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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE **STARS**

Final Highlands Plan presented to public

EVENTS

SAT. MAY 14 Letter Carriers Food Drive

On Saturday, May 14 the Letter Carriers from the Post Office will hold their 30th Annual "STAMP OUT HUNGER" Food Drive. You are asked to help, by leaving a nonperishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox, no later than 9am that morning. Your letter carrier will do the rest. All of the food collected will be distributed to local food pantries. See MORE INFO on Page 3.

WED. JUN. 1 **Meet Commissioner Tom Ramsey at** Highlands **Chamber lunch**



With county Precinct re-alignment, Highlands now has two Commissioners. Meet Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey for lunch, at the Highlands Community Center. 11:30am-1:00pm, Wednesday June 1. Fundraiser for the Chamber, \$30 a person, reservations 713-851-5746 or highlandschamber@verizon.net.

SAT. MAY 14 Meet & Greet Candidate Alexandra Mealer

Saturday's meet and greet for Alex Mealer is set at Teapot Depot from 4-7pm. Walk-ins are welcome, but folks can RSVP to info@alexandramealer.com for more info.

Mealer is a candidate for Harris County Judge on the Republican ticket.

We will have light refreshments hosted by ad hoc group of friends of Alex from the east side.

Teapot Depot is at 112 Denny Street in Highlands, opposite the Fire Station. I-10 East, exit Crosby-Lynchburg Road.

By Gilbert Hoffman

HIGHLANDS – After a year of planning efforts, which included 3 public meetings, and 2 study groups, a planning study for the Highlands/Lynchburg communities was unveiled in its final format last Thursday night. The public presentation was held at the Highlands Elementary School multi-purpose room, with about 50 persons present, including residents, precinct representatives, and planning consultants.

Pct. 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia opened the meeting with recorded remarks, and reminded the audience that the theme was "Revive2Thrive" with the goal of determing how



Jorge Bustamante of Pct. 2, and Amanda Haney of Clark-Condon consultants, presented slides showing

to improve the quality of life and serve the needs of the Highlands/Lynchburg communities.

The planning started in August 2021, and continued through this month. The resulting text and

graphics can be viewed on the website: www.highlands <u>lynchburgplan.com</u>.

The final plan was organized into five components: --Economic Development --Cultural Assetts & Social -- Mobility & Transportation --Parks & Open Spaces

--Environmental Quality The study will now enter into the implementation stage. Harris County

will be charged with carrying out the recommendations, and in addition if a management district is

Continued. See Highlands/Lynchburg, Page 7



planning study consultants discussed their opinions

ELECTION RESULTS:

Amendments pass, Bonds defeated

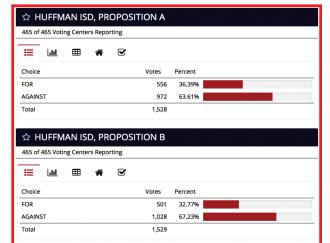
Huffman, Sheldon bonds fail; May 24 date for runoff election

on the few issues that were on the ballot. Two state constitution amendments, that lower property taxes, easily passed. Statewide, 1,300,000 votes were cast, with 85% approving the amendments.

Other ballot items were local, including two bond issues in Huffman, that were defeated by over 60% of the electorate that voted, and a Sheldon bond issue that was defeated by

HARRIS COUNTY - more than 65% of those Voters went to the polls who voted. Obviously the last Saturday, and voted electorate was not in a mood to spend money that might mean higher taxes for them. Both districts had stated that they needed the money to build or improve facilities to accommodate student growth.

> In Crosby, three directors for Newport MUD were elected: Earl Boykin, Deborah Florus, and De-Lonne Johnson. Johnson won by only 3 votes over her opponent, John Webb by a count of 128 to 125.



GALENA PARK

In a closely watched election for Mayor and City Council, the incumbent Mayor Esmeralda Moya and her slate of four city commissioners were reelected. For months this

administration had drawn criticism on social media and the attention of voters and the press. However, when given the chance to change, the actual number of voters that went to the polls was about half the

number that voted 4 years ago, in 2020 when Moya was elected.

GALENA PARK ISD

Two trustee positions were open on the board, and voters chose Ramon Garza, unopposed, and Linda Clark Sherrard, with 599 votes who defeated Juan Flores with 106 votes and Jeff Miller with 416 votes.

NEXT: RUN-OFF

On May 24 voters will be asked to return to the polls, to determine winners in elections that took place in the March Primary and require a run-off. Early voting for this will starts May 16th.

Continued. See Election Results, Page 5

Cowpokes galore at Crosby Rodeo

CROSBY - The little folk got to participate in the Crosby Rodeo fun last Saturday, competing in the Cowpoke Pageant held at the Fairgrounds Pavilion in front of Rock'n C Arena.

This year the Pageant returned to the Fairgrounds, giving it a more authentic western look. It was under the direction of Rachel Hicks and Sarah Humphries.

Winners of the Cowpoke Contest: Rodeo Dress 0-2 years:

1st - Maelyn Gleason 2nd - Camryn Evans 3rd - Rylee Lynn Elles



See MORE on Page 8

Crosby Superintendent's message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families.

Wow! It's the home stretch for this school year. The last day of classes in Crosby ISD will be Thursday, May 26th. There's a lot happening before then.

Since the last column, our baseball and softball teams have catapulted into the playoffs. As of this writing, the softball Cougars are headed to the Regional Quarterfinals (Round 3). The baseball Cougars are headed to the Area Round (Round 2). If you haven't been to a baseball or softball game this season, this is the time to go!

You should also know we have a very bright future at the lower grade levels. Our Crosby Middle School teams have been accomplishing great things. Our Boys' teams won



PAULA PATTERSON

the 7th grade soccer District championship, the 7th grade football District championship, the 7th grade basketball

Continued on Page 8



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<u>GOOSE CREEK NEWS</u>

GCCISD Hosts Inaugural CTE Acade- GCCISD National and Texas History my Awards at GCM

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey,

Goose Creek CISD held their first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Awards May 5th at Goose Creek Memorial High School. The district's 10 career academies span across four high school campuses. The Career Academies include: Advanced Automotive Career Academy, Agricultural Science Career Academy, Career Academy of Future Educators, Culinary Arts Career Academy, Digital Communications Career Academy, Global Business Career Academy, Health Science Career Academy, Information Technology Career Academy, Manufacturing and Industrial Maintenance Career Academy and the Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) Career Academy.

Roxanne Wyatt, CTE Director, highlighted the importance of the evening's event. "We celebrate overcoming two years of COVID and online learning and the tireless effort of our teachers and Academy leaders," she said. "But what we are really here to do is celebrate our amazingly talented Academy students of GC-CISD. Without the effort and hard work of the students, none of this would be possible."

All photos taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:

Students, teachers and industry supporters were honored for their work dedicated to the STEM field. Twelve awards were distributed throughout the event. Ten students received the student "Volunteer of the Year" award. This award was given to students that have gone above and beyond serving in their communities. Ten students received the Academy Ambassador award, which was presented to students that served as role models for other Academy students. The Senior Career Academy Capstone Project award was given to eight students that presented their projects successfully to the industry or in showcases. Ten industry partners received the Industry Partner of the Year award for their support of the STEM academies in the district. Ten teachers received the Academy Core "Teacher of the Year" award for their dedication to their students and community and 10 elective technology teachers received the Academy CTE "Teacher of the Year" award for their support students and staff. Thirty-seven freshman through senior level academy students received awards for excelling in and out of the classroom.



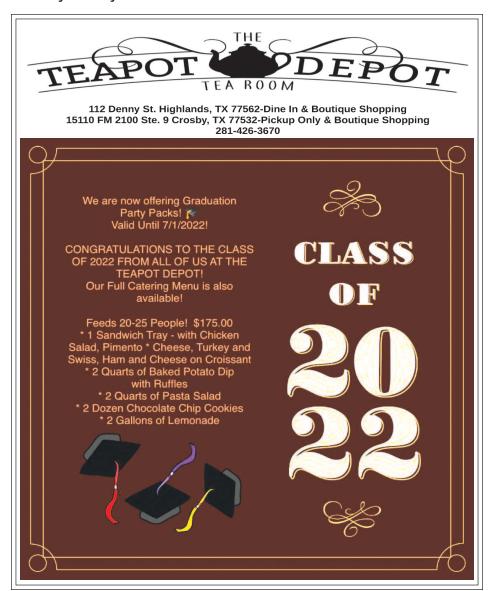
Junior Academy Students of the Year



CTE Academy Teachers of the Year



Academy Industry Partners of the Year



Day Winners

The following Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District students placed or received special recognition at the Texas History Day competition on April 24th in Austin.

Winners at Texas History Day



Junior Group Exhibit: First Place: Macei Heard Project: Brown V. Board of Education-Separate Is Not Equal Campus: Gentry Junior School Sponsor: Patricia Authement



Junior Group Documentary: Second Place: Khyati Singh and Tina Project: A Race to Ratification: The

Road to the Perfect 36 Campus: E.F. Green Junior School Sponsor: Victoria Arnold



Senior Group Exhibit: Second Place: Rebecca Currie and

Alexa Torres ##

Project: "A System Totally Alien to Our Ideals" The Debate and Diplomacy that Dismantled the Apartheid System in South Africa

Campus: IMPACT Early College High School

Sponsor: Ilija Milovanovic



Junior Group Documentary: Second Place: Ananya Sood Project: Boarders Divide, Waters Unite: The Indus Waters Treaty Campus: E.F. Green Junior School Sponsor: Joshua Anderson



Senior Individual Documentary: Second Place: Gabriel Brock Project: This Is Not Your War, Soul Brother: Muhammad Ali's Debate Over Force Diplomacy During the Vietnam

Campus: GC Memorial High School Sponsor: Diztorsha Lavan



Junior Group Documentary: Third Place: Riley Bloom and Addie

Project: Separated, But Never Truly Equal

Campus: E.F. Green Junior School Sponsor: Courtney Rice

Nurturing the Whole Child and the Community is the "Hopper Way"

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

The mission of Bonnie P. Hopper Primary School is, "To ensure the success of each student by providing a nurturing, child-centered learning environment in which students gain a strong academic foundation." Hopper students are active participants in their community and they proudly displayed examples of their campus mission through a recent personal item drive in support of the Goose Creek Memorial High School's Maslow's Closet. The donations will help needy families and students by providing them much-needed necessities such as personal care items, underclothes, and much more. The students were excited to share in the giving activity and look forward to doing more for their community.





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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Annual Food Collection "Stamp out Hunger Food Drive"

FOOD PANTRY OPEN

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

Governor **Abbott Proclaims** 2022 **Economic Development** Week In **Texas**

Governor Greg Abbott today recognized the critical role local, regional, and statewide economic development teams play in job creation, business expansion, and business retention in communities throughout Texas he issued proclamation officially designating May 9-13 as 2022 Economic De-

velopment Week in

Texas. "The Texas economy is the economic engine of America, and we take pride in our diverse, highly skilled workforce and the endless business opportunities that exist right here in the Lone Star State," said Governor Abbott. "These economic achievements would not be possible without the many economic development organizations across the state that are committed to creating jobs, spurring innovation, and investing in our great communities. Our state and our economy continue to reach new heights thanks to your efforts. It is clear that the Lone Star State is the best state for business, and by working together, we will

family." The Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism is charged with marketing and promoting the state of Texas as a premier business location and travel destination and works closely with regional and community partners to ensure Texas remains the top state for business in the nation.

continue to keep Tex-

as the best state to live,

to work, and to raise a

Baytown, Texas: Saturday, May 14th marks the 30th anniversary of one of America's great days of giving - the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County is a partner with local letter carriers to collect food that will be provided to those in need in our community.

This food collection has

been on hold for the past two years due to COVID -19. Yet, it is an important collection for non-perishable food donations that provides much needed food items for the community pantries. Millions of Americans live in challenging situations, uncertain of where their next meal will come from or if it will come at all. Sadly, 1 in 5 households needing help with food is home to a military veteran. Some heads of households may have lost a job, are facing a serious medical condition or are dealing with unexpected responsibilities. Life can deal ordinary hard working people very difficult hands and so often, the annual food drive makes a positive difference for them.

challenge for any community including yours. In 14th and your letter car-



number one need as reported by 2-1-1 Texas/ United Way Helpline, the information and referral call system for human ser-

vices. The food drive's timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need. Participating in this year's Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your Ending hunger is a mailbox no later than 9 AM on Saturday, May our community, it is the rier will do the rest. All of

the food collected will be distributed to local food pantries serving Baytown, Highlands and Chambers County.

What can be donated?

Non-perishable food includes these top requested items: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce or spaghetti sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili and pasta), 100% juice, peanut butter,

macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken and turkey), beans (canned or dry). You also can donate healthy, low-sodium, lowsugar items such as beans, oatmeal and other whole grains, and canola

or olive oil. Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food or home-canned items, or items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients included as well as any individual baby food product should not be donated.

Volunteers are needed on Monday, May 16, 2022

City of Baytown Mayor, Brandon Capetillo will present a proclamation



THIS SPELLS

HELP FOR LOTS OF

for Stamp Out Hunger on May 16, 2022 at 9AM. Please join us for this presentation and stay to assist with the food distribution to the local food pantries.

Volunteers will help with directing traffic, assisting the pantries with loading donated food items, and ensuring a great experience for our pantries and letter carriers. Anyone age 15 and older is welcome. Groups of families, friends, and clubs and service organizations are welcome. The work is physical and hats and sunscreen are recommended. You must wear closed toed shoes. Volunteers should arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 on Monday, May 16, 2022, If you can help for one hour or more, it will be appreciated.

To sign up to volunteer

www.volunteer.unitedwaygbacc.org and search the volunteer opportunities. Still have questions? Call United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County at 281.424.5922.

About United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County

For more than 75 years, United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County has served the community, which covers Baytown, Highlands, and Chambers County. With a focus on education, health, financial stability, and basic needs, United Way collaborates and partners with local human service organizations that provide

programs tackling community-wide issues. more information, visit www.unitedwaygbacc.org/

or call 281.424.5922

Lee College to Launch Cybersecurity & Cloud Computer Courses

Certificate and Associate Degree Programs Set to Begin Fall 2022

BAYTOWN, May 9, 2022 – Lee College is meeting the growing demand for skilled IT (information technology) workers in cybersecurity and cloud computing by preparing to offer new degree and certificate programs this fall. Students will have the option to take these computer science courses in-person and online.

"With the addition of these programs to our STEM pathway, the college is aligning instruction with the needs of the 21st Century workforce," said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Lee College president. "Cutting-edge careers in cybersecurity and cloud computing provide our students opportunities in fields with family-sustaining wages."

Cybersecurity Associate in Applied Science (AAS) and Certificate Program

Students who want to pursue an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree or certificate in cybersecurity will learn about networking, computer maintenance, digital forensics, information security and cyberpsychology in the face of emerging technology, to name a few.

"The goal for our graduates is to have the knowledge to start on the ground floor in a security operations center and work their way up to information security analyst," said William Walker, cybersecurity lead instructor in the Lee College Department of Computer Technology.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, information security analyst jobs are projected to grow 31% by 2030 – much faster than the average for all occupations. In May 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the median annual wage for this position was more than \$103,000 a year. Industries that employ information security analysts include finance and insurance, computer systems design as well as administrative and sup-

port services. One of the main responsibilities of an information security analyst is to monitor networks for security breaches and to stay up to date on the latest methods attackers are using to infiltrate computer systems. That involves developing security standards and best practices that are most effective in protecting their organization in the event of a disaster.

Cloud Computing

Certificate Program Another area of IT that has evolved quickly during COVID-19 and continues to grow is cloud computing. Starting this fall, Lee Col-



lege plans to offer a certificate and eventually an associate degree in cloud computing, which is the delivery of different services through the Internet, including data storage, servers, databases, networking software and analytics. Cloud-based storage and collection of big data make it possible to save files to a remote database and retrieve them on demand.

Students who take this course will learn how to create a cloud system from beginning to end, which will include IP address scheming and user control systems. Once they get certified as a "Level 2 Cloud Practitioner," students can have their pick of careers as cloud engineers, cloud architects or cloud consultants for various industries.

"The number of positions that need to be filled right now is astronomical and steadily increasing," said Steven Saunders, instructor in the Lee College Department of Computer Technology. "Students should be able to get employment almost immediately with a certification."

Some of the most recognizable companies that use and offer cloud computing services are Amazon, Apple, Google and Microsoft. According to experts, the cloud computing market is positioned to be worth \$947 billion by 2026.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



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OPINION PAGE *



A Year of accomplishments with the American Rescue Plan Act

We have crossed the one year anniversary of President Joe Biden signing the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help Americans recover from the effects of COVID-19. Over the past year, we have used ARPA funds to make historic investments that touch every aspect of Harris County life -- education, housing, health, and jobs. Below are some of the projects that our County has invested in to get our residents back on their feet:

--Worked with the City of Houston and a network of nonprofits (led by BakerRipley and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston) to distribute rental assistance to more than 70,000 families and landlords, a model referred to as an "exemplar."

--Helped 40,000 families with past-due bills or other emergency expenses via \$159 million in direct assistance.

--Provided safe and stable housing for people experiencing homelessness. We reduced homelessness by 1,000 people at the height of the pandemic, and 20% over two years (more on this

--Supported small and micro businesses with \$30 million in small business grants to assist 2,577 small businesses.

--Supplied area hospitals with hundreds of additional nurses during the height of COVID.

--Planned a new state-of-the-art residential complex that will serve as a one-stop support center for youth aging out of foster care in Harris

--Secured summer programming and enrichment for an estimated 7,000 Harris County children and youth in Summer 2022.

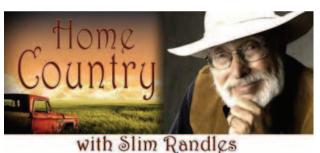
--Used incentives to encourage 30,000 more residents to get their first shot of the COVID-19

--Addressed the pandemic's impact on mental health by investing in community-based behavioral health services.

We've also invested in childcare access, early childhood education, tackling neighborhood blight, lead remediation, digital access, food distribution, and integrating the county's social services safety net. And we won't stop — we are always looking for cutting edge, data-driven, and research-based solutions to make the quality of life in Harris County better for every one of our residents. Fortunately, Harris County has a strong network of dedicated nonprofits and community leaders who work side-by-side with local government to improve lives. We're so proud of everything our community has achieved by working together!

Sincerely,

Lina Hidalgo



"Before we begin our regular commencement tonight," said combined elementary/high school principal Jim Albertson, "we have a special award to present. Will Windy Wilson please come up here on the stage with

Windy looked up at the stage in the gymnasium and all he saw were black choir robes and smiles. He looked at his fellow spectators and all he saw were grins and people sitting down.

"Windy?" said Jim. Windy walked up to the stage and shook hands with the principal. "Put this on."

Windy draped a black robe around himself and put the

mortarboard on his head.

Albertson pulled a piece of paper from his shirt pocket. "Alphonse Wilson, it is the judgment of your community and friends that no one has ever worked harder for an honorary doctor's degree. Am I right on that?"

The young graduates clapped and hooted, and so did the audience. Windy looked at the floor and blushed right through his grey beard.

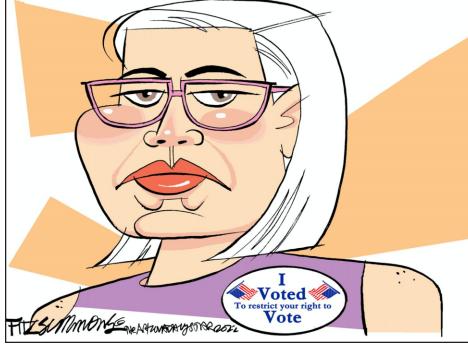
"We can't give you an honorary doctorate here because we don't have one. But your neighbors discovered that you only lacked one class to graduate from high school, and we can do something about that.'

"Alphonse Wilson ... known to all as Windy ... this school ... these young graduates ... and all your friends and neighbors are proud to bestow upon you an honorary high school diploma.'

Jim placed a ribbon with a medal hanging from it around Windy's neck and handed him a rolled-up certificate. Not too many aging cowboy camp cooks and

philosophers receive standing ovations, but then, there's nothing very ordinary about Windy Wilson and we all

Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy's Guide to Writing, by Slim Randles, now available at Amazon.com.





Texas challenged by nursing, trucker shortage

Texas has the fourthlowest nurse-to-population ratio in the country, with only 9.25 nurses per 1,000 residents, according to a recent report by the comptroller's office.

The state's aging population, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, has put increased pressure on all categories of nursing. The largest shortage of registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses is occurring in inpatient hospital settings and nursing homes.

"COVID-19 has really increased the shortage," said Texas Board of Nursing's executive director, Kathy Thomas. "Nurses are walking out. They're worn out, they're burned out and they're stepping away from their jobs."

Job shortages are also taking place in the trucking industry, which moves 72% of U.S. domestic freight, according to the ciations.

A shortage of commercial truck drivers is contributing to increasing supply chain issues. John Esparza, chief executive officer of the Texas Trucking Association, said it will reach 160,000 drivers by the end of the decade.

"We are losing a generation of drivers, and we aren't replacing them with a generation of potential drivers that is large enough," he said.

Texas is home to nearly 200,000 commercial truck drivers, the most in the nation. The median wage in the state for truck drivers is \$47,000.

Turnover is extremely high, according to Ken Tidwell, dean of San Jacinto College's workforce development program, which offers a commercial driver's license program that is invariably full.

TPWD BACKING WILDLIFE **RECOVERY ACT**



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says the Recovering America's Wildlife Act now being considered in Congress could bring \$50 million to the state to protect wildlife, restore land and provide the state's residents more way to enjoy the out-

"The litany of ways natural resources bolster the Texas economy and improve our quality of life is eemingly endless," said Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"While it would do much to protect fish and wildlife that need it most, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would also mean a long-term investment in the public health and well-being of all Texans, as well as stewardship of our home ground," Smith added.

TPWD is urging the public to contact their representatives in Congress to support the legislation.

The bill would provide \$1.4 billion nationwide in dedicated annual funding, according to TPWD. It would come from existing

The Texas outdoor recreation economy generates 327,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in state and local tax funds, according to the Outdoor Industry Associ-

revenues.

rized health plans. **TEXAS AGAIN RANKED #1** FOR BUSINESS For the 18th year in a row, Texas has been named the best state for CROSBY business by CEO Magazine, although controversies over pro-life and

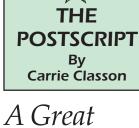


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Time to get

"It's a great time to get old!" That's what my husband, Peter, says.

He's right. And getting old is—as the saying goes—better than the alternative. I was thinking this while waiting for my father to get a pacemaker.

My father had no idea he needed a pacemaker until two days before he got one. They had been monitoring his heart because he was suddenly so tired that he was getting winded going up a flight of stairs. My dad typically climbs a lot of stairs, so this was not a good development. The monitor revealed that his heart was beating much more slowly than it was supposed to.

"It's been a cold spring," I told him. "Maybe you're just going into hibernation.'

The cardiologist did not seem to think this was the case. She told my dad that he should get a pacemaker.

DON'T LEAVE THE LIGHTS

It is bird migration sea-

son, and Texas is the epi-

center of the annual

voyage, with one of every

three birds migrating

through the United States

this spring passing

BirdCast is urging ho-

meowners and businesses

to turn off the lights

through its Lights Out

Texas initiative. An esti-

mated one billion bird

deaths occur annually in

the country from collisions

with buildings and struc-

tures as birds become dis-

oriented by night

nesses and homeowners

can protect migrating

birds by turning off all

non-essential lights from

11 p.m. to 6 a.m., accord-

HEALTH INSURER AGREES

Houston-based Salvas-

en Health has agreed to

stop selling unauthorized

health insurance under

a <u>consent order</u> issued by

the Texas Department of

The agency said Salvas-

en was providing health

insurance without a li-

cense from TDI, which re-

complaints saying the in-

surance plans sold by Sal-

vasen did not offer the

health coverage buyers

Under the terms of the

order, Salvasen must keep

paying claims until all ob-

ligations are met. If any

assets remain after that,

the company must pay

back premiums it collect-

The company marketed

health insurance policies

across the country, selling

roughly 65,000 unautho-

anti-LGBTQ legislation

have caused concerns for

some CEO's, according to

the magazine, which

polled nearly 7000 chief

executives and business

ished second, followed by

Tennessee and Arizona.

At the bottom were Illi-

nois, New York and Cali-

across the Sun Belt from

Raleigh to Charlotte to

Tampa and Jacksonville,

and the big metro areas of

Texas, on to Phoenix that

are all in various respects

growing fast," said Cullum

Clark, director of the Bush

Institute-SMU Economic

Growth Initiative. "It's a

distinctive model.'

"There's a big spread

The state of Florida fin-

owners.

fornia.

had been promised."

"numerous

ing to BirdCast.

TO SHUT DOWN

Insurance.

ceived

Building owners, busi-

lighting.

through our state.

ON IN MAY

"Not interested," my dad said.

My dad has avoided making major purchases since he turned 80 a few years back. He says he won't live long enough to get enough use out of them.

He has not replaced the come-along that is missing a few teeth. He claims it was entirely user error when the come-along failed to catch and he applied his full strength to it when he was pulling his Bobcat out of the woods. With no resistance on the winch, my dad flew over backward and broke a bone on his ankle.

"You need a new comealong," I told my dad.

"I'm not going to live long enough to buy a new comealong!" he told me. My sister got him one for Christmas.

So I was not surprised that his initial reaction to the pacemaker was that this was another extravagant acquisition he did not need. The cardiologist disagreed. She told my dad that it was no big deal. They could get him in the next day, and he would spend only a few hours in the hospital.

My dad relented. The procedure went without a hitch, and my dad's heart is now beating at a more chipper

"It's a great time to get old!" I told my dad. My dad I have noted that conver-

sations with friends are now dominated by discussions of their latest ailments. It used to be-before GPS and when my friends were youngerwhen there was a lull in conversation, the favorite topic was: "The Best Way to Get There.

"You came up 35, huh? I always think it's a little faster to follow the river, and then when you get to..." And

I remember thinking this was the dullest subject ever-comparing routes and trying to determine which one might shave 10 minutes off your driving time.

You just wasted 15 minutes talking about it!" I wanted to scream.

Now there is little point in discussing navigation since we have relinquished those decisions to our phones. Instead, the most frequent discussions lately are entitled, "My Current Ailment."

"Yeah. I've had that, too. And lately, I've been getting pains in my..." And so on. Thankfully, I don't have a

lot to talk about. And my dad is an excellent role model. He says, "Everyone is going to have something go wrong with them, eventually. It's just a question of what it will When my dad left his

meeting with the cardiologist, he asked what he should do differently before the pro-

"Just try to act like an 80year-old for a few days, would you?" she suggested.

I think she was kidding. My dad said he would try.

Till next time,

Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: <u>CarrieClasson.com.</u>



* MILESTONES PAGE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0011329001

APPLICATION. Newport Municipal Utility District, 2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77019, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011329001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0023230) to authorize an increase in the discharge of treated wastewater to a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 2,000,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1501 South Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, at Harris County, Texas 77532. The discharge route is from the plant site to Gum Gully; thence to Jackson Bayou Above Tidal; thence to Jackson Bayou Tidal. TCEQ received this application on March 11, 2022. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Newport MUD Surface Water Treatment Plant, Laboratory, 16703 Golf Club Drive, Crosby, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of 8168250f&marker=-95.088575%2C29.902931&level=12

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application** is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide

instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Newport Municipal Utility District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Adam Anderson, P.E. Project Manager, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., at 713-821-0337.

Issuance Date: April 29, 2022

Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NEXT ELECTION MAY 24

Texas voters overwhelmingly approved two proposed amendments on May 7 that will provide property tax relief to homeowners.

Nearly 85% of voters supported Proposition 2, which raises the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000 starting this year. That will save the average homeowner about \$175 in school property taxes.

Another proposition that easily passed corrects an oversight to a 2019 bill passed by the Legislature, which didn't apply to homeowners who are disabled or 65 and older, because their school taxes were already frozen.

The state will reimburse school districts for propositions, with the Legislative Budget Board anticipating the amount

at more than a half-billion dollars, according to the Statesman.

Meanwhile, Texas voters get another opportunity to ballots starting May 16 in primary runoff elections slated for both Republican and Democratic candidates. The election is May 24, with early voting running until May 20.

Statewide runoff races are slated for attorney general and land commissioner in both parties, lieutenant governor and comptroller in the Democratic race, and railroad commissioner on Republican side of the ticket.

More information can be found about particular races at votetexas.gov. Voters who cast ballots in one party's primary cannot vote in the other party's runoff election. tax funding lost by both However, voters who did not cast ballots in the primary can vote in either party's runoff.

Da'Vonte Mouton earns B.S. from Concordia University

SEWARD, NE (05/09/ 2022)— Da'Vonte Mouton of Crosby, Texas, earned a B.S. from Concordia University, Nebraska.

On May 7, Concordia University, Nebraska awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees to more than 400 graduates. The Class of 2022 was honored during undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremo-

At the ceremony, Concordia President Dr. Bernard Bull encouraged graduates to embrace opportunities with a combination of boldness and humility while using their gifts, talents and abilities to serve God and others. He reminded students to heed God's call to learn and lead in the church and in the world, always seeking to serve with wisdom, clarity of conviction and character.

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Larry Koslovsky
Michelle Lomanzoff
May 14-DeDe Williams
May 15-Lana Gaeke
Lina Hsuan
Dace Murphy
Maria Williamson

May 16--Felder Bryan Brakeman May 18-Danielle Greenwood

May 20–Sandra Davis May 21–Bruce Mercer Amanda Thompson May 23–Lisa Contreras Doyce Hedger Noah Keaton Jennifer Salters Avery Joseph Boyd

ANNIVERSARIES

May 12–Robert Smesny and Malba Stasney-Smesny May 23–Ralph & Rhonda Brewer

Comm. Garcia tests positive for COVID-19

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia has tested positive for COVID-19 and will be working a limited schedule while isolating at home. The Commissioner's symptoms are minor, and he says he's "feeling good".

"Thankfully, I am feeling ok with what appears to be a mild case of COV-ID-19. I am grateful to have been vaccinated and boosted which I maintain is the reason my symptoms aren't worse," said Commissioner Garcia. "I strongly encourage anyone who hasn't yet been vaccinated to please go and do so now."

Highlands/Lynchburg Plan,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

formed, they will also be involved. The projects will have to be coordinated between Pct. 2 and Pct. 3 since Highlands is now in both of them.

The planning team started with information gathering, and interviewing local residents about their needs and desires for their communities.

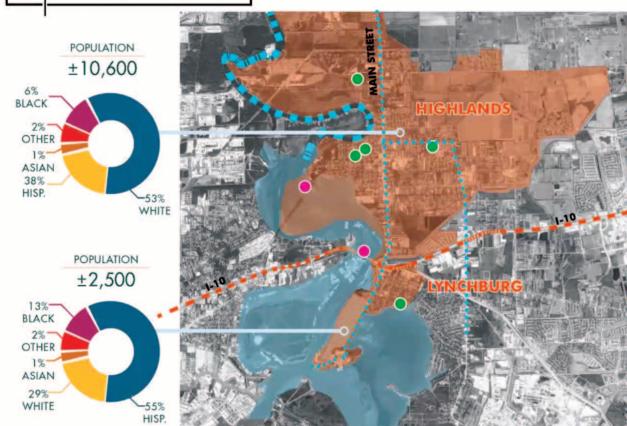
Some of the needs identified through this process include:

- --Increased public safety and law enforcement pres-
- ence
 --Increased Social Services
 --Increased Social Services
- --Beautification of the environment --Improvement to the
- roads and drainage
 --Improve Environmental
- --Improve Environmental water and air quality --Develop more economic
- opportunities and jobs
 --Maintain and enhance
 the character of the com-

The planning group then turned these needs into a set of Overall Recommendations, in the five categories, as follows: ECONOMIC DEVELOP-

- MENT:
 --Creation of a Management District, in turn attracting businesses and providing jobs
- --Creation of a Core Civic District SOCIAL SERVICES & CULTURAL:
- --Increase Outreach and law enforcement
- --Create monuments, gateways, streetscape beautification MOBILITY & TRANS-PORTATION:
- --Increase pedestrian safe-
- --Improve Public Transit --Build sidewalks, add streetlights
- PARKS & OPEN SPACES:
 --Improve access and connectivity
- --Safer access to Highlands Park
- --Improvements to High-





lands Reservoir --Create Nature Parks

- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:
- --Install an air monitoring system --Educate public on water
- well health
 --Reinstall Fish Advisory

--Reinstall Fish Advisory signage The audience listened to

the presentation, which

tended to be general in na-

ture. More detail was on mounted display boards, on exhibit through the room.

One of the main recommendations was creation of a Management District, which would have taxing

authority and income to

accomplish many of the

Plan's recommendations.

Some concern was expressed by members of the audience about whether the additional ad valorem tax, although small, would

be a burden on property owners. It would only be levied on commercial property, not residential, it was pointed out.

Randy Casey, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, thought it was a good idea, and that something like a MD was needed to invigorate the community. He did not think the small tax amount was an unreasonable cost for mose businesses.

Mark Taylor, head of the local water district, was in favor of the MD idea, but thought that the projected income, about \$150,000 a year, might not be enough to effectively make a difference and pay for the necessary improvements and recommenda-

However, it was pointed out that often a management district could attract additional funding through government and private grants, and only have to pay matching monies. This leverage is a key to accomplishing many more projects.

One opponent to the Plan and the idea of a management district was present at the door, handing out a position statement on bright orange paper. Byron Schirmbeck, a resident of Baytown, is often seen at public meetings voicing a negative opinion on taxing and community improvements.

In general, the members of the audience seemed to express approval of the study, and agreed that the need for change and improvements in the community was welcome and overdue.

Some of the audience

had been on the planning groups that helped development the recommendations, and felt their voices had been heard. Now it would fall to the Commissioners, Ramsey in Precinct 3 and Garcia in Precinct 2, to lead through the steps to implement these recommendations.

Leading the planning for this study were Jorge Bustamante and Gretchen Knowles from Precinct 2; Mary Keilers and Amanda Haney from Clark-Condon; and Jim Webb and Ricky Gonzalez from the Goodman Corporation.

Also present at the meeting were members of HCTRA, the county toll road authority, who now are responsible for the Lynchburg Ferry, and the land and buildings there.



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Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

District championship, and the 7th grade track District championship. You could call it a 7th grade sweep! Our 8th grade Girls' soccer team also finished third in District this month. These young talents will continue to grow and add to our Cougar varsity rosters.

Congratulations to the Crosby High School concert and symphonic bands for earning top ratings and the Sweepstakes award at the UIL Band Contest! Our Theater Arts and Choir students teamed up for the spring musical "Annie," performed at Crosby High School this month. The acting and singing were superb, and the props, costumes, and lighting were spot on. The audience couldn't help but hum along to some of the unforgettable tunes. What a great way to end the performing arts season.

This month is also testing season, and our technology team is second to none. They've been working earnestly behind the scenes to ensure no technical glitches and also to assist students in need of device assistance. Hundreds of students testing at once, and the process is almost seamless.

May 6th was School Lunch Hero Day! Our Child Nutrition Services staff are some of the District's unsung heroes. They ensure children are fed and ready to learn each day. Our cafeteria staff truly love what they do, and yes, they like the piz-



Crosby Girls Softball Team, with fans after the last win.

za and cheeseburgers too!

Our monthly staff appreciation surprises continued in May. This month I designated May as ' Jeans Month." Staff members can wear jeans all month long as a comfy way to end the school year. We've loved seeing how the campuses have celebrated teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week, from burgers to flowers to snacks to kindergarteners reading books aloud. I truly believe teachers are the ultimate influencers. Please thank a teacher for their commitment and dedication to our students.

One of the best nights of the school year happened this month: the return of the Retiree Banquet! Every single person who retires from Crosby ISD should feel valued and ap-

preciated. I want to personally congratulate the following educators on their service: Jerry Bowling, Renee Davis, Karla McGee, Jan Harris, Charles McKeon, Lisa Kallies, Karen Walthall, Ellen Beck, Donna Coker, Penelope Malliaros, Cheryl Rucka, Dana Akers, Melina David, Susan Baker, Deborah McQueen, Bamby Antone, and Rita Roy. Together, these retirees have a combined 507 years in education. Collectively, they have a whopping 389 years serving the children of our Crosby ISD communities. They have impacted hundreds of students in big ways, small ways, and ways they'll never know. Enjoy your next chapter!

The countdown to the end of the year means we're flying toward graduation. We want to applaud the Class of 2022 for persevering and pushing through remarkable and unique times. Our Cougars are achieving big things before they even walk across the commencement stage. In the past few weeks, we've honored dozens of students who are graduating with college degrees or trade certifications before they receive their high school diploma. They are leaving Crosby High School with a great competitive edge!

At the end of the month, we celebrate all 450 graduates during our commencement ceremony. The program is at Cougar Stadium on Friday, May 27th at 7:30pm. I hope to see vou there.

This is Now! Go Coogs!

Crosby Rodeo Cowpoke Pageant,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rodeo Dress 3-5: 1st - Kendal Rocha 2nd - Sawyer Porter 3rd - Charlie Anne Duffield Rodeo Dress 6-8:

1st - Jayden Boenker 2nd - Raegan Trichell 3rd - Peyton Johnson

All American Cowgirl 0-2 years:

1st - Stirling Kean 2nd - Audree French 3rd - Olivia Duffield

<u> All American Cowgirl 3-</u> 5 years:

1st - Harper McGrath 2nd - Juliana Zaruba 3rd - Asher Fincher

All American Cowgirl 6-8 years:

1st - Vivian Fernandez 2nd - Reagan Trichell

3rd - Brooklyn Blake

All American Cowboy 0-

1st - Judson McGrath 2nd - Wyatt Hall 3rd - Emeritt Fincher

All American Cowboy 3-5 years: 1st - Luke Ponder

2nd - Harlan Gene Reed All American Cowboy 6-

8 years: 1st - Jack Zaruba

Rodeo Clown 0-2 1st - Kashtin Weselka

Rodeo Clown 3-5 1st - Tilden Armstrong

Rodeo Clown 6-8 1st - Jack Zaruba

Don't miss the Little Wrangler Rodeo Saturday





