# HIGHLANDS <br> CROSBY Star $\boldsymbol{*}$ Comutur 

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 - www.starcouriernews.com

## IN THE STARS

## Crosby loses

 Playoff Game vs B. United On March 5 the Crosby CougarsBoys Basketball te lost their Playoff game to the Beaumont United Timberwolves, by a score of 63-57. This
loss ended the loss ended the
season for the Cougars BB team. In the previous Playoff game, played on March 4 vs. Katy Paetow
Panthers Crosby 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 with
12.

UIL 2022-24 alignments announced The UIL has announced the
following teams tol be aligned in the 8 -5A-DIV II (Region 2) Football season: Barbers Hill Baytown Lee
Baytown Sterling Crosby Goose Creek Memorial Kingwood Park La Porte
New Caney New Caney Porter Memorial Memorial

| BIRTHDAYS <br> Mar 10-Eric Groce <br> Mar 11-Marcille Robin- <br> Mar 12-Hope Dammon <br> Alexis Bowen <br> Mar 14--Brice Browder <br> Alvin <br> Kaci New <br> Vavine Sanders <br> Christoper Zadrapa Mar 15--Jessica Luco <br> Sky Mespadden <br> Sandy Mullins Mrs. L.P. Steven <br> Rosa Ella Young <br> Angie Zadrapa Mar 16-M. Edith Miller <br> Mar 17-Lyndsay Dam- <br> Mar 18-Kent Nelson Mar 19--Yvonne Brow- <br> der <br> Isaber Doniers Annie Marie Her- <br> ron <br> Jett Sherw <br> ANNIERSARIES <br>  <br> Susan O'Neal |
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[^0]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 having the opportunity to play and bet on video-taped horse races. The event also featured an auction,
benefitting the Chambenefitting the Cham-
ber and its community projects. The events projects. The events 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

## "A Nite at the Races"

 Crosby/Huffman Chamber holds Awards Gala

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 - Superintenden 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 Wed nesd ay
night, March 2nd after
falling from a hunting
stand in a wooded area of
Crosby.
U.S. Coast Guard heli-
copter crews came to the
rescue of the hunter in an
unusual night operation,
far from the coast where
they normally operate.
The rescue operatiion
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 Com-
mand 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 Cen-
ter.
"We primarily train
and operate over the wa-
ter doing low-altitude

hoists, so this 130 -foot the mouth of the Brazos

## Authorities close boarding home in Barrett Station

Unpermitted Boarding Home Shut Down in Crosby Area, Nine Residents Relocated
MARCH 4, 2022 - The HCFMO is seeking a$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Harris County Fire } & \text { Temporary Restraining } \\ \text { Marshal's Office (HCF- } & \text { Order (TRO) to }\end{array}$Marshal's Office (HCF- Order (TRO) to ban thisMO) and the Harris location from operatingCounty Sherriffs Office as a boarding homeThe unpermitted



Crosby/Huffman Awards Gala,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1


Winner of Business of
the Year for Crosby the Year for Crosby
went to Southern Routes Boutique (pictured is Carrie
Jeremy Richards)
In addition, In addition,
officers and board officers and board 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. Naughton. Board Members include: Toni Handley, Kim Davila, Shirley Dupree, Keenan Smith, Sue rette Chasteen Ang rette Chasteen, Ang 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 David
Francis)


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


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 with Huffman ISD


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


Winner of Ambassador
Award went to Award went to
Margarette Chasteen


Winner of Non-Profit
of the Year for Crosby of the Year for Crosby
went went to Crosby
Historical Society Historical Society
(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 im pacted 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 $\$ 2.2$ mil lion 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 sedment from the stream.
and clearing, shaping, and de

A team of primary care providers COMMITTED TO YOU

Houston Methodist Primary Care Group
in Baytown and Mont Belvieu
Our providers are committed to keeping you healthy every day. That's why we are available to safely see you - in person or virtually accept most major insurance plans and offer flexibility to manage your care with access to electronic medical records and online scheduling.
With two Houston Methodist Primary Care Group locations dedicated to our Baytown communities, our providers are proudly bringing quality care and services closer to home. Our expertise includes:

- Acute and chronic care - Men's health
- Annual physicals and - Minor procedures
health screenings
Children's health
- Diabetes management

High blood pressure


## Baytown

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Outpatient Center, Suite } 2701 & \text { Baytown, TX } 77523 \\ \text { Baytown, TX 77520 }\end{array}$
Baytown, TX 77520

Baytown


Mohammad Ahmed, MD
Family Medicine


Gregory
Terry, MD Terry, MD
Family Medicine

Mont Belvieu
 Dinara
Abdueva, MD
Internal Medicine


Dadabhoy, MD Dadabhoy, MD
Family Medicine


Kulkarni, MD


# Barbers Hill次 Dayton 

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

## ON THE HILL

Spanish lessons for County Employees
 soon start offering basic conversational Spanish classes for Offered every Monday from Noon－1 at the Chambers unty Library in room）．Learn the basics from teacher Victoria Figueroa． relaxed setting．Bring your own supplies for notes，and bring your lunch！Cookies and other goodies will be provided．Classe start Monday
February 28.
Register here，or just pop in to join us： https：／

History
Heals
Luncheon
Chambers County is excited to partner Foundation（HHF）to host the First Annual History Heals Luncheon on March Memorial Park Memorial Park This event will serve as the Kick Off several months of promotional and fundraising events leading up to HAF Heals in October 2022 More information regarding The Wall will be provided at the luncheon． The luncheon is dedicated to honorin fallen soldiers and will focus on remembering the Vietnam War and it＇s lasting impact on Chambers County needed．If you would like to support this endeavor，please contact Samantha Humphrey at $\frac{\text { shumphrey＠}}{\text { chamberstx．co }}$ COVID－19 Shots available in Chambers County Chambers County Public Health will be offening
several COVID－19 vaca clinics in the coming weeks at no cost to the pubic． Please visit bitily／ chamberscovaccines to Appointments are required． First，second，third and booster doses of vaccine will be available at each clinic．
If you have questions regarding vaccines or y
eligibility，please call eligibility，please call
Chambers County Public Health at 409－267－2931 or email
vaccines＠chamberstx．gov，

WCC Pilot Club Annual Fundraising Gala


## ART EXHIBITION AT LEE COLLEGE



Tiffany Heng－Hui Lee，courtesy of the artist

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown Get Back in Rhythm Electrophysiology and Managing Arrhythmia

BAYTOWN March $3^{\text {rd }}$ ，
2022－You probably know the feeling．Your heart rac－ es，pounds，flutters，pauses
or skips a beat．Caused by or skips a beat．Caused by
abnormal electrical impuls－ abnormal electrical impus
es in the heart，unusual heart rhythms－or ar rhythmia－often are minor
and harmless．However and harmless．However，
long－lasting or more serious long－lasting or more serious
irregular rhythms can be dangerous and lead to car diac arrest．Not all arrhyth
mias require treatment but mias require treatment，bu
patients should manage patients should manage
those that cause significant symptoms，increase risk for a more serious condition or
impair the heart＇s efficien impair the heart＇s efficien－
cy and circulation．After a cy and circulation．After a
cardiologist diagnoses your cardiologist diagnoses your
arrhythmia，you may be re－ ferred to a cardiac electro physiologist to manage you
condition YOUR－HEACIAN
ELECTRICIAN A cardiac electrophysiol ogist specializes in the elec
trical impulses trical impulses that
regulate heart rhythm．＂All regulate heart ryythm．＂All
cardiologists have training in electrophysiology，＂said Dr．Akanibo Da－Wariboko，
electrophysiologist with electrophysiologist with
Houston Methodist De－ Bakey Heart \＆Vascular Center at Baytown．＂But electrophysiologists have two years of additional
training dedicated to the di－ agnosis and treatment of heart rhythm disorders． Electrophysiologists per form tests，such as electro
physiology studies，or EP physiology studies，or EP
studies，to evaluate your heart＇s electrical system and figure out the cause of your arrhythmia．Catheter

- very thin tubes with elec
 trodes－are placed in dif－
ferent areas of the heart They record electrical sig－ nals of the heart＇s activity
and allow testing of its func and allow testing of its func－
tion．An EP study deter－ mines：An arrhythmia＇s source The effectiveness of certain medicines to control
your heart rhythm Cardiac our heart rhythm Cardiac ential curative treatment of the arrhythmia Potential benefit of a pacemaker or
implantable cardioverter mplantable cardioverter ARRHYTHMIA TYPES The treatment your elec－ trophysiologist recommends
will depend on the arrhyth－ will depend on the arrhyth－
mia you have as well as oth－ er factors．Arrhythmias include：Atrial fibrillation AF）－The most common and known，complex atrial
arrhythmia is atrial fibril－ arrhythmia is atrial fibril－
lation（or AFib）．The heart beats too fast and irregular－ ly in the upper chambers，
increasing stroke risk and ncreasing stroke risk and the heart beats too slowly， which can indicate another problem，including an un－
deractive thyroid or a potas－ deractive thyroid or a potas－
sium imbalance A heart attack or medications，such as beta blockers，also can
cause the condition．Ex－
treme bradycardia is treat－ treme bradycardia is treat placement．Tachycardia
the heart beats faster than the heart beats faster than
normal．Types include：Par normal．Types include：Par
oxysmal atrial tachycardia （PAT）－a fast heartbeat that suddenly starts and
ends，often causing no prob－ lems．It＇s more common in
young people and may occu young people and may occur
during exercise．Supraven－ tricular tachycardia－caus－ es a benign and
nonlife－threatening fast nonlife－threatening fast
heartbeat．Also common among the young popula－ tion．Atrial flutter－in volves one big reentry
circuit in the upper cham circuit in the upper cham－
bers causing rapid heart beats．Also，it may lead to predisposition to stroke and heart failure，if not treated
adequately．The cure rate adequately．The cure rate
with a cardiac ablation pro－ cedure is greater than $90-$ $95 \%$ ．Ventricular tachycardia and ventricular
fibrillation－One of the 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 con dition usually have cardi－ omyopathy（weak heart
muscle）and have a defibril－ muscle）and have a defibril－
lator implanted． TREATING YOUR AR－ RHYTHMIA
Arrhythmia
Arrhythmias fall into two categories．Simple arrhyth
mias，such as supraventric mias，such as supraventric－
ular tachycardia（SVT）， atrial tachycardias（AT）or
atrial flutter（AFL）can b atrial flutter（AFL），can be
treated with a single abla－
tion and have a very high
success rate．Other arrhyth－
mias，such as atrial fibrilla－ mias，such as atrial fibrilla－ tion（AF）or ventictar tachycardia，are more com－ plex．＂More complicated ar－
rhythmias require longer procedures and personal－ ized treatment plans that take into account a patient＇s risk factors and health his－
tory as well as the source the arrhythmia，＂Da－Wari－ boko said．Your electrophys－ iologist may recommend
treatments，including：Va greatments，including：Va－
ganeuvers－stimula－ tion of the vagal nerves－ the part of the nervous sys－ tem regulating heart rate－ slows heart rate and treats Maneuvers include holding your breath and bearing down（Valsalva maneuver），
immersing your face in ice cold water（diving reflex） and coughing．This maneu－ ver is most effective in SVT． Medications－sodium channel blockers，beta blockers，calcium channel blockers and digitalis may slow or suppress tachycar－ dia．However，these drugs
can produce side effects．Lif－ estyle changes－more exer－ cise，weight loss（ $5-10 \%$ of body weight）and less caf－ feine and alcohol can reduce arrhythmia episodes arising
from underlying heart dis－ ease．More recent evidence points to obstructive sleep
apnea playing a role in ex－ apnea playing a role in ex－ acerbating arriythmia，es－ Catheter ablation－Cardi－ ac ablation is the corner－
stone work
ters threaded through blood vessels（usually the groin
area）are advanced to the area）are advanced to the quency energy to destroy，o ablate，the part of the heart electrophysiologist may per form the procedure durin or after the EP study．Da－
Wariboko uses advanced technology to get a clear pi technology to get a clear pic
ture of the heart．＂With 3D mapping catheters，we can
create a highly detailed create a highly detailed view
of the heart and display of the heart and display it
on a computer screen，＂Da－ Wariboko said．＂This map ping helps us track the catheters within the heart
with amazing accuracy－ with amazing accuracy
less than 1 mm in three－di－ mensional space．This has allowed us to minimize the use of fluoroscopy，or X－rays，
significantly to track cathe－ significantly to track cathe－
ters in the heart chambers and ablate more safely．＂ This technology enhances the ability to perform high－
ly accurate ablation proce ly accurate ablation proce
dures and treat most arrhythmias．
THE BOTTOM LINE Tell your doctor about any arrhythmia symptoms，even
those that pass quickly． those that pass quickly．
Over time，a harmless ar－ rhythmia could lead to more serious condition．
The specialists． The specialists with Bakey Heart \＆Vascula Center at Baytown use ad－ vanced techniques and ev
dence－based treatments dence－based treatments to
ensure your cardiovascular ensure your cardiovascular
health．To schedule an ap－ pointment，$\quad \underset{\text { visi }}{\text { houstonmeth }}$ houstonmethodist．org／bay
town or call 281．837．7587

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 he 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 al 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 oters in the 2022 primary elections. Most tably, the new ID number requirements that ions and ballot carrier envelopes complicated oting. These new requirements hit older voter 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 hat 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 Hero 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. Voter education 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 ites due to lack of election workers. Not surprisingly, the new privileges given to partisan oll 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 he 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 o 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 o 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 Ameria'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 or 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 advocacy.
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 ublication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please
about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.


## State High Court Hears Challenge to Abortion Law

The Texas Supreme ast 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 nurses, pharmacists and the nurses, pharmacists and the enforcement role that makes them an appropriate target of their own lawsuit
against SB8."
Solicitor General Judd
tone II argued for the state that the law was written to say only private citizens can enforce SB8 by filing civil suits against abortion pro-
viders 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 imply is no ordinary Enentertains any possibility of public enforcement (by state agencies or regulators)," the Statesman reported.
filed a number of lawsuits in federal courts, with the U.S. Supreme Court declinng to keep the law from taking effect last September as ppeals are heard. The case heard in state court last
week also will likely end up before the nation's highest court.
COMPTROLLER HOSTING
Broads
TOURS
State Comptroller Glenn Hegar began touring a doz-
en 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 vance. The first forum was held March 1 at Prairie


Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth Amarillo, Beaumont, Waco Tyler, Abilene, El Paso, Ed inburgh and San Angelo. Further information and those who can't attend can here: comptroller.texas.gov programs/broadband/com
ABBOTT ORDERS ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST CYBERATTACKS
Gov. Greg Abbott Gov. Greg Abbott has or
dered two state agencies to "use every available re source" to safeguard the state's infrastructure as the potential for Russian cyber attacks increases. Abbot sent a letter to the Texa Resources and the Texas Department of Public Safety to that effect last
week. He ordered DIR and week. He ordered DIR and
DPS to: 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 service such as antivirus and endpoint detection and re sponse technologies. - Prepare for an intrucion by utilizing a cyber - Maximize the states resilience to a destructive cyber incident. - Track and report any attacks from Russian soures so the public is fully

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

## ARREST MADE FRAUD CASE

Law enforcement inves
tigators with the Texas A\&M Forest Service arrest-
ed a Magnolia man last ed a Magnolia man last
week on two counts of timweek on two counts of tim-
ber theft. Philip Eugene McKenzie, Jr., 60, was charged.
"Mr. McK "Mr. McKenzie had timber harvest agreements
with two Walker County with two Walker County
landowners and failed to pay them for the timber that was harvested from their property", said Texas A\&M
ForestService Law Enforce Forest Service Law Enforcement Criminal Investigator McKenzie has a pending charge for unauthorized timber harvest in Montgomery County.
Timber
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 800-364-3470.
NOMINATIONS SOUGHT AWARD The Texas Education
Agency is seeking nominations for public school students in all grades who provide an outstanding volunteer service benefitting schools, or their communities. One student from each of the 15 State Board of Education districts will be recplaque and medal from SBOE. Nominations may be submitted by anyone. The deadline to nominate an p.m. March 31. The form can be found here: https:// tinyurl.com/mubxb7af.
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 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 toported in the past week, also a sharp decrease. Hospitalizations are also down, with 3,949 reported as of Sunday by the Texas Department State Health Services.
 published d number of community
newsspapers in Texas during a a30year span, including in Longview,
Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Fort Stockto
Cedar Park.
Email: gbort No Time for Butter
My greatuncle John neen er buttered his $r$ read. "Id dont have time for but
tert? he insis sted. I never terl: he insisted. I nevel
knew how much time butter
 more than Uncle John could spare.
Time Time passes so often
without notice without notice. A day seem.
to pass in the time it takes to pass in the time it take
to butter a piece of bread Lo butter a piece of bread. Peter, said that we met seven years ago.
"Eight years. "Eight years," I corrected $\stackrel{\text { him. }}{\text { We }}$ We will celebrate our sev-
enth wedding anniversary next month and, while the
romance was quick romance was quick, we had
known one another for a known one another for a
year. We married on the year. We married on the
one-year anniversary of the one-y war anni
day we met.
"That's right," Peter said.
"Time passes to "Time passes too quickly!"
He is alway saying He is always saying that.
He also says that, while he 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 travelin We are traveling in Mexico now. My temporary des
is set up against a window. I can see the progress being made on the house nex door, which is acquiring a new story. I can see the
spires of the churches in 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 cobble
stones, and the sounds stones, and the sounds of the roosters and the dogs
who always seem to have 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 nor are slowly returning to nor-
mal and, of course, that's 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 taking my daily walk
through the streets of this Mexican city, seeing something that surprises me ev erysingle afternoon saying hello to several dozen friendiy 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 say to the butcher in Span say to the buthere laughs.
ish, and the butcher The pug wags its tiny tail but doesn't look too sure
And another day passes 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 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 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 feels as if I've forgotten something important about
the time that just passed 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. Bust passed was not like that just passed was noflike the time after. For a while, time took time off. For a while, had time for butter. Till next time

## THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

## Saddle LIp

Have you ever seen a child's eyes light up when you put him on a horse or the first time? He feels like he's en feet tall, and suddenly he's seeing 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 ee all around; it makes a world of difference in handling your herd Position and perspective are also mportant 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 look up and realize we've changed position.
The challenges of life can really atch us off guard if we're not contin ury protecting our hearts, keeping ering who we are in Christ and Who we serve, we start looking to ourselves and what we can do, then uddenly 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 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 refusin 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 are. Suddenly those possibilities we could only dream about appear before our eyes and start lookin 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 asid as we look out into a wide open pasture, remembering that the O we serve is God Almighty and He reminds stand against Him. As things through Christ who strengt ens us, we sit taller and start moving forward again.
Saddle up, my friends. It's time to ride!
ww.myhillsidefamily.com @myhillsidefamily

## House in Summerwood suffers

 extensive damage due to lack - of water hydrantsThe Houston Fire De partment reports a House Fire in The Lake Houston Area. The fire occured on Saturday, Feb. 19 around 9:45pm. The house was of Lakeside Terrace. Lakeside Terrace. uilding was saved, the damage was estimated at $\$ 280,000$ in property
damage, with only $\$ 95,000$ in estimated
property saved. The cause of the fire is unde investigation. Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes
to find fire coming through the roof of a 2 story 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 ause 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).

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

HARRIS COUNTY, TX - February 22, 2022, Harris County Commis-
sioners Court on Tues sioners Court on Tues-
day awarded grantees a day awarded grantees a million in American Rescue Plan funds provided by the Biden-Harris Administration to seed a targeted portfolio of ear ly childhood programs including resources for educators and new parents, and the expansion providers.
providers.
Commissioners ap proved the following contracts on a 3 to 2 vote: -- $\$ 4.6$ million to Texas Children's Hospita (TCH) to implement Build the upWORDS Community-Based Universal and Targeted Intervention Model: The program will provide
universal education, re sources, and materials to parents of young chil dren. Over three years, 20,000 children will be served and TCH will train 6,000 early child hood educators.
First3Y. $\$ 2.4$ million to First3Years to implement Expand the Safe Babies Approach in Har ris County: This initia-
tive, which will be offered to 300 young children and their families over three years, is designed to to improve family reunification by strengthening the rela tionship between birth and foster parents.
-- \$906, 173 to The Alliance for Home-Based expand home-based
 HARRIS COUN
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 moderate
-- Funding for in
pendent evaluators to assess the impacts of the program
The contr
mark contract awards ton a significant mileEarly in the $\$ 10$ million Fund (ECIF) Fund (ECIF), a historic County's youn Harris dents. The program in cubator launched in October 2020, attracting diverse array of pro posals from local, national, and international applicants. A rigorous evaluation process narrowed the pool based on potential for impact, ev idence base, the organization's experi ence and capacity, and cost effec
tiveness
Early
Early childhood sue 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 pro grams have one of th
strongest returns on in vestment of any type of public program. Those positive effects also en dure throughout the child's life, increasing their graduation rate and earnings while re ducing their contact with the criminal justice sy tem. "It takes the entire
community to help dren reach their full po tential," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "By investing in things like language de velopment, educato training, home-based child care, and protec tions for children in fos-
ter care - we can build a Harris County built for the future A future that the future. A future tha tion, safer streets healthier communities, and economic security." In addition to the ECIF, the county also es tablished the $\$ 4.7 \mathrm{mil}$ lion COVID-19 Childcare Assistance Program to provide som the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provid ic. funding for virtual learning, after school care, early childhood learning, and early childhood care.

For more information and updates on Harri County's early childhood education initiatives
$\mathrm{v} \quad \mathrm{i}$
s harriscountykids.com.

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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 of a $12^{\prime} \mathrm{X} 10^{\prime}$ mural of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Program Manager Gaya Wilson of Volunteer of Ceremony. She said the mural was created by 80 individuals who each painted a part of it by painting individual pan-
els approximately els approximately
12 "X12". Drawing on their own emotions and perKing's messages of services, perseverance, and injustice and their part in creating and contributing loved Community.
Michelle L. Bonton, 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 do-
ing something big! We're ing something big! Were
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
 Volunteer Houston, a program of interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston and Michelle L. Bon
M. Ed, Executive Director of The Harris County Culture Arts Center (HCAC). (Photo by Allan


Individuals witnessing and helping with the unveiling are, $L$ to $R$ :
Nelson Espitia (Pct. 2), Darnella Wikerson (Judge Joe Stephens $O$
Nelson Espitia (Pct. 2 ), Darnella Wilkerson (Judge Joe Stephens Office), Ammir Shan Ibrahim
(Pct.1 ), Cindy Brenda Roberts-Hurd (Hem. Lawrence Bell (Pct. 3), Vinicius I Goodin - Mayeda (Home Depoot), $\begin{array}{ll}\text { lamail) } & \text { Kuba Ceremonial } \\ \text { Dance Headdress }\end{array}$

porated East Harris the peak of the Civil County. Were excited to Rights Movement. The have this mural as a rep- Civil Rights leader died at resentation of Dr. King's
legacy and the one we're
tinues to this day From legacy and the one we're tinues to this day. From
building for our communi- his most famous "I Have building for our communi-
Lexi Reid was one of the artists at the unveil- jail, his manangham jail, his message is truly Perryman and sisters Samantha Reid and Haley Bunn participated in the paintings. She said, "I painted one panel for the 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 same way the community came together to march with Dr. King."
Dr. King an African American was greatly recial justice to many Americans regardless of race or ethnicity. He was when I was 24 years old
,
More than 50 years Mave passed since Dr was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, but his words are just as meaningful as they were during Alleaf Advocate ghl as they were during Allanj211@aol.com.

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