

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

THU. APR. 14 Highlands Chamber Luncheon

Regular meeting of the Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber, San Jacinto Community Center, 11:30-1:00pm. Program is an update on Baytown Methodist Hospital expansion plans, and COVID protocols.

THU. APR. 28 Crosby Chamber Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament

Crosby/Huffman Chamber of Commerce holds their 30th Annual Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament on Thursday, April 28. The tournament will be held at Stonebridge at Newport, 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby.

8:30am registration, 9:00am breakfast, 10:00am shotgun start.

Early bird by April 22, \$75 without games, \$100 with games. Call 281-328-6984 or chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

SUN. MAY 1 Estate Sale

LIVE AUCTION! DeMarco Auctions LLC will hold an Estate Sale on Sunday, May 1 at 1:00pm at the American Legion Hall, 14890 FM 2100, Crosby, TX. Collectibles, Oil & Gas, Crystal, Fine China, Jewelry. Col. Diane DeMarco, License #18255. See details, Page 7.

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 13-Cameron Hosea
Apr 14-Mike Parrott
Apr 15-Harry Stewart
Cherie Zarsky
Maria Cortez-Ochoa
Apr 16-Louis Marie
Bradbury
Morgan Little
Jason Roffe
Diana Weaver
Apr 17-Pat Van Ness
Charlie Ward
Callen Reese Tittel
Apr 18-Monica McKinney
Mark Williams
Apr 19-Benny Clark
Magon Hencke
Apr 20-April McClelland
Apr 22-Robert McDowell

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 10-Rod & Anita Davis
Apr 17-Roy & Pauline Cutbirth
Apr 19-Vance & Cecilia Banik
Apr 23-Jerry & Jeanette Thompson
Apr 28-Dan & Margie Nicholson
Mike & Tanya Williams

Auto plunges off Lynchburg Ferry Ramp COAST GUARD HONORS RESCUER

LYNCHBURG — A Houston man was honored by the U.S. Coast Guard for rescuing a driver whose car plunged off the Lynchburg Ferry ramp on New Year's Eve, 2021.

The shocking incident was captured on a surveillance video that was just publicly released.

Robert "Cody" Moore was going to eat with his family and friends at the Monument Inn when the car came whizzing by.

"We were watching the ships go in and out," said Robert Moore's wife, Karen Moore.

Karen Moore and their five children spoke to ABC13 hours after the award ceremony.

"All of the sudden, this car literally drives off the ferry landing, and it was like a movie," said Karen Moore.

In the video, Robert Moore ran up to the edge of the ramp. He appeared to shout at the driver before he jumped in and swam up to the car. The couple's children, including 11-year-old Levi, were



ABOVE: On New Year's Eve 2021, an automobile drove off the Southern end of the Lynchburg Ferry, endangering the life of the 62 year old driver, who was stuck in the sinking car. A heroic rescuer, Robert Moore, can be seen attempting to talk with the driver prior to his decision to jump in and save him.

RIGHT: Robert Moore receives an official Citation honoring him for his Heroic Rescue of the driver.



nearby.

"(I was a little worried), but I knew he was going to be okay," said Levi.

Robert Moore told the driver to roll down a window as the car sank. He was able to pull the driver from the water to safety.

The Moores' next-door neighbors, who were having dinner with them, used their shirts as a rope to get the two men onto the ramp.

The driver, in his 60s, suffered minor injuries. The two families went to a nearby gas station, bought some dry shirts, and continued having their New Year's Eve dinner.

Houston Police Department's Dive team responded to the scene to recover the vehicle.

"It was kind of a funny thing at the time, and it wasn't until later that the seriousness of it kind of hit him and me," said Karen Moore.

Robert Moore shared

Continued. See LYNCHBURG FERRY RESCUE, Page 2

Crosby Superintendent's Message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Happy Easter! It's hard to believe we're in mid-April, and there are only 6 weeks left in the academic year. As you can see, those last few weeks will be packed with activities.

This week, our Life Skills students participated in the Colleen Walker Relays for the first time in 3 years! The relays are held in memory of long-time Life Skills teacher, Ms. Colleen Walker, at Crosby High School. Students hadn't been able to participate in person since 2019 due to the pandemic. The smiles were amazing to see after such a long pause.

Congratulations to the Crosby High School Junior



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

Varsity Boys' Track team. They are the 2022 District Champs! The future is so bright with our young talent coming up the pipeline. They show how our athletics department is laying the groundwork for future legacies here in Crosby.

On the baseball field,



Congratulations to the Crosby High School Junior Varsity Boys' Track team. They are the 2022 District Champs! The future is so bright with our young talent coming up the pipeline. They show how our athletics department is laying the groundwork for future legacies here in Crosby.

we're dominant! CHS Baseball is perfect in District play so far. On the softball side, senior Grace Sparks recently achieved a milestone. She earned her 500th strikeout on Tuesday, April 5th at home. 500

strikeouts in a high school career is something few student-athletes achieve in their career. It was a pleasure to be there to cheer her on. We hope to see many more the rest of this season and into the

playoffs.

Our Boys' Golf team will be competing in the Regionals later this month af-

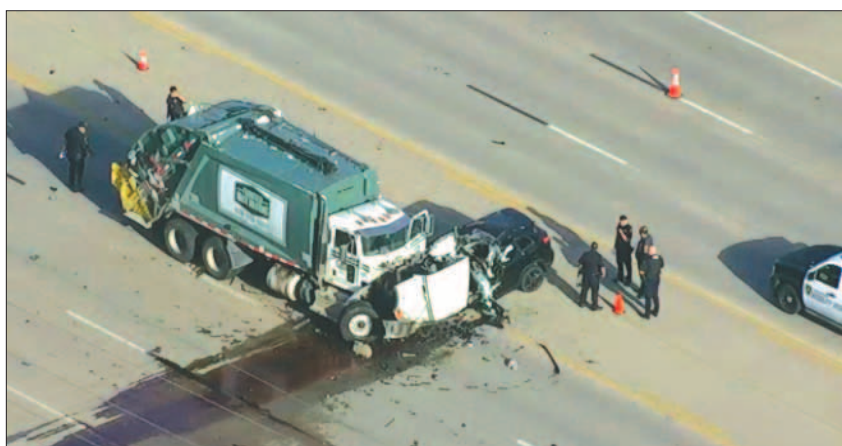
Continued. See Superintendent's Message, P. 5

Woman dies in fatal accident in Huffman

HUFFMAN, Texas - An investigation is underway after a woman was killed in a crash involving a garbage truck on FM 1960 in Huffman Friday April 8th, police said.

It happened in the 11300 block of FM 1960 at Grey Fox Drive around 6:25 a.m.

According to officers, a 34-year-old woman whose identity has not yet been released was killed in the crash.



Police said the victim was driving a black Jeep Cherokee westbound near the scene when she crossed into the eastbound lanes of FM 1960. The Jeep then struck a Peterbilt garbage truck head-on, police said.

Officers said the driver of the garbage truck, who was not injured, remained at the scene and was questioned then released.


Authorities said he investigation is ongoing.

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GOOSE CREEK NEWS

Flood Named CTO of the Year at National Conference

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

Matthew Flood, Chief Technology Officer for Goose Creek CISD, was named the National Chief Technology Officer of the Year during the Consortium of School Networking (CoSN) conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Along with this recognition, Flood also received the Grace Hopper Award by the Texas Education Technology Leaders (formerly Texas K-12 CTO Council) in late January 2022. The award is given to a district CTO who best represents the model of leadership set forward by Grace Hopper, a pioneer of computer programming and leader as a US Navy Rear Admiral. It serves as the organization's "Outstanding CTO of the Year" award.



Matthew Flood, GCCISD CTO, was named the National Chief Technology Officer of the Year.



Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Superintendent; Matthew Flood, CoSN National Chief Technology Officer of the Year; Susan Jackson, Deputy Superintendent of C&I; and Dr. Demetrius McCall, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services pose proudly at the CoSN conference.

Lynchburg Ferry Rescuer,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

details of the incident during the Coast Guard award ceremony.

"Hearing him actually talk about it in front of all these people - it was just really cool," said his daughter Ellen. Karen and Robert Moore's sons, Levi and Mitch-

ell, said they enjoyed visiting the Coast Guard facilities.

They were given a tour, and watched planes take off from Ellington Field. --Photos courtesy US Coast Guard

B\$U: A Professional Opportunity to Learn



Members of the first graduating class of the GCCISD Business Services University pose proudly with their certificates.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications

Professional development opportunities are an integral part to the success of any employee; but especially in Goose Creek CISD. The Business Services department, led by Brigitte Clark, Chief Financial Officer, looks for creative and innovative ways to provide her employees with learning opportunities.

The Business Services University is being offered by the department as an opportunity to ensure secretaries and bookkeepers are provided regular training opportunities. B\$U is offered to 10 participants per month and will focus on the following objectives:

- Ensuring end users are provided with refresher courses to successfully complete the business tasks of their jobs

• Eliminating the perceived chasm between campus/department staff and the business services administrative team by:

- allowing open and honest discussion between participants and the business services team
- providing training opportunities and updates in a friendly, open environment
- allowing all participants to have a voice in modifying/improving business processes

• Developing an online "How To" guide to assist in various business-related tasks

As part of the B\$U, the Business Services team also developed an online access point to allow secretaries/bookkeepers to provide feedback and input on developing the training sessions. Upon completion of the session, those attending will "graduate" and be awarded a certificate of completion to recognize their participation.

Team Blarglefish Continues to Swim Upstream to Greatness



Members of Team Blarglefish proudly display their awards at the FIRST in Texas event in Pasadena, Texas. Team Blarglefish includes students from Impact Early College High School, Stuart Career Technical High School, and Lee High School.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications

The Blarglefish, the district's robotics team, attended the First in Texas District Championship-Apollo Division, April 7-9th at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The team ranked 27th with a record of 5-7-0, and earned a total of 33 points. The team earned the Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen during the second week of the competition and the Creativity Award, sponsored by Rockwell Automation, in the fourth week. During the fourth week, the team competed at the

San Jacinto College Central Campus in Pasadena, where they placed fifth out of 32 teams with a total of 36 points. They also had the opportunity to be the fourth Alliance captain of the event. Though they were eliminated in the quarterfinals, they received the Creativity Award for their use of a plunger, which helped them shoot in the high goal and to earn more points.

The team had a record of 22-18-1 at their three official events, which includes a Qualification record of 21-15-1 and a Playoff record of 1-4 as of March 12, 2022.

THE TEAPOT DEPOT TEA ROOM

112 Denny St. Highlands, TX 77562-Dine In & Boutique Shopping
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 April 19-April 23

Desserts of The Week-Coconut Cream 4 Layer, Bread Pudding, Cream Cheese Lemonade Pie \$3.95

Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$50.00* Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$40.00* Single Meal \$11.95

Tuesday: Mexican Lasagna, Homemade Bean Dip & Chips & Churros! Our Mexican Lasagna is seasoned hamburger meat, enchilada sauce, beans, corn & cheese layered in between lasagna noodles! It's a very colorful & flavorful dish! You will want to try it! It's a delicious spin on Traditional Lasagna!

Wednesday: Brisket Pot Pie, Potato Salad, 1 Gallon of Sweet or Unsweet Tea & Banana Pudding! Who doesn't love anything in a pie crust? This meal is loaded with chopped beef & BBQ sauce and other yummy ingredients! (Offered in Single Order & 1 size Family Meal (feeds 4-6) \$45.00)

Thursday: Smothered Pork Chops served over Rice, Green Beans, Rolls & Blueberry Monkey Bread! Our boneless pork chops are smothered in the most amazing gravy ever! Talk about comfort food at it's finest!

Friday: Mini Party Tray! Assorted Hawaiian Sliders with Chicken Salad, Ham & Pimento & Turkey & Swiss. French onion dip with ruffles, Fresh Fruit & Maple Bacon Pancake Bites! This is perfect for snacking on over the weekend or to share with the office!

Saturday: Come have lunch with us and shop our Highlands Location! Pick up Lunch & Shop our Crosby Location.

We Deliver Lunch & Dinner!
\$40.00 Minimum or as close as possible!

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Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 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

WCC Pilot Club thanks Newspaper, attendees

April 4, 2022

Re: West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. "Kentucky Derby on the Hill" Gala

To Barbers Hill Dayton Press

Thank you for all your help in promoting our Gala fundraiser. Please submit this Thank you letter to the Editor.

Well, we finally got to have our Gala!!! The Kentucky Derby on The Hill was a success, thanks to the relentless West Chambers County Pilot ladies and all of our volunteers, sponsors, and of course our Barbers Hill High School Anchors!!!!

you from the bottom of my heart to everyone that helped, bought a meal, showed up, bought a raffle ticket, or participated in the auctions...I truly appreciate you all helping us help others in need.

Sincerely yours,
Angela Fackler
2021-2022 President
West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc

The Wall That Heals is Coming to Chambers County in October

CHAMBERS COUNTY - The History Heals Foundation is proud to announce that The Wall That Heals is coming to White Memorial Park October 27 through 30, 2022.

The Wall That Heals is a traveling 3/4 replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Honoring the more than three million American who served in the Vietnam War, The Wall bears the names of the 58,381 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The Wall, along with a mobile education center with multiple displays, will be open 24 hours per day while in Chambers County. Admission is free to the public.



"Proud doesn't even begin to describe the way we feel," said Loretta Emmons, Executive Director of the History Heals Foundation and Co-Chair for The Wall That Heals - Chambers County. "Visiting The Vietnam Veterans

Memorial is out of reach for so many people, but this October we will bring that experience to Chambers County and allow people to interact with this powerful memorial in their own backyard."

Chambers County is

one of only 29 communities in the nation that will have the honor of hosting The Wall in 2022. San Antonio is the only other Texas Community who will host this year.

"As the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran and

proud American, I am so thankful that Chambers County was given this great honor," said The Wall That Heals - Chambers County Co-Chair Heather Hawthorne.

The History Heals Foundation is a newly-created 501(C)(3) dedicated to facilitating healing for veterans through education and interaction.

Anyone who is interested in visiting The Wall and learning more about the Vietnam War is invited to attend. This event is not just for Chambers County residents.

For more information or to volunteer, like The Wall That Heals - Chambers County on Facebook.

Senator Brandon Creighton named Chairman of Senate Public Education and Higher Education

"Now is the time to chart a path forward for Texas student success from Pre-K to the workforce."

Austin, Texas - Senator Brandon Creighton has been named as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Education, adding to his leadership role on the Committee on Higher Education.

Senator Creighton offered the following statement:

"There is nothing more important to the

future of our growing state than a public education system that prioritizes student success - starting at early childhood and spanning through the workforce. In just two sessions as Chairman of Higher Education, a myriad of opportunities have been created for Texas students and institutions through reskilling and upskilling the workforce, and I am eager to work with teachers, administrators and parents.

"Texas is home to over 1,000 unique school dis-



tricts that vary in size, geography and makeup, but they all have one thing in common: instilling the values, knowledge and skills necessary

to achieve their education goals. The future of Texas begins in the classroom.

"I want to thank Lieutenant Governor Patrick for this appointment and I look forward to the great work ahead as we expand opportunity and value for millions of students in Texas schools. The joining of these two committees has far-reaching impact, as they make up 53% of general revenue in the budget, but more importantly, will chart a path forward for a robust, strong and

diverse 21st century economy."

Creighton represents District 4 in the Texas Senate which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson and Galveston Counties. In addition to Chairing Public Education, Higher Education and the Select Committee on Ports, he serves on the Business and Commerce, Finance, Jurisprudence, and the Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs committees.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Living with Valve Disease: PROTECT YOUR HEART

Every day, your good health depends on your heart valves opening and closing successfully about 100,000 times. Your heart's four valves work together to ensure adequate blood flow through the heart and throughout the body. If you have a heart condition that prevents one or more of those valves from functioning properly, this can put a strain on your heart and cause problems with circulation.

A narrowing or stiffening of a heart valve can make it harder for the heart to pump blood. Having a leaky valve that doesn't open and close properly can cause a backward flow of blood called regurgitation. As these problems worsen, the heart may have to work harder to make up for the reduced blood flow. Valve repair or valve replacement surgery

MANAGING HEART VALVE DISEASE

"Valve disease can be caused by infections, heart attacks and other conditions linked to heart disease. Or, you can be born with it," explained Dr. Walter O'Hara, a cardiovascular surgeon at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "For some people, the condition stays the same throughout their lives and doesn't cause problems. But for others, heart valve disease slowly worsens. It can put you at an increased risk of developing infective endocarditis, a serious infection that can damage or destroy heart valves."

Fortunately, working closely with your doctor to manage valve disease can help you feel better and reduce the risks to your heart. Here are some key steps to take:

Prevent infection. Preventing infection is essential in protecting your heart valves from further



DR. WALTER O'HARA

damage. Tell your doctor and dentist that you have valve disease and take antibiotics before any dental procedures, surgeries or invasive tests. Also, be vigilant about taking care of your teeth and gums to prevent infection.

Watch for signs of infection. See your doctor if you have any signs or symptoms of an infection, especially if you have a fever, increased heart rate, fa-

tigue, body aches, a persistent cough or swelling in the feet, legs or abdomen.

Take your medications as directed. Your doctor may prescribe medication to treat your valve disease or manage symptoms. It's important to keep track of your medications and take them as directed by your doctor.

Consider having surgery. Your doctor may recommend surgery to fix a valve problem. Surgical options vary based on the type of problem, and may include:

- Annuloplasty — surgical placement of a ring around the valve to make it close tight
- Balloon valvuloplasty — widening the opening of the valve using a balloon through a catheter
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) — replacement of a narrowed or damaged aortic valve

See your doctor regularly. Heart valve disease is

something you may have to manage for the rest of your life, even after having surgery for valve repair or replacement. "It's important to have a doctor monitor the progress of your valve disease," O'Hara said.

"You may need regular echocardiography or other tests to keep tabs on it." Be sure to keep up with your follow-up visits as scheduled.

KEEP YOUR HEART STRONG

The interventional cardiologists with the Valve Clinic at Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center at Baytown can help treat and manage your valve disease. Together you can review the actions you can take to reduce complications and live your best life. Call 832.556.6625 or visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown to schedule an appointment with a heart valve disease specialist today.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



Voter Fraud Misinformation

A friend of mine recently forwarded me an email he had received with a link to this webpage, posted by the Texas Nationalist Movement, claiming that there were 33 counties in Texas where more people were registered to vote than the population of citizens over 18 and that this was a "clear sign of election fraud."

The Texas Nationalist Movement is a group that advocates that Texas should succeed from the United States. The movement's leadership has traveled to Russia for meetings with other "nationalist" groups and the Free Russia Foundation has alleged that it receives financial support from the Russian government.

Its claim, published on March 23, 2022, is based on a "study" conducted by Judicial Watch. The webpage says that the Judicial Watch study was "released this week" but it was actually done in September 2020.

The Judicial Watch (JW) study compared the estimated population of citizens of voting age (VCAP) prepared by the U.S. Census each year to the number of people shown on the Texas Secretary of State as being registered to vote in each county. JW claimed the difference represented "ghost voters."

You will note that the table only has percentages and does give actual numbers. That is because there were some small counties with a very high discrepancy, thereby making much more of an impact if stated on a percentage basis. For example, the number one example of election fraud was Loving County where, according to Judicial Watch, the number of registered voters was 187% of VCAP!

When the numbers for all 33 counties are aggregated, the JW study shows a difference of just over 37,000 votes (1,944,273 vs. 1,906,900, 1.96%). Just for some context, in 2020 Texas had just over 16 million registered voters, so the alleged "ghost voters" were about .2% of the total.

But even that turned out not to be accurate. As we all know, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census every ten years. However, between censuses the Bureau issues population estimates based on surveys it conducts each year. JW used the Bureau's survey from 2018, even though by the time of its study in September 2020, the actual numbers for 2020 were available.

When you put in the actual Census Bureau numbers for 2020 instead of the 2018 estimate, there are only 20 counties where the number of registered voters exceeds the VCAP. All are small, rural counties with an average VCAP of about 8,700. The number of "ghost voters" drops to 11,385 or .04% (4/100s of one percent) of the States' registered voters.

But it gets worse. JW included in its total registered voters, those voters whose registrations have been suspended. These are primarily people whose voter registration card was returned by the Post Office to the voter registrar, typically because they had moved. It is possible to vote even if your registration has been suspended but the voter must essentially re-register to do so.

If you do not count suspended voters, only nine of the counties voter rolls that exceeded the Census Bureau's estimate for VCAP. Leaving the total number of "ghost voters" at 4,151 or .02% of the States' registered voters.

Finally, just because someone is registered where they should not be, that does mean they actually voted there. There was only one county, McMullen, where the total votes cast in the 2020 election were higher than the VCAP, and that was by a whopping 41 votes.

The total number of votes cast in the 2020 election in all 33 counties identified by JW was about 70% of what the census estimated were eligible voters in those counties which was only slightly higher than the State average at about 65%. And, by the way, Trump won 22 of the 33 counties identified by JW and TNM as being hotbeds for voter fraud. He won 89% of the vote in McMullen County and 94% of the vote in Loving County.

You have all heard the old saying that if something is too good to be true, it probably is. My corollary to that saying is that if something sounds incredible, it probably is.



THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

My Grouchy Friends

I have a weakness for grouchy people.

I have a couple of friends I would describe as perpetually grouchy, and I'm not quite sure why, but I think they are good for me.

To clarify, I'm not fond of being around people who are in the habit of deliberately messing up their lives. I think everyone has known at least one person like this, and it's hard to watch. I see the train coming down the tracks. I hope my friend will alter course.

"Um, don't you think it might be a good idea to, maybe, do something a little different? Because a train will come down these tracks sooner or later, and when it does..."

My ideas are always rebuffed: There is no time. There is no energy. There is no need.

Then I have to watch the crash, extend my sympathies, and listen to long explanations about how none of this was preventable and how life is terribly unfair. That is no fun.

But being grouchy is different.

My grouchy friends tell me that I am crazy for always believing things will work out. Grouchy people assure me that there is something within them—their DNA, their upbringing, their carefully cultivated beliefs about how the world works—that justifies their pessimism.

For some reason, this is like catnip to me. I've been trying to understand why.

My husband, Peter, tells me I should steer clear of people who are not positive. Peter would like me to be around people who, if they are not quite as upbeat as me, at least have a sunny view of the world. But I keep looking at folks who are surrounded by storm clouds and wanting to keep them company.

Maybe I am some sort of competitive optimist, trying to conquer the most challenging pessimist to earn another notch in my optimist's belt.

Maybe it gets tiresome always hearing from people who believe as I do: that we are generally as happy as we make up our minds to be. Maybe I like hearing the opposing view to assure myself that, yes, I really do believe this stuff.

Or maybe (and I worry this might be the case) optimism is like one of those religions where, in order to believe, you have to convince others to give it a try.

I think it might be a little of all of the above. It might also be that I am genuinely curious. What would happen if I expected the worst? Would anything change?

Because being optimistic invites injury. Plans fail. People disappoint. Not everything works out as I hope. To be optimistic is to be vulnerable. And I don't actually think I started out as an optimistic person. I just allowed myself to be hopeful and discovered that things worked out, even when—especially when—it didn't look as if they would. And so I kept on hoping. Becoming optimistic was like building a muscle. Hope resulted in more things to be hopeful about.

My grouchy friends guard against injury by keeping their hopes low. Their pessimism protects them from disappointment. I try to explain that pessimism is an indiscriminate herbicide—it kills both the crops and the weeds. But, so far, my attempts to convert my grouchy friends to optimism have failed.

It doesn't matter. I know I'm right. I couldn't be an optimist and think otherwise.

Till next time, Photos from this week's column can be found on my blog at CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voters have two constitutional amendments to consider

Eligible Texas voters who have not done so already have until April 7 to register to vote in the May 7 statewide constitutional amendment election, as well as any local elections for city, school districts and other local entities.

"In the upcoming May 7 election, every Texas voter will have the opportunity to vote on two proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution concerning property taxes, and many Texas voters will also be voting on mayoral, city council and school board candidates, as well as local propositions," John Scott, secretary of state, said.

Both propositions deal with property taxes. The first reduces the total amount of property tax imposed on elderly or disabled persons. The second increases the homestead exemption on school taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Early voting begins on April 25 and runs through May 3.

Texas also will have the opportunity to return to the polls on May 24 for the primary runoff election. Early voting begins on May 16 and ends May 20.

Runoffs are slated in the GOP race for attorney general and railroad commission, the Democratic contest for lieutenant governor and land commissioner, and county and district races.

Voters who participated in one party's primary in March can't cross over and vote in the other party's runoff election. However, persons who did not vote in the March 1 primary can vote in either party's runoff.

Anyone with questions about voting eligibility should contact their county's election administrator or the secretary of



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

state's office.

WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES IN MUCH OF STATE

The risk of wildfire across the state continues through this week. During the last week of March, state, federal and local firefighters responded to 192 wildfires that burned more than 173,000 acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

More than 500 firefighters from the service and through the Texas Intra-state Fire Mutual Aid System have been deployed across Texas, as well as personnel from 28 states.

We want to ensure that the state has adequate resources to protect Texas' citizens and natural resources from wildfire," Wes Moorehead, forest service chief, said. "We are working with other states to mobilize additional fire resources to Texas for assistance."

The highest risk of fire danger continues to be in West Texas and the Panhandle, according to the forest service.

SCHOOLS SAVED FROM FUNDING CUTS DUE TO ATTENDANCE

Public school districts will not lose funding because of low attendance

rates caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Education Agency and Gov. Greg Abbott announced last week. Funding will be made available to school systems in Texas who normally would have had funding cut, since it is based on attendance rates.

"Providing this adjustment to the 2021-22 school year will ensure school systems have the funding they need to retain the best and brightest teachers and provide quality education to all public-school students across Texas," Abbott said. "We have made tremendous strides to return more of our students back to the classroom and will continue in our efforts to do so."

Texas public schools are funded based on the number of students enrolled and their daily attendance. Currently, schools get a base allotment of \$6,160 per student annually. The average daily attendance is calculated by total students present divided the required days of instruction.

During the pandemic, attendance dipped. The state will once again allow district to toss out low attendance days to increase the average daily attendance and not lose funding.

TEXAS TEACHERS PROTEST UNPAID TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Texas teachers are rebelling against a new law that requires those who teach grades K-3 to complete unpaid a 60- to 120-hour course known as Reading Academies in order to keep their jobs next year.

The law, originally passed in 2019, set a deadline for completing the course by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, according to a report in the Houston Chronicle. Most teachers aren't compensated for their time taking the course, though some districts offer stipends.

The added pressures of teaching online during the pandemic have exacerbated a teacher shortage that spurred the Texas Education Agency to recently form a task force to address the situation. From 2010 to 2019, the number of certified teachers in the state fell by about 20%, according to a study by the University of Houston.

"I just feel like a lemon just squeezing, squeezing, squeezing," said Christina Guerra, a special education teacher in La Joya Independent School District. "But there's no more, there's nothing that you squeeze out anymore. There's no more juice."

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★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

2nd COVID Booster shots available at Harris County Public Health



President Biden was one of many Senior Citizens that received a 2nd Booster shot for COVID-19 when they became available.

HCPH to Begin Administering Free COVID-19 2nd Booster Doses to Residents

HCPH to Revamp Vacstrac System to include 2nd Booster Dose Appointment Scheduling

Houston – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) will begin administering the 2nd booster dose of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines across all vaccination sites to eligible residents effective immediately. On March 29th, the FDA authorized a 2nd booster dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for older people and certain immunosuppressed individuals. Following the FDA's announcement and the CDC's recommendation statement, Harris County Public Health has adopted the following COVID-19 guidelines.

- Residents 50 years of age and older who are **not** moderately or severely immunocompromised may receive a Pfizer or Moderna 2nd booster dose at least 4 months after receipt of their first booster dose.
- A 2nd booster dose of the **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine** may be administered to certain immunocompromised individuals **12 years of age** and older at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose.
- A 2nd booster dose of the **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** may be administered to certain immunocompromised individuals **18 years of age** and older at least 4 months after the first booster dose.
- Additionally, adults 18-49 years of age who are **not** moderately to severely immunocompromised and received a **Johnson & Johnson COVID-19** primary dose and booster dose at least 4 months ago may now receive a 2nd booster dose using mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. (*Pfizer or Moderna only*)

All COVID-19 vaccines are free to the community and walk-ins are accepted across all county vaccination sites. Residents can register for their COVID-19 vaccine or booster doses by calling **832-927-8787** or visiting HCPH's vaccine registration page.

HCPH urges all residents to do their part during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue COVID-19 best practices. This includes getting a vaccination and getting tested if you experience symptoms to best protect yourself and others.

Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ter finishing second in the District tournament. Girls' golfer Laurel Repka will also compete in the Regionals at the individual level.

Our senior basketball players are still making headlines. PJ Haggerty was the 11th recipient of the prestigious Guy V. Lewis award, which recognizes the top Boys' Basketball player in the Houston Region. The Houston Chronicle also named him the All-Greater Houston Player of the Year. Haggerty and fellow senior Sean Elkinton were also selected to TABC All-Region Team. Senior Girls' basketball players Sequoia Carroll, Cortni Harris, and Caitlin Harris have also racked up some post-season honors, including TGCA All-Star Team and SETCA All-Star Team. Sequoia was named Baytown Sun Player of the Year and District 21-5A MVP. Cortni and Caitlin earned 1st team All-District, Academic All-District, as well as GHAGBA All-Star Team for Cortni and GHAGBA All-Star Team Alternate for Caitlin. Wow!

The CHS Varsity Treble Choir is heading into UIL competition on April 21st. The competition is two parts: the Choir will perform three pieces of music and then perform a piece of music they have never seen. Good luck!

Also this month, each elementary student in the District will receive a free book courtesy of First Book. There will be a traveling "Rally for Reading Road Show" stopping at each campus on Friday, April 29th. All this as part of the "Magic of Storytelling" campaign to encourage literacy among our youngest Cougars.

Finally, Crosby High School is ready to celebrate the Class of 2022. Cap and gowns will be handed out during all lunches on April 26th. Graduation is Friday, May 27 at 7pm. More communication will be sent out from the campus this month to graduates and their parents. This will be the second commencement I attend as Superintendent. There is no stopping the bright future I see for the students who will walk across that stage at Cougar Stadium. I can't wait to say to "Congratulations!"

This is Now! Go Coogs!

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Raising Them up Right

If this were a magazine, I'd show you a picture of the cutest little cowboy in Texas. His name is Cross, and he is the youngest of my grandchildren. I tell you, he brings a lot of joy to his Cowpaw's life.

His great-grandfather was a preacher. His grandfather is a preacher. His father is a preacher. I don't know if he will grow up to be a preacher, but I do know his parents are raising him up right. Even at his young age, they're teaching him about the things of God.

Will he remember all the details? Perhaps not yet, but as he hears, and hears, and hears again, and as he sees his family living out God's Word, he will grow in the knowledge of God. Of course, he's also soaking up a lot of other things as well, and Mom and Dad get to help him learn to discern which of those things are good and which are not. It's a long process that takes commitment on the part of parents.

It's much the same with new Christians. They're born spiritually hungry and tend to soak up everything. And, like Cross, they can't always discern what is really of God and what only appears to be of God. Especially today, with preachers on TV and social media making all manner of information and misinformation available, it's particularly important for young Christians to learn discernment. But that's a challenge because it's hard for kids (even spiritual kids) to teach themselves.

It's up to those of us who are

more established to help guide them as they grow. We ought not just say, "Ok, you're born again. Go live!" and leave it at that. We need to be there for them. We need to help them get established in the church God calls them to. We need to be available for their many questions. We need to be ready to step up and mentor those who will receive it, offering correction and instruction as the Holy Spirit leads.

The church today is filled with people who are undeniably born again, but who have never grown up, never built their faith, never truly moved forward into the full life God wants for them. In part, that's their own fault and a result of their choices, but the more mature members of the Body of Christ share some of the blame as well.

It's a fact; every mature Christian who has chosen not to invest him or herself in helping others along the way has hurt the body. We're one body, and Ephesians 4:14-16 makes it clear that the body should be working together with every part supporting every other part so that the whole can grow. So it's time for us all to rise up and reach out, to help each other grow in wisdom and the knowledge of God so that the Church can become what God wants it to be!

www.myhillsidefamily.com
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1: 20, 21

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GOOSE CREEK NEWS

Students Select and Teachers Win Big at Ed Fo Choice Awards



Jennifer Walsh, Education Foundation Director; Jorge Antonio Johnson, SCTHS student; Abel Adame, Stuart Career Technical High School teacher; Dr. Demetrius McCall, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services; and Ronnie Hotchkiss, Education Foundation Immediate Past President.

Photos: Taken by Carrie Pryor Newman



Kaitlyn Davis, Sterling High School student and her Students Choice Award teacher, Kenneth Rogers from the John D. George Agriscience Building.



Candace Southall, Sterling High School teacher, and the student that nominated her, Nataly Galvan, Sterling High School.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation held their 13th annual Students Choice Award banquet on April 5th at the Houston Raceway Park. Over 700 senior students submitted essays recognizing the impact their favorite Goose Creek CISD teacher had on their lives. Of the hundreds of essays received, the Foundation selected the top 15 to be recognized at the event.

Erika Foster, GCCISD Education Foundation Director, spoke highly of the event. "As a graduate of the district, I know how much of an impact a teacher can have on the lives of students," she said. "It is a privilege and an honor to recognize the 15 amazing teachers and the students that selected them."

The night was eventful, with guests treated to musical selections from the Goose Creek Memorial High School Show Choir and an emotional video created by Carrie Pryor-Newman, GCCISD Multi-Media Production Specialist. In a twist to the program's usual routine, the teachers were able to observe the student reading a portion of the letter they wrote about them. After viewing all 15 videos, there

was not a dry eye in the house.

Students Choice Award winners for the 2021-2022 school year include: Abel Adame, Karen Billings, and Stephanie Brock of Stuart Career Technical High School; Brad Comeaux, Reynaldo De Leon III, Monique Everett, Trojan Noble, Paul Schmidt and Candace Southall of Ross S. Sterling High School; Claude Garrison of E.F. Green Junior School; Amy Gilbert of Impact Early High School; Joshua Hartwell of Goose Creek Memorial High School; Haley Johnston of San Jacinto Elementary; Jaime Miller of Horace Mann Junior School; and Kenneth Rogers from the John D. George Agriscience Building.

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation aims to enhance community support and expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in the district.

The Education Foundation has awarded over \$1.4 million in innovative teaching grants and designated donations for special projects, including \$102,995 in teaching grants awarded in 2021. Over the past 10 years, 180 teachers have been recognized at the Students Choice Awards banquet.

Jackie Young Medcalf hosts national environmental group at San Jacinto Waste Pits



ENVIRONMENTALISTS MEET IN HIGHLANDS TO SEE SJR WASTE PITS

Environmental Activist Jackie Young Medcalf has returned from maternity leave, and is tackling pollution in three areas: The San Jacinto River Waste Pits, the Cypress Community (Jones Road pollution), and the Northeast Houston (5th Ward pollution).

She held a virtual and in-person Town Hall last month, on March 29, to update and discuss the three areas of concern. She noted that with realignment of Precinct boundaries in Harris County, the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is now divided into the Northern compound in Pct. 3, and the Southern compound in Pct. 2. It remains to be seen whether this will complicate the remediation plan for the waste pits, she said.

Jackie reported that the remediation plan was proceeding on the Southern impoundment, with excavation expected to start in the Fall of this year. Updated drawings on this project are due in June. For the Northern impoundment, she criticized the 90% Remedial Design Documents that have been released, with omissions to procedures for Health and Safety that she deemed important. She said the engineers are still studying two methods for removal of the toxic materials, and have two schemes for the double wall cofferdam that are being evaluated at this time.

On March 31 Jackie hosted and talked with 30 environmental journalists from across the country, about her experiences with the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. She detailed lessons she has learned from over 10 years of working with the site's technical information, along with the communities and the government agencies involved. She noted how the skillsets developed could be applied to other sites in the region or nationwide.

She expressed herself to the group, "What a joy to be back out in the field doing what I love."

Her environmental group, THEA, is planning a fund raising-fun raising event on April 30 at the Karbach Brewery. See the website for information and reservations.

The next Town Hall for THEA is planned on May 10.



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CROSBY ART CAR

Crosby Theater Arts students built this Art Car, on the Harry Potter Theme, and entered it in the Parade last weekend.



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