

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

# Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ [www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)

VOL. 69, NO. 18 – 50¢ © Copyright 2022 THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562



IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**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](http://www.CrosbyRodeo.com) or [raycherihicks@gmail.com](mailto:raycherihicks@gmail.com)

**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.mcginity@hcpl.net](mailto:molly.mcginity@hcpl.net)

**BIRTHDAYS**  
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  
May 11–Nancy Johnston  
May 12–Rusty Salters  
May 13–Judy Bailey  
Bobby Horn, Sr.  
Larry Koslovsky  
Michelle Lomanzoff  
May 14–DeDe Williams

**ANNIVERSARIES**  
May 3–Edward & Mareta Richard  
May 6–Sidney & Ellen Platt  
May 8–Tim & Lisa Dammon  
May 10–Thomas & Eleanor Leibham  
May 12–Robert Smesny and Malba Stasney-Smesny

**DEATHS**  
Helen Spiers Blomstrom

## Crosby Rodeo announces Line-up of Concert Performers

Events include Cowpoke Pageant, Cook-Off, Livestock Auction, Little Wrangler

CROSBY – It's YeeHaw time, as our Western roots show at the Annual Crosby Fair and Rodeo. Plans are underway for a full schedule of events, except for the dance. Top entertainers will be performing on 4 different nights, as well as the C.P.R.A. Championship Rodeo on 2 nights. A BBQ cook-off and a parade are also on the

schedule. Student exhibitors will have their animals judged on June 7 and 8, and then the livestock auction will follow on June 9. Don't miss the buyer's dinner that afternoon. The kick-off event will be the Cowpoke Pageant, to be held at the Fairgrounds pavilion on Saturday.

Continued on Page 7



FRIDAY, JUNE 3  
Bag of Donuts



SATURDAY, JUNE 4  
Drew Parker

Drew Parker is an American musical artist who rose to prominence coming from a small, unincorporated town of Stewart, Georgia (located in Covington, Georgia), within a few years in the Country music industry. He is best known for his popular folk-rock songs such as "California Ain't For Ya".



FRIDAY, JUNE 10  
Josh Ward & Jon Wolfe

Josh Ward is country music blood to bone. Ward was born in Houston on May 15, 1980. An anchored mindset that has led this Texas country music rising star from a drifter's adolescence to the jeapordous game of the rodeo circuit to the punishing toil of the Texas oil fields.



SATURDAY, JUNE 11  
Dos Borrachos, Kevin Fowler & Roger Creager

Dos Borrachos means "two drunks," a designation Kevin Fowler and Roger Creager proudly celebrate with their 2019 duet album of the same name. The veteran Texas country singers were longtime friends and associates.

STORIES AND BIOS CONTINUE ON PAGE 7

## Election Day May 7 for amendments, Newport Board, bonds

CROSBY – Voters will go to the polls on Saturday, May 7 which is Election Day. Only a few items will be on the ballot this time. Two Texas Constitutional Amendments deal with limiting taxes on residential propoerty, and school bond issues will be voted on in Sheldon and Huffman.

In Crosby's Newport subdivision, three MUD

board members will be elected. Running are incumbents Earl Boykin, Debra Floreous, and DeLonne Johnson. Also running is newcomer John Webb. Constables are investigating theft of signs from some yards in Newport. Polls will be open on election day from 7am to 7pm. See [HarrisVotes.com](http://HarrisVotes.com) for more information and last minute changes.

## PCT. 3 COMM. RAMSEY INHERITS SJR WASTE PITS PROBLEMS

HARRIS COUNTY – After realignment of Precinct Boundaries this year, the East side of the county found Highlands split in two, with Pct. 3 on the west side of Main Street, and Pct. 2 on the east side. As a result, the area got a new Commissioner, Tom Ramsey. He is now in charge of roads and bridges, drainage, parks, community centers, and work camps that once belong to Pct. 2 and Commissioner Adrian Garcia. In this opinion

piece written for his Notes column, Ramsey opines about the San Jacinto Waste Pits and his take on the problem they present. Ramsey writes: "In the 1960's a paper manufacturer dumped their waste into pits near the San Jacinto River. The waste was filled with harmful chemicals including the carcinogen called Dioxin. As the course of the river changed, the pits be-

Continued on Page 5



PCT 3 COMMISSIONER  
TOM RAMSEY

## LyondellBasell will close Pasadena Refinery

HOUSTON, April 21, 2022 — LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB) today announced its decision to cease operation of its Houston Refinery no later than December 31, 2023. In the interim, the Company will continue serving the fuels market, which is expected to remain strong in the near-term, and consider potential transactions and alternatives for the site. "After thoroughly analyzing our options, we have determined that exiting the refining business by the end of next year is the best strategic and financial path forward for the Company," said Ken Lane, interim CEO of LyondellBasell. "These decisions are never easy and



LyondellBasell will stop work at it's huge Pasadena Refinery by the end of 2023, according to the company. The sprawling plant covers 700 acres, the largest in the Houston area, and employs over 500 persons. The company said that the closure will not affect work at its other plants, including the Channelview complex.

we understand this has a very real impact on our refinery employees, their families and the community. We are committed to supporting our people through this transition." Lane added, "While this was a difficult decision, our exit of the refining business advances the Company's decarbonization goals, and the site's prime location gives us more options for advancing our future strategic objectives, including circularity." When media reached out to LyondellBasell about how many jobs would be impacted as a result, the company said "ap-

Continued. See  
LyondellBasell, Page 5

 Place Your Message on the Front Page, at a reasonable Rate. Call the STAR-COURIER 713-266-3444

**AUTO & HOME INSURANCE**  
Jeremy Rosenkranz  
State Farm Agent  
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562  
281-426-3512  
[jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com](mailto:jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com)

 **WESTON G. COTTEN**  
Attorney at Law  
O. 281/421-4050  
F. 281/533-6032  
[weston@westoncotten.com](mailto:weston@westoncotten.com)

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: [GRAFIKSTAR@AOL.COM](mailto:GRAFIKSTAR@AOL.COM) • FAX: 713-977-1188

**PICTURE YOURSELF IN YOUR DREAM HOME**  
Community Resource CREDIT UNION  
\*Visit [CRCU.org/PurchasePossible](http://CRCU.org/PurchasePossible) for details & disclosures  
WITH UP TO **110%** MORTGAGE FINANCING  
NO lender fees, NO Points, Origination, Underwriting or Processing Fees!

# GOOSE CREEK NEWS

## Boogie On Down with the Goose Creek ED Foundation

The Goose Creek Education Foundation invites the public to “boogie down” to the 2022 All-Star Gala featuring KC & The Sunshine Band on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. at 713 Music Hall, located in downtown Houston.

The All-Star Gala brings together community leaders to benefit the Foundation while raising money through sponsorships, ticket sales and raffle ticket sales.

The gala was on a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, but the Foundation is ready to get back to its core mission of enhancing education for the district; especially to the students educated in the district’s Title 1 campuses.

The robust sponsorship packages range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 ,with many exclusive perks for top level sponsors and a wide range of advertising opportunities at the venue and within the district. A limited number of individual tickets will be sold ranging from \$40 to \$180, with a 25 percent discount for

Get on the Bus participants (with a limit of two tickets per employee). GOTB participants are district employees that donate to the Foundation through payroll deductions.

“Wear your upscale disco attire and get ready to dance the night away with KC & The Sunshine Band in this breathtaking venue designed with excellent views from every location in the house,” said Erika Foster, the Foundation’s Executive Director. “We anticipate that tickets and sponsorships will sell out quickly.”

Since its inception in 2009, the Education Foundation has awarded \$1.4 million in innovative teaching grants to Goose Creek CISD educators and recognized 180 teachers nominated by their students for making a difference in their lives at the annual Students Choice Awards.

For sponsorship information, visit [www.linktr.ee/gccisdfo](http://www.linktr.ee/gccisdfo) or email Erika Foster at [erika.foster@gccisd.net](mailto:erika.foster@gccisd.net).

By: Erika Foster, GCCISD Education Foundation Executive Director

## Gulf Coast Educators FCU Awards 50 Classroom Mini Grants to Texas Educators

Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union awarded 50 classroom mini grants to educators in the state of Texas for the 2021-2022 school year. The teachers who applied had to answer one simple question: “How would \$100 help you engage students or facilitate learning in your classroom?”

The credit union awarded 25 grants during the Fall semester of 2021 and an additional 25 grants during the Spring semester of 2022. Over 270 applications were received from educators all over Texas, from Galveston to Dallas, and everywhere in between. Goose Creek CISD received two grants: Sara Patterson, fifth grade math and science teacher at Highlands Elementary School, received a grant in fall 2021 and Dawn Parker, teacher at Banuelos Elementary School, received a grant in spring 2022.

Patterson used her mini grant to purchase a one-year subscription for Generation Genius.

Generation Genius is a K-8 teaching resource that brings school math and science standards to life through fun and educational videos paired with lesson plans, activities, quizzes, reading material and more.

Gulf Coast Educators FCU has been awarding classroom mini grants every year to teachers in need since 2015. In total, the credit union has awarded more than \$37,500 in mini grants to educators all over the state of Texas.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications



Sara Patterson, fifth grade math teacher at Students watching a DIY activity through Generation Genius on how to grow an avocado tree at home.



Students taking a “virtual field trip” to Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay to discover different animals and discuss their life cycles.

## SCTHS Auto Collision Win Big in Top Tech Challenge

Thirty nine teams and four individuals from 19 Texas and Oklahoma high schools competed in the Universal Technical Institute’s (UTI) Collision Repair Top Tech Challenge on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Four junior students from the Stuart Career Technical High School Collision Repair and Refinishing program received amongst the top 10 winners of the challenge and received their awards during a special presentation on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Asheley Perez, Yajaira Meza, Aaron Brumit and Gilbert Longoria were presented with certificates and performance scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500. Longoria won first place, Meza won second place, Perez won second place, and Brumit won sixth place.

The winning team also received a UTI Snap-On toolbox for their high school automotive technology program. UTI Representative, Victor Rodriguez, presented the students their awards and spoke highly of their performance. “I am so proud to be here, in front of your campus and district leaders, to present these awards to you,” he said. “It was a stiff competition, but you (students) rose to the occasion and I can’t wait to see what you will do next year.”

UTI is a trade school that prepares technicians for the automotive, diesel, collision repair and welding industries. Over 200,000 students have graduated from UTI over the course of their 55-year history.

Photo by Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications



SCTHS instructor, Jimmy Ornelas; UTI Representative, Victor Rodriguez; SCTHS Collision Repair Top Tech Challenge winners Aaron Brumit, Yajaira Meza and Asheley Perez with their collision instructor, Tim McCarty. (Not pictured is SCTHS student, Gilbert Longoria).

THE

TEAPOT DEPOT

TEA ROOM

112 Denny St. Highlands, TX 77562-Dine In & Boutique Shopping  
15110 FM 2100 Ste. 9 Crosby, TX 77532-Pickup Only & Boutique Shopping  
281-426-3670

Moms & Margaritas

Sat 5/7 & Sun 5/8

10:30-4

Full Menu Available Plus..

Lasagna, Shrimp Alfredo & King Ranch Chicken Specials

Special Gift for Moms!

Reservations Recommended

Happy Mother's Day

# Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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

VOL. 27, NO. 18- 50¢

© Copyright 2022

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## ON THE HILL

### FOOD PANTRY OPEN

West  
Chambers  
County  
Food Pantry  
OPEN  
Wednesdays  
9am - 11am  
a ministry of  
First United  
Methodist  
Church at  
10629 Eagle  
Drive

### New Retail center coming: 146-acre development planned at I-10 & 146

Site work is underway for a new retail development at the intersection of Interstate 10 and state Highway 146, across from Chambers Town Center.

Construction of buildings is expected to start in the first quarter of 2023.

Most of the 146-acre site is zoned commercial, though part is zoned for multi-family housing, said Stephen Stone, with KM Realty.

The property wraps around existing businesses along Highway 146 close to the interstate and will have internal roads that connect to Highway 146 at the signalized intersection that now serves as an entry to Chambers Town Center.

A north-south road will connect to the Interstate 10 feeder road and to Old Needlepoint Road.

Chambers County has announced plans to widen and improve Old Needlepoint Road, between Highway 146 and FM 3180, improving access between new neighborhoods and the growing shopping area south of Interstate 10 along Highway 146.

In addition to the plan for apartments and grocery store, Stone said he expects site development to include retail, restaurants, medical offices and hotels.

## Langston Boulevard Extension Map

Mont Belvieu - 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 industries.

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.



## CCSO Deputies at BHHS Career Fair

Chambers County Sheriff's Office

Today Deputy King, Sergeant Dickens, and Detective Croyle participated in the West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce Career Fair at Barbers Hill High School.

Deputies provided information on careers in law enforcement, our Explorer program, and different avenues of public service at Chambers County Sheriff's Office.



## Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

### *When is the right time for a joint replacement*

Joint pain from arthritis can interfere with your everyday activities and limit your ability to work, play and enjoy life. Arthritis is a common problem, and you'll find a multitude of medications and treatments designed to provide relief and improve mobility. But how do you know if the timing is right to get a hip or knee replacement?

"It's time to take action when pain keeps you from the activities you enjoy, whether that's playing golf, going to a ballgame or walking around the block," said Dr. David Sun, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at Baytown.

When knee or hip pain bothers you every day, keeps you awake at night and affects your quality of life, it's time to see a doctor. Although the decisions and the time frames are different for everyone, the path to treatment usually starts with talking to your primary care doctor or an orthopedic specialist. They

can evaluate your joint pain and develop a treatment plan that's customized for you.

#### EVALUATING JOINT PAIN

First, you may go through an assessment of pain and discuss your ability to function in everyday activities. Your doctor will order X-rays, do a physical exam and ask questions about your joint pain. Next, they may ask the following questions to evaluate the severity of your condition and determine the next steps:

Do you have frequent or intense joint pain with activity?

Do you have difficulty walking, standing up or bending over?

Are you experiencing stiffness and a limited range of motion?

Do you have inflammation, stiffness and swelling in the joint?

Do you suffer pain while at rest or does pain keep you up at night?

Have you been experiencing symptoms for a long time?



DR. DAVID SUN

Are your symptoms getting worse?

Does your pain persist even after taking over-the-counter pain medications?

Are you suffering side effects from pain medications?

Is joint pain wearing you down mentally and emotionally?

#### EXPLORING TREATMENT OPTIONS

As a next step, your doctor may recommend conservative and nonsurgical treatments to relieve your joint pain. Medications and steroid injections may help reduce pain. Using a brace or doing physical therapy can help provide stability, build strength and maintain range of motion. Losing extra weight is also very helpful by taking

Public Works department staff will spray for mosquitos twice each week in an effort to keep the mosquito population in Mont Belvieu as low as possible.

Mosquito spraying will take place on Thursdays and Fridays between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

#### RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITY

While the City does everything it can to control the mosquito population, there are several things you can do to help as well:

Get rid of standing water on your property where mosquitoes might breed.

flower pots, tires, cans,

buckets, plastic children's toys, tarps, etc.

Keep gutters clean and free-flowing. Standing water in gutters can breed mosquitoes.

Keep swimming pools, spas, and fountains properly treated with chemicals.

#### WHAT WE USE

The City of Mont Belvieu uses a broad spectrum all-temperature, quick knock-down, low odor, and non-corrosive synergized synthetic pyrethroid insecticide for the control of adult mosquitoes in residential, recreational, and other areas. This same product can also help control biting and non-biting midges and black flies.

☆

OPINION

By Rich Lowry  
Editor, National Review

# Let Disney Be An Exmaple

Just like that, tyranny has descended on Florida. The state legislature, with the support of Gov. Ron DeSantis, voted to repeal the “special independent district” enjoyed by Disney for half a century.

This is a sign, we are told, of the advent of an American authoritarianism that brooks no dissent — Disney criticizes a measure supported by the Florida GOP, the so-called Don’t Say Gay bill, and immediately gets targeted.

There’s a reason this fight escalated to this point, though. Disney was the aggressor in the battle over the education bill, lied about it, and pledged to work to repeal it.

Even though the bill had nothing to do with Disney whatsoever — nothing to do with its product, its business model, or its employees. The company got pushed into its stance based on pressure from a woke segment of its employees and from progressives on the outside.

Disney’s case against the bill relied on the smear that the legislation somehow threatened gay or trans people. In fact, the law merely seeks to exclude inappropriate material from being taught to young children in the classroom — an objective that once would have been considered utterly banal.

“Classroom instruction,” the law says, “by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.”

Based on that, Disney went to the mattresses. And it did so, not to serve its shareholders, enhance its profitability, protect its intellectual property, or align itself with its vast and politically diverse customer base.

This was, shockingly, an iconic American brand making itself into a free-floating weapon of woke cultural politics in response to the social and political influence of a small number of vocal progressives. Like so many companies before, Disney calculated the risk/reward of gratuitously taking up a left-wing political and cultural fight and considered it all reward, no risk. The Florida legislature decided to convince it that it was wrong.

Republicans have fantasized about exacting revenge on woke corporations before, but to no effect. Disney’s problem is that it had a glaring vulnerability in the form of an arrangement that can easily be portrayed as a special favor.

The provisions allowing Disney to govern itself in its special independent district are so extensive that one analyst refers to the so-called Reedy Creek Improvement District as “the Vatican with mouse ears.”

“Never before or since has such outlandish dominion been given to a private corporation,” Florida writer Carl Hiaasen notes in his book “Team Rodent.” “Disney owns its own utilities. It administers its own planning and zoning. It composes its own building codes and employs its own inspectors. It maintains its own fire department. It even has the authority to levy taxes.”

For good measure, it can build its own airport and nuclear power plant. Now, that’s all scheduled to go away in a year’s time. Obviously, it is not a good practice for government to retaliate against a business, even a business enjoying a special status.

This fight could have welcome effects, though, if it convinces Disney that it made a mistake by allowing itself to get bullied and cajoled into becoming a combatant in the culture war, or if it convinces other corporations that there’s a potential price to be paid for joining woke mobs.

Republicans don’t want corporations to become tools in advancing their agenda; they just want them to exit the culture wars and focus, once again, on their business, an outcome that would lower the temperature in the country’s cultural fights at least a little.

Ideally, Disney and the Florida legislature work out a renewal of the company’s special district before it is set to expire, and the house of mouse — and other corporations seduced into making themselves de facto left-wing pressure groups — resolves to stick to its core competency and mission.

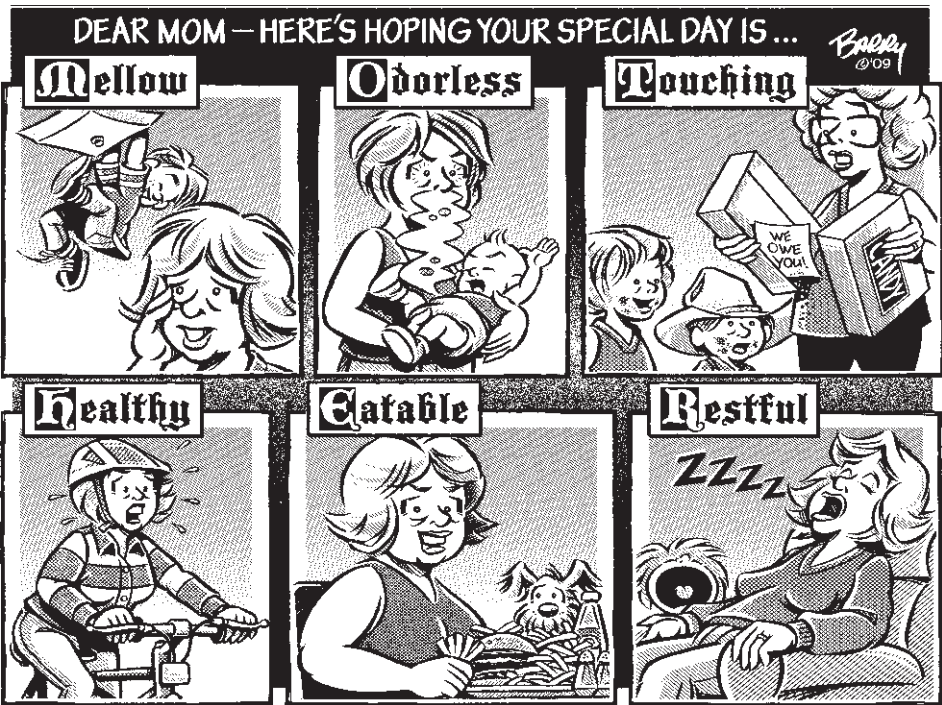
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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.*

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

## Early Voting Underway for May 7 Election

Early voting began Monday for local elections and two proposed constitutional amendments relating to property tax reductions. Early voting continues through Tuesday, May 3, with election day on Saturday, May 7.

One proposed amendment would authorize the Legislature to limit property taxes on homesteads of elderly or disabled residents, while the other would increase the homestead exemption for school taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Voters return to the polls later in May for runoff elections in both the Democratic and Republican primaries. Voters cannot switch parties if they voted in the March 1 primary, but voters who didn’t vote in the primary can participate in either party’s runoff. A full list of runoff races can be found on the secretary of state’s website: [sos.texas.gov](https://sos.texas.gov). Early voting for the May 24 runoff begins on May 16.

“With multiple opportunities to vote in the upcoming May elections, I strongly encourage all Texas voters to get informed about what’s on the ballot and make a plan to cast one,” Secretary of State John Scott said. To find out what is on local ballots, contact your county’s local [election office](#).

**MATERIAL SHORTAGE BEDEVILS TXDOT PROJECTS**

Shortages of steel and concrete are slowing down road projects and driving up costs, according to an internal memo from the Texas Department of Transportation’s construction division director, reported last week by the Quorum Report and [kut.org](https://kut.org).

“Due to recent circumstances affected by world events, there has been significant volatility in the market for various construction materials. We



have seen the availability of some materials become very limited or the material lead time has increased significantly. We have also seen significant increases (over 100% in some cases) in some material prices,” Duane S. Milligan wrote.

TxDOT has more than 15,000 projects in the pipeline across the state. The jobs total \$156 billion, with about half either underway or set to start soon. Milligan’s memo to district engineers and construction managers suggested substituting construction materials when feasible, or removing work or materials from a road project “when the deletion will not affect the safety of the completed project.”

**CONCERT SAFETY TASK FORCE RELEASES REPORT**

A task force has issued its findings after investigating the tragedy at the Astroworld Festival last November, when a crowd stampede resulted in multiple deaths and injuries.

The task force formed by Gov. Greg Abbott called for unified command and control, requiring permits even in unincorporated areas, crowd safety training, planning with risk assessment, and centralized resources. Details are available in an event production guide available from the [Texas Music Office](#).

“The recommendations, findings, and solutions de-

tailed in this report will help the state of Texas prevent another tragedy like that at Astroworld Festival from happening again,” Abbott said.

**DISTRACTED DRIVING SPURS FATALITY INCREASE**

Distracted driving deaths increased 17% in 2021 compared to the previous year, taking the lives of 431 people and seriously injuring nearly 3,000. In the wake of that, TxDOT is stepping up its “Talk. Text. Crash.” campaign. The initiative urges drivers to “keep their heads up, put their phones down and just drive.”

“Texans are killed each year simply because someone was distracted by their phone, radio, navigation system, eating or drinking, or even by others in the car,” Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. “When your focus isn’t on driving, you’re putting yourself, your passengers and everyone else on the road at risk.”

The agency reminds drivers that any distraction is dangerous. It urges drivers to pull off the road entirely before talking or texting and turning off the phone while driving.

**GO-KIT URGED FOR WILDFIRES, OTHER DISASTERS**

As wildfires and tornadoes sweep the state with hurricane season just around the corner, the Texas A&M Forest Service urges Texans to assemble a go-kit that can be easily transported and includes supplies for several days. The kit should include:

- Supplies for both people and pets.
- Prescription medications or other necessary medical equipment.
- Important documents such as insurance and identification documents.
- Food, water, clothing, money and a first-aid kit.
- Priceless items, such as family photos and heirlooms.

“When disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, winter storms and tornados arise requiring you to leave your home, being prepared ahead of time can save precious time and help keep your family safe during an emergency,” said Karen Stafford with the forest service.

**COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS RISE**

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in the state rose to 23,363, and deaths more than doubled to 209, according to the [Coronavirus Resource Center](#) at Johns Hopkins University. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations dropped slightly, with 755 reported across the state by the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#).

☆

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## The Job I Want

“Dress for the job you want!” was advice I heard from an early age.

I took this advice to heart. I was working a lowly job in a government office while applying for jobs in businesses around town. I had never worked in business, but I had a freshly minted business degree, so I bought some suits and, every day, I showed up for my job (answering the same boring questions on the telephone) dressed for the job I wanted rather than the one I had.

The day I got the call for an interview, I clearly remember I was wearing a lavender jacket with gray slacks and a striped blouse. It was not one of my dressier outfits, but it was still considerably dressier than what anyone else in the office was wearing—other than my boss.

“I know this is short notice...” the voice at the other end of my phone said, “but could you come in for an interview at 5:00?”

Since I got out of work a little past four, a change in wardrobe was out of the question. On my lunch break, I bought a little dragonfly pin and pinned it to the lapel of my lavender jacket. I arrived early to my interview with my dragonfly pin.

I got the job. I decided that dressing for the job you want was advice with some merit after all.

That was many years ago. My approach to dressing has remained more or less the same. Almost all the clothes I buy are used and, once I settle on an ensemble, I wear the same thing day in and day out.

When I went back to school for a degree in writing, the degree was paid for by teaching classes. Since I had never taught before, I figured I had better at least dress like a teacher. I chose a variety of full skirts and matching scarves.

I didn’t notice their similarity until one of my students said, “We call you ‘the green lady’ because you wear green every day.”

But green is a good color for new beginnings, and that was what I was doing. It turned out that I didn’t need to worry about dressing like a teacher anyway. I was so much older than my peers in the program that everyone assumed I knew more than they did. I did not.

During the pandemic, I nailed my “writing costume,” an ensemble that consisted of black stretch pants and the same shirt in a variety of colors. One day I’m in teal, the next in purple, but the shirt is exactly the same. I’m still wearing my writing costume. Today my shirt is black.

But I’m starting to wonder if a change might not be in order.

My husband, Peter, and I recently returned from Mexico, and spending an extended time in a different place has made me feel different. I returned to a closet full of clothes that I hardly recognize and have no desire to wear. The clothes in my closet look stodgy. The clothes in my closet seem to think I’m an older person than I am—no matter what my driver’s license might say.

I thought of my old mantra about dressing for the job I want. What would I wear if I were dressed for the life I wanted right now?

I honestly don’t know. But I’m wearing 13 bracelets all in various shades of blue, a leftover from my time in Mexico. They are impractical and a little silly and they are making me very happy. Maybe that’s a start.

Till next time,  
Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: [CarrieClasson.com](https://CarrieClasson.com).

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star ☆ Courier

USPS 244-500

Barbers Hill ☆ Dayton PRESS

NORTH CHANNEL ☆ STAR

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman

Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman

Assignment Editor.....Julietta Paita

Website Editor.....Kristan Hoffman

Marketing Executive.....Willie Glasgow

Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER, Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS, Northeast NEWS, North Forest NEWS, North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000. Readership exceeds 50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones....713-266-3444

FAX Line....713-977-1188

email: [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)

Member Texas Press Association

# Crosby Second Baptist Church group helping a person in need

Expositors Class, Second Baptist North Church spruced up a widow member's yard today. So many blessings to pull together to help.



# LyondellBasell to exit Pasadena Refinery,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proximately 550 Lyondell-Basell employees currently work at the Houston Refinery. We are still very early in the process. We are committed to do everything we can to assist our people through this transition. We are evaluating options for the affected employees.” It is also possible that another company would be interested in acquiring the Pasadena plant, and continuing to operate the refinery.

LyondellBasell’s Houston Refinery has a rated capacity to transform 268,000 barrels per day of crude oil into transporta-

tion fuels and other products including lubricants, chemical intermediates and petroleum coke.

About LyondellBasell  
As a leader in the global chemical industry, LyondellBasell strives every day to be the safest, best operated and most valued company in our industry. The Company’s products, materials and technologies are advancing sustainable solutions for food safety, access to clean water, healthcare and fuel efficiency in more than 100 international markets. LyondellBasell places high

priority on diversity, equity and inclusion and is Advancing Good with an emphasis on our planet, the communities where we operate and our future workforce. The Company takes great pride in its world-class technology and customer focus. Lyondell-Basell has stepped up its circularity and climate ambitions and actions to address the global challenges of plastic waste and decarbonization. In 2022, LyondellBasell was named as one of FORTUNE Magazine’s “World’s Most Admired Companies” for the fifth consecutive year.

# Pct. 3 Commissioner on the San Jacinto Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

came submerged. In 2011, the EPA recognized the superfund site, and is now known as the San Jacinto River Waste Pits.

Throughout my many years as a professional engineer, these waste pits have been festering, polluting, and killing innocent people and animals around it. We have waited long enough. This week at Court I directed our Pollution Control Director to work with the EPA to expedite the removal of the toxins. Jackie Medcalf, who has been the most ardent supporter of the cleanup effort, told her sto-

ry at Court as well.

Jackie developed serious health conditions including cancer from drinking well water contaminated by the waste pits. Members of her family lost their lives to the dioxins leaking from the pit. She is the voice for thousands who have shared the same experience.

Sadly, two weeks ago the responsible parties tried to delay the cleanup, offering to cap or contain the site instead. Containment doesn’t work in a body of water as big or fast-moving as the San Jacinto

River.

The river is also used by ships and barges, one of these barges barely missed the waste pits in 2019 as it careened into the I-10 bridge. During Harvey, the current cap was damaged resulting in the release of tremendous number of dioxins into the main freshwater source for Galveston Bay. We must clean up, not contain this hazard. It’s only a matter of time until the worst environmental crisis in the County’s history occurs.

# JOB FAIR @ THE CROSBY LIBRARY

The Crosby Library is hosting a Job Fair on Saturday, May 7th from 10am-12pm. If you have a business looking to hire please contact Molly at Crosby Library for more information. The Library will provide tables and chairs and if needed electrical outlets!

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.  
May 7, 2022  
10am-12pm  
Crosby Library Meeting Room  
Contact: Molly McGinty, branch manager  
832-927-7790  
molly.mcginty@hcpl.net

# OBITUARIES

## HELEN SPIERS BLOMSTROM

Helen Spiers Blomstrom, 87, of Rochelle, Texas, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2022 in Kingwood, Texas. Helen was born on December 17, 1934 to Louis and Frances Spiers in El Campo, Texas. The family moved back to Austin shortly after Helen’s birth followed by a move to Woodland Acres in Houston. Helen graduated from Galena Park High School in 1953. Helen married Knute Blomstrom, Jr., in 1954. They were married for 66 years before Knute passed away almost two years ago. Helen was known for her love of God, family, and friends, her servant’s heart, her kindness, hospitality, and generosity, her tenacity, and her sense of humor.

She was a good friend, and she maintained close friendships with her Woodland Acres school friends from the age of 6 years until her death. Helen faithfully served in missions work in the Women’s Missionary Union, taught Sunday School, and worked in Vacation Bible School for 50 years. Helen and Knute volunteered in



the Celebrate Recovery program at Rochelle Baptist Church, where she was a member. Helen was a sports mom, 4H, FFA, and Band mom in her early years. She loved reading, singing, visiting with friends and family, and quilting. She was a charter member of the Crosby Quilt Guild.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Knute Blomstrom, Jr., son, Tiger Blomstrom, brother, Preston Spiers, and both parents. She is survived by daughter Karen Blomstrom (Tommy Lowden), son Chuck Blomstrom (Paula), and daughter Susan Hurst (Wayne); Grandchildren, David Vogelpohl (Catherine), Stephen Vogelpohl, and Jeffrey Vogelpohl (Stacey), Ronnie Blomstrom, Jacob Blomstrom, and Ash-

lynn Blomstrom; Great Grandchildren, Luke, Jake, and Ava Vogelpohl, Jackson and Emily Vogelpohl, and Alice Fancher; Extended family, Joyce Wilson (Randy deceased), Clint Wilson (Kissie) and children, Talia, C.J., and Jordyn, Dr. M. J. Flannery (Mike); Special daughter-in-law, Robin Morris, and children, Lacy Painter, Cody Evans, and Emily Morris; Sister, Frances Brown; Nephews, Bill Spiers (Chris) and theirs sons and families, Rod Brown (Christy) and their daughters and families, Rusty Brown (Bonnie) and sons; and Special Cousin, Margaret Ann Bierschwale.

Visitation is scheduled for Friday, April 29th from 9:00 am – 11:00 am followed by the funeral service at 11:00 am at Sterling White Funeral Home in Highlands, Texas. The funeral service will be live-streamed. In lieu of flowers send donations to Rochelle Baptist Church.

**STERLING ~ WHITE**  
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY  
281-426-3555  
11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd.  
Highlands, TX 77562

# Maximum Tax Savings



Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

# CRI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

A DIVISION OF CORPORATE RECOVERY, INC.

## TAX PREPARATION & CONSULTATION

All Federal, State, Foreign & Individual, Partnerships, Trusts, Estates, Corporations (C,Sub S & Limited Liability) & Payroll Tax Returns,Intuit Pro-Advisors, Service All Businesses & Individual Taxes

Specialists in getting late filers into I.R.S. Compliance  
Business Solutions for New Tax Rules, Regulations and Tax Audits  
Debt Consultation and Bankruptcy Protection as a Solution to your Debts  
Other Services Rendered

Bookkeeping, Computer Systems, Financial Management, Investments, Payroll, Property Rendition, Real Estate & Business Brokerage

Normal Business Hours  
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon – 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday By Appointment

ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR INCOME TAX ORGANIZER  
JACK NOONAN, B.B.A., TREB, E.A. & STAFF

IRS Enrolled License # 2022 – 65282

6400 FM 2100 North Main, P.O. Box 1428, Crosby, TX 77532-1428  
Telephone (281) 328-1755 Fax (281) 328-5280

E-mail: [info@crosbytaxes.com](mailto:info@crosbytaxes.com)

# Milestones Page Sponsors

**WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY**  
HIGHLANDS  
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.  
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

**Siding & Roof Repairs**  
**Mobile Home Skirting**  
Call Mr. Roofer  
**281-452-0000**

**STERLING ~ WHITE**  
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY  
11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.  
HIGHLANDS, TX 77562  
(281) 426-3555  
[WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM](http://WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM)

“A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824”

Call 713-266-3444 to join to join sponsorship of this page. Thank you.

**Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!**

## LEGAL NOTICE

by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

7 PLOTS AVAILABLE  
PRIME LOCATION  
STERLING-WHITE  
CEMETERY  
GARDEN OF HOPE  
Triple, 1 Double, 2 Single  
1500 Each plus transfer  
TEL. 281-380-6735

Full Service  
Marketing Services.  
713-977-2555

Check us on the go at  
[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)  
[www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

© 2022 Empire Today, LLC

## LEGAL NOTICE

**713-266-3444**

**To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details**

# Crosby Fair & Rodeo Events,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

day, May 7 starting at 10am. Contestants will be in three age categories: 0-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Categories will be All American Cowboy, All American Cowgirl, Rodeo Clown (boys), and Rodeo Dress (girls). Cowpoke director Rachel Hhicks reports that a large field of over 40 kids, in 55 categories, have signed up for the event.

The fun and festivities really get underway in June, when the BBQ Cook-off takes place Friday, June 3 starting at 5pm. That same evening, the popular group Bag of Donuts will give a concert at 7pm in the Rock'n C Arena.

On Saturday June 4 starting at 8am the BBQ Cook-off will continue, and

at 10am a parade is scheduled, Check with the CFR office to confirm this. That evening the concert is by Drew Parker, starting at 7pm.

Student Exhibitors will show their animals for judging on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7 and 8, and then the Livestock Auction will be held Thursday, June 9. This starts

with a Buyer's Dinner at 4pm, Awards Presentation at 5:45pm, and then the Auction starting at 6pm.

The big weekend comes up starting with FFA and 4-H Day at 10am, and then the C.P.R.A. Championship Rodeo at 7:30pm. The concert that evening is by Josh Ward and Jon Wolfe.

On Saturday, June 11 the Little Wrangler Rodeo

will be held, starting at 10am in the Arena. And who doesn't love "Mutton Bustin?"

That evening the last Rodeo event will be held, and the concert will be Dos Borrachos, otherwise known as Kevin Fowler & Roger Creager.

There will also be a Raffle held as part of the Rodeo, and prizes include a

2022 John Deere Gator 4-wheeler, a Ruger rifle, and a Springfield pistol. Chances are \$100, and there will only be 350 sold.

Admission to each night of the Crosby Rodeo is \$15 for adults (\$20 day of the show), and \$5 for children. Tickets are available through the CRF website, [www.crosbyrodeo.com](http://www.crosbyrodeo.com).



FRIDAY, JUNE 3  
Bag of Donuts

Bag of Donuts is a New Orleans party band that taps into the city's long tradition of costumes and great music to bring New Orleans to wherever you are. as highly skilled musicians with a flair for the fantastical play all the classics. Together, these hits are what Bag of Donuts calls Superpop, a genre of "just the hits", from the 60's all the way through today.

What started almost 30 years ago as a few New Orleans locals with a knack for music and a little bit of face paint has since grown into a national phenomenon. Bag of Donuts has played over 3,000+ live shows, including an annual slot at the Internationally recognized French Quarter Festival.



SATURDAY, JUNE 4  
Drew Parker

Drew Parker is an American musical artist who rose to prominence coming from a small, unincorporated town of Stewart, Georgia (located in Covington, Georgia), within a few years in the Country music industry. He is best known for his popular folk-rock songs such as "California Ain't For Ya", "Party in the Back" and "Just Asking", among others.

Parker made the move to Nashville, Tennessee in 2015 and signed a publishing deal with RiverHouse/ WarnerChappell in September of 2017. He is a co-writer on Luke Combs' debut platinum record "This Ones For You", Jake Owen's single "Homemade" and Luke Combs' "1,2 Many".



FRIDAY, JUNE 10  
Josh Ward & Jon Wolfe

Josh Ward is country music blood to bone. Ward was born in Houston on May 15, 1980. An anchored mindset that has led this Texas country music rising star from a drifter's adolescence to the jeopardous game of the rodeo circuit to the punishing toil of the Texas oil fields, and on into the fickle arms of the music business.

A modern-day traditionalist who is keeping the Lone Star honky tonk sound alive, Josh Ward is a songwriter and singer who has won a large and growing following in his native Texas, playing country music with rock and blues accents.



FRIDAY, JUNE 10  
Josh Ward & Jon Wolfe

Jon Wolfe was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and raised in Miami, Oklahoma.[1] He grew up singing in church and was first interested in classic pop music.[2] His stepfather, a bass player in a house band with Joe Don Rooney, introduced him to country music. He was inspired to become a working musician after attending an Alabama concert in Texas where he was invited on the tour bus and sang with Teddy Gentry and John Rich.[3] He settled in Austin, Texas and became a regular performer on the Lone Star honky tonk circuit.[2] He was nominated for Best Country Act in both Houston and Tulsa, Oklahoma In June 2017, Wolfe released the album *Any Night in Texas*. The album debuted at No. 6 in the Billboard's Heatseekers Albums chart and No. 14 in the Independent Albums chart, selling 2,400 copies in the first week



SATURDAY, JUNE 11  
Dos Borrachos, Kevin Fowler & Roger Creager

Dos Borrachos means "two drunks," a designation Kevin Fowler and Roger Creager proudly celebrate with their 2019 duet album of the same name. The veteran Texas country singers were longtime friends and associates prior to making their relationship professional.

Hiring producer Trent Willmon, the pair recorded Dos Borrachos, an album of drinking songs split between new tunes and classic covers, including versions of Merle Haggard's "Bar Room Buddies" and Tom T. Hall's "I Like Beer." The album appeared in November 2019.



NOW LEASING

Baytown's new favorite option in senior living

No Spring Cleaning Necessary

Enjoy All of the Fun, None of the Chores™ with housekeeping services included.

LEASE BY MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AND RECEIVE UP TO 2 MONTHS FREE!\*

A perfect blend of senior living options to fit your lifestyle in a one-of-a-kind retirement community. Offering Independent Living cottages and apartments, single-story Assisted Living homes, specialty Memory Care, and a host of amenities and services, our resort-style community is surprisingly affordable.



INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE  
825 Hunt Road | Baytown, TX  
832-572-5592 | [LodgeAtPineCreek.com](http://LodgeAtPineCreek.com)



# KEEP YOU MOVING

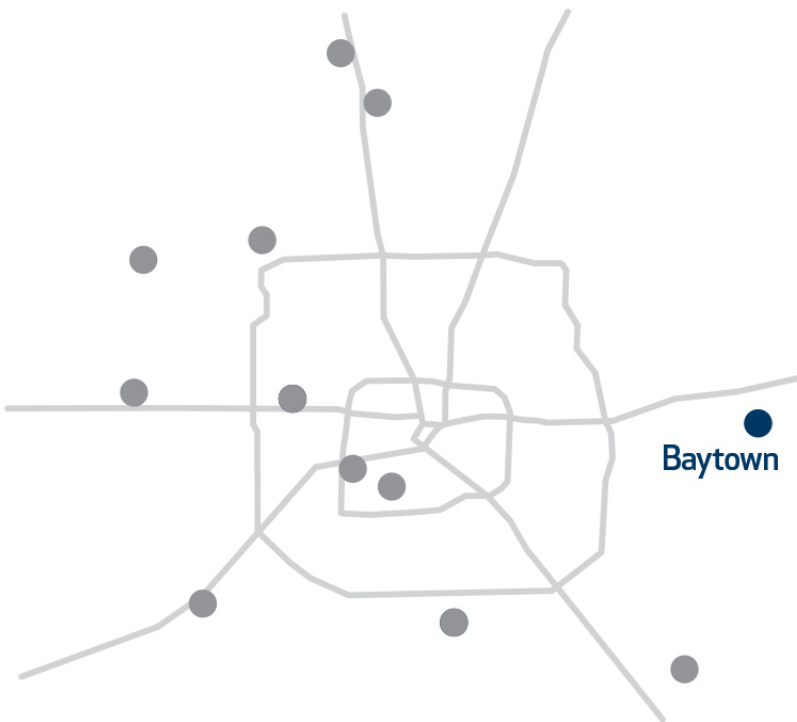
without joint pain



## Live life without joint pain.

At Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at Baytown, we know that joint pain affects every part of your life. With treatment plans customized for you, our specialists offer a full range of advanced nonsurgical and surgical techniques. Our expert joint care includes:

- Innovative pain control methods
- Physical therapy to improve mobility and range of motion
- The latest technology, including minimally invasive surgical techniques that help reduce recovery time



HOUSTON  
**Methodist**<sup>®</sup>  
ORTHOPEDICS &  
SPORTS MEDICINE

**Schedule an appointment:**  
[houstonmethodist.org/jointpain](https://houstonmethodist.org/jointpain)  
281.427.7400