulating the Crosby High School girls' varsity basketball team. They are cochampions of District 21-5A. The team also celebrated Senior Night recently, honoring seniors Cortni Harris, Caitlin Harris, and Sequoia Carroll. We can't wait to see what's next for the team and these star



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

players in the playoffs. The boys' basketball team also celebrated Senior Night as well recently. Two of our Seniors (Sean Elkinton and PJ Haggerty)

have promising college ball careers ahead. But first thing's first: we're ready to see our Cougar boys battle in the playoffs.

The Crosby High Bass Club recently competed in the cold and wind during a fishing tournament in Conroe. They proved their grit despite the weather, and two of our teams placed in the top 10! Our Cougar varsity swim team had a great time battling in the regional swim

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, p. 2



CROSBY GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



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Early Voting starts Feb. 14,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well.

In the state primary races, Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott is facing a slew of challengers. Abbott faces former Congressman Allen B. West, Don Huffines, Paul Belew, Danny Harrison, Kandy Kaye Horn, Rick Perry, and Chad Prather.

The Democrats are also battling it out to be the representative for their party in November in the governor's race. Most notable is Beto O'Rourke, who ran against Sen. Ted Cruz but lost in 2018. Also in the Democratic primary governor's race are Inocencio (Inno) Barrientez, Michael Cooper, Joy Diaz, and

Rich Wakeland.

For Lt. Governor. Republican incumbent Dan Patrick will face five other challengers in the primaries. They are Trayce Bradford, Todd M. Bullis, Daniel Miller, Aaron Sorrells, and Zach Vance. In the Democratic primary race for Lt. Governor, three candidates are vying for the position. They are Michelle Beckley, Carla Brailey, and Mike Col-

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, the incumbent, is facing Texas General Land Office head George P. Bush, 1st Texas Congressional District Representative Louie Gohmert,

and Eva Guzman, who served on the Texas Supreme Court.

Democrats vying for the seat include Mike Fields, Rochelle Mercedes Garza, Joe Jaworski, Lee Merritt, "TBone" and S. Raynor.

In local State Senator races, Democratic incumbent John Whitmire is facing Molly Cook in the primaries. There is a single Republican up for the seat - George Brian Vachris.

District 6 State Senator Carol Alvarado has no Democratic primary challenger, but Republican Martha Fierro plans to face her in November.

In State Represen-

tative races, in District 128 incumbent Republican Briscoe Cain has no primary opponent, but has a Democrat challenger, Chuck Crews.

Neither District 140 State House Rep. Armando Walle, District 141 Rep. Senfronia Thompson, District 143 State House Rep. Ana Hernandez nor District 144 Rep. Mary Ann Perez have a primary challenger.

Harold V. Dutton, the Democratic incumbent representative for District 142, will face Candis Houston in the primary races. The lone Republican, Richard Varner, does not have a primary challenger.

Crosby Superintendent,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meet in College Station this month. The boys 200 free relay team made it to the finals and finished 13th overall. CHS varsity soccer teams have also been racking up wins, including a great 8-0 win by the girls' team over Beaumont United recently. Tennis is also back in action, headed to tournaments in Dayton and Goose Creek CISD in the coming weeks. Our varsity baseball and softball teams are in the middle of scrimmages and non-district play before the seasons begin in March.

Track and field season begins this month. We recently had more than 160 high school and middle school students try out for the middle school and high school track teams. We're expecting big things this season from our Cougars. This month also marked another National Signing Day. We had six studentathletes sign on to play college ball on scholarships. For football: Jarius Simpson signed with Sul Ross State University; Demetrius Strahan is headed to Tyler JC; Kameren Kirkwood signed with Angelo State University; Quincy Jones is head-

ed to Oklahoma Panhandle State University; and Mc-Coy Casey signed with Trinity Valley CC. For volleyball: Kylee Marksberry signed with Temple College. I always say it takes a village to produce athletes who perform well on the field and contin-

ue to make the grade

in the classroom. We appreciate their coaches and their parents and families who have sacrificed so much and have so much to cele-

On the academic front, the District spelling bee will be February 28th. The top spellers from each of our elementary campuses will compete to become the best speller in Crosby ISD. G-O-O-D L-U-C-K!

We marked National School Counseling Week this month. We celebrated our 14 counselors with goodie bags, student-led songs, student-drawn signs, and certificates of appreciation. Our counselors do a tremendous job advising students, helping them succeed, and even planning a future

This month includes Bus Driver Appreciation Day on February 22nd. Bus drivers are some of our unsung heroes in Crosby ISD. They keep our students safe and get them to class on time each day. We would love if you thanked a bus driver when you see them.

Finally, I wanted to share some important dates that families can circle on your calendar. Our Spring Break will run March 14 through March 18. The Class of 2022 Graduation will be Friday, May 27 at Cougar Stadium at 7:30pm. I can't believe we are already talking about graduation, but time is flying! I am one proud Superinten-

This is Now! Go

Girl Scout Cookie Season Kicks Off Locally on Feb. 12

HOUSTON - Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council kick off the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie Season in southeast Texas, bringing back classic favorites plus the newest addition to the lineup: Adventurefuls, an indulgent brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt, and an incredible taste of adventure in every bite. Adventurefuls joins iconic Girl Scout Cookie favorites like Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, and Peanut Butter Patties®.

"The Girl Scout Cookie Program is about so much more than just cookies. It's about the girls and supporting their leadership journey," says Mary Vitek, chief executive officer of GSSJC. "It's about knowing each girl is building skills that will stay with her well beyond her years in Girl Scouting. It's knowing that by the end of the program, in just a few short months, she will be more confident, she will have built upon her math or money management skills, she will know how to set goals and work hard to achieve them, and like millions of Girl Scouts who have gone before her, she will be better positioned for success in life. All because of Girl Scout Cookies."

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world- girls learn five skills that will transfer over into other areas of their life, including goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and busi-



Local Girl Scouts selling new brownie inspired AdventurefulsTM cookie alongside other favorites.

ness ethics. All cookie proceeds remain local and help troops fund their activities. Support of the cookie program also makes Girl Scouting a reality for all girls, regardless of their ability to pay, by providing financial assistance and supporting the council's community outreach program, where staff bring the Girl Scout experience to girls in underserved communities- in schools. homeless shelters, and detention centers. among others.

How to buy Girl **Scout Cookies:** This year, Girl Scout cookie entrepreneurs are back with a hybrid selling model that incorporates innovative methods of online ordering and the return of in-person selling.

Starting February 12, local Girl Scouts will begin approaching customers by going door-to-door or by using digital and social media to promote their online sales.

If you know a Girl Scout, tell her you're interested in buying cookies from her online, and she'll take it from there! Customers can order and pay for cookies online for direct shipment or local delivery.

Starting February 18, supporters can purchase cookies at booths located outside

local businesses. Enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.girlscout cookies.org to find a booth near you.

Text "Cookies" to 59618.

Download and install the free Cookie Finder app on your OS or Android device and press "Find Cookies Now!"

Cookies4Heroes

Want to support Girl Scout Cookie entrepreneurs without the cookies? You can purchase and donate cookies for GSSJC's Cookies4Heroes program where donated cookies are distributed to members of the military, first responders and local causes at the end of the sale.

"As we celebrate our council's 100th anniversary in 2022 we are so thankful for our volunteers and the support of our community, including our booth partners, who are making it possible for girls to achieve their goals and grow their leadership skills," says Vitek.

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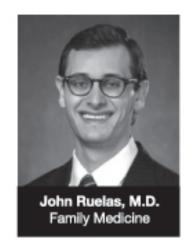
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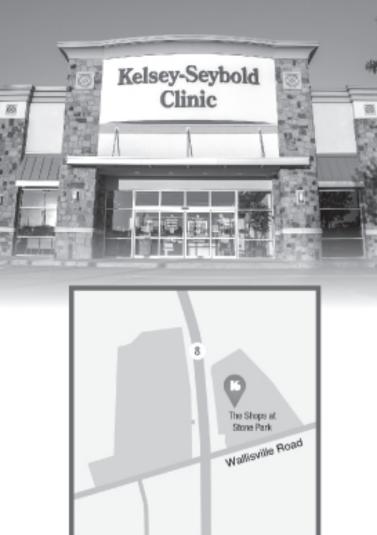
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- Same-day and next-day primary care appointments

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Annual CC Youth Livestock Show and Ranch Rodeo this March through April.

The planning committees and Chambers County staff have been working feverishly to prepare for the events associated with the show and we are proud to invite you out to see their hard work come together.



Chambers County Youth Livestock Show and Ranch Rodeo Pageant

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Ranch Rodeo Friday, April 10, 2022 | Cook Off, Women's Ranch Rodeo

Saturday, April 11, Cowboy Church, Ranch Rodeo

Sunday, April 12, 2022 | Team Roping Chambers County Youth Livestock Show

April 27 through

April 29, 2022 Chambers County Youth Livestock Auc-

Saturday, March 30,

COVID-19 Shots available in **Chambers County**

Chambers County Public Health will be offering several COVID-19 vaccine clinics in the coming weeks at no cost to the public. Please visit bit.ly/ chamberscovaccines to register for an appointment. Appointments are required.

First, second, third and booster doses of vaccine will be available at each clinic.

For reference, please see the below distinction between booster and third doses:

- Third doses are available in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine only for persons who are immunocompromised
- Booster doses are available only in the Pfizer vaccine and are recommended for:
- People aged 65 years and older
- Residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings • People aged 50 to 64
- years with underlying medical conditions - Booster doses of the
- Pfizer vaccine are also available for:
- People aged 18 to 49 years with underlying medical conditions
- People aged 18 to 64 years with an increased for risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission

If you have questions regarding vaccines or your eligibility, please call Chambers County Public Health at 409-267-2931 or

vaccines@chamberstx.gov.

Primary votings starts in Chambers County

Election season for 2022 kicks off with early voting for the primary races in Chambers County. Early voting starts Monday February 14, and ends Friday February 25. Election Day is Tuesday, March 1.

In the state primary races, Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott is facing a slew of challengers. Abbott faces former Congressman Allen B. West, Don Huffines, Paul Belew, Danny Harrison, Kandy Kaye Horn, Rick Perry, and Chad Prather.

The Democrats are also battling it out to be the representative for their party in November in the governor's race. Most notable is Beto O'Rourke, who ran against Sen. Ted Cruz but lost in 2018. Also in the Democratic primary governor's race are Inocencio (Inno) Barrientez, Michael Cooper, Joy Diaz, and Rich Wakeland.

For Lt. Governor, Republican incumbent Dan Patrick will face five other challengers in the prima-



ries. They are Trayce Bradford, Todd M. Bullis, Daniel Miller, Aaron Sorrells, and Zach Vance. In the Democratic primary race for Lt. Governor, three candidates are vying for the position. They are Michelle Beckley, Carla Brailey, and Mike Collier.

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, the incumbent, is facing Texas General Land Office head George P. Bush, 1st Texas Congressional Dis-

see a revenue decrease of

not to exceed \$1.4 million

due to this decrease in tax

revenue - something that

the members of Commis-

sioners Court are not con-

Chapter 318 agreements

that will reach completion

this year and those prop-

erties will be added back to

the tax roll to generate tax

income," continued Judge

Sylvia. "That will offset the

reduction in revenue from

Auditor Aaron Thomas

and Chief Appraiser Mitch McCullough to create this

proposal. All parties will

continue to work collabora-

tively to see this project to

More information will

be available on the Cham-

bers County website

(co.chambers.tx.us) soon.

The Court worked with

this adjustment."

fruition.

"We have multiple

cerned about.

trict Representative Louie Gohmert, and Eva Guzman, who served on the Texas Supreme Court.

Democrats vying for the seat include Mike Fields, Rochelle Mercedes Garza, Joe Jaworski, Lee Merritt, and S. "TBone" Raynor.

In Chambers County District 23 State Rep. Mayes Middleton has announced he will run for the State Senate District 11 seat. If he wins, he will

succeed State Senator Larry Taylor. Middleton faces some Republican primary challengers. One is Robin Armstrong, a physician. Gov. Abbott appointed Armstrong to serve on the Finance Commission of Texas in 2019. He also served as vice-chair for the Republican Party of Texas

Other Republican candidates have filed for Middleton's District 23 seat,

from 2006 to 2010.

including Gina D. Smith, Dr. Abel Longoria, Patrick Gurski, and Terri Leo-Wilson. One Democrat, teacher Keith G. Henry, a Texas City Councilman in his second year, has also filed to run.

Incumbent Pct. 4 Chambers County Commissioner Billy Combs has said he will not seek re-election. two have filed to run for the seat. Beach City Mayor Ryan Dagley has filed to run for the seat. Bill Wallace, a former county commissioner, defeated by Combs in 2018, has also filed to run.

Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia has announced he is running for another term. Challenger Rachal Hisler, who was named the Republican Women Legislative Chair, is also running for the county judge seat.

Visit https:// www.co.chambers.tx.us/ page/elections for a complete list of Chambers County candidates.

Chambers County to Decrease Taxes for Senior Citizens

CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS - Chambers County Commissioners Court voted to increase the value of property tax exemption provided to senior citizens, effectively lowering the total amount that these residents pay each year.

The initiative, spearheaded by Chambers County residents and presented to Court by Commissioners Billy Combs and Tommy Hammond, increases the taxation threshold from the current rate of 20 percent plus \$60 thousand. The 20 percent rate discount rate is set by the state and cannot be adjusted, so Commissioners Court elected to increase the reduction set by the County to \$200 thou-

To simplify, property owners who are over the age of 65 are taxed only on the value of their property that exceeds the threshold set by Commissioners Court. This means that at the new discount, seniors who own property valued at \$250 thousand or less would pay zero dollars in taxes to the County. Those seniors whose property is valued at greater than \$250 thousand will be taxed only on the value exceeding that threshold. A \$250K home would be evaluated in the following manner: \$250,000 - (20 percent of \$250,000 - in this case \$50,000) -\$200,000 = 0. In this scenario, Chambers County would assess \$0 tax.

"I think this is a wonderful idea and I support it completely," said Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia. "This is a great way to put money back in the pockets of Chambers County residents and will help increase the financial security of senior citizens."

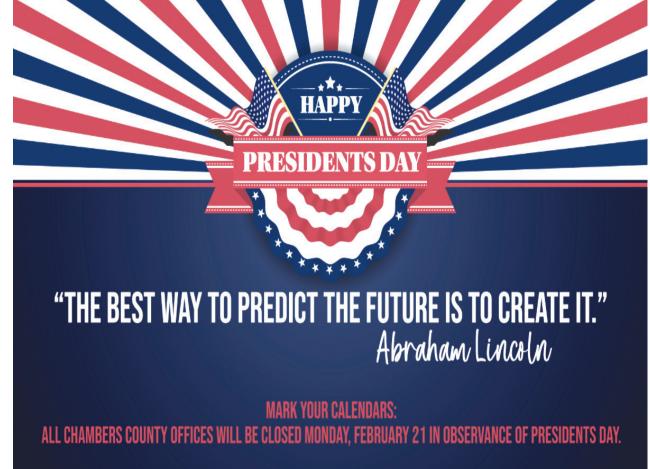
Chambers County will

Chambers County Sheriff's Office Announces New **Animal Control Facility**



Chambers County announces the Chambers County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Facility (Animal Shelter) ribbon cutting, scheduled for February 16, 2022 at 10 a.m.

This facility has been operational for some time, so this event is belated but well-deserved.



★ OPINION PAGE ★



Fighting Gun Violence

Across the nation, states, counties, and cities are reporting across-the-board increases in gunrelated violent crime. And here in Harris County, we are not immune from this alarming national trend. Many factors are at play, including a lack of common sense gun laws that has led to unchecked weapons of war on our streets in the hands of people who should not have access to them.

To fight gun violence in Harris County, we are investing in solutions that are both tough on crime and smart on crime. This week, we approved a new budget that invests \$1.4 billion in justice and safety alone. This is the highest amount we've ever spent on public safety in County history.

This budget ensures that we're giving law enforcement the resources they need – like a raise for our Harris County sheriff's deputies and deputy constables, more overtime for law enforcement, and higher salaries and staff for the District Attorney's Office. But the budget also makes sure we are addressing long-standing issues at the core of the crime wave, through programs like our Community Violence Interruption Program, which zeroes in on gun violence by helping those most at risk of committing crimes to escape gangs and resolve neighborhood conflicts peacefully by providing caseworkers that help with services like mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, employment services, and mediation.

Or like the Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) program. Fewer than four percent of 911 calls are related to violent crime – HART teams of trained social workers and behavioral health and medical professionals provide support and services to residents experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues, or social welfare concerns, freeing up police to focus on violent crime. HART begins operations with the Sheriff's Office this Spring, and we anticipate building several teams throughout the county over time.



Last week, we also kicked off the \$50 million Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods program by tearing down a decrepit building that served as a haven for drug dealers and other criminal elements in Cypress Station. The prevention and neighborhood safety program targets neighborhoods with high rates of crime to improve visibility in residential areas, address long-standing blighted and abandoned structures, and implement other improvements shown to enhance public safety.

These initiatives are not experiments. These are research-based methods that have a much greater success rate in ending cycles of violence than incarceration alone. Keeping communities safe doesn't have to be all about law enforcement, or no law enforcement at all. We don't have to choose – in Harris County, we know we must do both. We're investing in our public safety AND in strategies that build up our communities, which is the smartest and most effective way to keep our residents safe.

Harris County urges Bail Board to Impose Minimum Bond Payment Requirements

When a bond is set for a suspect in a crime, they can approach a bail bond business to post the bond for them. However, Texas law does not require a minimum payment by the defendant before a bail bond company can post their bond and secure a defendant's release from jail.

Investigations conducted by stakeholders in the criminal justice system show that there are bail bondsmen in Harris County that do not collect the customary 10 percent to post bond. In fact, some collect as little as one percent of a bond set by a judicial officer, making it easier for dangerous and violent criminals to go free.

Last week, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Court approved a resolution urging the Harris County Bail Bond Board, which has regulatory authority by the State of Texas to "supervise and regulate each phase of the bonding business in the county," to take action and require a 10% minimum bond payment by defendants.

Bondsmen accepting less than 10% of set bond for violent offenders put profits over the safety of our community. It must stop.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Early primary voting starts on Valentine's Day

Early voting in the March 1 primary begins on Feb. 14 and runs through Feb. 25. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Feb. 18.

There are seven statewide seats on the ballot: governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, comptroller and one seat on the railroad commission. Winners in the Republican and Democratic primaries will face off in the Nov. 8 general election.

GOP incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott faces seven primary opponents, while five candidates are vying for the Democratic nomination, with the best-known being Beto O'Rourke, a former candidate for U.S. Senate and the presidency.

In addition, congressional and state legislative races will be on the ballot, as well as county positions. Readers can find out who is on the ballot where they are registered to vote on the Texas secretary of state's website: votetexas.gov.

BOARD AWARDS \$26.2 MILLION IN HIGHER ED GRANTS

A total of 60 Texas higher education institutions will share \$26.2 million in grants awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The grants will help Texans gain higher-paying jobs by earning postsecondary credentials to be made available through two programs: the Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant and the Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value Grant Program.

The Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant provides emergency financial support to students whose education was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as displaced workers seeking training to return to the workforce and students who dropped out of higher education pri-



or to the pandemic but are looking to return.

The Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value Grant Program allows institutions to create or expand short-term, industry-recognized postsecondary credentials that incorporate skills and knowledge required by high-demand careers that stem from digital skills, data analytics, and frontline healthcare programs, according to the THECB news release.

"To remain competitive, we must lead the nation at producing credentials of value that meet the needs of our fast-growing economy," said Commissioner of Higher Education Harrison Keller. "We need to emphasize the importance of credentials that are affordable, attainable, and bring value to the lives of all Texans.

QUAGGA MUSSELS DETECTED IN TEXAS RESERVOIR

Invasive quagga mussels have been detected in a Texas reservoir for the first time, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The discovery was made at the International Amistad Reservoir along the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio.

Quagga mussels are closely related to the zebra mussels that have invaded nearly three dozen Texas lakes since first being introduced in Texas in 2009 at Lake Texoma.

"This detection of invasive quagga mussels is a very unfortunate first for Texas," said Monica Mc-Garrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. "Quagga mussels can inhabit greater depths and are also able to settle on soft substrates like mud or sand in addition to hard surfaces like rock or infrastructure—unlike zebra mussels-meaning they can colonize more of the lake."

Quagga mussels are found in the Great Lakes region and some western states, according to TPWD. Like the zebra mussel, the quagga mussel is often unknowingly introduced by contaminated boats. Boaters are urged to clean, drain and dry their boats to prevent the spread of the mussels.

"Each boater taking the necessary actions to clean and drain their boat before leaving the lake and allowing compartments and gear to dry completely was lakes," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD inland fisheries regional director.

Unclaimed property webinars planned

The Texas Comptroller's office is holding a series of free training webinars for holders of unclaimed property, such as general businesses, city, county and state government agencies, financial institutions, oil and gas companies and cooperatives.

Topics to be discussed include an overview of unclaimed property rules, state requirements for reporting such property, and which reports to use. The schedule of webinars, which last two hours, can be found online here: https://tinyurl.com/2p8fpdpc.

Anyone who wants to see whether they are owed money can go to claimittexas.org.

COVID-19 CASES DROP SHARPLY

Perhaps the peak has passed in the latest wave of COVID-19 cases in Texas, spurred by the omicron variant. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 198,757 new cases in the past week, down nearly 100,000 from the previous week. New deaths totaled 1,395, up 15% from the previous week. The total number of deaths in the state since th pandemic began about two years ago stands at 80,662.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 10,657 COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, down 16.5% from the previous week. DSHS reported 16.987 million Texans have been fully vaccinated, which is 58.2% of the state's population. An addition 5.98 million Texans have received a booster dose.



"How Things are Done"

One reason to travel is to discover how things are done all over again. My husband, Peter, and I are in Mexico, and I was thinking this as we stood, confounded, in front of the washing machine.

It would not start. There was a dizzying array of buttons and commands. I was pleasantly surprised to realize that I actually understood what almost all the buttons meant. Unfortunately, my Spanish skills were of no use whatsoever in making the machine start.

"We need to put soap in it,"
Peter advised.

"I don't think we want to put soap in it until we know we can get water in," I replied.

We continued to poke buttons and stare at the machine, completely flummoxed.

The good news was that Alma, a cheerful housekeeper, would be by in three days. We would only have to wear dirty clothes over the weekend and then Alma would come to save us. Peter and I stared at the machine for a few more minutes, pushed a few more buttons, then declared defeat. I decided I could air out a shirt for tomorrow. I don't know what Peter decided to wear.

Of course, something like this happens to us at least three times a day when traveling.

Two days ago, we found a wonderful bakery. There were shelves of pastries and rolls and a few assorted baked goods displayed on the counter. I started telling the woman who worked there which of the rolls and pastries I would like and she began putting them in a bag.

"Oh, but I don't want all those!" I tried to tell her in Spanish. Under pressure, it's a lot harder to come up with the right words to refuse an excessive number of pastries. She gave me a look that I could not quite identify and kept piling all the pastries displayed on the counter into the bag.

Finally, she finished filling the bag and handed it to a woman standing behind me—who I had not even noticed in my eagerness to buy pastries. They were her pastries. The bakery woman handed me a tray (it looked like, and I'm pretty sure it was, a pizza pan) and pointed to the shelves loaded with baked goods, with sets of tongs conveniently located at the bottom of every shelf.

"Oh."

After I apologized to the bakery woman (who clearly thought I was an idiot) and the woman with the bag of pastries (who had good reason to feel the same), Peter and I began to select a few rolls and pastries—but nowhere near as many as we thought we would have to buy a moment earlier.

Late that night, I started giggling in bed. "That woman thought the gringos were going to make off with her pastries!" I said to Peter. He started chuckling.

"There's a whole lot of ways of doing things we know nothing about," he noted. Peter is right.

And that is a big reason why we like to travel as we do, living amongst people who live here all the time, embarrassing ourselves regularly while we encounter new ways—and often better ways—of doing things we do all the time without thinking.

Alma sorted out the washing in no time flat. Three buttons were all that were required to get it started. I have no idea why there were so many. They were put there to be ignored, apparently. Peter and I now have clean clothes and a nice supply of fresh bread.

It feels like a major accomplishment because, actually, it is.

Till next time, Carrie

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



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EVENTS

THU. FEB. 17 Highlands **Chamber Awards Banquet**

Highlands-Lynchburg **Chamber Directors**

Installation and Community Awards Banquet . *February 17, 2022*

Monument Inn Dinner and Awards Join us for dinner and awards. We will recognize outstanding community service and install the new directors to the board 6:30 pm cocktails and

silent auction 7:00 pm dinner and program

THU. FEB. 24 C/H Chamber Nite at the Races

Annual Awards Banquet "A Nite at the Races" February 24, 2022 5:00pm-9:30pm The Hundred Oaks Event Center 1110 Indian Shores Rd Crosby, Texas 77532 We will be installing our **Board of Directors** and awarding our: EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AMRASSADOR OF THE YEAR NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR** Entertainment will be "Nite at the Races" Live Horse Racing! Okay-Just Kind of....We will have recorded professionally called horse races, programs, betting windows, and funny money available for purchase for your wagering fun! Also a Derby Hat Contest so wear your most fabulous creative hat you can find! Please call Chamber at 281-328-6984 or email us at chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org for more information!

SAT. MAR 5 Crosby Historical **Society Meeting**

The Crosby Historical Society will be holding a public meeting on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 First Street, Crosby, TX. Guest speaker will be local historian, Chuck Chandler. Topic will be early Methodist Churches and Penn Family.

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 17- Donnie Cravatt Feb 18--Fay Blackmon-

Slot Ray Blackmon Rebecca Nibbe Mandy Carwile Nakomi Stone Billy Nash

Feb 19-Stephanie Lane Lina Hidalgo

Feb 20-Stormy Fulmer Herman Bradford Beau McCrary Feb 21-Lyndsie Henni-

Leah Moye Tera Smith Feb 22-Calzin Rutledge

Diane Currie Feb 23-Don Bird **Audrey Cornman** Christina Woodall

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 24-Will Oviedo

Feb 14-Larry & Jeannie Kelly Feb 24--Jim & Linda Hildebrand Feb 26-Thomas &

Geenee Parrish Mar 3-- Jimmy & Teri Gleason Mar 5- Raymond &

Mary Helen James

Harris County funds two new **Environmental programs**

Lead Abatement, Nuisance Abatement

Houston - Harris County Commissioners Court made significant investments in two environmental public health programs to protect children from lead exposure and demolish unsafe building structures in County neighborhoods.

The Lead Abatement Program received \$20 million to expand its current efforts. Funding will increase the program's capacity to reduce lead exposure among Harris County children.

Separately, \$3 million was approved for the Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program to proactively reduce nuisance properties throughout the County. These unsafe structures pose a public nuisance and are a health and safety risk to area residents, including children.

Both programs received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

"The positive community health outcomes we can achieve through these two programs will benefit families in neighborhoods who reside near unsafe buildings or in older homes with lead paint," said Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Executive Director Barbie Robinson. "Healthier people and communities promote healthier lives. In addition to improved quality of life and ensuring children can grow into healthy adults, there are other benefits such as lower health care costs, and safer neighborhoods."

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said funding for the Neighborhood Abatement Program would contribute to decreasing crime in vulnerable neighborhoods while improving the health of communi-

"I'm proud to take these steps today that will improve public safety and clean up nuisance properties in our neighborhoods," said Commissioner Garcia, who served for 23 years with the Houston Police Department and as Harris County Sheriff.

"When left unchecked, these abandoned and neglected properties threaten the health and safety of those around them and pose a potential danger to curious youngsters. This new program will ensure we aggressively seek out and secure or demolish these neighborhood nuisances which create opportunities to harbor gang and drug activity," said Commissioner Garcia.

Lead Abatement and Prevention Program

Children from low-income households are more likely to live in homes that need lead remediation and less likely to be tested for blood lead levels. Lead poisoning in children can cause brain development delays, speech and language problems, damage to the nervous system and kidneys, and in rare cases, death. Lead paint was banned in 1978, but children living in homes built before then are at risk.

In Harris County, excluding the City of Houston, 122,000 homes were built before 1978 and are at risk of lead-based paint. While the existing Lead Abatement and Prevention Program presently remediates an average of 60 homes per year, the proposed program will increase remediation to 200 homes per year. The expanded program increases the of families who would benefit by reducing their exposure to lead, thus improving their health and enhancing their quality of life.

HCPH recommends children age six or younger be tested for lead by a medical provider at least once. Children receiving WIC can be tested at HCPH's Antoine and Shaver WIC clinics. To make an appointment with WIC please call (713) 439-6145.

Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program

The \$3 million received in ARPA funding from the Court to the Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program will increase efforts to create safer, healthier, and more sustainable neighborhoods.

This program will secure or demolish unsafe structures, secure unsafe abandoned swimming pools, and remove refuse, garbage, and high weeds/vegetation to prevent pests from infesting the building.

The increased funding will also reduce environmental health disparities and improve the quality of life in various communities by abating over 1,100 building structures that qualify as nuisances over the next four

For additional information on Neighborhood Nuisance, please call (713) 274-6300.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

"Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food," and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. GENESIS 1: 30, 31



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THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH



By Dr. Mark Trice

He's Got Your Back

I've got a buddy named Reno. He's a great cattle dog, and I don't know where I'd be without him. He disappeared one day, and you know I started praying and got other people to pray. I needed my partner to come on home. Right, I didn't just want him; I needed him because he does his job faithfully and he's always got my back.

So does God! He's always got my back, and He's got yours too. Just as surely as He had David's back when he stood in front of Goliath, God has our backs. God didn't need David to be some metal clad, sword-slinging warrior. He just needed David to have faith that God would take what he had and make it be enough. In David's case, the "what he had" was a sling and five smooth stones. Honestly, I'm thinking he could have put pretty much anything in that sling. I'm fairly certain that if he'd had marshmallows God would have taken one of those sugar pillows and walloped Goliath just as surely. The power was in God's hand, not the rock.

And that's the key. David knew he wasn't out there in his own power. He understood that, submitted to God as he was, he was merely a welltrained tool that God could use. As he told Goliath after the giant trash talked him and cursed God, "But I come to you in the name of the Lord

of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I still strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." (1 Sam. 17:45-46) David trusted God to do it, and God did. As a result, David and Israel enjoyed a massive victory that day!

David is only one example we could look at. Over and over, throughout the Scriptures, the same principle holds true. Just read the book of Judges and you'll see what I mean! When a man has the anointing of God on him, when he has God Almighty standing at his back, there is no giant he can't kill, no army he can't defeat, no enemy he can't take down even if his weapons are as simple as stones in a sling or lamps in pitchers. (Judges 6-8). With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26); there is no giant you can't kill. All you must do is prepare yourself, and stay prepared, so that God can use you when he needs you.

You never walk alone, my friends. He's always there.

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(General Partner).

06-2T

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 499827; Estate of RAYMOND D. CARTER Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 3, 2022.

SHERRY L. 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 FEBRUARY 11, 2022.

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate **FOR RENT**

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07-1T

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED A VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATION. MR. PABLO MIRANDA IS ASKING FOR VARIANCE ON THE SET BACK LINES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR A HOME ADDITION AND A CARPORT AT 1711 KERBY. THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON FEBRUARY 22, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the President and Board of Directors of Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Channelview, Texas, Harris County, will be received at Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530 until 10:00 A.M., Friday, March 4, 2022, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the "Natural Gas Generator at Water Plant No. 2"

Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, payable without recourse to the District, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at https://bids.lja.com for One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents, which sum will not be refunded. A printed set can be picked up at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston, TX 77029.

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the District.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. at the Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Conference Room, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530. Bids from Firms other than the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference Attendees WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #22-004

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Interested parties may contact the BHISD Business Office for a copy of the specifications which can also be obtained at the District website. Please direct all proposal questions to Amy Presley, Purchasing Coordinator, (281) 576-2221 ext. 1268.

RWL Group will assign markets to agents beginning on Monday, February 28, 2022.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.

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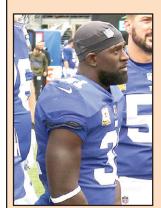
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MICHAEL THOMAS **FREE SAFETY ALDINE NIMITZ**

Michael Thomas (born March 17, 1990) is an American football safety for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football for Stanford. He was signed by the San Francisco 49ers as an undrafted free agent in

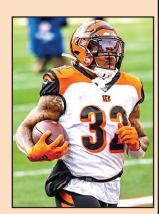


TREY HOPKINS **CENTER NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL**

Trey Hopkins (born July 6, 1992) is an American football center for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football at the University of Texas Austin.

Hopkins attended North Shore High School where he was an All-Area, All-State, and All-American. As well as a two-time first-team All-District performer on the offensive line. He also played in the 2010 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

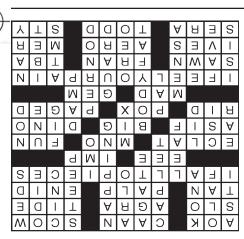
King Crossword



RUNNING BACK CE KING HIGH SCHOOL

Trayveon Thomas Williams (born October 18, 1997) is an American football running back for the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL).[1] During his junior season at Texas A&M, Williams received first team all-SEC and second-team All-America honors; he also broke the school records for single-season all-purpose yards and rushing yards.

ENTERTAINMENT

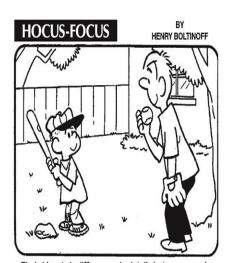


Solution time: 21 mins. Answers

- King Crossword



Why is it every time we discuss something



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Shirt is slimmer. 3. Fence board is

ACROSS

- Fine, to NASA
- 15 Sunbather's
- 16 Insect organ
- Summoned with a beeper
- Jewel

- 48 Currier's

- 13 Taj Mahal city
- goal
- Little rascal
- 23 Brilliance
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- 36 Frenzied
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- abbr.

James

- "Misery" star
- Garbage
- speed)
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- "Dream on!" Ginormous
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- 51 Antitoxins 52 Lincoln in-law 53 Farm pen
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- 2 Norwegian
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- Pill variety Marble type

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- Piece of let-19 tuce
- "As I see it,"

POTUS

Marries

Title akin to

26

- via text
- 23 Hearing thing
- 24 Hit CBS series 25 Cover
- 26 Blend
- Pear-shaped
- fruit Taking a siesta 29 Affirmative

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- French article
- 31 Adipose tissue
- liqueur
- 36 High-IQ group
- for short Pitcher
- Crunchy cookie \$ dispensers

44 Not even one

"Yeah, right"

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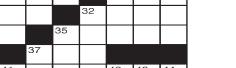
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LEASE BY FEBRUARY 28TH AND WE'LL WAIVE YOUR COMMUNITY FEE!*

We are accepting new residents with special COVID-19 precautions in place.

The Lodge at Pine Creek offers a perfect blend of senior living options, including a secure and caring environment for residents with Alzheimer's or other memory-related diseases. Also offering Independent Living cottages and apartments, single-story Assisted Living homes, and a host of amenities and services, in a resort-style community. All this at surprisingly affordable rates.

INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE



825 Hunt Road | Baytown, TX 832-572-5592 LodgeAtPineCreek.com

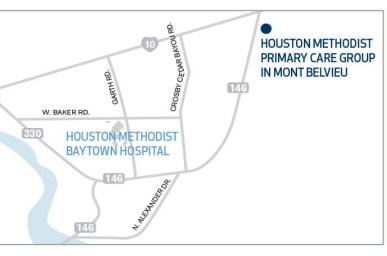
©2022 Abby Senior Living, "Valid for qualifying new deposits placed between 02/01/22 and 02/28/22. Based on availability, cannot be combined with other offers. Terms and restrictions apply. Talk with our Community Liaison for details.



Houston Methodist Primary Care Group in Mont Belvieu

Our primary care physicians specialize in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of chronic and acute conditions. We offer same-day appointments and are safely seeing new and existing patients – in person and virtually. Our expertise includes:

- Adolescent health
- Allergies
- Anemia
- Diabetes
- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- AsthmaObesity
- Thyroid concerns
- Women's health



SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

8608 N. Hwy. 146, Suite 600 Baytown, TX 77523

houstonmethodist.org/pcg/mont-belvieu 713.394.6638



Dinara Abdueva, MD Internal Medicine



Eleazar Flores, MD Family Medicine



Adolat Mirzaeva, MD Family Medicine



