

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

THU. JUN 23
EPA Waste Pits Meeting in Channelview

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (SJRWPS) Community Meeting this week on Thursday night, June 23rd at 6:30 - 8:00 PM at the Martin Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview, TX 77530. The meeting will be an in-person meeting, but you may also participate by phone by calling +1 202-991-0477 and entering the code 453688444#.

This meeting will contain important information the Channelview and surrounding communities and all who travel I-10 East will want to know.

SAT. JUN 25
Crosby Historical Society History of Huffman

Crosby Historical Society Invites you to a public meeting on Saturday, June 25, at 2 - 3:30 pm, Crosby Brethren Church Recreation Building, 5202 Church Street, Crosby, TX

Guest speaker: Jody Fuchs presenting. Jody has written two books on the local history of Crosby, and he is currently working on the HISTORY OF HUFFMAN.

BIRTHDAYS

Jun 23–Gladys Cornelius
Ryan Dunlop
Janell Simmons
Jun 24–Jamie Triche
Jaylee Gomez
Jun 25–Pam White
Larry Marlin
Andrew Waldrup
Jun 26–C.L. Morgan
Jim White
Jun 27–Josh Lisenbe
George Welshimer
George Thurmond
Jun 28–Jeanne Webb
Ethan Hill
Jun 29–Sarah Muldrow
Peggy Smith
Jun 30–Hannah Barron
Alan Boudreaux
Lisa Boudreaux
Rosetta Farrar

ANNIVERSARIES

Jun 23–Ben & Shannon Coward
Daniel & Jane Pratkan
Jun 25–Joe & Rene Anselmo
Jun 29–John & Jean Lee K.D. & Linda Strickland
Don & Anna Mattingly
Jul 3–Larry & Shirley Marlin
Jul 6–Tommy & Jacqueline Criner

DEATHS

Emanuel Keyes

Pct. 3 Comm. Ramsey speaks to Chambers
Redistricting splits Highlands with 2 Commissioners

HIGHLANDS – Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey made a presentation to the Highlands Chamber members on June 1, at a special luncheon. Ramsey has met with all the local chambers, to introduce himself and hear of the needs of his new constituency.

Harris County Commissioner's districts were realigned at the beginning of this year, and Ramsey gave up much of his territory on the west side of the county, and gained parts of Crosby, Highlands, and Baytown that had been in Pct. 2.

Ramsey said he was a civil engineer by training, and brought this knowledge to his duties as commissioner. He said his top priorities are crime reduction, and flood control.

The realignment of the districts resulted in some strange relationships, such



PCT3 COMM. TOM RAMSEY AT HIGHLANDS CHAMBER.

as the Highlands area is split down the center of Main Street (Crosby-Lynchburg Road), with the west side in Ramsey's Precinct 3, and the east side remaining with Adrian Garcia in Pct. 2. Ramsey said "I will represent people in Highlands, whether they are in either Pct. 3 or 2. And I will finish every

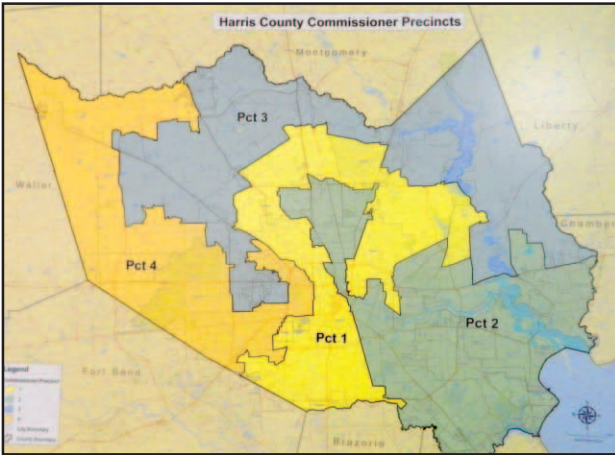
project in the original 2018 Bond program."

When asked about the waste pits, he said "they are a ticking time bomb, and we need to get them out of there. We're late starting."

Ramsey said that widening of Wallisville Road was on his priority list, as well as programs for seniors at the community centers.

As for local issues of interest, he said that the quest for a new library was not in his area of responsibility. When asked if he was familiar with the Pct. 2 Highlands/Lynchburg Plan, he said he had not seen it, but would find out.

Both Sara Davis and Jack Adcox raised the need for more streetlights, and Ramsey agreed they help reduce



REVISED PRECINCT BOUNDARIES IN HARRIS COUNTY SHOWING HEAVY GERRYMANDERING.

crime and accidents. He said he will work on getting more. He said as a trained engineer, he valued getting something finished, not just planned.

Ramsey is now in charge of Pct. 3's 380 employees (and 40 dump trucks, he added). He encouraged res-

idents to contact Tonya Kostka at the community center with their needs, or his office downtown. He shared his cell number, 713-805,3824 and office number, 713-274-3000. His contact person at the main office is Roger Bridgewater.

Crosby Superintendent's message to the community
Security Update; Crosby Fair & Rodeo; Summer School and Camps

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

I want to start by talking about steps forward in school security for the upcoming school year. This month, the District sent an email survey to parents and guardians regarding their thoughts and concerns. We are also forming a Security Steering Committee of internal and external stakeholders (students, parents, and staff) to gauge their feedback. The public input will then be acted upon by our Safety and Security Committee, a long-standing group of staff members, parents, community members, and school resource officers who carry out the logistics of security.



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

District leadership is also spending the next few weeks on in-depth planning for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Administrators will gather for a team-building academy in July, and one of the major topics will be

identifying if any safety and security procedures need to be updated before the new school year. Keeping our students and staff members safe is my top priority. I appreciate everyone who has shared input so far.

Next, we wanted to share a big "Thank You" to the Crosby Fair and Rodeo Association. Their annual event is one of the best of the year to put our Crosby kids on the map. From age mechanic designs to blue ribbon steer and lamb, our students get to show off their hard work raising livestock and honing their skills with woodworking, welding, horticulture, and crafts. The Crosby Fair and Rodeo Association raised more than \$450,000

for scholarships in their auction this month. An extraordinary achievement that will continue to bless our students.

It is now officially summer on the calendar, and I hope your families are enjoying vacations or planning quick getaways to rest and rejuvenate. Don't forget to encourage reading and math skills among children. Reading 20 minutes a day helps avoid learning loss. Math skills are twice as likely to be forgotten during the summer, so don't forget to keep quizzing your students on everything from fractions to simple addition. Every little bit helps.

I am so proud of the elementary summer reading

program we launched in partnership with the Crosby Library. More than 150 Crosby ISD students are enrolled in the program that runs through August 6. Students earn points for each book read and time spent reading over the summer. They can cash those points in for prizes when school resumes in the fall. The Crosby library branch is helping fill the summer with events celebrating literacy. It's not too late to join, and you can find out more about the summer reading program here: <https://www.crosbyisd.org/elementaryreading>. Literacy

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 2

Activists watching environmental activities in San Jacinto River

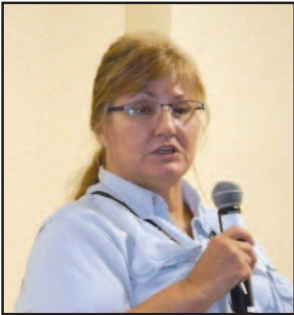
EAST HARRIS COUNTY – Whether its toxic waste dumps in the San Jacinto River, or unauthorized dredging and barge facilities, the citizens of Channelview and Highlands have two active watchdogs to monitor and protest when activities threaten the environment.

Jackie Young Medcalf and Carolyn Stone can be heard at many public meetings, questioning public authorities and requesting the proper procedures be followed. This Thursday



JACKIE YOUNG MEDCALF

the EPA will be at the Flukinger Community Center in Channelview to report on remediation work in the river, and the



CAROLYN STONE

public will have an opportunity to question progress. Prior to the meeting, Medcalf issued the following statement:

Dear Community Members,

We have two important action items for the San Jacinto River Coalition.

First: Some of you may recall that in 2019 and 2021, THEA and others raised concerns about proposed dredging and barge mooring projects in the Area of Concern around the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. We recently learned that a similar project is now being proposed, with a comment period that closes

Tuesday, June 21st. We need to act quickly to sign a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opposing this project!

Second: The EPA will host its first in-person community meeting in nearly three years. We are at an important point in the Superfund process as the EPA continues working through the details of the cleanup of the Northern Waste Pit and as the

Continued. See San Jacinto River, Page 5



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CROSBY FAIR & RODEO

2022 Livestock Show & Sale



Bag of Donuts Concert Night



Bag of Donuts Band



Shelby Kouba Grand Champion STEER



Peyton Givans Reserve Champion with Schott



Colby Chapman (AG Mecanics)



Jaiden Grimes (Lamb)



Bryson Hord (Rabbit)



Jaiden Grimes (Goat)



London Harvey (Turkey)



Tristan Fuchs (Boilers)



Orien Dominguez (swine)



Cowpoke Pageant.



1st Place - Brisket Rockin'



Little Wrangler Rodeo



Avery Berotte. Mutton Bustin' rides winner



Jax Janak Mutton Bustin' rides winner



1st Place Chicken- Lake Houston Family



1st Place Ribs- War Pigs

CFR BBQ COOK-OFF

Congrats to our 2022 CFR Cook-off Winners!!! (1st - 3rd Place)

Fajitas:

- 1st Place - BeerKat Cookers
- 2nd Place - Cove Cookers
- 3rd Place - Cavaman Cookers

Margaritas:

- 1st Place - Cut Loose Cookers
- 2nd Place - Cavaman Cookers
- 3rd Place - Family Country Cookers

Open Dish Dessert:

- 1st Place - Woods Brothers
- 2nd Place - War Pigs
- 3rd Place - Bohica

Open Dish Appetizer:

- 1st Place - Has Been Cookers
- 2nd Place - DANA Smokers
- 3rd Place - Bohica

Chicken:

- 1st Place - Lake Houston Family
- 2nd Place - BeerKat Cookers
- 3rd Place - Amigos Cookers

Ribs:

- 1st Place - War Pigs
- 2nd Place - Backseat Cookers
- 3rd Place - Grandpa & Grunts

Brisket:

- 1st Place - Rockin' Ribs
- 2nd Place - Rockin' Ribs
- 3rd Place - Beerkats

COWPOKE PAGEANT

Thank you to everyone who participated and came out to the Cowpoke Pageant

WINNERS

Rodeo Dress 0-2 years:

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

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

All American Cowgirl 3-5 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 0-2 years:

- 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 years:

- 1st - Kashtin Weselka

Rodeo Clown 3-5 years:

- 1st - Tilden Armstrong

Rodeo Clown 6-8 years:

- 1st - Jack Zaruba

Crosby Superintendent's Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is one of our top priorities heading into the fall.

Summer school and summer camps are in full swing. Dozens of students turned out for our boys' basketball camps and softball camp at Crosby High School earlier this month. Volleyball camps are happening the week of June 20th, and 1st through 8th grade girls' basketball camps are set for the last week of June. Football summer camp is coming in early August.

A reminder for families that the District's Seamless Summer Meal service will end Thursday, June 30th. We are providing free breakfast and lunch Monday through Thursday at three campuses through the last day of June: Crosby High School, Crosby Middle School, and Crosby

Elementary School. We appreciate our Child Nutrition Services staff who made sure our kids ate healthy meals for another month after the school year ended.

For our teaching staff, I truly hope June and July are a chance for you to replenish your soul with family time, teaching and nonteaching passions, quiet reading, or whatever fills your creative and spiritual buckets. Spending moments unplugged with my husband and our two sons helps me recharge. I pray you have many opportunities to do the same with your loved ones. We'll be ready to pour our passion into our students in a couple of months.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

DAYTON JONES LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAM

The Summer Reading Program is almost here at the Jones Public Library! Registration opens on June 27th and continues through July 8th. The Opening Day program will be held on July 1st in the Community Center ballroom. TaleWise will be performing a STEM inspired Pirate Show! Activities will be held daily throughout the month of July. More information can be found on Facebook and on the Jones Public Library website.

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

Dayton Metro Library partners with Levitt for World Music Series

Dayton Metro Library has partnered with Levitt Pavilion to bring concertgoers the 2022 World Music Series. This free concert series provides the opportunity to experience and enjoy music genres from all over the world. The World Music Series begins Thursday, June 2 with concerts scheduled through September:

Friday, June 17: We Banjo 3 - Celtic
Thursday, July 28: Davy Holt - Celtic
Thursday, August 25: Jenny and the Mexcats - Latinx
Friday, September 2: Zak Baalbaki & Band - Middle Eastern/Arabic
Friday, September 16: Music of India Featuring Tasteful Band - Indian

Additionally, DML cardholders can check out and listen to music from all over the world through the free hoopla music app available via the Library's website. Below is suggested music from DML's collection related to the genres in the World Music Series:

The Rough Guide to World Music Unplugged (World Music, 2019)
Pa'lla Voy by Marc Anthony (Latinx, 2022)
Marry Me Soundtrack (Latinx, 2022)
Native Sons by Los Lobos (Latinx, 2021)
En Español by The Mavericks (Latinx, 2020)
Egoli by Africa Express (African, 2019)
History by Yousou N'Dour (African, 2019)
Ladilikan by Trio Da Kali and Kronos Quartet (African, 2019)
Postcards from Ireland by Celtic Woman (Celtic, 2021)
Homeland by Celtic Thunder (Celtic, 2021)
Oumniya by Souad Massi (Middle Eastern/Arabic, 2019)
Live at WOMAD 1985 by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan (Indian, 2019)

Wolastogiyik Lintuwakona-wa by Jeremy Dutcher (First Nations, 2018)

Levitt Pavilion is located at the corner of South Main and West Fifth Streets in Dayton. Concerts begin at 7 pm. Visit the DML table or the Bookmobile at the concerts. For information about the musicians playing in DML's World Music Series, please visit Levittdayton.org.

Chambers Library 2022 Summer Reading

Read anything. Track minutes. Earn badges. Get rewarded

The annual summer program at the library will be a fun and engaging experience for the whole family. The theme for the 2022 Summer Reading Program is, "Carnival of Reading"! And it's a circus inside the libraries! The program will take place June 6-July 16 (pre-registration starts May 30) and the goal is simple: read. You can read anything from magazines to books to cereal boxes! Track your progress online using our online reading software called Beanstack. You can use their website, or download the app for your mobile device. Track multiple family members using one login. If you aren't comfortable with the technology, the library staff will be happy to register for you.

For every hour you read, you'll be entered to into a drawing to win prizes each week! Complete all 10 hours to be entered into the grand prize drawing!

This year we are happy to announce that all programs will be in person! There's fun for all ages with programs for



Commissioner Tommy Hamond with the Goss library staff

kids, teens, and adults. Just a few include, Carnival day (earn tickets by playing games and redeem for prizes), Movie days, Visit with local first responders, Bubble Foam party with John O'Bryant and Kona Ice, Crafting on the rocks (for adults), Tie dye programs and escape rooms for teens, and yummy circus snacks like sno-cones, cotton candy, popcorn, & much more! Check out your local library's specific programs on our Summer Reading Program page here: <https://www.chambers.lib.tx.us/srp2022-page>.

All libraries are back to normal hours with curbside service also available. Don't miss out

on this fun-filled summer! For more information, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or give us a call!

Chambers County Library at Anahuac: 409-267-2554

Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch at Winnie: 409-296-8245

Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch at Mont Belvieu: 281-576-2245.

We are pleased to announce an overwhelming amount of corporate and local support from the community for this year's program. When you are out and about this summer, be sure to thank them for their part in helping make this summer a success.



Blake Sylvia JP4 hands out popcorn at Mont Belvieu



Commissioner Jimmy Gore helps with the prize wheel at Winnie



Crafting on the Rocks at Anahuac



County Treasurer Nikki Whittington passes out snocones at Anahuac



Jessica King during kickoff week at Anahuac



County Attorney Ashley Cain Land passing out cotton candy at Anahuac



Commissioner Tommy Hammond passing out snocones at Mont Belvieu



Pickleball program at Mont Belvieu

Hey Mont Belvieu Residents! Come visit the Teapot Depot, mention this Ad and you're from MB, and we will treat you to a Free Dessert.

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
6/14-6/18

Desserts of The Week- Strawberry Cream Cake, Peanut Butter Pie & Chocolate Spoon Lovin Cake \$5.95 Chocolate 4 Layer & Bread Pudding \$4.95

Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$55 * Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$45 Single Meal \$11.95

Surprise Family Meals available Daily! Follow us on FB for these Specials!

Tuesday: NEW!! Fiesta Pork Chop Bake, Corn Salad, Chips & Salsa & Tres Leches Cake! Boneless, Fiesta Saturated Pork Chops served up Teapot Style!

Wednesday: NEW!! Bacon & Cheese Steak, Buttery New Potatoes, Broccoli Salad, Rolls & Pina Colada Fluff! This is a thin hamburger steak with natural gravy and is topped with Bacon & Cheese! My mouth is watering just typing this!

Thursday: Beef Tips & Rice, Green Beans, Rolls & Sweet Bread! Have you had our GRAVY? I'm telling you I would eat a napkin drowned in this gravy!

Friday: Party Tray! Ham & Swiss Honey Mustard Sliders, Little Smokies lightly drizzled in BBQ sauce, Potato Salad & Straight to the Hip Dip!

Saturday: Come pickup lunch & Shop with us in Crosby! We are excited to add the Glam of "Candice Rose Boutique" to The Teapot Depot at the Crosby Location!

We Deliver Lunch & Dinner!

\$40 Minimum or as close as possible for delivery

We offer a full- service restaurant in Highlands plus a full boutique! Late Pick ups offered until 4:45 (pre-orders only)

We offer food pick up until 6:45, pre-orders & extras in Crosby plus a full boutique!

You can call in and order specialty items & family meals and have them sent to our Crosby Location!

Ask us how!

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOST BUNCO? BABY SHOWER? WEDDING SHOWER? GIRLS DAY?

ASK US ABOUT OUR PRIVATE PARTIES!


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OPINION PAGE

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COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



We must act to stop Gun Violence



Over the past month, our nation has yet again endured violent deaths from mass shootings and gun violence. In Buffalo, we all witnessed the brutal attack driven by racism and hate that left 13 people dead at a grocery store. 17 people were shot during a mass shooting in downtown Milwaukee. And we are all still mourning the loss of two teachers and 19 innocent children murdered at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. This violence shows no sign of letting up – between May 24th, the day of the Uvalde tragedy, and June 6th, there have been 33 additional mass shootings, including multiple mass shootings here in Harris County. No one is immune from this bloody plague.

Today, our nation and our county is in the midst of a vital conversation about violent crime and what needs to be done to prevent it. The truth is, we cannot talk about addressing violent crime without talking about the role that guns play in fueling it. On the same day as the tragedy in Uvalde, we released new data from Harris County’s Institute for Forensic Sciences from which the conclusion could not be more clear – we are not just suffering from a rise in homicides, but also from a rise in the percentage of homicides caused by guns. In 2018, gunshot wounds caused 76% of homicides in Harris County. In 2021, that number was 84%. This year’s percentage is at 87%. And we aren’t unique. Statewide, the rate of gun homicides in Texas increased 90% between 2011 and 2020, from a little over 3 deaths per 100,000 people to about 6 deaths per 100,000.

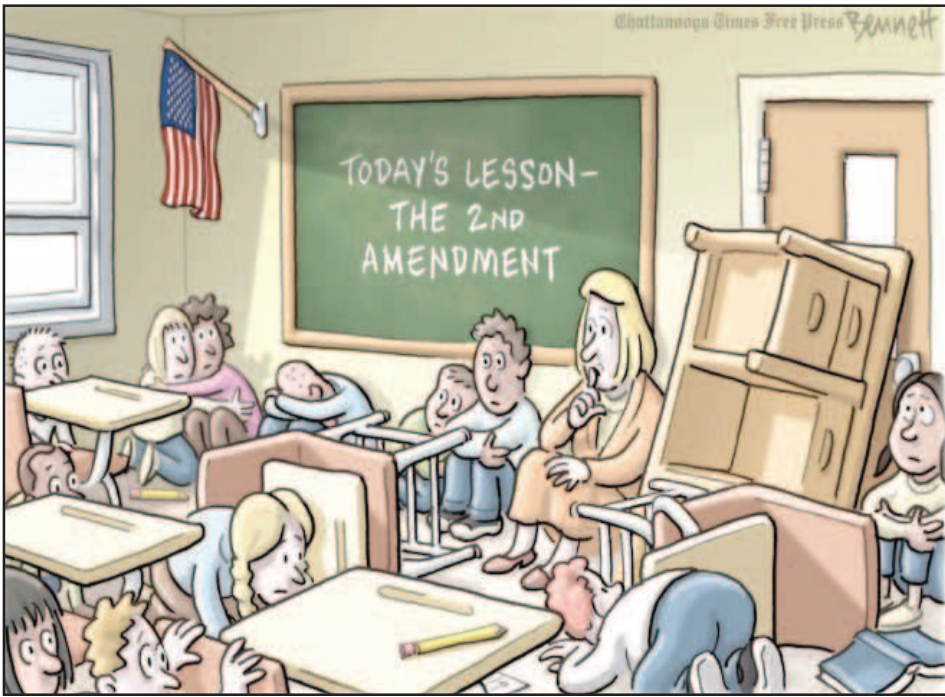
You’d think after decades of enduring tragedy after tragedy, our nation and our state would have had enough and passed common sense gun safety laws to save lives. But no. Texas has actually moved in the opposite direction and eliminated some of the few common sense gun regulations we had. Last year our state legislature passed an extreme permitless carry law which makes it legal to carry a concealed weapon without training or a permit. And yet, polls show a broad coalition of Americans oppose permitless carry and support background checks and other common sense gun safety initiatives. The majority of Americans know that when it comes to fighting violent crime, keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people is an essential part of the solution.

So we must continue fighting every way we can here at the County level. We’ve made historic investments to fund law enforcement and other smart-and-tough on crime initiatives in Harris County. Our \$1.4 billion budget for justice and safety this year is bigger than any other time in Harris County history. We’re also investing in youth crime prevention initiatives and targeted enforcement in high crime micro-zones. We’re addressing blight and pushing to shrink our criminal court backlog. We’ve also worked with law enforcement and other anti-crime groups like Moms Demand Action to educate the community about how to store guns safely and distribute gun locks. And on the same day we lost 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Harris County Commissioner’s Court declared June Gun Violence Prevention Month in Harris County to honor victims of these senseless tragedies.

We’ll never stop pushing our state legislature and congress to do what is right – to act to stop our children, our family, our best friends, our neighbors from being murdered by weapons of war in schools, grocery stores, movie theaters, churches, or anywhere else you can imagine.

Sincerely,

Lina Hidalgo



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Anti-gun Violence Protests and more School Safety Measures

Anti-gun violence protests were held in multiple cities across the state over the weekend, while the state has imposed additional measures designed to strengthen school security.

Texas State University’s Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT) program will be provided to all Texas school districts. The course is “designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunicator and emergency medical services in active attack/shooter events,” according to its website.

Gov. Greg Abbott also requested ALERT to provide an after-the fact debrief of the school shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde once the ongoing investigation is complete.

“We sadly recognize we cannot do anything to bring back the precious lives that were taken; however, we must do everything in our power to prevent the same tragic ending from happening again,” reads the governor’s letter.

In addition, the Texas Education Agency has been directed to create the position of Chief of School Safety and Security. The chief will be a “recognized expert on school security and public safety issues, an effective coordinator of multidisciplinary teams, a resource to school districts and the legislature, and effective at implementing programs,” according to a TEA news release.

POLICE CHIEF EXPLAINS DELAY IN CONFRONTING SHOOTER

The Uvalde schools police chief explained the delay in confronting the gunman who killed 19 children and two teachers by saying he couldn’t obtain a key to locked classroom door.

“The only thing that was important to me at this time was to save as many teachers and children as possible,” Pete Arredondo said in a Texas



Tribune report. He said he tried dozens of keys that failed to work.

“Each time I tried a key I was just praying,” Arredondo said. It took 77 minutes after the May 24 massacre began for officers to unlock the door and kill the gunman. Besides the Department of Public Safety, Arredondo is the only other law enforcement official to give a public account of the police response to the shooting.

In addition to the state probe, the U.S. Department of Justice has launched a review of the police response.

FIRST MONKEYPOX CASE IN TEXAS CONFIRMED

A single case of monkeypox virus infection was confirmed in a Dallas County resident who had recently traveled internationally, the Texas Department of State Health Services has announced.

“Monkeypox is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal. It can also be transmitted from person to person by inhaling large respiratory droplets or through close contact with body fluids and lesions, as well as bedding and other contaminated materials. Those infected may experience fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes, as well as more serious complications,” the DSHS release said.

The patient is in quarantine at home. DSHS said the virus does not currently present risks to the general public, though it is

reaching out to passengers who might have been exposed to the patient on a flight from Mexico to Dallas.

A DRIER AND WARMER MAY FOR MUCH OF STATE

May brought some rain but not as much as hoped, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist for the Texas Water Development Board.

“This May’s modest rainfall and high temperatures combined to provide only small improvements in drought conditions across our state,” Wentzel wrote. “Every little bit counts, but that little bit of recovery is disappointing considering that May has historically been the wettest month of the year for Texas.”

Drought conditions covered 78% of the state by the end of May.

ELECTRICITY DEMANDS BREAKING RECORDS

As temperatures soared across the state during the first days of June, demand for electricity set daily and monthly records, according to numbers released last Friday by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and reported in the San Antonio Express-News.

Triple-digit temperatures were reported across the state over the weekend — several days before the official first day of summer.

ERCOT asked power generators to defer maintenance over the weekend to ensure adequate generating power.

“ERCOT will continue to deploy all available tools to manage the grid reliably and coordinate closely with the Public Utility Commission, generation resource owners and transmission utilities to ensure they are also prepared for the warm weather across the state,” Christy Penders with ERCOT said.

AGENCY RELEASES LATEST COVID-19 WORKERS’ COMP CLAIM TALLY

The number of workers compensation claims related to COVID-19 claims reached 83,000 in May, with 448 fatalities reported to the Division of Workers’ Compensation. Just more than half of these claims and fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

Most of the claims paid were to compensate people for lost wages.

COVID-19 CASES UNCHANGED IN LAST WEEK

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week stayed essentially unchanged, with 47,582 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. A total of 77 deaths were recorded. DSHS reported 1,488 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, up 27% from the previous week.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“White Dresses”

I’ve been under some stress lately.

I’ve written a novel, and now I have to wait to find someone who thinks it’s worth publishing. (I happen to think it is, for the record.) So, while I wait, I get more and more nervous.

I know all the standard advice for this, and I try to follow it. I try to get plenty of sleep. (But how am I supposed to sleep when I don’t know what will happen tomorrow?!) I try to eat healthy foods at healthy times. (But how am I supposed to avoid snacking at midnight when I’m roaming around the house like a nervous ghost, unable to sleep?!) I listen to guided meditations where this super-calm voice tells me that “everything is happening in perfect timing.” But this meditation was recorded years ago, and there’s no telling if the timing of things might have changed since then (what with the pandemic and all), and I realize I haven’t heard a word she’s said for the last several minutes.

I told my doctor I was stressed, and she offered me some sort of serotonin pills, which do absolutely nothing as far as I can tell, so I forget to take them. I could reduce my coffee intake but, come on, I don’t want to be stressed and dead, so what’s the point in that? I try to read books, but I start to wonder who published them and how long the author had to wait before they were published and if they went crazy in the meantime and if they had some sort of secret edge and how could I get that edge and then I notice I have not read a single word. No. The only thing I’ve found that really helps to calm me down is shopping for dresses.

“Do you need more dresses?” my husband, Peter, asks.

This is such a silly question. Of course, I do not need more dresses. The truth is, I don’t even buy that many dresses. What I do is go to my favorite online consignment shop and look at dresses. OK, occasionally one of them makes it to my house. But that is not the point. It is the focus; it is the hypnotic quality of looking for the perfect white dress. This is very calming.

“You already have a white dress,” a buttinsky voice in my head points out.

“Did I ask you?” I reply. Obviously, I don’t have the particular kind of white dress that I am looking for now and, whose business is it anyway, if I want to buy a \$13 white dress and own two totally different white dresses! I could be roaming the streets looking for hard drugs in my current state of mind. Instead, I am stuffing my closet with white dresses which, it is true, I might not wear that often—if at all.

But that is why dress shopping is so alluring. It has almost nothing to do with the dresses.

Shopping for dresses allows me to imagine where I would wear the dresses, and the places I imagine I would wear them are all pleasant places. They are evenings out where I am not stressed—parties and celebrations and gatherings of friends. These dresses remind me that these things have happened and will happen again, and this current period of sitting in my pajamas in the middle of the night eating snack food is temporary.

Life has its ups and downs. When things are calmer, I plan to wear a lovely new white dress.

Till next time,
Carrie
Follow me on Facebook at: CarrieClassonAuthor.

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THOUGHTS FROM
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Staying Sensitive

Dena and I have a friend who once signed up for a special cruise excursion – riding a horse in the sea. This friend doesn’t get to ride much, but she’s experienced enough to know how to use her legs to tell a horse to speed up, and she gave in to the temptation during the ride. It wasn’t long before she heard her guide call out, “I know what you’re doing, Texas! Slow that horse down!” (Yep, she’s from this great state too.)

The horses were swimming, which meant that everyone’s legs were hidden under water. Her horse’s change of speed was the only evidence of the silent communication going on between her and the animal, but it was enough that her guide knew she and the horse were “talking.” The guide, though he told her to slow it down, was amused. Apparently, no one else had a clue what she’d done.

The Holy Spirit works with us in much the same way as our friend worked with her horse. Just like the well-trained horse pays attention to its rider, those of us who are children of God must learn to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 makes this clear: “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.” If you’re not led by the Spirit of God, are you a child of God? Think about it.

Like our friend did with her horse, the Holy Spirit gives us a lot of signals under the water, so to speak. Other people can’t see what He’s up to but, if

we’ve made a point of being sensitive to His touch, we can feel those gentle nudges. When we react to them in obedience, moving as He tells us, responding to the pressure He puts on us in all the right places, His effect on our lives becomes evident in our actions. We move forward into His plans for us and do our part to help Him reach His goals.

And that’s something we all need to remember. He put mankind here to fulfill His purposes and plans. When He tells us in Matthew 6:33 to seek His kingdom and righteousness first, that’s what He means. Modern culture would have us believe that life is all about us but, even after all this time, it’s still about Him. Our lives are meant to bring Him glory and accomplish His purposes here on Earth.

Like all cowboys, I appreciate a well-trained horse, one that knows me, trusts me, and responds to me consistently. That horse and I can be a powerful team of two and accomplish great things. God feels the same way about us. Not that we’re horses, obviously, but that, as we submit to the Holy Spirit and let Him guide us, we are a vital part of a supernatural team that will consistently strive to fulfill His plan until the day He comes for His own.

www.myhillsidefamily.com @my-hillsidefamily

OBITUARIES

EMANUEL KEYES



Emanuel Keyes, 85, passed peacefully into eternal rest on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. He was born January 28, 1937 in Whitehall, Texas to James Francis and Nora (Kuta) Keyes. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Class of 1956. He played for the Ganders football teams all three years of high school, helping the varsity team to reach the state semi-finals his senior year as starting cornerback. He served in the U.S. Army for 2 years following high school and received an honorable discharge.

Emanuel was, above all, a devout Catholic. He served as an altar-boy for years and his faith endured throughout his life. His family moved to Highlands on to the government farms when he was 2 years old. He was the 5th of 8 children, with 4 older brothers, 1 younger, and 2 younger sisters. Growing up, he loved fishing and hunting. He started working at the age of 11, shining shoes on the sidewalks of the small town of Highlands. The local pharmacist noticed the young boy’s work ethic and Emanuel eventually was working at the pharmacy. This work ethic combined with Emanuel’s honesty and integrity would define how he lived his entire life, truly to serve others.

Following his stint in the Army, Emanuel returned to his hometown of Highlands, and met the love of his life. Emanuel married Wilma Casey of Highlands on January 30th 1960 at St. Jude’s Catholic Church in Highlands. They enjoyed 60 wonderful years together and were

deeply in love throughout until her passing. Emanuel and Wilma enjoyed the country life with their children on a 5 acre farm. Emanuel also enjoyed coaching in the Highlands Little League, where his sons played. He continued his love for fishing and hunting, including “frogging” and flounder gigging. He enjoyed the company of family and friends, playing dominos and card games. He also loved the many family vacations to a variety of places, especially Port O’ Conner and the Frio River.

Emanuel worked at the Ashland Rubber plant in Baytown, Texas for 19 years. When the plant shut down, he went to work for Diamond Shamrock at Greens Bayou and worked at the site for another 19 years, most of which was in the position of Stores Supervisor. He was well liked and respected by his coworkers, as he was humble and always treated others fairly.

Before retiring and thereafter for several years, Emanuel and his wife Wilma bought and managed the popular Cedar Inn restaurant in Highlands, where they became well known to the community for their hospitality and kindness.

In his later years, Emanuel enjoyed the company of his grandchildren, giving rides on the tractor, watching movies and Astros games, and hunting.

Emanuel was a friend to everyone he met. He will be dearly missed. He is preceded in death by his wife Wilma Jean Keyes, parents, James Francis and Nora (Kuta) Keyes, and brothers James, Joe, and Alvin.

He is survived by his two sons Doug (Amber) Keyes and John (Maggie) Keyes, and his daughter Cathy (John) Corley, and his son-in-law Chip (Karen) Morton. Also surviving are two grandsons Joe and John Morton, five granddaughters Elizabeth, Olivia, Mary, Anna, and Catherine Keyes, and one great grandson Jude. Also, step grandchildren Veronica, Gabriel, Adrian, Chanel, Dawson, and Chloe.

Serving as pallbearers are Jimmy, Mickey, Tony, and David Keyes, Randy Casey, and Joe Cashion.

Visitation and Rosary will be held at St. Jude’s Catholic Church in Highlands, TX at 9:30 am on Friday, June 17, 2022, with funeral mass immediately following at 10:30 am. Graveside service will follow the mass at Sterling White Cemetery, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd, Highlands TX 77562. Online condolences may be made at www.sterlingwhite.com

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San Jacinto River environment,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Southern Waste Pit nears remediation later this year.

In the last couple of months, the parties responsible for the cleanup of the Northern Pit have made another attempt to stall and alter the cleanup. The EPA held firm, requiring the companies to con-

tinue moving forward, and now we need to show up and let them know that the community needs the toxic pits cleaned up as soon as possible.

There are two ways that you can attend - IN-PERSON or by PHONE, see details below.

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IN MEMORIAM LEWIS SPEARMAN

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STARLITE

By Gil Hoffman, Publisher

Missing the gentle giant...

It was a year ago, June 25, that we lost our friend and colleague to a heart condition, and today we miss him more than ever. Every week I hear from the Crosby community about how much he meant to them, and how respected and loved he was. His life was Crosby and this newspaper, and we both remember him fondly and feel the loss.

We look back with this memorial page, and share a few thoughts from his friends and community members.

Rest in Peace, Lewis. When we meet again I'm sure you will have a camera and a smile.

David Mendez

Lew always had people smiling. One of a kind! RIP Amigo. Crosby will never be the same.

Crosby Fair & Rodeo

It's with our deepest sympathy that we mourn the loss of Mr. Lewis Spearman, a lifetime member of the Crosby Fair & Rodeo. "Lew," as everyone called him, made sure the media surrounding our events was a #1 priority over the course of many years. Our prayers and condolences go out to his friends and family, as well as the entire Crosby Community. He was one-of-a-kind and will truly be missed.

Rachel Hicks

As I sat in church this morning and listened to the sermon, I can't help but think about all the memories our community has made with Lewis Spearman, he was a friend to all of us. Lewis never missed an event, he walked around with that camera and the biggest grin on his face always. He wanted to know all about everything going on and you can bet it was posted in the front page of the paper. He never started a conversation with me without asking about the boys first, he loved our Crosby Kiddos. It's going to be different around town not seeing his face, we will miss him dearly. May his sweet soul Rest In Peace

Briscoe Cain

As many of you from the Crosby / Highlands area have by now heard, Texas lost a patriot this past Friday.

Lew Spearman was one of the last great newsmen. When he didn't call me to get the scoop on politics, we chatted about Texas history.

I last saw 'Lewman Spear' on June 11th at the Crosby Rodeo. We spoke about the newspaper, he joked about how he wished management would let him say what he really thought about local politics, he suggested I go get a BBQ sandwich, and by the time I returned to where he was seated—he had gone off somewhere.

I hope we meet again.



In Memory of Lewis Spearman
By Mei Hoffman

On the morning of June 20, 2021, Gil and I were watching our usual "Sunday Morning" TV program when a text came in from Lewis: I am at Methodist Hospital downtown, had a stent put in my heart. He also sent a selfie, looking well. Then he texted again: I can still come to work on the paper Tuesday.

Although any surgery has risks, I never suspected his life would be in danger, because Gil has had stents put in three different times over the past 15 years and never had any problems. Unfortunately Lewis was not so lucky.

Lewis Spearman worked for us for 27 years, just about from the day we took over as publishers of the Star-Courier. He started out helping with binding, and worked his way up to a full-fledged newspaperman. He was an invaluable part of our team, always ready to pitch in, always working hard and late.

He devoted his time and heart to this newspaper, and to the community he called home. Even throughout his stay in the hospital, and at home during recovery, he never stopped thinking about what he could do for all of us.

Now he is resting in peace. A friend of mine once said, "To die is to rest. To rest is the best."

Thank you with all my heart, Lewis. You are family.

A few of the many images that show his joy of life:



Lewis at the Renaissance Festival



Lewis at Turner Chevrolet



With a camera and smile



With a rifle at the SanJac Reenactment



With Scott Stephens, Lewis had so many good friends in the community missing him even after a year.



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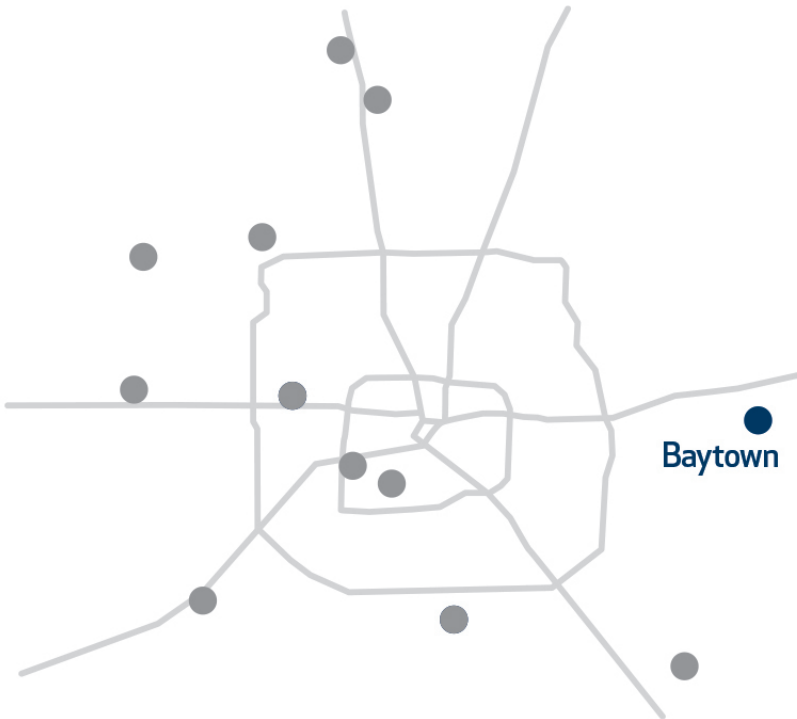
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