

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

SAT. APR. 2

Crosby Methodist Church SWING INTO SPRING

Crosby United Methodist Church will host a Spring Festival. 10am to 3pm. Everyone welcome.

- Easter Egg Hunt
 - Rummage Sale
 - Apr. 1 and 2 8am-2pm
 - Kids games, train ride, bounce house
 - Vendors, sweet shop, concessions
 - Silent Auction
 - Plant Sale
 - BBQ cook-off & lunch (presale only)
 - Dessert contest
- 1334 Runneburg Rd, Crosby
Info 281-328-2616

SAT. APR. 9

Crosby Community Center Easter Egg Hunt

Crosby Advisory Council is hosting a Hippy Hop Easter Egg Hunt at the Crosby Community Center. 9am to 11am, 409 Hare Road, Crosby. Free and open to all. Also crafts, tattoos, games, and refreshments. Take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

EGG HUNT TIMES:
9:30 children 0-3
10am children 3-6
10:30 children 7-10

BIRTHDAYS

- Apr 2–Mickey Mann
Tim Engle
Pauline Cutbirth
Levi James Boyd
Apr 3–Randall Henning
Dylan James Lay
Liam Greenwood
Bryan Muldrow
Dot Sheffield
Zac Bowman
Apr 4–Cory Hildebrand
Clydeen Valentine
Denise Hernandez
Robert H. Sparks
Apr 5–Fred Dunks
Apr 6–J.J. Worthen
Apr 7–Jean Oliver
Charlotte Yates
Apr 8–Thomas Earl
Fabian
Marie Engle
Apr 9–Casie Russell
Damon Lay
Mitchell Thompson

ANNIVERSARIES

- Apr 1–Doug & Jackie Adams
Apr 5–Randy & Rose Donnell
Apr 9–Robert & Delana Matthews
Joshua & Kaylee Bradley

DEATHS

- Klaus Joseph Duda, 75, Crosby
Carolyn Sikora Gerken, 59, Huffman



OPENING DAY CEREMONIES AT GC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Highlands Little League opens 2022 Season

Huffman, Crosby seasons underway

Highlands celebrated Little League Opening Day last Saturday, March 19 with a big parade on Main Street. About 40 units took part, with the Highlands Fire Department equipment leading the way.

Huffman Little League opening day was the following weekend, Saturday March 26. Crosby Pony League has already opened, on Saturday Feb. 26. Cold weather that day made the League consider moving the opening date farther back next year.

MORE PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 7



ABOVE: Miss Highlands Little League Queen 2022 Helena Muller-Boudreaux rides as the lead car in the HLL Parade which took place last Saturday, March 19! The parade was down Main Street, the Opening Ceremonies took place at Goose Creek Memorial High School, and the games were played opening day at Kaminski Park on Canal Street.



Queens gather at the Highlands Little League Opening Ceremony. ABOVE, A HUGE congratulations to the Minor 2 Astros and our new Highlands Little League Queen, Helena Muller-Boudreaux, with last year's Queen and Jr. Miss Highlands.

Crosby Superintendent's Message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

April is upon us, and what a Spring semester it has been for Crosby students! Our Cougars are making their mark from the stage to the soccer pitch to fishing hot spots.

In March, the Crosby High School Bass Club finished in the top 75 in their division. Next, they will compete against other area and state teams at Regionals on Lake Travis on Saturday, April 9. These anglers battle the elements with grace and grit. Congrats to student anglers: Hayden Eidson and Weston Roach; Partner



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

Curry and Kyle Brown; Hunter Dickson and Zane Maturin; Robert Eggert; Connor Nelson and Bryan Ibarra; Landon Darjeon and Jessyca Sowell; Bradley and Andrew McArthur; and Mason Montroy and Jaydin Campbell. We will be cheering you on!



CROSBY BASS CLUB: These anglers battle the elements with grace and grit. Congrats to student anglers: Hayden Eidson and Weston Roach; Partner Curry and Kyle Brown; Hunter Dickson and Zane Maturin; Robert Eggert; Connor Nelson and Bryan Ibarra; Landon Darjeon and Jessyca Sowell; Bradley and Andrew McArthur; and Mason Montroy and Jaydin Campbell. We will be cheering you on!

Jaydin Campbell. We will be cheering you on!

CHS Theater Arts students recently competed in

Bi-District Competition with their One Act Play titled "In Between." It was a joy to watch the actors

Continued. See Superintendent's Message, P. 7

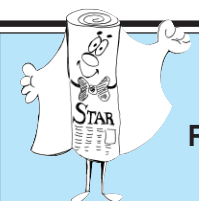
HIGHLANDS ROTARY SUPPORTS UKRAINE RELIEF



The Highlands Rotary Club has a history of helping others who are suffering from disasters, such as floods and hurricanes. In this case, they voted to send \$1000 to be distributed by a Polish Rotary club, for relief for refugees from the war in Ukraine.



ROTARY clubs are worldwide, and one of the strengths of Rotary is their presence in every country. In UKRAINE, there are 62 Rotary clubs, with over 1200 members. Here in a pre-war photo from last year, the KYIV Rotary eClub displays their spirit.



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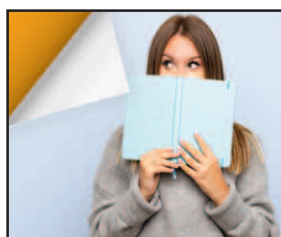
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THANKS TO THE CHAMBER AND OUR FRIENDS FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING OF OUR NEW LOCATION IN CROSBY



UNIQUE BOUTIQUE SHOPPING AT BOTH LOCATIONS

we offer food pickup and boutique shopping. Each day we offer our daily special, chicken salad sandwiches, pimento cheese sandwiches, The Trainmaster, The Porter, pot pies, chicken spaghetti, broccoli cheese soup, baked potato soup and the soup of the week. Plus- yummy desserts.

Don't forget we deliver! \$40 or as close as possible!

HIGHLANDS: Full Service Restaurant & Boutique! 10:30-2! After hours pickup until 4:45 (pre orders only)

CROSBY: Food Pick Up only & Boutique Shopping! (2 boutiques in 1) Candide Rose Boutique & Teapot! 10:30-7 T-Th (pickup until 6:45 pre orders & extras) 10:30-5 Friday & Saturday!

Place your orders now by sending us a Facebook pm or by calling 281-426-3670 during business hours!

Thank you all for your continued support! I am amazed & beyond grateful for each and every order, comment, page share, referral & all the love!

--Missy Norton

GOOSE CREEK NEWS

Early College Students Make a Great IMPACT in the Community

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications


Impact Early College High School students have a lot on their plates. Many of them are balancing academic, social and work lives; all the while earning a college degree before they cross the stage as high school graduates. But aside from that, they also give back to their community in a multitude of ways.

Impact students take part in a bi-weekly monthly food bank program for citizens of Baytown and Highlands. The student-led initiative is in partnership with the Houston Food Bank. Campus ambassadors run the program from start to finish. From setting up tables, maintaining the inventory, packing boxes and distributing them to needy individuals-they do it all.

Abrianna Mullin is one of many Impact students that is making a difference in and out the classroom. The senior was given a surprise of a lifetime from KPRC Channel 2 News in Houston. Mullin was nominated by her principal, Laura Reyes, for an award from the tv station. Mariah Gardner, Executive Producer, Planning and Special Events and a representative from the award's sponsor, American Furniture, surprised Abrianna on campus on March 15th.

Aside from participating with the food bank, she also participates in several campus clubs, including the Pride Club, Spanish Club, Student Council, and Environmental Club. She went to State Competition as a member of the Youth and Government Club as well as a part of the UNICEF committee. She is a member of the district's PR Squad, is a campus ambassador and sits on the City of Baytown Youth Advisory Commission. She has earned over 62 service hours and is still earning more. Abrianna's principal can't stop singing her praises. "Abrianna has accomplished so much in her time at IMPACT and has done it quietly; not drawing attention to herself, and has done all of this while maintaining her academics to graduate as a top student at IMPACT and Lee College," Laura Reyes said. "Challenges she faced in her personal life as a young teenager didn't bring her down, but instead inspired her to pursue career as a human rights lawyer that protects the rights of prisoners and immigrants. She has worked hard academically, given of her personal time, and displayed true altruism."

Mullin has been accepted to the prestigious Yale University and will attend in the fall on a full scholarship.




Goose Creek Memorial AVID Seniors Earn Coveted Dell Scholars Award

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

Dell Scholars, a scholarship program through the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, announced its 2022 scholarship winners on March 16th. The program was designed to provide a support system for students as they pursue a degree. Per the Dell website, nationally, 500 Dell scholars are selected each year to receive a scholarship plus non-monetary supports.

In October 2021, Goose Creek CISD AVID seniors applied to become Dell Scholars. In December 2021, the semi-finalists were announced. They included: Inti Perez, Jackie Ponder, Hunter Vinson, Jacob Gonzalez, Justin Ibarra, Mindy Perez, and Abigail Villarreal. The students completed seven intense essays and submitted a well-written letter of recommendation from a Goose Creek Memorial teacher. Campus counselor, Grant Collier, and Misty Dolgner wrote essays that covered the strengths of each semi-finalist.

In the end, Jacob Gonzalez, Inti Perez, and Jackie Ponder were selected as 2022 Dell Scholar winners.





SWING INTO SPRING!

Festival

at Crosby United Methodist Church

April 2, 2022
10am to 3pm

Everyone is welcome!!

- Rummage Sale Apr 1 & 2 8am-2pm
- Kids games, train ride & Bounce Houses
- Vendors
- Sweet shop
- Silent auction- bidding ends at 2:30
- Concessions
- Plant sale
- BBQ pork cook-off and plate lunch – presold tickets only, contact church office
- Dessert contest
- Kids Easter Egg Hunt

1334 Runneburg Rd Crosby
For more info: 281-328-2616



Photo cutline: (L-R) Phillip Hill, Senior Buyer; Ashley Pogue, P-Card Specialist; Dr. Joseph Villalba, Jr., Director of Purchasing & Warehouse Operations; and Hilda Alvarez, Purchasing Specialist, pose proudly with the department's fifth consecutive TASBO Purchasing Award of Merit.



Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 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, 2022 | 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 Auction

Saturday, March 30, 2022

Dayton Jones Library Book Sale

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Jones Public Library will be hosting a book sale on April 9th-10th during the Trade Days. The Friends will be set up with a booth located just inside the Community Center. The booth will be open on Saturday and Sunday from opening to closing of the day.

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

GP/JC CIP MEETING

Progress Report on Ship Channel Bridge

NORTH CHANNEL – The GP/JC CIP group (Community-Industry-Partnership) met last Thursday evening by Zoom, to hear industry reports and a progress report from HCTRA (Harris County Toll Road Authority) on the construction of the new replacement bridge that carries Beltway 8 over the ship channel.

The presentation was made by John Tyler, HCTRA Deputy Director for Engineering. Using slides, he detailed the problems the bridge construction has faced, and the status of building the new design.

The original contract for the bridge was let in 2018 to a consortium of Traylor Brothers and Zachry Construction, two contractors with extensive experience in this type of highway bridge. The design engineer was FIGG Engineering. The original contract was for \$962 million dollars, for the bridge and connecting roads from Highway 225 to Interstate 10. However, after one of FIGG's bridges collapsed in Florida, an analysis of this design was ordered, and determined that it was flawed and unstable. Work was halted in August 2019 to allow a redesign.

A new foundation design was engineered by COWI engineers, and the new plans added \$291 million dollars to the cost, including \$50mil to demolish work already in place. This mainly involved the piers at the base of the pylons, which were redesigned with new reinforcing.

Tyler noted that construction of the new bridge is the largest single project in county history. He said that the cost of the bridge will be paid for by tolls, and no tax money or federal



Artists renderings show details of the new Ship Channel Bridge design that will carry Sam Houston Highway 8 over the ship channel.

ABOVE: Cable stays support the bridge deck panels, allowing a clear span of 1350' width, and 185' height.

RIGHT: The new roadway will have 4 lanes in each direction, plus 10' wide shoulders and a shared-use path for bicycles, pedestrians and other vehicles. Parking lots at either end will facilitate that usage.



Looking south, from Channelview toward Deer Park and Pasadena, this recent view shows the new southbound lanes of the Sam Houston Parkway Beltway 8 under construction in the foreground center, and the existing older bridge beyond, which will be torn down in 2025 to allow the new northbound lanes to be constructed in its place.

eral subsidy will be used to pay for it. The current toll to cross the existing bridge is \$1.50, and Tyler said that HCTRA does not anticipate any increase to pay for the bridge. Cur-

rently the toll road authority is financially very strong, with \$1.32 billion in uncommitted reserves.

The bridge will be built in two stages, with the southbound lanes now under construction. When complete, it will have four traffic lanes which will temporarily be converted to two-way traffic so that the older bridge next to it can be demolished. This is expected to happen by 2025. After the older bridge is gone, the new northbound lanes will be constructed in its place, and be complete by 2028 Tyler said.

The new Beltway 8 configuration will have flatter grades, only 3 to 4 percent, and smoother curves going into the bridge.

Currently 60,000 vehicles a day cross the bridge, and this is expected to increase to 2 or 3 times the volume.

A website shows live construction: shipchannelbridge.org.



This view looking north from Deer Park shows the base of the pylons (with stripes) to be removed by "hydro-demolition" and replaced by a new configuration to provide a safe structure. The existing bridge is at right above, which will eventually be removed.


Mont Belvieu has a new "Answer Line"



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Baytown Youth Fair Youth Rodeo

April 3, 2022
2 pm

ATTENTION: Open to All Texas Youth in 3rd – 12th Grade

Events: Calf ribbon pulling, calf roping, trailer loading, and calf branding. (No horses – ropes will be provided)

PRIZES IN EACH EVENT

Calf Scramble: Will be held during the youth rodeo and only open to Baytown Youth Fair Exhibitors for the 2023 Fair.

Check in: 1-1:45; Rodeo begins @ 2 pm

Contestants may only compete on ONE team.


Entry Fees: \$50.00 Per Team
Payment: Venmo @ BaytownYouthFair; comment Youth Rodeo or Pay at the time of sign-up Walkups are welcomed

Please include: (1) Entry form & (4) Releases of Liability notarized for EACH contestant and payment

Waiver & release of liability is found @ baytownyouthfair.org
Notary will be available the day of the event with proper ID - \$4 each

QUESTIONS: Ashley Schrader @ (832) 262-8407

Rodeo will be held at the Baytown Fairgrounds
7900 N Main
Baytown, TX 77521





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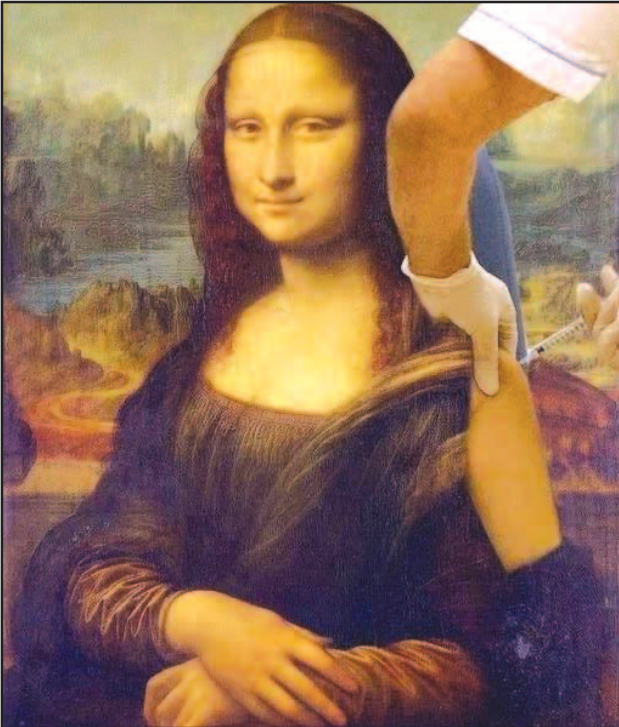



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OPINION

By Dr. L. T. Tan, Ph.D
Immunization Action Coalition

Don't forget your Flu shot!



We celebrate the anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccines this winter—and progress in controlling the virus. With vaccines readily available and recommended for everyone age 5 years and older, more people are traveling and returning to school and work.

While we welcome the return of more human connection, one unwelcome consequence is an increase in influenza activity. With COVID-19 prevention measures in place, the 2020–21 influenza season was marked by historically low influenza virus circulation. However, influenza activity is on the rebound for 2021–22. With the return of influenza comes both mild and severe illness in all ages, including infants, pregnant people, older adults, and people with chronic health conditions.

Influenza vaccines are readily available. However, vaccination rates for influenza and other routinely recommended vaccines have dropped substantially compared to last year and the year before. Lower vaccination rates for influenza with widespread circulation of influenza viruses could increase the magnitude of the wave of sick people requiring virus testing, outpatient visits, lost school time, and hospitalizations, further taxing our healthcare workers and causing unnecessary illness and suffering.

For many reasons, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing a decline in influenza vaccination rates to date in all age groups and pregnant people. Comparing the week ending November 27, 2021, with the same time last season, vaccination rates are 7 percentage points lower for all children this season, 14 percentage points lower for pregnant persons, and 17 percentage points lower in the Medicare fee-for-service >65 population. And fewer people have been vaccinated at their pharmacy or doctor's offices compared to this time last year. Not surprisingly, the numbers are even lower for children and adults in racial and ethnic minority communities.

We must act quickly to turn this around. While influenza disease burden is low right now, we're seeing outbreaks return, mostly in southern states and on college campuses. Now is the time to vaccinate. While influenza most often peaks in February, influenza can spread very quickly once transmission starts in an institution or community setting.

The burden of influenza is not to be taken lightly. While it varies widely each year, the CDC estimates that in the last decade, each influenza season has resulted in anywhere from 9 to 41 million illnesses, 140,000 to 710,000 hospitalizations, and 12,000 to 52,000 deaths. The average annual total economic burden due to influenza is estimated to be \$11.2 billion.

Healthcare providers' reminders and recommendations are key to improving uptake of vaccines, including influenza. Recent surveys from the National Foundation for Infectious Disease show that less than half of adults with a chronic condition report having received an influenza vaccine as of early November. Additionally, less than a third of healthcare providers say they recommend annual influenza vaccines to all of their patients with chronic health conditions.

With many people focused on getting COVID-19 vaccine boosters for themselves or COVID-19 vaccine primary series for their children, influenza vaccination must be on the to-do list as well.

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time, a practice that CDC has advised is both safe and effective. Co-administering vaccines is key to helping patients get caught up on needed vaccines efficiently while reducing unnecessary visits.

Time is of the essence. Vaccinate now, before the wave of influenza season begins its seasonal surge.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Sheriff's Deputy Dies in Wildfires near Dallas

An Eastland County sheriff's deputy died Thursday as wildfires swept through several small Texas communities west of Dallas, destroying at least 50 homes and charring more than 54,000 acres as of Sunday.

Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley died while going door to door warning people to flee, according to the [Austin American-Statesman](#).

Sgt. Fenley ran off a smoke-covered road and was engulfed in the fire, the sheriff said.

Several wildfires merged to form what is now known as the Eastland Complex fire. The blaze started last Thursday afternoon and in less than three hours destroyed 86 houses in Carbon, a town of just 272 residents in Eastland County, about 120 miles west of Dallas.

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 11 counties in response to the wildfires.

"I commend the hard work and selfless acts of thousands of first responders and firefighters who are risking their own lives to protect our communities," Abbott said. "I also ask Texans to join me in praying for those who have been affected by these wildfires, including Eastland County Deputy Barbara Fenley, who was tragically killed while trying to save lives."

TWO DOZEN TEACHERS ADDED TO TASK FORCE

The Texas Education Agency has added two dozen teachers to its recently formed Teacher Vacancy Task Force. TEA faced criticism when the original 28-member panel only contained two teachers, with high-level administrators making up the rest.

The task force was formed at the behest of Abbott in response to a growing shortage of teachers across the state. Its goal is to "better understand the significant staffing challenges facing Texas public schools and to make comprehensive recommendations to address these issues," according to TEA.



Josue Torres of Forney, an elementary school math teacher from Dallas ISD, will serve as chair of the task force.

"The reason I got into education is because I believe that a student's zip code shouldn't determine his or her fate," Torres said. "This task force has the ability to recommend the needed changes and innovative solutions necessary to ensure all Texas students have access to the high-quality educators they deserve."

2021 SECOND-DEADLIEST YEAR ON TEXAS ROADS

Traffic fatalities in the state were up 15% last year, making 2021 the second-deadliest year on Texas roads with 4,480 people killed — the highest total since 1981, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Laura Ryan pointed out that roadway safety is a shared responsibility between the public, engineers and law enforcement.

In 2021, 1,522 people died because of speed-related causes, and 1,219 were killed because they were not wearing seat belts, Ryan said.

"Driver behavior is one of the causes but also one

of the most important solutions," she said.

With increased focus on engineering, enforcement and on the critical role drivers play in road safety, Ryan and TxDOT leaders believe the state can end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. [#EndTheStreakTX](#) is a broad social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The last deathless day on Texas roadways was more than 21 years ago — Nov. 7, 2000.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HEROES FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Thousands of Texas volunteer at the state's public schools, and the State Board of Education would like to recognize some of them with a Heroes for Children Award. Any Texas resident who contributes time, service or support to public schools and student can be nominated. School employees or elected officials are not eligible.

One recipient will be chosen for each of the 15 SBOE districts in the state. Award recipients will be recognized at the board's September meeting. The deadline for nominations is July 15. Additional information and access to the nomination form can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/HeroesforChildren.aspx>.

COVID-19 CASES STILL DROPPING

The number of new COVID-19 cases dropped once again to 18,744 in the past week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 418 deaths recorded. Two months ago, largely as a result of the omicron variant, 440,341 cases were reported along with 2,311 deaths.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations also dropped to 1,605, according to the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#), down 20% from the previous week.

DSHS reports 17.373 million Texans are fully vaccinated, which is 59.6% of the total population. In addition, 6.429 million of the state's residents have received a booster dose.

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Patron of Arts

My landlord, Jorge, is a patron of the arts.

When I imagine a patron of the arts, I imagine some fabulously wealthy person in the past, supporting the creation of art in Italy or New York—someone with an impossibly luxurious lifestyle, maybe with a couple of designer dogs on diamond leashes standing at attention nearby.

None of this sounds much like Jorge. Jorge runs a small hotel in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and spends most days either repotting plants or greeting customers.

But I don't know what else to call him because, for more than a week now, he's kept three artists working full-time. They show up with paints and brushes and they work all day (except for a lunch break on the roof).

They started out by making more suns. When my husband, Peter, and I checked into his hotel, Jorge had 2,504 smiling sun faces hanging from every wall of the courtyard. The artists made another dozen sun faces, some of which look like superhero suns, and I assumed that was why they were here—maybe there was a goal to hit 3,000 by year's end. What do I know? But the artists never left.

Yesterday, they showed up with two enormous blank canvases and set them up in the courtyard. I was terribly curious about what they were up to, but was afraid figuring that out would require more Spanish than I could manage.

I eventually learned that these canvases were going into hotel rooms. Depictions of the town's skyline, with the stunning 17th century gothic church, were being painted on both and, naturally, there would be a smiling sun in the bright blue sky. The artists were working from little photos Jorge provided, but the photos were small and fuzzy, in black and white and, of course, there were no smiling suns in the photos.

I think it's a wonderful idea. The artists are down in the courtyard right now and appear to be having an excellent time. I see these artists working away and it touches my heart.

"Where does Jorge get his money?" Peter wanted to know.

Peter worries that we are not paying Jorge enough and when the eight-room hotel is not full, Peter frets that Jorge will go out of business. But Jorge has been doing this a long time, so I tell Peter not to worry.

I was walking through the artisan market, as I do almost every day, when I saw a hand-painted T-shirt that I loved. I told the young woman running the shop that I loved it, but it was too big.

"Eduardo could make you a smaller one," she told me in Spanish.

"Eduardo?" She pointed to the T-shirt. At the corner of the artwork, there was a signature. It said, "Ed."

"Oh! Does Eduardo paint all the clothing here?"

"Yes!" The young woman said enthusiastically. "Eduardo... or his mother."

That sealed it. I had to have a T-shirt now that I knew it would be personally painted by Eduardo... or his nameless mother. In a world where so much of what I experience and own is so much the same, it's wonderful to know there are artists out there, making beautiful things one at a time.

My T-shirt was finished four days later and I've been wearing it nearly nonstop. I don't think this makes me a patron of the arts, certainly not on Jorge's level, but it thrills me to know I have a shirt that is exactly like no other and that I provided a little work for Eduardo... or his mother.

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

HIGHLANDS

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Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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OBITUARIES

Carolyn Sikora Gerken

Carolyn Sikora Gerken, 59, of Huffman, TX, passed away on March 19, 2022. She was born to parents Charles William Sikora and Marilyn Earl Sikora on May 5, 1962 in Baytown TX. She graduated from Crosby High School in 1980. Carolyn worked as a Legal Secretary for over 20 years as well as a Child Nutritionist at Huffman ISD. Carolyn was a Houston Oilers Cheerleader as well as a cheerleader for the Houston Gamblers. She loved teaching cheerleading to her daughter Kymberlyn, as well as young girls. She loved thrift store shopping, going to Hughes Springs with family, cooking tons of food for the neighborhood and others, dancing in the kitchen, teaching line dances, watching Dateline on OWN, keeping up with her 80s hairstyle, loved her bright colors and of course sparkles, her Chanel Number 5



perfume. She loved rustic country antiques. loved Carolyn loved to work in the yard and getting plants on clearance at Lowe's. She could name every song, artist, the year it came out, and the band who performed that song off the top of her head. Carolyn met Glen Gerken in 1994. They were married on January 13, 1996 in Crosby, TX. Together they raised 3 children: Cameron Marsh, Trey Gerken, Kymberlyn Gerken. Carolyn is survived by husband Glen Gerken, children Cameron Marsh, Trey Gerken, Kymberlyn Gerken, and grandchildren Reece Marsh,

Kaiden Marsh, Raylan Marsh; mother Marilyn Sikora; siblings Diane Traconis, Lisa Thompson, Thomas Sikora, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by father Charles Sikora and brother Steven Sikora. The family has entrusted Sterling-White Funeral Home with the arrangements including visitation and funeral services. A visitation and Rosary is scheduled for Monday March 28, 2022 from 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m. with Rosary at 7:00p.m. Funeral services will be held on March 29, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Serving the family as pallbearers will be: Glen Gerken, Trey Gerken, Thomas Sikora, Tony Traconis, Andrew Roskey, and Alan Gerken. Honorary pallbearer is George Traconis.

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Klaus Joseph Duda

Klaus Joseph Duda entered into rest on Saturday March 19th at his home under the canopy of his favorite live oak tree surrounded by his family. His last wish was to get back home where he had celebrated so many special days... birthdays, weddings, cookouts, and beautiful sunny afternoons designing projects. He was born on October 10, 1946 in Sobenheim, Germany. Following WW2 his family left Bockenu, Germany bound for Detroit. Once on Ellis Island their sponsor fell through, but fortunately for our family, Sacred Heart Church in Crosby sponsored them creating a new generation of proud Texans. Klaus made Crosby his home from around 5 years old until he took his last breath. He attended Sacred Heart School, graduated from Crosby High School in 1965, and attended Lee College. He married his high school sweetheart on February 3, 1968 and they were married for 40 years before cancer took her from him. He cared for her every need prior to her death. After attending Lee College, Klaus was hired by Fluor Corporation where he excelled in their training program. Shortly after, he was drafted to Vietnam. He could have been exempt due to his work status, but proudly chose to serve his country. He and Patsy were stationed in Fort Belvoir, Virginia where he graduated at the top of his military class and was then sent to the Army Security Agency in Germany. After spending a couple of years in Germany, they returned to Crosby and Klaus settled in as a piping designer for Exxon. Klaus believed in hard work and most everyone was quite surprised when he left Exxon and started



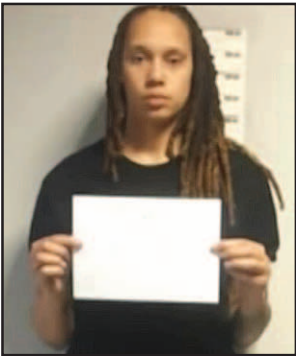
work ethic, attention to detail, creativity, and hands on approach set him apart and earned him a well-deserved reputation for distinguished quality. It is often said that Duda's unique design style is highly recognizable and stands out in any neighborhood. Klaus was a family man and his love for his children and grandchildren was unmatched. As his children grew up he could be found at horse shows, coaching soccer, skiing in Colorado, treasure hunting, playing tennis, camping at Garner, listening to Willie Nelson, and holding family cookouts under the oaks that he planted many years ago. As time passed, he transitioned from Dad to Pa and spent many Sundays taking the grandkids to breakfast, more treasure hunting, storytelling, attending many of their games, graduations, and taking their pictures in his precious bluebonnet patch. Klaus loved all things nature and during the last couple of years really enjoyed bird watching and taking care of the birds, squirrels, and any other critters that wandered up. He also really enjoyed a good meal. Whether it was from a taco truck, local dive, gourmet restaurant or a cookout by the fire he savored and enjoyed the food as well as the company. He was also an avid collector of collections, and if you know him, you know what that means. Bottles, marbles, bricks, stamps, coins, and anything

related to local Crosby history were considered a prize. The Crosby Historical Society and a vision for a museum held a special place in his heart and he always worked hard to honor the people and legacy of Crosby. He was recently recognized by the state for his work and remarkable commitment to his community. Klaus was preceded in death and is now united with the love of his life Patricia Emma Duda, his parents Stanley and Margarete Duda, brother Edgar Frank and sister Marianne Yelverton. He is survived by daughter Natasha (Bryan) Loggins, sons Nathan (Caroline) Duda and Chad Duda, Brother Richard Duda (Debbie), sisters Gudrun Henley, Rose Kasch (Mark), brothers in law Glenn White (Deborah), Rick White (John), sister in law Colleen White, grandchildren Carson, Lilli, and Lexi Loggins, Mary Hope and Jake Greer, Kelsi Sims, and Emma Duda. He is also survived by nieces Katrina McKay, Tracey Perry, Rocky Nichols, Erin Dance and nephews Michael White, Eddie Henley, Jason, Lucas and Zachary Duda and so many special friends. Klaus was a true family man, a mentor to many, and a constant friend who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He always gave of himself selflessly and had an innate, pure goodness that manifested itself in his effortless smile and laugh. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from five o'clock until eight o'clock in the evening on Friday the 25th of March at Sterling-White Funeral Home in Highlands, Texas. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday the 26th of March at one o'clock in the afternoon, also at Sterling-White Funeral Home followed by a graveside service.

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Houston watches, worries for Griner in Russian jail

Brittney Griner, all-star WNBA basketball center, continues to be held in a Russian jail, after her arrest on Feb. 17 at Sheremetyevo airport near Moscow. Russian authorities charged her with possessing vape cartridges with hashish oil, an illegal drug. Reports say that her trial has been set for May 19. Griner is well known in the Houston area, having played during her school years for Nimitz High, and later for Baylor University. She is considered by many as the best basketball player in the WNBA, where she currently plays for the Phoenix Mercury. Griner is a 7 time WNBA All-Star center, and a 2 time Olympic Gold Medalist. During the off-season, she has been playing in Russia for the UMMC Ekaterinburg team, since 2014. Friends and former teammates in the Aldine area have expressed concern about her well-being while held in a Russian jail. Reportedly she has had limited contact with American officials, mostly through her attorney team. Observers feel that the current situation in



Griner in Russian Jail



Ukraine may make her arrest and incarceration more difficult, and have pressed the U.S. government to take a more active role in her case. The arrest of this high profile professional athlete has attracted national attention from media and officials. Recently her high school coach, Nimitz girls basketball coach Debbie Jackson, was interviewed on ABC network for her recollections and career information about Griner. Others, such as Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, have spoken out for our government to more strongly intervene on Griner's behalf. **EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like to share your recollections or stories or well-wishes about Griner, you can send them to this newspaper at nenewsroom@aol.com and we will publish a select few for our readers and Griner's friends.**

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NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from March 28th to April 4th until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link <http://wbuctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current> to sell for cash only the contents of Unit A-5 and Unit B-9, Joetta Stevens in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is Bicycles, Motorcycle, Furniture, Tools, Household items and etc.....

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT
Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Crosby Municipal Utility District Election for Maintenance Tax for the District to be held on May 7, 2022 will be tested on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 2:00 PM at 103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

JoAnn Matthiesen
District's Election Agent

AVISO PÚBLICO DE PRUEBA DEL EQUIPO DE TABULACIÓN AUTOMÁTICA

Por la presente, se da aviso que el equipo de tabulación automática que será utilizado en la Elección del Distrito Municipal de Servicios Públicos de Crosby para el Impuesto de Mantenimiento para el Distrito, que se celebrará el 7 de mayo de 2022, será sometido a una prueba el miércoles 6 de abril de 2022 a las 2:00 PM en 103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532, para averiguar que dicho equipo contará con precisión los votos emitidos para todos los puestos y todas las medidas.

JoAnn Matthiesen
Agente del Distrito para la Elección

THÔNG BÁO CÔNG KHAI VỀ VIỆC THỬ NGHIỆM THIẾT BỊ LÂM BẢNG TỰ ĐỘNG

Nay thông báo rằng máy đếm tự động xử dụng trong Cuộc Bầu Cử Thuế Bảo Trì cho Khu Vực vào ngày 7 tháng Năm 2022 của Khu Vực Tien Nghi Công Cộng Crosby sẽ được thử nghiệm vào lúc 2 giờ chiều thứ Tư ngày 6 năm 2022 tháng Tư tại 103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532 để chắc chắn rằng máy sẽ đếm chính xác số phiếu bầu cho mọi chức vụ và mọi mục đích.

Jo Ann Matthiesen
Viên Chức Bầu Cử của Khu Vực

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 500965; Estate of GISELA H. GAEKE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 3, 2022.

JOHNNY O. GAEKE

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 MARCH 28, 2022.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Highlands Little League opens 2022 Season

Scenes from the Opening Day Parade and Ceremonies

Crosby Superintendent's Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE

and tech team work seamlessly together to deliver an emotional journey for the audience. I was very impressed with the play from the exceptional acting to the subtle changes in lighting and props. Theater arts takes discipline and countless hours of work. Thank you to the theater parents, teachers and sponsors for their behind-the-scenes sacrifices.

The CHS Boys' and Girls' soccer teams ended the month in playoff battles. Both seasons were fun to follow and, while they lost the playoff matches, the teams made plenty of memories. We are so proud of you and we thank the student-athletes, parents, and coaches for their dedication.

On March 25, dozens of Houston-area businesses attended the Career Day sponsored by the Next Level Center at Crosby High School. 86 representatives from various industries spent the day speaking to students and answering questions about future careers. Of those 86, more than 10 were graduates of Crosby High School! They are paying it forward by sharing their success with our students and encouraging them to dream big.

The Crosby ISD Board of Trustees recently welcomed new Trustee, Ms. Karen Thomas. Ms. Thomas has an educator's heart. She previously taught math at Crosby Middle School and coached freshmen volleyball at Crosby High School. Now, she is active in the Barrett Station community, where she is currently the Director of the Barrett Station/Riley Chamber Community Centers, with Harris County Precinct 3. The Board appointed Ms. Thomas to fill the vacancy in District 1. We welcome Ms. Thomas, and thank her for her further commitment to the students and staff of Crosby ISD.

On April 8, I will mark one year as Superintendent of Schools. This last year has been rewarding to see our team achieve great things day after day for students. This semester, we have been celebrating our staff with monthly Staff Appreciation events. March featured extended lunches and meals on us. It was great to see District Administrators covering cafeteria and classroom duties at each campus so teachers could have extra time to relax or enjoy a picnic outside. The staff surprises are not over. April will bring more fun!

Also this Spring, we'll celebrate more than a dozen teachers, staff, and administrators who are retiring. Some of these dedicated employees have spent their entire professional lives working for Crosby ISD. Commitment to students is what this District is all about, and we can't wait to honor those who helped shape the next generations. Some of their students grew up to become employees of Crosby ISD themselves, and there's nothing that speaks more highly to our mutual success than that.

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