HIGHLANDS



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VOL. 69, NO. 30 - **50¢**

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

STARS

Major new housing project for Crosby Indian Springs to have 583 homes

EVENTS

Back-2-School First Day of **Classes:**

DISTRICT: AUG 22 MON ALDINE AUG 17 WED

GALENA PARK AUG 11 THU CHANNELVIEW AUG 15 MON **SHELDON** AUG 17 WED

HUFFMAN AUG 10 WED AUG 11 THU **CROSBY** GOOSE CREEK AUG 10 WED

BARBERS HILL AUG 17 WED DAYTON

AUG. 6 Back 2 School BASH

On Saturday, Aug. 6 the Crosby School District is sponsoring a Back-2-School Bash, with Free Backpacks and More! Petting Zoo, Inflatables, Food Trucks, Cougar Gear, Free Vaccinations. At Crosby High School from 9am to 1pm.

AUG. 1-9 B2S Teapot **Depot Specials** in Crosby

Teapot Depot's new location at 15110 FM2100 in Crosby is offering Back to School Discounts and Specials to CISD staff. Offer good 8/1 to 8/9. School starts Aug. 11 folks! See more details on Page 2.

300 single-family lots for first phase of new 138-acre development

CROSBY, Texas - July 19, 2022 - Trez Capital announced the closing of a \$15.3 million loan to Windy Hill Development, LLC for the development of 300 single-family lots in the first phase of Indian Springs, a new planned community located just outside Houston, in eastern Harris County on Indian Shores Road near the eastern shores of Lake Houston. The four-phase development spans 138 acres and will have approximately 583 homes upon completion.

"With the shortage of singlefamily homes and lots in Texas, Trez Capital is pleased to provide the financing for Indian Springs, bringing more homes to this rapidly expanding area of Houston," said John Sullivan, vice president of origination at Trez Capital. "The improvement and expansion of FM 2100 has opened up the east side of Lake Houston to new development. Indian Springs with its heavily wooded surroundings and accessibility to Lake Houston, creates a family-friendly environment at a price point that welcomes young families."

"With our family history of real estate and land development in the area dating back nearly 100 years, we are delighted to bring our vision to life alongside our investment partners," said Rachael Hall, principal of Windy Hill Development. "Indian Springs embodies the spirit of Texas and reinforces our commitment to maintaining our

Continued. See Crosby Indian Spring Housing, Page 5



MAP OF NEW INDIAN SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT Phase I of the new housing development will be built on FM2100 at Indian Shores Road and Stroker Road. It will contain 138 housing sites, as well as amenities such as walking trails and park-like retention area. Lennar Homes is the home builder.

Crosby Superintendent views Back To School

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

It's time to begin again! On Thursday, August 11th, Crosby ISD will open our doors again to students. The summer has gone in a flash, but we hope the learning continued while families had a chance to unwind.

First thing's first. There are several Backto-School events coming for our students to see their new schools and families to meet their teachers. On August 4th, Crosby Middle School is

hosting 6th Grade Orientation from 4 to 6pm. We know the jump from elementary to middle school is a big one, so we invite students and parents to learn about middle school policies and receive their schedules. We know you will love our new CMS Principal, Mr. Alex Sanchez.

Our elementary schools are hosting Meet the Teacher Nights on the following dates and times: Crosby Elementary (1st and 5th grade), Monday, August 8, 5-6:30pm; Crosby Elementary (2nd,



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

3rd and 4th grade), Tuesday, August 9, 5-6:30pm; Barrett Elementary, Tuesday, August 9, 5-6:30pm; Drew Elementary, Tuesday, August 9,

5-6:30pm; Newport Elementary, Tuesday, August 9, 5-6:30pm; and Crosby Kindergarten Center (Pre-K and Kindergarten families), Tuesday, August 9, 4:30-6pm.

The District is throwing a party we're calling our Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, August 6, from 9am-1pm. We are inviting families with students in all grades to stop by Crosby High School. There will be free haircuts, free backpacks, District help desks with representatives to answer nutrition, transportation, and technology questions. Families will have the opportunity to complete registration and verification. We've also invited businesses and vendors from the community, including those who specialize in making Cougar gear. The vendors will also be doing giveaways. There will be an inflatable playhouse and petting zoo outside. Plus, performances by the high school band, cheer team.

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 7

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 4-Stacey Glover Brittany Hahn Aug 5-James Bobalik Aug 6-Sara Henning **Ethel Peters** Dolores Griffen Aug 7-Cynthia Finnell Aug 8-Bryan Allen Daniel Finnell Judge Tony Polumbo Stephen Turner Aug 9-Johnny Delue Jim Hildebrand Annie Mae Smith O.C. Smith Rayford Smith Sonora K. Boyd

Aug 10-Lisa Simmons Thomas Harper Aug 11-Christi Bobalik Bobby Glenn Smith Kristin Moseley Raymond Oliver Tiffany Cutbirth

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 5-PeeWee & Patti Farmer Aug 6-Sue & Steve Norris Jan & Mike Gucker Aug 8-Martha & Alvin

Keyes Ronald & Beth **Phillips** Aug 9-Cathy & Marvin

Harm Aug 10-Victor & Glorine Harris

islature. Aug 12-Rick & Deborah Nibbe Aug 14-Joe & Polly Lowden

School Supplies: Texas Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 5-7 (AUSTIN) — Texas take advantage of the op-

Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5-7. State law exempts sales

tax on qualified items such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Leg-

"Most Texans won't hear the back-to-school bell for another month, but it's never too early to

portunity to save money on everything from book bags to ballpoint pens," Hegar said. "With inflation driving prices higher on just about everything, this sales tax holiday provides Texas families some small relief managing the costs associated with kids heading back to the classroom. As the father of three school-aged children myself, I know how these expenses can add up."

The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$112 million in state and local sales tax during this sales tax holi-

Continued. See Sales Tax Holiday, Page 5

Baytown Symphony visits Highlands Rotary



Highlands Rotary President Andy Scott, left, welcomes Board Pres. David Levy, Nicki Hirt, Kristine Vermillion of the Chorale Society, and Baytown Symphony Conductor Clarence Frank, Jr. as they presented information to the Rotary Club.

HIGHLANDS - Rotarians heard details of the Baytown Symphony's upcoming season from Conductor Clarence Frank, Jr. and Board President David Levy at the clubs luncheon two weeks ago.

The first concert of the new season will be Oct. 2 at the Lee College Performing Arts Center, with the theme Dance Music.

The Symphony will next hold the traditional Christmas Concert on Dec. 3 with the RSS Meister singers and the Chorale Society.

The Spring Concert on March 4 will feature Concertmaster Allen Johnson performing Scheherazade, and the final concert of the season on April 30 will be the Side-by-Side concert with student performers.

Tickets for students are free, and individual adult tickets only \$20.



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- The Crosby Education Foundation is having their 11th annual gala on August 20th, in Crosby, Tx.
- The gala will be held at the American legion hall in Crosby. The address is 14890 FM 2100 Rd.
- This gala is the education foundations biggest fundraiser of the year. CEF raises money for innovative teacher grants. These grants help the teachers bring their classroom to a more enjoyable and fun atmosphere for their students.
- This year CEF has great entertainment and food. The entertainment is howl at the moon dueling pianos and also uptown drive band. Doors open at 5pm. The entertainment starts at 5:30. There will also be a silent and live auction.
- •Table for 8 \$700 •Couples tickets are \$190 •Single tickets are \$100 Pay to: https://crosbyeducationfoundation.networkforgood.com/



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 8/9-8/13

Desserts of The Week- Strawberry Cream Cake, Black Forest Cake, Peanut Butter Pie & Chocolate Spoon Lovin Cake \$6.95 Cherry 4 Layer & Bread Pudding \$5.25

Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$55 * Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$45 Single Meal \$12.00

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

Tuesday: Alice Springs Chicken! Seasoned Chicken Breast topped with Bacon, Mushrooms, Cheese & Honey Mustard! Served with Baked Potato Soup, Garlic Bread & Brownies! It's delicious guys!

Wednesday: Stuffed Bell Peppers! Served with Skillet Corn, Garlic Bread & Cake Balls! Yummv!

Thursday: Creamy Chicken Spaghetti, Fresh Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Muffins! Our Chicken Spaghetti is a crowd pleaser! It's the Creamiest & Cheesiest!

Friday: Party Tray! Egg Salad Sandwiches on White & Chicken Salad on Croissant Sandwiches, Fresh Fruit with Fruit Dip, Pasta Salad & Pretzel Carmel Crack! One size Party Tray Feeds 4-6+ \$48.00 & Single Meal \$12.00

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 4:45, 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!



GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Agencies hold Joint Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise



Members of the Goose Creek CISD Police Department and City of Baytown Police Department met for a joint table toptop exercise on active shooter situations.



Members of the Goose Creek CISD Police Department and City of Baytown Police Department met for a joint table toptop exercise on active shooter situations.

Safe and secure schools are key for our first responders with the City of Baytown and Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. Baytown's Office of Emergency Management and Goose Creek CISD hosted an active shooter training exercise earlier last week.

Members from the Baytown Police and Fire Departments joined together with Goose Creek CISD police officers to discuss how they can improve joint response times during a critical crisis, while keeping the public informed. This training was requested by Baytown Police Chief John Stringer before the Uvalde school shooting, but the recent incident created a more immediate need for the training.

Chief Stringer said, "This multi-agency exercise was conducted to test response plans, policies, and procedures to ensure responding agencies have a unified response with clear expectations should an active shooter event ever occur."

He added, "This gave us the opportunity to share lessons learned to continually improve our unified response."

ally improve our unified response."

And this type of response training between the City and Goose Creek CISD is

far from over.

Chief Stringer said, "This was the just the first phase of future exercises, a foundation for a full-scale drill that will include the agencies represented in this training as well as additional partners from the area."

Goose Creek CISD's Chief of Police, Davis Smith added, "Communication and collaboration are key when responding to a critical incident. The joint tabletop exercise proved to be priceless, as it revealed the expected method of operations for all law enforcement responding to a crisis. This method is based on the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) model. We are grateful for the inclusion of the Baytown Fire Department and their willingness to enter a warm zone to set up a CCP for extraction. The knowledge that communication lines between Goose Creek CISD & Baytown PD are in place to ensure interoperability in the event of an active attacker or critical incident is key and we look forward to strengthening the collaboration between the district and local law enforcement for many years to come."

David Alamia, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Baytown, called the training a success. He said, "The joint exercise between the city and school district was solid in terms of demonstrating how multiple agencies and key partners can come together to provide a fully-integrated and unified response to a complex situation like an active-shooter incident on campus."

Chief Stringer agreed, saying, "As a parent of school-aged children, I feel much better knowing that we have a unified response to protect our children in schools."

Thanks to Goose Creek CISD Police Chief Davis Smith, Goose Creek CISD Chief Operations Officer Dr. Anthony Price, Baytown Fire Chief Kenneth Dobson and others for making this training possible.





Barbers Hill

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VOL. 27, NO. 30- 50¢

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Shoreline Restoration Work to Begin at McFaddin **National** Wildlife Refuge

SABINE PASS — The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and multiple partners are set to begin work on the restoration of approximately 17 miles of the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) shoreline in Jefferson and Chambers counties.

The restoration project will span from High Island to Sea Rim State Park and will improve the shoreline by widening its beaches to accommodate recreation,

stabilizing the shoreline against further erosion by planting native species and constructing dunes, as well as protecting its marsh system, which acts as a critical habitat

for wildlife.

Beach closures for this project will begin on August 10, 2022 and occur in approximately 4-mile sections. The public is asked to respect posted warnings and avoid driving vehicles in designated work zones or active construction areas. Please note that violations will be subject to citation. Once closed sections have been completed, the restored areas will be opened to the public for

through December 2023. The GLO is committed to preserving Texas' coastal environment through continuous efforts to keep our beaches clean, safe, and easily accessible to the public. Through this restoration project and others like it, the GLO will continue to partner with coastal communities to preserve the future of

the Texas coast.

use. Construction is

expected to continue

Project partners include McFaddin NWR, Jefferson County, Chambers County National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA), Deepwater Horizon Texas Trustees, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE), and Salt Bayou Workgroup.

Lee College Hosting Back-to-School Bash in Liberty

Lee College Education Center-South Liberty County is hosting a back-to-school bash on Saturday, August 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kick off your fall with a fresh start at the Lee College Education Center - South Liberty County. The address is 1715 HWY 146 Bypass, Liberty, TX 77575.

Chambers County declares a Burn Ban

CHAMBERS COUNTY -Although Chambers County has experienced sporadic rainfall, we have not received enough to lower the drought index below 575, which determines drought conditions. The current average drought index in Chambers County is 671, as determined by Texas Forest Service. With the lack of significant rainfall over a long period of time, the vegetation cannot absorb enough moisture to lower the drought index to safe levels.

On July 29, 2022, multiple Chambers County Fire Departments and the Texas Forest Service responded to a large wildfire that was determined to have been started because of outdoor burning. Fire departments worked hard to keep this fire from spreading to nearby homes. Fortunately there were no lives or homes lost.

The Burn Ban will remain in effect until conditions improve.

Proclamation of Chamber County Judge

WHEREAS, Chambers County has had significant rainfall for an extended period and weather forecasters offer little promise of a change in the hot, dry conditions in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the average KBDI in Chambers County is 671 as determined by the Texas A&M Forest Service: and,

WHEREAS, these hot, dry conditions pose the threat of large, dangerous and fast-moving wildfires; and,

WHEREAS, such fires have the potential of endangering lives and damaging property of a large scale; and

WHEREAS, Chambers County has experienced a significant wildfire caused by outdoor burning which threatened homes and required multiple fire department agency response including the Texas Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 authorized declaration of a state of disaster "if the threat of disaster is imminent" and Texas Local Government Code Sec. 352.081 allows a County to prohibit outdoor burning; and WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity at which such a fire could escalate to major proportions constitute an imminent

threat of disaster; and WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorized the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of fires; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires; BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED, that I Jimmy Sylvia, County Judge of Chambers County, do hereby declare a state of disaster based on the threat

of large wildfires in Chambers County, Texas; and BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above statute and order, but in no instance will this declaration continue

For more than seven days without authorization by the Chambers County Commissioners Court; BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster is being declared solely for the purpose of implementing controls aimed at mitigating the hazard

posed by wildfires during the current hot, dry weather BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that Local Government Code Ch. 352.081(f) states this order does not pertain to outdoor burning activities:

(1) related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:

(A) firefighter training;

(B) public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations; or (C) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or (2) that are conducted by a certified and insured prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that according to Local Government Code Sec. 352.081(h), "A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates a prohibition or restriction established by an order adopted under this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C

misdemeanor," and may be enforce by any duly commissioned Peace Officer with authority to enforce laws in Chambers County, Texas BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that outdoor burning is prohibited in Chambers County for the duration of this Proclamation, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or the County Judge.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 30th day of July 2022.

Jimmy Sylvia County Judge

New Dayton Metro Library Branch Celebrates with Open House

The Dayton Metro Library is celebrating the opening of its newest facility, the Burkhardt Branch Library, with a Community Open House, Wednesday, August 10, from 3:30 - 5:30 pm.

Patrons will be able to participate in several activities planned for the celebration: visit with community partners at the Information Fair; meet Branch staff and ReImagining Works artists Carrie Longley, Deborah Dixon, Tracy Longley-Cook, and Hamilton-Based Inside-Out Studio; test out new technology in the TeenEDGE area; dance



outside on the Reading Terrace with DJ Baslm; "soar" with the Wright Brothers in the Children's Area; and enjoy ice cream treats provided by Dairy Queen.

Tours will be available, so patrons can see everything the new Branch has to offer:

*A Community Room with after-hours access and an Opportunity Space for activities and exhibits

*Six Study Rooms and a Conference Room

*A quiet Reading Room with a fireplace

*Numerous public computers and WiFi *In-Library laptop

lending The new Burkhardt Branch is a result of the

Library's facilities

project stems from a \$187 million bond issue passed by Montgomery County voters in 2012, which has allowed the Library to update or renovate all of its Branches and its Operations Center downtown. Two facilities remain in the project: Northmont's new Branch, opening tentatively in the Fall 2022, and Huber Heights' new Branch, opening tentatively in the Spring 2023. The Burkhardt Branch Library is located at 4704 Burkhardt Avenue in Dayton

project, Libraries for a

Smarter Future. This

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Prostate Problems: Why You Shouldn't Ignore Them

Most men don't start thinking about their prostate until they begin experiencing problems with it. The prostate is a walnutshaped gland under a man's bladder that plays a critical role in the male reproductive system. But. given its location, changes in the prostate gland can affect other important functions — like urination.

"Prostate problems can include a frequent need to urinate, painful urination and incomplete emptying of the bladder," says Dr. Chris Kannady, a urologist at Houston Methodist Bay-

Prostate problems can be serious. The three most common prostate problems men face include:

*Prostatitis

*Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), or enlarged prostate *Prostate cancer

HOW IS PROSTATITIS TREATED?

Prostatitis is prostate inflammation usually caused by infection. It's a fairly common condition that can lead to difficulty passing urine, as well as sexual problems.

Prostatitis is typically treated with antibiotics, with the duration of treatment extending two weeks or more in some cases depending on whether the infection is sudden or chronic. Anti-inflammatory medication, as well as medications that relax prostate muscle tissue, may also be recommended to ease urine passage.

HOW IS BPH TREATED?

Many men experience prostate enlargement as



Dr. Chris Kannady

they age. The condition can cause a squeezing of the urethra, as well as bladder weakening, which can leave urine in the bladder.

Although BPH is not cancerous, many of its symptoms are similar to those of prostate cancer. And, BPH can lead to lifedisrupting and life-threatening problems, such as:

*Voiding difficulty *Bladder or kidney in-

*Urinary blockages *Kidney failure

Lifestyle changes, such as limiting alcohol or caffeine, can lessen BPH symptoms. Medication, or sometimes surgery, may be recommended to ease discomfort and urine flow issues. In some cases, noninvasive options can be considered, including:

*Green light laser procedures

*Transurethral resec $tion\ of\ the\ prostate\ (TURP)$ *Button procedure

HOW IS PROSTATE CANCER TREATED?

Prostate cancer can slowly grow and never cause symptoms or threaten a man's health. Or, it can aggressively attack and require treatment.

"How prostate cancer is

treated depends on the tumor's location, whether the cancer has spread, the man's age and his overall health," said Dr. Kannady. Treatment options include:

*Watchful waiting and symptom monitoring

*Surgical removal of the prostate gland

*High-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) treatment

*Radiation therapy *Chemotherapy

*Testosterone-blocking hormone therapy

Side effects of prostate cancer treatment can include erectile dysfunction and bladder control issues, so men should talk to their doctors before making a treatment decision.

For more information, or to book an appointment go to houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 832.556.6046.

PAGE * OPINION



All Harris County Kids Deserve Quality Childcare

I have long been an advocate and a champion for programs that enrich the lives and secure a brighter future for Harris County children. Since taking office, my staff and I have been expanding the possibilities of what Harris County can achieve to help families. We spoke to parents and early childhood providers and experts and held community conversations in person and virtually, during which access to affordable, quality childcare was brought up again and again. We found that approximately 105,000 children with working parents under the age of three in Harris County live in a "quality child care desert," in which there are few or no affordable options for quality child care. This, despite the numerous studies that show high-quality child care is linked to higher rates of educational attainment and adult employment, and lower drug use and criminal outcomes. To improve the quality of life for Harris County residents, investing in quality childcare for young children was simply something the data obliged us to try.

In June, Harris County Commissioners Court made history by approving a new program investing \$48 million American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for childcare and early childhood development in Harris County. It is the largest known investment of ARPA dollars by any county or city in the nation for early childhood education. The program will increase accessibility to high quality childcare and early childhood development by 10% in Harris County and create up to 1,000 child care slots for children ages zero to three, with an emphasis on communities where there are few to no such options. It will help families afford child care, which is the second most expensive household item on average after housing in the family budget. The program will also help childcare centers recover and stabilize financially after the pandemic, support ongoing capacity-building for childcare providers, give a boost to workers by requiring participating childcare centers to pay staff \$15 an hour, and help mothers with newfound childcare return to work.

This historic program is not our first effort to assist families and children. Harris County invested nearly \$9 million in an Early Childhood Impact Fund, which is supporting home-based child care businesses, infant/toddler literacy, and resources for foster children. The county has also established the \$4.7 million COVID-19 Childcare Assistance Program to provide families with learning and childcare opportunities during the pandemic. The County created a Child Tax Credit engagement program that brought in over \$13 million in tax credits for Harris County families, and we also implemented best-in-class familyfriendly workplace policies for County workers, including 12 weeks paid parental leave, additional sick leave and resources for finding child care. And I am proud to say that in July, Commissioners Court approved a \$7.7 million Maternal and Child Home Visitation Health Care Initiative for 300 of the most vulnerable mothers in Harris County (read more about this below).

All levels of government must be willing to assist in nurturing every child that is born. I am proud that Harris County has set a precedent for what local governments can do to support all of their residents and help them make a better future.

READER OPINION!

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Walking Billboards Promote pedestrians Safety

If you happen to visit a high-traffic area in one of the state's larger cities, you might come across some folks wearing sandwich boards, such as one sees during tax season or mattress sales. The Texas Department Transportation has adopted this marketing device to promote its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" pedestrian safety campaign this month.

Pedestrians account for one in five traffic fatalities in the state. Last year, 5,366 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred, with 841 people killed. TxDOT is using the highly visible sandwich boards to remind both drivers and pedestrians to follow the rules of the road and watch out for each other. The boards are being worn by members of TxDOT's street teams.

"Only 1% of traffic crashes in Texas involve pedestrians, yet pedestrians account for 19% of all roadway deaths," said Tx-DOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "That's because pedestrians lack the protective equipment—airbags, seat belts and bumpers—common to vehicles. To keep our most vulnerable road users safe, we urge motorists to always be on the lookout for people walking. Pedestrians also have the responsibility to be aware of their surroundings and follow the rules of the road."

JULY 31 DEADLINE FOR **NEWBORN ENROLLMENT IN TTPF**

The deadline to open a Texas Tuition Promise Fund college savings account for a child younger than 1 year old is July 31, according to state comptroller's office. Participants can lock in 2021-2022 tuition and fee prices for their loved little ones at Texas public colleges and universities by establishing an account by then.



The comptroller's report states: "According to the 2020 edition of Sallie Mae's Higher Ambitions: How America Plans for Post-secondary Education, planners save two times more for college than non-planners. Planners are also more likely to start investing for college when their child is young, which is associated with less expected student loan debt."

Contributions to what are known as 529 plans, such as TTPF, are partially exempt from the federal gift tax. Up to \$16,000 annually (\$32,000 for married couples) can be given without triggering the gift tax.

WILDFIRE RISK REMAINS HIGH ACROSS STATE

As the nearly statewide drought shows no signs of abating, wildfire danger continues to spread across the state. The Chalk Mountain Fire in Somervell County and the 1148 Fire in Palo Pinto County caused local officials to urge residents to evacuate. Several lakefront homes were destroyed around Possum Kingdom Lake last week as a result of the 1148 Fire, which involved 457 acres and was about 50% contained as of Sunday, according to the Texas A&M Forest

There were 16 active wildfires across the state, the largest being the Chalk Mountain Fire involving 6,705 acres. It was

day. A total of 215 counties in Texas now have burn bans in place.

TREE-KILLING BEETLE **SPREADS TO MORE COUNTIES**

The invasive emerald ash bore has been confirmed in two additional counties this month, according to the forest service. The invasive wood-boring pest is now confirmed in 11 Texas counties, with the addition of Morris and Rusk counties. It has killed millions of trees across 35 states since its arrival in the United States 20 years ago.

"The pest is a major threat to urban, suburban and rural forests as it aggressively kills ash trees within two to three years after infestation," said Demian Gomez, with the forest service.

Counties where the emerald ash bore has been detected have their ash timber and lumber quarantined to prevent the spread of the pest. The beetle was first detected in Texas in 2016 in Harrison County. Since then, EAB has been confirmed in Bowie, Cass, Dallas, Denton, Marion, Morris, Rusk, Wise, Parker and Tarrant counties.

STATE AGAIN SHOWS **LARGE JOB GAIN**

Texas added 82,500 nonfarm jobs in June, the largest gain this year. The state again set new employment highs, as total nonfarm employment reached. 13.43 million, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

"This type of sustained economic success is only possible when employers and job seekers have maximum opportunities to reach their full potential, and TWC works hard to support those opportunities," Bryan Daniel, TWC chairman, said.

Jobs in the oil and gas industry led the increase with 4,900 new jobs, while the construction sector lost 3,000 workers. The state's unemployment rate dropped a tick to 4.1%, down from 4.2% in May.

NEARLY 90,000 TEXANS

HAVE DIED OF COVID-19 Approximately twoand-a-half years after COVID-19 began to sweep the country, nearly 90,000 Texans have died as a result of the disease, according to Texas Department of State Health Services, with more than 6 million cases reported since 2020. The BA.5 variant is now causing most of the infections, with a rolling seven-day average of 11,905 cases reported daily. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday in Texas totaled 3.454, according to DSHS, which is up slightly from the previous



"Good Enough"

I've decided that I'm good enough.

I had a big birthday, and it got me to thinking, as big birthdays will, about what would change and what would stay the same in the decade to come. I found my list of self-improvement chores much shorter than in previous years.

I used to exhaust myself with these lists.

I would write them down and then worry I'd forget them-and how could I become a better person if I didn't have my goals in mind every moment? Every day, I'd review my lofty goals of being more productive and more mindful and eating better and exercising more and accomplishing all the things I dreamed of.

But this year, I found myself making lists of all the ways I liked my life and, surprisingly, all the ways I liked myself—just as I am. In fact, I woke this morning, this morning of the big birthday, and felt that I was good enough.

Of course, I'm not perfect. There isn't a day I don't waste valuable time, or miss an opportunity to be kind, or generally fall short of being the person I could be. But perfection is a terrible goal to set for oneself. I was never meant to be perfect and really, now that I think about it, perfect sounds a bit dull. Instead, I'm going to be grateful that I am good enough.

"Good enough" encompasses everything.

It covers the moments of overwhelming bliss that blindside me; walking down the street and seeing a shop filled with yellow flowers, or a small girl dancing in a dirty green onesie, or a giant furry dog pounding its feet on the ground, or the sun reflecting perfectly on a shiny piece of stone on the sidewalk. It's all the moments I catch—just in time—that cause my heart to swell and make me wonder how so much beauty could be around me so much of the time, and I am lucky enough to see it.

"Good enough" also covers the times when I feel alone and ignored. When friends don't write back and no one seems to notice my writing and I wonder if I might be delusional, typing away every day with no one reading my novel. It covers when I am tired and a little sore and I don't feel like taking my walk or doing my pushups or finishing the cleaning or the paperwork that seems overwhelming at that moment. "Good enough" covers it

And while I have always enjoyed articles about selfreinvention, I discovered with surprise, on this big birthday, that I'm not really interested in reinventing myself, because I like the self I've invented pretty well. Sure, she's got a few issues. But I'm used to her issues and none of them will get her arrested. She's good enough for me.

I realize (with a little disappointment) that this philosophy will probably not allow me to write a self-help blockbuster. "You're Good Enough: Get Over It" probably wouldn't make its way up the NYT bestseller list. And that's OK too. I used to think I had a lot more advice for other people than I have today. Today, I think it's good enough to manage my life as best I can and let others do the same. They are good enough as well.

It will be interesting to approach a new decade with fewer lofty goals and more kindness toward myself. I wanted to finish this column with words worthy of the occasion. I've decided this is good enough.

Till next time, Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at <u>CarrieClasson.com</u>.



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Precinct 2 installs Free Health Kiosks at 3 Courthouses

Analyze blood pressure, weight, body mass index, and pulse rate – informs users of potential health risks

HARRIS COUNTY -Commissioner Adrian Garcia has debuted three new ACCESS2HEALTH Kiosks, at Jim Fonteno Annex (14350 Wallisville Rd. Houston, TX 77049).

Garcia was joined by representatives from Amerigroup Texas (donors of both the kiosks and free ongoing services for one year) and the American Heart Association (which is providing related health literature for users) for a ribbon cutting and unveiling of the devices.

In addition, Commissioner Garcia was the first person to have his readings taken at the

Present at the debut were Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Judge Joe Stephens (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 1), and Amerigroup Texas President Greg Thompson

ACCESS2HEALTH Kiosks measure blood pressure, weight, body mass index, and pulse rate. If a user's readings show signs of being at risk of heart disease, stroke or other risk fac-



On hand for the ribbon cutting of the new Health Kiosk at Fonteno Courthouse were Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, left, Amerigroup representatives, and Judge Joe Stephens, right.

tors, those users are given literature — or in extreme cases, instructed to visit a doctor immediately.

Two other ACCESS2HEALTH Kiosks are stationed at Raul C. Martinez Annex (1001 S/Sgt. Macario Garcia Dr., Houston, TX 77011) and John Phelps Annex (101 S. Richey St., Pasadena, TX 77506). They went online on April 1. All three

ACCESS2HEALTH Kiosks have been placed in strategically important locations across Precinct 2 (North Shore, East End, & Pasadena) where incidents of diabetes and other ailments are highest and rates of health insurance coverage are lowest.

"Precinct 2 residents have the lowest rates of health coverage in Harris County. To deal with this disparity, I've in-

structed my Precinct 2 team to develop innovative ways to bring health services to people, wherever they are and regardless of income," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "These free health kiosks are just the latest in ACCESS2HEALTH programming, allowing people to conveniently get their vitals checked while they are already on site to pay their taxes or register to vote. This is an exciting development, and there is so much more to come!"

"For more than 25 years, Amerigroup has worked to improve health in part by creating healthier communities. These kiosks will make vital health information simple and accessible for people who need it — and will help them act on that information," said Greg Thompson (President of Amerigroup Texas — which sponsored the ACCESS2HEALTH Kiosks for Precinct 2). "These machines will save lives, help people live healthier lives, and help communities overcome barriers to better health."

"Every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life. As champions for health equity, by 2024, the American Heart Association

will advance cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to health care access and quality," said Mel Edwards (Senior Vice President and Executive Director, American **Heart Association Great**er Houston). "The American Heart Association is proud to collaborate with Commissioner Garcia and Precinct 2 on this important community health initiative. Thank you, Amerigroup, for supporting our mission for longer, healthier lives. This blood pressure kiosk and educational materials will save lives in Precinct 2 and beyond."



An employee of Pct. 2 checks her blood pressure on the new Health Kiosk installed at the Fonteno Courthouse.

Sales Tax Holiday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website Texas Tax Holiday. org.

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free online or

by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) when either: the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or, the customer orders and pays for the item, and the sell-

er accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

Crosby Housing Project,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family's building legacy." Indian Springs complements "lake life" with its amenity offerings, inviting residents to immerse themselves in recreational living. Residents will have access to an exclusive amenities center along with ample, beautiful walking trails and 3 acres of parks. Residents will enjoy the community's proximity to Indian Shores Golf Course as well as homes zoned for Crosby Independent School District for families with school-

aged children. The planned community provides easy access to major thoroughfares and is approximately 6 miles north of State Highway 90. Lennar is the builder under contract to purchase all the lots within the community. Connor Investment Real Estate provided equity to purchase the land and fund the infrastructure development for the first phase of the project.

The phase one lots are expected to be delivered in 2023.

Windy Hill Development currently has 10 projects in active development, including Indian Springs, with just over 8,700 residential lots planned covering more than 3,300 acres.

About Trez Capital

Founded in 1997, Trez Capital is a diversified real estate investment firm and preeminent provider of commercial real estate debt and equity financing solutions in Canada and the United States. Trez Capital offers private and institutional investors strategies to invest in a variety of opportunistic, fully secured mortgage investment funds, syndications, and joint ventures; and provides property developers with quick approvals on flexible short- to mid-term financing.

With offices across North America, Trez Corporate Group has over \$4* billion CAD in assets under management and has funded over 1,600 transactions totaling more than \$15 billion CAD since inception. The Dallas office has funded more than \$5.1 billion in loans. For more information, visit www.trezcapital.com. (*Trez Corporate Group AUM includes assets held by all Trez-related entities as well as \$2.8 billion Manager AUM (Trez Capital Fund Management Limited Partnership)).

About Windy Hill Development

Windy Hill Development is led by industry vet-

eran Houston developer Randy Hall whose projects over the past 30 years include Marina del Sol, Bay Colony, Lakewood Village, Wingate Park, Fairgreen, Settlers Village, Galvez Shopping Center, Painted Meadows and Joseph's Cove. Current projects include Gulf Breeze, Wayside Village, Mesa Vista, Indian Springs, Bayou Bend, Diamond Oaks, Palmetto Creek, Esperanza, Prairie Meadows and The Ridge."

About Connor Investment Real Estate

Connor Investment Real Estate is a private equity real estate firm focused on risk-mitigated investment strategies in residential and commercial development target areas. Headquartered in Houston, Connor Investment Real Estate works with residential developers and homebuilders primarily in south-central Texas to assist and provide capital structures allowing for acquisition and development of land and lots. The team's understanding and knowledge of land development, local market conditions, and capital markets provides a unique combination of skills to assist with structuring a project. For more information, visit connorinv.com.

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

RFP# 2122-007 - Landscaping Services

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 05, 2022, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at https://cvisd.ionwave.net All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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Notice of Public Sale

of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at STEVE'S STORAGE, LLC at 5625 Hwy 90, Crosby, TX 77532 on August 13th at 11:30 a.m. Items sold as-is to highest CASH bidder. Property is contents of tenant space of Nicole D Johnson: Appliances, furniture, etc.

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HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 21

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of the Directors of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 21 at a meeting held on the 7th day of July, 2022 adopted an Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Services and Rules and Regulations Establishing Certain Other Policies and Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof. A copy of the Ordinance is on file at the principal office of the District, 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, Texas 77530-3702, where it may be read in full.



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Crosby Superintendent views Back To School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and dance team. We hope to see you there!

We ask all families to complete the registration and verification process as soon as possible. All students must be registered or verified before the start of the school year. Another critical part of the verification/ registration process is transportation. It is vital families fill out their child's transportation needs as soon as possible. Every time a child is added to our database, our digital routing program adjusts bus routes. The sooner we have everyone's information, the sooner our bus routes can be finalized. This process is done entirely online, and it takes only about 5

minutes per child.



CHS graduate Zaraiya Lee, her family, Superintendent Patterson and CHS Principal Mr. Davila.

I've identified 4 priorities for the 2022-2023 School Year: Taking Care of Self, Taking Care of Staff, Taking Care of

Students, and Safety & Security. The Crosby ISD communities will hear more about each of these pillars in the days, weeks,

and months ahead. On the safety and security front, there are changes this year, including new metal detector screenings at Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School. There is also a revised backpack policy for CHS and CMS students being required to use only clear or mesh backpacks. The District is also returning to regularly-priced meals for the 2022-2023 School Year. We have all this information posted in our Backto-School web page at www.crosbyisd.org/ backtoschool.

Congratulations to CHS 2022 graduate Zaraiya Lee. I had the pleasure to see her awarded with an \$8,000 scholarship from the Wendy's in Crosby. It was Zaraiya's first job, and she calls her co-workers her family. If you know Zaraiya, you know how special she is. She ranked 26th in her class and

lights up the room with her positive attitude. In her senior year, she was able to juggle a part-time job and make it to Area finals in Track & Field (discus). Zaraiya represents the best of us. We can't wait to see what she does during her college career at engineering school at UT-Austin.

Our District theme this year is "Better Together." I believe it's the perfect mantra for our moment. Our families and staff members are ready to start anew. We're headed toward a bright future by doing what Crosby ISD does best: inspiring, leading, teaching, and caring.

It's time to get started! It's going to be a wonderful year.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

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> Wednesday, August 17th 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



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