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VOL. 69, NO. 26 - **50¢** 

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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## IN THE STARS

#### **EVENTS**

#### Newspaper Holiday for 4th of July - no paper next week

The STAR-COURIER will take its annual Fourth of July holiday next week, and there will not be a newspaper dated July 7. The next issue of the

published on July 14th. We wish everyone a Safe and Joyous 4th of July, with Family and Friends.

newspaper will be

## THU. JULY 28 Crosby New Educator's Luncheon

Goody Bag Items (250) and Door Prizes Needed!
New Educators Luncheon is fast approaching the Chamber, scheduled for July 28th at Crosby Church, located at 5725 HWY 90 in Crosby and will begin at 11:30am. This is our Monthly Member Luncheon where we host a lunch to WELCOME all new educators to our Crosby and Huffman School Districts. This year's luncheon will be Presented by:United

Community Credit Union
We also give every new
educator a gift bag full of
items donated by our
business members to
welcome them to our towns.
As well, we do a drawing and
gift the teachers door prizes
given by our members. If you
would like to make sure your
company is represented and
the new educators know
your company please be sure
to donate to this event. You
can call the Chamber Office
with any questions.

Please call Chamber Office at 281-328-6984 or email us at

chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org to register for event. Price for luncheon is \$20.00

## Rotary installs Andy Scott as next president

HIGHLANDS – The Rotary Club of Highlands, known throughout the city as "The Biggest Little Club in District 5890" got new leadership at an installation ceremony held last Thursday evening at the Baytown Boat Club in Highlands.

Rotarian Andy Scott was sworn in for his second round as president of the club. Presiding over the installation was District 5890 Assistant District Governor Bryan Clements.

The event was attended by about three dozen Rotarians, families, and guests. A special guest at the dinner was Connie Russell, owner of the Channelview bar of the same name. Connie has



Outgoing Highlands Rotary president Jerry Fallin (right) passes the gavel of authority to the incoming new president, Andy Scott (left) at last Friday's installation ceremony at the Boat Club.

been very active in raising money for scholarships and supporting the Highlands Rotary.

Other officers that were sworn in at the dinner were President Elect Denise Smith; Treasurer Sheila McDonald; Secretary Diana Weaver; Club Foundation Chair Tricia Scott; Public Image Chair Gaylynn Milliorn; Service Projects Chair Weston Cotten; Sergeant at Arms Johnny Gaeke; and the whole club was designated as the Membership chair.

One of the very special projects that the Highlands Club has undertaken is the hosting of foreign exchange students for a year's stay. The club covers the costs of housing,

food, and incidentals as well as enrolling them in high school and providing transportation. It was announced at the installation dinner that another student has been selected. It will be Edourd vanHove, a student from Belgium that will arrive in August. The club was thrilled to continue this tradition. Initially vanHove will live with the Cotten family in Highlands

The dinner featured shrimp and fish, cooked by the award-winning Henderson cooking team. Music for the evening was provided by Snuffy.

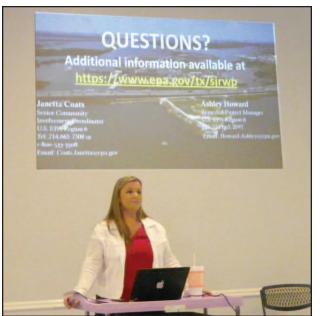
Continued. See Highlands Rotary Installation, Page 2

## EPA meets with community on Waste Pits

CHANNELVIEW — Representatives of the federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) met with the public last Thursday evening, June 23 at the Flukinger Community Center in Channelview. The purpose of the meeting was to update interested members of the public on progress in remediation and removal of the toxic wastes in the San Jacinto River at several sites.

The slide presentation was made by the Superfund Project Manager, Ashley Howard, and a question and answer period following the talk was moderated by Jeanetta Coates.

About 75 interested members of the Channel-view and Highlands com-



Ashley Howard, EPA Project Manager for the Superfund San Jacinto River Waste Pits, made the presentation and update to the community last Thursday evening at Channelview's Flukinger Center.

munities attended the meeting. Many of them asked questions after the presentation.

Also attending the meeting were a number of public officials, and agency representatives. The included staff from Senator John Whitmire, Congressman Brian Babin, Representative Ana Hernandez, and County Attorney Chris Menefee.

EPA had several staff members, engineers and geologists present, headed by John Meyer, who is Acting Deputy Director of Reg. 6 Superfund Sites.

Also present were members of Harris County Pollution Control, and TCEQ.

Howard showed a series of 25 slides, that covered the history of the waste

pits, the remediation solution approved by the EPA, and the current progress and schedule by the consultants for the PRP (Potential Responsible Party).

Howard's presentation was divided into details on the two sites called the Northers and Southern Impoundments. She characterized the problems and solutions and unique and different at the two locations.

Each site is about 15 acres, and the dumping of toxic waste from paper mills occured in the mid 1960s. However, the waste is much deeper and more extensive area in the Northern site, she said.

Continued. See Waste Pits Meeting, Page 5

#### BIRTHDAYS

Deanna Hildebrand Otis McGaffet Jul 2–Mark Whittaker Jul 3–Marsha DeLay LaHoma Johnson Bryan Sanders

Jul 4-Helen Bennett Ken Dusek Lois Searcy JoAnn Turner Wendy West Jul 5-Bobby Cantrell

Josh Beck

Jul 5–Bobby Cantrell
PeeWee Farmer
Terry Sain
Jul 6–Marca Lee Gentry
Thurmon Ickes

Thurmon Ickes
Jul 7-Chasity Herman
Jul 8-Jeremey Hensarling
Melinda Horn
Desmond Hernandez

Jul 9–Dustin Mannes Doug Beck Jul 10–Jeantte Thompson Jimmie Michalsky Jul 11–Eric Willingham

Jul 12–Debbie Langham Heather Patterson Lisa Worthen Jul 13–Anita Davis Lisa Sanders Troy Woodall

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**Jul 3-Larry & Shirley Marlin

Jul 6–Tommy & Jacqueline Criner Jul 7–Skyler & Kacy Browning Jul 12–Earl & Doris Roach John & Lisa Cutbirth Jul 13–Harvey & Sherry Little Jerry & Debbie Moore Jul 15–Bobby & Melinda Horn

## Crosby Superintendent's message to the community High Test Scores; Job Fair July 14; School Security; End of Free Lunches

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Happy Independence Day and welcome to July! I wanted to start with some promising news from the Spring semester. Preliminary state scores show that Crosby ISD students did very well on the STAAR exams at the end of the 2021-2022 School Year. We had notable gains in all grade levels and subject areas for student academic achievement. We also exceeded House Bill 3 Early Literacy and Math Board goals for the year. Testing season takes a team, and I want to thank our Curriculum and Instruction Department; Technology staff; Campus leadership



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

teams, teachers, and counselors who guided students; and families who worked hard at home to produce results in the classroom. Your diligence paid off!

Crosby ISD is also in the middle of hiring passionate

educators. In June, the Board of Trustees has approved: a new, higher starting salary of \$61,425 for first-time teachers; a 3% raise for all staff; and a \$1000 retention stipend for employees returning for the 2022-2023 School Year. It's a great time to join Crosby ISD! Please note that Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School are hosting a career fair Thursday, July 14 from 5-7pm at the Crosby High cafeteria. Our campus leaders will be there to answer any questions and show you why Crosby ISD has such a bright future. Please tell the educators in your lives to attend or apply now www.crosbyisd.org/jobs

This summer, District

leaders are spending time re-evaluating everything from traffic patterns to curriculum to safety and security. In June, we sent a survey to all parents and employees in the District asking for their thoughts and concerns about security measures currently in place. My team will be going over the results this month and identifying current security measures that need to be changed or updated. I can share with you that the vast majority of parents told us their students feel safe at Crosby ISD schools. That is great news! Safety remains a top priority for us, and we'll announce any necessary changes in the coming weeks. Although, please remember some precau-

tions must remain private to protect confidential security plans.

Families should note that after two years of free breakfast and lunch, the federal government has stopped the funding that allowed school districts to provide two meals a day at no cost to all students. Congress did not extend the school nutrition waivers for the upcoming school year, so Crosby ISD will return to regularly-priced meals for the 2022-2023School Year. It's been two years since many families filled out the applications for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. This will be

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 7



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## GOOSE CREEK NEWS

#### **GCCISD Attracts and Retains Employees Through Compensation Plan**

Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees continues to put the needs of their employees first and remain steadfast in ensuring all budgetary decisions are fair and equitable. Their placement as number two on WalletHub's 2021 most equitable districts in the state of Texas is evidence that the district is making the most of the funds entrusted to them.

The Board approved an extensive 2022-2023

compensation package during their June 6th Board meeting. The package includes the following: general 2% pay increase for all employees (\$1500 for teachers); starting teacher salary of \$61,250, with a one-time signing bonus of \$2,500 for fully certified Texas teachers with a standard certificate in the assigned area hired through July 20th; retention stipends of \$1,500 for all employees with contract start dates

on or before June 30th; two additional personal wellness days for employees who do not earn vacation days; increased health insurance contributions of \$420 annually (\$35 monthly) for all who employees that participate in the district's health insurance pro-

The Board also approved the 2022-2023 proposed budget and tax rates during their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Rotary installs Andy Scott as new President,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

The outgoing president, Jerry Fallin, made a few remarks about his time in office, citing the continued high level of scholarships that the club provide to area students, and the funding of a van for the local Stratford library to use in their outreach program. Other projects that club supports include COVID relief, holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Schools In Education, with special emphasis on B.P. Hopper PreK and Highlands Elementary, and other District projects such as clean water and a health clinic in Mexico.

Andy Scott, in his re-

marks as newly installed president, pledged to continue the work of the club as outlined above. to work on increasing membership, and doing "whatever it takes" to have a successful new year for the club and the community.

There were a number of awards presented during the evening. Perfect attendance pins went to Weston Cotten 36 years, Patricia Scott 22 years, and Andy Scott 5 years. Larry White received a Special Recognition Award for 40 years in the club. Andy Scott was voted by the club as Rotarian of the Year, for his representing the club at District events, and the accomplishment of a new van for the local library, a project he chaired in his first term as president.

The Assistant District Governor, Bryan Clements, spoke about the club being his favorite after his own, which is the Galena Park/Jacinto City club. He praised the work of the club, and said he was amazed at how much the club accomplishes considering its size.

The evening ended with table decorations being raffled off, and Snuffy playing his brand of country music as the event came to a close.



Assistant District Governor Bryan Clements, standing left, tells about the accomplishments of the Highlands Rotary Club as he prepares to swear-in Andy Scott, standing right, as the next president of the club. Also at the head table, I to r, Tricia Scott, and Jery and Julie Fallin.



**PRESIDENT-ELECT Denise Smith receives** her pin from Andy Scott, and ADG Bryan



**ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR was presented** to Andy Scott by his wife, and fellow Rotarian Patricia Scott.



Weston Cotten received a Perfect Attendance Award, for 36 years.



Perfect Attendance pins went to Patricia Scott 22 years, and Andy Scott 5 years.



Jerry Fallin present Larry White with a Country and Oldies Music filled the Special Award for Longevity. Larry has evening thanks to Snuffy, been a club member for 40 years.



By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, GCCISD Director of Communications

### GCCISD SUMMER CAMPS MAKE SCIENCE FUN

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, Director of Communications

Learning doesn't end when the summer begins. Goose Creek CISD continues to provide its students with experiential learning opportunities during the hot summer months. This year, students were introduced to the exciting world of rocketry and coding during the district's summer camp series held the week of June 13th.

In rocketry summer camp, students learned how mathematics integrates with the world of rockets and aero science. The instructors taught students simple lessons in Newtonian physics and rocket flight and on the final day, participants had the opportunity build their own rockets and blast them in the air.

Meanwhile, students in the coding camp drove Spheros and engaged in Battlebot jousting; among other activities, while gaining knowledge in the foundation of coding. They then used the Sphero to create works of art.



Students in the rocket summer camp watch as their rocket launches into the sky.

All photos taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Students in the coding camp drove their Spheros from a code on their Ipad.

## MARKET PLACE

When you call these Advertisers, this Newspaper receives a referral fee, whether you purchase of not. You can help the Newspaper by calling with an inquiry. THANK YOU.









## **Barbers Hill Dayton**

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

VOL. 27, NO. 26-50¢

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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

#### **ON THE** HILL

#### Chambers Library Book Signing July 5

Author LinMarie Garsee will be on hand July 7, 5-7 p.m. at Chambers County Library in Anahuac for a book signing. LinMarie is the author of Trials in Chambers County, the first in a series of trials around southeast Texas. LinMarie Garsee is a



Author LinMarie Garsee signing a book.

25+ year licensed Private Investigator/ Mitigation Specialist. Her work has included high profile murder cases, such as State of Texas vs Melissa Lucio. She has appeared on several television shows regarding her work including a high profile family law case in Jefferson County where a mother hid a child after from the emergency custodial parent.

"My original goal was to work as an advocate for those who had been falsely accused of crimes and attempt to get them out of prisons," said Garsee. "I met an attorney by the name of Stephen Taylor who became my mentor, and trained me immensely in the world of report writing for defense work, murders, and other aspects of the defendants. The more I learned, the more

intrigued I became. "From report writing, it just seemed like a given that I would start writing the stories of cases that I have been involved in. Trials of Chambers County is the beginning of a series of books which will be the different counties that I've worked in and at least three to five of those cases written about in each book." Net proceeds from her book sales will go to Charity Quilts for Vets of which she is the founder. The organization makes, delivers, and documents the stories of WWII veterans all over the US.

Garsee's other books include From Cotton Fields to Battles at Sea: Memoirs of Horace Hamilton, Pearl Harbor Survivor; Happy Birthday Robert: A Texas Love Triangle; and Justice for Lorinda in addition to children's books.

The community is invited to meet Garsee July 7, 5-7 p.m. at the library and to purchase her books.

## Ambassadors from the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Thank Members for Their Loyalty

Ambassadors from the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Thank Members for Their Loy-

Ambassadors, staff and one new member from the Baytown Chamber of Commerce visited Chamber members on Friday, June 17 to show appreciation for their continued support of the Chamber Mission. The "Surprise Patrol" pop's in on Chamber Members about once a month with a small gift and shares the photos on the Chamber's social media to help give their member's exposure.

In the month of June, the Chamber Ambassadors visit-

Texas State Optical -Texas State Optical, located at 301 W. Texas Ave, has been a member of the Baytown Chamber for 31 years. TSO in Baytown is a family business, opened in 1951 by Dr. Bob Warford and now operated by Dr. Chris Warford. They are available 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday to provide professional, personalized eye







RQ's Furniture



Baytown Chamber Ambassadors visit Baytown Chamber Ambassadors visit

**RQ's Furniture** – Raul Quintero opened RQ's Furniture in 2018 and joined the Chamber of Commerce that first year in business. RQ's is located at 322 W. Texas Ave. RQ's offers quality furniture at reasonable prices, delivery and excellent customer service.

**Executive Catering** -Executive Catering offers fullservice catering, on-site cooking and drop off service to the greater Houston area. They joined the Baytown Chamber in 2007 and will soon open a new location. They can be reached at 281-837-4000.

#### **About the Chamber**

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) 6 premier business organization representing the local business community. The Baytown Chamber exists to promote and protect the free enterprise system and provide experienced leadership for economic growth, enhancement and quality of life for the Baytown

## Jones Library and Dayton ISD collaborate on Bilingual Story Time

annual collaboration with DISD Bilingual Enrichment Program. This year, 20 students have enjoyed a weekly bilingual storytime held at the Jones Public Library. Each week there are songs, books, games, and crafts. A great time is held by all! This collaboration, the brainchild of Director of Multilingual Programs Abigail Cumbie, is in its 4th year and is always a highlight of the summer for students, teachers, and library staff alike.

The mission of the Jones Public Library is to enhance the scholarly

The Jones Public Li- pursuit of knowledge, to brary has had a BLAST foster intellectual curiosthis Summer with their ity, to promote life-long learning, and cultural programs. Social development improves and enriches the lives of our users through information, education, and recreation. The Library values the citizens of Dayton Texas and responds to their needs by providing clean and inviting space, well-organized and up-to-date collections, friendly professionservice, well-trained staff who are committed to the Library vision." A thriving Library that is an integral part of the lives within our community"



## WCC Pilot Club awards four Scholarships



Callie Welty, Mackenzie Vojacek, Jordan Novosad, Klaissa Torres, and Anchor Coordinator Judy Duncan.

West Chambers County Pilot Club's Anchor Coordinator Judy Duncan presented the four Scholarship to the following recipients, Barbers Hill High School Anchor members Klarissa Torres, and Callie Welty, and Barbers Hill High School Seniors Jordan Novosad, and Mackenzie Vojacek.

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.



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

Desserts of The Week- Strawberry Cream Cake, Peanut Butter Pie & Chocolate Spoon Lovin Cake \$5.95 Peach 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 deals!

Tuesday: Creamy Hamburger Mac & Cheese! Fresh Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Chocolate Chip Cookies

Wednesday: Cheesy Chicken & Green Chili Enchiladas! Spanish Rice, Refried Beans with

Thursday: BBQ Seasoned Boneless Pork Chops, Loaded Potato Salad, BBQ Baked Beans,

Friday: Party Tray! Egg Salad Sandwiches on White & Chicken Salad on Croissant, Fresh Fruit with Fruit Dip, Pasta Salad & Pretzel Carmel Crack! One size family meal feeds 4-6+ \$45.00, Single Meal \$11.5

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) Lunch is served from 10:30-2:00

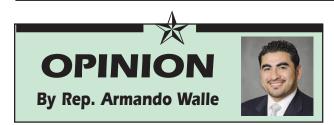
We offer food pick up until 5:45, pre-orders & extras in Crosby plus a full boutique! You can call in and order specialty items & family meals and have them sent to our Crosby

Location! Ask us how!

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

ASK US ABOUT OUR PRIVATE PARTIES!

#### \* OPINION PAGE



#### Walle condemns Supreme Court Decision

Dobbs decision means Texas' new "Trigger Law," outlawing abortion and levying criminal penalties for performing abortion in Texas, will take effect 30 days after judgment

HOUSTON - On Friday, in deciding in Dobbs v. Jackson, the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in a 5-4 decision, upending nearly 50 years of precedent recognizing a women's right to choose to have an abortion. State Representative Armando Walle (D-Houston) released the following statement regarding the *Dobbs* opinion:

I am devastated about today's Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson-not only a massive setback for the civil rights of women but for all Americans. In setting aside nearly 50 years of precedent, the decision not only means loss of access to abortion, but reverses decades of progress in women's rights to self-determination and autonomy.

Knowing Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured people in the country and has a history of poor maternal health outcomes for pregnant women, we know the impact of this decision will be felt hardest by people of color and those with lesser means. More than ever, it is imperative that Texas take steps to repair its public health safety net and protect the health of women before, during, and after pregnancy.

The court majority's contortions made to overturn Roe required rolling back established principles of substantive due process. Despite the majority attempt to dispel concerns, I fear the opinion's line of reasoning severely threatens past Supreme Court decisions affirming the rights to contraception, same-sex intimacy, and same-sex marriage. I know my fears are not unfounded when Justice Thomas specifically suggests the court "reject substantive due process entirely" and specifically suggests reconsidering "Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell," the three cases which secured those rights.

It is a dark day in our nation's history. But I will work hard in Austin to mitigate the negative impacts of this decision (and the corresponding Texas abortion ban) on my constituents and all affected Texans.

Rep. Armando Walle is serving his seventh term in the Texas House of Representatives and is as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, serving as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles VI, VII, VIII. Walle also serves as a member of the House Committees on House Administration and Natural Resources. He represents House District 140, which includes northern portions of unincorporated Harris County and the City of Houston.



#### Cornyn commends Supreme Court Ruling to Overturn Roe V. Wade

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after the Supreme Court issued the decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organiza-

"Today, the Court has restored one of the core principles of our Constitution with this landmark ruling. This decision correctly returns the authority of states to decide the limits on abortion and will save countless innocent lives. I commend the Justices for not bowing to the vicious intimidation campaign waged by the radical Left. I join Texans in celebrating this historic victory for life and the rule of law."

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

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



#### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**



#### Comptroller releases Broadband Expansion Plan

Comptroller releases broadband plan

Comptroller State Glenn Hegar last week released his agency's <u>plan</u> to support the expansion of broadband internet access to areas with limited or no access. Hegar and his agency's Broadband Development Office received feedback through a series of town halls, virtual discussions and more than 16,000 responses to a sur-

vey.
"An important, recurbeen the ring theme has been the reminder that though high-speed internet may once have been a luxury, it is now a necessity," Hegar wrote in a letter to Texas legislators. "Texans need reliable, high-speed connectivity for a wide range of potential applications including public health, safety, education and modern agriculture.

Census data collected in 2020 indicates as many as 7 million Texans — nearly one-fourth of the state's population — do not have broadband access. The issue disproportionately affects rural communities, low-income families and communities of color, the report said.

The report notes the statewide plan will require additional funding. The Legislature provided \$5 million to jump-start the Broadband Development Office, and the federal American Rescue Act allocated \$500.5 million for broadband expansion. In addition, the recently passed infrastructure bill allocates at least \$100 mil-

By early next year, the BDO will:

· Establish a broadband-focused, federally compliant grant program. • Publish a broadband

availability map. Manage recurring coordination and communication opportunities across

stakeholder groups.

"Texas faces a huge challenge: Connecting over million households to high-speed broadband, improving connectivity for over 5.6 million houseTEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

holds, improving affordability of broadband for 3.6 million households and assisting 3.8 million Texans with digital literacy challenges," Hegar said.

By Gary Borders

#### Test scores rise slightly in three sub-

Test results released last week by the Texas Education Agency showed modest improvement in three subject areas over last year. However, they still are lower than they were before the pandemic.

High school students took the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness in four subjects required to graduate: algebra, English I and II, biology and U.S. history. Compared to last year, scores rose in all but English I and II, which were largely unchanged.

Test score results are still short of the pre-pandemic results from 2019. In algebra, for example, scores are 16 points lower than spring 2019.

'We have made some progress to date, but there is still work to be done to fully recover from the academic effects of the COVslide," TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said.

Results for STAAR tests taken by students in grades 3-8 will be made public this week.

#### Texas again leads nation in jobs created

May employment numbers released by the <u>Texas</u> Workforce Commission show the state has added 762,400 nonagricultural jobs since May 2021. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in May was essentially unchanged at 4.2%.

"Texas continues to set records for employment growth with more than 250,000 jobs added from the beginning of this year through May," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "Training and upskilling are crucial to maintain this level of employment growth, and TWC remains committed to offering innovative training programs."

The job increase is the highest in the nation, with a record 13.357 million Texans employed, according to TWC.

#### Ex-boy band member wrangling litter

Wearing a cowboy hat, spurs and a fringed vest, singer and actor Joe Jonas is lassoing litter in the latest "Don't mess with Texas" campaign.

The former member of the Jonas Brothers Band, whose hometown is Dallas. filmed a video in which he goes around the Don't mess with Texas office, dragging a barrel and gathering trash, according to the Austin American Statesman.

"Joe understands the pride that we have in our state and in keeping it clean for everyone to enjoy its beauty, now and in the future," said Becky Ozuna, coordinator for the Don't mess with Texas campaign. "We are thrilled to have Joe join us in bringing attention to our litterfree message through his comedic talent and tim-

The humorous video with a serious message can be viewed at https:// tinyurl.com/vp4hfb4x.

#### State launches nation's first Driving with Disability program

A collaborative effort between state agencies has led to a <u>first-in-the-nation</u> program that gives Texans the option to identify communication impairments, such as being hearing-impaired, on both the driver's licenses and vehicle regis-

In addition, all Texas law enforcement agencies have access to video training modules to gain a better understanding of people with a communication impediment, which also includes autism, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease and other disorders drivers might have and still legally be able to drive.

'This simple addition to a driver's license or vehicle registration removes a potential barrier and can give officers the knowledge they need to help make sure everyone feels comfortable and safe," Steve McCraw, Texas Department of Public Safety director, said.



#### "Lucky Squirrel"

My husband, Peter, and I went to our first concert in the park last night.

We brought our folding chairs and ate food from the food trucks. The weather was perfect, and the music was good. But upstaging the band were a pair of juvenile squirrels in the trees overhead, challenging one another to feats of greater and greater daring. I half expected to have an adolescent squirrel land in my lap.

It had been a long day. We had just come from the funeral for one of Peter's cousins, who died of ALS. It was a somber occasion, as he was an otherwise healthy man who, until recently, ran marathons and taught classes and painted brilliant Western landscapes. Now the world—and his family in particularwas poorer for his loss, and I was feeling a little down.

Before going to the concert, I went on my usual walk and called my old friend, Andrew. He was in a bad mood also. Andrew has been working on a fantasy novel for years and just heard about someone who sold a similar novel for an astonishing sum. When he read the description of the book, he thought it sounded terrible.

"I wouldn't touch that book!" Andrew told me as I walked. "It sounds just aw-

"Aren't you glad a fantasy author is doing so well?" I asked. He grumbled. I told him how I had attended two funerals in the space of a week, and it was wearing on me. This is what you do with old friends-he brings me around when I am grumpy, and I do the same for him.

Then Andrew told me about an interview he'd recently heard with the former bass player for the Rolling Stones, Bill Wyman.

Wyman is now 85 years old and, when talking about his most cherished memories, he said, "These moments are there to be caught but you're bloody lucky to catch them." Andrew liked the quote so much he wrote it down, so I did the same.

"The moments are meant to be caught," Andrew said, "but we have to do the catching.

Just then, I noticed that some of the lilacs in the shade were still blooming, their unmistakable fragrance thick in the humid air. I admired the golden retriever passing on the other side of the street, his tail swishing cheerfully back and forth. I realized how something as simple as catching the scent of the last lilacs of the season or the sight of a happy golden retriever's tail took the act of noticing.

We have to reach out and catch the moment," Andrew continued. I noticed that I was feeling less sad. I could tell Andrew was less grumpy.

Sitting under the trees at the concert, I thought again of how quickly the moments pass—how fast the spring has gone, how the summer will be over before I know it, and how the years fly by. Reaching into the stream of time and catching a moment is not easy. I am, indeed, "bloody lucky" to catch

At that moment, one of the daredevil squirrels overhead took an outrageous chance and leaped to a slim branch in a nearby tree really no more than a twig—that was clearly dead and had broken off from the larger branch.

"He's going to fall for sure!" I said as the squirrel clung to the branch, which swung once like a pendulum before he leaped a second time to safety. And he was

"Bloody lucky squirrel," I thought, filled with admira-

Till next time,

Carrie

Follow me on Facebook at: Carrie Classon Author.



Production Manager......**Gerardo Hernandez** Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear

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## San Jacinto River Waste Pits Meeting,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

When some toxic waste escaped from the Northern site in the 1980s, it was declared a Superfund site and a temporary cap of stone and mesh membrane was placed over the waste pits to contain the toxins.

After extensive studies by an engineering consultant and the EPA, a permanent solution of excavation and removal inside a BMP sheet piling wall was decided upon as the acceptable solution.

A final report on this method, a 90% Remedial Design document, was due to be presented to the EPA on June 26. Then the agency said it would take at least 60 days to review the document prior to authorizing the next step. After this a 100% RD will finalize the design and the EPA will authorize remediation work to begin.

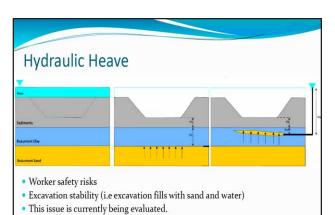
However, the consulting firm, GHD, has raised some new issues since the last 30% Remedial Design submission. They say that additional test borings have shown that the waste is deeper and more extensive than originally thought, and wil required more work and more material to be removed..

They also questioned whether the design solution originally proposed was safe or even possible, and asked for additional time to study. A partial schedule extension was approved in October 2021, but another request in March of this year was denied, and the PRP were directed to continue to work on the current schedule.

Howard described one of the new problems as "hydraulic heave" where the escavated area could heave upward when water pressure from below pushes up and causes the integrity of



The Audience at Flukinger Center listened intently for almost two hours, while EPA representatives (at far right in the background) showed slides and reported on progress and the schedule. Excavation of toxic material in the Southern Impoundment site is scheduled to start in the fall of this year, but the Northern Impoundment work will not start until next year, and continue for 5 or more years.



This graphic explains the problem of Hydraulic Heave, when the overburden is removed and water pressure from below may cause the remaining material to heave

the excavation to fail. Howard said that the consultants were still studying two methods to solve the problem, one a dry method and one a water column. In either case, a sheet pile enclosure, known as a BMP (Best Management Practice) would be required.

In summary, Howard said they are working to solve three problems: the escavation technique just mentioned, the Northwest corner of the site where the

greatest heave potential exists due to its depth and configuration, and the coordination with TXDOT as they plan on a replacement bridge for I-10 over the river. TXDOT has expressed concerns over interference with a permanent construction around the waste pits, construction access, and the potential liability to the stability of the I-10 bridge when material is escavated next to the foundations of the bridge.

Howard said that she



John Meyer (left) Acting Deputy Director of Reg. 6 Superfund Sites, answered questions. Ashley Howard SJRWP Project Manager, made the presentation.

expects many of these questions to be answered in the 90% RD submittal, due this week. Then all agancies affected by the work will have an opportunity to review and comment on their concerns.

SOUTHERN IM-POUNDMENT REPORT:

Howard said that the Southern Impoundment is on schedule, and excavation and removal should start in Fall 2022. She said that it has not been determined yet where the toxic material will be sent. She of it will be under existing buildings or structures. She indicated that below 10 feet some toxic material might remain, but the toxicity would be at acceptable levels. She said the whole excavation process should take about two years. After remediation work is completed, the sites will be under Institutional Controls forever. and EPA will monitor them every 5 years.

A lengthy question and answer session followed, with many attendees not satisfied that the remediand satisfactory.

ter, which Howard said

they were not aware of.

Also questioned was whether the Remedial Design took into account the barge activity adjacent to the site, and the hurricane potential during remediation. Howard said they were aware of both problems, and that the RD would address them. She said remediation work is limited to November to April, out of the storm sea-

Some of the questions came from THEA representatives, several of whom were present. Rachel Jordan asked if there were plans to repair the CAP after a hurricane or barge strike. John Meyer of EPA said that the contractor now has a stockpile of extra stone and membrane in the area, ready to use for repairs if needed.

Carolyn Stone of CHIC asked if there was a master list of agencies that would be notified if a problem arose at the site, and if they were trained to handle toxic materials. She was told that a list existed, and that coordination meetings were being held.

One question was whether remediation called for the BMP wall to be removed, and the excavation filled with clean material. The answer to both questions was yes.

On the Southern Impoundment site, a person asked why the material was not completely removed so that it was 100%non-toxic. And if not, whether property owners would be compensated for any decrease in land value. John Meyer of EPA explained that decisions were difficult and complex, and many times factors included compromise with cost and capability. He said that EPA maintains a department that is just involved in "re-use of property" on Superfund sites, and they were involved in these decisions.



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### Texas "Click It or Ticket" campaign

**HOUSTON**—"Since its launch in 2002, the Texas Click It or Ticket campaign has saved nearly 7,000 lives," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We're proud of the work we've done over the decades and the countless hours put in by our law enforcement partners. But there are still far too many preventable deaths on Texas roads.

From May 23 through June 5, Texas officers and deputies will step up enforcement of the state's seat belt and child car seat laws. Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly secured in the front or back seat or face fines and fees up to \$200. Children younger than 8 years old must be restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. If a child isn't secured, the driver faces fines of up to \$250.

Unfortunately, an average of 1 in 10 Texans is still not buckling up, and 1,226 people died in 2021 in unrestrained crashes, a 14% increase from the previous year. Putting on a seat belt takes only a few seconds, and doing so reduces the risk of dying by up to 45% for people in the front seat of passenger cars and up to 60% for people in pickup trucks. Even so, pickup truck drivers and passengers continue to lag in seat belt use, and the number of unbelted pickup truck drivers killed in Texas traffic crashes increased 20% last year. That's why TxDOT is reminding everyonewhether traveling during the day or at night, a short or long distance, or as a driver or a passenger that wearing a seat belt remains the single most effective way to protect themselves from serious injury or death in a crash

and it's the law.

From 2002 to 2021, the Click It or Ticket initiative in Texas is estimated to have saved 6,972 lives, prevented 120,000 serious injuries, and resulted in \$26.3 billion in economic savings, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreak-TX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas road-

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 504879; Estate of MAE (JEANNETTE) HEARD NOVAK A/K/A MAE JEAN NOVAK Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 8, 2022.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 

#### **JACK LEE NOVAK**

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this JUNE 22, 2022.

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 504367; Estate of JACK GARLAND SHAW Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 18, 2022.

#### JO ANN SHAW

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this JUNE 23, 2022.

> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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**LEGAL NOTICE** 

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED TWO VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1, ROSA MARIE JUAREZ AT 10433 PALESTINE IS WANTING TO PUT A COVER OVER HER DECK WHICH WILL BE TOO CLOSE TO THE DETACHED GARAGE.
- 2. JESUS DE LA TORRE AT 10601 PALESTINE IS WANTING TO BUILD TWO SMALL OFFICES ON THE BACK PART OF THE LOT.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON JULY 12TH, 2022 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

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The City of Jacinto City will be accepting "Sealed Bids" to asphalt overlay existing streets within the Jacinto City city limits. Bids will be opened at the regular Council Meeting on July 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 10301 Market Street. Bids must be turned in to City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2022.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on July 19, 2022 at the Public Works Facility. 12202 Market St., Jacinto City, Texas at 10:00 a.m. Specs may be picked up at Jacinto City, City Hall, at 1301 Mercury Dr. or download at jacintocity-tx.gov under the public notice tab.

The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to accept any bid or part thereof which in the opinion of the city council is most advantageous to the city.

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**LEGAL NOTICE** 

Students residing within the Crosby Independent School District attendance boundaries, but attend private non-profits schools, may be eligible to receive supplemental educational equitable services from the following programs:

- Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
- Title II, Part A Preparing, Training, Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Leaders, Principals and other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A English Learners
- Title IV, Part A Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant

A private school must have nonprofit status to be eligible to participate in federally funded services. Private, nonprofit schools interested in learning more about the federal program services are invited to attend an informational and planning meeting on July 18, 2022, at 10:00 am or July 19, 2022, at 10:00 am. Individuals can attend this meeting in the Operation Center located at 14670 FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532. Please email a request to attend including a valid email address to ihebert@crosbyisd.org by July 11, 2022 indicating which meeting you plan to attend in-person.

All parents of students served on participating Title I campuses are also invited to attend this informational and planning meeting. Schools that receive federal program services must comply with all required federal policies and procedures.

Your input will provide the district with valuable information. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

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appointment. Call
713-703-3841. See
more at
paintingsbymei.com.

#### Crosby Superintendent's Message,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

a necessary step for families who meet the economic hardship guidelines. The application window opens in mid-July, and the District will share communication with families when they can start applying.

Mark your calendars, Crosby ISD's second annual Back-to-School Bash will be held Saturday, August 6 from 9am-1pm at Crosby High School. We will offer a wide variety of registration services, including answers to parent questions, free backpacks, free supplies, a petting zoo, and ice cream. I hope to see

you there!

Many members of our Cougar family are enjoying summer vacations right now. I've seen photos from coast to coast, from Destin, Florida, to San Diego, California. I recently spent time with my husband and our two sons making memories as a family. It's a challenge with two sons in college to make sure we carve out time together, but I am so glad we did. I hope you and your families also have a chance to relax and unplug this summer.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!



## **Crosby Champion Softball Team**



## Da'Vonte Mouton earns B.S. from Concordia University, Nebraska.

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 ceremonies.

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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