

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

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.

SAT. MAY 7 Job Fair at the Crosby Library

Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library
JOB FAIR @ THE LIBRARY
Are you looking to hire? Come to the Crosby Library's Job Fair.
Free to employers. The Library will provide tables and chairs and if needed electrical outlets!
May 7, 2022
10am-12pm
Crosby Library Meeting Room
Contact: Molly McGinty, branch manager
832-927-7790
molly.mcginty@hcpl.net

SAT. MAY 7 Lil Cowpoke Pageant at the Crosby Fair and Rodeo

Annual Miss & Mr. Cowpoke Pageant.
Crosby Fairgrounds Pavilion, 14920 FM2100, Crosby.
Starts 10:00 am. More information at www.CrosbyRodeo.com

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 27-Kitty Elkins
April28-Ms. Chrislee Stephens
Apr 29-Becky Gomez
Jason Maness
Apr 30-Jeramy Bimage
Jennifer Ward
May 1-Pat McIntosh
May 2-Justin Holton
May 3-David Stone
May 5-Micheal Barnes
Micha Owens
May 7-Germaine Broussard
May 9-Jimmie Dickey
Tim Holton
Vanessa Whittaker
Elonda Cravatt

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 28-Dan & Margie Nicholson
Mike & Tanya Williams
May 3-Edward & Mareta Richard
May 6-Sidney & Ellen Platt
May 8-Tim & Lisa Dammon
May 10-Thomas & Eleanor Leibham

EARLY VOTING STARTS APRIL 25; ELECTION DAY MAY 7

Ballot Issues: Two Constitutional Amendments; Huffman Bond Issue

HARRIS COUNTY – The Municipal and Local primary election will take place on Saturday, May 7 with a low voter turnout expected by authorities. No major candidates are on the ballot, only two state constitutional amendments and a number of bond issues for local districts, and local candidates.

In the Crosby and Huffman areas, the main issue on the ballot is a bond issue for Huffman ISD. The District is asking voters to approved two bond issues totalling about \$100 million dollars, to be used for various expansion needs, and physical plant upgrades.

In the Sheldon area, due to explosive population growth, the school district is asking voters to approve 3 bond issues, totalling \$736 million, for new

schools, buses, a multi-purpose arena, and a natatorium.

Early voting will start on Monday, April 25 and continue through May 3. Hours in general are M-S 7am - 7pm, Sun 12pm - 7pm. Hours on Election Day are 7am - 7pm.

Since the main issues on the ballot have to do with two Constitutional Amendments that may lower your taxes, State Senator Paul Bettencourt has issue the following analysis (edited) to aid all voters:

On Propositions 1 & 2:

The public is to vote on Senator Bettencourt's Constitutional Amendments Proposition 1 and 2 on May 7, 2022.

Many voters have been finding the ballot language confusing, and I want to clarify what these amend-



HUFFMAN ISD 2022 SCHOOL BOND
PROPOSITION A - \$98.9 MILLION
• District Wide Safety & Security Improvements
• Land, Buses, and Operations Center
• Middle School Renovations and Expansion
• High School Renovations and Expansion
• Technology Improvements
• Major Maintenance Projects
PROPOSITION B - \$2.9 Million
• Baseball & Softball Turf Improvements
EARLY VOTING SITE: Huffman Middle School
ELECTION DAY VOTING SITES:
West Campus Gym
First Baptist Church of Huffman
Crosby Church-Huffman Campus

ments actually do. Homeowners over the age of 65 will see their freeze values for school taxes actually decline, aka, ISD property tax bills if Proposition 1 passes! Also if passed, Proposition 2 will lower independent school district property tax bills by increasing the homestead exemption that will save money for the 5.67 million homesteads in the State of Texas.

Below are some plain language talking points to answer many of the frequently asked questions. **Proposition 1 will benefit individuals with an over 65 or disabled exemption on their homestead.**

• If an individual has an over 65/disabled exemption on their home and this proposition passes, they will receive a reduction on school district property

taxes.

• HB 3 from the 86th Legislature compressed school maintenance and operation tax rates across the board except for over 65/disabled because their rate was already lower than the new compressed rate for everyone else.

• This amendment will provide for the same percentage reduction in an individual's school district tax rate that everyone else received in 2019.

• There are 1.8 million over 65 exemptions and 180,000 disabled exemptions, on average these households will see a \$110 reduction the first year and \$125 reduction in the second year; the reduction will continue to grow each year.

• If there is additional

Continued. See Early Voting starts, Page 5

Crosby Superintendent's message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

We are on the cusp of May! In 4 weeks, the Class of 2022 will walk across the stage at Cougar Stadium, instantly transformed from students to alumni. Like so many Crosby High School graduates before, our communities cannot wait to see what our newest collection of proud Cougar graduates will do; who they will become; and how they will give back. Our 450 graduates triumphed over so much to get to this moment. They stayed on target, refused to be distracted by so many things, not the least of which was a global pandemic. They really do represent the best of us.



SUPERINTENDENT
PAULA PATTERSON

There's so much happening in the District before we get to commencement day. Many of our students are still competing in their respective UIL events. Eight Crosby High School Bass Club teams competed at Regionals on Lake Travis

on April 9th. Our anglers gave it everything they had and made Crosby ISD proud. 3 teams are moving on to the State Tournament: Hayden Eidson and Weston Roach, Landon Darjeon and Jessyca Sowell, and Partner Curry and Kyle Brown. They'll fish at Belton Lake on May 14 and 15! Good luck!

CHS softball and baseball teams have had incredible seasons so far. Both teams have been so gracious in the last few weeks honoring those who helped our players since they were tikes playing t-ball. First and foremost, we loved seeing their parents honored on Parent Nights. Veterans and First Responders had a chance to throw out a first pitch, and players invited an in-



CROSBY HS students participated in last week's Art Car Parade with this entry. MORE PHOTOS on Page 7

spiring teacher to join them for the starting lineup presentation during Teacher / School Board Appreciation Night.

We have some blossoming track stars! Congrats

to Abby Elisor, Olivia Darbonne, Mayte Tavarez, Taylor Destin, Victoria Grace, Zaraiya Lee, and

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 7

Eastside Veterans dedicate Memorial Marker

CROSBY – The Eastside Veterans group dedicated a Monument to all Veterans last Friday, April 22 at Crosby Park. Participating in the ceremony were the Eastside Veterans Committee, chairman Bob Ward, Crosby/Huffman Chamber representative Kim Harris, representatives from Crosby ISD including superintendent Paula Patterson, Cedric Patterson, Chaplain, Judy Culbreath, Monument Chairman.

The Eastside Veterans Committee was formed in May 2014 and the sole pur-

pose was to promote Veteran recognition and provide a memorial for the Crosby Community.

Local sponsors contributed to the initial funding for an annual "Feed the Veterans" which grew to include a town parade, art contest with CISD, a Veterans celebration at the Crosby Stadium and casino bus trips.

The monument was provided 100% by the Eastside Veterans Committee fundraisers.

More Photos, see Page 7



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GOOSE CREEK NEWS

GCCISD Students Win Big at Baytown Youth Fair

Students from across the city of Baytown, many from Goose Creek CISD, participated in the 62nd annual Baytown Youth Fair April 18-22nd. The week-long event was created to provide Baytown youth an opportunity to exhibit their agricultural and homemaking projects. GCCISD students showed off their best lambs, goats, rabbits and more for a chance to be named a winner at the event. Two students from GCCISD won the top award: Grand Champion. Coleman Smalley, a ninth grade student at Ross S. Sterling High School, earned Grand Champion for his swine, which sold for \$10,000. Hannah Griffice, a ninth grade student at Goose Creek Memorial High School, earned Grand Champion for her steer, which sold for \$20,000.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications

All photos taken by Carrie Pryor Newman:



Coleman Smalley, ninth grade student at Sterling High School, and his Grand Champion swine, Bacon



Aubrey Chandler, Highlands Elementary 4th showing her swine, Lady. She is with the 4-H.



GCM's Hannah Griffice, 9th shakes hands with the judge that announced her steer Grand Champion, at the Baytown Youth Fair

GCM Math Team Heads to State at the University of Texas

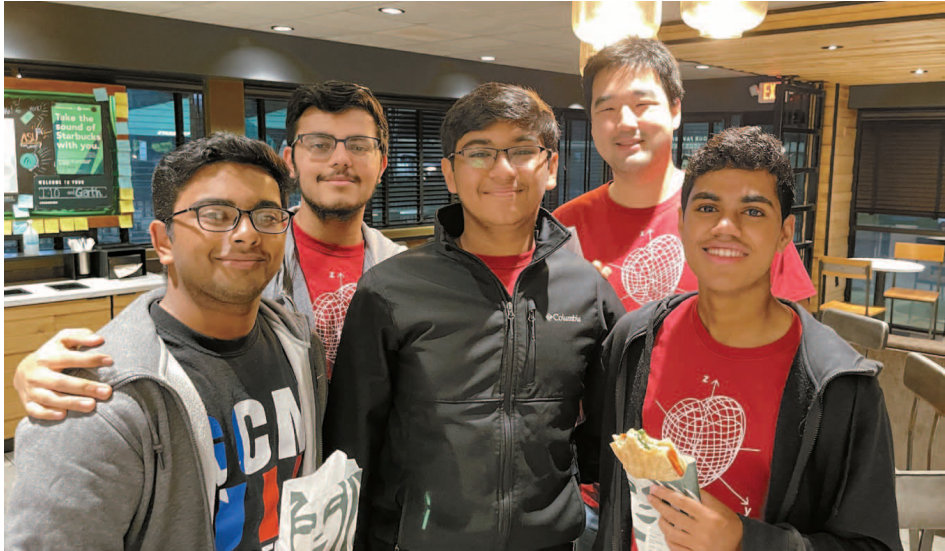
By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

The Goose Creek Memorial High School Math Team, under the direction of coach Byoung Kang, advanced to the State Academic UIL competition in three events and will be competing on-site at the University of Texas at Austin on the May 6-7th.

Team members include Swayam Gupta, Arin Sood, Atharv Shinde and Puneet Singh. Gupta received third place Number Sense (individual), first place Calculator Applications (individual), first place Mathematics (individual), second place Number Sense (team), and second place Calculator Applications (team). Shinde received second place Number Sense (team) and second place Calculator Applications (team). Singh received second place Number Sense (team) and second place Calculator Applications (team).

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor Newman:

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor Newman:



GCM Math Team members (front row) with Coach Byoung Kang (in the rear) as they head to regionals at Foster High School.

Seniors Take a Giant Leap into Their Future



IMPACT ECHS students pose with their signs during their Giant Decision Day event.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD held their first "Giant Decision Day" celebration April 18-22nd. The brainchild of Kimberly Bernard-Fox, Director of Counseling and College and Career Readiness, and Anna Espinoza, Coordinator for Counseling and College and Career Readiness, the week-long celebration recognized and celebrated students that committed to college or career after graduation. Students that committed to attend two- or four-year colleges, the U.S. Armed Forces or the workforce were honored by their home campus. Bernard-Fox was proud beyond words of the success of the campus events. "We had no idea when we began planning this celebratory week if it would

work or not," she said. "But the campuses bought into the idea hook, line and sinker and the students and their families seem so proud. I can't wait to do it again next year!"

The commencement ceremonies for Impact Early College and Stuart Career Technical High Schools will be held at the Lee College Sports Arena Tuesday, May 24th at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. Goose Creek Memorial, Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling High Schools will host their commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 27th at the University of Houston Fertitta Center at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively.

All photos taken by Carrie Pryor Newman



Melanie Chapa ceremonially signing for Lee College where she wants to attend college in the fall. (GCM)



Stuart Career Technical High School student, Parus Vang, and his parents, John and Jennie Mletzko, smile proudly at the SCTHS Giant Decision Day event.

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Sunday May 1, 2022
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Auction Location:
American Legion Post 658
14890 FM 2100 Crosby, TX 77532

This estate sale has many great lots! Collectibles including Oil & Gas, Hess, Sunoco, Exxon, Amoco, Phillips 66, John Deere, Nascar, American Muscle, BBurago, Matchbox & Hot Wheels, Die Cast Metal, Vintage Bottles, Lennox, Mikasa & Oneida Crystal, Fine China, 14k gold & sterling silver jewelry and so much more!

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Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Baytown Symphony Finale April 30

“Latin Sizzle” &
“Side- By- Side”
Concert for 2021-2022
Season Set for April
30th at Lee College's
Performing Arts
Center

Performance is set for
7:30 p.m. in the main
auditorium. Box Office
will be open at 5:30 p.m.
Free student tickets will
be available inside in the
Foyer. Patron Tickets will
be on sale at the Box
Office at \$ 20.00 each for
general admission.
Reserve tickets by phone
at 281.425.6255 or on line
at vpa@lee.edu.

The first half of the
program, called “Latin
Sizzle” includes the
following repertoire:

“The Three Cornered
Hat” by Manuel de Falla,
(1876-1946), “La Conga
del Fuego Nuevo” by
Arturo Marquez (1927-
2014), and “La Vida Breve
by Manuel de Falla.

The second half of the
program called “Side By
Side” includes
L'Arlessienne, Suite No. 2,
by Georges Bizet
(1838-1875),

“Crown Imperial
March” by William
Walton (1902-1983) and
“Duke Ellington Medley,”
music by Edward
Kennedy Ellington (1899-
1974), arranged by Calvin
Custer (1939-1988).

The Board would like
to thank Lee College and
their Administration for
their support during this
season. Several new
changes are in the mix,
yet, college students will
be able to continue to add
orchestra class for credit
on their course load,
study their instrumental
specialty with
professional musicians
and qualified instructors
in the very special
environment of Lee
College's Performing Arts
Center, and the Baytown
Symphony Orchestra

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

The planning commit-
tees and Chambers Coun-
ty 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
Chambers County
Youth Livestock Show
April 27 through April
29, 2022
Chambers County
Youth Livestock Auction
Saturday, March 30,
2022

Mont Belvieu Cuts Ribbon on Langston Blvd. Extension and Starts Hackberry Park



Officials cutting the ribbon making the end of the construction on the extension of Langston Blvd

MONT BELVIEU (April 22, 2022-The City of Mont Belvieu took yet another step in the city's continued growth with a double-shot event on Thursday afternoon; officials cut the ribbon marking the end of construction on the extension of Langston Boulevard while also conducting a groundbreaking to open construction on Phase 1 of Hackberry Park. While the projects are separate, they are physically connected with Langston Blvd. running through the expansive Hackberry Park. This provided the perfect opportunity for a unique combination event. Mont Belvieu Mayor Nick Dixon stated, “Things never seem to slow down here in

Mont Belvieu and today is a perfect example. We're breaking ground to start one project while we are cutting the ribbon to wrap up another. I'm excited about the access this extension of Langston Boulevard will give to our residents and visitors. And, it's amazing to think about all of the fun that will be had here in Hackberry Park.” Mayor Dixon also had the unique distinction of pulling the lever for a ceremonial fish dump into the park's vast pond system. 2000 bluegill and 400 catfish were introduced into the ponds to start growing the ecosystem and allow the fish to thrive before Phase 1 of Hackberry Park opens to the public in late 2022.

About the Langston Blvd. Extension Project

The Langston Blvd. project added 1 mile of roadway extending west from Eagle Dr. and connects the city to the soon-to-open SH 99/Grand Parkway. The \$8 million 18-month project, constructed by Angel Brothers, included not only the roadway, but trail-width pathway connecting nearby neighborhoods to the developing Hackberry Park and an amenity bridge that serves as a gateway into Mont Belvieu from the Grand Parkway. The bridge features oil derrick-style spires that are a nod to Mont Belvieu's history and the city's continuing importance in the oil and natural gas indus-

tries. While the ribbon cutting does officially mark the completion of the Langston Blvd. project, the road will not be open to traffic until TXDOT and the Grand Parkway Initiative (GPI) complete and open SH 99.

About Hackberry Park

Hackberry Park was envisioned by the City of Mont Belvieu to create a city-wide and regional amenity supplemental to the fundamental and pragmatic need of providing stormwater detention. The detention capacity provided is capable of meeting immediate construction demands as well as future stormwater detention needs within the watershed. The 200-acre Hack-

berry Park features almost 70 acres of interconnected ponds and will be a regional hub for outdoor activity. “We are very excited to kick off the first phase of Hackberry park and welcome our residents to this beautiful facility,” said Parks and Recreation Director Dustin Schubert. “Similar to how City Park has a regional draw for sports and events, Hackberry will do the same for nature based activities. With the recent installation of trees, the park is really taking shape and we look forward to welcoming our residents at the end of this year.

Photos provided by “City of Mont Belvieu”.

NHRA Set to Close Out Houston Raceway Park in Style with Spring Nationals

The NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series is set to make its final appearance at Houston Raceway Park, closing out a long and illustrious history at the legendary track on April 22-24 with the 35th annual NHRA Spring Nationals.

The final NHRA national event in Houston is also the fifth race of the 2022 season, and it promises to be one to remember. Already approaching sell-out status for the historic weekend, fans are eager to be part of the final race at a facility that has produced countless memories for more than three decades and has annually been one of the largest sporting events in Southeast Texas.

“It looks like our final NHRA race will be one for the record books,” Houston Raceway Park General Manager Seth Angel said. “We've already sold out of all the full-event packages for both the Nitro Club and the Top Eliminator Club and single-day passes for both of those areas are becoming pretty scarce. Tickets in the remainder of the grandstands are selling quickly, so we're recommending any interested fans jump on HoustonRaceway.com as soon as possible to get their tickets. We don't want anyone to miss out.”

Renowned for its sea-level location and storied reputation as one of the fastest tracks on the NHRA circuit, Houston Raceway Park hosted its first national event in 1988 and has been home to several memorable moments and record-breaking performances over the years, including the first four-second



Fans taking pictures and enjoying the race

pass in NHRA history from Top Fuel's Eddie Hill, John Force's 100th win, and many more.

All the top stars in Top Fuel, Funny Car, Pro Stock, and Pro Stock Motorcycle will look to close out the facility with a memorable win in 2022.

Nobody has ruled Houston Raceway Park quite like Funny Car's John Force, who has an NHRA-best seven wins at the facility. The last came in 2002, which also gave Force his 100th career win, and he'll try to add an eighth to close out his time in Houston. It would also be the first win of 2022 for Force, who will face off with a talent-filled class that also features Las Vegas winner and defending world champ Ron Capps, Matt Hagan, whose first career

Funny Car win came in 2010 at the track, Hight, who has two wins this year, Cruz Pedregon, Alexis DeJoria, J.R. Todd, Bob Tasca III, and Tim Wilkerson.

In Pro Stock, recent Las Vegas winner Erica Enders will try to close out Houston Raceway Park with a win at her hometown track. It's been a special place for Enders, as the four-time world champ started her illustrious career at the facility, and she'll look for her third Pro Stock win in Houston. She's on a roll, coming off her win in Las Vegas, and will look for one final memory in Houston against the likes of points leader Aaron Stanfield, who picked up his first career Pro Stock win in 2020 at the track, defending world champ Greg Anderson, a three-time Houston winner, Dallas Glenn, Kyle Koretsky, and Mason McGaha.

Pro Stock Motorcycle returns to action in Houston, fresh off a record-breaking perfor-



A Pilot on his race car ready to speed up

mance in Gainesville. Karen Stoffer won there to open the year, making the quickest run in class history and becoming the first rider in class history to reach the 6.60s. She'll look to keep rolling in Houston, where she has a pair of wins, against a marquee lineup that also includes four-time winner Angelle Sampey, Eddie Krawiec, who won the race in 2020, defending world champ Matt Smith, Gainesville runner-up Angie Smith, Joey Gladstone, Jerry Savoie, and Steve Johnson.

Houston Raceway Park will host the special pre-race ceremony that introduces and celebrates each of the drivers racing for the prestigious Wally on Sunday and includes the final SealMaster NHRA Track Walk at the facility. The final can't-miss experience of any NHRA event is the winner's circle celebration on Sunday after racing concludes, where fans are invited to congratulate the final event winners of the NHRA Spring Nationals.

As always, fans also get an exclusive pit pass to the most powerful and sensory-filled motorsports attraction on the planet in Houston. This

unique opportunity gives fans a unique chance to see teams in action and service their hot rods between rounds, get autographs from their favorite NHRA drivers, and more. Fans can also visit NHRA's popular Nitro Alley and Manufacturers Midway, where sponsors and race vendors create an exciting atmosphere that includes interactive displays, simulated competitions, merchandise, food, and fun for the entire family. The new Pep Boys midway display will include tire change challenges, oil change challenges, a slot-car track, and much more, adding even more excitement to the midway.

NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series qualifying will feature one round at 6 p.m. CT on Friday, April 22 and the final two rounds of qualifying on Saturday, April 23 at 1 and 4:15 p.m. Final eliminations are scheduled for 11 a.m. CT on Sunday, April 24. Television coverage includes qualifying action on FS1 at 7 p.m. ET on Friday, 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, and then eliminations action at 7:30 p.m. ET on Sunday.



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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

By Chris Hollins

Candidate for Houston Mayor

The question whether to legalize Marijuana

Thousands of people in Houston, disproportionately from Black and Brown communities, have had their lives upended due to the criminalization of marijuana. The criminalization of marijuana has led to arrests, convictions, and jail time. All of these make it harder for people to find housing, secure employment, or receive financial assistance for education and trade programs.

Put simply, these prohibitions are not making our city safer and are only serving to prevent many across our community from earning a good and honest living. 39 states have taken steps to decriminalize marijuana. It's time that Texas takes that same step so that we end this ongoing injustice and prioritize law enforcement resources in the fight against violent crime.

I need you to join me in telling the State of Texas to completely decriminalize marijuana, like so many other states have.

That's why I'm asking you to sign and share our petition calling on the Texas legislature to pass a statewide legalization measure in their next legislative session.

Add Your Name

Thank you for being a part of this fight.

Always Forward,

Chris Hollins

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



The new fishing rod

It was just one of those things. It didn't really mean Marvin Pincus had lost his mind. Consider this yourself for a minute. Marvin had opened the mail that morning and in it was the Fenwick glass fly rod he'd ordered. Oh, it was used, of course. But there's a feel to a Fenwick that only a man dedicated to a life of using dry flies can appreciate.

Marvin had broken his ankle the previous week and was temporarily in a wheelchair. It was his right ankle, so he couldn't drive down to the creek. And there, in his hands, was the Fenwick. He put it together, attached a reel and some four-weight line and set it on the couch and looked at it.

Marjorie was off visiting her sister, so she couldn't help him. But there's a pull, an irresistible draw to a fly rod. He had to cast it. Now.

It took Marvin about 20 minutes to negotiate the front steps with that wheelchair and the Fenwick. Finally, he negotiated the sidewalk and then the edge of the street itself.

Up came the Fenwick. A few swishes in the air told Marvin he'd done the right thing in ordering the rod. So he ran out some line and began casting. About halfway across the street was a large mulberry leaf. He did a double haul on the line and sent the fly toward the leaf. It took several tries before he hit it, but when he made that cast, you could've sold tickets to it. His fly came to rest about three feet above the leaf and then fluttered gently down onto its target. Marvin's smile said it all.

Then the school bus came around the corner full of kids heading home, and Marvin realized he was casting a fly rod from a wheelchair onto dry pavement.

"Hi Mr. Pincus!" yelled one of the kids. "Catch anything?"

"A little slow today, Billy," he yelled back.

"Isn't it hard to catch fish without water?" Billy yelled.

"It's okay, son," Marvin said with a grin. "I'm using a dry fly!"

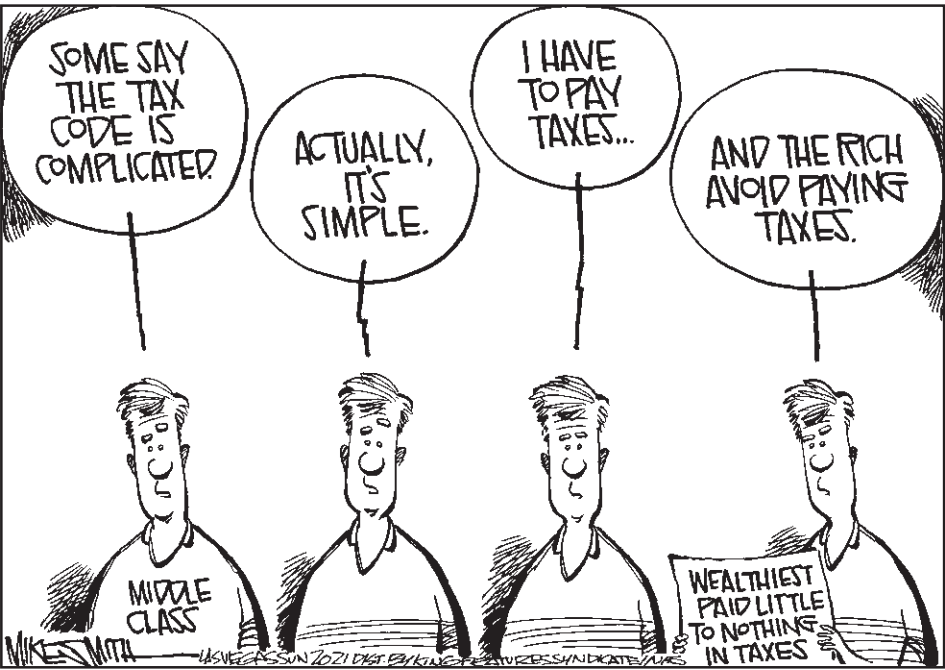
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WORDS OF WISDOM

from the Editor:

"I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one."

--Mark Twain



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Abbott Halts Border Truck Inspections

Gov. Greg Abbott halted the state's aggressive truck inspection at all Texas border crossings after days of bipartisan criticism over the extended delays of goods entering the United States.

According to the San Antonio Express-News and other media outlets, for more than a week Abbott had troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety stop all commercial trucks passing through Texas ports for safety inspections, leading to waits of up to eight hours. Normally it takes less than 30 minutes for trucks to cross the border.

Abbott announced on Friday the inspections would end after he signed deals with the governors of the four Mexican states that border Texas to provide better security in an attempt to slow illegal immigration into Texas. He was criticized by the Texas Trucking Association and fellow Republicans, including Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller.

"I understand the concern that businesses have about trying to move products across the bridge, but I also know the anger Texans face and have that's caused by Joe Biden not securing the border," Abbott said Friday.

Democrat Beto O'Rourke, who faces the governor in November, slammed Abbott, calling the inspections a "publicity stunt."

"This was completely unnecessary and did absolutely nothing to improve the security and safety of El Paso, of Laredo, of Pharr, or anyone of our border communities of the state of Texas or of the United States of America," O'Rourke said.

Meanwhile, at least five busloads of migrants were sent to Washington, D.C. at Abbott's behest. Those migrants had already been processed and released by the Department of Homeland Security and volunteered to make the trip to the nation's capital.



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

DROUGHT CONDITIONS COVER MOST OF STATE

A drier and cooler March for much of the state has expanded drought conditions, which now cover 88% of the state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. The drought is most severe in the Panhandle, High Plains and South Texas. Few counties have escaped the dry conditions.

The drought is expected to expand and intensify over the next few months, according to the latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service. Thanks to a Pacific Ocean weather cycle called La Niña, drought is predicted for almost the entire state by the end of June, according to Wentzel.

AGENCY WARNS AGAINST FRAUDULENT ONLINE BANK

Consumers are urged to be aware of a fraudulent website claiming to offer online banking services. The website claims to belong to Palm Springs Bank or PalmSpring Bank, according to the Texas Department of Banking. The fake bank's website does not indicate a physical address but does list a post office box in Fort Worth as a mailing address.

"The website is not associated with any known bank. No bank doing business under the name Palm Springs Bank or PalmSpring Bank has been authorized to provide banking services in Texas, nor is any bank by either name supervised by the Department, the FDIC, or the Federal Reserve," the news release said.

Anyone with information about the purported bank or its website should contact the Department's Consumer Assistance Activities at consumer.complaints@dob.texas.gov or call 877-276-5554.

First West Nile case of year reported

A Dallas County resident has been diagnosed with West Nile virus —the first reported case of the year, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

West Nile virus is transmitted through bites from infected mosquitoes. About 20% of people who are exposed develop symptoms such as headache, fever, muscle and joint aches. In rare cases, less than 1%, more serious symptoms can occur, including death.

DSHS officials suggest wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, applying insect repellent and removing standing water and "not give mosquitoes a biting chance."

There were 112 cases of West Nile disease in Texas last year that resulted in 14 deaths.

TEACHER SALARIES UNCHANGED IN PAST DECADE

The average salary of Texas' public-school teachers has not improved in the past decade, according to a new study called "The Lost Decade."

The Houston Chronicle reported on the new study by the nonprofit policy institute Every Texan and the Texas American Federation of Teachers. The study analyzed salary figures reported to the state from 2010 to 2020. It indicated that when adjusted for inflation there has not been a salary increase overall, and average pay for new teachers has slightly decreased.

"With double-digit increases in home and rental prices and general decreases or stagnation in teacher paychecks, the precarity becomes clear quickly, especially for those teaching in large urban districts," the authors wrote. "If you cannot afford a roof over your head, how can you be faulted for looking for an exit from your demanding job?"

CONTINUED SWING IN COVID-19 CASES IN TEXAS

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped considerably in the past week, with 11,361 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, along with 98 deaths. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations dropped once again, with 785 reported in the state.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated as of Sunday stands at 17.5 million, or 60% of the state's population, with 6.635 million getting a booster dose.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

A Very Bad Smell

Of course, we should have known something was wrong.

The nice thing about living in our new condo is that we don't have the responsibilities of a stand-alone home. There is no yard to rake, no snow to shovel. There is someone at the front desk who will take in our mail and even water our plants. We were so pleased that we could leave for an extended trip to Mexico without these worries. But then, we got a notice from our electric company that indicated our electric bill was very low. In fact, it was almost non-existent.

"Well, we're not using any electricity!" I said to my husband, Peter, as he read the notice.

"The refrigerator would still use some," Peter said.

"There must be something wrong with the meter." I try not to invite unnecessary worries. Sometimes this leads to problems. This time, it did.

We were gone a total of 10 weeks. We don't know exactly when the power went out to the refrigerator, but our best guess is that is happened shortly after we left.

We arrived home late at night. "Something smells funny," I told Peter.

"I don't smell anything."

I did. There was a very bad smell. That's when Peter opened the fridge.

"Oh, NO!"

A giant, noxious wave of smell rolled out of the refrigerator. It was strong enough to make me ill, strong enough to make my eyes water, strong enough to make me run out of the kitchen in a panic.

We had frozen salmon and chicken and shrimp in that freezer. We had bags of corn and squash from the farmers' market, boxes of butter now covered in furry mold, bags of leaking liquid that had exploded from fermentation and poured from the freezer into the refrigerator. Sitting forlornly in the middle of this wasteland were several dozen ginger cookies that Peter had spent hours baking.

Peter closed the refrigerator door.

I don't think either of us slept much that night. All night, I dreamed I was being chased by a malevolent refrigerator filled with unidentified horrors. Everywhere I went, the refrigerator was waiting for me.

In the morning, my dreams came true.

Peter told the building engineer, Jacob, what had happened, and he gave us a trash barrel on wheels and several heavy-duty trash bags. I put cotton up my nose and a mask over my face, donned gloves, and set to work. We filled the bags, tied them tightly, and Peter brought them downstairs to poor Jacob, who caught a whiff and wheeled the barrel out of the building as fast as he could run.

"He was like a halfback running to the end zone!" Peter said and I got my first good laugh since leaving Mexico.

Four hours later, after detergent and bleach and what felt like endless scrubbing, the fridge looked spotless. I took off my mask and removed the cotton from my nose.

The stench was terrible.

We ran a fan all night. We bought some spray that smelled like lime and sprayed it everywhere. We kept the windows open. That evening, Peter put some beans in water to soak, and we went to bed—thankfully, at the far end of the apartment.

In the morning, Peter got up and started cooking beans and, when I rounded the corner to the kitchen, finally, I smelled something that wasn't terrible.

"It smells like beans!" I told Peter.

I wasn't even sure I liked the smell of beans cooking. But this morning, they smelled terrific. In fact, I think beans are my new favorite smell.

Till next time,

Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: CarrieClasson.com.

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OBITUARIES

VIRGINIA (GINGER) HARE ANDERSON

Virginia (Ginger) Hare Anderson, age 81, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday April 19, 2022.

She was born in Crosby, Texas on August 18, 1940 to Thelma Kosina Hare and John Thomas Hare II. Not only did Ginger enjoy all things outdoor related from hunting, fishing and camping but she was an accomplished athlete in tennis and basketball. Her interest in baseball was kindled by her father, who took her to many Colt 45's games that continued after the team became the Houston Astros. She was also great at on horseback while helping her father raise cattle and once led the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo Parade as a teenager.

She was preceded in death by her parents



John Thomas Hare II & Thelma Kosina Hare and her brother John Thomas Hare III as well as her husband Terry William Anderson and his twin brother Larry Alan Anderson. She is survived by her sister LaVern Hare Walton. Her only child William Todd Anderson and his wife Claudina Canales Anderson. Her step-grandchild Denyse Cruz Pena, her husband Ernesto Pena and their two children Abbylyn and Jonathan

Pena. Her niece Kim Walton Skrla with her husband Michael Skrla and their daughter Mackenzie Skrla. Her nephew Kyle Thomas Walton and his son Dylan Walton. Her sister-in-law Gwen Anderson Sharoff.

Memorial Service and Life Celebration will be held Saturday, April 30th at the following: Sterling White Funeral Home & Cemetery. 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Highlands Texas 77562. Visitation will be at 12 Noon followed by the Memorial Service at 1pm. Dr. Milton Perry will be Officiating.

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Early Voting starts April 25, Election Day May 7,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school M&O tax rate compression provided by HB 3 in the future, individuals with an over 65/disabled exemption will receive the same percentage tax rate deduction automatically if this amendment passes.

- This amendment will become effective as of January 1, 2023, if it passes.
- Proposition 2 will increase the homestead exemption by \$15,000.**
- If this amendment passes the state homestead exemption for school district taxable value purposes will increase from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

- On average, the 5.67 million homesteads in Texas will see a \$175 savings in their school district tax bill at the current average statewide school property tax rate.
- This amendment will be effective as of January 1, 2022, if it passes, so homeowners will see the savings when they receive their property tax bill this fall.
- This exemption increase is a permanent and ongoing benefit to homeowners.

If one or both of these amendments passes, no

school district will lose any revenue they are entitled to receive from the school funding formulas. State dollars will replace any local dollars that a school district would otherwise lose from the passage of these amendments.

The following is a link to our original press release with more information:

<https://paulbettencourt.com/2022/04/07/public-to-vote-on-senator-bettencourts-constitutional-amendments-from-sjr-2-on-may-7-2022/>

-Senator Paul Bettencourt- SD7

FBI arrests Huffman man for unlawful gun sales

HUFFMAN – A 54-year-old man has admitted to engaging in the sale of firearms without a license, announced U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery.

Craig Lindsey Cornelison admitted he unlawfully sold at least 200 guns from September 2019 to December 2020.

The investigation began after Cornelison purchased over 90 lower receivers within a four-month period in approxi-

mately March 2020. He sold firearms primarily as private sales at gun shows throughout the Houston area. Law enforcement discovered numerous firearms were being trafficked overseas to foreign countries, including Iraq.

The United States seeks to forfeit over 100 firearms that were involved in the unlawful business and approximately \$147,747 in proceeds gained from the sales.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen accepted the plea and set sentencing for Aug. 8. At that time, Cornelison faces up to five years in prison and a possible \$250,000 maximum fine.

The FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Steven Schammel and Heather Winter are prosecuting the case.

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RWL Group will assign markets to agents beginning on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

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

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Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Amelia Horsford for great showings at the District and Area track meets. Boys' Golf also competed in Regionals. They battled the wind on Day 1, but on Day 2, they did something all our Cougars do: they came back strong. What a great season for golfers Hayden Eidson, Bryson Flowers, Ethan Killion, Kagen Keltz, and Stephen Tipps. Not to mention Coach Carr, who's been at their side since they were in 6th grade.

CHS Theatre Arts students and sponsors were truly magical in the 2022 Houston Art Car Parade. They were interviewed live inside a bus transformed into scenes from the second "Harry Potter" novel. They spent two weeks of time and energy learning problem solving and quick thinking to create a masterpiece on wheels. The Cougar Stars Spring Show was something to behold this month as well. Our CHS dancers brought back alumni for fantastic routines. The beats and choreography had me bouncing in my seat during the entire performance. Way to go, Cougar Stars!

This week, every single elementary student in Crosby ISD received a free book courtesy of "First Book" and Channel 13. Our Rally for Reading team had an amazing time dashing from campus to campus celebrating literacy. We thank the principals, teachers, librarian, library aides, maintenance workers, custodians, band, dance, and cheer sponsors and all the staff who worked so hard to pull off the all-day event.

Our monthly staff appreciation surprises con-



Crosby High School Theatre Arts students with their 2022 entry in the Houston Art Car Parade in downtown Houston. They decorated a bus with scenes from the Harry Potter novel.



Crosby High School Theatre Arts students not only had an exhibit in the parade, but were interviewed for their creative work and stunning Harry Potter theme.

tinued in April. The day after Easter, all of our campuses and departments had a chance to hunt for eggs filled with candy, coupons, freebies, Crosby ISD swag, and even \$100 for classroom supplies. The District-wide egg hunts were one small way for us to show our gratitude to staff who've given their all this month and all year. There's another surprise coming in May!

Finally, I want to personally thank the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees for

approving two measures this month which will greatly benefit our employees. Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, employees will receive 2 additional local days to use as needed. In addition, returning employees will also receive a \$1,000 stipend in July. We love putting gratitude into action here in Crosby ISD. Our superior staff members are so deserving, and our Board delivered.

This is Now! Go Coogs!

Eastside Veterans dedicate Memorial Marker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



At the ceremony, CISD Paula Patterson, Chaplain Cedric Patterson, Committee Chair Judy Culbreath, EVC Pres. Bob Ward



The Veterans Memorial Monument in Crosby Park



Saluting the Flag Raising were EVC committee members left, Huffman Jr. ROTC members center, and Veterans at right.



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