HIGHLANDS



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

STARS

HIGHLANDS ROTARY Washer tournament raises Funds and Fun

EVENTS SEPT. 15, THUR. Crosby Chamber Luncheon

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.

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!!

SEPT. 23, FRI. Crosby ISD Homecoming

RED OUT HOMECOM-ING 2022

Friday, September 23

Crosby Cougars vs

Kingwood Park Panthers. Giant Tailgating Party, CHS Parking Lot 5pm-6pm. Prizes and Games for Kids Game Time 7pm at Cougar Stadium.

from CHS to the Stadium. Skydivers will jump to the 50-yard line during the pre-game countdown?

BIRTHDAYS

Sep 11-Brittaney Branch Laura Kaune Chase Nelson Randy Sloan Sep 13- Leon Bowen

Sep 14-Margaret Cutbirth Linda Hildebrand Chelsea Listi

Sep 15–Jan Gucker Sep 16-Cheryl Massie Jessie Thomas Don Mattingly Sep 17–Eric Jennings

18-Teresa Breland Laura New Jerry Fallin

Sep 20-Sue Norris Amanda Sims Gary Smith Sep 21-Bull Dobson

Charlie Farrar Karen Hildebrand Sep 22–Bethany Little

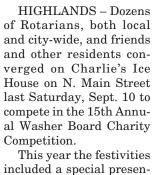
Annie Michalsky Sep 23-Erika Carer David McMahan **Zachary Stuart** Michael Turner

Jessica Wettstein **ANNIVERSARIES**

Sep 17–Johnny & Lana Gaeke Sep 20-Gene & Angie

Zadrapa Phillip & Beuana Cumbie Wayne & Betty O'Bannon Sep 21-Troy & Debbie King

Sep 22-Tim & Ellen Holton Sep 27-Rev. Sam & Jewell Purkhiser



included a special presentation to Rotarian Charlie Ward for reaching a Level 2 Major Donor category for Rotary International, and Highlands Rotary's International Exchange student not only was present, but competed in the games.

The tournament is now in its 15th year, and the

Continued. See ROTARY WASHERS, Page 7



ABOVE, 1ST PLACE TEAM Cougars Chasers with Trip Teel and Brycen Wells receives their trophy from Rotary President Andy Scott. ABOVE RIGHT, Exchange Student Edouard Vanhove center poses with host family, Trip Teel, Weston Cotten, Delene Cotten, Chrissa and Ryan Teel. RIGHT: Texas Flag quilt by Connie Russell, in the Live Auction. Displayed by Rotarians Denise Smith and Sheila McDonald.





Message from the Crosby Superintendent

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

It's Homecoming season in Crosby ISD! We are throwing a giant community tailgating party outside Crosby High School on Friday, September 23rd. Our theme this year is "Red Out!" Every campus and department will have vehicles decorated to tailgate and celebrate. Kids of all ages are invited. There will be games, prizes, and food trucks for the entire family to enjoy. The tailgating party runs from 5pm to 6pm. At 6pm, everyone is invited to join our Spirit Walk from CHS to Cougar Stadium.

During the pre-kickoff festivities, skydivers will land on the 50-yard line with the homecoming



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

game ball. Thank you to the skydiver sponsors, including the Realtors of RE/MAX One. Their children are all Crosby High School alumni, and we thank them for taking pride in the communities where we live, work, and serve. We also thank Neighbors Emergency Center for being a spon-





A downtown Pep Rally was held to kick-off the "Read to the Final Four" literacy competition for our third graders city-wide. Superintendent Patterson was one of the speakers.

sor. They want to wish good luck to our Cougars this season!

It's also an exciting time of celebration for literacy in our district. We're gearing up for our big November pep rally as third graders across the District compete in the

"Read to the Final Four" literacy competition. I had the pleasure of getting our Cougars pumped up during the tip-off celebration in downtown Houston this month. This year, third graders at each of our elementary schools will log their min-

utes spent reading. The top four schools across Harris County will be invited to a Fan Fest as Houston hosts the 2023 NCAA Men's Final Four in March. Third grade is a

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 8

Arrest made in Fireworks warehouse arson case

HOUSTON - One of three men has been charged after fireworks were ignited inside a warehouse in east Harris County, according to the Harris County Fire Marshal Office. The wanted suspect, Alex Herrera, 28, has been charged with arson.

The incident was reported on July 4, at 10:30 p.m. at TOP DOG Fireworks Warehouse, located in the 14000 block of the East Freeway.

Officials said one of the three suspects was seen igniting the fireworks inside the store, prompting customers to panic. The ignition of the firework also



Fireworks explode last July 4 in a Top Dog Fireworks Warehouse on I-10 in Channelview.

caused the buildings audio and visual alarms to sound off, resulting in an emergency evacuation. Investigator said the firework ignited is called a "bursting bouquet."

The suspects allegedly stole \$200 worth of fireworks during the incident. No injuries were reported.

Continued. See Fireworks Arson, Page 6

Ward receives **Rotary International** Benefactor award



Charlie Ward of the Highlands Rotary Club was recognized by Rotary International for outstanding giving to the Rotary Foundation, at the Major Donor Level 2. At the presentation Saturday, L to R Past District Governor Bob Gebhard, daughter Jennifer Loggins, granddaughter Hope, Ward, PDG Bill Palko, and PDG John Painter.

CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING ACR Houston 832-234-9975





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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Navy Mom Surprises Children in GCCISD

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR -**Director of Communications**

Homecomings are always emotional; especially when a parent is away from their children. According to dosomething.org, since 2001, more than two million American children have had a parent deployed at least once and more than 900,000 have experienced the deployment of one or both parents multiple times.

Elizabeth Sylvester, Petty Officer Second Class, is one of those parents. She was deployed on a military destroyer since December 2021. The mother of three, with two in Goose Creek CISD, surprised her children during two special events on Friday, September 2nd. Her daughter, Aubrey, attends Clark Elementary and her son, Jaron, attends Gentry Junior School. Neither of them knew that she had returned home.

She surprised her daughter during an assembly in the Clark gym. Aubrey, a second grader, was stunned. After a few seconds, she ran into her mother's arms with an emotional embrace. Amber traveled with her mother to Gentry to surprise her brother. Officer Sylvester posed as the campus mascot. When she took off the costume, her son, overcome with emotion, could barely hold in his tears. His fellow student body showed their support by chanting, "USA! USA! USA!," showing their support of his mother's sacrifice for her children and her country.

Photos taken by Carrie Pryor-New-



Petty Officer Second Class Elizabeth Sylvester, consoles her daughter, Aubrey, during an emotional surprise at Clark Elementary School.



Officer Sylvester surprised her son, Jaron, at Gentry Junior School.

Center for Safe and Secure Schools Celebrates District Partnership

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR -

The Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools (CSSS) presented Goose Creek CISD with a plaque and award commemorating the district's 20-year partnership with the organization during the GCCISD September 6th Board meet-

The district's latest collaboration with CSSS was serving as the host site for the Center's reunification training exercise, held in early June 2022. The department brought in the "I Love U Guys" Foundation to provide attendees with training on the Standard Response

Protocol (SRP) as well as the Standard Reunification Method (SRM).

The Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools (CSSS) was established in 1999 at the request of school superintendents to advance safe and secure environments for learning and teaching. CSSS partners with federal, state and local entities to take the lead in the development of increased safety and security strategies, standards and best practices for K-12 school environments for both students and educators.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Chief Davis Smith, Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien, Board President Richard Clem, COO Dr. Anthony Price and Director of Safe and Secure Schools Robert Marquez pose with HCDE Center for Safe and Secure Schools employees during the September 6th Board meeting.

HCDE Education Foundation Presents Grant to District Foundation

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR -

The Education Foundation of Harris County presented the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation with a \$10,000 grant during the GCCISD September 6th Board meeting. The Foundation's winning grant proposal, "Brighten Your Day in a Giant Way," will pair GCCISD Police with students to foster positive relationships between youth and officers. Selected students will shop at one of the local area stores to purchase gifts for members of their

immediate family.

The Education Foundation of Harris County was incorporated in 1993 in partnership with the Harris County Department of Education. Per their website, "The EFHC's goals are to inspire discovery, promote creativity and problem-solving, build confidence and encourage all learners to reach for the stars and envision a future beyond the classroom."

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



HCDE Education Foundation members pose with GCCISD Chief of Police, Davis Smith, Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Education Foundation Director



Erika Foster, Board Vice-President Tiffany Guy and Board President Ricky Clem.

112 Denny St. Highlands, TX 77562-Dine In & Boutique Shopping

Clark Elementary School staff and GCCISD Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien,

pose proudly with Officer Sylvester and her family.

15110 FM 2100 Ste. 9 Crosby, TX 77532-Pickup Only & Boutique Shopping 281-426-3670 9/20-9/24

Desserts of The Week: Carrot Cake, Chocolate Spoon Lovin Cake, Confetti Cheesecake & Carrot Cake \$6.95

Strawberry 4 Layer, Bread Pudding, Banana Pudding, \$5.95 each Lemon & Blueberry Togas, White Chocolate Raspberry Scones \$4.95 each Cake Balls \$1.95 each

Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$58* Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$48* Single Meal \$12.00

Tuesday: Queso Chicken served over Spanish Rice, Tortillas, & Mexican Wedding Cookies! Wednesday: Beef Tips & Rice, Green Beans, Rolls & Sweet Breads!

Thursday: Blackened Baked Chicken Breast, Dirty Rice, Collard Greens, Rolls & Mini Chocolate Whoopie Pies. Don't forget we have Breakfast 7am-11 am today!

Friday: Teapots Tour of Italy! Anti-Pasta Squares, Pasta Salad, Italian Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms & Cannoli Dip with Waffle Chips! One size Party Tray \$48.00, Single \$12.00 Don't forget we have Breakfast 7am-11am today! These are great to have around the office to snack on or even order on Saturday and save it for Sunday Funday!

Saturday: Come have Breakfast, Brunch & Lunch! You can get the Tour of Italy Party Tray too! Breakfast consists of Elvis Presley Waffles, Quiche, Fresh Fruit, Breakfast Croissants, Yogurt & Granola Parfaits, Sausage Links, Hashbrowns, Toast & Mimosas!

We Deliver Lunch & Dinner!

\$40.00 Minimum or as close as possible!

Pre-Order or Order the Day of... Whatever works for YOU! Follow us on

Don't forget we have specialty items available for pickup at our Crosby location daily!

Add a Gallon of Sweet or Unsweet Tea for \$5.00

Add a Gallon of Peach or Raspberry Tea for \$7.00

Add a Family Meal Salad to any entrée above \$10.00

CHAMBER NEWS

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.

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







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

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

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.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

As you are aware, we have reached peak hurricane season for Southeast Texas. Chambers County continues to perform preparedness assessments and has begun meeting regularly to ensure that we are prepared should an event occur (though we hope that does not happen).

Part of our preparedness activities include evaluating residents registered through the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR), also known as 2-1-1.

It is crucial that STEAR

eligible residents call 2 - 1 - 1 o r v i s i t stear.tdem.texas.gov to re-enroll if they registered prior to 2020 or update their registration if their information has changed so that we can provide the most effective help for participants during disasters.

Not registered with STEAR, but think you may be eligible? Here are the residents that STEAR is designed for:

*People with disabilities *People who are medically fragile

*People with functional needs such as: Limited mobility

*Communication barri-

*Required additional medical assistance during an emergency event *Require personal care

assistance
*People who require
transportation assistance

**Please note, registering in STEAR does not guarantee you will receive a specific service during emergencies, but it helps County officials and first responders identify those in greatest need of assistance.

League City Man Arrested After Threatening Chambers County Judges and Calling Multiple Bomb Threats

CHAMBERS COUNTY, Texas – A man has been arrested after investigators say he threatened the lives of more than one judge this week.

On Sept. 8, Chambers County Sheriff's Office Dispatch say they received a suspicious phone call from an unknown man. During the call, the suspect reportedly threatened the lives of both Chambers County District Judges.

Deputies were said to have been immediately sent to the homes of the judges and remained on site to provide security.

During the course of the investigation, deputies reportedly began to track

down information on who originally called 911 with the threats. Officials say it appears that the man attempted to use calling apps and virtual private networks to prevent being tracked.

The next day, on Sept. 9, dispatchers say the suspect called back early in the morning and said that there was a bomb at the Chambers County Sheriff's Office. Deputies then conducted a thorough search of the building and found no indication of any explosive weapons at that location.

Later in the day, deputies say the caller dialed 911 for the third time, say-



Dustin Matthew Riddle

ing that there was a bomb inside the Chambers County Courthouse. Officials were forced to evacuate those inside the courthouse while deputies and detectives checked out the area.

There were, again, no explosive weapons found at that location.

Investigators worked to name the suspect and were able to identify him Friday night as 30-yearold Dustin Matthew Riddle of League City.

Authorities say six arrest warrants were issued for Riddle on the following charges:

Terroristic Threat Causes Impairment of Public Service – Felony 3 -\$250,000 bond

Terroristic Threat Causes Impairment of Public Service – Felony 3 -\$250,000 bond

Terroristic Threat Against Judge – State Jail

Felony - \$500,000 bond Terroristic Threat

Against Judge – State Jail Felony - \$500,000 bond

Obstruction or Retaliation – Felony 3 - \$50,000 bond

Obstruction or Retaliation – Felony 3 - \$50,000

On Saturday, Sept. 10, Chambers County Sheriff's Office Detectives, with the assistance of the League City Police Department and the Texas Rangers, entered Riddle's home

and took him into custody.

He remains in the Chambers County Jail with a total bond equaling \$1,600,000.

Busy weekend at Texas GATORFEST!



QUEEN MATTI ANDERSON

Our cook off went off without a hitch and we crowned the Texas GATORFEST 2022 Royalty Court. Winners of the pageants are:

Miss Tot - Evelyn Hunter Mr. Tot - Waylon Bergquist Little Queen - Jaxyn Phillips Little King - Laine Boyer Princess - Blake Royer Junior Queen - Baylee Watson Senior Queen - Matti Anderson

Physio Celebrates Grand Re-Opening with Ribbon Cutting



Pictured left to right: Liz Webb; Kelli Rollo; Karla Opryshek; Mike Wilson; Gary Englert; Eunice Morgan; Daniel Nguyen, DO; Tracey Balcerak, Administrative Director; Steffani Bracken; Irene Guajardo; Rachel Ward; Kenneth Pete; Brett Balcerak, CEO; Julie DeTorre; Amy Williamson; Hailey O'Malley; Lauren Crowell; Randy Casey; Carmen Parris; Sandy Watson

(BAYTOWN) - The Baytown Chamber of Commerce was on hand at the grand re-opening celebration to congratulate the Physio, LLC team on their restoration and renovation after the freeze in 2021. Physio Staff and Baytown Chamber Ambassadors were in attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Baytown location is just one of the several

Physio clinics where patients can expect excellent treatment for many physical therapy needs including orthopedic, neurological rehab, sports medicine, industry therapy and much more. To schedule an appointment, call 281-424-7557 or visit

About the Baytown Chamber

physiostaff.com.

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

Physician Treats AFIB With Implantable Device

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital can now treat atrial fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem with a tiny, permanent implant called the Watchman.

"Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal irregular heart rhythm that is often rapid, originating from the upper chambers of the heart," said Houston Methodist Baytown cardiac electrophysiologist Dr. Akanibo Da-Wariboko. "It may present without symptoms or cause a sensation of palpitations, chest discomfort, shortness of breath or fatigue. Left unmanaged, it can lead to stroke and heart failure long term."

The FDA-approved device is an alternative to blood thinning drugs such as warfarin, which are typically prescribed to people who suffer from AFib to prevent strokes. Two pa-



Dr. Akanibo Da-Wariboko

tients were successfully implanted at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital last month.

The Watchman is im-

The Watchman is implanted through a narrow tube that is inserted through a small incision in the patient's leg and guided to the left atrial appendage. It takes about an hour to implant the device, and most patients will go home the next day. Eventually, heart tissue grows over the device, forming a natural barrier against blood clots.

Research shows that 90% of the stroke-causing blood clots that come from the heart form in the left atrial appendage. The Watchman works by plugging the appendage and preventing blood from pooling and clotting.

"Because of their irregular heartbeat pattern, patients with AFib often experience blood pooling in a pocket of the heart called the left atrial appendage," said Da-Wariboko. "Over time, that pooled blood can coagulate and cause clots to form. If a blood clot escapes the appendage and moves into an artery, it can eventually block the flow of blood to the brain and cause an ischemic stroke."

Da-Wariboko says the device is designed for patients who can no longer take blood thinners due to complications, such as people with a history of major bleeding due to the drug's



side effects, or those who are at higher risk of bleeding from an injury due to active lifestyles or hazardous work.

"Although very effective in stroke prevention, oral anticoagulants are not ideal for all patients and carry additive risk over time," he said. This device is a one-time procedure that provides a lifetime of protection and has been proven to be safe and effec-

tive, he added.

Clinical studies show that 99 out of 100 people fitted with the device are able to stop taking a blood thinner one year after the procedure.

To schedule an appointment with Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center at Baytown call 281.837.7587. To learn more about HMB H o s p i t a l visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

OPINION PAGE *



County Tax Revenues were up by 7% Last Year; here's what you can do about it

he Harris County Auditor's Office recently released its monthly report for February 2022, which is the County's fiscal year end. There is a lot to unpack in the report. But the number that jumped out at me was the increase in property tax receipts. From FY2021 to FY2022 property tax receipts jumped to over 7%. During that same time period, inflation for the Houston region was 1% and the County's population was virtually unchanged. Yet the County collected over \$113 million more from its residents than the year before.

You may recall that in September 2019, County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Adrian Garcia and Rodney Ellis voted to raise property taxes by 8%. This is a link to the video of that meeting where the discussion and vote took place. The discussion about raising property taxes begins at 26:19 of "Item I, Part 1 of 2." The actual votes are taken beginning at 1:31:00 or you can see just the vote in this clip posted by my friend Charles Blain.

However, in a second required vote, Commissioners Radack and Cagle boycotted the meeting, blocking the increase. In reaction, Judge Hidalgo said, "Unfortunately, today commissioners Cagle and Radack chose to hide rather than face the tough reality of the impact that extreme revenue caps will have on our county," and "called the failure to increase taxes by 8% "dangerous."

Well, those "extreme revenue caps" allowed the County to collect new revenue at seven times the rate of inflation at a time that the County's population barely increased. Had the tax increase proposed by Hidalgo, Ellis and Garcia passed, the County would have collected almost 20% or roughly \$350 million more from Harris County taxpayers last year. Even more significantly, it would have established a base from which the Court would have been able to continue to raise taxes even higher indefinitely into the

I would encourage to look at your tax bill last year and calculate what an additional 13% in County taxes would have cost you. And then think about paying that additional amount each year in the future.

There are three positions on the Commissioners Court which are up for election this November: the County Judge and Commissioner Precincts 2 and 4. I plan to ask each of the candidates for these three positions to take a pledge that they will not vote to increase the property tax rate during their term. Any of them who refuse to do so will not get my vote.



Hot Popcorn

"You know it used to was even hotter than it is right now, don't you?" Windy looked up from his lunch. Oh boy, professorial mood. We're gonna get it. "I used ta pack mules, a-course. Well, I packed 'em 'til the accident, anyway."

"Accident, Windy?" Dang it, Dud, you've done it now. "Nobody can say I don't love them little mules, but that accident took all the packin' enthusiasticals right outa me.

"Over in Death Valley it was. Summer. Hotter'n ... well, you know. I was takin' the pack mules out each day with the lunches all packed on 'em fer these dudes. Kinda fun.

"Jest why these here folks want to go a pick-a-nickin' on a hot day I couldn't say. To each his own said the old maid as she kissed the cow, I guess. Mules is the best manmade varmint in history, ya know? But even mules got theirselves a limit on hotness.

"Them mules. My mules ... oh I was so very happy with them mules. But what's done is water under the road and chickens swimmin' upstream, ain't it?

"Well, that day we had a party that was partial to popcorn. Loved the stuff. I put two big cans on each mule in bag loads. One on each side.

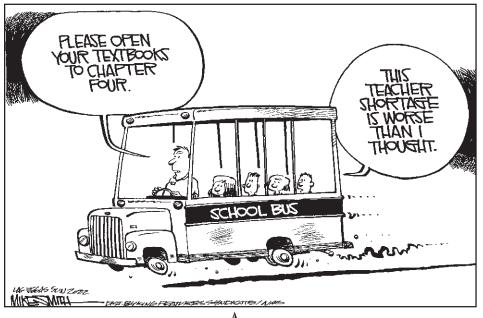
"And we wasn't but maybe ... oh, like 20 minutes on the trail when the accident happened. (sob) I still can't rememorate it today without goin' all gooshy inside, either.

"What happened was somethin' we never figgered on. Nossir! Why, the heat was just a-hottenen down on them pack mules and their packs got all hot, and them cans of popcorn got all hot and then the popcorn went to poppin'!

"Pardner, you never seen such a goldarn wreck in your life! Them mules heard that popcorn a-poppin' and figgered somebody was shootin' at 'em. Yessir. And they went to buckin' around out there, and when they did, the lids come off all 16 cans of popcorn and it looked like the Fourth of July, with big ol' fountains of that popcorn cas-cradin' down 'round them

"And when the popcorn hit the ground, the mules looked at it, thought it was snow and froze to death! A terrible tragedy, and I ain't packed popcorn since that day."

Brought to you by https://www.amazon.com/Cowboys-Guide-Packing-Backyard-Horse-ebook/dp/B00W2U3VXE now just \$3.49 on Kindle.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**



TxDOT announces \$85 Billion Transportation plan

The Texas Department of Transportation has adopted a 10-year statewide roadway construction plan with a record \$85 billion price tag, officials announced last week. The Unified Transportation Plan authorizes the distribution of construction money that is expected to be available during the next decade. Within that framework, TxDOT works with elected officials and local planning organizations, as well as the public, to pick and fund the state's highest priority transportation projects.

In addition to highways the UTP addresses public transportation, aviation, rail, maritime, and freight and international trade. Many projects in the plan are highways identified on the state's 100 most congested roadways list.

"The UTP reflects a continued focus on improving transportation safety as the top priority, maintaining our current system, addressing traffic congestion, and improving statewide connectivity over the next decade," said TxDOT Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.

Funding for UTP comes from "legislative and voterapproved initiatives that allocate portions of oil and gas taxes, sales taxes, and other money to the state highway fund," according to the TxDOT news release.

RRC APPROVES FINAL RULE FOR GAS PLANT WEATHERIZATION

More than 18 months after Winter Storm Uri shut down much of the state's electric grid, the Texas Railroad Commission last week adopted the state's first weatherization rules requiring natural gas facilities to protect gas flow to power plants.

"These new rules ensure our state's natural gas supply chain is prepared for extreme heat and freezing cold," said RRC Chairman Wayne Christian. "These rules will ensure that the natural gas facilities Texans rely on for reliable energy



are operational when we need it most."

Fines for administrative violations could reach up to \$1 million.

GAR HARVEST DRAWING NOW UNDERWAY

Anglers itching for a chance to catch a large alligator gar can sign up through Sept. 30 to enter a drawing through Texas Parks & Wildlife to legally do so on a stretch of the Trinity River that goes from Dallas through East Texas. A total of 150 anglers will have the chance to use any legal means to take one of these prehistoric-looking creatures that is over 48 inches in length.

The following counties are included: Anderson, Chambers, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Navarro, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker.

"This segment of the Trinity River has become one of the most popular destinations in the world to catch a large alligator gar, but concerns have been raised about the potential for overharvest and its risks to fishing quality," said Craig Bonds of TPWD. "With this drawing system, we are able to give 150 anglers the opportunity to harvest the fish of a lifetime while also meeting our management goal to conserve this unique resource for current and future generations of anglers."

To find out more, go to tpwd.texas.gov.

MONKEYPOX FATALITY State officials last week

TEXAS SEES FIRST

confirmed the first death of a Texas patient diagnosed with monkeypox. As reported by the Austin American-Statesman, the adult in the Houston area was "severely immunocompromised." The rare disease is gen-

erally transmitted by skinto-skin contact with someone already infected. Its symptoms are generally less severe but can be extremely painful, with rashes and blisters arising. Fever, headaches, rashes and blisters can also occur.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has reported a total of 1,695 cases in Texas to date.

GRIM YEAR FOR TEXAS COTTON GROWERS

Cotton production has been largely wiped out this year by drought and extreme heat, the Texas Tribune reported. The loss to farmers mainly in the Texas High Plains will be at least \$2 billion, according to the International Center for Agricultural Competitiveness at Texas Tech Univer-

Cotton isn't the only crop suffering from the heat and drought. Corn crops are in poor condition, and many pastures for cattle have been extraordinarily dry, forcing ranchers to sell their animals.

"They've had to liquidate their cattle herds due to the fact that there's nothing for the cattle to eat without supplemental feeding," Brant Wilbourn, associate director of commodity and regulatory activities at Texas Farm Bureau, told the

COVID-19 WORKERS' COMP CLAIMS UPDATED

More than 90,000 COV-ID-19 workers' compensation cases have been reported in Texas, along with 459 fatalities, according to the state Department of Workers' Compensation. Slightly more than half (51%) of the claims and 55%of the fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

Most of the benefits paid were for employer salary continuation or indemnity benefits in the cases of fatalities. The information was gathered through a conference call with 74 selected insurance carriers.

COVID-19 CASES, FATALITIES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported in the past week in Texas stayed steady at 56,734, with 183 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is little changed from the previous

DSHS reported 2,598 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state as of Friday, also comparable to last week.



"The Redhead and Cat"

Here's the thing: I'm not superstitious.

It all started when I was still in Mexico, visiting a gallery, and I saw a painting across the room. The composition was striking. The bottom third was black and the top two-thirds were filled with a deep blue sky and great white clouds rising from the horizon. There was a bare tree on the right side and on the left was a full moon. I felt pulled into the gallery and across the room to see the picture, and that's when the figures in the foreground became clear.

Standing beside the tree were a woman and a cat. The woman had brilliant red hair. The cat was small and gray, and I felt something in me

"The Redhead and Cat," the painting was called.

My best girlfriend, Angel, my biggest support to me when I started writing, had been a redhead, and my cat, Lucy, my muse every step of the way, was a small gray cat. They were both now long dead, but there they were, in front of this blue sky with the rising moon in the background.

I'm not superstitious, but having those two looking over me as I wrote seemed like a good idea. I brought the painting home to the U.S., and I got around to hanging it up just the other day.

That's when funny things started happening.

I've been grumpy. It's nothing big. It's nothing important. It's just the usual stuff that adds up like paper cuts. Working with no apparent progress. Feeling alone. Wondering if I am on the right track. Wondering if there is a track at all. That sort of thing.

It wears at the soul-when hopefulness starts to fray, and instead of facing the day with excitement, I just feel tired.

As I hung the painting, I tipped my head back and lost my balance. My favorite reading glasses slipped off my head and onto the floor just in time for me to catch myself and step on them.

I grumbled. They were prescription glasses. Grum-

The next day, I was still grumpy. I sat down at my computer and, to my surprise, found I had typed:

] am rtrtuyi]ng rto "What the heck?!" I tried

am rtrtuyi]ng rto

I unplugged my keyboard and plugged it in again. I got the same results. The keyboard was unusable. I grumbled again. I reached for a pen to take notes. My hand felt wet. The pen had exploded, and my hand was covered in

It wasn't until then I remembered the painting on my wall.

Honestly, I am not superstitious. But I did ask them, after all.

Directly or indirectly, I asked my two loyal companions to help me, to both encourage me and, I guess, show me the error of my ways when got lost—when I was grumpy, or failed to remember what matters.

What matters is the glorious journey. What matters is this wonderful day. Sure, it's corny, and it's been said so many times that sometimes it loses meaning, but that doesn't make it any less true.

This time, sitting at my desk, this time is sacred. It is short. It is precious. And I am a fool not to rejoice in the little time I have.

So Angel and Lucy are watching over me. They might be doing no more than that. But perhaps, from time to time, they may take a more active hand and provide me with a much-needed reminder of what a great fool I can

Till next time,

Carrie

Photos from the column and a link to YouTube videos can be found at CarrieClasson.com.



Production Manager......**Gerardo Hernandez**

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Coach Prieto prepares his Crosby Cougars for the game

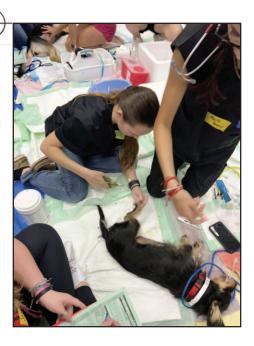


Crosby veterinarian students practice at Huffman Vet shelter

Our Pre Vet Assistant students woke up bright and early on a Saturday morning to work with Empty The Shelter Project in Huffman. We had such

a great experience working with the Veterinarian and Vet Techs. Our students are gaining those hours to obtain their Vet tech license in December. This event was a great hands on experience for the students!









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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 3: Aggies host Miami in meeting of ranked teams: Texans head to Denver to take on Wilson's Broncos

The No. 6-ranked Texas A&M Aggies host the No. 16-ranked Miami Hurricanes on Saturday evening in a prime time game to be broadcast nationally on ESPN.

This will be a good test for Jimbo Fisher's team, which opened the season with a less than stellar 31-0 victory over Sam Houston State two weeks ago.

Granted, the game was delayed some three hours due to inclement weather in the College Station area, and that could have had some effect on the lackluster performance of the Aggie offense. The Aggie defense, on the other hand, played well in pitching a shutout against the Bearcats.

That unit will get a real test on Saturday night when they face Miami QB Tyler Van Dyke, who threw for 193 yards and two TDs in the 'Canes 70-13 route of Bethune-Cookman.

The A&M-Miami game appears to be the marquee game this week in college football. In other offerings, No. 2-ranked Georgia opens SEC play at South Carolina, while Oklahoma visits Nebraska, and a game UTSA team head to Austin to take on Texas.

In the NFL, the Texans play their first road game of the season when they travel to Denver to take on Russell Wilson and the Broncos. Denver fans are hoping Wilson is the missing piece that returns Denver to the playoffs. The Dallas Cowboys hosts the defending AFC champs, Cincinnati, while Tampa Bay visit New Orleans

Week 2 starts on Thursday night with a key AFC West tilt as the Los Angeles Chargers will visits the Kansas City Chiefs. Week 2 concludes with a double-header, with Tennessee visiting Buffalo in a meeting of defending division champions on ESPN at 6:15 p.m., while ABC will have Minnesota at Philadelphia at 7:30 p.m.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review Week 1's results, which were average. A 6-6 start to the season (50%), is nothing to gloat about.

I'll try and do better heading forward.

Now, onto this weekend's

NCAA

Georgia at South Carolina: Well, I guess Georgia is beginning to look a lot like Alabama, they don't rebuild, they just reload. Despite losing 15 players to the NFL, Georgia did not miss a beat in their season-opening 49-3 pasting of No. 11-ranked Oregon in their season opener. The Bulldogs looked strong on both sides of the ball as quarterback Stetson Bennett IV threw for 368 yards and two touchdowns in the route of the Ducks. Running back Kenny McIntosh hauled in 9 passes for 117 yards, while the defense came up with two interceptions. This week they face a South Carolina team that has high hopes this year behind OU transfer QB Spencer Rattler (227 yards, 1 TD in the Gamecock's seasonopening win). Look for the 'Dawgs to roll in this one. My pick, Georgia 34, South Carolina 17

Oklahoma at Nebraska: Back in the day, this was one of the most anticipated games when these two met in the Big 8. The winner usually won the conference and headed to the Orange Bowl. My, how times have changed. While OU has been a consistent winner since these two teams were in the same conference, while Nebraska has struggled since its move to the Big 10. Cornhusker head coach Scott Frost's seat is blazing hot after losing the opener to Northwestern in Ireland. Nebraska did pick up a 38-17 win in Week 2. UT transfer Casey Thompson (548 yards, 3 TDs) and running back Anthony Grant (290 yards, 4 TDs) will both need to bring their "A" games on Saturday if they hope to pull off the upset. OU opened the season with a 45-13 win over UTEP as new QB Dillon Gabriel threw for 233 yards and 2 TDs, while running back Eric Gray rushed for 102 yards and fellow back Marcus Major scored two rushing TDS. Look



for the Sooners to make things even more miserable for Frost and his team come Saturday. My pick, Oklahoma 31, Nebraska 23

UTSA at Texas: Texas opened its season with a convincing 52-10 over Louisiana-Monroe as new starting QB Quinn Ewers passed for 225 yards and two TDs and found a new weapon in tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders, who caught six passes for 85 yards and one TD. Running back Bijan Robinson added 71 yards on the ground and a score. While the 'Horns were rolling, the Roadrunners put up a quality effort against Houston before falling 37-35 in triple overtime. UTSA QB Frank Harris proved he's a dual threat as he rushed for 63 vards and a touchdown and passed for 337 yards and three scores. Texas had better not look past the Roadrunners, because if they do, they might get embarrassed at home. This should be a competitive game, but look for Robinson's legs to make the difference in this one. My pick, Texas 33, UTSA 28

Miami at Texas A&M: If the Aggies are going to be serious about contending for a spot in the College Football Playoff (CFP), a win over a ranked Miami team could be a huge resume enhancer. A lot of experts believe Miami could be a very dangerous team this vear led by Van Dyke at QB, who should play at the next level. The 'Canes are under the direction of first-year head coach Mario Cristobal, a no-nonsense head coach who returned to his alma mater after a stint at Oregon's head coach. Miami also has a strong running game led by Henry Parrish (108 yards, 3 TDs in season opener). A&M's run game was nonexistent in the season opener as star running back Devon Achane was held to just 41 yards. Quarterback Haynes King had a nice game passing for 364 yards and three TDs. Wide receiver Ainas Smith hauled in six passes for 164 vards and two touchdowns, while Yulkeith Brown grabbed two passes for 68 yards and a score. Fisher needs Achane to get untracked if his team is going to come away with the win on Saturday night at Kyle Field. Something tells me Achane will be the difference maker against Miami on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M 31, Miami 25

> NFL Los Angeles Chargers at

Kansas City: A good one to start Week 2 as the Chargers visit the Chiefs in an earlyseason AFC West showdown. The Chargers believe they have the pieces in place on both sides of the ball to wrestle the AFC West title away from the Chiefs and they can make an earlyseason statement with a win on the road Thursday evening. This game will feature two of the best young QBs in the NFL as LA's Justin Herbert (5,014 yards, 38 TDs) take on KC's Patrick Mahomes (4,839 yards, 37 TDs). The KC defense will have its hands full trying to corral Herbert, running back Austin Ekeler (911 rushing yards, 70 receptions, 647 yards, 20 total TDs in 2021) and wide receivers Keenan Allen (106 receptions, 1,138 yards, 6 TDs) and Mike Williams (76 receptions, 1,146 yards, 9 TDs). If the Chargers hope to pull off the upset, they must contain KC tight end Travis Kelce (92 receptions, 1,125 yards, 10 TDs). Kelce will continue to be Mahomes' go-to receiver now that Tyreek Hill is with the Dolphins. This should be a fun game to watch with plenty of offensive fireworks. The Chiefs are not going to give up their seat as the top dog in the AFC West without a fight, which the Chargers will discover come Thursday night. My pick, Kansas City 34, Los Angeles Chargers 31

Cincinnati at Dallas: After opening the season

against Tom Brady and Tampa Bay, the Cowboys face another tough test when they host the defending AFC champion Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday afternoon at AT&T Stadium. The Dallas defense will have its hands full trying to contain Cinci QB Joe Burrow (4,611 yards, 34 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (1,205 yards, 16 total TDs) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (81 receptions, 1,455 yards, 13 TDS). Dallas will need to keep the Bengals offense off the field, so look for the Pokes to give the Bengals defense a steady dose of running back Ezekiel Elliott (1,002 yards, 12 TDs) and Tony Pollard. If the running game softens up the Bengal defense, then QB Dak Prescott (4,449 yards, 37 TDs) should be able to find star WR CeeDee Lamb (79 receptions, 1,102 yards, 6 TDs) for some big strikes down field. This should be another wild one to watch. My pick, Dallas 33, Cincinnati 31

Houston at Denver: The Texans travel to the Mile High City to face the Broncos and their new QB, Russell Wilson (3,113 yards, 25 TDs). Bronco fans are hyped about the prospects of Wilson returning Denver to the playoffs and he has some nice. young weapons to work with in second-year running back Javonte Williams (903 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Courtland Sutton (58 receptions, 776 yards, 2 TDs). The Texans will need a big day from rookie running back Damien Pierce, the star of training camp, to take pressure off of QB Davis Mills (2,664 yards, 16 TDs). If the Texans hope to pull off the upset, Mills and WR Brandin Cooks (90 receptions, 1,037 yards, 6 TDs) will need to make plays in the passing game. This will be Wilson's first home game so look for him to have a big day agains the Houston defense. My pick, Denver 34, Houston 20

Tampa Bay at New Orleans: Tom Brady (5.316 yards, 43 TDs) and the Bucs play their second straight road game when they take on the Saints in an NFC South contest on Sunday. The Saints have won five straight against Brady and TB over the last two years and you know that does not sit well with the GOAT. Look for Brady to come out firing as he looks to make plays with wide receiver Mike Evans (74 receptions, 1,035 yards, 14 TDs), while running back Leonard Fournette (812 yards, 69 receptions, 454 yards, 10 total TDs) gets things done on the ground. The Saints will need a big day from running back Alvin Kamara (898 yards, 47 receptions, 439 yards, 9 total TDs), but it won't be enough as Brady brings an end to NO's dominance over his team. My pick, Tampa Bay 27, New Orleans 17

Tennessee at Buffalo: A good AFC matchup in the early Monday Night Football game pits the Titans against the Bills in Buffalo's home opener. Many are picking the Bills to win the AFC and the Super Bowl this year and taking down a quality AFC foe in Tennessee could do a lot for the Bills' confidence. Buffalo will be led by QB Josh Allen (4,407 yards, 36 TDs/ 763 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Stefon Diggs (103 receptions, 1,225 yards, 10 TDs). If running back Devon Singletary improves and gives the Bills a lift on the ground, then the Bills could be downright unstoppable on offense this year. Look for the Titans to give the Bills a steady dose of running back Derrick Henry (937 yards, 10 TDs in just 10 games) to take pressure off of QB Ryan Tannehill (3,734 yards, 21 TDs)., who will be without his play-making WR now that A.J. Brown (63 receptions, 869 yards, 5 TDs) is now a Philadelphia Eagle. The Bills' fans will be at fever pitch having had all day to "prepare" for the home opener. My pick, Buffalo 26, Tennes-



Fireworks arson arrest,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When the sparks are coming at them, it's like shrapnel coming at you. It's hot so the burn potential there," said Cy-Fair Fire Chief Amy Ramon. "The potential for loss of human life could have been staggering."

He added that if this had gone sideways, customers and employees not only faced the potential of being badly burned by the fireworks, they also risked being trampled in the chaos if there wasn't a way for them to get out of the store.

'Most of these buildings I have seen are metal buildings, so if the fire gets large enough and the metal building comes down, then you've got a collapse

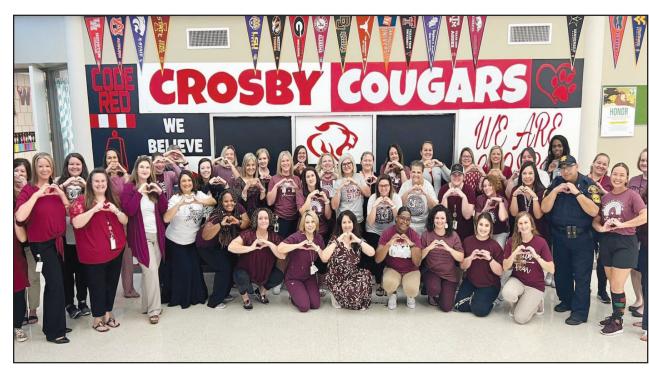
so people had the potential to be injured or killed in that kind of scenario too," Ramon said.

HCFMO released surveillance video of the inci-

TOP DOG Fireworks warehouse released the following statement:

"Thank you to law enforcement for tracking down the perpetrator. This scary incident could have been much worse. We are grateful no one was injured and the firework was contained. This emphasizes why we have so many safety precautions and we urge everyone to keep safety in mind when handling fireworks."

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AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

is located 2301 E. Wallisville Road, Highlands, TX 77562. The District's mailing address is PO Box 96. Highlands, TX 77562. The District holds regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at

the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department located at 2301 E Wallisville Rd, Highlands, TX 77562 at 12:00

noon. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings. The Board of Commissioners are President,

Jim Strouhal,; Vice President, Mark Taylor; Secretary, Jerry Ickes; Treasurer, Johnny Gaeke; Member, Elaine

The attorney for the District is Weston Cotten, Law

Offices of Weston Cotten, P.C., 1500 E. Wallisville

Road, Highlands, TX 77562, telephone number 281-

421,4050. Email address weston@westoncotten.com.

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SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The Harris County Emergency Services District #14 will hold a meeting at the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, 2301 E. Wallisville Road, Highlands, Texas 77562 at 12 noon, on Monday, September 19, 2022, to consider adopting a tax rate for tax year 2022.

The proposed tax rate is 0.0500 per \$100 of value. No change in the tax rate is planned.

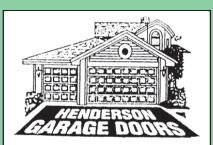
The ESD#14 tax rate has not increased since the inception of ESD #14 in 1999.

The proposed rate would increase total taxes paid on property in Harris County ESD #14 by .0024477/

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Chappell Hill Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei

Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841.

The Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill, a short drive from Houston on US290, recently received new paintings to add to its collection of artwork by Mei Hoffman.

The landscape painting seen at the top of the photo on the right was purchased by Leslie Conrads, (in photo left), with the artist Mei Hoffman on the right.

Both Chappell Hill and Round Top are busy each weekend this fall with visitors to the galleries and stores.







Check us on the go at www.starcouriernews.com www.northchannelstar.com

Highlands Rotary Washer Tournament,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

money raised by the Rotary Club is used for international projects, including Polio eradication worldwide. The club usually nets about \$8000 for this effort.

Over 25 2-man teams competed for the honors of winning and haing bragging rights, plus some nominal cash prizes.

Winners this year were

1st Place - COUGARS CHASERS, Trip Teel and Brycen Wells;

2nd Place - SMOKE SHOW, Justin Smith and Brandon Sweeney;

3rd Place - JIM & STEVE, Jim Neff and Steve Miller;

Rotarian Trophy, to North Shore Rotarian Terri Denny.

Top Washer Thrower was Trip Teel, named in a throw-off between himself and teammate Brycen Wells.

There was also a silent auction, and a raffle. In a live auction, a beautiful quilt with a Texas Flag theme was auctioned for \$500. The quilt was sewn by Connie Russell.

When receiving his award, Charlie Ward was quoted as saying this was his 30th year in business in Highlands, and his giving through Rotary was a way of saying thanks and paying back to the community for his successful years in husiness



best performance in tournament by a Rotarian, the trophy went to Terri Denny of North Shore Rotary.



2nd Place team was SMOKE SHOW. with Justin Smith and Brandon Sweeney.



3rd Place Team was JIM & STEVE, Jim Neff and Steve Miller. When Miller was president of the Highlands Rotary, he started the Annual Washer Tournament as an additional fundraiser for the club and Rotary International, in addition to the annual Chili Feast in February.



R.F.D.

The Spats

2

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THERE'S A





YA GOT SECOND PLACE, EH, SIM? STEROIDS?



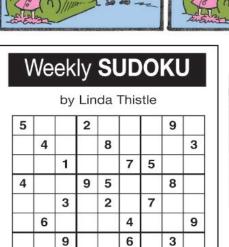












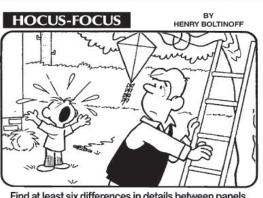
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine

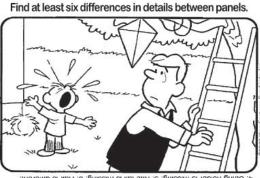
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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

♦ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.





10. A WWII fighter plane. 7. Three, with a total of 17 syllables.; 8. The Ponderosa.; 9. Tennessee.; 5. Atlantis.; 6. Four (Austin Powers, Dr. Evil, Fat Bastard and Goldmember).; I. Russia.; 2. France. It is celebrated on July 14.; 3. Alpha.; 4. Odin.; Trivia Test Answerst

September 12, 2022 Posting Date King Crossword

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1 Recedes

Oodles

58 Dance move

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Novelist Jaffe

Composer

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23 Gist

- © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.
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60

8 Poetic tribute

9 Moving day

rental

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19 Day light?

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25 Burden

27 Dam

10 Invoice fig.

12 Partake in a

Halloween

Clothing pro-

account

- Rodriguez 1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European country

has the largest population?

2. HISTORY: The storming of the Bastille took place in which country in 1789?

3. ASTRONOMY: What is the brightest star in any constellation called? 4. MYTHOLOGY: Who is Thor's father in

Norse mythology? 5. COMICS: Where is the superhero Aquaman

from? 6. MOVIES: How many characters does Mike

Myers play in the "Goldmember" movie? 7. LITERATURE: How many lines does a haiku poem have?

8. TELEVISION: What was the name of the ranch on the 1960s western "Bonanza"? 9. U.S. STATES: Which state's official animal

10. BUSINESS: What is the Ford Mustang automobile named after? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

SISWEIS



KING CROSSWORD

Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The 4 "Read to the Final Four" students are third graders from each of our elementary schools: Newport, Drew, Barrett, and Crosby. At left, Crosby Superintendent Paula Patterson, at right Ms. Carrie Henderson, the District's elementary librarian.

pivotal time to create lifelong readers. It's the transition period, as students switch from learning to read to reading to learn. This contest fits perfectly into Crosby ISD initiatives to increase reading minutes, boost critical thinking skills, and grow classroom outcomes. As I told the

crowd, our mighty Cougars are ready to bust some brackets!

Congratulations to our Elementary Media Specialist, Ms. Carrie Henderson, for earning a \$4,000 grant from Dollar General to magnify our District literacy mission. Ms. Henderson has designed an exciting way to

inspire more passion in our young readers. The "You've Been Booked" project will work as a payit-forward program among elementary teachers. They'll pass along their favorite books from one classroom to another. It's a giving circle that will share one teacher's beloved book with multi-



3rd Grade Students from all over the Houston and Harris County schools assembled last week in downtown for a Pep Rally to start the "Read to the Final Four" event.

ple classrooms and dozens of students. We love the idea, and we love that Ms. Henderson went the extra mile to earn a grant to turn her dream into a reality.

It's been an exciting month for our high school scholars as well. Fifteen Crosby High School students and graduates were named 2022 AP Scholars. The list includes eight alumni from the Class of 2022, and seven current CHS students. AP Scholars is a designation for students who perform at a high-level on multiple AP Exams given at the end of college-level courses in May. Well done!

Our fall sports are marching forward. Football and volleyball kicked off district play September 9th. Football won 41-21 over Baytown Lee. Our volleyball team fought hard against Barbers Hill and then hosted a weekend tournament. Cross Country has competed in three meets so far this season, most recently in Nederland. Congrats to senior Logan Ashby who earned 6th place at the Nederland meet. Our tennis players are getting better and developing new skills with each match.

There is so much on the horizon as we flip the calendar to a new season. Our campuses opened their doors this month to host Open Houses. Families had a chance to check out classrooms, meet campus leaders, and say "hello" to their child's teachers. We've had hundreds of parents, grandparents, and community members sign up to be school volunteers. It's great to see the return to normalcy, as we welcome parents and community members back into our buildings. I love being part of this special commUNITY, and I know you do too.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!

Crosby librarian wins **Literacy Grant**



\$4,000 GRANT WINNER!

Congrats to Ms. Carrie Henderson for earning a Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant. Our elementary librarian developed a pay-it-forward program so teachers can share beloved books with multiple classes. Ms. Henderson inspires our young readers each day. Thank you for all that you do.







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