HIGHLANDS



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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022** 

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

# **STARS**

# Battleship Texas safely sails to Galveston drydock

\$35 million restoration will take over a year

## **EVENTS**

### **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 Children's books not

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

included.

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

### **SEPT. 10, SAT. Rotary Washer Tournament**

Highlands Rotary Club holds their 15th Annual Washer Board charity tournament on Saturday, Sept. 10 starting at 12:30pm at Charilie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street, Highlands. The public is welcome, for fun

and prizes. 2 person teams must register by 12:30plm, d the cost to play is \$50 per team. Awards include trophies and cash prizes, and bragging

The Tournament is a benefit for Rotary International and Polio Plus, a world-wide initiative to eliminate Polio.

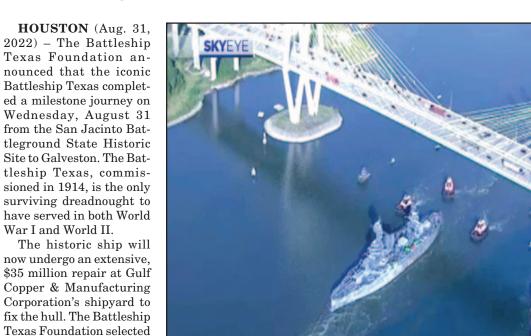
Rotary is also looking for sponsors, both individuals or companies. Call Rotary president Andy Scott for more information, at 713-201-

### **SEPT. 13, TUE. Highlands Little** League meeting

Highlands Little League Election of 2022-2023 Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00pm at the Baytown Boat Club, 1600 Clear Lake Road, Highlands TX 77562.

The board election meeting is open to the public and anyone who lives within the HLL boundaries and wants to help make a difference in the lives of our youth can be elected to serve.

See Notice on Page 5 for proposed HLL Constitution changes that will be voted on at the meeting



TWO ICONS: Under tow, the iconic Battleship Texas passes under the iconic Harman Bridge on the way to a Galveston drydock for restoration work. More photos p.8

as out of the water. In addition, the location of the yard in Galveston significantly reduced the risks associated with towing the Battleship Texas due to sheltered waters and a short travel distance.

"It's an important piece of history. We feel like we're working for the people of the state of Texas so that they can be proud of their ship," said Tony Gregory, president and CEO of the Battleship Texas Foundation. "We are proud to have played a part in maintaining the integrity of the ship so future generations can continue to learn about her service and history."

The ship closed to the public in August 2019 to

Continued. See Battleship sails, Page 8

# Crosby Cougars win OT thriller 27-21

CROSBY - In their second game of the season, the Crosby Cougars delivered an exciting game for their fans, with an OT win of 27-21 against the Fort Bend Marshall Buffaloes from Missouri City.

Gulf Copper's shipyard in

October 2021 as the repair

location since they recent-

ly acquired a floating dry-

dock that is capable of

lifting the Battleship Tex-

The Cougars were determined to win after a demoralizing loss last week to CE King of 63-7.

The win was even more remarkable since the Cougars were playing with eight of their varsity team members not participating, according to head coach Jerry Prieto.

The game was tied at the end with a score of 21-21 af-



Cougar running back #14 Levi Fontenot carries the winning TD in overtime.

ter Crosby scored on a touchdown pass from QB #10 Cyrin Myles to #13 Kade Eudy.

Then in the overtime period, running back #14 Levi Fontenot broke through the line and went untoucheded for the winning touchdown. The six points made the final 27-21. Fontenot's game stats were 20 carried for a total of 93 yards. His longest carry was 39 yards.

QB Myles was 7 for 13 passing with a total of 79 yards and 3 TDs (one rush-

The next game is Friday night at home against R. L. Lee Ganders.

# County announces new crime reduction initiative

\$150 million for "Safe Harris" and VIPER

HARRIS COUNTY -County leaders on Wednesday touted an overall decrease in violent crime across the region and announced the Safe Harris initiative a four year \$150 million public safety investment focused on further reducing crime in Harris Coun-

According to Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the county saw a 7% decrease in violent crime since June 2021, with a 4% decrease in homicides. Additionally, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez added that since December 13, his department seized 279 guns, cleared 1,303 warrants, and filed over



Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez (middle) speaks to reporters about the county's Safe Harris initiative on August 17, 2022. At left is County Judge Lina Hidalgo, at rear Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, and at right Deputy County Administrator for Public Safety Perrye Turner.

1,000 charges — a majority of those being felony charges, Gonzalez said.

"We're moving in the right direction," Gonzalez said. "We're taking crime seriously here in Harris County, and we're going to continue to work collaboratively and learn from what's working and what's not working."

The additional money will bolster the county's ongoing public safety investments and help fund the Violent Persons Task Force, or Viper, which will launch next month in Harris County with the aim to "take the most dangerous individuals off Continued. See SAFE HARRIS, Page 2

**CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING ACR Houston** 832-234-9975





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# ROTARY NEWS

## Jeanne Shipp wins new vehicle in North Shore Rotary Fish Fry Raffle



Jeanne Shipp picks up her new Truck at Community Toyota in Baytown. North Shore Rotarians Steven and Stacey Palko of Palko & Associates sold her the winning ticket. Also present were Roger Elswick of Community Toyota, NS Rotary president Shawn Silman, and NS Rotarian Bill Palko.

# North Shore Rotary hosts Multi-Club meeting with District Governor



ABOVE: Rotaians from Rotary Clubs in Highlands, North Shore, Baytown, Galena Park/ Jacinto City, Humble, and Lake Houston met last Thursday, August 25 in the Monument Room at San Jacinto College North for a social luncheon and a talk by Rotary District 5890 Governor Mindi Snyder.

RIGHT: NS President Ken Wimbley presents flowers to the guest speaker, DG Mindi Snyder.



# Crosby Cougars win OT Thriller 27-21,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 



On a pass from QB #10 Cyrin Myles, the Cougar's Kade Eudy pulls it in for a TD that ties the game at 21-21, which is how the regulation period ended, and forced an overtime.

# CHAMBER NEWS

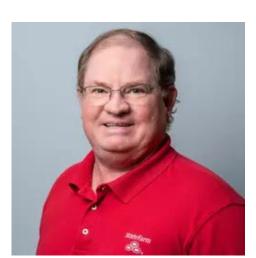
### Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber Luncheon Thursday, September 8

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce FEATURED SPEAKER: Randy Casey, State Farm Insurance Agent September 8, 2022

SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY CENTER 604 HIGHLANDSWOODS DR. HIGHLANDS, TX

THURSDAY, September 8 12 NOON \$15 WITH RSVP \$20 AT THE DOOR RSVP HERE

Join us Thursday, September 8th, for a special lunch at the Highlands Community center on HighlandsWoods Drive. Randy Casey will give updates on the current projects for the chamber in the community and discuss insurance policies and issues. Enjoy Chef John's Shepherd's pie and get prepared for the



Annual Jamboree this October! Please RSVP for seating to HighlandsChamber@verizon.net. Please call 713-851-5746 for more information.

COMING!! October 1, 2022 Highlands Annual Jamboree Parade and

### Crosby/Huffman Chamber Luncheon Thursday, September 15 at Crosby Brethren

September Monthly Luncheon at Crosby Brethren Church, THURSDAY! September 15th! PLEASE RSVP!

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce September Monthly Luncheon at Crosby Brethren

"Let's Talk Turkey"

Join us for our September Monthly Member Luncheon! The luncheon will take place on Thursday, September 15th at Crosby Brethren Church, located at 5202 First St in Crosby. Lunch will begin at 11:30am and the price of the luncheon is \$20.00.

Coordinator' (Replacing in this section)

Article VI – Board of Directors: Section 7

Speaker Chef Pat Mayberry Southern Elegance Catering!

He is going to "Talk Turkey" and give us carving and cooking techniques along with recipes for sides and much more...
Our luncheon will be catered by In Joy Personal Chef Services!!

Please RSVP by September 13th. You can call 281-328-6984, email chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org to register also.

Crosby-Huffman Chamber Of Commerce

## County announces new crime initiative SAFE HARRIS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the street," according to Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

"These efforts are part of the effort to address the common threat, which is in the rise of violence," Garcia said. "This is why more common sense gun laws and

measures are needed."

The county also created the Safe Harris website, which compiles already existing dashboards — including data on Harris County Jail's population and the county's criminal court backlog — into one centralized location, along with information about the county's public safety spending.

"SafeHarris.com is for you, our community, and is designed to give you a full view of the money and programs being de-

veloped and implemented," said Deputy County Administrator for Public Safety Perrye Turner.

During the briefing, the focus shifted to the county's short fiscal year \$1.3 billion budget, which focused heavily on public safety.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office saw a \$123.6 million increase in total funding from from 2019 to 2021, which funded additional overtime and increased salaries for county law enforcement, according to the Safe Harris website.

Judge Hidalgo added that the budget for the Harris County DA's Office has increased by \$12.7 million from 2019 to 2021 and adamantly dismissed accusations of defunding law enforce-

ment — claims that Hidalgo said were purposefully perpetuated by political opponents during an election year.

"We have increased the funding for every single law enforcement agency, so it is a lie," she said. "You are hurting our law enforcement and you are hurting our democracy when you're willing to spread lies."

Harris County Commissioners Court previously allocated millions to several programs aimed at reducing crime and increasing community safety, including a controversial "ShotSpotter" gunshot detection pilot program in Aldine and two public safety programs meant to decrease reliance on police intervention.

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **Highlands Little League**

Will be holding elections for their **2022-2023 Board of Directors** 

at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at the Baytown Boat Club

1600 Clear Lake Rd, Highlands, TX 77562

The board election meeting is open to the public and anyone who lives within the HLL boundaries and wants to help make a difference in the lives of our youth can be elected to serve.

The following proposed HLL Constitution changes will also be voted on at this meeting:

Article V – General Membership Meetings: Section 5

Annual Meeting: Subsection 7:q – Changing name of 'Auxiliary Coordinator' to 'Event

Article VI – Board of Directors: Section 3

**Election Qualifications/Criteria:** Changing name of 'Auxiliary Coordinator' to 'Event Coordinator' (Replacing in this section)

Roles & Responsibilities: Changing name of 'Auxiliary Coordinator' to 'Event Coordinator' (Replacing in this section)

HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE – 925 E. Canal – Highlands, TX 77562



# **Barbers Hill** \* Dayton FIGS

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

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

### ON THE HILL

# Baytown and Chambers County Little Free Library Programs

### WCCCC Chamber Luncheon Sept. 20

West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT LUNCHEON. Tuesday, September 20.

Note New Location this month only, at Houston Raceway Tower Club 2525 FM 565, Baytown TX 77523.

10:30am to 12pm, SMALL BUSINESS EXPO, Visit local small business vendors and learn ways to partner with and support

12:00pm CHAMBER LUNCHEON with Special guest speaker Dennis Byrd, President of Island Famous, Inc (The Spot, Galveston). You do not want to miss his incredible story!

Reservations contact the Chamber at 281-576-5440 or rhonda@thewccc.com.

### MB Market at the Park October 1st

Saturday, October 1, 2022 - 8am to 12noon.

The City of Mont Belvieu's Monthly Market at the Park takes place at City Park on the first (1st) Saturday of every month from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00

The mission of Market at the Park is to support our community by providing our residents and visitors with vendors that bring quality, fresh, locallyproduced agricultural products, and delicious homemade foods to the market. The market also features merchants who sell unique custom crafts, apparel, jewelry, and more. Come out and support local small businesses and enjoy wonderful fresh food.

October 1, 2022 Time: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM City Park 10900 Eagle Drive Mont Belvieu, TX 77523 Contact: 281-385-6668

### **Questions?** Email us! Cost: FREE! 16-year old girl

The Liberty County Sheriff's Office is investigating the shooting death of a 16-year-old girl whose body was found about 8:30 a.m. Sunday on the side of County Road 3550 near County Road 5708 in the north end of the county.

found shot dead in Liberty County

Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Ken DeFoor said the victim has been identified and her family notified, but her identity is not being released publicly at this

DeFoor said a passing driver called 911 and reported seeing a woman lying on the side of the road. The responding deputy found the then-unidentified Hispanic victim, deceased from what appeared to be a gunshot wound.

Justice of the Peace Ralph Fuller ordered an autopsy Texas Rangers and the Department of Public Safety are involved in the investigation, along with sheriff's office investigators.

Anyone with information about the death is asked to contact the Liberty County Sheriff's Office at 936-336-4500 or call Multi-County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-392-7867. Callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward if their tip leads to an arresti

The first Little Free Library booksharing box was built in 2009 in Wisconsin.

What started as a simple idea became

literacy movement. Today, there are 100,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and 108 countries, from Argentina to Zambia. More than 165 million books have been shared through registered Little Free Libraries, profoundly increasing book access for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Your United Way is proud to partner with Little Free Library to bring Read in Color to Baytown and Chambers County. Read in Color is a reading initiative giving students and families access to diverse and inclusive books. Your United Way recognizes the power of seeing yourself represented in the world. Read in Color will bring diverse book titles and authors into the hands of readers to increase the awareness of diversity in Baytown and Chambers County and encourage inclusiveness.

You can help by: - Purchasing a new book from our booklist

- Donating gently used books (Pre K -3rd grade level) at one of our Community Partner donation locations

- Encourage family and friends to help young readers have access to quality, diverse literature.

You may not be familiar

with the phrase, but it's

pretty easy to understand

that when someone is

"burning daylight" they're

wasting precious time.

Those who work outside

probably appreciate the

expression more than

most, as they are well

aware of the benefits of

heading out at sunup or

even earlier. This is partic-

ularly true in our part of

Texas where taking advan-

tage of the morning light

before the day turns from

warm to scorching is often

burning daylight too. We

can turn a blind eye to it,

but just like vou witness

the sun traveling in the

sky, those who pay atten-

tion easily see the signs of

the times. A glimpse of cur-

rent US culture makes one

As Christians, we're

a necessity.



**Local Little Free Library locations:** \*Bay Area Homeless Services (3406 Wisconsin St.) \*Bergeron Park (1520 Louisiana St.) \*Bowie School Park (2200 Clayton Dr.) \*Church Women Child Center (2 Price St.)

\*Jenkins Park (4334 Crosby Cedar Bayou Rd.) \*Love Network of Baytown (206 N. Whiting St.) \*Tejas Park (505 Hafer Ave.)

\*Hopper Primary (405 E. Houston St.) \*Fred Aguilar Promise Center (2609 Market St.) \*Hearts & Hands Pantry of Baytown (307 Cedar Bayou Rd.)

\*Lamar Elementary (816 N. Pruett St.) \*Faith Presbyterian Church (3900 N. Main St.) \*Stream of Life Christian Academy (720 Cedar Bay-

\*Baytown Thrift Store (1410 Louisiana St.) \*Footprints Learning Academy (7625 Garth Rd.) \*Outreach Center Coffee Shop (400 Magnolia S)







You can find these libraries at Hopper **Elementary in Highlands** and Hollaway Park in Baytown!





## THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH By Dr. Mark Trice

# **Burning Daylights**

think of Matthew 24:37 (NIV): "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." There is also a huge push for a one-world government, which will be a big part of the Tribulation.

Skip on over to some of the latest scientific developments and you understand how easily the Mark of the Beast could be implemented today—literally today. Unfortunately, recent experience also reveals how readily it would be ac-

cepted. Then, if you check out the insane things that have happened to the earth and our weather pattens in the past year, you'll be left wondering. Of course, for many of us it's not all that much of a surprise since the Bible warns about all

There's no need to keep going. While many don't realize the significance of these things, those who know some basics of End Time prophecy see that we are rushing through the

last of the Last Days. The spiritual temps are soaring, approaching unbearable levels, and the catching away of the saints, commonly known as The Rapture of the Church, is closer than any of us re-

Mordecai told Esther (Esther 4:14) that she had been born in that place and time for a specific purpose. I believe this is true of every Christian today. It is important to remember that we have only so much

time left before Jesus comes back, and we have a responsibility to obey Jesus' command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15 NIV). It's easy to think this is only the job of preachers and church leaders, but it is part of every Christian's job descrip-

Remember, any person who doesn't accept Jesus as Lord of their lives before the Rapture will have to endure the Tribulation. That is something I truly would not wish on my worst enemy! No, part of my mission in life is to draw as many people as possible to the Cross and the throne of God; so I'm keeping my eyes open and taking every opportunity to share the Gospel. I encourage you to do the same.

Let's get the job done!

## Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

# Heat Safety & Heat stroke: What You Need to Know During a Heat wave

When you live in Southeast Texas where the summers are always hot, a heat warning or advisory may not seem like a big deal. But, right now, it's excessively hot, and it's a good time to brush up on heat safety.

Heat stroke, also referred to as sun stroke, is when a person's body overheats as a result of exposure to hot weather. When it's particularly hot outside, your body temperature can rise faster than your body's cooling mechanisms (such as sweating) are able to lower it. In addition, heat that's accompanied by high humidity (above 75%) can reduce the effect sweat has on lowering your body temperature.

"In most cases, heat stroke results from exercising outside in the heat without proper hydration. But, when it's really hot outside, a person doesn't have to be exercising to develop heat stroke," said Dr. Gregory Terry, a primary care physician with Houston Methodist Bay-

Here's what you need to know about heat stroke and staying safe in the heat during a heat wave.

The signs and symptoms of heat stroke

The most common symptoms of heat stroke include:

A body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, as measured by a rectal thermometer

\*Sudden confusion or hallucinations

> \*Difficulty walking \*Seizures

\*Fainting "People suffering from heat stroke may also experience racing heart rate, rapid breathing, overly warm skin or skin redness, vomiting or diarrhea, mus-



Dr. Ana Benveniste

cle cramps and weakness, and throbbing headaches. said Dr. Terry.

Heat stroke is an emergency requiring immediate medical attention

The high body temperature associated with heat stroke can damage your brain, heart, kidneys, muscles and other organs. "The longer heat stroke is left untreated, the more damage can be done to these vital organs — increasing the risk of long-term com-

plications and even death," added Dr. Terry.

This means heat stroke is a medical emergency. If you or someone you love is showing signs of heat stroke, call 911 immediate-

While waiting for help to arrive, try to cool the person down by:

\*Moving him or her into the shade or air condition-

\*Removing clothing

\*Applying wet towels to the head, neck, armpits and groin or soaking in a cool bath

Heat stroke is preventable

First of all, a person's risk of experiencing heat stroke is predictable. As soon as your local officials issue a heat alert, especially if it's a heat advisory, that's your cue to take extra precautions to stay safe outdoors.

Given the serious nature of heat stroke, it's important to take steps to prevent heat stroke from happening altogether.

Tips for preventing heat

\*Stav hvdrated

\*Avoid being in a parked

\*Wear loose-fitting clothing outdoors

\*Exercise indoors or early in the morning

\*Take frequent "cool down" breaks in the shade if you work outdoors

\*Apply (and reapply) sunscreen

\*Limit alcohol while in the heat

\*Swap outdoor activities for indoor ones

For more information on the full range of services offered at Houston Methodist Baytown and to schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/ **baytown** or call 281-420-

#### OPINION PAGE $\bigstar$



# Examining Harris County Funding for Law Enforcement

For the most part, I find the "defunding the police" debate little more than partisan rhetoric which serves more to obfuscate than elucidate any meaningful discussion about the appropriate level of law enforcement funding. This is especially true in the current back and forth between Democrats and Republicans on Harris County's funding of law enforcement.

Unfortunately, an attempt to describe how the current County administration has funded law enforcement involves unpacking the County's Byzantine accounting practices. It is even more complicated by the fact that the County recently changed its fiscal year, which resulted in a "short year" accounting period of seven months this year.

But after studying the numbers in some detail, here are my three takeaways:

- The County does not spend anywhere close to two-thirds of its budget on law enforcement as Judge Hidalgo has
- Prior to 2021, Commissioners Courts, under both Republican and Democratic control, increased the County's law enforcement budget by about 5% each year. Since inflation for most of the time was running at about 2%, those increases represented real increases in capacity. However, in 2021, the Commissioners Court only increased the law enforcement by about 2% when inflation was running at 7%, thereby, cutting the budgets by 5% in real economic terms. This also coincided with a dramatic increase in crime.
- This year, in the face of intense public pressure over an exploding crime wave, Commissioners Court granted some one-time funding increases to law enforcement. These fell during the short-year budget. If those one-time funding grants are annualized, they would represent about a 10-11% increase. However, the proposed budget for next year rolls back about half of those increases. Therefore, funding available to law enforcement next year will be less than what they have this year.

#### The "Two-Thirds" Claim

The claim that Harris County spends two-thirds of its budget on law enforcement is based on excluding the County's spending on flood control, the toll road system and public health. The expenditures for those areas are technically separate entities but ones which are governed by the Commissioners Court and their budgets are consolidated with other County spending for accounting purposes. It also includes a host of expenditures that most people would not consider a law enforcement function.

According to the County's most recent audit, about 34% of the County expenditures were for the "Administration of Justice," of which law enforcement would be a subset. Therefore, the County's spending on law enforcement is clearly less than one-third, not two-thirds, of its total spending.

### **Law Enforcement Expenditures Since 2019**

District Attorney

The first two years the Democrats controlled the Commissioners Court, they increased the District Attorney's budget a little over 6% each year. However, in the third year, a year in which crime had begun to explode and the backlog of cases at the courthouse was growing exponentially, they only increased her budget by 1%.

In the face of intense public pressure, the Court added about \$10 million in funding to the District Attorney's budget this year (FY2022 short year), which on an annualized basis would represent a 13% increase.2 However, the proposed budget for the coming year rolls back almost half of

Since the Democrats have taken control of the Commissioners Court, they have increased the District Attorney's budget by 26%. During the same time, they have increased the budget for the Public Defender's office by 217%

Constables

Total funding for the Constables has followed a very similar pattern to that of the District Attorney. Funding was increased modestly the first two years then cut back significantly in the third. They too received a one-time increase in 2022 that is mostly rolled back in the proposed budget.

The Sheriff's Department has also followed the same general patten but has fared somewhat better on its funding due to the County being forced to deal with the ongoing disaster at the County jail, which is included in the Sheriff's

I think it would be hard to describe the Commissioners Court funding of law enforcement over the last four years as anything other than anemic, especially considering the significant surge in crime we have seen in our area. During that crime wave, the County was awash with about \$1.4 billion in federal COVID funding. Many other local governments used significant portions of those funds to shore up law enforcement to deal with the crime wave that we have seen across nearly the entire country. Harris County did not.

With a proposed budget that quickly retreats from the one-off funding increases this year, the current majority on Commissioners' Court has clearly signaled their intention to continue funding law enforcement at minimal levels if reelected. I think that is why you see virtually every law enforcement group lining up in opposition to the Democratic candidates in the upcoming election.

But while Harris County residents may be increasingly alarmed about crime, many also have grave reservations about a Republican Party whose views are becoming increasing out of step with theirs.

As a result, the upcoming election, in my view, will turn on whether voters' concerns about national partisan issues, like 2020 election denial and abortion, outweigh their concern the troubling policies of Commissioners' Court over the last four years on local issues like public safety funding. Of course, County government has little to do with those national issues but everything to do with public safety.

Note 1 - For the purposes of this discussion, I am only going to look at the funding levels for the Sheriff, the Constables, and the District Attorney. While there are certainly other expenditures that relate to the criminal justice system, it is the budget of these departments that



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

## Flooding in Dallas prompts Disaster Declaration

Heavy rains through Texas last week caused flooding, particularly in the Dallas area, prompting Gov. Greg Abbott to issue a disaster declaration for 23 affected counties. Texans who were affected by the rain, which dumped more than 10 inches in Dallas, are encouraged to file insurance claims with their providers and to complete the voluntary Self Reporting Damage Survey issued by the Texas Department of Emergency Management by visiting <u>damage.tdem.texas.gov</u>. The survey helps the state identify damage across Texas to gain an understanding of what areas were affected during the recent severe weather.

Counties included in the disaster declaration are Camp, Culberson, Dallas, Duval, Ellis, El Paso, Henderson, Hopkins, Hudspeth, Kaufman, Kerr, Live Oak, Marion, Montague, Navarro, Pecos, Rains, Smith, Tarrant, Upshur, Van Zandt, Webb and Wood. Additional counties could be added as damage is assessed.

#### **BURN BANS LIFTED; FIRE** DANGER DROPS

The heavy rains across a chunk of the state have reduced the wildfire risk, with the Texas A&M Forest Service for the first time in months not responding to any active wildfires. The number of counties with burn bans has dropped to 166. At its high point, 224 counties in the state were under burn



The number of counties under extreme or exceptional drought has dropped as well. The percentage of Texas in the "exceptional drought" category dropped by more than half to 12.4%, according to kut.org.

#### **BATTLESHIP TEXAS HEADED TO GALVESTON FOR REPAIRS**

The Battleship Texas will leave its home at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on Aug. 31 and make its way to the Galveston Shipyard for repairs, weather and tides permitting. A livestream video of the departure will be available to the public on the Battleship Texas Foundation's YouTube channel and Facebook group page.

The former U.S. Navy battleship was launched on May 19, 1912, and saw action in World War I. It also escorted war convoys across the Atlantic during World War II, fought at Normandy on D-Day, and provided naval gunfire support in the Pacific during the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The ship was decommissioned in 1948. While in dry dock, the ship's hull will be repaired

or replaced from four feet above the waterline down to the bottom, thanks to \$35 million in funding provided by the 2019 Texas Legislature. The grand reopening of Battleship Texas is expected to be sometime in 2024.

#### **COASTAL POLICYHOLDERS PROTECTED BY EMERGENCY RULE**

An emergency rule issued by the Texas Department of Insurance will protect Weston Property & Casualty Insurance Company policyholders who live along the Texas coast. Weston, a Florida insurance company licensed in Texas, is in liquidation and has been ordered to end its operations by Sept. 7, possibly leaving Texas policyholders in danger of not being covered against wind and hail damage.

More than 23,000 Weston policyholders live in possibly affected areas, according to TDI. They will be eligible to be insured through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association for free for three months, after which a payment plan can be set up. Homeowners are encouraged to work with their insurance agent to find coverage.

#### **CONDITIONS HEATING UP FOR DOVE SEASON**

An especially scorching summer might make it trickier for dove hunters with the season opening iust around the corner.

"Hunters will likely see larger concentrations of birds at watering holes and food sources than they have in the past due to limited resources," said Owen Fitzsimmons with Texas Parks & Wildlife. "Agriculture production has been hit hard by drought so birds may be more reliant on native foods this September. Look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses."

In general, dove season begins on Sept. 1, depending on the geographic zone. Go to the TPW website at tpwd.texas.gov for specific

#### **PUC CREATES OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The Public Utility Commission has created an Office of Public Engagement to "provide a single point of contact for consumers. stakeholders, legislators, and other affected parties to make their voices heard at the PUC."

"We're very excited to build a team dedicated to bringing together all the parties and all the resources necessary to resolve what are often complex issues in a way that emphasizes collaboration among everyone involved and ultimately benefits customers and rate payers," Peter Lake, PUC chairman, said.



### "Not Much of a Joke"

It wasn't much of a joke, as far as jokes go.

I saw the man wearing two hats, one on top of the other. The second hat may have been for his wife. It was decorated with intricate drawings. He was walking with her, a third hat tied to the handle of a stroller, and the family was making its way through the artisan market, where hats and ceramics and glass and handwoven, hand-carved, handmade items of all types are sold.

The man had his hands full, guiding the stroller loaded with purchases and keeping an eye on his wife, who was darting in and out of the artists' stalls and, as I passed him, noting his two hats, I gave him a serious look and said, "I believe you need another hat."

The man touched his hand to his hat, remembered he was wearing two and burst into

It was a real laugh, a belly laugh. He suddenly realized he looked silly, and he thought it was funny that I was bringing this to his attention in such a serious voice. And I was ridiculously pleased because I'd made the joke in Spanish.

Language is so tricky.

For decades, I've been able to ask where the bathroom is located and how much something costs. I've steadily picked up vocabulary because so many cognates are shared between Spanish and English. But then I've gotten stuck. I have to plan sentences before I say them. I have to ask people to speak more slowly or to repeat themselves three times. I do better with cab drivers and hotel employees because they have made it their life's work to understand the fractured sentences of tourists and can make a reasonable guess as to what I've

But I've never been able to make a spontaneous joke.

I reached the conclusion about 10 years ago that I was never going to be fluent, so there wasn't much point in trying. I'd become a writer, and I realized in a new way how inadequate my Spanish was, how far I was from being able to say anything important or meaningful. And so I

But coming back to San Miguel de Allende has changed my mind. Because at its core, language is not about putting together beautiful sentences or showing off my vocabulary and grammatical

Language is about connecting with people.

I will never understand Spanish as clearly as I would like. I won't get the subtle inferences, the implied meanings. I'll always be a little naïve and clueless and have to have things spelled out for me. But, as I think about this, I realize I'm a little like this all the time—in any language.

What matters is that last night, I overheard two elderly Mexican tourists who could not find their way back to their hotel. The hotel was only a block and a half away. It was not an emergency. But I understood their confusion and said, "I know where that is. I am going there."

They looked a little skeptical. This blond woman did not look like a local. But they slowly followed me (one had a cane) and, when we finally made it to their hotel, I was absurdly pleased.

My progress in Spanish is slow. I lose hope on a regular

But yesterday, I helped two old women find their way. And the day before that, I made a joke. It wasn't much of a joke, but somebody laughed andat least for today—that is all the motivation I need.

Till next time,

Photos from the column and a link to YouTube videos becanfound CarrieClasson.com.



most directly affect the ability to actually take criminals off the street.

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Note 2 - The District Attorney's Office maintains that they have not actually received all of the promised funds. Because the County's monthly financial statements are so far out of date (latest available at this time is April), I cannot verify whether they have or not.

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



### **BILLY (BILL) EDWARD CLAYBAUGH**

Billy (Bill) Edward Claybaugh passed away August 15, 2022 at the age of 91, in Phoenix, Arizona from complications from Parkinson's disease and pulmonary fibro-

He was born August 10, 1931 in Oklahoma to his parents Charles Edward Claybaugh and Ruth Claybaugh. He grew up in Tulsa, and, as a hardworking teenager, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

He married his dear wife, Marian Ruth Brandon on May 24, 1952 in Garber, Oklahoma. He served his country as a First Lieutenant in the United States Airforce. He completed his undergraduate college degree from University of Tulsa, and graduate degree, Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Oklahoma State University.

He spent his life working for Exxon as a chemical engineer where he held roles as



plant manager and served on environmental teams that cleaned up superfund sites.

He and his family lived throughout the United States and Europe, including Utah, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Belgium. He moved to Crosby, TX in 1981 where he lived until 2019.

In his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his family, woodworking, caring for cats, raising koi, and growing begonias. He was president of the Astros Branch of the American Begonia

Society and wrote dozens of articles in the national magazine The Begonian.

He is survived his daughter, Jeanette Schade and her husband David, (Aransas Pass, TX), his daughter Louise Brown (Phoenix, AZ), grandchildren Kyle Brown and his wife Catherine Dunlap (Louisville, CO), Kimberly Rogers and her husband Trevor (Phoenix, AZ), Eric Schrimsher and his wife Kathleen (Perth, Australia), and greatgrandchildren Ellis Brown, Thomas Brown, Olivia Rogers, Rex Schrimsher, and Leo Schrimsher, as well as many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Marian Claybaugh (December 14, 2016), and his sister Patsy Gray.

The family extends a special thank you to Hospice of the Valley for their wonderful care and kindness for Bill at the end of his

## **FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 2:** Texans begin Lovie Smith Era; Texas gets first taste of SEC when it hosts No. 1-ranked Alabama

first-year head coach Joey

hit the ground running and

class and is putting together a

top-20 2023 class. This will be

a big test for his young team,

while Holgerson and the

Coogs will look for a win to

keep their College Football

weekend, so without further

in store for us this weekend.

fans will get an idea of what

when they host No. 1-ranked

Royal Memorial Stadium. UT

head coach Steve Sarkisian

offensive coordinator for a

help a bit, but he'd better

hope his players put forth

their best effort or it could

turn into a long day in the

Capitol City. The Crimson

and, in a rebuilding, year

game, where they lost to

Tide finished 13-2 a year ago

reached the CFP national title

fellow SEC foe Georgia. That

loss still rankles Saban and

his team and you had better

believe they want to send a

SEC and those in Columbus.

Ohio, and points beyond that

they intend to be the top dog

concludes in Los Angeles' SoFi

Stadium and the CFP title

Texas struggled on defense

last year and if that unit isn't

improved this year, 'Bama QB

Bryce Young (4,872 yards, 47

TDs), the reigning Heisman

dice UT up come Saturday.

Young in breaking in a new

rebuild in Tuscaloosa they

reload replacing a group of

another group of five-star

running game got a boost

with the addition of former

Georgia Tech back Jahmyr

Gibbs (746 rushing yards, 35

receptions, 465 yards, 6 total

TDs). Texas must establish

star running back Bijan

Robinson (1,127 yards, 15

total TDs in 190 games) to

Ewers, who will be making

only his second start in

ring from Ohio State. A

take pressure off of QB Quinn

college football after transfer-

rebuilt UT offensive line will

have its hands full with All-

American linebacker Will

Anderson Jr. (17.5 sacks in

but look for Young and the

in the second half to send

pick, Alabama 36, Texas 20

Dana Holgerson returns to

Lubbock where he served on

former Tech head coach Mike

offensive coach. He returns

in the CFP playoffs, but in

order to do so, they need to

run the table, which means

Saturday. Houston finished

12-2 a year ago and returns

(3,544 yards, 30 TDs) and star

wide receiver Nathan Dell (90

TDs), but will be without the

running back Alton McCaskill

(961 yards, 18 total TDs), who

suffered a season-ending knee

injury during spring drills. As

stated earlier, Tech fans are

juiced about new head coach

Joey McGuire. McGuire was

the assistant head coach at

Baylor and prior to that won

three state championship at

played in another title game

and forged a 141-42 record in

12 years at the Dallas-suburb

school. McGuire is enthusias-

tic about being the Tech head

Shough (872 passing yards, 3

TDs in 4 games in 2022) and

Cedar Hill High School,

coach and will turn the

offense over to QB Tyler

running back SaRodrick

starting QB Clayton Tune

receptions, 1,329 yards, 12

services of freshman star

winning in Lubbock on

believe can contend for a spot

Leach's staff as a young

with a team that many

2022) and his teammates. UT

may hang around in this one.

Alabama offense to pull away

Horns fans home unhappy. My

**Houston at Texas Tech:** 

five-star wideouts with

wideouts. The Alabama

set of receivers, but they don't

Trophy winner, will slice and

game in January of 2023.

when the 2022 season

message to the rest of the

number of years and knows

how he operates. That might

life will be like in the SEC

Alabama on Saturday in

served as Nick Saban's

ado, let's take a look at what's

It should be an interesting

Alabama at Texas: Texas

Playoff hopes alive.

had a nice first recruiting

pumped back into the

The Lovie Smith Era begins for the Texans on Sunday when they open the 2022 season under their new head coach when they host the Indianapolis Colts at NRG Stadium at noon on CBS.

Smith, the former head coach of the Chicago Bears and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, served as the Texans' defensive coordinator last year after one-and-done head coach David Culley.

After General Manager Nick Caserio interviewed a number of candidates, he realized he had his head coach already in house in

Smith led the Bears to the NFC title in 2006 before losing to the Colts and Peyton Manning in the Super Bowl. He led the Bears to three playoff appearances, two appearances in the NFC title game and brings an 89-87 record into his third stint as a head coach.

While Culley was a nice guy, he was in way over his head as a head coach. Smith brings experience and stability to his new duties and I expect the Texans to be much more competitive in 2022 after going 4-13 under

Yes, the Texans were 3-0 in pre-season play, but as I've stated in past columns, the 1989 Cowboys were 3-1 under Jimmy Johnson in his first season as the Cowboys head coach and finished 1-15 in the regular season. Texans' fans should not pine their hopes on meaningless practice games. Then again, this team has the ability to be more competitive in 2022 thanks to a strong rookie class led by LSU cornerback Derek Stingley Jr., (LSU), offensive lineman Kenyon Green (Texas A&M), safety Jalen Pitre (Baylor) and running back Dameon Pierce (Florida). Peirce was the star of camp and preseason and could be Houston's starting running back against the Colts.

While much has changed for the Texans, the Colts also made a change for the better at quarterback when they traded for Matt Ryan in the offseason. Ryan is definitely a big upgrade over Carson Wentz who was one and done in Indy. Ryan should be the missing touch to a very good Colts offense

While the Texans begin their season on Sunday, the NFL kicks off its 2022 season on Thursday when the defending Super Bowl champs the Los Angeles rams host Buffalo, who many are picking to win it all this year, in prime time on NBC. That should be a heck of an opener.

Other key games in Week 1 feature Kansas City visiting Arizona, while the Cowboys will host Tom Brady and Tampa Bay on Sunday Night Football. Week 1 concludes on Monday Night Football with Russell Wilson returning to Seattle to lead his new team. the Denver Broncos, against his former team the Seahawks. The MNF opener will also be the debut of Joe Buck and Troy Aikman as the new voices of Monday Night Football.

While the NFL will take top billing this weekend, there are a couple of interesting college games on tap in the Lone Star State.

Texas gets its first look at what life will be like when they join the SEC when Steve Sarkisian's team hosts Nick Saban and his No. 1-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide in

Austin on Saturday. Texas and Oklahoma will join the SEC in 2025, if not before, and this game should give UT fans of preview of what lies ahead for their team. Texas is 7-1-1 all-time against the Tide. The last time these two met was in the BCS title game in 2010 following the 2009 season which Saban's team won 37-21 to give him the first of his six national title in Tusca-

The game will be nationally televised on FOX with a noon kickoff.

While Texas hosts Alabama, the Houston Cougars will trek to Lubbock to take on the Red Raiders. These two teams met a year ago with UH jumping out to a 21-7 halftime lead before Tech outscored Dana Holgerson's team 31-0 in the second half to secure a 38-21 victory. Red



the road in Lubbock, then it

My pick, Houston 33, Texas

could very well run the table.

Tech 28

**Buffalo at Los Angeles** Rams: What an opener for the 2022 season! The defending Super Bowl champs host the team many are picking to win it all in 2023. the Buffalo Bills. The Rams finished 12-5 a year ago en route to their big game win over the Bengals in their home stadium. Head coach Sean McVay's team will be looking to become the first team since the 2004 and 2005 New England Patriots ton win the Lombardi Trophy two years in a row. The Rams return a strong nucleus led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (4,886 yards, 41 TDs) and wide receiver Cooper Kupp (145 receptions, 1,947 yards, 16 TDs). They added another capable receiver in Allen Robinson, who languished with the Bears for a number of years. Robinson should flourish in McVay's offense and with a real QB in Stafford. While the defense took a hit with the loss of Von Miller, who ironically signed with Buffalo in the offseason, the Rams still have threetime Defensive MVP Aaron Donald (12 sacks) wreaking havoc in the middle. Donald and his teammates will get a good test in Game 1 with a Buffalo offense that is loaded and led by perhaps the best young QB in the game in Josh Allen (4,407 passing yards, 34 TDs/763 rushing yards, 6 TDs). Allen should be in store for a huge season, as well as dependable wide receiver Stefon Diggs (103 receptions, 1,225 yards, 10 TDs). The Bills are also excited about the prospects of fellow wide receiver Gabriel Davis (35 receptions, 549 yards, 6 TDs) who announced his big-game capabilities in the AFC Divisional playoff loss to Kansas City with eight catches for 201 yards and four touchdowns. Miller should give the Bills another solid defender to go along with a top 5 defense and should provide a spark coming off the edge. This should be a wild game, but I'm going with the defending champs to pull it out late. Maybe, just maybe, these two teams will meet once again come February in Arizona in Super Bowl XVI.

Indianapolis at Houston: The Texans and their new head coach host AFC South division rival Indianapolis and their new QB Matt Ryan on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Houston fans will get an early look on how much Lovie Smith and his staff have improved what was a horrible defense in 2021. The secondary has been upgraded with draft picks Stingley at corner and Pitre at safety and those two will get a real test in their first pro games when they face the veteran Ryan (3,698 yards, 20 TDs in his last year in Atlanta) and the NFL's leading rusher in 2021 in Jonathan Taylor (1,811 yards, 20 total TDs). They will also have to contend with an up-and-coming wide receiver in Michael Pittman Jr. (88 receptions, 1,082 yards, 6 TDs) and one of the league's best offensive lines. On offense, the Texans have handed the QB job to secondyear man Davis Mills (2,664 yards, 16 TDs). His top target will continue to be productive Brandin Cooks (90 receptions, 1,037 yards, 6 TDs), and he should have a better running game with the signing of former Colts RB Marlon Mack and rookie sensation Damien Pierce, who lit it up in the preseason. I think the Texans hang around in this one, but look for Ryan and Taylor to be the difference makers in the fourth quarter. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Houston 23

My pick, Los Angeles Rams

36, Buffalo 33

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 506469; Estate of MARY LOUISE FERGUSON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on AUGUST 16, 2022.

**GLENDA KAY FERGUSON** 

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this AUGUST 31. 2022.

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate **CABLE TV** 

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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.

### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 507110; Estate of LLOYD RALPH DUNN Deceased: In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on AUGUST 17, 2022.

#### **BEVERLY JEAN DUNN**

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this AUGUST 31, 2022.

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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## Battleship Texas sails to Galveston,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 



Early Wednesday morning the Battleship Texas passes the Lynchburg Ferry south landing, and Seguin Park.



Battleship Texas is pulled by a tug boat in the ship channel, and guided by several others on its way to Galveston.

prepare for the restoration and required a dedicated project group consisting of the Battleship Texas Foundation, the operator of the ship, Valkor Energy Services, the project management and engineering firm for the ship repair, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the administrator of the ship. Resolve Marine Group was contracted in 2020 and coordinated with the Battleship Texas Foundation and Valkor Energy Services to reduce the amount of water leaking into the ship to help ensure a safe jour-

After an extensive campaign to save it from destruction, The Battleship Texas was decommissioned and commemorated as a museum at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on April  $21^{st}$ , 1948 - 112 years to the day that the Texas Republic won its independence. The restoration project is expected to be completed between June and September 2023, after which the Battleship Texas will seek a new place to reside and reopen to the public.

###

#### ABOUT THE BAT-**TEXAS TLESHIP FOUNDATION**

Formed in 1998, the Battleship Texas Foundation exists today as an advocate for Battleship Texas, and to help develop the historic ship into a premier hands-on museum and visitor attraction. The Battleship Texas Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; as of August 1st, 2020, Battleship Texas Foundation has taken the lead in the operations of Battleship Texas, with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department retaining an advisory and oversight





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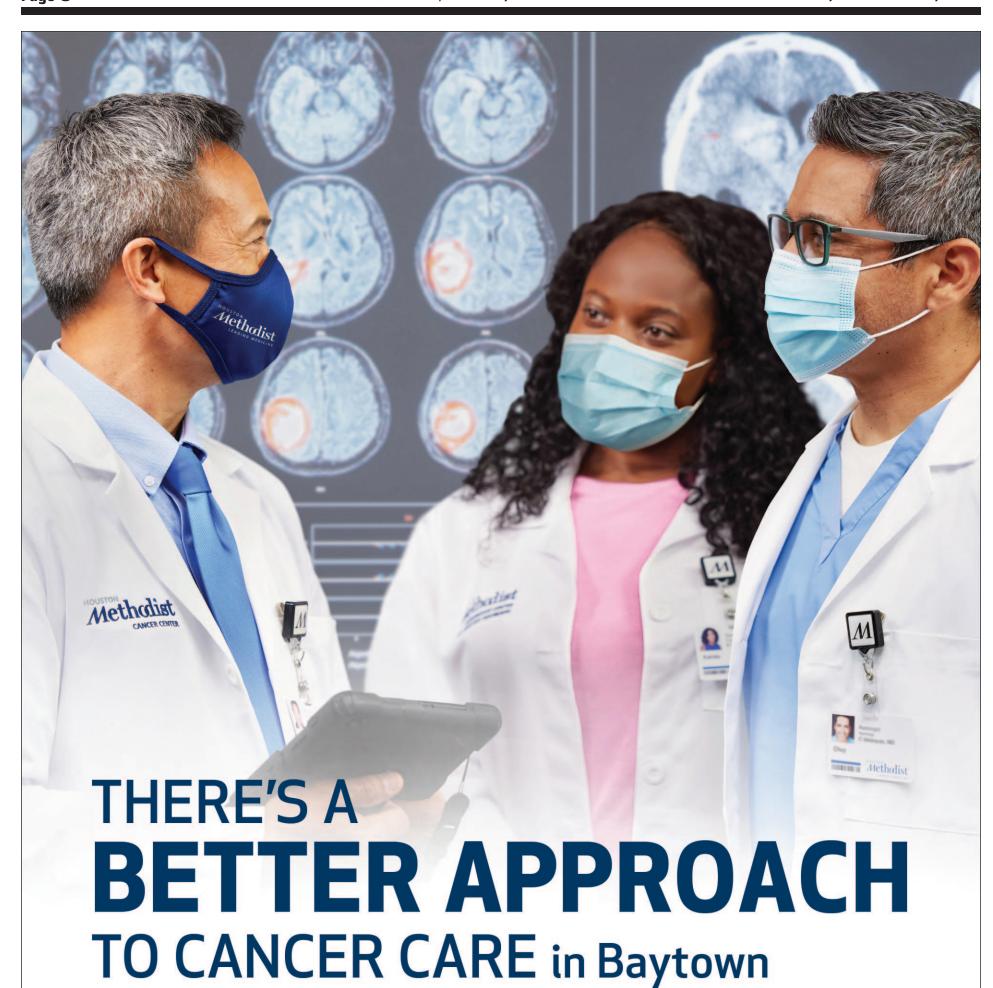


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