

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

AUG. 26 - 29 East Loop closed over Ship Channel Bridge

IH-610 EAST LOOP MAJOR CLOSURES. IH-610 EAST LOOP NORTH AND SOUTHBOUND LANES OVER THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TOTALLY FROM 9:00 PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26 TO 5:00 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 29.

These closures have been input into the TxDOT PIO system and can be found at www.houstontranstar.org.

SEPT. 9-10 Crosby Library Book Sale

Friends of the Crosby Library will hold their 2022 Fall Back to School Book Sale on: Friday, Sept. 9th - 1pm - 6pm. Saturday, Sept 10th - 10am - 5pm. *****Special***** Buy 2 Books, get 1 Free!! Paperback or Hardback books. Children's books not included.

Books at bargain prices and many in new condition. Movies and more at great prices!

All proceeds from the Book Sale benefit the Crosby Library. For more information, call the Library at 281-328-3535 or 832-927-7790.

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 24--Donche Webb
Alex Catie Maxey
Aug 25--Cameron Adams
Carley Hurta
Curtis Hunter
Catie Rynn Maxey
Alex Russell Maxey
Joshua Stuart
Madie L. White
Aug 26--Derek Elkins
Rebecca Moye
Aug 27--Craig Nelson
Aug 28--Jimmy Fincher
Steve Norris
Aug 29--Alex Creel
Myra Hedger
Pamela Lewis
Aug 30--Tara Hildebrand
Aug 31--Ben Coward
Kelli Rossow
Santrice Shepherd
Gary Lee Slot
Lynn Ray Svec
Sep 1--Hunter Enlow

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 26-- Lee Ward & Jo Ann Hammac
Aug 28--Gilbert & Mei-ing Hoffman
Aug 29--Kent & Barbara Nelson
Aug 30--Gene & Vi Fleming
Aug 31--Glenn & Linda Conard
Sep 2--Skip & Thelma Bauman
Sep 3--Carol & Louise Johnson

DEATHS

William Alfred Walden

Battleship sails to Galveston August 31 *In Drydock for repairs one year*

Battleship Texas Foundation Announces Ship Departure on August 31st

LA PORTE- The Battleship Texas Foundation (BTF), with their partners, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Historical Commission, announce that the Battleship Texas will be departing San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site for repairs on August 31st. Repairs will be done at Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporations' Galveston Shipyard. Due to weather or day of delays, the departure is subject to potential postponement. A livestream video of the departure will be available for the public to view for free on the BTF YouTube channel and Facebook group page.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site,



The Battleship Texas is set to sail on Wednesday, Aug. 31 to a drydock in Galveston for repairs to its hull.

parts of Independence Parkway, and the Lynchburg Ferry will be closed from the early morning hours on August 31st until the ship has moved past

the Lynchburg Ferry. The ship can be viewed throughout her route over most of the day. Good viewing locations for the public include, subject to the lo-

cal authority, Bayland Island, Texas City Dike, Seawolf Park, and Pier 21. The ship should pass the Texas City Dike and Seawolf Park around early to mi-

dafternoon and be in Galveston by mid to late afternoon.

All updates will be on the BTF website battleshiptexas.org.

Please see the FAQs below or attached for more information.

Battleship Texas Departure FAQs

Q. Is the Battleship Texas moving?

A. Yes. The ship is being towed from San Jacinto to Gulf Copper shipyard in Galveston for repairs to the ship's hull.

Q. When will the ship leave San Jacinto?

A. August 31st. This date is based on the optimal tides and currents at San Jacinto and Galveston

Continued. See Battleship Sails, Page 7

Legenderly Crosby Realtor plans retirement

CROSBY – A bit of Crosby history will retire this month, as Don Cox of Century 21 Life Savers Realty company say “Hello Crosby- Goodbye Crosby.”

On August 23, 1972, Don Cox sold 5 lots on opening day in Newport. His Brother, Audie Cox was the Sales Manager at that time and told him he put all 5 of my sales on top to be processed first.

Don told the newspaper “I worked for Diamondhead Corporation part time while teaching school in Pasadena. I loved the area and sales so much that I moved to Crosby in 1974 and made this my permanent home. Diamondhead Corporation



DON COX

had a change in management and I was terminated in 1975, so I opened my own company with Ed Ping called Lake Houston Real Estate in 1976. Things didn't work out with Ed ,

so I bought Ed out and in 1978 I bought a Century 21 Franchise and named it Life Changers, Inc. I have sold the two story white house that I rebuilt in 1996 and have terminated my Franchise. I will still help my previous clients and their friends.

Here's what it boils down to – Sold my first sale August 23, 1972, — closing on my last home August 31, 2022 — 50 WONDER YEARS OF CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF CROSBY AND HELPING CROSBY GROW. THANK YOU, SO MUCH , CROSBY FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE A PART OF YOUR LIFE! And thanks to all the



COX WELL KNOWN OFFICE HAS BEEN SOLD.

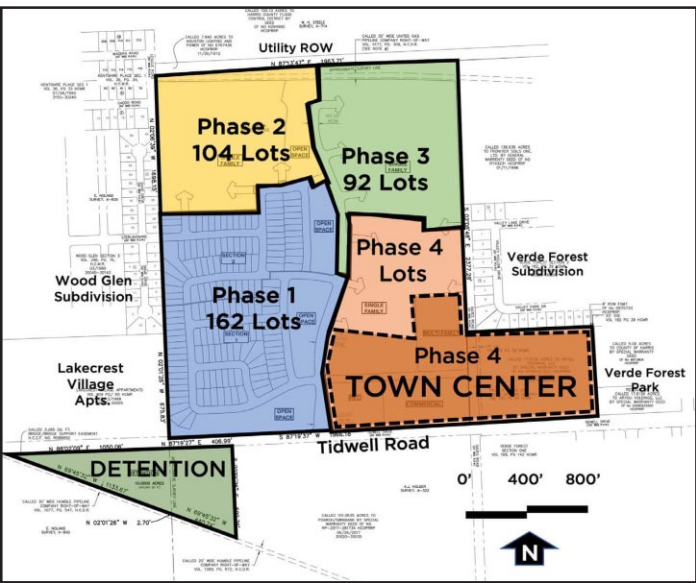
Agents that came along and trusted me enough to train them. Trust me, they are well trained and look for them as they are all over the area. Thanks Agents.”

Don Cox's Century 21 firm could be the oldest continuous business in Crosby, according to Cox, with Vernon Horde's Ace hardware as the second oldest.

Habitat plans 450 homes on Tidwell New 127 acre community known as Robins Landing

Houston Habitat for Humanity breaks ground on 127-acre master-planned community

HOUSTON — Houston Habitat for Humanity together with partners including the City of Houston broke ground on Robins Landing, a vibrant master-planned community serving low to moderate income Houstonians in their journey to homeownership. Located near Tidwell Road and Mesa Drive in northeast Houston, the 127-acre site will provide critically needed afford-



able homes, essential services, retail opportunities, and access to greenspace. Hines, the international real estate firm, will serve as a strategic advisor to Houston Habitat for the development, which is a first of its kind.

“Today's groundbreaking on Robins Landing marks an exciting moment for Houston Habitat and an exciting future for many Hous-

tonians” said Allison Hay, executive director of Houston Habitat for Humanity. “Along with our partners, we are creating a more inclusive, equitable, and open path toward homeownership. Everyone deserves a decent and affordable place to call home with access to everyday resources that make a thriving community.”

Designed for mixed-income and mixed-genera-

Continued. See Habitat Homes planned, Page 7

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GOOSE CREEK CISD

NEWS

Ashbel Smith Elementary School Named as a Recipient of a Library GRANT

Ashbel Smith Elementary School was one of 300 schools from 44 states across the country to receive a \$5,000 grant through the [Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#). This year, the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries awarded \$1.5 million in library grants this year.

Many of the libraries will use the funds to update and diversify their collections. "I am thrilled that children from 300 schools will soon have access to an updated library collection," Mrs. Laura Bush said. "Students across the country turn to books to discover the world around them, and we know that opening a new book opens the door to new opportunities and learning."

Ramona Townsend, librarian at Ashbel Smith, was overwhelmed with excitement when she was notified of the win. "We are beyond excited and grateful for this opportunity," she said. "I can't wait to see the students reading all the new books this grant will allow us to purchase."

Mrs. Bush revealed her [2022 summer reading list](#), which includes recommendations for young readers through middle schoolers, on Sunday at the annual Laura Bush Book Club event, part of the *Engage at the Bush Center series*, presented by *NexPoint*. Selections feature books on adventure, humor, and discovery.

One of the [2022 Summer Reading List](#) books was written by Giovanna McBride, the daughter of Mrs. Bush's former chief of Staff, Anita McBride. *Gigi at the White House* was published by The White House Historical Association and follows a young Giovanna as she tours the White House. Inspired by the Laura Bush Foundation, Anita McBride and her husband Tim McBride have donated copies of *Gigi at the White House!* to every elementary

school that has received a grant since 2002.

Grant applications for the 2022-2023 school year will open in late 2022. Visit [laurabushfoundation.org](#) to learn more.

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries supports school libraries with the greatest needs with the goal of encouraging all students to develop a love of reading and learning. Since its inception in 2002, it has awarded more than \$19.5 million to more than 3,300 schools across the country.

The George W. Bush Institute's Education and Opportunity work, which houses the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries, is generously supported by The Allstate Foundation. The Laura Bush Foundation is managed as a restricted fund at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas. More information can be found at [laurabushfoundation.org](#). The Laura Bush Foundation is managed as a restricted fund at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas. More information can be found at [www.bushcenter.org](#).

George W. Bush Institute

The George W. Bush Institute is a solution-oriented nonpartisan policy organization focused on ensuring opportunity for all, strengthening democracy, and advancing free societies. Housed within the George W. Bush Presidential Center, the Bush Institute is rooted in compassionate conservative values and committed to creating positive, meaningful, and lasting change at home and abroad. We utilize our unique platform and convening power to advance solutions to national and global issues of the day by influencing policy, not politics. Learn more at [bushcenter.org](#).

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Ramona Townsend, ASE librarian, will use the grant monies to purchase new and exciting reading materials for her students. Ashbel readers include: Adalynn Arredondo, fourth grade; Ava Campbell, first grade; and JJ Martinez and Angel Reyes, both in fourth grade.

Goose Creek Welcomes Employees Back During Annual Convocation Event

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Four-thousand district employees filled the Robert E. Lee High School auditorium on August 3rd; energized, engaged and excited for the new school year. Each year, the district holds convocation as a jump-start to the new school year for employees. There, the district unveils the theme for the year; along with guest speakers and door prizes, the event is one no one wants to miss. This year's theme, "This is How We Brew It," was an ode to the catchy 1995 tune coined by Montell Jordan, but to Goose Creek, it represents so much more. The district "brews" giants that will be the world's next doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers and so much more.

Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools, thanked district employees

and stakeholders for their continuous support of the district. "It takes a lot of hard work, time and grit to be competitive in today's educational world," he said. "We know our families and employees have choices. Going above and beyond the call of duty ensures that we remain the premier choice for a high quality education." Richard Clem, Board President and Erika Foster, Education Foundation Director, shared greetings with the audience and Kendall David, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, presented awards to the Giant student, staff and alumni for the month of August.

Attendees received gift bags with items donated from local businesses, such as SuperCuts, HEB, and Sonic.

Photos taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Highlands Elementary School employees are ready for the new school year at the 2022 Convocation.



Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Superintendent of Schools, poses with Damon West, Convocation guest speaker.

Lee Fine Arts Building on the Way to Completion

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Members of the Goose Creek CISD Executive Team, Facilities and Operations and Fine Arts departments, Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, Lee High School staff and students and other stakeholders signed a beam that will be placed in the new Robert E. Lee Fine Arts building during a celebratory event on August 19th. Ray Lavan, Director of Fine Arts, had this

to say at the event, "We are very happy to celebrate the progress of the Fine Arts building and we hope that it will be an amazing space for our Fine Arts students to help guide them towards their potential."

The building is still in the construction phase with a tentative completion date in 2023.

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



1. GCCISD staff, students and members of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee pose with the signed beam for the Lee Fine Arts building.

Veteran Educator Honored By School Board



Verdun receives her original application from 1982.



Verdun poses with Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien and Board President Richard Clem

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Michelle Verdun, former principal of Peter Hylands and 40-year veteran educator, was recognized for her contribution to the education of students in Goose Creek during the August 1st Board of Trustees meeting. With family members, former colleagues and friends in tow, Verdun received her flowers with the grace and gratitude she is known for.

A native Baytownian and graduate of Goose Creek, Verdun spent all 40 years in the district. A graduate of Lee College, Sam Houston State University and Stephen F. Austin State University; Verdun served in various capacities throughout her time in the district, including teacher, summer school administrator and lastly, as campus principal. She hung up her hat and retired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

On her original application of employment in Goose Creek, completed in

1982, Michelle was asked to describe her personal philosophy on education. She wrote many compelling thoughts, but one statement stood out the most. "Education should create an integrated understanding of life, thereby limiting the depth of our individual and collective problems. Producing scholars, technicians and job hunters should not be the purpose of education, but integrated men and women who are fully awakened to the fullness of life."

Verdun, overwhelmed with emotion, spoke to the crowd. "Forty years, I can't believe it; but it's really 52 years, because I started out as a student at Harlem Elementary School," she said. "I always wondered why I never left because I've always had a good time, even in my school years. Goose Creek has always been very kind and very nice to me. I never thought a little girl from McNair, Texas would be here and Goose Creek will always be a part of my life."

Photos taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County confirms the first case of Monkeypox in the County.

The Epidemiology Division continues to investigate this case, and is working with local, regional, state, and federal partners in monitoring the situation. Currently, the risk of disease to the general public remains very low. Monkeypox spread through skin to skin contact, contact with body fluids or lesions, or shared items that are contaminated by an individual with Monkeypox such as bedding. Additionally, it can be spread through respiratory droplets to persons in close proximity and prolonged exposure (3 hours) to a positive case. Symptoms of monkeypox include rash, fever, body aches, and swollen lymph nodes. The mortality rate for Monkeypox remains low, with no reported deaths in the United States to date, although it can cause severe disease including disfigurement and other complications in certain populations. Monkeypox cases are on the rise throughout Texas and Nationwide. Those who are at a higher risk for exposure should be aware of their risk, and seek out medical guidance from their Primary Care Provider, including vaccinations, testing, or treatment. Monkeypox is an immediately reportable condition upon suspicion, and should be reported to Chambers County Public Health Epidemiology Division (409) 267-2731. More information on Monkeypox can be found here: www.co.chambers.tx.us/page/monkeypox or www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox

Jones Library List of Donors

In Memory of:
Skarpa, Marie: Lonely Planet's Wonders of the World, Gardening for Everyone given by Williamson & Till Families
Ashley, Aubrey: I Dream of Dinner, Sewing Machine Basics for Children given by Williamson & Till Families
Payne, Bobby: The Simplest Gift, Uncommon Sanctuary given by Williamson & Till Families
Pscencik, Eva: Texas Boomtowns, The Unique States of America given by Williamson & Till Families
Gartner, Patricia Ann: Creative Kids, Complete Guide to Sewing given by Frank H. Weiner
Skarpa, Marie: Czech Songs in Texas given by Jay & Jan Knight
Whitton Jr, Cody: Trucks Roll given by Dava & Bobby Glatfelter
Gihlooly, Corey: The Fascinating Animal Book for Kids given by Dava Glatfelter
Früge, Atlas: The New England Primer given by Eddie L. Pearson
West, Lynn: Go Gently given by Rickie Welder
Ross Jr, Johnny: The Disappearing Bullet given by Mary Howard
Redick, Betty Chovanec: True Women, Stories from Texas given by Kathleen C. Butler
Murphy Heider, Earl: A Camping Spree with Mr. McGee, The Little Fire Truck given by Paul & Angie Doskocil
Ripkowski, Gregory: The Ducks Unlimited Story, Birdlife of the Gulf of Mexico, Hot & Fast BBQ on your Traeger Grill, Wild Feasts: Ducks Unlimited Game and Fish Cookbooks given by The Kness Family
Ripkowski, Gregory: Hydroponics and Greenhouse Gardening, A Guidebook to Acquiring Food, Stockpiling, Storing, and Preparing for Survival, Canning and Preserving for Beginners, Canning and Preserving Vegetables, A Taste of Cowboy Ranch Recipes and Tales from the Trail, The Big Book of Preserving given by The Guys at Nest Construction
Ripkowski, Greg: Island Boy, Roxaboxen, Blueberries for Sal, Make Way for Duckling given by The Maddox Family
Ripkowski, Greg: Father to Daughter, Grandpa and Me, Daddy's Little Girl, Why a Son needs a Mom, Daddy's Little Girl, When Grandpa says I Love You given by Angie Doskocil
Honorariums:
In Honor Of:
Wadzeck, Caroline: Area 51 Interns - Alien Summer (2 Copies) given by Luke and Cathy Morgan
Frick, Jeanette Goulder: We Shall Overcome given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Harris, Larry and Linda: Biscuit Storybook Favorites given by Luke and Julie Chachere

Chambers County Library System Summer Reading Program

Every summer, the Chambers County Library System hosts an exciting Summer Reading Program for the community, and 2022 was no exception. During June and July 5,026 people registered and attended 93 in-person, outreach, and passive programs combined. Readers logged an impressive 441,905 minutes read, up over 100% from 2021. We definitely had a busy summer and our Carnival of Reading theme proved to be a hit. To launch the festivities, the library held a "kickoff week" which included local elected officials and area volunteers. We had County Commissioners, the County Attorney, County Treasurer, JP 1, JP 4, the Sheriff's Office, and volunteers from local organizations and the general public. Some of the highlighted events included Local First Responders, Pickleball 101, craft days, book clubs,



Representatives with the Houston Rockets and Whataburger join the staff at the Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch

scavenger hunts, movie days, carnival day, story walks, and foam parties. We rounded out summer with the Houston Museum of Natural Science and their Discovery Dome. The inflatable dome entertained standing room only crowds with movies about space, stars, and planets. And our final program of the summer was with the Houston Rockets and Whataburger presenting

Rocket Read Nation. Storytelling, fun activities, and giveaways made this a well-attended program. The Summer Reading Program gains support yearly from the local community. We could not provide quality programs without the help of our corporate and local sponsors. On behalf of the Chambers County Library System, we thank you, our public, for your continued support.



Diego Mares Aquilia De la Cruz, April Knight Sue Hawthorne and Danie Smith with performer John O'Bryant



Alex Banda enjoys the foam party at Anahuac



County Attorney Cain Land passing out cotton candy at Anahuac

Baytown Chamber Celebrates Ribbon Cutting with Gulf Coast (Angel Bros.)



BAYTOWN – Texas Materials Group Gulf Coast, located at 3003 Kilgore Parkway celebrated their merger and re-brand with a Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting. Gulf Coast, formerly Angel Brothers Enterprises

filled with Chamber Ambassadors, staff, board and members as well as the Gulf Coast family and staff for the celebration.

Gulf Coast, A CRH Company, is a leader in Southeast Texas in asphalt, aggregate production and heavy civil

construction services. The Baytown office can be reached regarding asphalt, slurry seal, pavement striping, concrete and more at 281-421-5721.

About the Baytown Chamber
The Baytown Chamber



of Commerce is a 501 (c) 6 premier business organization that represents 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 region.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown - Seminar:

Are You Ready for Weight Loss Surgery?

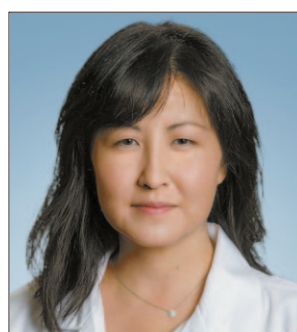
BAYTOWN — From wanting to fit into that new little black dress to looking great at an upcoming wedding, there is no shortage of reasons why people want to lose weight.

But for those dealing with complications related to obesity, losing weight can be a life-saving proposition. Simply put: obesity can lead to very dire health conditions. Research indicates obesity—defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or above—is linked to the development of a variety of potentially serious medical conditions, including type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease.

Bariatric surgery procedures restrict the amount of food you can eat and/or changes the route food takes through your body so

that less food is absorbed. The Center for Weight Loss & Bariatric Surgery at Houston Methodist Baytown offers personalized care through medical nutritional counseling and bariatric (weight loss) surgery for patients affected by conditions attributed to obesity.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital bariatric surgeon Dr. Laura Choi will host a free weight loss surgery webinar on Tuesday, August 30th at noon to provide information on the full range of weight loss surgical options available to those seeking to lose weight and improve their health. They will discuss topics such as how to know if you are a good candidate for surgery and the most common types of procedures.



Dr. Laura Choi

"Weight loss surgery helps patients reduce their calorie intake, but the procedures are combined with counseling and dietary education to help patients learn how to stay fit after they lose weight by altering their eating habits and becoming more active," Choi said.

Patients whose BMI is 40 and above are eligible for bariatric surgery, while those whose BMI is in the

35-40 range are also eligible if they have existing medical conditions considered to be caused by or associated with obesity. According to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, approximately 100,000 such surgeries are performed each year in the U.S.

The sleeve gastrectomy, which re-shapes the stomach into a thin, sleeve-shaped organ that helps to limit the amount of food that can be consumed at a given time, and the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, are the most commonly performed weight loss surgery procedures in the U.S. With the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, part of the stomach is stapled off, leaving a small pouch that will only hold a few ounces of food. The digestive

tract is redirected to bypass the upper small intestine, which reduces the total calories absorbed.

"It is vital that patients be willing to make major lifestyle and dietary changes in order to achieve optimal results following any bariatric surgery procedure. The Weight Management Center offers comprehensive nutritional counseling and after-care programs to help our patients adjust to the physical and emotional changes that frequently occur post-surgery," Choi said.

The webinar will last for about an hour. For more information and to register, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown-bariatric, or call 832.667.LOSE (5673).

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OPINION PAGE

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COUNTY MATTERS

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Hidalgo Urges Residents to Remain Vigilant for Monkeypox

The Monkeypox virus is spreading rapidly across the world and many countries are now facing high case rates. The World Health Organization has now deemed Monkeypox a Global Health Emergency. Texas has the sixth highest case count in the United States with 220 cases. As of July 25, Harris County has confirmed 57 cases. Monkeypox can look like a pimple or blister, or a rash and lesion. In some cases, just a few small bumps can be the first indication of an infection – before any symptoms are felt. If you notice any new rashes, pimples, or blisters anywhere on your body, including in your mouth, it is important to get checked out and tested. While certain groups are at higher risk – we know from nationwide cases that men, particularly men who have sex with men (MSM), have been disproportionately impacted so far – anyone can get Monkeypox including children and the elderly. While cases remain low in the region, city and county officials remain vigilant and prepared, and urge residents to take some simple precautions to curb the spread:

Limit intimate and sexual contact with anonymous partners.

If you have new/unknown lesions, assume it is Monkeypox and get tested.

Get the vaccine, if you qualify.

For support with testing and vaccines, call 832-927-0707, or visit ReadyHarris.org.

Free COVID Vaccines Now Available for Children Six Months and Older

While Harris County is still in yellow, many in our county are still contracting the COVID-19 virus, suffering from symptoms, and having to quarantine. And while children do not face the same risk from COVID as adults, we have had over 15,000 Harris County children contract COVID. Thankfully, families now have the ability to protect themselves better than ever by signing up kids ages 6 months to 5 years for the FDA-approved Pfizer and Moderna pediatric vaccinations, and now is the time to get children vaccinated before school starts in the fall and cases are likely to rise. Harris County Public Health is administering “little pediatric” vaccines at all 20 vaccination sites across the county, free of charge, for walk-ins and appointment holders. Parents can talk to their pediatricians if they have questions. Visit ReadyHarris.org or call 832-927-8787 to schedule an appointment for you and/or your child.

top ten

Most COVID-19 Cases*

1. U.S.

2. India

3. Brazil

4. France

5. Germany

6. U.K.

7. Russia

8. South Korea

9. Italy

10. Turkey

* As of April 2022

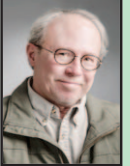
Source:
Our World in Data



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas Gas Prices are Lowest in the Nation

While gas prices nationwide dropped below \$4 per gallon average last week, the state boasts the lowest prices in the country at an average of \$3.49 — 50 cents below the national average, according to AAA Texas. “Retail gasoline prices in Texas fell for the eighth consecutive week,” said AAA Texas spokesperson Daniel Armbruster. “While gas prices will likely keep dropping in the near term, it is unclear how long the trend will last. Demand for fuel jumped seven percent across the U.S. this week and regional fuel supplies fell by around three percent.” Drivers fueling up in College Station are paying the most on average at \$3.72, while those in the Brownsville-Harlingen area have the cheapest fuel at \$3.19, according to a report by KWTX-Waco.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 11

Eligible Texas voters must be registered by Oct. 11 in order to cast ballots in the Nov. 8 general election, according to Texas Secretary of State John Scott. “Even though we’re still two months away from the voter registration deadline, it’s never too early to make sure you’re registered, update your registration information if you need to, and prepare yourself to vote in the upcoming election,” Scott said. Texas law requires eligible voters to be registered 30 days before Election Day. Since the 30th day before Nov. 8 falls on a Sunday, prospective voters have two extra days to register this year. Voters can visit the state’s official voting website — VoteTexas.gov — for more information.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS NOW INTO SIXTH MONTH

By the end of July,



drought conditions covered 97% of the state, up 11 percentage points from the end of June, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. July was drier and warmer than normal, a familiar refrain in 2022. Storage in the state’s reservoirs is at 71% of capacity, which is 13 percentage points below normal for this time of year, Wentzel wrote. Still, the current drought is not as severe as the one Texans endured in 2011 for most of the state. However, South Texas is faring worse than it did in 2011 since it started the year with its water supply reservoirs already well below normal.

MORE STATE RESOURCES MOBILIZED FOR WILDFIRE THREATS

On Friday alone, Texas A & M Forest Service firefighters responded to 15 new wildfires that burned 540 acres. There are five active wildfires throughout the state, the largest being the Pine Pond Fire in Bastrop County, covering an estimated 700 acres and just 35% contained as of Sunday. The Texas Division of Emergency Management at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott has deployed additional strike teams, consisting of 32 firefighters and 10 engines. “Communities across the state continue

to be impacted by dangerously dry conditions that could lead to further spread of wildfires,” said Abbott said. Burn bans are now in place in 224 Texas counties, out of 254 total.

SCAMMER POSING AS TDI EMPLOYEE

If someone calls claiming to be a Texas Department of Insurance employee offering to meet at one’s home to discuss insurance needs, it’s almost certainly a scam. That’s according to a TDI news release, which notes the agency only calls people who ask for assistance. The agency’s fraud unit received a report from a person who was contacted by someone claiming to be a TDI employee and offering to come over and review insurance needs. “The individual who received the call did the right thing by not providing any personal information and contacting us,” said Chris Davis, head of TDI’s Fraud Unit. “This may have been an attempt at identity theft or other crime.” Anyone needing help with an insurance issue or suspecting insurance fraud can contact the TDI help line at 800-252-3439.

ALL STATE OIL AND GAS RECORDS NOW ONLINE

Have you been wondering about that working pumpjack in the strip-mall parking lot in Longview? (Yes, there is one.) The Texas Railroad Commission has recently completed placing all historic oil and gas production records online. The RRC database covers oil production dating back to 1931 and gas back to 1937. More than 1,300 rolls of microfilm containing about 2.2 million images in the RRC’s central records were digitized. “This is a significant undertaking and a historic moment for the Commission,” Matthew Herzon with RRC, said. “Not only does it give the public quick and easy access to the information, but it can also save staff time that’s spent researching for public information requests.”

COVID-19 CASES DIP SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week dipped slightly to 72,715 with 194 new deaths reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 3,174 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday, a slight drop from the previous week.

☆

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Piccolina”

I was walking down an old street in an old part of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Brightly colored wooden doors lined the streets. There was no indication from the outside what might be within. It could be a courtyard filled with flowers and a fountain, or a small business, or somebody’s kitchen. It is always a mystery what is behind these doors, and so, when one is open, naturally I look inside.

Last week, a door was open, and I saw a few items of clothing for sale, so I stepped inside. That’s when I met Piccolina.

“Who is this?” I asked.

“That is Piccolina,” a woman at a sewing machine answered in Spanish.

Piccolina was a fat little puppy with blue eyes and black-and-white spots. She was delighted to meet me, and I was delighted to meet the woman with the sewing machine because I had a square tablecloth that I wanted to be round. I had thought of bringing it back home with me to the States to do the alteration, but that seemed like a lot of heavy fabric to haul back-and-forth when, the odds were, I would run into someone like Piccolina’s mother. And now I had.

I explained my tablecloth situation as best I could, and it was clear from the woman’s nodding and pantomimed gestures that she understood the project. I agreed to bring it the next day.

“And then I get to see Piccolina!” I thought.

The next day I called, “Where is Piccolina?!” and the little dog came running, and the woman, whose name was Marta, also came running. I handed off my tablecloth, and we agreed on a price that seemed like far too little for the work involved.

A few days passed, and I came back. The floors had just been mopped, and Piccolina was not being allowed on the floors until they were dry. She was being held by a young relative of Marta’s and this made her unhappy, which she indicated by chomping down on my finger when I went to greet her.

“Oh, no! Piccolina!” Marta said. She didn’t think Piccolina should be biting the customers, but they were just puppy bites, and the customer had been asking for it.

The tablecloth was not finished because Marta was proposing something more complicated—and prettier—than I had envisioned.

“Fine!” I said, even though I wasn’t entirely sure what she was saying. I promised to return in a few days.

“And then I get to see Piccolina again!” I thought.

The next time I arrived, the tablecloth was finished, with a fringe all around the edge that transitioned from one color to another, with a mixture of the two colors in between. It had taken a lot of thread-pulling and time, and I paid Marta more than she had asked for and I said goodbye to Piccolina.

But not for good. Yesterday I stopped by, even though I had no business with Marta.

“Piccolina, where are you?” I called, and she was easy to find because she was waiting at the doggy gate that Marta had installed.

“Piccolina has a gate!” I said.

“Piccolina has been running onto the street!” Marta tut-tutted.

The street is quiet and cobblestone, so I don’t think Piccolina was in much danger, but I also imagine Marta got tired of running outside to retrieve her.

“You are a naughty little dog!” I informed Piccolina, and Marta agreed.

You can tell friends things like this, and we are all friends now—Marta and me and Piccolina.

Till next time,

Carrie

Photos from the column and other info can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

★ MILESTONES PAGE ★

★

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM ALFRED WALDEN

William Alfred Walden, 82, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 in his home surrounded by his family. He was born on September 7, 1939 in Bay City, Texas to his parents George Clayton Walden and Irene Groda who also preceded him in death.

William served in the Army in 1962. He was kind, loving and had a very good sense of humor. He enjoyed teasing people any chance he had. He was also a good Christian man who devoted his time to God. William will be dearly missed



by those who loved and knew him.

William is survived by his wife Charlotte Sue Walden; his daughters Kimberly Harris (Samuel) and Stephanie Walden; grandchildren Clay Harris, Mandy Harris and James Alonso.

Friends are welcome to visit with the family on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Sterling-White Funeral Home, Highland, Texas with services to begin at 3:00 p.m. officiated by Gene Talbot.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sterling-White Funeral Home & Cemetery of Highlands, Texas. Online condolences can be made at www.sterlingwhite.com

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Do Texans move closer to respectability in 2022?

Texas looks to step up after 5-7 2021 campaign

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While the Astros appear headed to another American League West title, and hopefully another long playoff run, the 2022 football season is right around the corner.

Halleluiah!

The Texans enter the 2022 campaign with a new head coach in Lovie Smith, who previously served as the Chicago and Tampa Bay's head man before accepting the head coaching job at the University of Illinois. He served as David Culley's defensive coordinator last year and when Culley was fired after one year on the job, Texans General Manager Nick Caserio promoted Smith to the top job.

Smith and have staff definitely have their work cut out for them in 2022. Houston is coming off a 4-13 season (they were 4-12 in 2020), but they enter the season without having to deal with the Deshaun Watson circus.

Watson, who last played a full season in 2020, was traded to Cleveland for three first rounds picks and is awaiting his fate now that the NFL has appealed the six-game suspension retired Federal Judge Sue L. Robinson handed down her decision on Aug. 1, but that did not sit well with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

The appeal should come down before the regular season begins on Sept. 8. If Watson is suspended the entire season, it could be another long year for beleaguered Browns fans.

But back to the hometown team.

The Texans will turn to second-year man Davis Mills (2,664 yards, 16 TDs in 11 starts in 2021) as the man under center. If Mills proves to Caserio and Smith that he is indeed the man to play QB moving forward, the Texans can concentrate on upgrading other portions of their team in the 2023 draft, where they should have another high pick.

Caserio did have a good draft in 2022, landing LSU cornerback Derek Singleterry, Jr. and Texas A&M standout offensive lineman Kenyon Green (6-4, 323 pounds and a product of Attascocita High School) in the first round. They added Alabama linebacker Christian Harris and Baylor safety Jalen Pitre in later rounds. Pitre has already secured a starting safety spot and Singleterry should also hold down one of the corner spots.

The Texans also upgraded at running back by signing Marlon Mack, a former Colt, and drafting Dameon Pierce (16 total TDs his first year at Florida). Both should be a big improvement over last year's running back situation, which was the worst in the league.

Mills still has speedy Brandin Cooks (90 receptions, 1,037 yards, 6 TDs) to throw to, but that's about it as far as big-play wideouts go for the Texans. The Houston brass is hoping second-year man Nico Collins takes a step up this year.

Defensively, the Texans should be better, but then again, they can't be as bad as they were in 2021, can they?

We shall see.

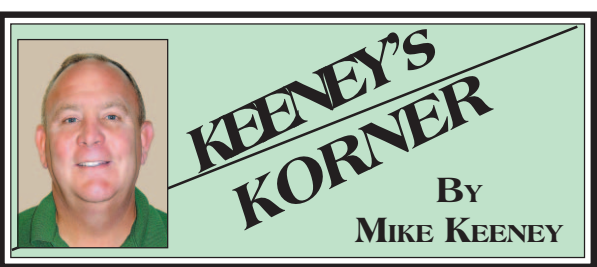
I think Caserio made the right move in hiring a veteran with a proven track record in Smith. How that translates into wins remains to be seen.

Texas' other NFL team, the Dallas Cowboys, is coming off a 12-5 season, the NFC East title, and another first-round exit in the playoffs (Dallas fell at home to the 49ers, 23-17, in the Wild Card round).

Dallas still has Dak Prescott (4,499 yards, 37 TDs), wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (79 receptions, 1,102 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Dalton Schultz (78 receptions, 808 yards, 8 TDs). Dallas will need a bounce back year from running back Ezekiel Elliott (1,002 yards, 12 total TDs) and look for backup running back Tony Pollard (719 yards, 2 TDs) to play a bigger role in the Pokes offense this year. Pollard has blazing speed and could be used more in the passing game.

Defensively, the Cowboys will be led by second-year linebacker Micah Parson (13 sacks). Defensive coordinator Dan Quinn will have him taking advantage of his rare speed and quickness.

The Cowboys should be a playoff team, but they might be looking up at Philadelphia in the NFC East standing. Philly



made a huge upgrade on offense by acquiring speedy wide receiver A.J. Brown (63 receptions, 869 yards, 5 TDs) from Tennessee on draft night. He will be paired with another fast Eagle wide out in second-year man DeVonta Smith (64 receptions, 916 yards, 5 TDs). The key to the Eagles will be the improved play of quarterback **Jalen Hurts** (3,144 yards, 16 TDs/784 rushing yards, 10 TDs). If Hurts does a better job of reading defenses, the Eagles could be scary on offense in 2022.

While the Cowboys and Eagles battle for the NFC East title, Tampa Bay should take care of business in the NFC South, as long as Tom Brady (5,316 yards, 43 TDs) his 45-year-old body stay healthy.

In the NFC North, Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers (4,115 yards, 37 TDs/4 interceptions) will see what life will be like without star wide receiver Davante Adams (1,231 yards, 11 TDs) is like now that Adams has moved onto Las Vegas.

The NFC West should be the most competitive division in the conference. It is home to the defending Super Bowl champions, the Los Angeles Rams. The Rams should be solid again this year led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (4,886 yards, 41 TDs), productive wide receiver Cooper Kupp (145 receptions, 1,974 yards, 16 TDs) and one of the best defensive players in the league in defensive tackle Aaron Donald.

Arizona will go as far as quarterback Kyler Murray (3,971 yards, 26 TDs/819 rushing yards, 11 TDs) takes them. Murray won't have star wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (115 receptions, 1,407 yards, 6 TDs) for the first six games as he serves a suspension for taking a banned substance.

The AFC South should be a two-team race between Indianapolis and Tennessee. The Colts traded for former Falcons QB Matt Ryan (3,968 yards, 20 TDs), which should be a huge upgrade from Carson Wentz. The Titans will be led by QB Ryan Tannehill (3,734 yards, 21 TDs) and running back Derrick Henry (937 yards, 10 TDs in eight games).

The AFC West, like the NFC West, is loaded. All four teams are potential playoff squads. Kansas City is the defending champ but suffered a huge loss when stud wide receiver Tyreek Hill (111 receptions, 1,239 yards, 9 TDs) left for Miami. The Chiefs still have star QB Patrick Mahomes (4,839 yards, 37 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (92 receptions, 1,125 yards, 9 TDs).

Denver upgraded at QB by acquiring Russell Wilson (3,113 yards, 25 TDs in 14 games). If young wide receivers Courtland Sutton (58 receptions, 776 yards, 2 TDs) and Jerry Jeudy (38 receptions, 467 yards) progress, the Broncos could be a playoff contender.

In the AFC North, the Cincinnati Bengals shocked the world by winning the AFC and took the Rams to the wire before losing the Super Bowl. Cincinnati is loaded on offense led by QB Joe Burrow (4,611 yards, 34 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (1,205 yards, 16 total TDs) and wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase (81 receptions, 1,455 yards, 13 TDs) and Tee Higgins (74 receptions, 1,091 yards, 6 TDs).

In the AFC East, Buffalo is the team to beat led by QB Josh Allen (4,407 yards, 36 TDs/763 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and wide receivers Stefon Diggs (103 receptions, 1,225 yards, 10 TDS) and Gabriel Davis (35 receptions, 549 yards, 6 TDs). Davis had a breakout game in the Bills' 42-36 loss to KC in the Divisional Round with eight receptions for 201 yards and four TDS.

There will be 10 new head coaches when the 2022 season begins. Matt Eberflus takes over in Indy, while Nathaniel Hackett takes over in Denver, Todd Bowles in Tampa Bay, Mike McDaniels in Miami, Brian Daboll is the Giants new head coach, Doug Pederson is the new head man in Jacksonville, Josh McDaniels takes over in Vegas, Dennis Allen is the

new man in charge in New Orleans, Lovie Smith tries to rebuild the Texans and Kevin O'Connell takes over in Minnesota.

The 2022 season will conclude with Super Bowl LVII on Feb. 12 in Phoenix.

At the college level, teams will be vying for a spot in the College Football Playoff (CFP) National Title game, slated for Jan. 9 in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium.

The national semifinal games will be held on Dec. 31 (Fiesta Bowl and Peach Bowl).

Georgia is the reigning national champ and while they lost 15 players to the NFL (five defensive players were drafted in the first round alone), head coach Kirby Smart will just reload and field another strong contender.

Texas A&M and head coach Jimbo Fisher should be 'Bama's biggest threat in the SEC West. Fisher has a veteran team back, led by running back Devon Achane (1,171 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Ainais Smith (47 receptions, 509 yards, 6 TDs). Fisher has to choose a QB and has three talented signal callers to choose from in LSU transfer Max Johnson (2,815 yards, 27 TDs), former starter Haynes King and true five-star freshman Conner Wegman.

Ohio State should be the class of the Big 10. Ryan Day has a plethora of returning starters led by star QB C.J. Stroud (4,435 yards, 44 TDs), running back TreVeyon Henderson (1,560 yards, 19 TDs) and wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (95 receptions, 1,606 yards, 9 TDs). Smith-Njigba had an amazing performance in OSU's 48-45 Rose Bowl win over Utah with 15 receptions for 347 yards and 3 TDs.

When it's all said and done, look for Alabama and Ohio State to meet for the national title, with Saban winning his eighth national title.

COLLEGE PREDICTIONS

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ATLANTIC – NORTH CAROLINA STATE
COASTAL – MIAMI
ACC CHAMPION – NORTH CAROLINA STATE

BIG 10
EAST – OHIO STATE
WEST – WISCONSIN
BIG 10 CHAMPION – OHIO STATE

PAC 12
NORTH – OREGON
SOUTH – UTAH
PAC 12 CHAMPION – UTAH

SEC
EAST – GEORGIA
WEST – ALABAMA

CFL SEMIFINALS
FIESTA BOWL – ALABAMA OVER UTAH
PEACH BOWL – OHIO STATE OVER GEORGIA

CFP NATIONAL TITLE GAME
ALABAMA OVER OHIO STATE

NFL PREDICTIONS

AFC EAST – BUFFALO
AFC SOUTH – INDIANAPOLIS
AFC NORTH – CINCINNATI
AFC WEST – LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

AFC WILD CARDS
KANSAS CITY, TENNESSEE, LAS VEGAS

AFC TITLE GAME
BUFFALO OVER CINCINNATI

NFC EAST – PHILADELPHIA
NFC SOUTH – TAMPA BAY
NFC NORTH – GREEN BAY
NFC WEST – LOS ANGELES RAMS

NFC WILD CARDS
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CISD Special Education department provides screenings for children with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. Crosby ISD is committed to providing excellence in education to all students, and the screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs. Eligible students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special education services are also available starting at birth for eligible children who have a visual and/or auditory impairment.

If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281 328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

33-3t

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Crosby Independent School District is requesting proposals for Substance Abuse Counseling Services.

Responses must be received by 2:00 PM Central Time, 09/07/2022. Proposals will be unsealed and opened shortly after the specified time of closing.

Crosby ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any formalities or technical inconsistencies, or delete any item/requirements from this Request for Proposal when deemed to be in Crosby ISD's best interest.

The Request for Proposal and further information may be obtained by emailing rheniff@crosbyisd.org or contacting Robert Heniff at 281-328-9200 x 1218.

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Habitat housing planned,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1f

tions, Robins Landing is set to include more than 450 single-family homes. One hundred homes will be built by Houston Habitat for those earning 80 percent or below the City of Houston’s average median income (AMI) and be sold through the Habitat for Humanity Homeownership program. Three hundred homes will be designed, priced, and sold by partner builders Castle-Rock Communities and Chesmar Homes for those whose income is 120 percent AMI or below.

“Robins Landing is a significant step in transforming Houston Habitat from a homebuilder to a community builder. The offerings and amenities will help build a vibrant sustainable neighborhood and Hines is thrilled to be involved,” said John Mooz, senior managing director at Hines. “When there’s scale, Hines can bring a level of experience to a master-planned district on adjacencies, complementary uses and resources that make for a unique and special community. We look forward to sharing our knowledge and placemaking experience, not just for Robins Landing, but hopefully in other urban locations as well.”

Houston Habitat is collaborating with community partners to deliver more than just housing to Robins Landing residents and those living nearby. Plans include a 12-acre central park with access to hike-and-bike trails, a community garden, a neighborhood resilience hub, and more. A Town Center will include essential services, including a Legacy Community Health Clinic and Houston Public



Robins Landing, a mixed-use community, will have various types of housing, including about 100 Habitat for Humanity single family homes similar to this prototype.

Library branch.

“Affordable housing is about more than simply providing a roof over someone’s head,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “We must work in a collaborative and holistic fashion to improve access to transportation, high-quality grocery stores, and opportunity to address the underlying causes of inequity. Robins Landing is positioned to do just that.”

Using an innovative funding model, Houston Habitat has secured \$33 million in funds for site infrastructure, which includes a \$4.79 million investment from the City of Houston and \$1.5 million from Habitat from Humanity International. Construction loans were secured from Arnold Ventures at no interest, and Houston Housing Finance Corporation at low inter-

est. The remainder comes from traditional development funding including lot and land sales for single-family homes, multi-family units, senior units, and nonresidential businesses. Houston Habitat is seeking an additional \$10 million from philanthropy to ensure long term affordability, sustainability, and resiliency.

Infrastructure work has begun to create stormwater detention, drainage, utilities, streets, and access points to the future community. Construction of homes is scheduled to begin in fall 2022 with anticipated community completion by December 2026.

To stay up to date on Robins Landing, visit www.robinslanding.net.

###

About Houston Habitat for Humanity

Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses on Sale Aug. 15

AUSTIN – The beginning of a new hunting season is quickly approaching and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reminds hunters and anglers to purchase their new licenses for 2022-23. Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) for the current year expire at the end of August. The new licenses for the 2022-23 season go on sale Aug. 15.

Annually, Texans purchase more than 2.7 million hunting and fishing licenses and directly fund a multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities, helping make Texas one of the best places in the country to hunt and fish. Some of the many projects made possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas Game Wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses online through the official TPWD website, by phone at 1-800-895-4248 during regular business hours or in person at more than 1,800 retailers across the state. Anyone planning to buy their license from TPWD’s Austin Headquarters is reminded to make an advance appointment. Appointments may be scheduled up to one week in advance. Call 1-800-262-8755 or 512-389-4828 to schedule.

Brand new for this year, Texas residents can purchase a digital Super Combo license (Items 111, 117 and 990) that will authorize digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum. The digital license option is available through online purchase only

when licenses go on sale Aug. 15. A digital license holder will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available while in the field. The license can be viewed through the TPWD Outdoor Annual and My Texas Hunt Harvest (MTHH) mobile apps.

TPWD encourages repeat license buyers to use the expedited checkout process, which speeds up re-purchasing the same license bought in recent years.

Customers can access their past and current licenses in several ways: (1) an electronic photo of your license, (2) an emailed receipt of your purchase; (3) your account in the online license sales system; (4) via License Lookup in the Outdoor Annual app or in the My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2022-23 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, on the Outdoor Annual mobile app. The mobile app is free, and once downloaded, it works without internet connectivity which makes it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup, location-based functionality such as “Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location,” “Where to Fish,” and more. Thanks to partners at Chevrolet, a limited supply of printed booklets will be available at select TPWD offices. Hunters and anglers are encouraged to call their local offices to check availability.

For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.



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