HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

# IN THE

# "A NITE AT THE RACES" Crosby/Huffman Chamber holds Awards Gala

### Crosby loses Playoff Game vs B. United

On March 5 the Crosby Cougars Boys Basketball team lost their Playoff game to the Beaumont United Timberwolves, by a score of 63-57. This loss ended the season for the Cougars BB team.

In the previous Playoff game, played on March 4 vs. the Katy Paetow Panthers, Crosby won by a score of 72-68, and thus advanced to the Beaumont match.

The Cougars ended the season with a record of 21-

# UIL 2022-24 alignments announced

The UIL has announced the following teams to be aligned in the 8-5A-DIV II (Region 2) Football Season: Barbers Hill Baytown Lee Baytown Sterling Crosby Goose Creek emorial Kingwood Park La Porte **New Caney Porter** Port Arthur

### **BIRTHDAYS**Mar 10-Eric Groce

Memorial

Mar 11-Marcille Robinson Mar 12-Hope Dammon Alexis Bowen Mar 13-Dale Browder Mar 14-Brice Abbott Alvin Keyes Kaci New Vivian Sanders Christoper Zadrapa Mar 15-Jessica Luco Sky Mespadden Sandy Mullins Mrs. L.P. Stevens Rosa Ella Young Angie Zadrapa Mar 16-M. Edith Miller Zachary Dunlap Mar 17-Lyndsay Dammon

Mar 18–Kent Nelson Mar 19–Yvonne Browder Isabell Daniels Annie Marie Herron

Jett Sherwood

ANNIVERSARIES

Chris Scott

Mar 16–Yvonne & Dale Browder March 31–William & Susan O'Neal CROSBY – The
Crosby/Huffman
Chamber of Commerce
held their Annual
Awards Banquet on
February 24. The
theme for the evening
was "A Nite at the
Races" with attendees
having the opportunity
to play and bet on
video-taped horse
races.

The event also featured an auction, benefitting the Chamber and its community projects. The events was held at the new Hundred Oaks Event Center on Indian Shores Road.

To add to the fun, the evening held a Derby Hat Contest, for the most creative or outrageous hat.

Story Continues on Page 2 See also AWARDS photos, Page 2



CROSBY/HUFFMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEMBERS
BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT: Toni Handley, Kim Davila, Shirley Dupree, Tiffany Muller, Treasurer,
Keenan Smith, Justin League -1 st Vice Chairman, Eddie Foster - 2nd Vice Chairman,
SECOND ROW FROM LEFT: Sue Fitzgerald, Margarette Chasteen, Jamie Lee - Secretary, Angi Richey,
Larry Koslovsky, Chairman, Kay Sosa, Tatum MacNaughton - Parliamentarian, Eric Jennings,
NOT PICTURED: Chelsey Stringer, Laci Rendon, Lara Umberger, Dr. Benny Soileau - Superintendent
Huffman ISD, Paula Patterson - Superintendent Crosby ISD.
Judge Lucia Bates swore everyone in.

# Coast Guard helicopter rescues hunter in Crosby

CROSBY, Texas — An injured 17-year-old was rescued Wednesday night, March 2nd after falling from a hunting stand in a wooded area of Crosby.

U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crews came to the rescue of the hunter in an unusual night operation, far from the coast where they normally operate.

The rescue operation happened Wednesday night when a 17-year-old fell from a hunting stand in a heavily wooded area near Crosby. He fell about 20 feet and injured his back, according to the Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center.

They were asked to help by the Crosby Fire Department. They said EMS crews weren't able to transport the teen.

The MH-65 Dolphin crew spotted the victim just after 8 p.m. and dropped a crew member and basket to hoist them back up.

The teen was taken to Memorial Hermann in the Texas Medical Center.

"We primarily train and operate over the water doing low-altitude



A Coast Guard crewman in the helicopter, left, reaches to aid in the recovery of a rescue basket that has another crewman and the hunter inside.

hoists, so this 130-foot hoist posed an unusual challenge," said Coast Guard Lt. Mike Clancy, co-pilot of the helicopter crew. "Fortunately, we conduct urban search and rescue training that prepared us to tackle this medevac. Our training coupled with the quick actions and experience of the Crosby Fire Department ensured we were able to come together and help an individual in need."

### ANOTHER RESCUE IN

FREEPORT

On Monday night, another chopper crew rescued a missing hunter from the marsh between

the mouth of the Brazos River and the San Bernard River near Freeport.

The 34-year-old man become got separated from his buddies, who called for help.

called for help.

"Once we arrived at the hunter's last know location, we were able to quickly locate him because he had a flashlight he used to signal our helicopter allowing us to make a swift and successful rescue," said Lt. Jordyn Tolefree, an Air Station Houston MH-65 Dolphin pilot.

The man was okay and was dropped off at a boat ramp where his relieved friends were waiting.

# Authorities close boarding home in Barrett Station

Unpermitted Boarding Home Shut Down in Crosby Area, Nine Residents Relocated

MARCH 4, 2022 – The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office (HCF-MO) and the Harris County Sherriff's Office (HCSO) found nine residents living in an unpermitted boarding home located in the 500 block of Cypress Avenue in the Aradia Gardens section of Barrett

According to officials, the residents were found living in deplorable conditions

Station.

and transported from the unpermitted boarding home to Memorial Herman North East for observation.

The Harris County Fire Marshall's Office, and the Harris County Sheriff's Office Boarding Home Detail transported the occupants out of the unsafe environment. HCFMO is seeking a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to ban this location from operating as a boarding home.

The unpermitted boarding home had apparent mold, torn walls, clutter, and bed bug infestation. Investigators also found locked

doors. The investigation is ongoing and charges are pending.

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office and Harris

County Sheriff's Office rely on residents to report abuse when they see the signs of a bad boarding home operator on their block. If residents see something happening in their community, we urge them to say something. Report illegal boarding homes to

fmosupport@fmo.hctx.net.



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## Crosby/Huffman Awards Gala,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Winner of Business of the Year for Crosby went to Southern Routes Boutique (pictured is Carrie and Jeremy Richards)

In addition, officers and board members were installed by Judge Lucia Bates.

Officers include Chairman Larry Koslovsky; 1st Vice Chairman Justin League; 2nd Vice Chairman Eddie Foster; Secretary Jamie Lee: Treasurer Tiffany Muller: and Parliamentarian Tatum Mac-Naughton.

**Board Members** include: Toni Handley, Kim Davila, Shirley Dupree, Keenan Smith, Sue Fitzgerald, Margarette Chasteen, Angi Richey, Kay Sosa, Eric Jennings, Chelsey Stringer, Laci Rendon, Lara Umberger, Dr. Benny Soileau -Superintendent Huffman ISD, Paula Patterson - Superintendent Crosby ISD.



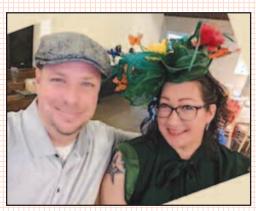
Winner of Business of the Year for Huffman went to Lee Insurance Agency (pictured is David and Robbie Francis)



Winner of Employee of the Year for Crosby went to Jessica Hefner with Crosby ISD



Winner of Employee of the Year for Huffman went to Coach (Mac) McEachern **Huffman ISD** 



Winner of Citizen of the Year for Crosby went to Andria Ginn (Pictured is Gabriel Ginn and Adria Ginn)



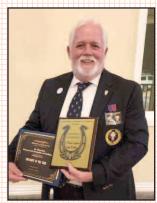
Winner of Citizen of the Year for Huffman went to Jasen Rabalais (Pictured is Racheal and Jasen



Winner of Ambassador Award went to Margarette Chasteen



Winner of Non-Profit of the Year for Crosby Crosby went to Society Historical (Pictured is Jody Fuchs and Donna Davenport)



Winner of Non-Profit of the Year for Huffman went to St Martha's Kingwood Knights of Columbus (Pictured is **Bobby McAndrews)** 

# Crosby flood control projects break ground

CROSBY - The Precinct 2 team has kicked off two flood prevention projects in Northeast Harris County - Apache Land and Crosby Township/MUD. Both will reduce residential flooding and street ponding in an area that has been repeatedly impacted by a number of storms.



Apache Land is a \$1.6 million investment that includes adding new detention structures to help improve drainage, re-grading roadside ditches, and upsizing driveway drainage pipes.



The Crosby Township/MUD project is a \$2.2 million investment covering three project areas:

- Runneburg subdivision: new ditch/detention basin, expands roadside ditches, new driveway culverts, and increases outflow capacity.
- Franta St. Swale project: improves drainage by clearing excessive vegetation and removing sediment from the stream.
- Burris project: new drainage inlet structure and clearing, shaping, and deepening the ditch.





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Ahmed, MD

Family Medicine

**Baytown** 

Terry, MD Family Medicine





Dinara Abdueva, MD Internal Medicine



Irfan

Dadabhoy, MD

Family Medicine

Eleazar Flores, MD Family Medicine



Pooja

Kulkarni, MD

Family Medicine

Adolat Mirzaeva, MD Family Medicine



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Outpatient Center, Suite 2701 Baytown, TX 77520

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Schedule an appointment: houstonmethodist.org/pcg/east 713.394.6638



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# **Barbers Hill** \* Dayton FIGS

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

### ON THE HILL

### Spanish lessons for County **Employees**

The Library will soon start offering basic conversational Spanish classes for county employees. Offered every Monday from Noon-1 at the Chambers County Library in Anahuac (meeting room). Learn the basics from teacher Victoria Figueroa.

Learn in a fun and relaxed setting. Bring your own supplies for notes, and bring your lunch! Cookies and other goodies will be provided. Classes start Monday, February 28.

Register here, or just pop in to join us: https:// www.chambers.lib.tx.us/

### History Heals Luncheon

**Chambers County** is excited to partner with the History Heals Foundation (HHF) to host the First Annual History Heals Luncheon on March 29, 2022 at the White Memorial Park Community Building.

This event will serve as the Kick Off of several months of promotional and fundraising events leading up to HHF hosting The Wall That Heals in October 2022. More information regarding The Wall will be provided at the luncheon.

The luncheon is dedicated to honoring Vietnam Veterans and fallen soldiers and will focus on remembering the Vietnam War and it's lasting impact on Chambers County.

Sponsors are needed. If you would like to support this endeavor, please contact Samantha Humphrey at shumphrey@ chamberstx.gov.

### 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.

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

vaccines@chamberstx.gov.

# WCC Pilot Club Annual Fundraising Gala

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. will hold its annual fundraising Gala on Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M., at Barbers Hill High School, Mont Belvieu TX. The theme of this year's Gala is "Kentucky Derby on the

For more information contact W.C.C.P.C. at P.O. Box 1032, Mont Belvieu,TX 77580,Email wccpilotclub@gmail.com or Linda Gilmore at rayegil2@yahoo.com or to purchase tickets con-



Dr. Chris Warford donating a pair of women and men Sunglasses

tact any West Chambers County Pilot Club member or call Treasurer Di-Jackson ana 505-220-7499

Dr. Chris Warford, O.D. of T.S.O. recently donated a pair of women and men Christian Dior Sunglasses for the raffle Also on the raffle tickets are a Louis Vuitton purse, and a \$1000.00 travel vouch-

Dinner tickets are \$10.00 each and raffle tickets are 1 for \$25.00 each or 5 for \$100.00.

# ART EXHIBITION AT LEE COLLEGE

Art Exhibition at Lee College Showcases Asian American Artists, Cultures

'Diasporic Identity' is on View at Performing Arts Center Gallery Through Apr. 8

BAYTOWN, Mar. 3, 2022 -- A new exhibition featuring three Asian American women artists is on view at the Lee College Performing Arts Gallery now through Friday, Apr. 8. "Diasporic Identity" showcases the works of Houston-area artists Chong-Ok Lee Matthews, Tiffany Heng-Hui Lee and Michelle History Month, which is every March.



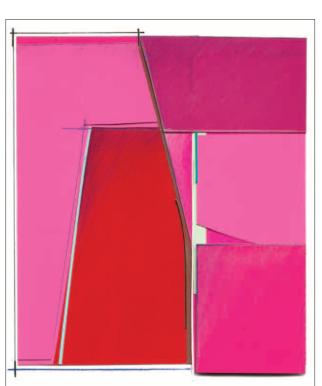
Michelle Heinesen, courtesy of the artist

The public is invited to an opening reception for the exhibition from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, March 5 at the gallery located in the McNulty Heinesen. The show co- Haddock Building, 200 incides with Women's Lee Dr., Baytown, TX p.m., Thursday, March 77520. Visitors can park in LOT 15. Click

here for campus map.

"We titled the exhibition 'Diasporic Identity' because the artwork is reflective of where these women originally came from: Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea," said Elena Poirot, exhibition curator and art professor at Lee College. "Through their paintings, collages and sculptures, these artists are sharing their culture, memories and ideas."

Visitors will also get an opportunity to meet the artists and hear about their work during a Women's History Month talk from 1-3 24 in the gallery space.



Tiffany Heng-Hui Lee, courtesy of the artist

### Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

# Get Back in Rhythm Electrophysiology and Managing Arrhythmia

BAYTOWN March 3rd. 2022-You probably know the feeling. Your heart races, pounds, flutters, pauses or skips a beat. Caused by abnormal electrical impulses in the heart, 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 to manage your condition.

### YOUR-HEART'S

**ELECTRICIAN** A cardiac electrophysiologist specializes in the electrical impulses that regulate heart rhythm. "All cardiologists have training in electrophysiology," said Dr. Akanibo Da-Wariboko, electrophysiologist with Houston Methodist De-Bakey 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 system and figure out the cause of your arrhythmia. Catheters

- very thin tubes with elec-



Dr. Akanibo Da-Wariboko

trodes — are placed in different areas of the heart. They record electrical signals of the heart's activity and allow testing of its function. An 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.

### **ARRHYTHMIA TYPES**

The treatment your electrophysiologist recommends will depend on the arrhythmia you have as well as other factors. Arrhythmias include: 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 the heart beats faster than normal. Types include: Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia (PAT) – a fast heartbeat that suddenly starts and ends, often causing no problems. It's more common in young people and may occur during exercise. Supraventricular tachycardia - causes a benign and nonlife-threatening fast heartbeat. Also common among the young population. Atrial flutter - involves one big reentry circuit in the upper chambers causing rapid heartbeats. Also, it may lead to predisposition to stroke and heart failure, if not treated adequately. The cure rate with a cardiac ablation procedure is greater than 90-95%. Ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation - One of the most dangerous rhythms: the heart beats very fast or quivers rather than pumps,

quickly leading to loss of consciousness or death, if not immediately treated with a shock to the heart. Patients at risk for this condition usually have cardiomyopathy (weak heart muscle) and have a defibril-

#### TREATING YOUR AR-RHYTHMIA

lator implanted.

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 treatments, including: Vagal maneuvers - stimulation of the vagal nerves the part of the nervous system regulating heart rate slows heart rate and treats some tachycardia types. Maneuvers include holding your breath and bearing down (Valsalva maneuver), immersing your face in icecold water (diving reflex) and coughing. This maneu-

ver is most effective in SVT. Medications - sodium channel blockers, beta blockers, potassium channel blockers, calcium channel blockers and digitalis may slow or suppress tachycardia. However, these drugs can produce side effects. Lifestyle changes - more exercise, weight loss (5-10% of body weight) and 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 - Cardiac ablation is the cornerwork stone

electrophysiologists. Cathe-

ters 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. An electrophysiologist may perform the procedure during or after the EP study. Da-Wariboko uses advanced technology to get a clear picture of the heart. "With 3D 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." This technology enhances the ability to perform highly accurate ablation procedures and treat most arrhythmias.

#### THE BOTTOM LINE Tell your doctor about any arrhythmia symptoms, even those that pass quickly. Over time, a harmless arrhythmia could lead to a more serious condition.

The specialists with Houston Methodist De-Bakey Heart & Vascular Center at Baytown use advanced techniques and evidence-based treatments to ensure your cardiovascular health. To schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281.837.7587

### ★ OPINION PAGE ★

## OPINION

By Grace Chimene, President League of Women Voters of Texas

### League of Women Voters of Texas criticizes the March 1 Primary Election, and SB1 Voter Restrictions

AUSTIN — Today, the League of Women Voters of Texas President Grace Chimene issued the following statement about the March 1 primary election:

"Texas held the first 2022 primary election in the nation under the additional stress of a new, massive election bill, Senate Bill 1, which created even more challenges for voters in Texas.

"During the 2020 General Election, Texans all over the state benefited from more voting opportunities, such as expansion of early voting, extended hours at the polling places, and more options to return vote-by-mail ballots.

"However, as we all expected, the new election law caused heart-breaking confusion among voters in the 2022 primary elections. Most notably, the new ID number requirements that needed to be added in Ballot by Mail applications and ballot carrier envelopes complicated voting. These new requirements hit older voters and voters with disabilities particularly hard. While we don't have the final results on how many ballots were able to be cured, we do know that an extraordinary percentage of vote-bymail ballots were rejected. But election officials were not allowed to promote or even educate voters about the new Ballot by Mail processes under threats of criminal prosecution.

"Election officials were also overwhelmed with the major changes to the election laws. The Secretary of State's office, which had the Herculean task of carrying out the massive updates to the Election Code, was late in providing updates to its website, in training county election officials and in sharing advisories to county election officials on these major changes. Votereducation and voting access were the casualties of the draconian change in election law and severe delay in useful education.

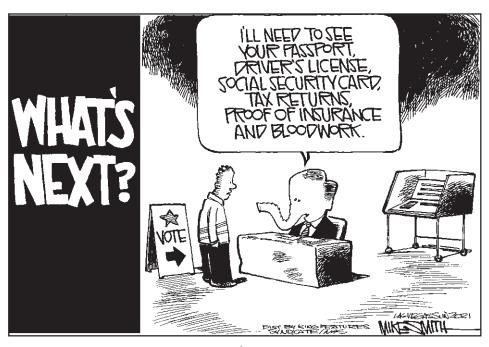
"In addition to new voting requirements, the new election law also made election officials subject to new criminal penalties and provided more authority to partisan poll watchers. "Voters reported unplanned closures of polling sites due to lack of election workers. Not surprisingly, the new privileges given to partisan poll watchers intensified the pressure on poll workers and voters at the polls.

"Our primary election did not need to be difficult for voters. The League of Women Voters of Texas and our voting rights partners warned the Texas Legislature that SB1 would have negative consequences for voter access in our state. Because of this new election law, too many voters were silenced during our primary elections. It is critical that the Secretary of State collaborate with counties well before the November General Election to address the obstacles voters faced in the primaries. The League of Women Voters of Texas will continue to support voter education and provide useful information to encourage voters to participate in our elections.

"Ensuring a safe and secure election while providing voters with the information they need to participate fully in our democracy should be a priority for the Texas Legislature, the Texas Secretary of State and county election officials. We call upon the Office of the Texas Secretary of State and county election officials to work together to improve democracy for all Texas voters."

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

**By Gary Borders** 



The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week on the question of whether state regulators can be sued by abortion providers hoping to block enforcement of the state's restrictive abortion law, known as Senate Bill 8.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that abortion providers bringing the suit argued that "state agencies regulating doctors, nurses, pharmacists and the health care system have an enforcement role that makes them an appropriate target of their own lawsuit against SB8."

Solicitor General Judd Stone II argued for the state that the law was written to say only private citizens can enforce SB8 by filing civil suits against abortion providers who violate the ban on abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy.

"The goal here is just to figure out the ordinary English meaning of this statute," Stone argued. "There simply is no ordinary English interpretation that entertains any possibility of public enforcement (by state agencies or regulators)," the Statesman reported.

Abortion providers have filed a number of lawsuits in federal courts, with the U.S. Supreme Court declining to keep the law from taking effect last September as appeals are heard. The case heard in state court last week also will likely end up before the nation's highest court.

# COMPTROLLER HOSTING BROADBAND LISTENING TOURS

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar began touring a dozen Texas communities this month to get insight from Texans about internet access and to receive input as the state develops its first comprehensive broadband internet plan.

The events are free but require registration in advance. The first forum was held March 1 at Prairie View A&M University, with

HIGHLANDS

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others planned in Victoria, Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Amarillo, Beaumont, Waco, Tyler, Abilene, El Paso, Edinburgh and San Angelo.

Further information and a link to an online survey for those who can't attend can be found here: <a href="mailto:comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/communities/tour">comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/communities/tour</a>

# ABBOTT ORDERS ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST CYBERATTACKS

Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered two state agencies to "use every available resource" to safeguard the state's infrastructure as the potential for Russian cyberattacks increases. Abbott sent a letter to the Texas Department of Information Resources and the Texas Department of Public Safety to that effect last week. He ordered DIR and

- Enhance Texas' cyber security through the use of best industry practices and
- other key measures.

   Ensure Texas can quickly detect a potential cyber intrusion through the use of software services, such as antivirus and endpoint detection and response technologies.
- Prepare for an intrusion by utilizing a cyber incident response team.
- Maximize the state's resilience to a destructive cyber incident.
- Track and report any attacks from Russian sources so the public is fully

CROSBY

Gilbert Hoffman

Julieta Paita Kristan Hoffman

Willie Glasgow

.. Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman

aware of their tactics.
"Protecting the state of

"Protecting the state of Texas from cyber threats during this time of Russian aggression is paramount," Abbott wrote.

### ARREST MADE IN TIMBER FRAUD CASE

Law enforcement investigators with the Texas A&M Forest Service arrested a Magnolia man last week on two counts of timber theft. Philip Eugene McKenzie, Jr., 60, was charged.

"Mr. McKenzie had timber harvest agreements with two Walker County landowners and failed to pay them for the timber that was harvested from their property," said Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement Criminal Investigator Josh Mizrany. In addition, McKenzie has a pending charge for unauthorized timber harvest in Montgomery County.

Timber theft includes harvesting timber without the landowner's knowledge or consent, to entering into a formal agreement and not paying landowners the full purchase price and even stealing timber from logging companies.

Landowners who suspect timber theft or suspicious timber sale agreements should call the forest service timber theft hotline at <u>1</u>-800-364-3470.

#### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR TEA STUDENT HERO AWARD

The Texas Education Agency is seeking nominations for public school students in all grades who provide an outstanding volunteer service benefitting their fellow students, schools, or their communities. One student from each of the 15 State Board of Education districts will be recognized and will receive a plaque and medal from SBOE.

Nominations may be submitted by anyone. The deadline to nominate an outstanding student is 5 p.m. March 31. The form can be found here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/mubxb7af">https://tinyurl.com/mubxb7af</a>.

### COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE DROPPING STATEWIDE

The number of new COV-ID-19 cases in Texas continues to drop steeply as the omicron variant fades, with 36,814 reported in the past week by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is less than 10% of the number reported at the variant's peak in mid-January. A total of 1,127 deaths were reported in the past week, also a sharp decrease. Hospitalizations are also down, with 3,949 reported as of Sunday by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Gary Borders is a veteran awardwinning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park.

Email: Aborders@texaspress.com.

# THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

# No Time for Butter

My great-uncle John never buttered his bread.

"I don't have time for butter!" he insisted. I never knew how much time butter took, but apparently it was more than Uncle John could spare.

Time passes so often without notice. A day seems to pass in the time it takes to butter a piece of bread. Last night, my husband, Peter, said that we met seven years ago.

"Eight years," I corrected him.

We will celebrate our seventh wedding anniversary next month and, while the romance was quick, we had known one another for a year. We married on the one-year anniversary of the day we met.

"That's right," Peter said.
"Time passes too quickly!"

He is always saying that. He also says that, while he doesn't know how much time we'll have together, he knows it will not be enough. (Peter is a romantic. There's no denying it.)

We are traveling in Mexico now. My temporary desk is set up against a window. I can see the progress being made on the house next door, which is acquiring a new story. I can see the spires of the churches in the distance. I can hear the traffic of cars going by, which seems unnaturally loud as they travel over cobblestones, and the sounds of the roosters and the dogs who always seem to have something urgent to report.

We are traveling again and making plans. I have actual activities written in an actual calendar. Things are slowly returning to normal and, of course, that's a good thing. But it feels as if time is speeding up.

My days blend into one another and, before I know it, it is afternoon and I am taking my daily walk through the streets of this Mexican city, seeing something that surprises me everysingle afternoon saying hello to several dozen friendly strangers and greeting their dogs. The weather has been cool. I note the butcher's very fat pug is wearing a jacket. The jacket is a little tight, and the pug looks embarrassed.

"What a nice jacket!" I say to the butcher in Spanish, and the butcher laughs. The pug wags its tiny tail but doesn't look too sure. And another day passes.

It is a cliché, but it is still true that time is the only thing we cannot buy. It is our most limited commodity and our most precious resource. I guess that's why it shocks me how much of it I allow to slip away without notice.

But when I think back on a year ago today, time did slow down for a while. Peter and I stayed at home and the only people we saw were Peter's sister, Lori, and her husband. Every week, Peter cooked and I read and time seemed to slow to a stop. There was no pressure to do more—there was nothing more we could do. And so, we talked until Lori was tired and, a few days later, we did it again. Lori died later in the year.

Now time has resumed its normal pace, and it's good to be traveling and seeing friends and family again. But sometimes it feels as if I've forgotten something important about the time that just passed. Sometimes it seems to me that there was a lesson in that time that I could use now, as my calendar fills.

Because the time that just passed was not like the time that came before or the time after. For a while, time took time off. For a while, I had time for butter.

Till next time. CARRIE





# THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH



By Dr. Mark Trice

# Saddle Up

Have you ever seen a child's eyes light up when you put him on a horse for the first time? He feels like he's ten feet tall, and suddenly he's seeing things he's never seen before because his position and perspective have changed. It's as if a whole new world has opened up for him.

That's why cowboys use horses with cattle, you know. It's hard to manage a herd when you're walking around with those huge animals, but when you change your position by getting in the saddle you have a whole new perspective. Now you can see all around; it makes a world of difference in handling your herd.

Position and perspective are also important parts of our day-to-day walk. We know the devil does his best to fill our mental pastures with distractions and discouragement. Even without him, though, life can throw so much at us that one day we look up and realize we've changed position.

The challenges of life can really catch us off guard if we're not continually protecting our hearts, keeping our focus on Him. Instead of remembering who we are in Christ, and Who we serve, we start looking to ourselves and what we can do, then suddenly we're caught up in the midst of the turmoil. When this happens, when our view narrows like this, nothing seems to go right.

At that point, troubles have us surrounded because we're like the man who is walking instead of riding; our perspective is shot. We can't see the pasture for the cows, so to speak. Our problems loom up like the immovable side of a stubborn bull, blocking our path and refusing to budge. Hopelessness may rule as possibilities seem locked away and out of reach. We might even lose sight of God and feel like He's nowhere around.

But when we change our position, choosing to look to God instead of focusing on our own inadequacies and problems, everything alters. Once we're back in the saddle we can truly see, maybe not from God's perspective but certainly from a higher one. When we rise up, the problems we've been facing shrink into their proper place, and we realize just how movable they really are. Suddenly those possibilities we could only dream about appear before our eyes and start looking more like promises.

Yes, there is still work to do even so. The challenges are still there, but with God we're able to conquer them. Hopelessness is shoved aside as we look out into a wide open pasture, remembering that the One we serve is God Almighty and nothing can stand against Him. As He reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, we sit taller and start moving forward again.

Saddle up, my friends. It's time to

www.myhillsidefamily.com @myhillsidefamily

# County sets \$8mil for new Early Childhood program

HARRIS COUNTY, TX - February 22, 2022, Harris County Commissioners Court on Tuesday awarded grantees a combined total of \$7.9 million in American Rescue Plan funds provided by the Biden-Harris Administration to seed a targeted portfolio of early childhood programs, including resources for educators and new parents, and the expansion of home-based child care providers.

Commissioners approved the following contracts on a 3 to 2 vote:

-- \$4.6 million to Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) to implement Build the upWORDS Community-Based Universal and Targeted Intervention Model: The program will provide universal education, resources, and materials to parents of young children. Over three years, 20,000 children will be served and TCH will train 6,000 early childhood educators.

-- \$2.4 million to First3Years to implement Expand the Safe Babies Approach in Harris County: This initiative, which will be offered to 300 young children and their families over three years, is designed to to improve family reunification by strengthening the relationship between birth and foster parents.

-- \$906,173 to The Alliance for Home-Based Child Care Supports to expand home-based



HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE **LINA HIDALGO** 

child care operations. This effort will create jobs, creating at least 23 licensed programs that will add child care capacity in low- to moderateincome communities.

-- Funding for independent evaluators to assess the impacts of the program

The contract awards mark a significant milestone in the \$10 million Early Childhood Impact Fund (ECIF), a historic investment in Harris County's youngest residents. The program incubator launched in October 2020, attracting a diverse array of proposals from local, national, and international applicants. A rigorous evaluation process narrowed the pool based on potential for impact, evidence base, the organization's experi ence and capacity, and cost effectiveness.

Early childhood emerged as a critical issue for many Harris County residents during county-led town halls and community conversations conducted in

2019 and early 2020. Research backs this up: Early childhood programs have one of the strongest returns on investment of any type of public program. Those positive effects also endure throughout the child's life, increasing their graduation rates and earnings while reducing their contact with the criminal justice sys-

"It takes the entire community to help children reach their full potential," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "By investing in things like language development, educator training, home-based child care, and protections for children in foster care - we can build a Harris County built for the future. A future that includes better education, safer streets, healthier communities, and economic security."

In addition to the ECIF, the county also established the \$4.7 mil-COVID-19 lion Childcare Assistance Program to provide some relief to parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provided funding for virtual learning, after school care, early childhood learning, and early childhood care.

For more information and updates on Harris County's early childhood education initiatives, S i i harriscountykids.com.

# House in Summerwood suffers extensive damage due to lack of water hydrants

partment reports a House property saved. The Fire in The Lake Houston cause of the fire is under Area. The fire occured on investigation. Saturday, Feb. 19 around 9:45pm. The house was located in the 14500 block of Lakeside Terrace.

Although some of the building was saved, the damage was estimated at \$280,000 in property

SUMMERWOOD - damage, with only The Houston Fire De- \$95,000 in estimated

> Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find fire coming through the roof of a 2story home. Sheldon and Crosby fire departments were called for water tankers due to no hy-

drants. Two additional HFD engines were added for water as well.

The fire was extinguished and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. Crews from Stations 23, 64, 32, 56, 65, 102. 105, 30 and Rescue 42 responded to this incident.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional** Amendments Special Election, May 7, 2022

### **Proposition Number 1** (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person's homestead from the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead."

### **Proposition Number 2** (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000."

Published by The Office of the Texas Secretary of State, www.sos.texas.gov, 1/800-252-VOTE (8683).

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# **CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

# Arts Center unveils Martin Luther King Jr. Mural

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. February 23, 2022 at the Houston Culture Arts Center. 13334 Wallisville Rd. celebrating Black History Month was the unveiling of a 12'X10' mural of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Program Manager Gayla Wilson of Volunteer Houston was the Mistress of Ceremony. She said the mural was created by 80 individuals who each painted a part of it by painting individual panapproximately 12"X12". Drawing on their own emotions and perspectives around Dr. King's messages of services, perseverance, and injustice and their part in creating and contributing to his vision of the Beloved Community.

Michelle L. Bonton, M.Ed, Executive Director said, "Dr. King's dream of an overall better quality of life through peace and unity was big. Like Dr. King, Harris County Cultural Arts Council is doing something big! We're using the arts to improve the quality of life and promote unity between people from different backgrounds in unincor-

**Harris County Cultural Arts** Center displays Kuba mask at MLK opening



The unveiling of The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mural was done by Program Manager Gayla Wilson of Volunteer Houston, a program of Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston and Michelle L. Bonton, M.Ed, Executive Director of The Harris County Culture Arts Center (HCCAC) . (Photo by Allan



Individuals witnessing and helping with the unveiling are, L to R: Nelson Espitia (Pct. 2), Darnella Wilkerson (Judge Joe Stephens Office), Ammir Shan Ibrahim (Pct. 1), Cindy Miller (Pct. 2), Lawrence Bell (Pct. 3), Vinicius I Goodin - Mayeda (Home Depot), Brenda Roberts-Hurd (Home Depot), Ex. Dir. HCCAC & Pro. Mgr. Gayla Wilson (Photo by Allan



Kuba Ceremonial Dance Headdress Mask is one of the many art items on display at the HCCAC. Free tours of the art center are available by calling 832-356-4378. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

porated East Harris County. We're excited to have this mural as a representation of Dr. King's legacy and the one we're building for our community."

Lexi Reid was one of the artists at the unveiling, her mother Leslie Perryman and sisters Samantha Reid and Haley Bunn participated in the paintings. She said, "I painted one panel for the mural. My mom got me and my sisters each a panel as part of our Christmas gifts, then later we had a pizza and paint party to complete them. I loved how it took a community coming together to complete the mural the same way the community came together to march with Dr. King."

Dr. King an African American was greatly responsible for bringing social justice to many Americans regardless of race or ethnicity. He was assassinated April 4, 1968 when I was 24 years old.

More than 50 years have passed since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, but his words are just as meaningful as they were during the peak of the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights leader died at age 39, but his impact continues to this day. From his most famous "I Have a Dream" speech to his letter from a Birmingham jail, his message is truly timeless.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born and raised in the American South, but his dream of racial equality and social justice reverberated out of his region, into the whole country and around the world. And it just wasn't his vision that spanned the

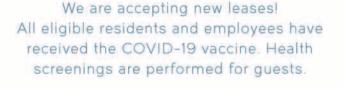
Volunteering to assist in the event were President Debra Johnson and members of the East Harris Chambers Liberty County Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, n

(www.easthclcdeltas.org)

HCCAC staff were Sam Smoots, Director of Institutional Advancement and Kristina Zatopek, Community Engagement Manager, HCCAC. Refreshments provided by Lopez Cake (Anna Lopez) (832-614-0513). Assisting, Luz Maria Lopez a Cloverleaf Advocate. Allanj211@aol.com.

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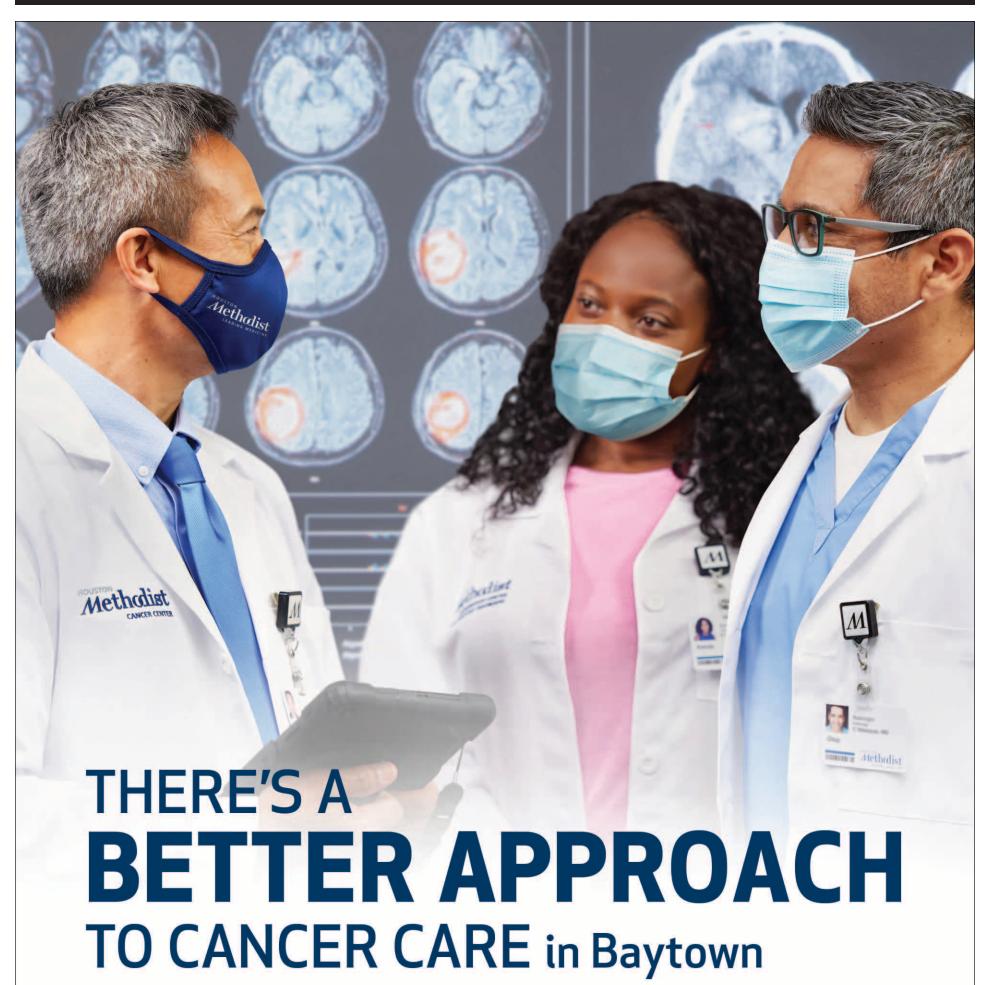
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